



ST. EPHREM CATHOLIC CHURCH

38900 DODGE PARK RD; STERLING HGTS, MI | 586.264.1230 | OFFICE@STEPHREMS.ORG

SUNDAY, AUGUST 1, 2021

18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." - Jn 6:32-33



MASS READINGS AND INTENTIONS

FIRST READING

Then the LORD said to Moses, "I will now rain down bread from heaven for you. Each day the people are to go out and gather their daily portion; thus I will test them, to see whether they follow my instructions or not." (Ex 16:4)

PSALM

The Lord gave them bread from heaven. (Ps 78)

SECOND READING

... be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and put on the new self, created in God's way in righteousness and holiness of truth. (Eph 4:23-24)

GOSPEL

"I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst." (Jn 6:35)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. ©LPI

The Pope's monthly intention for:

August

The Church

Let us pray for the Church, that She may receive from the Holy Spirit the grace and strength to reform herself in the light of the Gospel.



Saturday, July 31 —

4:30pm Mass intentions: Healing for Kathy Kuzner by Richard & Natalie Frey
 Healing for Mary Fran Leone by Joe & JoAnn Leone
 † William Cloyd by family
 † Lorraine Andreski by C, T & D Troszak

Sunday, August 1 —

Readings: Ex 16:2-4, 12-15/Ps 78:3-4, 23-24, 25, 54 [24b]/Eph 4:17, 20-24/
 Jn 6:24-35

9:00am Mass intention: † Helen Lotoczky by Robert Kuzner family
 † Frank Pfeifer

11:00am Mass intention: Parishioners of St. Ephrem

Monday, August 2 — 9:00am Mass

Readings: Nm 11:4b-15/Ps 81:12-13, 14-15, 16-17 [2a]/Mt 14:13-21
Mass Intentions Wedding anniversary of Greg & Mary Elliott

Tuesday, August 3 — 9:00am Mass

Readings: Nm 12:1-13/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 6cd-7, 12-13 [cf. 3a]/Mt 14:22-36
 or Mt 15:1-2, 10-14

Mass Intention: † Lisa Monacelli by M/M Valentine and daughter

Wednesday, August 4 — 9:00am Mass

Readings: Nm 13:1-2, 25—14:1, 26-29a, 34-35/Ps 106:6-7ab, 13-14, 21-22,
 23 [4a]/Mt 15:21-28

Mass intentions: For vocations to the priesthood and religious life
 Birthday blessings for Purita Ablao
 48th wedding anniversary of Ted & Theresa Jankowski

Thursday, August 5—No Mass

Readings: Nm 20:1-13/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 [8]/Mt 16:13-23

Friday, August 6— 9:00am Mass

Readings: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9 [1a and 9a]/2 Pt 1:16-19/
 Mk 9:2-10

Mass intention: † Michael Mizak by family

Saturday readings: Dn 6:4-13/Ps 18: 28, 3-4. 47 and 51/Mk 17:14-20

Saturday, August 7 —

4:30pm Mass intentions: Healing for Kathy Kuzner by Richard & Natalie Frey
 † Alsin Wiliam by the Sabetti family
 † Arnel & Rodolfo Dorado by Kraus family
 † Leo Busch by C, T, & D Troszak

Sunday, August 8 —

Readings: 1 Kgs 19:4-8/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [9a]/Eph 4:30—5:2/
 Jn 6:41-51

9:00am Mass intention: Parishioners of St. Ephrem

11:00am Mass intention: † Mickey Trombley by family

† Lois Epifanio (1st anniversary of passing) by Jim Epifanio
 † Oreste & Raffaella Centofanti by David & Cathy Traficanti

*"The Eucharist is everything,
 because from the Eucharist, everything is."*

St. Peter Julian Eymard, Priest (August 2)

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Reflection for the 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Scriptures today invite us to open our minds and hearts to the lavish love of our God.

When the Israelites asked for food in the desert, God gave them exactly what they needed. Their grumbling didn't put him off; he fed them with manna and quail. God only asked them to trust in his loving care for them.

When crowds of people gathered around Jesus, he not only fed them; he gave them more than they could eat. God's only desire in both instances was to show his lavish love in such a way that it would move people to trust him with their lives.

When the people asked Jesus what they were to do to accomplish the works of God, he gave them a simple answer: believe in the one sent by God – believe in me. Then Jesus identifies himself: I am the bread of life, come down from heaven to give life to the world. All who come to him will never hunger or thirst.

All of us believe that Jesus is the bread of life for us. We desire to place our trust and confidence in God's loving care for us. We have also found that there is a challenge involved in this trusting. The challenge comes in our willingness to embrace God as he is, and not as we might like him to be. Confidence in God's loving Providence means accepting with our whole being that God will provide for us, but not always as we might want or expect. Hoarfrost on the ground in the early morning was not what the Israelites expected, but it was bread from heaven as God had promised.

