ST. EPHREM CHURCH

5400 HULMEVILLE ROAD BENSALEM, PA 19020

RECTORY: 215-245-1698 **SCHOOL:** 215-639-9488 **CONVENT:** 215-638-1024 **HALL** : 215-639-5984

SCHOOL WEBSITE:: SAINTEPHREMSCHOOL.COM **PARISH WEBSITE:** WWW.STEPHREM.COM

SCHOOL FACEBOOK PAGE: WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SAINTEPHREMSCHOOL/

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday Vigil: Saturday 5:00 PM
Sunday: 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 & 12:00
Daily: 7:00 & 8:30 AM ~ Saturday ~ 8:30 AM only
Holy Days: Schedule Varies, please check website prior to Holy Day

CONFESSIONS: Saturdays: 4:00 to 4:45 PM
Confessions on Wednesdays after the 8:30 AM Mass.

PARISH REGISTRATION: A new parishioner may register in the parish by speaking with one of the priests in the lobby of the church after one of the Sunday Masses or by calling a priest for an appointment. (215~245~1698)

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Msgr. Kenneth P McAteer, Pastor
Rev. Stephen F. Katziner, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Timothy F. O'Sullivan, Resident
Deacon James P. DeBow, Permanent Deacon
Deacon Edward J. Dymek, Permanent Deacon
Sister Mary Jane Bransfield, I.H.M., Superior

Sister Shaun Thomas Callahan, I.H.M., Principal
Sister Mary Jane Bransfield I.H.M., 215-639-4332
Pastoral Minister to the Sick & Elderly
Mrs. Christianne Quinn, 215-639-4895,
C.R.E., P.R.E.P.
Mr. Chuck Burgy, 215-245-1698, Business Manager
Mr. Ronald Chancler, 267-679-6638
Liturgy and Music Coordinator

Saint Ephrem Church

Bensalem, Pennsylvania

December 1, 2019

Mass Schedule

Sunday, December 1~ 1st Sunday of Advent
7:30 Lorraine Ritts
req. by Ron & Agnes Schuman
9:00 Anthony L. DiTommaso, Jr.
req. by Chuck & Joanne Hicks
10:30 The Bianco Family
req. by Ralph & Ann
12:00 Fernandina Lledo
req. by Joe & Myrna Montenegro

Monday, December 2
7:00 Sandra Echelmeier
req. by Joseph & Carol Lamina
8:30 Tom Gallagher, 93rd Birthday
req. by Tom Gallagher

Tuesday, December 3
7:00 Francis Dever
req. by Ron & Agnea Schuman
8:30 For the Souls of the Faithful Departed
as requested on the All Souls Envelopes

Wednesday, December 4
7:00 Phillip J. Oseredzuk
req. by Joe & Katie Labay
8:30 James E. Gallagher
req. by Denny & Pat Ziemba

Thursday, December 5
7:00 Alfredo Servillas, Jr.
req. by His Family
8:30 Angelo "Sal" Allizzo
req. by Susan & Gary Phelan

Friday, December 6
7:00 Bernice Dymek
req. by Betty & Al Wilkinson
8:30 David Cinque
req. by The Blaney Family

Saturday, December 7
8:30am Stephen Kochis
req. by Mr. & Mrs. Michael Kochis
5:00pm John Krajewski
req. by His Wife & Family

Sunday, December 8~ 2nd Sunday of Advent
7:30 For the St. Ephrem Parish Family
9:00 Bob Guild, Jr.
req. by The Guild Family
10:30 Helen & Ed Kircher
req. by Their Daughter
12:00 Michael Marra
req. by His Wife, Victoria

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS, FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Joyce Burkett	Irene McCarthy	Patti Neu
Baby Joel Heim	Linda Hanley	Brian Rozzelle
Terry Downs	Michael Acquaviva	Pat Powell
Margaret Griffiths	Patty Sesko	Mary Biehn
Brian Matsinger, Sr.	John Roley	Susan Smith
Bruce McCormick, Sr.	Kimberly Ann Pastor	Edward F. Roberts, Sr.
E.J. Connell	Paul Morton	Patrick Collins
Michael McGovern	Casey Lang	E.J. Richmond
Kevin Goodwin	C.J. & Trudy Gryniewicz	Bill Storms
Jacki Brady	Baby Nicholas	Tom Collins
Jacob Simon	Margaret Grone	Janine Hee
Baby Dexter James	Mike Souders	Marcia McCullough
Elizabeth DiPasquale	Mary Ellen Seifert	Harper Reid Corrigan
Grace Kuehnle	Paul Barrett, II	Dolores Reithmeier
Baby Steven Infante	Mary Jane Finley	Mary Dorothy Everett
Bill Butz	Maddie MacDougall	Baby Bennett
Barbara Ward	Eric Hemingway	Brian Feldman
John O'Donnell	Dennis Boland	James Gleason
Baby Beatrice Finegan	Baby Harper Giempietro	Carol Higgins

Baptisms

Baptisms are held the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at 1:30 PM. Please contact one of the parish priests to make arrangements. Both parents must attend a Pre-Jordan class prior to their child's Baptism. Pre-Jordan is held the 1st Monday of each month at 7:30 PM in Church.

