

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*

December 31, 2023

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



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 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

December 31, 2023

***"The child grew and became strong,
filled with wisdom."***

Luke 2:22-40

Dear Parishioners:

The last sentence of this gospel hides a whole lot of life within it. ***"The child grew, and became strong."*** yes, but it didn't just happen! He grew because Mary and Joseph worked tirelessly, as good parents do, to provide for his needs. They fed him and cleaned him; they taught him to sleep through the night and to walk and to feed himself. They cheered when Jesus, the Word Of God, spoke his first word. But at the same time, they can't take full responsibility for the child's growth; it is wonderful and mysterious that children grow up. Parenthood is work undertaken in partnership with God. God was with Mary and Joseph in the painful parts of the job, both those unique to raising the Son of God and those sorrows that every parent feels. There is much pain in giving your heart over to someone who is constantly changing. "The child grew" and Mary and Joseph, like many of us, must have felt simultaneous delight at all he was learning and grief for the smaller versions of him that they loved so dearly and would never get back.

Today's gospel also introduces us to the prophetess Anna. Advanced in age, Anna experienced various forms of family life throughout her years. Now widowed, Anna worships in the temple day and night. She believed in the Christ Child who would redeem Jerusalem and proclaimed his coming to all who would listen. Anna stands in the prophetic tradition of Old Testament greats like Deborah and Miriam, who prepared the way for God.

With their resolute faith and years of wisdom, Simeon and Anna provided Mary and Joseph with perspective. They remind the new parents of their son's identity. They affirm Jesus' mission to be light for the world. Those of us who parent or care for children know the value of intergenerational perspectives. Families, whether by birth or by choice, thrive when members of all ages encourage each other and draw on their own experiences for the betterment of the whole. Like Jesus, each of us is part of a larger system of support.

On behalf of the Parish Staff, Sisters, Anthony, Fr. Anthony, and I, we wish you and your families a Happy New Year! May this new year be filled with many blessings!

In the Good Shepherd,



***Behold,
this child is
destined for
the fall and rise
of many.***

Luke 2: 22-40



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 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!

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.



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.

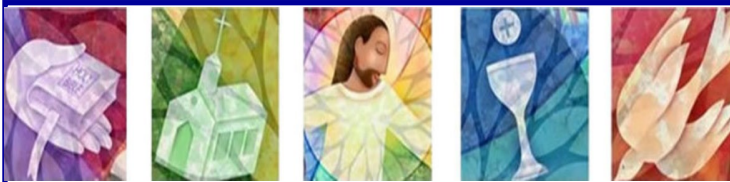
For any questions, please free to call Frank 347-267-3644



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).



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



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

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***



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 31, 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 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 Shervaughn
 Goulab & Kurt Maraj

Sunday, December 31st

8:00 AM Sheila Walsh
 11:00 AM Thomas & Julia Costanza

Monday, January 1st 2024

No 7:00 AM Mass

8:45 AM In Honor of the Holy Spirit for Alvern
 & Amaiya Valmont

Tuesday, January 2nd

No 7:00 AM Mass

8:45 AM Domenick Mazzone

Wednesday, January 3rd

7:00 AM Silvio & Giovanna Rocco
 8:45 AM Carmen Rodriguez

Thursday, January 4th

7:00 AM Sebastian & Maria Rocco
 8:45 AM Paul Murphy

Friday, January 5th

7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
 8:45 AM Therese Offitto

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

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.



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.

Prayer for Families

Loving God,
 During this holy season of Christmas,
 we ask for your blessing on all
 families.
 Let Mary's openness to your
 wondrous ways be an inspiration
 to place all trust in you.
 Let Joseph's courage provide hope
 during times of anxiety and
 uncertainty.
 Let Jesus' life ignite all families with
 a spirit of light and love.
 May the grace that encircled the
 Holy Family widen to embrace all
 families.
 For this we pray.
 Amen.





This was the most updated Tithing Report 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

