

Liturgical Life

We are committed to being a community which is vibrant with an authentic expression of the Orthodox Christian faith and that is sustained by the Gospel message of Jesus Christ.

Goal: Offer our parishioners a rich liturgical life and vibrant liturgical services.

- Grow our choir/chanter ministry and expand our sacred music program.
- Install a chairperson for the Sacred Music Department.
- Send at least one parishioner to the Sacred Music Institute offered at the Antiochian Village each summer.
- Increase parishioners participation in liturgical services.



Pastoral Address

You are invited to join us on our journey towards the Kingdom of Heaven. As we continue to discover the mystery of the Incarnation of Christ, what it means for Christ to be born of the Virgin, we invite you to St. Ephraim parish. Our journey towards the eternal Kingdom, our journey towards genuine discipleship, is filled with the faith, hope and love that we all share in the Resurrection of our Savior. Although God is everywhere present and filling all things, although God is infinite, He has chosen to make His presences known to this world through us. Through those who have put on Christ in the baptismal waters of the Jordan, God reveals His saving ministry to this world. This is both an awesome opportunity and an awesome responsibility. With the realization in mind that we are called to live our Christian lives on this earth within the reality of our Church community, we invite you to join us and “come and see” what Orthodox Christianity is all about.

Rev. Fr. Mark Vair
Pastor/Proistamenos

Saint Ephraim Orthodox Church STRATEGIC PLAN 2018



Our Mission:

“A warm, loving and welcoming Orthodox Christian community dedicated to glorifying God through worship, instruction, spiritual growth, stewardship and community service to San Antonio and the world”

Community Presence

We are committed to being a vibrant Orthodox Christian community which ministers to the city of San Antonio and beyond.

Goal: Make our presence known to the city of San Antonio, and beyond, through our good works in order to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

- Establish an OCF (Orthodox Christian Fellowship) for college students in the San Antonio area.
- Continue to volunteer with established charitable organization (i.e. Habitat for Humanity and Crisis Pregnancy Center).
- Develop a youth bible bowl team.
- Continue to support adult Christian education efforts/ events.
- Develop a ministry for veterans.
- Develop and support a ministry for the homeless.

Member Involvement

We are committed to being a vibrant community where our members come together in order to glorify God through the fruits of their labor.

Goal: Expand and continue to grow the number of committed Orthodox Christian members at St. Ephraim parish.

- Conduct membership/pledge drives each and every year.
- Provide opportunities for parishioners to offer their *Time, Talent, and Treasure* to St. Ephraim parish and in service to our community.
- Provide opportunities for member involvement in liturgical life, Christian education, spiritual growth, catechism and community outreach.
- Encourage and provide examples for the realization that we are called to live out our Christian lives on this earth within the reality of our Church community.

Finance

Although God is infinite, He has chosen to work through us, through our gifts, to continue His saving ministry to this world. Thus, it is through the fruits of our labor that we participate in a communion with God. (Matthew 6:19-33)

Goal: Maintain our financial self-sufficiency and grow our resources in order to sustain and grow our ministry to the city of San Antonio and the world beyond.

- Actively plan to move to a facility that can better support our expected growth.
- Continue to grow our building fund
- Continue to make capital improvements to our current facility.
- Maintain fiscal responsibility.
- Reach a 10% annual tithe to the Archdiocese.
- Maintain our parish clergy by sustaining clergy compensation guidelines as set forth by the Diocese.

