

# Church of St. Ephrem

929 Bay Ridge Parkway ♦ Brooklyn, New York 11228

[www.stephremparish-brooklyn.org](http://www.stephremparish-brooklyn.org)



[stephrembklyn](https://twitter.com/stephrembklyn)



[stephremparish-brooklyn](https://www.facebook.com/stephremparish-brooklyn)

## Parish Staff

Very Rev. Robert B. Adamo, V. F., KCHS, *Pastor*  
Rev. Msgr. Peter V. Kain, *Pastor Emeritus*  
Rev. Anthony S. Chanan, *Parochial Vicar*  
Mr. Robert Cote, *Youth Minister*  
Mrs. Michele James, *Business Manager*  
Rev. Msgr. Theophilus Joseph, *Parochial Vicar*  
Ms. Eileen Maguire, *Director of Faith Formation*  
Mr. Thomas Marchesiello, *Director of Music/Liturgy*  
Deacon Kevin McLaughlin, *Permanent Deacon*  
Mr. Craig Mercado, *Academy Principal*  
Sr. Ann Martha Ondreicka, O.P., *Director of the Spirituality Center*  
Mrs. Lisa Pinsky, *Parish Secretary*  
Mr. Thomas J. Sbordone, *Christian Awareness Program/Pastoral Care*  
Deacon Anthony Stucchio, *Permanent Deacon*

July 19, 2020  
Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



### Rectory Office

929 Bay Ridge Parkway

718-833-1010

Fax 718-921-5232

### Spirituality Center

935 Bay Ridge Parkway

718-921-9518

### Christian Awareness Program

929 Bay Ridge Parkway

718-833-1143

### Faith Formation Office

Third Floor of Academy

718-745-7486

[stephremreligious@gmail.com](mailto:stephremreligious@gmail.com)

## St. Ephrem Catholic Academy

924 74th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11228 ♦ 718-833-1440 ♦ [www.stephremcatholicacademy.org](http://www.stephremcatholicacademy.org)

### Schedule of Masses

#### Temporary Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil 5:00 PM

Sunday 10:00 AM, Weekdays Monday through Saturday 8:45 AM

### Rectory Office Hours

Monday—Friday: 9:00 AM—12 Noon

1:00 PM—8:00 PM

Saturday 9:00 AM—11:30 AM

1:00 PM—6:30 PM

Sunday No Office Hours

### Parish Registration

All are welcomed and invited to register at the Parish Office and participate in our parish.

### Devotions

Miraculous Medal Novena, Mondays following the 8:45 AM Mass  
Recitation of the Rosary at 8:15 AM before weekly morning Mass.

Divine Mercy Chaplet every Friday following the 8:45 AM Mass

First Friday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament following  
the 8:45 AM Mass and Benediction at 12:30 PM.

### Baptism

Parents should call the rectory to make an appointment.  
Please note that there are no baptisms during the season of Lent.

### Marriage

The Sacrament of Marriage requires a time of serious spiritual preparation. Couples should make arrangements for their marriage at least six months before the date of the wedding by making an appointment with a priest or deacon. Please log on to [www.pre-cana.org](http://www.pre-cana.org) for complete information about marriage preparation in the Diocese.

### Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

Saturday 3:30—4:30 PM.

By appointment for all other times.

### Anointing of the Sick/Communion

To make arrangements for communion to be brought to any parishioner who is seriously ill or confined to the house, or if they wish to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. To see a particular Staff Member, please call for an appointment.

## Our Mission Statement

We, the parish family of St. Ephrem, baptized into the life of Jesus Christ and nourished by the Word and the Eucharist, strive to be a welcoming and responsive Roman Catholic faith community. Together we are committed to put our faith into action by:

Responding to the spiritual and physical needs of the community through service and charity.

Reaching out to those who are searching for a faith community, including the young and those seeking to re-ignite their relationship with God. Reaching out to all without distinction. Passing on our faith and traditions through teaching by word and example. Connecting to where people are on their faith journey. Actively participating in the worship, sacrament and devotional life of the church.



**Sixteenth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time**

**July 19, 2020**

***“Let them grow  
together until harvest.”  
Matthew 13:24-43***

Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday we continue reading from the 13 chapter of Matthew’s gospel on parables. This the primary chapter in Matthew’s gospel where Jesus speaks in parables, and he speaks seven of them.

