

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 Heights

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*

January 7, 2024
The Epiphany of the Lord



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.

The Epiphany of the Lord

January 7, 2024



"We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage."
Matthew 2: 1-12

Dear Parishioners:

When the magi come to Jerusalem, they head for the palace; they came, after all, looking for a king. Their searching leads them ultimately to a much more ordinary abode. They trust that this is what they were seeking, and they respond with joy and praise. What extraordinary trust-humble life of Mary and Joseph does not look like the king they were expecting. The magi and their extraordinary trust stand in sharp contrast with King Herod. They are open to the workings of God in places and people foreign to them. He, on the other hand, clings so tightly to his power and title that he cannot see God's hand even as God fulfills promises to the people Herod purports to represent. The magi ask questions earnestly, driven by curiosity and passion. Herod makes inquiries maliciously, intending to maintain his hold on what was never really his. The magi give us an example of the wonders that can happen when we drop our defenses and receive God's presence in each other even when it does not appear as we would expect.

A star leads the magi to Jesus in today's Epiphany story. Throughout Scripture, God reveals the way to the divine through the natural world. For instance, God promises Abraham that his descendants will be "as numerous as the stars in the sky" (Gen. 26:4). The father of many nations learns to trust God by gazing up at the night sky. Next week's gospel tells of Jesus emerging from water to God's Spirit descending upon him in baptism. How is God revealing Godself to you through the natural world?

The magi must make a major decision in today's gospel: obey the powers of the established king, Herod, or risk following the newborn king, Jesus. Knowing the consequences that await, the magi still choose Jesus. They choose the new over the old, the helpless over the powerful. Jesus ushers in a new kingdom.

In the Good Shepherd,



"They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh."

The Gospel of Matthew 2:11



With a grateful heart, we thank you for all the Christmas Cheers, Sweets, and Kindness you shared with us during this Christmas Season!

Fr. Robert, Fr. Anthony and the Parish Staff.



Saint Ephrem can use your "old" Christmas Cards.

If you would like to recycle your Christmas cards for our Advent Giving Tree Tags.

Please bring them to the Rectory Office.

Thank You!

Church New Boiler and Gas Line & Meter



Above please see our new Church boiler and conversion to Gas from oil. This project has been planned for a while and now it has been completed.

Our heating system will be energy efficient and cleaner.

On January 21st is our Heat Assistance Collection. Please be as generous as possible.

Thank You for your continued generosity!



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).

When the song of the angels
is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes
are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,

The work of Christmas begins

to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.

- HOWARD THURMAN

A Prayer for the New Year

Lord,
Whether I leave behind
a year of joy or of trials and difficulties,

I pause to *give thanks*.
Thank you for being with me
every day of every year.

Thank you for making all things **new**
and for giving me the grace of
fresh starts

and *new beginnings*.
Remind me of your presence in the days to
come,
even when I feel pushed and rushed by
busyness.

Be glorified in my life this year.

Amen



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



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
shining 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 January 7, 2024

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

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

Nancy S. D'Amato

Requested by Her Loving Husband



Altar Candles

In Memory of

Sue Liberth

Requested by Her Loving Family

Saturday, January 6th

8:45 AM Pat Arnold

5:00 PM For the People of St. Ephrem
Leonard J. Dimino
Bill Hyland
Msgr. Theo
Richard Hyland
Frank Marzegliano
Lou LaRocca

Sunday, January 7th

8:00 AM James Francis Ryan

11:00 AM Robert Chartrand

Monday, January 8th

7:00 AM Luca & Carolina Minutillo

8:45 AM Patricia Watt

Tuesday, January 9th

7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem

8:45 AM Carl Mannuzza

Wednesday, January 10th

7:00 AM Patricia Watt

8:45 AM **St. Ephrem Catholic Academy Mass**
Msgr. Theo

Thursday, January 11th

7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem

8:45 AM Florence & Nicholas McManus

Friday, January 12th

7:00 AM Nancy S. D'Amato

8:45 AM For the Intentions of Sr. Marie Antoinette

Saturday, January 13th

8:45 AM Michael Sessa

5:00 PM For the People of St. Ephrem
Leonard J. Dimino
In Loving Memory of Msgr. Theo
Louis LaRocca
Rocco Loccisano
Pierre Luigi Bruzzi
Larry Rogando

Sunday, January 14th

8:00 AM Geraldine Bonfiglio

11:00 AM Salvatore, Antonia & Giuseppe Baio

AN EPIPHANY PRAYER

Lord Jesus
may your light
shine our way,
as once it guided
the steps of the magi:
that we too may be led
into your presence
and worship you,
the Child of Mary,
the Word of the Father,
the King of nations,
the Saviour of mankind;
to whom be glory for ever.

Amen





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

December 17, 2023 164 Envelopes \$6,027.00
Christmas Gift 112 Envelopes \$13,313.00
We Share 17 Donors \$ 404.99

Attendance 403

Saturday 5:00 p.m. 108 Sunday 8:00 a.m. 84
Sunday 11:00 a.m. 211

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 18, 2023

Parish Goal	\$1.25 Million
Number of Donors	249
Amount Pledged*	\$1,363,812.64
Paid to Date	\$1,215,429.31
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: \$99,677.00
Amount Paid: \$97,812.00
Donors: 141



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

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

