


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 19, 2023

Thirty-Third 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-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 19, 2023

"Since you were faithful in small matters, come, share your master's joy."

Matthew 25:14-30

Dear Parishioners:

The parable we hear Jesus tell his disciples in today's gospel continues his teaching about the last days. The opening words give us a clue that the fact that Jesus is again using allegory to teach about the kingdom of heaven. We are not really talking about high financial investment, but investment in gospel living. The gospel introduces an important concept for our life of faith: faithfulness in small matters is how we practice our readiness to be faithful in greater ways. As athletes train through consistent training, we grow in virtue through the disciples of consistent practice whenever the opportunity arises. Small moral choices might seem not to matter, but they do; they are an opportunity to develop our holiness muscles. While the servants deal with their master's money for a limited time, we are responsible for our gifts for the entirety of our lives. This can be an overwhelming proposition, but there is reassurance here: practicing trustworthiness in small ways prepares us for the great joy that God promises. In all the ordinary ways we act with compassion and justice and integrity, we are practicing and preparing for nothing less than heaven.

What would it look like for us, his disciples, to live the same way? God gifts us lives filled with meaning and purpose. Like the master in today's gospel, God gives us talents and expects us to grow them, especially for the sake of the poor, the marginalized, and the suffering.

Two weeks from now, we begin a new liturgical year, and a new calendar year kicks off a few weeks after that. Let us take time to consider how we can live more fully into our discipleship this next year. Where is God calling us to take risks for our faith? How is God calling us to act with bravery and boldness for the sake of the gospel?

Today we welcome Bishop Massa for the Saturday, 5:00 pm Vigil Mass, to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. We pray for these young men and women as they are confirmed today that the Holy Spirit will encourage them to respond to the needs of the world!

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.

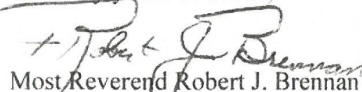
There is no simple solution to these issues. In many of our parishes it is evident that we do not need so many separate Masses to accommodate the number of parishioners in attendance at Sunday Eucharist each week. We are asking pastors and administrators throughout the diocese in Brooklyn and Queens, 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.



***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

Christmas Living Gospel

***Holy Family, Angels, Shepherds, Wise Men
Calling all children & teens to be part of the
Living Gospel on Sunday, December 24th
at the 5:00 pm Mass***

Practice Dates in the Church

Sunday, December 3rd, 12 Noon to 1:00 pm

Sunday, December 10th, 12 Noon to 1:30 pm

Sunday, December 17th, 12 Noon to 1:00 pm



**Dress Rehearsal in the Church
Saturday, December 23rd
at 11:30 am**

**Please RSVP to:
music@stephremparish-brooklyn.org**

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!

St. Ephrem Giving Tree 2023



***This year we will have a Hybrid
Giving Tree
(Tags and Virtual).
The recipients will be:
Hour Children
&
Heart Share***

***Beginning the weekend of
November 25th & 26th
You may take a tag or
visit our website.***

**Please return your gift by
December 11th
Thank you for your generosity!**

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***



Mass Intentions for the week of November 19, 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 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

Monday, November 20th

7:00 AM Joseph & Mary Patterson
8:45 AM Joseph Musacchio

Tuesday, November 21st

7:00 AM Millicent Patterson
8:45 AM Filomena Bordino

Wednesday, November 22nd

7:00 AM Clara Calabrese
8:45 AM **St. Ephrem Catholic Academy Mass**
James & Kathleen Ryan
7:00 PM Vigil John Riordan

Thursday, November 23rd

No 7:00 AM Mass
8:45 AM Valerie F. Patterson

Friday, November 24th

No 7:00 AM Mass
8:45 AM Jean Felice

Saturday, November 25th

8:45 AM Andrea Grillo
5:00 PM For the People of St. Ephrem
Leonard J. Dimino
Louis & Rose DiPretoro
Paul C. Smith
John Molloy
Michael Mooney
Blanche Kowalski
Catherine Siciliano
Marian Battaglia

Sunday, November 26th

8:00 AM Florence & Ben Nigro
11:00 AM Thomas & Julia Costanza

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
Rocco Loccisano

Requested by The Giudice Family



Altar Candles
In Memory of
Rocco Loccisano

Requested by The Giudice Family

Thanksgiving Mass

**Wednesday,
November 22, 2023
At 7:00 PM**

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



November 12, 2023 158 Envelopes \$5,060.00
Landscaping 77 Envelopes \$1,465.00

We Share 14 Donors \$ 584.32

Attendance 361

Saturday 5:00 p.m. 109 Sunday 8:00 a.m. 72
Sunday 11:00 a.m. 180

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 13, 2023

Parish Goal	\$1.25 Million
Number of Donors	249
Amount Pledged*	\$1,363,812.64
Paid to Date	\$1,214,829.31
Percent of Goal	120%

Thank You for your Generosity!

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

Saint Ephrem, pray for us!



FORMED®



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

PARISH & COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

Altar Servers

**Congratulations
to our New Altar Servers**



Mass of Installation

Sunday,
November 19, 2023
at 11:00 am

Is God Calling You?

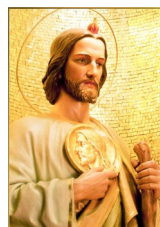
**Please contact the Rectory
(718) 833-1010**

music@stephremparish-brooklyn.org

The Parish of
Most Precious Blood-Sts. Simon & Jude
Is Hosting
The Relic of the Arm of St. Jude
First Time Leaving Rome

Sunday, November 26th Mass at 3:00 pm

Most Reverend Robert J. Brennan
Celebrant



followed by
Veneration of the Relic until 9:00 pm

Sts. Simon & Jude Church
Avenue T & Van Sicklen Street
Brooklyn, New York
(718) 375-9600



Annual Catholic Appeal 2023

DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN



Parish Goal: \$100,198.00
Amount Pledged: \$90,099.00
Amount Paid: \$87,307.31
Donors: 132

**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

