

Church of St. Ephrem

929 Bay Ridge Parkway ♦ Brooklyn, New York 11228

www.stephremparish-brooklyn.org



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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 26, 2020
Seventeenth 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

St. Ephrem Catholic Academy

924 74th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11228 ♦ 718-833-1440 ♦ 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 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.



Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 26, 2020

“He sells all that he has and buys the field.”

Matthew 13: 44-52

Dear Parishioners,

Today's gospel gives us the third Sunday in a row where we hear from Matthew's chapter on parables. Seven parables of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew appear in chapter 13. The setting is in the house, where Jesus continues to teach his disciples using this rhetorical device, often explaining the symbolic meaning to them. In today's gospel Jesus asks a simple question, *“Do you understand all these things?”* to which the disciples reply, *“Yes.”*

The longer gospel reading gives one more parable, but it has another point. Rather than reinforce the lesson of the first two parables, the third—the net cast into the sea which brings in a terrific catch—has another message. The net is returned with good fish, but also with things that are not so good. The latter is thrown away. This then becomes the image for the last judgment, a topic that Matthew addresses quite often. At the judgement, some will be not merely cast aside or *“thrown away,”* but the angels will throw the wicked into the *“fiery furnace.”* As we saw last week, this is a favorite theme in Matthew.

The Christian life ought to be a source of joy for us. Some of this joy is reflected in the first two parables. In each, people sell whatever they can to take possession of a prized object. This is what it ought to be like for us with respect to the kingdom of heaven. Once we realize what it is, what a prize we have, we joy-fully redirect all of our priorities in light of it. We want that one prize above all else. And what's more, we have it! Thus, the source of joy.

When animated by Christian joy, we may be shocked at the inevitable suffering and death that Christ experiences. There is evil in the world and this evil impinges on our own reality. It certainly did for Jesus. But that terrible experience is not the end. Joy and love triumph as new life springs forth from humiliation and death. This new life itself is a cause of joy. And so as Christians our joy is foundational. It should be a hallmark of our witness in the world. It is an essential element of our living the paschal mystery.

And this is what the kingdom of heaven is like. Jesus' words point to the only thing in our lives that will bring us true fulfillment, joy, or peace: the kingdom which he proclaims.

As we begin to plan for the fall, in today's bulletin on page 3, you can find information for Faith Formation for the children of our parish. You can register through our website, which will help us with planning.

In the Good Shepherd,



St. Ephrem Parish Faith Formation Religious Education

There are many questions and be assured, we are hard at work for the answers!
What we do know is Faith Formation/Religious Education will happen at St. Ephrem.

The Diocese of Brooklyn has provided guidelines for all parishes to implement for the coming year:

1. Faith Formation/Religious Education is to be a 'Blended Learning' model. This model is a combination of on-line (distance learning) and at times face to face meetings.
2. All parishes are to select a Program that provides both printed text and e-book with resources.
3. Parishes are to provide on-line Registration for Faith Formation/Religious Education Programs.
4. All State, City and Diocesan Safety Guidelines are to be adhered to at all times. There will be smaller class sizes to allow for social distancing when and if we do meet face to face.

We Are Companions on a Journey!

Pope Francis reminds us,

"The family is the place where parents become their children's first teachers of the faith."

This is not a new concept You might recall the commitment you made at your child's baptism, 'to be the first teacher for your child in the faith.' St. Ephrem's Faith Formation Program has and will continue to provide assistance and resources to enhance this journey in faith.

Our Catechists have been busy exploring our new resource and learning how to conduct on-line meetings with your family—you and your child. Training continues through August and September. We are so grateful to all who have made this commitment.

Resources:

We will continue to use Sadlier Publishing.



Grades 1 through 6 will use **Christ In Us**, their new blended learning resource.

Visit: <https://www.sadlier.com/religion/ciu-experience>

Grades 7 & 8 will continue with the texts they have used with on-line resources and blended learning as well.



What's Next? Registration at: www.stephremparish-brooklyn.org

Visit the parish website as soon as possible. In the menu click on 'Religious Education.' Then click on the drop box, 'Religious Education Registration.' Complete the form and click submit. That's it! Your registering now helps us prepare for what is needed both in materials and personnel. Fees will be collected in September. We will keep you informed as more details are confirmed. Watch the bulletin!

Stay safe in these summer days!

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:

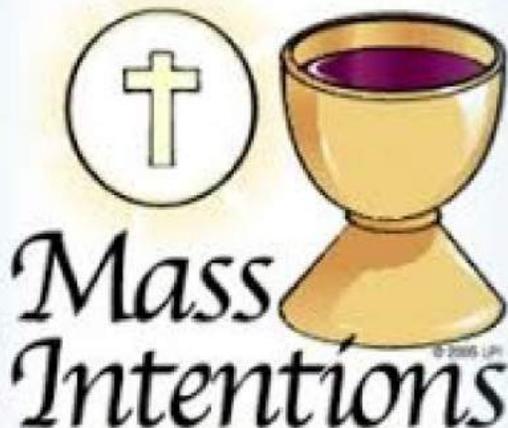


Our six A/C units are equipped with MERV 6 Filters. In addition we are adding iWave-C Commercial Air Cleaner (Air Purifiers) to each unit



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

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

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 26, 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 25, 2020

James Francis Ryan

Vigil Mass 5:00 PM

Anthony J. Saggese
Mary Valerie Boccardi
Dr. Antonio Rinaldi

Sunday, July 26, 2020 at 10:00 AM

Anna Striano
Frances Steo
For the People of St. Ephrem Parish

Monday, July 27, 2020

Kathleen Tomaszewski

Tuesday, July 28, 2020

Susan Finale

Wednesday, July 29, 2020

Mary & James Carr

Thursday, July 30, 2020

Dr. Antonio Rinaldi

Friday, July 31, 2020

Irene Santise

Saturday, August 1, 2020

Ralph Trocchio

Vigil Mass 5:00 PM

Pietro Nesta

Sunday, August 2, 2020 at 10:00 AM

Dennis McCarthy
Anthony Saggese
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



Altar Flowers

*In Loving Memory
Of*

Mary Valerie Boccardi

*Requested by
Adeline Micciolo and
Lorraine Kipel*

