

# Church of St. Ephrem

929 Bay Ridge Parkway ♦ Brooklyn, New York 11228

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



stephrembklyn



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*  
Deacon Anthony Stucchio, *Permanent Deacon*

August 23, 2020  
Twenty-First 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

### Faith Formation Office

Third Floor of Academy

718-745-7486

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

*Online registration for Faith  
Formation Class through  
the Parish Website*

## 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.

## Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 23, 2020



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

In the first reading, God exhibits his almighty power over all sovereignty, thrones and kingdoms. In his wise judgment, God reduces the proud and wicked-hearted but exalts the lowly and faithful. While Shebna was dethroned because of his pride, wickedness and lack of obedience to the ordinances of the Almighty God, the humble Eliakim was elevated to the throne and given the keys of the house of David to open and close the ancient gates of Jerusalem. A key for the ancient people was a sign of their security and safety. The official who opened and closed the gates enjoyed but bore a great power and responsibility.

In the New Testament, Eliakim becomes a prophecy of the Messiah. The book of Revelation says this about Jesus, "He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens." (Rev 3:7). Jesus is the one with the keys of Hades and of Death (Rev 1:8). He is the one who has all authority both in heaven and on earth. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus delegates this authority to St. Peter, the first Pope (Mt 16:19). He gives him the keys to open the door of faith to the Jews, the Gentiles, and to all people. They proclaimed the word of God to the ends of the earth.

### Jesus asks his disciples two questions:

1. Who do people say that the son of man is ?
2. But Who do YOU say that I am?

The second question is the question of the whole Gospel and in fact, of the whole New Testament. How we answer this will determine how each of us relates to Jesus. Jesus is all we need for our salvation. For many of us, Jesus gives meaning to our lives. We find joy in worshipping him on Sundays, every time we go to Mass, and **every moment of our lives**. For those who still do not know Jesus personally, every Sunday and in fact, **each day** is an opportunity to spend time with him and get to know him.

We all need to spend some time with this question. **Who is Jesus?** Let us openly and courageously confess along with St. Peter; **Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah and Savior, the Son of the Living God.**

God bless you!

Fr. Anthony Chanan

## Support for our Sisters and Brothers of Beirut, Lebanon

Bishop DiMarzio has asked for a special collection to be taken up throughout the Diocese of Brooklyn, for our Sisters and Brothers in Beirut, Lebanon. We will take up the Special Collection next weekend. Please place your donation in the basket by the Weekly Collection Box.

In addition to our financial support, let us continue to prayer for the people of Beirut, especially the Christian community which has been struggling.

**Thank you in advance for your generous support and prayers!**







## ***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](http://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:

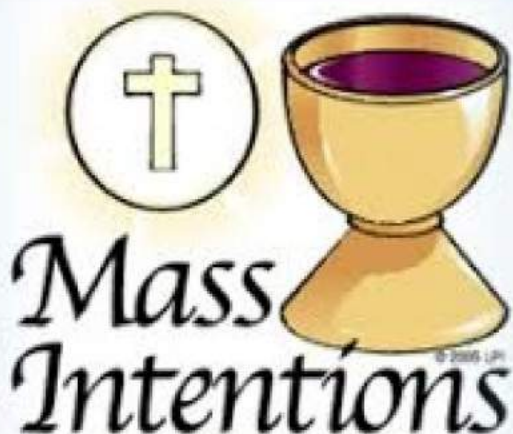


Our six A/C units are equipped with MERV 6 Filters. In addition we are adding iWave-C Commercial Air Cleaner (Air Purifiers) to each unit



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](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 August 23, 2020

**Stage 2: On Monday, June 29, 2020 of Reopening for Daily 8:45 AM Mass ONLY 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 ONLY 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, August 22, 2020

Maria Garuccio

### Vigil Mass 5:00 PM

Mary Ann Hayes  
Dr. Antonio Rinaldi  
Daniel Ferrara  
Radiance Robeteau  
Mario Pobega  
Louie Macri

