

Church of St. Ephrem

929 Bay Ridge Parkway ♦ Brooklyn, New York 11228

www.stephremparish-brooklyn.org



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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, March 18, 2018
Fifth Sunday of Lent



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.



Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 18, 2018

“If a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it produces much fruit.”

Today’s gospel is a pivotal moment in John’s account. Jesus’ words about the coming of his “hour” marks an end of John’s “book of signs” and prefaces the “book of glory”: the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

The annual Passover feast is about to begin; many Jews (including some of the Greeks) have arrived in Jerusalem for the festival. Meanwhile, Jesus’ conflict with the Jewish establishment has escalated to a dangerous level. The events that will lead to Jesus’ condemnation and death are now in motion. Jesus obediently accepts his fate and is prepared for the outcome.

Jesus compares his “glorification” to a grain of wheat that is buried and dies to produce its potential crop. The death and ultimate harvest of the grain of wheat are the fate and glory of anyone who would be Jesus’ disciple.

The “voice” may have only been heard by Jesus. While those around heard thunder, Jesus heard what was called a *bat qol* (“daughter of a voice”); in the Jewish tradition, individuals and groups sometimes heard a “voice” from heaven revealing to them God’s teaching or will for them. The *bat qol* that Jesus “hears” in today’s gospel is a call to all the world that a new Passover was about to begin.

In this Lenten Sunday prior to Palm Sunday we share a sense of impending doom. But we are also reminded of the necessity of death for something to bear fruit. If the seed stays on the countertop, it will never bear fruit. But once “dead” and planted in the ground, the seed produces. The paschal mystery is presented for us in a simple, agricultural, even if scientifically outdated, image.

Do we allow ourselves to die to our own desires, wants and agenda? From today’s gospel reading, it seems Jesus was not quite ready for this moment. But the arrival of the Greeks was a loud and clear signal that the end was near. Even for Jesus there was no fighting this eternal purpose. This was the reason he came into the world. His example of letting go serves as a model for us. We are not the masters of our own fate. We are not in ultimate control of our own destiny. The illusion that we are somehow planning our own destiny is simply that, an illusion. There are greater forces at work. WE are called to discern those forces so we can recognize them when they face us. For Jesus it was the request from two Greeks. What are the signs that encourage us to let go of our own desires and submit to something greater? When we die to ourselves we will see fruit that bears eternal life.

In the Good Shepherd,

Fr. Robert



***Please call the Rectory Office
for your 2017 Annual
Contribution Statement.***

March 11, 2018	324 Envelopes	\$ 9,327.00
Snow Removal	109 Envelopes	\$1,363.00
We Share (Online Giving)	40 Families	\$220.00

Mass Attendance 761

Thank you for your generosity to St. Ephrem Parish!



How will our Parish Benefit?

St. Ephrem Parish Goal is: \$104,459.00

Once we exceed our goal, then we will receive 100% of all funds raised above goal. Last year we received back \$6,140.00.

Thank You!

St. Ephrem Parish Goal	\$104,459.00
Number of Donors	11
Amount Pledged	\$16,130.00
Paid to Date	\$6,450.00

The 2018 Annual Catholic Appeal helps support the works of our Church throughout Brooklyn & Queens in ways no one parish can accomplish alone. By participating in the Annual Catholic Appeal it supports: ***Catholic Charities; Hospital, College & Prison Chaplains; Diocesan Vocations Office; Catholic Migration Services; Parish Assistance Program; Office of Faith Formation; Bishop Mugavero Residence for infirmed clergy; Futures in Education Scholarship Foundation***

Answer the Call



Generations of Faith continues across the Diocese!

