

Church of St. Ephrem

929 Bay Ridge Parkway ♦ Brooklyn, New York 11228

www.stephremparish-brooklyn.org

 [stephrembklyn](https://twitter.com/stephrembklyn)



St. Ephrem Catholic Church Dyker

Parish Staff

Very Rev. Robert B. Adamo, V. F., KCHS, *Pastor*
Rev. Anthony S. Chanan, *Parochial Vicar*
Rev. Msgr. Theophilus Joseph, *Parochial Vicar*
Deacon Kevin McLaughlin, *Permanent Deacon*
Deacon Anthony Stucchio, *Permanent Deacon*
Sr. Mary Ann Ambrose, C.S.J., *Director of Faith Formation*
Mr. Robert Cote, *Youth Minister*
Mr. Michael Phillips, *Academy Principal*
Ms. Adele Rapelye, *Director of Music/Liturgy*
Mrs. Michele James, *Business Manager*
Mrs. Lisa Pinsky, *Parish Secretary*

November 12, 2023

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time



Abbreviated Bulletin—For Full Copy
<https://stephremparish-brooklyn.org/bulletins>



Hearing Assistance
iOS & Android

Rectory Office

929 Bay Ridge Parkway
718-833-1010
Fax 718-921-5232

Faith Formation Center

Side Entrance of St. Ephrem Convent (off Bay Ridge Parkway)
718-745-7486
FaithFormation@stephremparish-brooklyn.org

St. Ephrem Catholic Academy

924 74th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11228 ♦ 718-833-1440 ♦ www.stephremcatholicacademy.org

Schedule of Masses

Saturday Vigil 5:00 PM
Sunday 8:00 AM, and 11:00 AM
Weekdays Monday through Friday 7:00 AM & 8:45 AM
Saturday 8:45 AM

Rectory Office Hours

Monday—Thursday: 9:00 AM—12 Noon
1:00 PM—5:00 PM
Friday: 9:00 AM—12 Noon
1:00 PM—4:00 PM
Saturday **No Office Hours**
Sunday **No Office Hours**

Parish Registration

All are welcomed and invited to register at the Parish Office and participate in our parish or via parish website above.

Devotions

Miraculous Medal Novena, Mondays following the 8:45 AM Mass
Recitation of the Rosary at 8:15 AM before weekly morning Mass.
Divine Mercy Chaplet every Friday following the 8:45 AM Mass
First Friday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament following the 8:45 AM Mass and Benediction at 12:30 PM.

Baptism

Parents should call the rectory to make an appointment. Please note that there are no baptisms during the season of Lent.

Marriage

The Sacrament of Marriage requires a time of serious spiritual preparation. Couples should make arrangements for their marriage at least six months before the date of the wedding by making an appointment with a priest or deacon. Please log on to www.pre-cana.org for complete information about marriage preparation in the Diocese.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

Saturday 3:30—4:30 PM.
By appointment for all other times.

Anointing of the Sick/Communion

To make arrangements for communion to be brought to any parishioner who is seriously ill or confined to the house, or if they wish to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. To see a particular Staff Member, please call for an appointment.

Our Mission Statement

We, the parish family of St. Ephrem, baptized into the life of Jesus Christ and nourished by the Word and the Eucharist, strive to be a welcoming and responsive Roman Catholic faith community. Together we are committed to put our faith into action by: Responding to the spiritual and physical needs of the community through service and charity.

Reaching out to those who are searching for a faith community, including the young and those seeking to re-kindle their relationship with God. Reaching out to all without distinction.

Passing on our faith and traditions through teaching by word and example. Connecting to where people are on their faith journey.

Actively participating in the worship, sacrament and devotional life of the church.



Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 12, 2023

***"Behold, the bridegroom!
Come out to meet him!"
Matthew 25:1-3***

Dear Parishioners:

The end of the liturgical year always presents us with Scripture passages that speak of the end of times. This thee will continue into Advent's theme to stay awake and ready for the ultimate coming of Christ. ***"Stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour."*** The Bible's image of this time is sometimes troubling; here, we have a locked door and a Bridegroom who refuses to recognize those who came unprepared for the wedding feast, hardly a reassuring image of Christ's boundless mercy. But this is not a gospel about the mechanics of our preparation; when put into dialogue with the other readings for today, it becomes a gospel about our longing to be with Jesus. Those whose hearts desire him will find ways to prepare their hearts. The specifics of that preparation will look different for all of us but love and longing are at their core.