### Sunday, August 23, 2020 at 10:00 AM

Patty Giugliano  
For the People of St. Ephrem Parish

### Monday, August 24, 2020

For a Special Intention

### Tuesday, August 25, 2020

For the People of St. Ephrem

### Wednesday, August 26, 2020

Rose DiPretoro  
Loughran Family

### Thursday, August 27, 2020

For the Intention of Pam Regan

### Friday, August 28, 2020

For the People of St. Ephrem

### Saturday, August 29, 2020

For the People of St. Ephrem

### Vigil Mass 5:00 PM

Peter James Carlin  
Joan Cross  
Carmela Bruni

### Sunday, August 30, 2020 at 10:00 AM

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*



## Bread and Wine

In Loving Memory of:

**Michele Grace**

*Requested by Al & Lorraine  
Marciano and Family*

## Peter's Confession of Christ

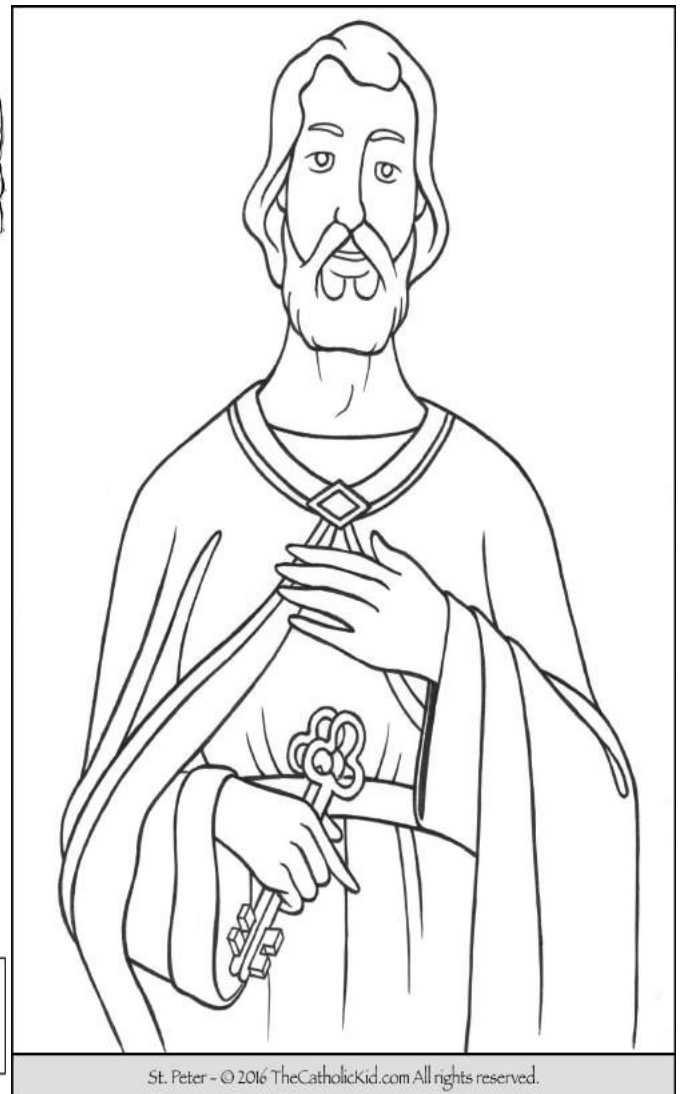
"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Matthew 16:15 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 16:13-20 (NIV)



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

CHRIST	EARTH	SON	PROPHETS	PEOPLE
BLESSED	KINGDOM	CHURCH	GATES	BAPTIST
LIVING	ROCK	FATHER	HADES	ELIJAH
JOHN	HEAVEN	PETER	KEYS	JEREMIAH



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*“You are Peter, and to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven.”*

Matthew 16 13-20



August 16, 2020 64 Envelopes \$1,505.00  
 Assumption of the BVM 43 Envelopes \$670.00

We Share (Online Giving) 23 Families \$1,625.00

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	August 19, 2020
Parish Goal	\$1.25 Million
Number of Donors	238
Amount Pledged	\$1,353,057.00
Paid to Date	\$569,088.64
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	140
Amount Pledged	\$77,270.00
Paid to Date	\$65,819.00

**WE ARE THE CHURCH, TOGETHER**