



ST. EPHREM CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

He summoned the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it." - Mk 8:34-35



FIRST READING

I gave my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who plucked my beard; my face I did not shield from buffets and spitting. (Is 50:8)

PSALM

I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living. (Ps 116)
Or Alleluia.

SECOND READING

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? (Jas 2:14)

GOPEL

And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter said to him in reply, "You are the Christ." (Mk 8:29)

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The Pope's monthly intention for:

September

An Environmentally sustainable lifestyle

We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this Gospel.



MASS READINGS AND INTENTIONS

Saturday, September 11 —

4:30pm Mass intentions: Parishioners of St. Ephrem

Sunday, September 12 —

Readings: Is 50:5-9a/Ps 116:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [9]/Jas 2:14-18/Mk 8:27-35

9:00am Mass intentions: Birthday blessings for Rob & Krista Houbeck

Birthday blessings for Ileen Bednard

✦ Dave Hill by Debbie Hill

✦ Alexander J. Cawit by Bernice Sedonio

11:00am Mass intentions: Vike Palushaj by Gregory Elliott

50th wedding anniversary blessing for Fred & Barb Torongo

God's blessings for Catherine Ishioka by Alfred & Florita Newton

✦ Wayne McBain by Alfred & Florita Newton

✦ George Cailotto by daughters

Monday, September 13 — 9:00am Mass

Readings: 1 Tm 2:1-8/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17 [1Cor 11:26b]/Lk 7:1-10

Mass Intentions: ✦ Ed Varani by Judy Taylor

✦ Vickie Zahra by George & Margaret Micallef

Tuesday, September 14 — 9:00am Mass

Readings: Nm 21:4b-9/Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38 [cf. 7b]/Phil 2:6-11/
Jn 3:13-17

Mass Intentions: Birthday blessings for Theresa Lee

Wednesday, September 15 — 9:00am Mass

Readings: 1 Tm 3:14-16/Ps 111:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [2]/Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35

Mass intentions: Kuriakos & Mary Cheerumvelil (36th wedding anniv.)

Thursday, September 16 — No Mass

Readings: 1 Tm 4:12-16/Ps 111:7-8, 9, 10 [2]/Lk 7:36-50

Friday, September 17 — 9:00am Mass

Readings: 1 Tm 6:2c-12/Ps 49:6-7, 8-10, 17-18, 19-20/Lk 8:1-3

Mass intentions: Barb Zarek by Greg & Mary Elliott

Saturday readings: 1 Tm 6:13-16/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5 [2]/Lk 8:4-15

Saturday, September 18 —

4:30pm Mass intentions: Marie Kurczak by Donna McBain

✦ Ted Rost by wife, Camille

✦ Jackie Boehler by Joe & Kathy Wojerski

✦ Josephine DiMambro by Vera Rydzewski

Sunday, September 19 —

Readings: Wis 2:12, 17-20/Ps 54:3-4, 5, 6-8 [6b]/Jas 3:16—4:3/Mk 9:30-37

9:00am Mass intentions: ✦ For the Souls in Purgatory by Leach family

✦ George LaCharite (birthday anniv.) by Mike & Elizabeth Eccleston

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

"Love draws all the pains, torments, sufferings, sorrows, and wounds of the passion, Cross and even death of our Redeemer into the Heart of His Most Holy Mother. —St. Francis de Sales

Our Lady of Sorrows: September 15

THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS

The Story of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross September 14

Early in the fourth century, Saint Helena, mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine, went to Jerusalem in search of the holy places of Christ's life. She razed the second-century Temple of Aphrodite, which tradition held was built over the Savior's tomb, and her son built the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher on that spot. During the excavation, workers found three crosses. Legend has it that the one on which Jesus died was identified when its touch healed a dying woman.

The cross immediately became an object of veneration. At a Good Friday celebration in Jerusalem toward the end of the fourth century, according to an eyewitness, the wood was taken out of its silver container and placed on a table together with the inscription Pilate ordered placed above Jesus' head: Then "all the people pass through one by one; all of them bow down, touching the cross and the inscription, first with their foreheads, then with their eyes; and, after kissing the cross, they move on."

To this day, the Eastern Churches, Catholic and Orthodox alike, celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on the September anniversary of the basilica's dedication. The feast entered the Western calendar in the seventh century after Emperor Heraclius recovered the cross from the Persians, who had carried it off in 614, 15 years earlier. According to the story, the emperor intended to carry the cross back into Jerusalem himself but was unable to move forward until he took off his imperial garb and became a barefoot pilgrim.