How can we prepare to wait? This odd question strikes at the heart of today's gospel. Jesus offers the parable of ten virgins waiting for the bridegroom to help his followers imagine what it will be like to wait for the Son of Man to return. First, we see the virgins arrive together and stay together. If only one virgin had been there alone all night, it would have been much easier for her to give up. Who would kept her motivated? Who would she have turned to when the waiting got hard? Like the virgins, Jesus wants us to live in joyful hope for the coming of the kingdom as a community. The Church at its best encourages and strengthens the community of believers.

The wise virgins came prepared with flasks of oil, but not infinite amounts. Similarly, Jesus calls us to be ready to wait for the coming of God's kingdom with for the coming humility and patience, recognizing that we do not yet have the fullness of faith, hope, and love in our lamps. But we do have something. Our lamps need not run empty if we use our oil well. Like the wise virgins, we are called to wait with anticipation. Surely the bridegroom will come back! If the wise virgins had no faith in the bridegroom's return, why would they have continued to wait? Something, likely those spiritual gifts of faith, hope and love, convinced them to keep vigil. We too receive spiritual gifts through the sacraments and the life of the church that empower us to keep waiting and to keep believing that what has been promised by God will one day be fulfilled.

In today's bulletin on page 3 there is a special letter from Bishop Brennan, regarding important issues that he will be addressing in the near future. I shared with you the discussion that Bishop Brennan has had with Priests', Deans, and many others. At this point Bishop Brennan is beginning the conversation with the faithful of the Diocese. Please take the opportunity to read this very important letter from Bishop Brennan and remain informed. Let us continue to pray for one another!

In the Good Shepherd,

9th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting

*Please join us for our
Christmas Tree Lighting*



*Saturday, December 2, 2023
5:00 PM Mass followed by the
Lighting of Christmas Trees,
Blessing of the Nativity &
Light Refreshments*

Brochures are available in the church if you like to participate in this Annual Event. Our Church property will be adorned with these beautiful Christmas Trees so that the Light of the World—Jesus will shine for all to see! This is an opportunity to honor or remember in a special way our loved ones.



Saint Ephrem Christmas Card

10 Cards for \$20.00

*Limited quantities are available.
Contact the Rectory to purchase a pack.*



Office of the Bishop
Diocese of Brooklyn

**310 Prospect Park West
Brooklyn, New York 11215**

November 3, 2023

To the Clergy, Staffs and the Faithful parishioners of Brooklyn and Queens.

Recently, I met with our Vicar General, Regional Vicars, local Deans and priests during our annual Priest Convocation in Douglaston. During this gathering, we discussed important issues that we will need to address in the near future, like new models of parish life, possible collaborations among parishes regarding Religious Education and other ministries, as well as assessing the current Mass schedules at all our parishes.

Allow me to share with you some statistics that were shared with the priests:

- In 2017, Mass attendance in our Diocese was reported at an average of 205,502 people per weekend. In 2022, the average was reported at 124,031. Due to demographic changes as well as the overall national trend of fewer Catholics attending Sunday Mass regularly, we see a decrease of nearly 40 percent in Mass attendance in our diocese in the last 5 years. This decline in Mass attendance means that we have in many parishes throughout the diocese large capacity churches with a significantly reduced Mass size.
- Due to a high number of priest retirements and deaths in recent years, there are fewer priests serving in our 175 parishes.
- In our diocese Mass is celebrated in 14 different languages on a weekly basis and in 26 languages monthly. This unique pastoral challenge in combination with the reduced number of clergy with bi-lingual skills further complicates the ability to best serve our parishes with specific language needs.

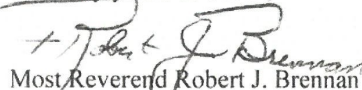
There is no simple solution to these issues. In many of our parishes it is evident that we do not need so many separate Masses to accommodate the number of parishioners in attendance at Sunday Eucharist each week. We are asking pastors and administrators throughout the diocese in Brooklyn and Queens, in consultation with their pastoral councils, to review and evaluate their Mass schedules. In many parishes, the number of Masses celebrated each weekend could be reduced by at least one or maybe more Masses, depending on the number of people attending and the capacity of each church.

