

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 17, 2023
Third 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.

Third Sunday of Advent



December 17, 2023

*"There is one among you
whom you do not recognize."
John 1:6-8, 19-28*

Dear Parishioners:

John the Baptist gets so much of our Advent attention-but why do we have him at all? He is not the main event; he is very clear about this from the beginning. What he offers is incomplete revelation, a promise yet to be fulfilled, a lesser baptism than the one who is to come. Why does God work in this way? Why not send us Christ directly and immediately and get right down to the work of salvation? We may not ever know why, but we can take a cue from John the Baptist in accepting the partial nature of what we see of God's work. John knows his place and accepts it in humility. He embodies the prayer by Bishop Ken Untener that reminds us: *"We are...ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own."* Like John, we each play some small but irreplaceable role in revealing and announcing Christ. The partial nature of this work can be frustrating, but God's ways are not our ways, and God's timing cannot be rushed.

Imagine a jubilee happening today. How might God's blessings transform lives? What might God do to relieve the sorrow and suffering of creation? We need not wait passively for a jubilee to happen. The prophet Isaiah paves a way for dreaming of a year of favor from the Lord. We too can imagine the freedom of jubilee time-and work to make it happen. In ways big and small, we can be people of jubilee. We can tend to the needs of people who are vulnerable and hurting. Through our words and actions, we can bring about rejoicing in the name of God.

John comes to testify to the light. We too are called to reflect the light of Christ to the world. Where will you shine in these days leading up to Christmas?

Thank you to all for helping us make our Annual Catholic Appeal 2023 Parish Goal. The two collections and several generous parishioners made this happen. This includes 13 parishioners who have to fulfill their pledge. I am grateful for your generosity throughout the year! Once the diocesan report is updated it will be reflected in our bulletin.

In the Good Shepherd,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rev. John B. Adams".



*"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.



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.

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

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



Thank You!

***Your generosity
has made so many
filled with joy 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**

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



Mass Intentions for the week of December 17, 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 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)

Monday, December 18th

7:00 AM Valerie F. Patterson
8:45 AM John Mollica

Tuesday, December 19th

7:00 AM Rocco Loccisano
8:45 AM Michael Liberth

Wednesday, December 20th

7:00 AM Anthony Greco, Jr.
8:45 AM **St. Ephrem Catholic Academy Mass**
Martin Dombrowski

Thursday, December 21st

7:00 AM Nancy S. D'Amato
8:45 AM Joseph & Mary Patterson

Friday, December 22nd

7:00 AM Millicent Patterson
8:45 AM Domenick Mazzone

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

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

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.

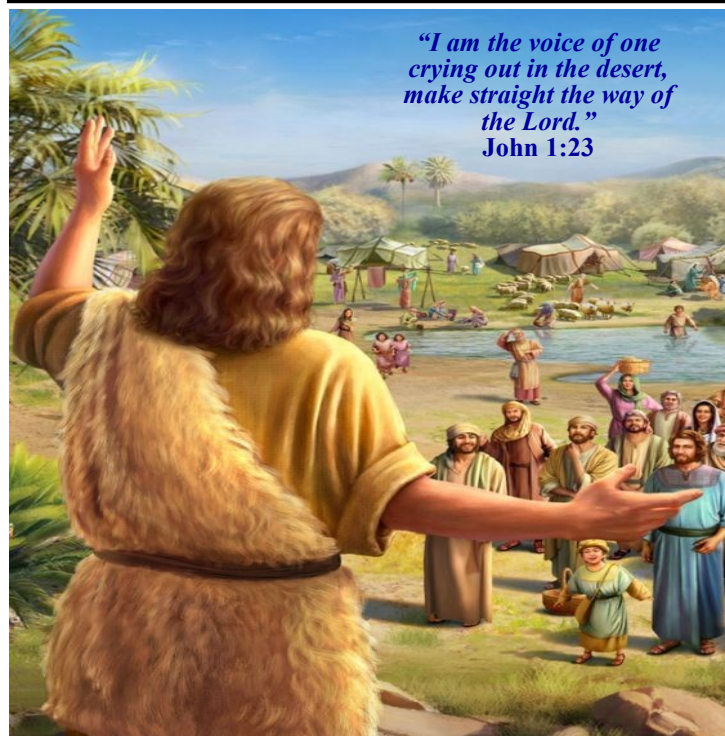


Bread and Wine

In Memory of

Peter A. & Peter J. Carlin

*Requested by Wife & Mother,
Peggy Carlin*



*"I am the voice of one
crying out in the desert,
make straight the way of
the Lord."
John 1:23*



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 10, 2023	209 Envelopes	\$7,205.00
Religious Retirement	114 Envelopes	\$3,305.00
Immaculate Conception	80 Envelopes	\$1,670.00
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 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	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.



Donate and contribute to fulfill our Parish goals

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

