

Church of St. Ephrem

929 Bay Ridge Parkway ♦ Brooklyn, New York 11228

www.stephremparish-brooklyn.org



[stephrembklyn](https://twitter.com/stephrembklyn)



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Parish Staff

Rev. Robert B. Adamo, KHS, *Pastor*
Rev. Msgr. Peter V. Kain, *Pastor Emeritus*
Rev. Anthony S. Chanan, *Parochial Vicar*
Mr. Robert Cote, *Youth Minister*
Mrs. Michele James, *Business Manager*
Rev. Msgr. Theophilus Joseph, *Parochial Vicar*
Ms. Eileen Maguire, *Director of Faith Formation*
Mr. Thomas Marchesiello, *Director of Music/Liturgy*
Deacon Kevin McLaughlin, *Permanent Deacon*
Mr. Craig Mercado, *School Principal*
Sr. Ann Martha Ondreicka, O.P., *Director of the Spirituality Center*
Mrs. Lisa Pinsky, *Parish Secretary*
Mr. Thomas J. Sbordone, *Christian Awareness Program/Pastoral Care*
Deacon Anthony Stucchio, *Permanent Deacon*

Sunday, December 24, 2017
Fourth Sunday of Advent



Rectory Office

929 Bay Ridge Parkway

718-833-1010

Fax 718-921-5232

Spirituality Center

935 Bay Ridge Parkway

718-921-9518

Christian Awareness Program

929 Bay Ridge Parkway

718-833-1143

Faith Formation Office

Office in School Room 307

718-745-7486

stephremreligious@gmail.com

St. Ephrem School

924 74th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11228 ♦ 718-833-1440 ♦ Fax 718-745-5301 ♦ www.stephremschool.org

Schedule of Masses

Saturday Vigil 5:00 PM

Sunday 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12 Noon, & 5:00 PM

Weekdays 7:00 AM & 8:45 AM

Rectory Office Hours

Monday—Friday: 9:00 AM—12 Noon

1:00 PM—8:00 PM

Saturday 9:00 AM—5:00 PM

Sunday No Office Hours

Parish Registration

All are welcomed and invited to register at the Parish Office and participate in our parish.

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 at 3:00 PM

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-ignite 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, 2017

“Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son.”

Today’s gospel on this Sunday before Christmas is Luke’s account of the angel Gabriel’s appearance to Mary.

God begins the “Christ event” with Mary, a simple Galilean Jewish girl who is at the very bottom of the social ladder of her time; the God who created all things makes the fulfillment of his promise dependent upon one of the most dispossessed and powerless of his creatures. Yet God exalts her humility, her simplicity, her trust in his love and mercy, in Mary, God reveals his “favor” for the poor, the rejected, the abandoned, and the forgotten among us today.

Mary’s yes to the angel Gabriel’s words set the stage for the greatest event in human history: the conception and subsequent birth of our Savior.



**Christmas
The Nativity of the Lord**

December 25, 2017

*“Today a Savior has been born for you.”
Luke 2:1-14*

The gospel for the Mass at Midnight in Luke’s familiar story of the birth of Jesus in a stable at Bethlehem during a census mandated by the Roman emperor. Luke’s account of Jesus’ birth introduces two themes that he will develop throughout his narrative.

First, the story of Jesus’ birth mirrors the kingdom of God that the adult Jesus will preach. The kingdom of God is a “kingdom” of human hearts in which compassion, mercy, and justice are the rule. Earthly kingdoms are defined by culture and class, but the kingdom of God embraces all.

The second theme of Luke’s gospel is the inclusiveness of the kingdom of God. Throughout Luke’s gospel, is the poor, the lowly, the outcast, and the sinner who first embrace Jesus’ message of reconciliation and forgiveness. Jesus shows compassion and care to the poor, the infirm, and grieving who approach him; he includes into his company Gentiles, tax collectors, Samaritans, and women. The announcement of the Messiah’s birth to shepherds – who were among the least regarded – is in keeping with Luke’s theme that the poor are especially blessed of God. The shepherds are transformed by their encounters with Jesus, the “grace of God has appeared” today to us!

Merry Christmas!

In the Good Shepherd,
Fr. Robert



December 17, 2017	297 Envelopes	\$ 8,852.00
Christmas Gift	201 Envelopes	\$16,305.00
We Share (Online Giving)	40 Families	\$220.00

Mass Attendance 672

Thank you for your generosity to St. Ephrem Parish!



