

# 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 10, 2023**  
**Second 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**

### 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.



## Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023

***"Make straight the paths of the Lord."***  
**Mark 1:1-8**

Dear Parishioners:

At the beginning of Mark's Gospel, John the Baptist simply appears. He suddenly and out of nowhere is there in the desert proclaiming repentance and preparing the way for Jesus' coming. His childhood is completely invisible, but we who have also read Luke know what it took to get him here. We know the story of Elizabeth's unlikely pregnancy; we know her baby leapt in her womb, recognizing, and revealing Christ's presence before he was even born. God does not suddenly start working through John; God gave him a special mission and a special connection to Christ from the moment of his conception. We do not know much about John's childhood, but we know he was raised by parents who were holy and faithful and older, likely unable to keep up with their boy, full as he was of the Spirit. Their labor, all that went into raising him, all they taught him, is overlooked here. Mark has him appear with nice dramatic effect. ***"John the Baptist appeared in the desert."*** But John doesn't really appear out of nowhere.

For the next two Sundays, the gospels encourage us to encounter Christ through the ministry of John the Baptist., The great prophet, clothed in camel's hair and munching on locusts, prepares the way of the Lord with a singular focus. John does not worry about his appearance. He does not worry about upsetting those in power as evidenced by his eventual beheading at the hand of Herod. As the son of a priest, John could have proclaimed his message from the ritzy steps of the temple. Instead, John humbly preaches from the banks of the Jordan River. He goes to the place where the Israelites made their journey into the Promise Land and made another promise: the Mighty One is coming. Prepare your hearts.

John exemplifies humility. Mark notes that "people of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him," yet John never loses his focus on Jesus. He knows God did not call him to preach the good news of John. Rather, the Baptist uses his popularity to point the way to Jesus the Christ, whose good news will bring salvation to the world.

I want to express once again my gratitude for your generosity toward the Annual Catholic Appeal. Last weekend we collected an additional \$3,076.00 toward our parish goal of \$100,198.00. Leaving us short \$1,345.00 which the parish will be responsible for this amount. Thank you again for your generosity!

In the Good Shepherd,



***"Advent is a time when we journey  
towards Jesus and his Kingdom  
of justice and peace."***  
**Pope Francis**

Thank you  
**Mc Laughlin & Sons,  
Funeral Home and  
Mr. Jay Sessa**  
for providing us with the beautiful  
annual Catholic calendars



### **Advent Spiritual Opportunities**

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



### **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 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](mailto:stephremrectory@aol.com)**

**Thank You!**

## **St. Ephrem Giving Tree 2023**

**Please return all  
Gifts by**

**December 10th**



***Thank you  
for your generosity  
and making so  
many happy this  
Christmas!***

## **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 10, 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 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

### Monday, December 11th

7:00 AM Valerie F. Patterson  
8:45 AM Joseph & Mary Patterson

### Tuesday, December 12th

7:00 AM Millicent Patterson  
8:45 AM Valerie F. Patterson

### Wednesday, December 13th

7:00 AM Aida Offitto  
8:45 AM **St. Ephrem Catholic Academy Mass**  
Joan Dixon

### Thursday, December 14th

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

### Friday, December 15th

7:00 AM Valerie F. Patterson  
8:45 AM Winifred Fugowski

### Saturday, December 16th

8:45 AM Joseph & Mary Patterson  
5:00 PM For the People of St. Ephrem  
Leonard J. Dimino  
Nicholas & George DiPretoro  
Peter J. Carlin  
Msgr. Theo  
Fred Coulson  
Rose Panarella  
Millicent Patterson  
Richard Hyland  
Patricia Watt

### Sunday, December 17th

8:00 AM Carl Martello  
11:00 AM Douglas (29th Anniversary in Heaven)  
& Anne Riggs (1st Anniversary in Heaven)

## 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.*

### Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day December 12th

Patroness of the Americas

Pray for us!



### Altar Candles

In Memory of

**Concetta Altieri**

*Requested by Her Loving Daughter*



### Bread and Wine

In Memory of

**Deceased Members of the Parise and Marciano Families**

*Requested by Al Marciano and Family*

### 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!**



### 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



December 3, 2023 159 Envelopes \$5,660.00  
 Christmas Flowers 79 Envelopes \$1,581.00  
 We Share 42 Donors \$1,552.04

Attendance 487

Saturday 5:00 p.m. 218 Sunday 8:00 a.m. 90  
 Sunday 11:00 a.m. 179

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.stephemparish-brooklyn.org](http://www.stephemparish-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	\$1,215,229.31
Percent of Goal	120%

**Thank You for your Generosity!**

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

**Saint Ephrem, pray for us!**



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 Enter our Zip Code 11228  
 click on St. Ephrem, follow prompts

## PARISH & COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

### Feast of Saint Lucy December 13th



O St. Lucy, you preferred to let your eyes be torn out instead of denying the faith and defiling your soul; and God, through an extraordinary miracle, replaced them with another pair of sound and perfect eyes to reward your virtue and faith, appointing you as the protector against eye diseases. I come to you for your protection of my eyesight and to heal the illness in my eyes.

O St. Lucy, preserve the light of my eyes so that I may see the beauties of creation, the glow of the sun, the color of the flowers and the smile of children.

Preserve also the eyes of my soul, the faith, through which I can know my God, understand His teachings, recognize His love for me and never miss the road that leads me to where you, St. Lucy, can be found in the company of the Angels and Saints.

Through the intercession of St. Lucy, bless **N.** and protect my eyes and preserve my faith!

St. Lucy, pray for us!

Amen.

*Blessing of Eyes  
 at the 7:00 a.m. & 8:45 a.m. Masses*

### Annual Catholic Appeal 2023 DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN



**Parish Goal: \$100,198.00**  
**Amount Pledged: \$95,777.00**  
**Amount Paid: \$93,248.64**  
**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)