The shorter gospel reading today is about the weeds and the wheat, whereas the longer reading includes other parables. The parable of the weeds and the wheat occurs only in Matthew’s gospel. The good sower expects a harvest of wheat but is unaware that his enemy cast weeds into the field. Rather than uproot the weeds, both are allowed to grow together. In the end there will be a sorting, and the weeds are destined for the fire.

This parable is certainly not difficult to understand. Instead we see clearly that the followers of Jesus, the “church” is a field of wheat and weeds, the good and the bad. The church does not play God and determine who will be uprooted. Instead, uprooting is God’s role and God will perform it . . . in the end.

For anyone whose life is bound up in the church, or any human institution, this gospel rings true. There are weeds in the church in every time and place. But it is not our role to uproot. At the harvest time, God will separate the weeds from the wheat. Our role is simply to produce for the harvest.

It is our task to simply let God be God while we grow into the harvest we are meant to be. Our lives are not to be filled with judgment but with mercy. We are reminded of Pope Francis’s words, “who am I to judge,” or Jesus’ own words in the Gospel of John, “Let the one who is without sin cast the first stone.” These are gentle reminders for us that as disciples, followers of the Son of God, we are content to allow God to act in God’s own time.

In the Good Shepherd,

Handwritten signature of Fr. James J. Adams.

## How St. Ephrem Parish is Sanitizing?



After each Mass we are sanitizing with an Electrostatic Sprayer Machine, using a Hospital Grade Disinfectant.

There are Hand Sanitizing Stations at each entrance.



Practicing Social Distance in the pews and for the reception of Holy Communion.

### In the Process of:

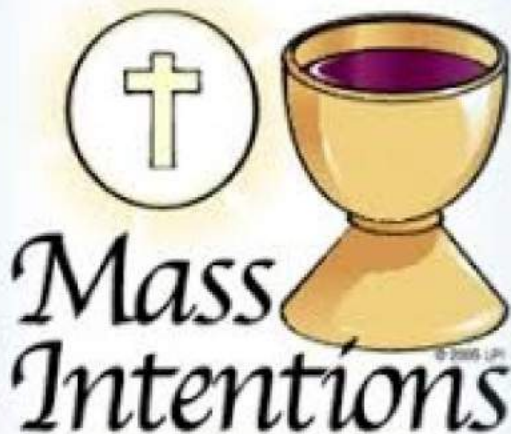


Our six A/C units are equipped with MERV 6 Filters. In addition we are adding iWave-C Commercial Air Cleaner (Air Purifiers) to each unit



We are in the process of installing: Automatic touchless toilet seat with plastic seat cover; automatic soap dispenser; automatic faucet; and an automatic Ultraviolet disinfecting light.

All of these efforts are being done to protect everyone. Yes, at a considerable cost to the parish.



Mass Intentions

for

July 1, 2020

to

December 31, 2020

Are available.

Mass Intention request to: [stephremrectory@aol.com](mailto:stephremrectory@aol.com)

or

Calling the Rectory Office

Monday to Thursday 9:00 AM to 12 Noon and 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Friday's 9:00 AM to 12 Noon

You can make your Mass Intention Offering through our website at the "Ways to Give" tab or by mail.

## GUIDELINES FOR REOPENING THE CHURCHES FOR LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS

**Stage 2:** Limited Capacity of 25% for Daily 8:45 AM Mass ONLY - **MONDAY, JUNE 29, 2020.** **Reservations to attend is necessary through our parish website (Mass Times Tab) or by calling the Rectory Office.** **Church will remain open for Personal and Private Prayer Monday through Saturday until 2:00 PM.**

**Stage 3:** Limited Capacity of 25% for Sunday Mass SATURDAY VIGIL AT 5:00 PM & SUNDAY 10:00 AM ONLY - **SATURDAY EVENING, JULY 4, 2020 AND SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2020.** **Reservations to attend is necessary through our parish website (Mass Times Tab) or by calling the Rectory Office.** **Church will remain open for Personal and Private Prayer on Sunday's until 12 Noon.**

*“I give you a new commandment: Love one Another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples; if you love one another.”*  
John 13:34-35

### **The following directives are to be observed:**

1. The elderly and all who are health-compromised MUST stay home.
2. If you are not feeling well or sick in any way, you MUST stay home.
3. If you could, please take your temperature at home and anything above 100 degrees - please stay home.
4. A face covering **must be worn at all times** while in Church.
5. Please clean your hands thoroughly either by water and soap or hand sanitizer.
6. Please maintain social distancing (6 feet apart).
7. Please sit in designated areas which are marked for your convenience, (families and households are permitted to sit together).
8. There are no missals or worship aids available.
9. Please refrain from touching any statues and devotional objects.
10. And, please adhere to all directives by ushers/volunteers/staff.
11. There will be a single offering basket by the Baptismal Font, in which you can place your offering.
12. There will be no entrance or recessional processions.

