

Church of St. Ephrem

929 Bay Ridge Parkway ♦ Brooklyn, New York 11228

www.stephremparish-brooklyn.org



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Parish Staff

August 9, 2020
Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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*



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

*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

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.

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 9, 2020

“Command me to come to you on the water.”
Matthew 14: 22-33



Dear Parishioners:

Today's gospel begins with the disciples in a boat *“a few miles offshore...being tossed about by the waves.”* When the men in the boat catch sight of Jesus walking on the water toward them, they become even more frightened. Instead of being overjoyed at the sight of their salvation, the disciples are terrified thinking this is a ghost. Jesus immediately tells them, *“Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.”* As a way of testing the identity of this being, Peter asks to be commanded to come out on the water in the same way. Jesus complies. While Peter keeps his focus on Jesus, he, too, walks on water, but as soon as he becomes aware of the strength of the wind, he flounders and begins to sink. He calls out in distress, *“Lord, save me!”* When our gaze is focused on Jesus, we also find the strength and resources to do things that frighten us. Even when our focus drifts and we become overwhelmed, we need not fear. The Lord is always ready to reach out a hand to stop us from sinking.

We might wonder why Jesus commanded his disciples to set out by boat at dusk to meet him on the other side. It does not sound like a very wise or prudent request, and especially so after the storm arose. Nevertheless, the disciples follow the advice of their master. Rather than meet them on the other side, during the darkest part of the night, the disciples experience Jesus walking on the water in the midst of the wind and storm. Spontaneously Peter seeks to walk on the water too, but he is unable to do so due to his lack of faith. In the end, the Lord calms the storm and joins the disciples in the boat.

When we experience turbulence and storms, we may be reassured that the Lord is near. When we call, he answers. He will join us and the storms will subside. Is it any wonder this story has been read for centuries as an allegory for the relationship between Christ and the church? The boat may protect us from the storm, but we still experience the effects of the storm. It is only Jesus himself who can calm the waters.

Certainly, at this time of a pandemic “storm,” we have place our faith in Jesus and cry out *“Lord, save me!”* Each time we gather around the table of the Lord for Mass and pray the Lord's Prayer. The words that the priest prays immediately following is that *“... we will always be free sin and safe from all distress.”* When we stay focus on Jesus, He will always calm our “storms.”

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:

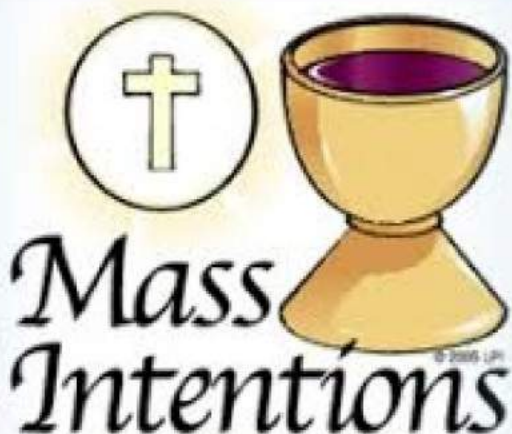


Our six A/C units are equipped with MERV 6 Filters. In addition we are adding iWave-C Commercial Air Cleaner (Air Purifiers) to each unit



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 August 9, 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 8, 2020

Lina Mascia

Vigil Mass 5:00 PM

Dr. Antonio Rinaldi

Sunday, August 9, 2020 at 10:00 AM

Arthur Nelson

Jack Dinkel

Joan Hughes

For the People of St. Ephrem Parish

Monday, August 10, 2020

Dr. Antonio Rinaldi

Tuesday, August 11, 2020

Rae Esposito

Wednesday, August 12, 2020

Dr. Antonio Rinaldi

Thursday, August 13, 2020

Carol Multari

Friday, August 14, 2020

John Carr

Saturday, August 15, 2020

John Selvaggio

Vigil Mass 5:00 PM

Anna Striano

Dr. Antonio Rinaldi

Sunday, August 16, 2020 at 10:00 AM

Jack Manno

Gilbert Bonilla

Graffagnino & Savarese Families

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

**Flowers at the
Blessed Mother Altar**

In Memory of:

Rae Esposito

Requested by

*The Iannizzi and
La Rocca Family*



Jesus Walks on the Water

During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. Matthew 14:25 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 14:22-33 (NIV)



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

EVENING	HAND	DOUBT	WAVES
COURAGE	AFRAID	SAVE	SINK
LAKE	WALKING	BOAT	WIND
PRAY	COME	WATER	ALONE

“Command me to come to you on the water.”

Matthew 14: 22-33



August 2, 2020 77 Envelopes \$2,136.00
 Mission Cooperative 38 Envelopes \$ 445.00
 July 28, 2020 25 Envelopes \$ 709.00
 We Share (Online Giving) 33 Families \$1,370.00

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	July 26, 2020
Parish Goal	\$1.25 Million
Number of Donors	237
Amount Pledged	\$1,353,057.00
Paid to Date	\$554,422.64
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	134
Amount Pledged	\$74,860.00
Paid to Date	\$61,730.00

WE ARE THE CHURCH, TOGETHER