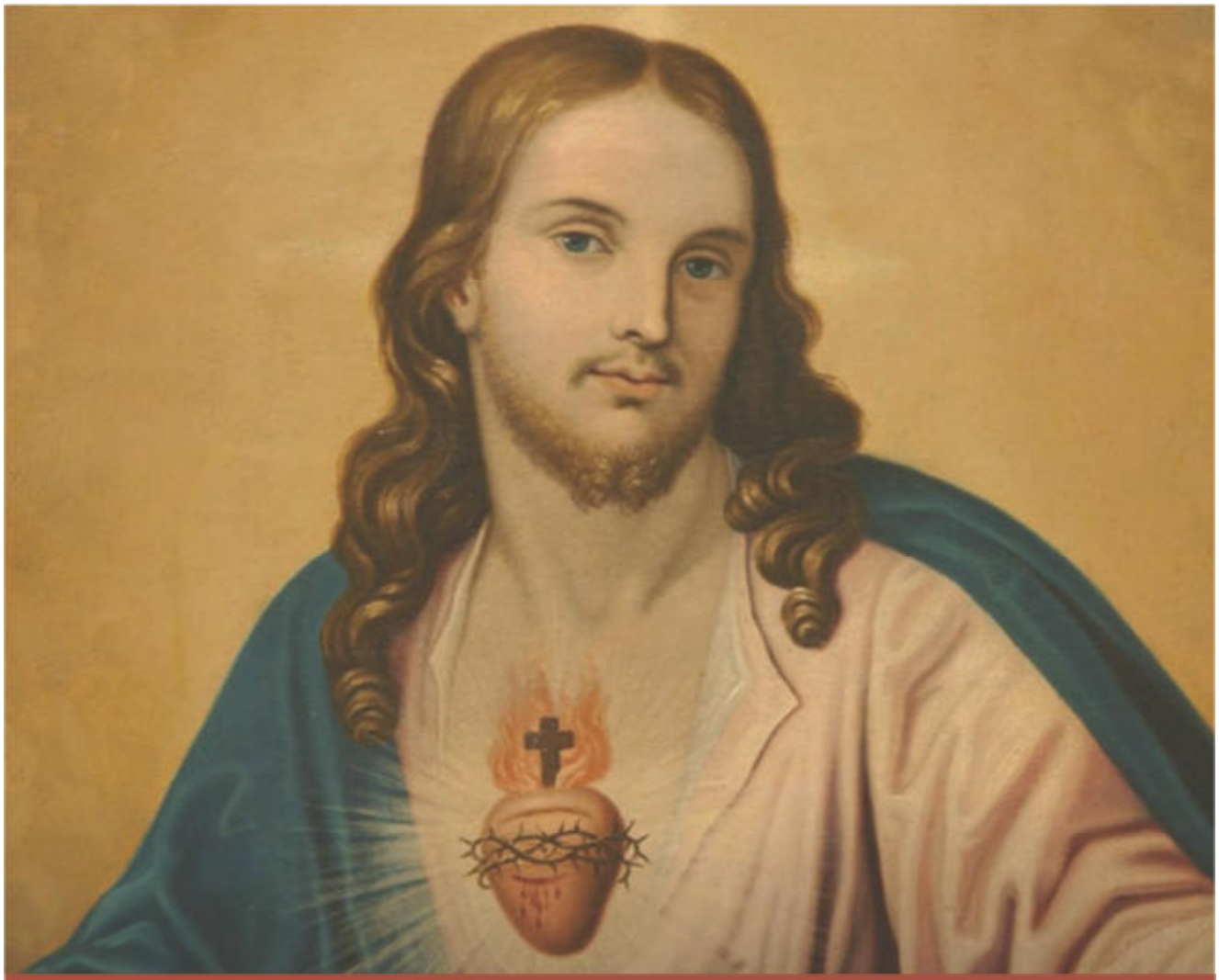

ST. EPHREM CATHOLIC CHURCH

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2021

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

So Pilate said to him, “Then you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say I am a king. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”

- Jn 18:37

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FIRST READING

His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not be taken away, his kingship shall not be destroyed. (Dn 7:14)

PSALM

The Lord is king; he is robed in majesty. (Ps 93)

SECOND READING

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, who has made us into a kingdom, priests for his God and Father, to him be glory and power forever and ever.
(Rv 1:5-6)