Are we courageous enough in our faith to say to God: "Give us this bread always" and then meet the challenges of letting Jesus, the bread of life, live in us as each day unfolds.

Source: [The Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, North American Province](#)



Transfiguration of the Lord – August 6

St. Francis de Sales challenges us to be transfigured in Christ through our daily activities: At the Transfiguration Jesus showed us a spark of eternal glory. While the Prophet said, "I will never forget you...I have carved you on the palm of my hand," Jesus went further and said, "I will never forget you, since I bear your name engraved in My Heart." At the Transfiguration Jesus shows His flaming Heart of love for us.

Like the apostles who wanted to remain in Jesus' presence, we too must do likewise. So little by little let us leave behind all our affections for lowly things and aspire to the happiness that Our Lord has prepared for us. Where could we give better witness to our fidelity to God than in the midst of things going wrong?

There is a real temptation to become dissatisfied with the world and depressed about it when we have of necessity to be in it. Yet we will always encounter difficulties in the "busyness" of the world. To think that we can be holy without suffering is a delusion. Where there is more difficulty, there is more virtue. However, if we stumble, with trust and confidence in God's mercy, let us put ourselves back on the path of virtue.

Be like the honeybee. While you are carefully making the honey of holiness, at the same time make the wax of your worldly affairs. If our Lord finds honey sweet, so does the wax honor Him, since it is used to make the candles that give light to those around us. Let us focus on always being transfigured in Christ. What we will do and become as we experience the lovable Heart of our Master aflame with love for us!

(Adapted from the writings of St. Francis de Sales. [From the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, North American Province](#))

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

The St. Ephrem Food Pantry has been selected for the Meijer *Simply Give* Fall campaign at the Fraser Meijer.

\$10.00 donation cards are available at the back of church or at the Fraser Meijer store.

If you are unable to go to the store, cash donations are accepted in the parish office (or place in a separate envelope in the collection basket.) Pantry volunteers will go to the Fraser Meijer to make the donation for our pantry. **Double match days are on August 14 and 28!**

Non-perishable food donations may be left in the donation bin in the vestibule of the church.
Thank you for your support!

Aldi and Dollar Tree gift cards*

Rice, Juice, Chicken ramen noodles, Tuna (Albacore, if possible), Diapers (size 6)

*Gift cards are used by our food pantry to help supplement items that are needed each week to serve our pantry clients. **We cannot accept clothing or household items.**

Liturgical Ministers needed!

We are in *great* need of Lectors, EMHCs, Altar Servers, and Ushers to help assist at our weekend and funeral liturgies. Please contact the parish office at 586-264-1230 or office@stephrem.org to learn more! Training will be provided—training dates will be announced soon!

For current ministers that have not been scheduled yet, please contact the parish office if you are able to begin serving again.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Registration for the 2021-2022 school year is on-going. Religious Education classes meet on Monday evenings from 6:30-7:45pm. At this time, we are planning on having our classes in-person, however, should anything change, notification will be sent out. Classes begin on Monday, September 13, 2021. Registration forms are available in the parish office.

New to our program? Please contact the parish office at 586-264-1230.

Help needed!

We are in need of catechists, substitute catechists, and hall monitors for our program. Please contact the parish office at 586-264-1230.



St. Ephrem will participate in the Archdiocese of Detroit's Mercy in Action Day.

We will assemble Blessing Bags for the Homeless through the Ministry at St. Aloysius Parish in Detroit. Our goal is to assemble 50 blessing bags.

We need donations of white socks and trial sizes of shampoo, deodorant, body wash, hand lotion, shaving cream, Chapstick (lip balm), shaving razors. Donations may be dropped off in the wooden bin at the church entrance. Monetary donations are also accepted. Please contact the parish office with any questions.

Further details on other projects to come!

CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL - (CSA)

**Our 2021 goal:
\$67,089.00**

**Total pledges:
\$36,915.00**

(As of 7/23/2021)

**Current shortfall from goal:
\$30,174.00**

Please help us reach our goal!

**Pledge securely online by visiting:
stephrem.aodcsa.org.**

As with the physical pledge card, the option is given to select a one-time donation or set-up payment options.

For more details about the CSA, visit:
www.aod.org/catholic-services-appeal

Thank you to all who have made their 2021 CSA pledge! Your support is greatly appreciated!

August Milestone Anniversaries

25 Years -

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas and Kim Potapa Jr.