Generations of Faith continues across the Diocese!

Generations of Faith Campaign Update as of November 16th at St. Ephrem R.C. Church	
Campaign Goal	\$980,000
Total Pledged	\$1,068,619.00
Total Payments to Date by Parishioners	\$727,543.77
Total # Donors	195
Total Funds To Be Returned to Parish to Date	\$336,719.00

On behalf of the parish, and all of the volunteers who helped with *Generations of Faith* thank you for your prayers and support of this historic effort!

While we have completed our campaign, many parishioners are choosing to make their pledge payments to **Generations of Faith** automatically through online giving!

Enroll in online giving today!

FOLLOW THESE EASY STEPS:

1. VISIT: WWW.CFBQ.ORG/PLEDGE
2. ENTER BANKING OR CREDIT CARD INFORMATION
3. CONFIRM YOUR PAYMENT METHOD, REFERENCE AND CONTACT INFORMATION
4. WELCOME! YOU ARE NOW ENROLLED FOR EASY, CONVENIENT AND FREE ONLINE PAYMENTS!

WHAT IF I NEED HELP SETTING UP AN ONLINE ACCOUNT SO THAT I CAN PAY MY PLEDGE?

To provide this service, we have partnered with Faith Direct, a leading online provider for the Church. Should you need help enrolling or if you do not have an email address, please contact them at [\(866\) 507-8757](tel:8665078757).

If you have further questions, call Catholic Foundation at (718) 965-7375, ext. 2210 and they will assist you further.



Mass Intentions for the week

Saturday, December 23rd

8:45 AM For the Intentions of Maria Alaimo

5:00 PM Michael F. Mathieson
Walsh & Mondiello Family
Gerard Fogarty
Victoria Balsamo
Ilario & Maddalena Piscioneri

Sunday, December 24th

8:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
10:00 AM Dorothy Earley
12 Noon Nonie & Edward J. O'Connor and Family
5:00 PM Graffagnino & Savarese Families
12 Midnight Michael Sloan

Monday, December 25th

8:00 AM Sharon Pascale
10:00 AM George J. Watt
12 Noon Antoinette Rinaldi

Tuesday, December 26th

No 7:00 AM Mass

8:45 AM Mary Kane (40th Anniversary)

Wednesday, December 27th

7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
8:45 AM Lefande & Pascale Family

Thursday, December 28th

7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
8:45 PM Laura Feeney

Friday, December 29th

7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
8:45 AM Francis & Dolph Mascari

Saturday, December 30th

8:45 AM Virginia & Vincent Ingenito
5:00 PM Francesco Grasso
Peter Carlin

Sunday, December 31st

8:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
10:00 AM Evelyn & Frank Giaquinto
12 Noon Phil Arnao
5:00 PM For the People of St. Ephrem



The Bread & Wine

In Loving Memory of

Peter Poggioli

Requested by: AnnMarie Maguire



Altar Candles & Sanctuary Lamp

In Loving Memory of

Vincenza Sciuto

Requested by: Alba Tramontano



Our Parish Goal: \$104,459.00

*All monies collected over goal
is returned to St. Ephrem Parish*

258 Donors

Amount Pledged: \$105,648.00

Paid to Date: \$104,152.00

Reached 101.14% of Goal



**Thank you for your
continued generosity
and helping us reach
our parish goal!**

Taxes & Giving at Christmas & Year's End

Did you know that "charitable giving" is one of only a few tax provisions that was not greatly impacted by recent federal tax legislation. Many people enjoy using Christmas and year's end as a special time to give to their favorite Catholic institutions and also positively impact their federal and state income taxes. Christmas and year end giving provides many advantages to you, the donor. Please consider St. Ephrem Parish.

**Thank you for your continued generosity to
St. Ephrem Parish!**



**Wishing a Merry Christmas to all
From the Priests', Deacons, Sisters, & Staff**

YOUTH MINISTRY



SAVE THE DATE World Youth Day

If you missed the World Youth Day Information Meeting and are interested in joining the St. Ephrem group to Panama, please email us or call the rectory by January 17th.

Join us for one night or for every event.
For more information please email:
stephremyouthministry@gmail.com

 @stephremyouth

St. Ephrem Baseball/Softball Awards Ceremony

Sunday, January 7th, 2018
Following the 10:00 AM Mass
Msgr. Peter V. Kain Hall

*All players are invited with immediate family
at no cost. Coffee, juice and donuts will be served.*

Baseball Registration

Sunday, January 7th, 2018 at the Awards Ceremony

Wednesday, January 24th, 2018 7:00PM-9:00PM

Sunday, January 28th, 2018 11:30PM-2:15PM

Registration is open
to boys and girls
ages 5-14.

