

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*
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 24, 2023
Fourth 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

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.



Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24, 2023
***"Behold, you will conceive
in your womb and bear a son."***
Luke 1: 26-38

Dear Parishioners:

In today's gospel reading, Gabriel's message to Mary is that God now takes up residence in human flesh. While there is a place for magnificent temples and churches where we can gather as a people to glorify God, the Holy One would have us first recognize that divinity walks around in our midst in human skin.

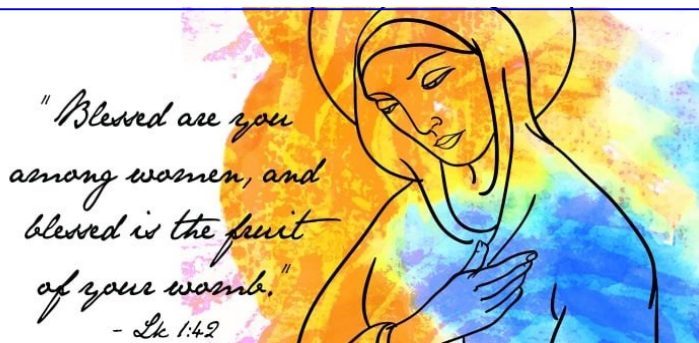
We celebrate Christ's coming at Christ at Christmas, but it is so intimately tied to the moment of this gospel. Here, nearly at the end of our Advent waiting, we hear of Jesus' conception and the beginning of Mary's waiting. She has all the pain and discomfort and uncertainty of pregnancy ahead of her; as we join her in waiting for Christ, we often carry pain and uncertainty too. Yet her discomfort – and ours – is wrapped up by the God who can take all things and make them work for good. We are not left with suffering that remains meaningless. We are not left alone. The same Holy Spirit that came upon Mary has been promised to us, and we are always overshadowed by the power of the Most High. God is with us even as we wait for God's return in glory. We are seen, we are known, we are loved.

Mary's story can inspire us to also see ourselves as worthy in God's eyes. It can be easy to doubt our worth, particularly during the holiday season. Perhaps you are struggling to find meaning after a divorce, a family dispute, or a layoff. Maybe you are deep in the throes of a mental health crisis, cannot afford the gifts you want to give, or are feeling lonely while everyone else looks merry and bright.

Mary empathizes with our pain. She asked similar questions. And in the end, the young girl from Nazareth trusted in God's almighty power. She believed that indeed nothing is impossible for God. She believed God could lift up the lowly and bring the holiest of holies to life within her. On this last day of Advent, spend some time in prayer with Mary. We ask her to intercede for us so that we might come to see ourselves as worthy.

On behalf of the Parish Staff, Sisters, Fr. Anthony, and I, we wish you and your families a Merry Christmas! May the newborn Savior, Jesus bring you peace and joy!

In the Good Shepherd,



Is God Calling You?

***"I proclaim to you good
news of great joy: today a
Savior is born for us,
Christ the Lord."***

**If you think you may be called to share the
Father's love as a priest, deacon or in the
consecrated life, contact the Vocation Office at
(718) 827-2454 or email: vocations@diobrook.org**



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.*



Christmas Hospitality

There is a story about someone who once complained to the pastor that whenever he came to church the music was always the same: "Silent Night" or "Christ the Lord is Risen Today." Those of you who are here Sunday after Sunday can be a welcoming presence to those who come to church only on Christmas and Easter. Our hospitality can be a powerful way of saying, "We're glad you're here. Please join us every Sunday for worship." Our hospitable friendliness can be a powerful tool of evangelization, reaching out to those who do not feel regularly connected to a parish.



Peace Light of Bethlehem

We welcome the Peace Light here, at St. Ephrem, on the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Please join us as we begin the preparation for the birth of the Prince of Peace in our hearts. May we be a light, a sign of the Peace Light in our community. In a special way we continue to pray for peace throughout the world.

The Peace Light will burn throughout the Christmas Season (January 8th).



Christmas Prayer

by Pope John XXIII

O SWEET CHILD OF BETHLEHEM,
GRANT THAT WE MAY SHARE WITH ALL OUR
HEARTS IN THIS PROFOUND
MYSTERY OF CHRISTMAS.
+ PUT INTO THE HEARTS OF MEN AND WOMEN
THIS PEACE FOR WHICH THEY
SOMETIMES SEEK SO DESPERATELY
AND WHICH YOU ALONE CAN GIVE TO THEM.
HELP THEM TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER BETTER,
AND TO LIVE AS BROTHERS AND SISTERS,
CHILDREN OF THE SAME FATHER.
REVEAL TO THEM ALSO YOUR BEAUTY,
HOLINESS AND PURITY.
AWAKEN IN THEIR HEARTS LOVE
AND GRATITUDE FOR
YOUR INFINITE GOODNESS.
JOIN THEM ALL
TOGETHER IN YOUR LOVE.
AND GIVE US YOUR HEAVENLY PEACE.
AMEN.