GOSPEL

So Pilate said to him, "Then you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say I am a king." (Jn 18:37)

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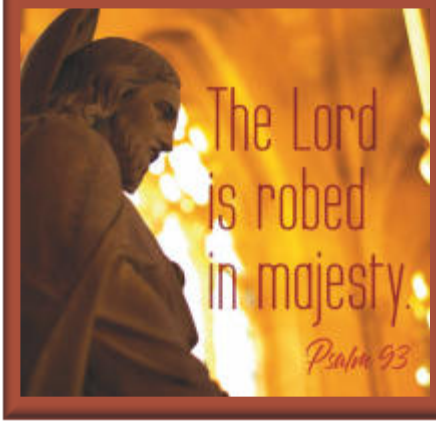
The Pope's monthly intention for **November**

People Who Suffer from Depression
We pray that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.



MASS READINGS AND INTENTIONS

Saturday, November 20 —
4:30pm Mass intentions: 56th wedding anniv. blessings for Gary & Carol Janda
✝ Ted Rost by wife, Camille
✝ Donna Belli by Gary & Carol Janda
✝ Helen Makarewicz by Joe & JoAnn Leone
✝ Bette Kwiatkowski and Marianne Ostafinski by Kwiatkowski family

Sunday, November 21 —
Readings: Dn 7:13-14/Ps 93:1, 1-2, 5 [1a]/Rv 1:5-8/Jn 18:33b-37
9:00am Mass intentions: Parishioners of St. Ephrem

11:00am Mass intentions: Birthday blessings for Theresa Brown
✝ Joseph & Carl Cubba by family
✝ Walter Rainko (7th anniv.) by Elaine Rainko and family
✝ Benetti family by Joyce Korte
✝ Bill and Matt Mayer

Monday, November 22 — 9:00am Mass
Readings: Dn 1:1-6, 8-20/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56 [52b]/Lk 21:1-4
Mass intentions: Cecilia Hunt by Mom & Dad
Lois Kebbe by Greg & Mary Elliott

Tuesday, November 23 — 9:00am Mass
Readings: Dn 2:31-45/Dn 3:57, 58, 59, 60, 61 [59b]/Lk 21:5-11
Mass intentions: ✝ Tom Benetti by Joyce Korte
✝ Robert & Virginia Houbeck by family
✝ Chester Przeklas, Sr. & Chester Przeklas, Jr. by family

Wednesday, November 24— 9:00am Mass
Readings: Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28/Dn 3:62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67 [59b]/ Lk 21:12-19
Mass intentions: Patrick Elliott and Alyssa Domen by Greg & Mary Elliott

Thursday, November 25 — 9:00am Mass – Parish offices closed
Readings: Dn 6:12-28/Dn 3:68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74 [59b]/Lk 21:20-28
Mass intentions: ✝ Dave Hill and ✝ Theresa Harrington by the Harrington family

Friday, November 26— 9:00am Mass – Parish offices closed
Readings: Dn 7:2-14/Dn 3:75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81/Lk 21:29-33
Mass intentions: Henry Root by Greg & Mary Elliott
✝ William Boone by family and friends
✝ Joan Lorkowski by family

Saturday readings: Dn 7:15-27/Dn 3:82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87/Lk 21:34-36

Saturday, November 27 —
4:30pm Mass intentions: Parishioners of St. Ephrem

Sunday, November 28 — First Sunday of Advent
Readings: Jer 33:14-16/1 Thes 3:12—4:2/Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14 [1b]/Lk 21:25-28, 34-36
9:00am Mass intentions: Stephanie Elliott by Greg & Mary Elliott
✝ Dave Hill by Donna McBain
✝ Myron Kurczak, Jr. by Mom & Dad

11:00am Mass intentions: ✝ Mike Wofford by Lynn Wofford
✝ Joan & Carl Lorkowski by family
✝ Walter Rainko by Elaine Rainko
✝ Wayne McBain by Annette & Dennis Fink

Parish offices will be closed on Thursday, November 25 and Friday, November 26 for Thanksgiving break. We wish everyone a very happy and blessed Thanksgiving!

