

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*
Rev. Nicholas Colalella, *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*

February 18, 2024
First Sunday of Lent



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.



First Sunday of Lent

*"Jesus was tempted by Satan,
and the angels ministered to him."
Mark 1:12-15*

Dear Parishioners:

In today's gospel, Jesus invites all to choose a change in lifestyle. It is not imposed, but failure to accept it will have disastrous consequences. *"Repentance,"* is a change of mind and heart, a lifelong process of transformation. Jesus is not asking for the temporary foregoing of something pleasurable, like giving up chocolate for Lent. The *"repent"* to which Jesus invites us is both a turning away from whatever inhibits the full flourishing of the divine intent for creation and a turning toward the source of divine love. There is no better time to begin turning than now. God's intentions to make better lifestyle choices in the future become empty rhetoric in light of Jesus' urgent invitation: *"This is the time of fulfillment."*

The gospel situates Jesus in an opposite type of climate: the desert. Satan tempts Jesus on harsh, barren land and still, the Son of God comes out victorious. The second readings throughout Lent assert the importance of baptism as the entryway into the paschal mystery of Jesus. In the waters of baptism, God's mercy embraces us. We are clothed as a new creation and welcomed into the life of Christ. Lent is a time to recall our own baptismal promises, as well as journey with the catechumens who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. The presence of catechumens is a great gift to the church. They remind us of our commitment to Christian discipleship and the power of saying "yes" to God's call. Let us keep all catechumens and their sponsors in prayer this Lent.

This year our parish will journey to the Easter Vigil with Anuhpam to the Easter Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. In addition, with Russell who is already one with us in Baptism, will receive Confirmation and Holy Communion. Anuhpam and Russell have been preparing for 2 years, let us continue to journey with them with our prayers. Next Sunday, we will have the Rite of Sending at 11:00 am Mass. We will send Anuhpam to meet Bishop Brennan, along with everyone who will be receiving the Easter Sacraments.

Thank you for every who participated in our annual Mardi Gras celebration or donated a gift. It was a great celebration, and everyone had a very enjoyable time. Thank you again!

In the Good Shepherd,

2024

Lucky March

Calendar Raffle

31 Chances to Win!!!

**2 Chances to win
\$200**

**3 chances to win
\$100**

**5 chances to win
\$75**

**20 chances to win
\$50**

And

**The Grand Prize of
\$1,000**

**Calendars available at
the rectory and the
doors of the church**



Easter 2024

***"I am the Resurrection and
the Life!"***

**Remember or Honor a loved one during the
Easter Season
(March 31st—May 19)
with a**

Solar Cross Light

which will be placed on St. Ephrem's Lawn

**Your loved one's name
will be placed on the cross.**

\$50.00 per Cross

One Individual Name or Family Name.

***Applications are available at the rectory and the
doors of the church***

LENT

A SEASON OF REFLECTION,
RENEWAL, AND PREPARATION

Stations of the Cross Fridays Lent

Following the 8:45 am Mass
& 7:00 pm in Church



Tuesdays of Lenten

Each Tuesday we will gather to view and discuss a movie in St. Ephrem Catholic Academy Cafeteria. Help us plan appropriately by either calling the rectory or completing the registration form on our website by February 21st.



Tuesday, February 27th at 6:00 pm

Tuesday, March 5th at 6:00 pm



Tuesday, March 12th at 6:00 pm



Alejandro Monteverde's new film, "Cabrini," tells the true story of Francesca Cabrini — also known as St. Frances Xavier Cabrini — and will be released by Angel Studios on International Women's Day, **March 8th.**

"**Cabrini**" takes place in 1889 when hostility toward Italian immigrants ran high in New York. As an Italian immigrant, Cabrini was greeted by not only hostility but also crime, disease, and dangerous living conditions, especially for orphaned children. She and her religious sisters — of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus — set out on the dangerous mission to provide housing and education for society's most vulnerable.

Please try to support this movie, as St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, lived and worked in Brooklyn, and we are very proud of being part of her story. Please consult movie theater times and locations. Supporting these type of movies will assure others to be made.

Through the generosity of Connors & Sullivan Attorneys at Law, they are offering a free screening on Tuesday, March 12th at 6:30 pm at the Regal UA Sheepshead Bay Theater. Limited Seating RSVP NOW: Kristen LaBoy (718) 238-6500 ext 245 or Kristen.laboy@connorsandsullivan.com



2024 Diocesan Lenten Pilgrimage



February 14 to March 27

Visit 39 churches throughout Brooklyn and Queens for a celebration of the gift of the Holy Eucharist.

Journey to a different parish each day during Lent (except Sundays) and journey with hundreds of Catholics as we prepare for Easter.

Plan Your Pilgrimage Today!

For complete details and a list of designated station churches, visit:

dioceseofbrooklyn.org/Lent
or scan the QR code.



Download the App (Apple Store or Android Play Store).
Enter in the search bar: Lenten Pilgrimage

Our Deanery Participation

St. Patrick Church, Bay Ridge
Wednesday, March 13th
www.stpatrickbayridge.org

St. Ephrem Church, Dyker Heights
Thursday, March 14th
www.stephremparish-brooklyn.org

Lenten Daily Meditations

At the doors of our church there are the
Lenten, "The Word Among Us".

Please take one for your Lenten Daily Meditations. We hope that this will be an opportunity to enhance your prayer and strengthen your relationship with God.





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

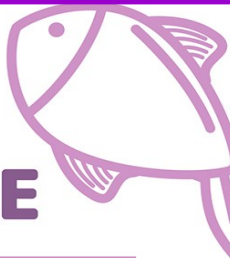
All gatherings take place in
Saint Ephrem Catholic Academy Cafeteria
Sundays 9:30 a.m.—10:45 a.m.