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

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. ANDREW THE APOSTLE FOOD PANTRY

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

January 20th & 21st

Thank you for your generosity!



**Have you heard the
great things that are
happening at**

**St. Ephrem Catholic
Academy ?**

***Please call to set up a tour, a buddy day or
for information (718) 833-1440 or visit
www.stephremcatholicacademy.org***

Merry Christmas!



**While we sometimes think of
Christmas ending on Christmas
day, it really just begins. Think of
the song "The Twelve Days of
Christmas" and the celebration
continues through January 9th, at the celebration of
the Baptism of the Lord.**

***What can you do to celebrate
Christmas for twelve days?***

I

***"Christmas is the feast of love incarnate and born
for us in Jesus Christ. He is the light of mankind
shinning in the darkness, giving meaning to human
existence and to the whole of history."***

- Pope Francis



Save the Date

**St. Ephrem Annual Celebration
Saturday, February 10th
Following the 5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass**

Please consult the bulletin for more details!

Mass Intentions for the week of December 24, 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 and join us!

Saturday, December 23rd

8:45 AM Pietro Nesta
5:00 PM For the People of St. Ephrem
Leonard J. Dimino
Lucy Coluccio
Valerie F. Patterson
Joseph & Mary Patterson
Millicent Patterson

Sunday, December 24th

8:00 AM Florence & Ben Nigro
11:00 AM Maddalena & Ilario Piscioneri
5:00 PM Charles Casazza
John Riordan
12 Midnight Rose & Robert Perro

Monday, December 25th

8:00 AM Natalino Guglielmetti
11:00 AM Dorothy Earley

Tuesday, December 26th

No 7:00 AM Mass

8:45 AM Calvin Bunch & Mr. & Mrs. Kirkland

Wednesday, December 27th

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

Thursday, December 28th

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

Friday, December 29th

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

Saturday, December 30th

8:45 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
5:00 PM For the People of St. Ephrem
Leonard J. Dimino
Valerie F. Patterson
Joseph & Mary Patterson
Millicent Patterson

In Honor of the Holy Innocents for
Sherv Vaughn Goulab & Kurt Maraj

Sunday, December 31st

8:00 AM Sheila Walsh
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

Natalino Guglielmetti

Requested by His Loving Family



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION FIRST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH

Adoration following the 8:45 am Mass

*In the event of a funeral,
Adoration begins after the funeral.*

Benediction takes place at 12:00 Noon.

"Ensure that
Holy Christmas
is never a celebration
of consumerism,
appearances, useless gifts,
or excessive waste,

but that it is a celebration of
**joyfully welcoming the Lord
into the crib and into the heart"**

POPE FRANCIS



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



**Tithing Report was not available,
at the time bulletin went to print.**

December 10, 2023 209 Envelopes \$7,205.00
Religious Retirement 114 Envelopes \$3,305.00
We Share 47 Donors \$1,893.12

Attendance 469

Saturday 5:00 p.m. 100 Sunday 8:00 a.m. 94
Sunday 11:00 a.m. 275

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 web-
site 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 December 11, 2023

Parish Goal	\$1.25 Million
Number of Donors	249
Amount Pledged*	\$1,363,812.64
Paid to Date	\$1,215,664.31
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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Sign Up by scanning QR Code.
Enter our Zip Code 11228
click on St. Ephrem, follow prompts

PARISH & COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS



Please Consider... Bereaved During The Holidays

Christmas Time is not a time of cheer for everyone. People who have recently lost loved ones, or for whom this is the first holiday season without their loved ones, experience a great deal of sadness during this time. If you know someone in this situation, reach out to them, take time to be with them or to go places with them so that their feeling of loneliness is perhaps a little less. You can't replace the deceased loved one, but you can let the bereaved person know that they are still important to and cared for by others.

Annual Catholic Appeal 2023

DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN



Parish Goal: \$100,198.00

Amount Pledged: \$99,177.00

Amount Paid: \$94,978.64

Donors: 139

13 Pledges with a balance of \$4,198.36
We hope they can fulfill their pledge and we can make our goal.

All pledges are due by December 31st



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

Scan the Code

Or text DONATE to 917-336-1255

Or visit: annualcatholicappeal.org