Additionally, your pastor in coordination with your Regional Vicar and local Dean, are beginning discussions at the deanery level concerning possible collaborations among neighboring parishes regarding Religious Education programs and other ministries, that could possibly lead to formal parish partnerships.

I ask for your openness and cooperation with these possible changes. Not every parish will be affected, but most will go through some sort of adjustment, in order to be able to most effectively serve the current needs of the People of God in our great Diocese.

Be assured of my prayers for each of you, and may I humbly ask for your prayers, especially for our pastors and administrators, and all those who will be part of these discussions taking place throughout our parishes and deaneries.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Most Reverend Robert J. Brennan
Bishop of Brooklyn



St. Ephrem Parish Faith Formation News!

Classes Continue Each Wednesday at 4:00 p.m.

Need to Register? Go to:

<https://stephremparish-brooklyn.org/faith-formation-news/>



Proximate Preparation for First Penance and First Holy Communion

**All gatherings take place in
Saint Ephrem Catholic Academy Cafeteria
Sundays 9:30 a.m.—10:45 a.m.**

Sunday, November 19th Session III

Sunday, January 7th Session IV

Sunday, February 11th Session V

Sunday, March 10th Session VI

All should be attending mass every weekend.

Final Preparation for Confirmation Fall 2023

All Modules must be completed.

**Sunday, October 29, 2023 11:00 am-4:00 pm
Confirmation Retreat for All Candidates**

Practice in Church:

Monday, November 13th at 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 14th at 4:30 p.m.

Candidates Only

Wednesday, November 15th at 7:30 p.m.

Candidates & Sponsors

Confirmation is November 18th at 5:00 p.m.

PARISH AND ACADEMY HAPPENINGS



**The Mass Book
is now open
from**

January 1st to June 30th, 2024

**Requests may be made by email or by dropping off
your requests at the Rectory.
Please call (718) 833-1010 or
stephremrectory@aol.com**

Thank You!

We are happy to announce

**Most Reverend
James Massa, D.D.**

*Auxiliary
Bishop of Brooklyn*

*will confer the
Sacrament of Confirmation
on*

Saturday, November 18, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.



Celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism

**Sunday, November 19, 2023
at the 11:00 a.m. Mass**

Youth Ministry @ St. Ephrem Parish

Middle School Youth Ministry (Grades 5-8)

Sunday, November 12th

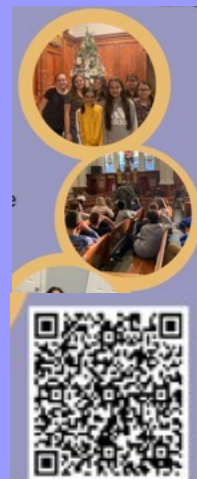
**Sunday, December 17th
All events takes place at
12 Noon—1 PM**

High School Youth Ministry Sunday, December 3rd

**In the
Faith Formation Office**

**Learn more email or scan to sign up:
youthministry@stephremparish-brooklyn.org**

***"We don't need youth museums but
we do need holy young people."*
Pope Francis**



The O.C.I.A. (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

**Adults needing both Eucharist
(Communion) and Confirmation or if
interested in becoming Catholic can
also reach out to S. Mary Ann at
Faithformation@stephremparish-brooklyn.org**

Mass Intentions for the week of November 12, 2023

8:45 AM Mass, the Saturday 5:00 PM Mass and the Sunday, 11:00 AM Mass are being live streamed through our parish website. Please share

Saturday, November 11th

8:45 AM Millicent Patterson
5:00 PM For the People of St. Ephrem
Leonard J. Dimino
Alphonse Gallo
Patricia Baxter
Florence Dalton
Rocco Loccisano
Espedito Parascandolo
Stella Kelly
Maria Ortega

Sunday, November 12th

8:00 AM Grazia Provenza
11:00 AM Mary Bonfiglio

Monday, November 13th

7:00 AM Florence & Ben Nigro
8:45 AM Florence & Nicholas McManus

Tuesday, November 14th

7:00 AM Valerie F. Patterson
8:45 AM Frank Milea

Wednesday, November 15th

7:00 AM Joseph & Mary Patterson
8:45 AM **St. Ephrem Catholic Academy Mass**
McGuirk & Delehanty Families