Reflection

The cross is today the universal image of Christian belief. Countless generations of artists have turned it into a thing of beauty to be carried in procession or worn as jewelry. To the eyes of the first Christians, it had no beauty. It stood outside too many city walls, decorated only with decaying corpses, as a threat to anyone who defied Rome's authority—including Christians who refused sacrifice to Roman gods. Although believers spoke of the cross as the instrument of salvation, it seldom appeared in Christian art unless disguised as an anchor or the Chi-Rho until after Constantine's edict of toleration.

From Franciscan Media



A Prayer for Grandparents

HEAVENLY FATHER,

may saints Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of your Son, Jesus, be an everlasting model for grandparents. Your Wisdom and Word are eternal, meant for all generations. Help grandparents, we pray, as they pass on the rich traditions of the faith to their beloved family members, especially their grandchildren. We are all your children. Help us to know you better each day, ultimately leading us, with our family members, into eternal life with you.

AMEN.



God of mercy, in your word of Scripture, you instruct us to "Do to others as you would have them do to you." Give us today the courage to assist those around us who may need our assistance. Give us patience when we become impatient. Remind us to pray for all those who perished on United Airlines 93, American Airlines 11, United Airlines 175, American Airlines 77, and those in the Twin Towers and Pentagon. Give us a heart thankful for those who gave their lives as first responders, as did the men and women who ran into danger to be of aid. We ask all this in the name of the One who first responded to our need for a savior, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

The St. Ephrem Food Pantry has been selected for the Meijer *Simply Give* Fall campaign at the [Fraser Meijer](#).

together, we can help end hunger in our community.

SIMPLY give

St. Ephrem Food Pantry*

Purchase \$10 donation cards now through 10/2/21 to provide food to your local food pantries for families in need.

meijer

visit meijercommunity.com for more details.

*Cards must be purchased at the Fraser Meijer (15/Utica)

\$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.

List of Current Needs

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.

CSA UPDATE

Our 2021 goal:
\$67,089.00

Total pledges:
\$42,033.77
(As of 9/7/2021)

Current shortfall from goal:
\$25,055.23

Pledge securely online by visiting:
stephrem.aodcsa.org

Liturgical Ministers/ Volunteers needed!

We are in great need of lectors, EMHCs, altar servers, ushers, and sacristans to help assist at our weekend and funeral liturgies. We also need help with cleaning the church on Thursdays. Please contact the parish office at 586-264-1230 or office@stephrem.org to learn more! Training will be provided.

For current ministers that have not been scheduled yet, please contact the parish office if you are able to begin serving again. All volunteers at St. Ephrem are required to complete a background check, as well as *Protecting God's Children*, (safe environment program). Forms are available in the vestibule of church or in the parish office.

COMING SOON!

K of C Lasagna Carryout Dinner
More information to come!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Classes begin this Monday!

Religious education classes meet on Monday evenings from 6:30pm-7:45pm, grades 1-8. New to our program or have questions? Please contact the parish office at 586-264-2777 or ReligiousEd@stephrem.org.

Help needed!

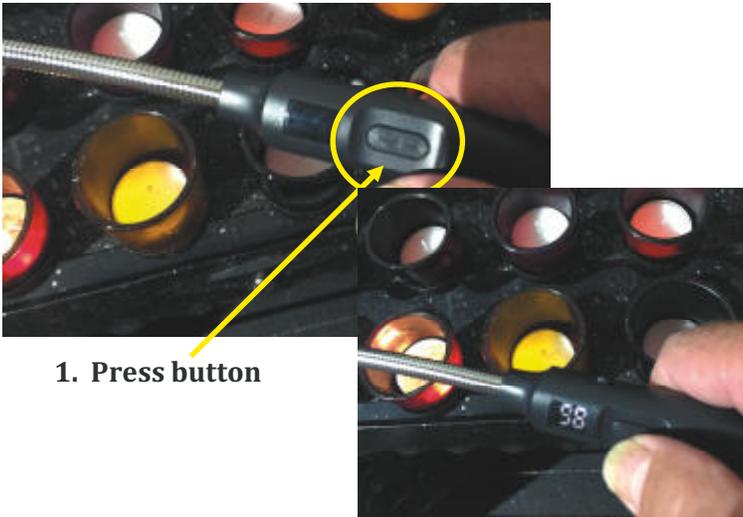
We need of catechists, substitute catechists, and hall monitors for our program. Please contact the parish office if you are able to help!