40 Years -

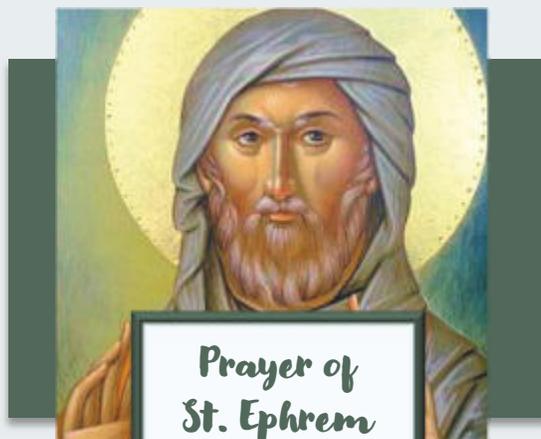
Mr. & Mrs. William and Mary Kay Reith
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth and Kathy Peet

60 Years -

Mr. & Mrs. Robert and Madeleine Gild

Congratulations and many blessings to you!

Will you be celebrating a milestone anniversary (25, 40, 50, 60+ years)? Anniversary dates are pulled through ParishSOFT, but many files do not have wedding dates listed! **Please contact the parish office to make sure we have your information correct.**



O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power, and idle talk.

But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to Thy servant.

Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own transgressions, and not to judge my brother, for blessed art Thou, unto ages of ages. Amen.

(Prayed on Wednesdays at the end of Mass.)

A Prayer for Divine Mercy

O Greatly Merciful God, Infinite Goodness, today all mankind calls out from abyss of its misery to Your mercy - to Your compassion, O God; and it is with its mighty voice of misery that it cries out: Gracious God, do not reject the prayer of this earth's exiles! O Lord, Goodness beyond our understanding, Who are acquainted with our misery through and through and know that by our own power we cannot ascend to You, we implore You, anticipate us with Your grace and keep on increasing Your mercy in us, that we may faithfully do Your holy will all through our life and at death's hour. Let the omnipotence of Your mercy shield us from the darts of our salvation's enemies, that we may with confidence, as Your children, await Your final coming - that day known to You alone. And we expect to obtain everything promised us by Jesus in spite of all our wretchedness. For Jesus is our Hope: through His merciful Heart as through an open gate, we pass through to heaven. Amen. (Diary, 1570)

Announcements

The general dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation expired on March 13, 2021. Archbishop Vigneron grants these particular dispensations for the following groups:

- Those who are ill or whose health would be significantly compromised were they to contract a communicable illness;
- Those who care for the sick, homebound or infirmed or someone in a high-risk category;
- Pregnant women;
- Those age 65 or older;
- Those who cannot attend Mass for other reasons (such as a lack of transportation or being turned away because of capacity limits); and
- Those who have “significant fear or anxiety of becoming ill by being at Mass.”

As a reminder, anyone who exhibits flu-like symptoms or believes they might be asymptotically carrying COVID-19 or another communicable illness also are asked not to attend Mass “as an act of justice and charity” toward others. To read Archbishop Vigneron’s full letter, please visit: www.aod.org/comehometohope. To read the updated policies from the Archdiocese, please visit www.aod.org/emergencyresponse

- **All non-liturgical activities**, (excluding food pantry), remain suspended until further notice. This includes all parish and support groups.

Parish Raffle

Draw date: **07/21/2021**
Winning #**314**

T. Orzechowski	\$100.00
Joseph Wojerski	\$25.00
Sterling Hgts Kiwanis	\$25.00

Congratulations!

WE PRAY FOR...

The faith community of St. Ephrem keeps in prayer all those who have asked for our prayers. Each Wednesday during Holy Hour, we pray for those listed below. If you or someone you know is ill or in need of prayer, please contact the

