

# Church of St. Ephrem

929 Bay Ridge Parkway ♦ Brooklyn, New York 11228

[www.stephremparish-brooklyn.org](http://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*  
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*

December 3, 2023  
First Sunday of Advent



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](mailto:FaithFormation@stephremparish-brooklyn.org)

### St. Ephrem Catholic Academy

924 74th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11228 ♦ 718-833-1440 ♦ [www.stephremcatholicacademy.org](http://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](http://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.



## First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

***"Be watchful! You do not know when the Lord of the house is coming."***

**Mark 13:33-37**

Dear Parishioners:

***"Be watchful! Be alert!"*** Don't be caught unaware! Jesus warns his disciples in this Sunday's gospel. We begin another Advent season of watching and waiting. For some, it is a time of delight, waiting eagerly for Christmas, for anticipated gifts, for time off from work and school, and for happy gatherings of family and friends. For others, it is a dreaded time, as they approach their first holiday without a loved one or worry about how they will pay for the gifts and meals they want to provide. Whatever our situation, the Scripture readings today help us to adopt a stance of faithful watching and waiting.

Few people understand the demand of watchful waiting like a woman in her last weeks of pregnancy. This waiting may look passive, but it is work. Both the extra weight her body is carrying and the extra vigilance her mind bears are exhausting. Labor, like Jesus' coming arrives when it will; there are ways to generally prepare, but the moment of its onset remains a mystery until it is upon her. There is one major difference: the physical demands of late pregnancy are such that many expectant women report that they are never not watching for labor to begin. It is far easier to forget to watch for Christ, which is why he reminds us so fervently in today's gospel to do so. But since watchful alertness takes a great deal of energy and can wear us down over time, we need to also take care to make our spiritual practices sustainable.

Jesus offers the summons to "Be watchful! Be alert!" in the thirteenth chapter of Mark's Gospel, in the days before he is crucified. Birth, life, death, resurrection – these are all part of one narrative. As we prepare for Christmas these next few weeks, let us always be mindful of great transformations still to come.

Thank you to everyone for your kindness, support, and prayers expressed on the passing of Msgr. Theo. Please be assured of my prayers in return.

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***

## **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**

***Patronal Feast day of the United States of America***

**Friday, December 8th**

***A Holy Day of Obligation***

**Mass on  
Thursday, December 7th  
at 7:00 p.m.**

**Friday, December 8th at  
7:00 a.m. & 8:45 a.m.**



**Saint Ephrem Christmas Card**

**10 Cards for \$20.00**

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

## Christmas Mass Schedule



### Nativity of Our Lord Christmas Eve

**Sunday, December 24th**  
**5:00 p.m. in Church**  
*(With Portrayal of the Living Gospel  
& Children's Choir)*

**11:30 p.m. Carols**  
*(St. Ephrem Choir)*  
**12 Midnight Mass**

### Christmas Day

**Monday, December 25th**  
**8:00 a.m.**  
**11:00 a.m.**

*The Feast of the Holy Family is celebrated  
on Sunday, December 31st.*

## New Year's Mass Schedule

**Solemnity of Mary, The Mother of God**

**Monday, January 1, 2024**  
**8:45 a.m.**

## Epiphany of the Lord

**January 6th & 7th**  
**Regular Weekend Mass Schedule**

*The Christmas Season ends with  
the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord on  
Monday, January 8th.*

## Prepare for Christmas

*Reconciliation Monday*  
**December 18th**

**2:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.**  
**6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.**



**Weekend of December 9th & 10th**  
*Your generosity helps to support those religious who  
served throughout our diocese for many years in schools,  
parishes, prisons, and beyond. Religious never really  
retire, they storm heaven with prayer.*



Please give to those who  
have given a lifetime.