### **HOLY COMMUNION:**

**It is strongly recommended that the faithful receive Holy Communion in the hand. This is for the safety of those receiving Holy Communion and of the minister of Holy Communion.**

Please open the palm of your hand so that the Host will be allowed to “fall” (reverently) into your hands to avoid any physical contact. Please disinfect hands before receiving Holy Communion. The communicant should come before the Minister of Communion with the mask on for the dialogue (“*The Body of Christ, Amen.*”) and then, moving to the side, lower the mask and consume the Eucharist and replace the mask.

### **CONFESSIONS:**

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered on Saturday's at 1:00 PM, by the Divine Mercy Chapel. The priest will be in the confessional and we ask that the penitent sit in the pew that is indicated. You MUST wear a face covering or mask and practice social distancing (6 Feet apart).

### **Stage 4: CELEBRATIONS OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATIONS**

*These celebrations will take place in Stage 4. They will be celebrated at an appropriate time following all the guidelines that will be issued later for these celebrations.*

**Mass will continue to be Live-Streamed through our website: [www.stephremparish-brooklyn.org](http://www.stephremparish-brooklyn.org)**

**On March 13th Bishop DiMarzio dispensed the faithful of the Diocese of Brooklyn from Sunday/Holy Day Mass obligation until further notice.**



## Mass Intentions for the week of July 19, 2020

**Stage 2: On Monday, June 29, 2020 of Reopening for Daily 8:45 AM Mass ONLYLY begins. Limited Capacity of 25% . Reservation to attend is necessary through our parish website (Mass Times Tab) or by calling the Rectory Office.**

**Stage 3: On Saturday, July 4th, Vigil 5:00 PM Mass and Sunday, July 5th, 10:00 AM Mass ONLYLY begins. Limited Capacity of 25%. Reservation to attend is necessary through our parish website or by calling the Rectory Office.**

**All Masses are being live streamed through our parish website.  
Please share and join us!**

### Saturday, July 18, 2020

For the People of St. Ephrem Parish

### Vigil Mass 5:00 PM

For the People of St. Ephrem Parish

### Sunday, July 19, 2020 at 10:00 AM

Rocco Steo

Benedetto (Benny) Monticciolo

For the People of St. Ephrem Parish

### Monday, July 20, 2020

Patricia Tiberi

### Tuesday, July 21, 2020

For the Intentions of Deacon Elvin Torres

### Wednesday, July 22, 2020

Francesco Riera

### Thursday, July 23, 2020

Peter Murray

Mary Lou Doolan

### Friday, July 24, 2020

Frank E. Iannizzi

### Saturday, July 25, 2020

James Francis Ryan

### Vigil Mass 5:00 PM

Anthony J. Saggese

### Sunday, July 26, 2020 at 10:00 AM

Anna Striano

For the People of St. Ephrem Parish

It has long been a Catholic understanding that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an Act of Spiritual Communion, which is a source of grace. Spiritual Communion is an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament and lovingly embrace him at a time or in circumstances when one cannot receive Him in sacramental Communion.

The most common reason for making an Act of Spiritual Communion is when a person cannot attend Mass. Acts of Spiritual Communion increase our desire to receive sacramental Communion and help us avoid the sins that would make us unable to receive Holy Communion worthily.