November
Month of the Holy Souls

We pray for those who were buried from our parish over the past year and for all the faithful departed —

Marion Mulhern
Henry Zielinski
Alexander Louzon Jr.
Mary Ann Stopczynski
Clare Hornbacher
Mildred Wisniewski
Robert Zbikowski
David Rynski
Thomas Daldine
Eugenia Moody
James Parrinello
Roseline Fodera
Raffaella Centofanti
Marilyn Kowal
Wayne McBain
Richard Belan
David Hill
Carl Cubba
Amelia DiNello
Norma Ward
Bill Sullivan

Prayer for The Eternal Rest

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

The Book of Life will remain at the front of the church throughout this month. All are invited to sign the names of your deceased loved ones to be remembered in our prayers throughout this month.

"As we enter Heaven, we will see them, so many of them, coming toward us and thanking us. We will ask who they are and they will say: 'A poor soul you prayed for in purgatory.'"

– Venerable Fulton J. Sheen

2021 Advent Giving Tree

Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.

– Proverbs 19:17

This year's Advent giving tree supports St. Ephrem's food pantry and the missions of the Fransalians (Fr. Aro's religious order). Each tag on the tree represents a donation of one of the following:

- Meijer gift card (for the food pantry)
- Aldi gift card (for the food pantry)
- Dollar Tree gift card (for the food pantry)
- Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales donation

The tags on the tree include an envelope for your donation. Place your donation in the envelope and put it into the weekly collection basket or return it to the parish office.

If choosing a gift card tag, please include the amount of gift card.

If choosing to donate to the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, *please include "MSFS' on the memo line of your check (check should be made payable to St. Ephrem Church).*

Thank you in advance for your generous donations to these important ministries. Trees will be out next weekend!

Advent blessings,
The Giving Tree Committee

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

FALL CLEANOUT!

Each family that comes to our food pantry receives food items that we consider staples. When we are running low on these items, you generously respond by bringing in the items listed.

In addition, each family is given the opportunity to choose items which we put on tables that are considered to be "***miscellaneous,***" (i.e. cookies, snack foods, olives, tea, coffee, mayo, etc.) At this time, we are well stocked on our "staple" items. **For the next few weeks, we invite you to be creative. Bring in any food items that you would like: on sale, fun, exotic, etc. Clean out your cupboards and bring in items for the pantry. We may even accept non-perishable food items *up to one year past the expiration date*.** When we are sufficiently stocked, we will return to our normal list. **Thank you for your support!**

Gift card donations help us supplement from week to week:
Aldi and Dollar Tree gift cards*

NOVEMBER MILESTONE WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

40 years–

- Mr. and Mrs. Gary and Mary Steffes
- Mr. and Mrs Gregory and Sharon Verkest

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

Thanksgiving Prayer

This Thanksgiving, let us remember all the good things, and people, who have come into our lives. We focus on thanking each one who has helped us, and ultimately thank God for the good gifts of this world. We pray for continued health and safety for all!

Let us pray...

God our Father,
Graciously accept from your humble people a thankful heart and spirit. Everything we have and are able to share with others ultimately comes from your love of your creations. Often we think that everything we have is our own creation; we ask you this day to create in us a spirit of gratitude, that we may always know that all good gifts come from you. We ask this through Christ our brother, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Reflection for Christ the King

(from the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales)

Today is the Feast of Christ the King. St. Francis de Sales stated that it was divine inspiration that the word "king" was inscribed on Jesus' cross. He adds: Our Lord came as a shepherd and as King of Shepherds. Shepherds represent those who make a commitment to lead a holy life. In this sense we are all shepherds, and Our Lord desires to favor those like Himself. As a good shepherd and lovable pastor of our souls that are his sheep, Jesus came to teach us what we ought to do so that we might be made whole through Him. He came to recreate what was lost, and no one has ever been betrayed by Him.

Jesus as a king was called to be Savior, and He desired that others should share in the glory of being leaders, especially his blessed Mother. Jesus made God's goodness abound more than evilness. He overcame death, disease, toil, and abuse of our sensory desires. Jesus' work is truly salutary when it touches our miseries and makes them worthy of love. When we possess God's love, we are empowered to share in our Savior's work.

God desired to save the Hebrew people through Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the other prophets. We are shown more fully God's delight and care for the world by the sending of our Savior Jesus. We plant vines because of their fruit. Yet leaves and buds precede the fruit. Similarly, while Our Savior was first in God's eternal plan of creation, the vine (the universe) was first planted. For this reason, Jesus is called the "first-born of all creatures." Like leaves or blossoms, the many generations that precede Jesus prepare the way for Him. How happy we are when we choose Jesus as our leader, who gives us unparalleled peace and calm if we follow Him. Our Savior shows us that God's majesty will not be overcome by evil but will overcome evil by good: the work of a true King.