Pre-registration for Pre-Jordan is required, and can be done by calling the rectory at 215-245-1698.

Texts for Sunday, December 8th

1st Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17

2nd Reading: Romans 15:4-9

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

The 11/24/19 collection will be printed in next week's bulletin.

Thank you for your continued goodness and generosity to St. Ephrem Parish.

Bingo this Sunday and Monday at 7PM.

Sunday December 1	**Catholic Daughters** 1:30 pm **Bingo** 7PM
Monday December 2	**Bible Study– Mary** 12:00 noon **Charismatic Prayer Group** 12 noon **Adoration 2:30 to 5:00pm** **Flame of Love Rosary** said in church at 2:30pm **Bingo** 7PM
Tuesday December 3	**Bible Study– Matthew** 7:00pm **Scouts** **Open Parish Discussion** 7:00 pm **Men's Faith Sharing Group** 7:30 pm
Wednesday December 4	**Bible Study– Mary** 7:00pm **Scouts** **Open Parish Discussion** 7:00 pm
Thursday December 5	**Confirmation Practice** 9 AM **Bible Study– Matthew** 1:00pm **RCIA** 7 PM
Friday December 6	**Senior Christmas Banquet– Bensalem Country Club** 12:30 pm
Saturday December 7	**Men's Faith Sharing Group** 7AM **Lunch with Santa** 11:30 pm

Altar Server Schedule

Monday, Tuesday (December 2,3)
7:00am Joseph Nizio, Juliana Nizio
8:30am Lily Seda, Ava Sweeney

Wednesday, Thursday (December 4,5)
7:00am Annie Conner, Maxi Ellison
8:30am Vonn Krieger, Erik Nizio

Friday (December 6)
7:00am Lauren Bretzel, Kellyanne Castagna

Friday, Saturday (December 6,7)
8:30am Danny Holmes, Joshua Zdunkiewicz

Saturday Evening (December 7)
5:00pm Katie Labay, Evan Manna, Victoria Manna

Sunday (December 8)
7:30am Lauren Bretzel, Kellyanne Castagna, Katie Rose Stella
9:00am PREP SERVERS TO SERVE THIS MASS
10:30am Nathan Barrett, Nicholas Riccio, Charles Wagner
12 Noon Tom Daly, Dylan McManus, Ivo Braganza
3:00pm Remembrance Mass– Gabriella Byrd, Sadie Walker, Samantha Jacavage

ST. EPHREM SCHOOL NEWS

Home & School Upcoming Events:

Dec 11th - Taranova's restaurant night. Please do not use scrip for this, as they already give back for the Scrip program!

Jan 15th - Texas Roadhouse Restaurant Night

You can find the flyers with more information in the vestibule of the Church.

St. Ephrem SCRIP Program

What is Scrip?

It is a unique opportunity to reduce your tuition payments and support your parish by purchasing gift cards/certificates to your favorite stores, restaurants, movie theaters, local stores and a variety of special order stores.

You receive a percentage of each scrip sale that will be used to reduce your tuition payment. The parish receives the same percentage as you do.

Scrip Credits can be applied to the following areas to help defray your costs:
St. Ephrem's Tuition
Prep Program (formerly CCD)
Parochial High School
College Tuition& Student Loans
529 Plans

HOURS

When school is open SCRIP is sold from 8 AM - 1 PM daily, and Wednesday Nights 5pm - 8pm. We are also open Sat. and Sun. 15 min before & after each Mass, until noon on Sundays.

Visit https://saintephremschool.com/scrip-information for more information.

Scouting for Food

Cub Scout Pack 128 will be collecting non-perishable food items before the Masses on Dec. 7th and 8th.

Plastic yellow bags can be found in the foyer on your way out of mass today. The Scouts will be present at the beginning of each mass next week to collect the food items. All food items will be donated to Libertae Inc. in Bensalem, helping women with substance abuse disorders.
We thank you in advance for your charity & kindness!