## Spiritual Communion Prayer

**My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.**

**I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul.**

**Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally,**

**Come at least spiritually into my heart.**

**I embrace you as if you were already there**

**And unite myself wholly to you.**

**Never permit me to be separated from you.**

**Amen.**

*About the author: Archdiocese of New York*



### Faith Formation Classes Registration 2020-2021

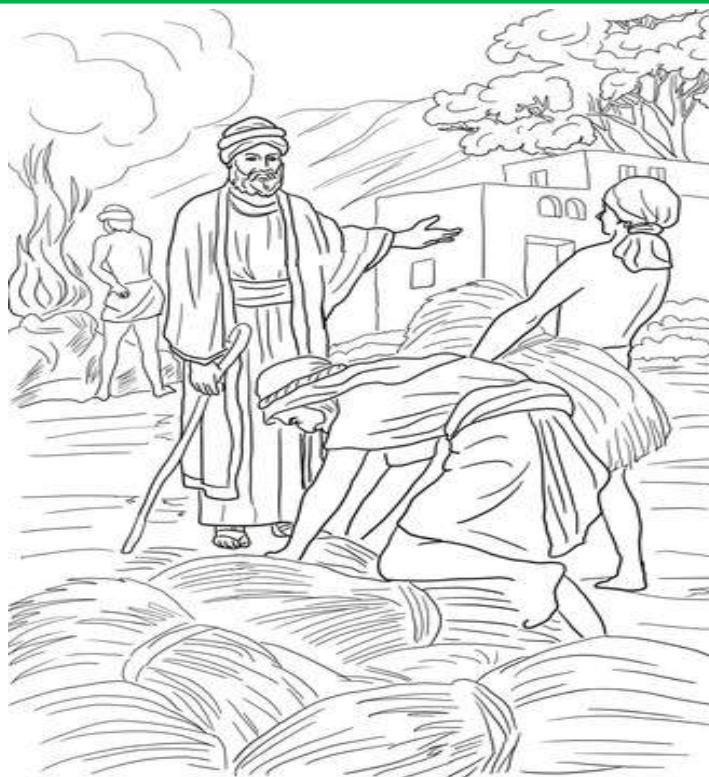
Coming soon through our parish website you will be able to register for Faith Formation Classes.

By registering it will help us to prepare the materials that are needed in the coming year for the children of our parish.

# PARISH NEWS

## The Parable of the Weeds

When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. Matthew 28:26 (NIV)  
The puzzle is based on Matthew 13:24-29



M A V W H F Q B B E W G Q I S  
H R M P S Y I U K D Y H O A J  
C L G A T U A E F I F H E O B  
J F R R E A P S L M N Y O A D  
O H O A Q W K R O D M G P T T  
T T W B M C S X O E V V D P A  
D D E L F G J E N O B U T O D  
X A H E V T C E E X T K R J M  
B G J A V I U C A D D L N C H  
M C W H R M X Z Q V V E M J A  
G Q C E R V J M D P V W V B Y  
L G A R E L E X P A U P D U Y  
S O W J B D T S E A G L Z R K  
J W O V U T S H T S X B L N O  
O X T V D G V N L L C M T I H

SOW	FIELD	GOOD	UPROOT	HARVEST
WHEAT	ENEMY	PULL	KINGDOM	SEED
PARABLE	HEAVEN	BURN	GROW	WEEDS

*“Let them grow together until harvest”*

Matthew 13: 24-43



## Bread and Wine

In Loving Memory of:

**Frank Iannizzi & Francesco Riera**



July 5, 2020 21 Envelopes \$ 325.00  
July 12, 2020 77 Envelopes \$2,310.00

We Share (Online Giving) 35 Families \$1,360.00

740 Families Registered and Receive Envelopes

**If you are able to send in your weekly donation or enroll in the secure online donation through our website it would be greatly appreciated.**

**Thank you for those who mailed in your donation or sign up for online giving!  
Thank You!**

**Thank you for your generosity to St. Ephrem Parish!**

## St. Ephrem Centennial Campaign

*Our Church, Our Prayers, Our Legacy*

As of	June 25, 2020
Parish Goal	\$1.25 Million
Number of Donors	237
Amount Pledged	\$1,353,057.00
Paid to Date	\$547,162.64
Percent of Goal	108%

**Thank You for your Generosity!**

*Saint Ephrem, pray for us!*



## How will our Parish Benefit?

**St. Ephrem Parish Goal is: \$109,682.00**

You may notice that our parish goal has been reduced. This as a result that our weekly collections have gone down due to less attendance at weekly Masses. Once we exceed our goal, then we will receive 100% of all funds raised above goal. Last year we received back **\$12,159.00**

**Thank You!**

St. Ephrem Parish Goal	\$109,682.00
Number of Donors	132
Amount Pledged	\$74,510.00
Paid to Date	\$59,564.00

**WE ARE THE CHURCH, TOGETHER**