(Adapted from the writings of St. Francis de Sales, especially Sermons, L. Fiorelli, Ed.)

ST. EPHREM STITCHERS

We are putting out the call for all quilters, knitters, crocheters and seamstresses. There are many projects which need to be completed. If you are looking for a way to help others, please consider one or more of the following:

1. **DONATE YARN** to make hats and scarves for homeless men, women and children. We will accept any color and any weight of yarn but we are particularly looking for 4 ply - navy blue, grey, brown, tan, or green yarn. This yarn will be used to make winter hats for homeless men who favor darker colors. **Place your donations in the wooden box at the entrance to the church.**

2. **QUILT A PRAYER BLANKET** these are small lap blankets which Fr. Aro will take to those being anointed. Kits are available containing everything you need to create a prayer blanket. **Contact Aggie Antonucci at 586-215-7090 or Arlene Lickey at 586-268-1838 to pick up a kit.**

3. **KNIT OR CROCHET** Afghans, hats, scarves for men, women or children - Any Color, Any Size, Any Pattern. **Place your completed projects in the wooden box at the entrance to the church.** Please include your name with your donation.

4. **SEW A SUNDRESS** FOR THE MISSIONS IN BRAZIL, INDIA AND AFRICA - kits to make a dress for a young girl are available with everything you need to produce a dress. **Contact Aggie Antonucci at 586-215-7090 or Arlene Lickey at 586-268-1838 to pick up a kit.**

These are wonderful winter projects. Consider spending some of your time working for others.

The St. Ephrem Stitchers

SCHOENHERR TOWERS COMMUNION SERVICE PRAYER LEADERS NEEDED

Will you answer the call to visit Schoenherr Towers ONCE per month on a Sunday morning after the 9 a.m. Mass to hold a communion prayer service?

What does it take to lead a service? ONE THING - a strong desire to share the Eucharist with believers who are unable to attend Mass. St. Ephrem Church has had a long tradition of bringing Communion to Schoenherr Towers residents living in rent controlled apartments, who for the most part do not have transportation.

Services begin at 10:15 a.m. in their main floor chapel. A scripted service will help the prayer leader share the word of God along with prayers and the distribution of communion. St. Ephrem parishioners-Individuals, couples, and families are welcome to become prayer leaders. A seasoned prayer leader will help transition each new leader into this ministry. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Theresa Brown at 586-264-2777 or ReligiousEd@stephrems.org.

Prayer of St. Ephrem

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.)

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 asymptomatically 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.

Altar Apostolates Schedule

Date: 11/24/2021

Team #1:
T. Laird, J. Reuss, M. Ptak

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

Families of Parishes

St. Ephrem is in the Central Macomb Vicariate Family 4 (Wave 2). **Our family includes the parishes of St. Blase, St. Ephrem, St. Martin de Porres, and St. Michael.**

Clergy Assignment Announcement from Archbishop Vigneron

Sunday, November 7, 2021

Reverend Arokiaselvam Nithiyaselvam, MSFS, with the concurrence of his Provincial Superior of the USA Vice-Province, Reverend Tomy J. Puliyan, MSFS, appointed Moderator of the In Solidum team of priests who, with the other priests of the team, will lead the newly formed Central Macomb Vicariate Family 4, effective July 1, 2022.

Father Nithiyaselvam currently serves as Administrator of St. Ephrem Parish, Sterling Heights.

Parish Raffle

Draw date: **11/03/2021**
Winning **#592**

Kris Hodge	$100.00
Kelly Myny	$25.00
Tom Preslow	$25.00

Draw date: **11/10/2021**
Winning **#057**

Mr. & Mrs. Natter	$100.00
Fred Vollmers	$25.00
Audrey Barszcz	$25.00

Congratulations!

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@stephrems.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:
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@stephrems.org

Theresa Brown, OFS, Interim Parish Catechetical Leader
Email: ReligiousEd@stephrems.org
Phone: 586-264-2777
Sarah Hunt, Parish Secretary
Email: office@stephrems.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@stephrems.org.

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Our Council's Facebook Page: Knights of Columbus Council #12102

Facebook: St. Ephrem Catholic Church
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