<i>Generations of Faith Campaign Update as of February 19, 2018 at St. Ephrem R.C. Church</i>	
Campaign Goal	\$980,000
Total Pledged	\$1,071,219.00
Total Payments to Date by Parishioners	\$777,639.11
Total # Donors	197
Total Funds To Be Returned to Parish to Date	\$336,719.00



Mass Intentions for the week

8:45 AM For the People of St. Ephrem

5:00 PM Mary O'Hara
Paul Murphy
Andrew & Elizabeth Cresci
Vincencina LaBella
Nicholas Baglivi

Sunday, March 18th

8:00 AM Peter D. Murray
10:00 AM Lucy Coluccio
12 Noon Agnes DeLuca
5:00 PM For the People of St. Ephrem

Monday, March 19th

7:00 AM Thomas Quigley
8:45 AM Antoinette Musolino (60th Anniversary)

Tuesday, March 20th

7:00 AM Marie Cogan Bernstein
8:45 AM For the People of St. Ephrem

Wednesday, March 21st

7:00 AM Ilario Piscioneri
8:45 AM Maureen Nolan

Thursday, March 22nd

7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
8:45 PM For the Intentions of Ann Rosen

Friday, March 23rd

7:00 AM Luigi & Olinda Bonici
8:45 AM In Celebration of Msgr. Theo's
70th Birthday

Saturday, March 24th

8:45 AM Mary Lou Doolan
5:00 PM Michael Sloan
Kathleen O'Connor
Paul Murphy
Angelo Tammaro
Michael Cennamo

Sunday, March 25th

8:00 AM Victoria Balsamo
10:00 AM Severiano Caban
12 Noon Deceased Relatives & Friends
of Msgr. Theo
5:00 PM For the People of St. Ephrem

Holy Thursday Washing of the Feet



The washing of the feet during the Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper is a beautiful ritual full of meaning which represents the service and charity of Christ, who came 'not to be served, but to serve.' With this in mind we are asking for volunteers that would like to represent the parish family, young and old, by having their feet washed during the Mass of the Lord's Supper, on

Holy Thursday, March 29th at 7:30 PM.
Please call the rectory if you are interested



The Bread & Wine

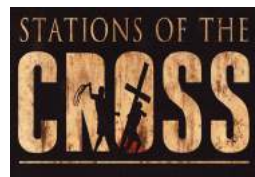
In Loving Memory of
Mary & Harry Arnold
Requested by: Pat Arnold



Altar Candles & Sanctuary Lamp

In Loving Memory of
Philomena Murtagh

Requested by: The Spollen Family



Friday's During Lent

*Following the
8:45 AM Mass & 7:00 PM*

All Are Welcome!

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday March 25th

Saturday Vigil 5:00 PM—Adult Choir Mass
Sunday: 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12 Noon & 5:00 PM

Reconciliation Monday

Monday, March 26th
3:00 PM to 9 PM

The Sacred Triduum

Holy Thursday—March 29th

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
7:30 PM Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday—March 30th

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
3:00 PM Passion of the Lord
7:30 PM Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday—March 31st

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
8:00 PM Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday Mass Schedule

Easter Sunday—April 1st

8:00 AM, 10:00 AM

Followed by an Easter Egg Hunt on the parish lawn.

12 Noon

Alleluia He is Risen! He is Truly Risen! Alleluia!
Happy Easter!

YOUTH MINISTRY



Youth Group (Grades 6-9)
Sunday, March 18th
Rectory Meeting Room at 6:00 PM

St. Ephrem High School Night (Grades 9-12)
Friday, March 23rd at 7:00 PM
in the Rectory Meeting Room

Save the Date

Join St. Ephrem's Brooklyn Catholic Youth Day
Saturday, April 21st 9 AM - 5 PM
St. John's University

For more information please email:

stephremyouthministry@gmail.com

 @stephremyouth



SPIRITUALITY & DEVOTIONS



Bereavement Support Group

Monday, March 19th at 7:00 PM

Lenten Retreat:

*"The Journey/My Encounter with the
Community of Jesus"*

Session 5 will be held Tuesday, March 20th at 1:00 PM

Spiritual Direction

Sister Ann Martha (718) 921-9518

Morning Prayer Holy Week

9:00 AM

March 29, 30, 31 (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday)

Our Leaders:

Maureen Larkin-Phelon, Margaret Capotorto, Loretta Barbera

All are welcome!!!!



St. Ephrem's 17th Anniversary of devotion to
Divine Mercy.