St. Ephrem Men's Faith Sharing Group

When: Every Tuesday evening from 7:30-8:30pm
Every Saturday morning from 7:00-8:00am
Where: Marian Parish Center

We read the upcoming Sunday's readings and reflect on what they mean and how they might apply to our lives. This is NOT a Bible Study. For more info. call Pete Cattie 610-633-5383 or Frank Miller 215-354-6120.

LACE is Calling All Ladies~ Thanks to the welcoming arms of the St. Ephrem Parish Family, the "LACE" Women's Group will once again be providing a social opportunity for all women of the parish and their friends. Come meet our members– some quirky, some reserved, all cool and kind- the 3rd Sunday of every month in the Marian Center after the 9:00 AM Mass.
We hope you will come check us out!!

Mass of Remembrance

St. Ephrem's Annual Remembrance Mass for our deceased loved ones is scheduled for **Sunday, December 8, 2019 at 3:30 p.m.**

All are welcome!

Please join Dynamic Catholic's BEST ADVENT EVER, which is all about the amazing possibilities for your life. Every day during Advent, you'll receive an email with a short video from Matthew Kelly and the Dynamic Catholic team. It's free and easy to sign up. All you have to do is go to BestAdventEver.com and enter your name and email address. I encourage you to invite your family and friends once you sign up. Let's all have an amazing Advent, together!

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY

The annual **CHRISTMAS OUTREACH** assists families from St. Ephrem's Parish who in need of help with providing a Happy Christmas for their families.

Gift cards are a good choice. Food gift cards provide needed money for family dinners & the other store gift cards assist parents in purchasing needed clothing, etc.

In your generosity we are asking you to donate GIFT CARDS from your choice from the following stores; **GIANT, ACME, SHOP RITE, WAL-MART, KOHL'S, TARGET, DOLLAR TREE AND AMAZON.**

Thank you for your Generosity and God bless you!!

Please drop all gift cards off at the rectory or in the collection basket only. Please mark the envelope "CHRISTMAS OUTREACH". Donations are **due by Friday, Dec. 14** so we can deliver to the families in sufficient time for shopping for their needs.

Open Parish Discussion on *Letter to a Suffering Church: A Bishop Speaks on the Sexual Abuse Crisis*

When:

Evening Discussion– Tuesday, December 3rd, 7-10 PM
Daytime Discussion– Wednesday, December 4th, 1-4 PM

Where: Parish Marian Center

Leader: Deacon DeBow

For more detailed information see flyer on the shelf in the lobby of the church.

2019 Day of Sanctification for Priests

The priests of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia assemble each year for a day of prayer and reflection on the Sacred Priesthood. This year our priests will gather with Archbishop Charles Chaput at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary on Monday, December 2, for the *2019 Day of Sanctification for Priests*. Please pray for all priests of the Archdiocese, especially this weekend and Monday, with the following prayer from the *Roman Missal*:

Lord our God, who is governing your people
make use of the ministry of Priests
grant to these men
a persevering obedience to your will,
so that by their ministry and life
they may gain glory for you in Christ.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Extra Advent Confession Times

Wednesday, December 4th from 7-8pm

Wednesday, December 11th join us for our Parish Penance Service from 7-8pm (extra priests available)

Wednesday, December 18th from 7-8pm

Saturday, December 21st from 3:00-4:45pm

Every Saturday from 4:00-4:45pm.

Every Wednesday at 9:00am, following the 8:30am Mass.

Anytime by appointment.
Call the rectory (215-245-1698) to schedule.

Remembering Our Neighbors in Nursing Homes and Hospitals with a Christmas Card

Please drop a Christmas Card in the box in the vestibule of the Church which is marked "Christmas Cards for our Neighbors in Nursing Homes & Hospitals". Write a short message, for example, "Thinking of you at Christmas", "God Bless you", "Merry Christmas", or another message. Volunteers will put the names of the patients/residents on the envelopes. (Please do not include any monetary gifts or gift cards.) The patients loved the thoughtful messages you wrote last year; they brightened their holidays. Thank you and have a blessed Christmas!

Your Prayer Requests Worldwide!

Add your prayer needs to this new global website, Prayers Unite the World. Your prayer request is sent to religious orders, schools, seminaries, monasteries, colleges & parishes "united in prayer" around the world joining you in prayer.

If you think you are alone and no one cares THINK AGAIN

https://prayersunitetheworld.org/

NEW YEAR APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

CALLING ALL LEADERS OF PARISH AND SCHOOL MINISTRIES/ ORGANIZATIONS!!

Please compile a list of your current members and their addresses and send the list to the rectory (jperuzzi@stephrem.com) by Monday, December 9th, so that we can mail the invitations to the luncheon, which will be held on Sunday, January 19, 2020.