For more
information you can
contact
Sylvester Sichenze at
917-692-1367



SPIRITUALITY CENTER



Bereavement Support Group

A new Bereavement Support Group will begin Monday, January 8th at 7:00 PM in the Spirituality Center. Sessions are a 6 week cycle. If you have experienced the lose of a loved one and would like the compassionate listening, honest sharing and consoling prayer, please join us

Bereavement Support Group

St. Patrick Parish

Sister Jeanne Elaine at 718-238-2600x178

Our Lady of Angels Parish

Judy Chiarchiaro at 718-748-1164

St. Ephrem Parish

Sister Ann Martha at 718-921-9518

Spiritual Direction

Sister Ann Martha (718) 921-9518

All are welcome!



SCHOOL NEWS

“Be An Angel” to a St. Ephrem Student

The “Be An Angel Program” is one of the ways Futures In Education, a Diocesan organization, provides a student with need-based scholarship the chance for a St. Ephrem parishioner to change the life of a child through the gift of a Catholic education. There are different ways one can help: partial tuition assistance starting at \$1,500.00 per year. (St. Ephrem School Annual Tuition is \$4,675 per student.)

Please prayerfully consider assisting a child from St. Ephrem School.

For more information
please call the school
office at (718) 833-1440



SCHOOL NEWS –ACADEMY PROCESS



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT ~ CATHOLIC SCHOOL SUPPORT SERVICES

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN
310 PROSPECT PARK WEST BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11215 718-965-7300
FAX: 718-965-7353

Preserving the Vision Newsletter #3 of 5

“Catholic schools can and should function as a catalyst, being a place of encounter and convergence of the entire educational community with the single objective of shaping and helping the student to grow as competent persons who know how to love faithfully, who know how to live their lives as a response to God’s call”. Pope Francis

Dear Parents/Guardians,

An essential goal of *Preserving the Vision* is to strengthen the effectiveness of Catholic elementary schools by proactively introducing a new model of “multiple partnerships”. Each of these new partnerships is designed to strengthen an aspect of a Catholic elementary academy’s life. Catholic academies directly benefit from knowledgeable and experienced lay leaders who will assist in its governance.

Why do we seek these new partnerships? The answer is simple. Through the initiatives associated with *Preserving the Vision*, and the inclusion of lay leadership on many levels, we are determined to effectively address the challenges we have experienced in enrollment that come from the changing demographics of our parish and school communities and the strained economic conditions we all face.

Essential to the on-going success of *Preserving the Vision* are the following:

- ◆ Strengthening the Catholic identity and academic excellence of the schools and academies within the Diocese of Brooklyn with particular attention to the implementation of New York State Learning Standards.
- ◆ Increasing enrollment through effective marketing and outreach to the diverse communities within the diocese.
- ◆ Attracting new sources of funding to increase the dollars available at the local and diocesan levels for operating revenue and tuition assistance.
- ◆ Ensuring that all schools take part in the academy formation process by 2018 and are vibrant institutions providing an excellent Catholic education.
- ◆ Utilizing up-to-date technology to enhance instruction which will reflect 21st century learning skills, improve marketing efforts and facilitate effective communication with parents and between academies and the diocese.
- ◆ Academies and schools will give strong support to the new evangelization initiatives of the universal church in order to meet the challenges which today’s society and changing cultures are posing to the faith.
- ◆ Academy and school leadership, in partnership with the Superintendent of Schools ~ Catholic School Support Services, will vigorously participate in political advocacy with state and local officials in order to bring all possible benefits to the Catholic educational community of the diocese.
- ◆ Academy and school leadership will collaborate with Catholic high school principals and Board members, as well as with colleagues in higher education, in order to ensure quality Catholic education in the P-16 continuum.
- ◆ All school/academy buildings and the learning environments therein will meet the safety needs of students and staff.
- ◆ The stability of the infra-structure of school/academy buildings within the diocese will be diligently maintained.

The successful implementation of *Preserving the Vision* will enable Catholic academies and schools within the Diocese of Brooklyn to accomplish these priorities.