Sunday, February 11th Session V

Sunday, March 10th Session VI

All should be attending mass every weekend.

LENTEN FASTING & ABSTINENCE



Fasting

Ash Wednesday
Good Friday

Ages 18-59

Abstinence

Every Friday
during Lent

Ages 14+

How do we fast?

When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal.

Am I excused from fasting and abstinence?

Those that are excused from fast and abstinence outside the age limits include the physically or mentally ill including individuals suffering from chronic illnesses such as diabetes. Also excluded are pregnant or nursing women.

For more information on fasting and abstinence, visit usccb.org.



PARISH AND ACADEMY HAPPENINGS



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



O.C.I.A.
Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

Penitential Rite and Scrutinies

For those seeking initiation into the Catholic Church, the Penitential Rite and three Scrutinies are designed to help overcome their areas of weakness, and to strengthen their areas of goodness.

The Penitential Rite, which will be celebrated Sunday, February 25th at the 11:00 am Mass, marks the Lenten purification of baptized but previously uncatechized adults who are preparing to receive the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. This Rite encourages all the baptized to acknowledge their sins and failings and open their minds to the presence of Christ in their lives. Already one with us in baptism, our candidate, Russell Nickovic, seeks to complete his Initiation in the Catholic Church. He is strengthened and encouraged by your presence. He will be confirmed and receive Eucharist at the Easter Vigil.

Scrutinies, designed for the unbaptized, and take will place, March 3rd at the 5:00 pm Mass, March 10th at 11:00 am Mass and March 16th at 5:00 pm Mass. These rituals for the elect "are meant to uncover, then heal, all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect; to bring out, then strengthen, all that is upright, strong and good."

This marks the movement from sin to grace, from old life to new life.

Our parish family joins with Anuhpam and Russel, in prayer, as they journey toward the Easter Sacraments at the Easter Vigil.

Mass Intentions for the week of February 18, 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 and join us!

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

The Cogan & Colligan Families
Requested by Their Loving Family



Altar Candles
In Memory of

Giuseppe Colletti

Requested by Sylvester & Cynthia Sichenze

Saturday, February 17th

8:45 AM Maria & Alphonso Naclerio

5:00 PM For the People of St. Ephrem
Leonard J. Dimino
Nadia Rambali
Bob McCann
Paul A. Vallone
Albert Rapaport
Dorothy Wall

Sunday, February 18th

8:00 AM Carmen Collazo

11:00 AM Thomas Costanza

Monday, February 19th

No 7:00 AM Mass

8:45 AM GianCarlo Castro Giovanni

Tuesday, February 20th

7:00 AM Richard Barnett

8:45 AM Calvin Bunch

Wednesday, February 21st

7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem

8:45 AM Vincent Dougherty

Thursday, February 22nd

7:00 AM For the Intentions of Carmela, Cono & Maria D'Alessio

8:45 AM Noreen Marano

Friday, February 23rd

7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem

8:45 AM Chester Gromek

Saturday, February 24th

8:45 AM Yolanda Corrado

5:00 PM For the People of St. Ephrem
Leonard J. Dimino
Jerry Henderson
Leonard LoBello

Sunday, February 25th

8:00 AM Holy Souls in Purgatory

11:00 AM Laura Martello Vesco

St. Ephrem Catholic Academy Summer Camp 2024

Ages 4-12 (Campers must be 4 by the first day of camp)
Rates based on your summer schedule!

- Air Conditioned Facility
- Morning & Aftercare available
- Arts & Crafts
- Visits to McKinley Park Trips
- Tennis lessons available
- Meal Plan offered
- Special rates for siblings/paid in full

Serving campers from the
Dyker Heights/Bay Ridge
Community!

Trained counselors on hand
daily to ensure a safe & fun
summer season!

Online Registration available online!
Email us at summerfun@stephremschool.org
St. Ephrem Catholic Academy
924 74th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11228
718-833-1440
(please leave email address when calling)
visit our website: www.stephremschool.org

**End of Year
GIVING
Statements**

2023
Contribution Statement
is available. To retain a
copy please contact the
Rectory Office.



February 11, 2024 153 Envelopes \$6,104.00
 St. Elizabeth Seton 101 Envelopes \$2,238.00
 We Share 44 Donors \$ 1,372.45

Attendance 652

Saturday 5:00 p.m. 265 Sunday 8:00 a.m. 80
 Sunday 11:00 a.m. 307

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	February 12, 2024
Parish Goal	\$1.25 Million
Number of Donors	249
Amount Pledged*	\$1,363,812.64
Paid to Date	\$1,267,789.31
Percent of Goal	120%

Thank You for your Generosity!

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

Saint Ephrem, pray for us!



FORMED®



Sign Up by scanning QR Code.
 Enter our Zip Code 11228
 click on St. Ephrem, follow prompts

PARISH & COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS



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



Did you know?
 Research suggests noise from shipping, oil exploration, and other underwater human activities may make it harder for dolphins to communicate and work together. (from The New York Times)



President's Day
Monday
February 19, 2024
The Rectory Office will be closed and there is no 7:00 am Mass

ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE FOOD PANTRY

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

February 17 & 18

Thank you for your generosity!



Annual Catholic Appeal 2023
 DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

Parish Goal: \$100,198.00
 Amount Pledged: \$111,033.00
 Amount Paid: \$110,348.00
 Donors: 153



Donate and contribute to fulfill our Parish goals

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