Thursday, November 16th

7:00 AM Millicent Patterson
8:45 AM Teresa O'Malley

Friday, November 17th

7:00 AM Valerie F. Patterson
8:45 AM Antonio Rinaldi

Saturday, November 18th

8:45 AM Michael Zraick
5:00 PM For the People of St. Ephrem
Leonard J. Dimino
Debbie Imperato DeAscentiis
For a Special Intention

Sunday, November 19th

8:00 AM Ralph Nicosia
11:00 AM Ophelia, Gregoria & Bernardino Rutti

MEMORIALS

You can honor or remember a loved one by requesting a Mass intention, Bread & Wine, Altar Candles, Sanctuary Lamp, Flowers for The Tabernacle Altar, Blessed Mother Altar and Holy Family Altar. Please contact the rectory if interested.



Bread and Wine

In Memory of

Grazia Provenza

Requested by Sylvester & Cynthia Sichenze



Altar Candles

In Memory of

The DiPretoro & Tuorto Families

Requested by Their Loving Families

Thanksgiving Mass

**Wednesday,
November 22, 2023**

Join us around the table of the Lord to give thanks for all the blessings we have received. We invite you to bring non-perishable food items for St. Andrew the Apostle's Food Pantry



*On behalf of the Parish Staff
We wish you a Blessed Thanksgiving!*



Fun for Seniors

**St. Ephrem Friendship Club
Wednesday's 10:30 am—2:00 pm
St. Ephrem Catholic Academy Msgr. Kain Hall**

Seniors 55+ are welcome to join the Friendship Club and participate in the fun!!! Yearly Membership is \$15.00. Do you enjoy 50/50 raffles, bingo, Casino Trips, Luncheons, Senior Prom, Card Games, coffee, cake, and so much more, this is the club for you.

For any questions, please free to call Frank 347-267-3644

PARISH & COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

Altar Servers

*Welcoming
Adults
and
Children
(Grades 3 and up)*



Training Dates in Church

Sunday, November 12, 2023 at 10:00 am

Mass of Installation

Sunday, November 19, 2023 at 11:00 am

Is God Calling You?

*Please contact the Rectory
(718) 833-1010*

music@stephremparish-brooklyn.org



November 5, 2023	268 Envelopes	\$7,461.00
Elizabeth Seton	100 Envelopes	\$1,379.00
Military Services	90 Envelopes	\$1,975.00
All Saints	75 Envelopes	\$1,879.00
We Share	18 Donors	\$ 909.63

Attendance 519

Saturday 5:00 p.m. 256 Sunday 8:00 a.m. 95
Sunday 11:00 a.m. 168

907 Families Registered and Receive Envelopes
**If you are able to send in your weekly donation,
enroll in the secure online donation through our
Parish website it would be greatly appreciated.**

To learn more about ways to give, visit our parish
website at: www.stephremparish-brooklyn.org

Click on 'Giving' and follow prompts.

Thank you for your generosity to St. Ephrem Parish!

*"Lord, grant me the strength to accept the things I
cannot change, the courage to change the things I
can, and the wisdom to know the difference."*

Saint Francis of Assisi

St. Ephrem Centennial Campaign Our Church, Our Prayers, Our Legacy

As of	November 6, 2023
Parish Goal	\$1.25 Million
Number of Donors	249
Amount Pledged*	\$1,363,812.64
Paid to Date	\$1,214,779.31
Percent of Goal	120%

Thank You for your Generosity!

**Some pledges have been cancelled
due to changing life circumstances.*

Saint Ephrem, pray for us!



St. Vincent de Paul Society

will be here on

Sunday, November 12

8:00 am to 12:30 pm

In front of the Church
(Main Entrance)



All types of clean usable clothing,
blankets and towels will be accepted.

Annual Catholic Appeal 2023

DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN



Parish Goal: \$100,198.00
Amount Pledged: \$89,499.00
Amount Paid: \$86,157.31
Donors: 131

**This does not include our recent
2nd Collection on October 29th.**



**Donate and contribute
to fulfill our Parish goals**

Scan the Code

Or text DONATE to 917-336-1255
Or visit: annualcatholicappeal.org



FORMED®



Sign Up by scanning QR Code.
Enter our Zip Code 11228
click on St. Ephrem, follow prompts