VIGIL CANDLES

As you are lighting vigil candles in the back of the church, you'll see that we have new LED lighters. The wooden sticks and old lighters have been removed.

These new LED lighters are very easy to use by following the instructions below:

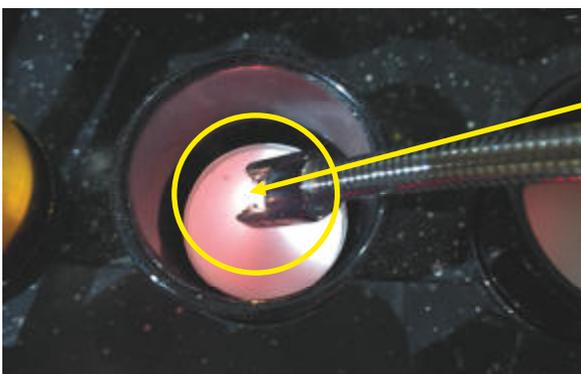
(Please note: the lighters are already turned on.)



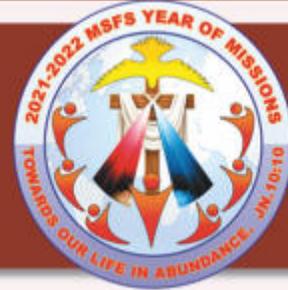
1. Press button



2. LED arc will appear



3. Touch LED arc to the wick. Candle will light. Depress button - lighter resets automatically.



ST. EPHREM YEAR OF MISSION OUTREACH

Pillowcase Sundresses and Shorts

Please consider donating any size, **NEW or GENTLY USED - pillowcases and sheets.**

We also need **ANY COLOR - Double Wide Bias Tape AND 1/2 inch to 1 inch wide Grosgrain Ribbon**

Donations may be placed in the wooden box at the entrance to the church.

For more information please call the parish office at 586-264-1230.



We continue collecting trial sized items for our Blessing Bag project to benefit the homeless living in downtown Detroit.

Our Current Needs:

- Antibacterial Hand Wipes (10 sheet packs)**
- Shampoo Body Wash**
- Deodorant Shaving Cream**
- WHITE SOCKS**

Donations may be placed in the wooden box at the entrance to the church.

MONETARY DONATIONS are very much appreciated and may be placed in an envelope marked Mercy In Action and dropped in the collection basket or brought to the parish office during business hours. *Make checks payable to St. Ephrem.*

For more information please call the parish office at 586-264-1230

Thank you for your generosity!

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: **09/01/2021**
Winning #**690**

M/M Frank Natter	\$100.00
Carol Brownell	\$25.00
Henry Palus	\$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. If you or someone you know is ill or in need of prayer, please contact the parish office.

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

Families of Parishes

St. Ephrem is in the Central Macomb Vicariate Family 4 (Wave 2). This family includes the parishes of:

- **St. Blase**
- **St. Ephrem**
- **St. Martin de Porres**
- **St. Michael**

Please visit familiesofparishes.org for the latest information.



A Discernment Weekend is a unique experience for men (ages 18-55) who feel a call to the priesthood. Spending four days living at the seminary provides them with a first-hand opportunity to see what it’s like from the inside and to discern with like-minded men.

If you know any men who are interested and would like more information, please contact us: <https://detroitpriestlyvocations.com/discern-the-priesthood/discernment-weekend/>.

Those interested must have a meeting with Fr. Craig Giera, Director of Priestly Vocations, before they are allowed to register.

Altar Apostolates (Church Cleaning) Schedule

Date: **9/16/2021**

Team #3:
M. Micallef and M. Kraus

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

Theresa Brown, OFS, Interim Parish Catechetical Leader

Email: ReligiousEd@stephrem.org

Sarah Hunt, Parish Secretary

Email: office@stephrem.org

Arthur Rauh, Music Minister

Mary Kay Reith, Special Needs Director

Mark Sulewski, Maintenance

Jim Weller, Business Manager

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 -

Grand Knight: Doug Elsey | To join, visit www.kofc.org

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

Facebook: [St. Ephrem Catholic Church](https://www.facebook.com/St.EphremCatholicChurch)

St. Ephrem Bulletin Online: www.parishesonline.com

Vicariate Website: www.cmvic.net

www.WujekCalcaterra.com



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