**Monday, April 2nd through Saturday
April 7th at 2:45pm**

*Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Reflections of St. Faustina
Chaplet of the Divine Mercy*



On **Divine Mercy Sunday, April 8th** we will recite
St. Faustina's Praises of the Divine Mercy and the Chaplet
beginning at 2:30pm.

Concelebrated Mass

Fr. Richard Bretone and Msgr. Theophilus Joseph

What needs Changing in My Life?

Practicing Generosity

Almsgiving has always been an important part of Lent. Lent begins with the powerful Isaiah 58, on the Friday and Saturday after Ash Wednesday. It is important to give ourselves the experience of fasting from being ungenerous. Generosity is not simply giving my excess clothes to a place where poor people might purchase them. It's not even writing a "generous" check at the time a collection is taken up for a cause that benefits the poor. These are wonderful practices. Generosity is an attitude. It is a sense that no matter how much I have, all that I have is gift, and given to me to be shared. It means that sharing with others in need is one of my personal priorities. That is quite different from assessing all of my needs first, and then giving away what is left over. A spirit of self-less giving means that one of my needs is to share what I have with others. Lent is a wonderful time to practice self-less giving, because it takes practice. This kind of self-sacrificing generosity is a religious experience. It places us in solidarity with the poor who share with each other, without having any excess. It also joins us with Jesus, who gave himself completely, for us. Establishing new patterns of giving will give real life and joy to Lent.

SCHOOL NEWS

REGISTRATION FOR 2018-19 IS NOW OPEN AT ST. EPHREM CATHOLIC SCHOOL



**Don't miss out on
scholarship opportunities!**

Received a scholarship last year?

Re-apply by **March 30, 2018**

First time scholarship applicant?

Apply by **April 30, 2018**

www.futuresineducation.org

WE'RE SAVING A SEAT FOR YOU!

To learn about the benefits of a Catholic education,
please contact **Principal Craig Mercado** at **718.833.1440**

924 74th Street

Brooklyn, NY 11228

stephremschool.org



Partnership with Bishop Kearney High School



SCHOOL NEWS



April 2nd-April 6th

St. Ephrem—Msgr. Peter V. Kain Hall

9:00 AM –3:00 PM

Boys & Girls Ages 7-14

\$225.00 for the week or \$50.00 per day.

Sibling Discount \$200.00 per child.

Early Drop-Off 8:00 AM

\$70.00 for the week or \$20.00 per day.

For Information please contact:

Brian Nigro: canigro13@gmail.com

(347) 404-3657

Limited Availability: 50 Kids Max



*St. Ephrem Summer Camp &
Enrichment*

6 Weeks of Activities

July 2nd to August 10th

(Closed July 4th)

Registration will begin

Monday and Tuesday March 19th and 20th

From 3 PM – 6 PM in the school cafeteria.

Registration Fee:

\$65 per child or \$100 per family

New Options This Year!

3 days - \$175 per week, \$150 each additional child

5 days - \$250 per week, \$200 each additional child

**Full 6-week program - \$1,500, \$1,200 each additional child
(15% discount available if paid in full by June 15, 2018)**

For Information (718) 833-1440

summerfun@stephremschool.org

YEAR OF VOCATIONS

Church of St. Ephrem



Friday, April 20th 7:00 PM
St. Ephrem School
924 74th Street



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

\$35.00 Per Person Includes:
Snacks, Sandwiches, Cookies, Soda, Water,
Coffee & Tea
Available for sale:
Wine, Beer & Signature Cocktail

For Information & Reservations Contact
St. Ephrem Rectory (718) 833-1010
You can arrange for tables of 8 or 10 people.

50/50 Raffle
Prizes
Basket Raffles

Please make reservations by April 13th
No Tickets will be sold at the door

PARISH NEWS

Feast of St. Patrick Saturday, March 17th



Following the
8:45 AM Mass
all are invited to join us in
the Rectory Dining Room
for light refreshments.

Solemnity of St. Joseph Monday, March 19th

Following the
8:45 AM Mass
all are invited to
join us in the
Rectory Dining Room
for light refreshments.



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