Through the process of strategic planning associated with *Preserving the Vision*, we believe that:

- ◆ Schools and academies will have more resources at their disposal to ensure that more students will have access to Catholic education;
- ◆ Catholic schools and academies will be better positioned to meet the diverse needs of their students and parents;
- ◆ Thriving schools and academies will continue to enhance the resources needed to continue to offer programs of academic excellence.

The vision and mission for Catholic education remains a roadmap for excellence. Through the development of multiple partnerships, Catholic education will be positioned to meet the challenges we now face and to thrive for years to come.

Please find *Preserving the Vision* on the Diocesan Website for Catholic Education, <http://dioceseofbrooklyn.org/schools/faq-catholic-academies/>.

Sincerely,

Tom Chadzutko

Thomas Chadzutko, Ed.D.
Superintendent

CHRISTMAS

Once again your generosity through the Giving Tree brought much joy to the children of Heart Share & Hour Children this Christmas!

A shout out goes to all who helped pack & organize all the beautiful gifts to be delivered to the children.



Christmas Giving

“As we find strength and joy in this Christmas season, there are many who are struggling... These men, women and children can find hope, care and a helping hand through Catholic Charities.”



Most Reverend Nicholas DiMarzio, Ph.D., D.D.
Bishop of Brooklyn



Please give generously to Catholic Charities through the special collection on Christmas.

“To live charitably means not looking out for our interests, but carrying the burdens of the weakest and poorest among us.”

Pope Francis

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve
Sunday, December 24th
5:00 PM Mass

With Children's Choir and Children's Hand Bell Choir

11:30 PM “Lessons & Carols” *With Adult Choir*

12 Midnight Mass

Christmas Day
Monday, December 25th

8:00 AM Mass, 10:00 AM Mass & 12 Noon Mass

New Year Mass Schedule

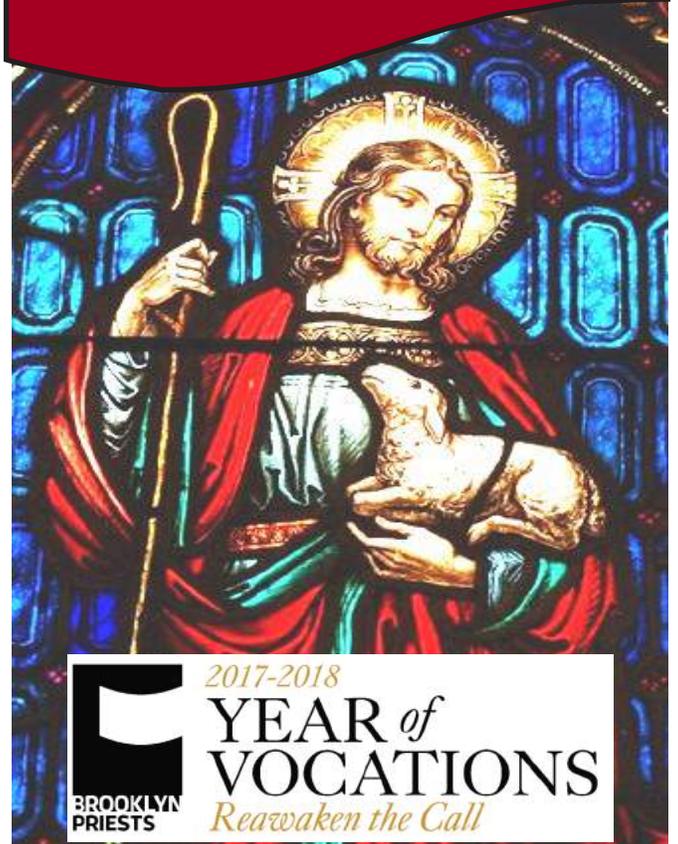
Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God
Monday, January 1, 2018 8:45 AM

We wish you a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

YEAR OF VOCATIONS

YEAR OF VOCATIONS DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN 2017-2018

“It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you.”
John 15:16



PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Lord of the Harvest, we petition you as you have instructed us to ask for more laborers to serve in the vineyard of your Church. You have told us that the harvest is rich and laborers are few and we experience this great need in the face of the challenge of the New Evangelization.

We ask the Holy Spirit to inspire young men and women to seriously consider vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Help all of us to be effective instruments to encourage and support those whom you are calling to serve and lead the Church of Brooklyn and Queens in the future.

Lord, you told the Apostles to put out into the deep. We ask for the grace and courage to respond to your call as we pray and work for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life.

We ask this in the Name of Jesus Christ, the Great High Priest, Amen.

Nicholas DiMarzio