*****IMPORTANT: If your list is the same as last year, please send it again.*****

Any questions, call Jen Peruzzi at the rectory: 215-245-1698.

Thank You for your cooperation!

Now Taking Pre-Orders for St. Ephrem Youth Group's Christmas Candy Cup Sale!

The sale will take place the weekend of **December 14th and 15th** at all Masses (while they last!)

All Proceeds Support Parish Outreach Program

$3 each or 2/$5

To order 10 or more contact Maureen DiGirolamo at maureendg69@gmail.com **by December 1st**.

HANDEL'S MESSIAH

Sunday, December 8, 2019, 1-4 p.m.
Cranaleith Spiritual Center, 13475 Proctor Road
Philadelphia, PA 19116
Cost: $25

One of the most beloved music scores of all time is the "Messiah". How often have you reveled in its glorious melodies? It is also a perfect meditation for the Advent season. Come, listen and pray with the rich scripture passages that are at the heart of this great holiday tradition.

For Married Couples: Five Keys to Freedom

Sat, Dec 7, 6-8:30PM at Annunciation BVM Parish Hall in Havertown. Refreshments begin at 6, talk begins at 6:30. Hosted by Annunciation BVM's Cana's Vineyard ministry.

Married couples, come learn about the Five Keys of Unbound, a simple process of prayer that will help you unleash the liberating power of the Gospel into your life, your marriage and your other relationships. The talk is for all married couples, and can be especially helpful for situations such as: relationship problems, habitual sin, chronic anger, fear, sadness, family discord, or other areas of life where you feel "stuck" and unable to move forward.

Please RSVP to Mary Barry at marybarryjmj@gmail.com.
For the flyer and more info, visit: phillyevang.org/events.

LUNCH WITH SANTA

St. Ephrem School and PREP for Students Pre-K3 thru 3rd Grade (and younger siblings)

Hosted by the St. Ephrem Youth Group

Date: Saturday, December 7, 2019

Time: 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Place: St. Ephrem Cafeteria (Entrance in back.)
Cost: $6.00 per child (Includes: games, crafts, pizza, chips, drink and dessert.)
Children must be accompanied by an adult.
Adult admission is free.
Please fill out the form below and return to school with payment by Thursday December 5th, to Lisa Kutchner c/o Jacob Kutchner Room 6A
(Please contact Lisa Kutchner at Blueyez722@aol.com or 215-431-4440 or Jennifer Nizio at Nizzyot@gmail.com or 215-499-2651 with any questions)

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CAMERA TO GET PICTURES TAKEN WITH SANTA!!!

LUNCH WITH SANTA

Child's Name _____

Grade _____ **Room #**_____ **Teacher** _____

Kids Number of tickets: x $6.00 = _____

Adults Number of tickets: x $3.00 = _____
(Meal Only- Pizza, chips, drink)

Cash or Check (Please make check payable to St. Ephrem Youth Group) **Tickets will be given out at the event!!!**

2020 Schedule for Archdiocesan Marriage Preparation Sessions Now Available

Hard copies of the 25 session being offered by the Archdiocese are available at the rectory.

Please call or stop in.

Or visit PhillyCatholicMarriagePrep.com.

Any questions please call the rectory (215-245-1698) or speak to one of the priests.

Unbound Healing Ministry

Feeling stuck and looking for freedom? Unbound is a ministry of healing that helps individuals find freedom in areas of their life where they feel bound. A trained prayer team prays with a person using the Five Keys of the Unbound model of deliverance to help them find freedom and peace. Situations where Unbound can help include: relationship problems, inability to forgive, habitual sin, chronic anger, fear, or sadness, and more. For more info. and to find a local Unbound prayer team, visit the Archdiocesan website phillyevang.org/unbound.

Facing separation? Divorce? Remarried yet need an annulment? Know someone who is in this difficulty?

The St. Raymond Nonnatus Foundation for Freedom, Family, and Faith can help. This is a collaborative apostolate of the Mercedarian Religious Order (orderofmercy.org) offering healing services, resources and accompaniment to families and individuals in need of support in challenging times especially related to separation & divorce. Learn more at www.nonnatus.org. Call or text us at 215-870-9913.

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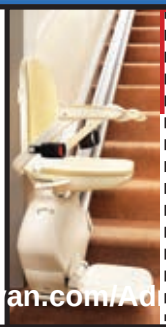

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The #WHATSMYNAME Movement asks everyone to simply ask drivers "What's my name?" before entering their vehicle to make sure it is the car they are supposed to enter.
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