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Randy Clarke | • Phyllis Marek | • DeSchryver |
| • William C. Frey | • Krista Mertzner-Hafner | • Linda Billette |
| • Anna Masakowski | • Bob Gryebet | • Angelina Ferris and family |
| • Ben Pannecouck | • Rick Gryebet | • Gloria Czerniakowski |
| • Paul & Maryann Bourgeau | • Christian & Nicholas Harting | • Richard & Anna Kasak |
| • Teresa Yester | • Robert Bryant | • Alfred Newton |
| • Philip Mistretta | • Patty Lulek | • Jenny Galka |
| • Gerry Miranti | • Sandra Moleski | • Riley Faith |
| • Mary Jane & Michael Ziskie | • Sophie Moreton | • Sharon Kuzdal |
| • Kent Culpert | • Debbie Dombrowski | • Doris Hagedon |
| • Pete Ishioka | • Louis Barnard | • Garrett Adams |
| • Marcia Godawa | • Neill Sladkin | • Donna Daldine |
| • Richard & Elaine Jaye | • Phoebe Hough | • Karen Rothenhauser |
| • Izabel Randazzo | • Jeanie Quinn | • Robert Kwiatkowski |
| • Philip Kwiatkowski | • Joseph Prill | • Ronald & Sylvia Kokesh |
| • Joan Bogel | • Mary Prill | • Jim Mrenza |
| • Hailey Petty | • Lori Cornelius | • Dennis Braman |
| • Luciana & Marisa Purtill | • Marie Hagedon | • Marle Newberry |
| • Madeline Hafner | • Alice LoPiccolo | • Marie Kurczak |
| • Matthew Hafner | • Melissa Hunt | • Valentine Menrath |
| • Tina Walker-Witulski | • Theresa Pierce | • Shannon Menrath and Crystal |
| • Noreen Kuzner | • Lucy Glinka | • Wanda Tarnowski |
| • Renee Calado | • Carol Girolamo | • Donald Sanborn |
| • Debbie Vido | • Glenn Porth | • Chester Grabinski |
| • Edgar Lee Buckner | • Steve Sadecki | • Ninoska Berbesi |
| • Jacqueline Irene Homnstrieter | • Jerry Parka | • Sadya Neumann |
| • Dawn Moss | • Michael Rydzewski | • Peggy DiMercurio |
| • Kay Melnick | • Bobby Cobb | • Nick Cirenese |
| • Dorothy Welch | • Carol Carr | • Fr. Blondell |
| • Bernice Rynski | • Sue Weatherly | • Roy Clason |
| • Sally Gray | • Richard Ruemenapp | • Marty Oglenski |
| • Cheryl Linder | • Roy Buzalski | • Randy Berry |
| • Deborah Baranski | • Anna Buzalski | • Ken Mosey |
| • Michael Gray | • Malcolm Scofield | • Thomas Breen |
| • Sonia DeChausse | • Tim Ries | • Thomas Composto |
| • Kathleen Wojerski | • Agatha Tovar | • Mitchell Brand, Jr. |
| • Glenda Lavigne | • Maggie Leahy | • John Renaud |
| • Nick Schwartz | • Bob Leahy | • Vera Rydzewski |
| • John Busch | • Viktor Gjonaj | • Edrie Christopher |
| • Melissa Kashat | • Praela Gjonaj and family | • Joan Callaghan |
| • Daniella Kashat | • Nicole Peltier | • Mary Fran Leone |
| • Ruth Sullivan | • Ike Rabafe | |
| • Susan Lill | • Elaine Rainko | |
| • Michelle Trospert | • Robert Sheets | |
| • Maya Milovanovic | • Denise LaForest | |
| • Gladys Mosey | • Jason Warner | |
| | • Eileen Albers | |
| | • Jeff Coon | |
| | • Anthony Leonardi | |
| | • Magdalene Gehring | |
| | • Floyd Jankowski | |
| | • Thomas Sutton | |
| | • Sarah | |



Join us on
Wednesday
mornings for
Adoration!

Exposition of the
Blessed Sacrament
at 8:00am

Confession available
until Benediction
at 8:45am



Dressed Dolls from 2019

Goodfellow Dolls

Thank you to all who have volunteered to take a doll to dress. All the dolls have been claimed!

Please return your dressed doll(s) to the parish office (or Arlene Lickey) by no later than **THIS SUNDAY!**

St. Ephrem Parish Directory

ST. EPHREM CATHOLIC CHURCH
38900 Dodge Park Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48312

PARISH OFFICE: 586-264-1230

Parish E-mail: office@stephrem.org

Parish Website: www.saintephremchurch.org

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday*: 8:30am-5:00pm

(*Office opens at 9:30am on Wednesdays) **Friday: 8:30am-Noon**

Closed on Saturday and Sunday

REGULAR MASS SCHEDULE:

(Masses first come, unless otherwise noted.)

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday: 9:00am

Saturday: 4:30pm Sunday: 9:00am and 11:00am

**Confession schedule: Wednesday: 8:00am-8:45am,
Saturday: 3:30pm-4:25pm and by appointment**

Baptisms: Please contact the Parish Office to make arrangements and obtain preparation dates.

Weddings: Please contact the Parish Office at least six months (one year if not a registered parishioner) to arrange for marriage preparation.

Wedding dates are not set by the Parish Office.

PARISH STAFF:

(Fr. Aro, MSFS)

Rev. Arokiaselvam Nithiyaselvam, MSFS
Administrator

Email: FrAro@stephrem.org

Rob Leonardi, MAPS; Parish Catechetical Leader

Email: RobL@stephrem.org

Sarah Hunt, Parish Secretary

Email: office@stephrem.org

Arthur Rauh, Music Minister

Theresa Brown, Religious Education Secretary

Mary Kay Reith, Special Needs Director

Jim Weller, Business Manager

Mark Sulewski, Maintenance

Bulletin articles are due ten days in advance. Please email items for consideration to office@stephrem.org.

Knights of Columbus

Msgr. John T. Gordon Council #12102 -

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Our Council's Facebook Page: [Knights of Columbus Council #12102](https://www.facebook.com/Knights-of-Columbus-Council-12102)

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