## Retirement Fund for Religious

[retiredreligious.org](http://retiredreligious.org)

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

## Blessing of the Christ Child Figure December 16th & 17th at All the Weekend Masses

*A beautiful tradition begun  
over 30 years ago by  
Saint Pope John Paul II and is  
continued till today.  
The hope was for children to  
connect their Creche  
at home to the Creche  
in Church.*



**Bring your infant Jesus to mass on this weekend,  
the Third Sunday of Advent, for a special blessing.**

## The Bethlehem Builders



**St. Ephrem's Bethlehem  
Builders is requesting  
Assistance this year, to help  
with our beautiful  
Nativity Scene in Church.  
Those with the following  
skills are needed:**

- Carpentry
- Ability to lift heavy statues

*If you have these skills and are able to help,  
please contact Deacon Tony by calling the Rectory.*

*"Many hands make light work!"*



### ***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, 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](mailto: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](mailto:music@stephremparish-brooklyn.org)**

## **PARISH AND ACADEMY HAPPENINGS**



**The 2024 Mass Book is Open  
January 1st to June 30th, 2024**

*Please contact the rectory  
to arrange for any Mass Intentions.*

### **Advent Spiritual Opportunities**

***The Word Among Us  
Catholic Mass Readings & Daily Meditations  
for the season of Advent  
Are available in the Church.***



Thank you

**Mc Laughlin & Sons,  
Funeral Home and  
Mr. Jay Sessa**

for providing us with the beautiful  
annual Catholic calendars



## **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 10th  
Thank you for your generosity!**

## **Youth Ministry @ St. Ephrem Parish**

### **Middle School Youth Ministry (Grades 5-8)**

**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](mailto: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 December 3, 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, December 2nd

8:45 AM Valerie Patterson  
 5:00 PM For the People of St. Ephrem  
 Leonard J. Dimino  
 Rae & Vito D'Angelico  
 Sylvester DiMeo & Schmidt Families  
 Gaetano & Grazia Maffa  
 Jean Felice  
 Nina Correa  
 Patrica Baxter  
 Dominick Bergamini  
 Deceased Members of the Bergamini & Tozzi Families

### Sunday, December 3rd

8:00 AM Frank Calabrese  
 11:00 AM Salvatore Bonfiglio

### Monday, December 4th

7:00 AM Msgr. Theo  
 8:45 AM Michael A. Iannizzi

### Tuesday, December 5th

7:00 AM Joseph & Mary Patterson  
 8:45 AM Emily Diaz

### Wednesday, December 6th

7:00 AM Antoinette Minko  
 8:45 AM **St. Ephrem Catholic Academy Mass**  
 John Carr

### Thursday, December 7th

7:00 AM Millicent Patterson  
 8:45 AM McGuirk & Delehanty Families  
 7:00 PM Vigil For the Intentions of Peggy White

### Friday, December 8th

7:00 AM Valerie F. Patterson  
 8:45 AM Rajiv Goulab

### Saturday, December 9th

8:45 AM Joseph & Mary Patterson  
 5:00 PM For the People of St. Ephrem  
 Leonard J. Dimino  
 John Molloy  
 Blanche Kowalski  
 Vito Marenelli  
 Millicent Patterson

### Sunday, December 10th

8:00 AM Deborah DeAscentiis  
 11:00 AM Graffagnino & Savarese Family

## 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  
**John Molloy**

*Requested by Sylvester & Cynthia Sichenze*

## ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE FOOD PANTRY

We will be collecting non-perishable and non-expired food items on

**December 16th & 17th**

***Thank you for your generosity!***



## Thank You

We deeply appreciate the kindness, support, and love you've shown us during this difficult time.

**It will always be remembered.**

*Msgr. Theo's Family & Friends*



## 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



November 26, 2023 192 Envelopes \$6,552.00

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](http://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 27, 2023
Parish Goal	\$1.25 Million
Number of Donors	249
Amount Pledged*	\$1,363,812.64
Paid to Date	\$1,215,179.31
Percent of Goal	120%

**Thank You for your Generosity!**

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

**Saint Ephrem, pray for us!**



## Congratulations

## New Altar Servers

*Our parish has been blessed to welcome these new Altar Servers.*

*They will assist at the Altar.*

*Let us pray for them as they begin their liturgical ministry in the parish.*

## Annual Catholic Appeal 2023

DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN



Parish Goal: \$100,198.00  
Amount Pledged: \$96,277.00  
Amount Paid: \$93,938.64  
Donors: 136



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

Scan the Code

Or text DONATE to 917-336-1255

Or visit: [annualcatholicappeal.org](http://annualcatholicappeal.org)



# FORMED<sup>®</sup>



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