

Church of St. Ephrem

929 Bay Ridge Parkway ♦ Brooklyn, New York 11228

www.stephremparish-brooklyn.org



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



[stephremparish-brooklyn](https://www.facebook.com/stephremparish-brooklyn)

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, April 22, 2018
Fourth Sunday of Easter



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 Easter
April 22, 2018
“The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”

Today we celebrate “Good Shepherd” Sunday as we read this famous gospel story from John. We are no longer in the realm of resurrection appearances stories, but now we have entered the world of Jesus’ “I AM” parabolic discourse. In John, Jesus doesn’t preach in parables, “The kingdom of God is like ... a shepherd, a gate, a vineyard, etc.” Instead, we hear Jesus say, “I AM the good shepherd,” or in another passage, “I AM the gate,” or “I AM the vine,” etc.

The image of a shepherd is certainly one rooted in antiquity. There are not as many shepherds today as there were then. And the site of a shepherd was much more common in the culture than it is today. Yet, even though most of us probably don’t know any shepherds, or even seen any recently, we are all familiar with the image. Even Pope Francis spoke about shepherds shortly after he became pope. He spoke about how he wanted priests to have “the smell of the sheep” on them. This kind of graphic, even smelly, analogy offended some people. One person responded, “That sounds gross! Did he actually say that?” But it is precisely the image Francis meant to convey about whom he wanted as priests, and the language stems from this gospel story Jesus himself being the Good Shepherd.

Interestingly, Jesus makes a distinction in the discourse about himself as the “good shepherd” and a “hired man” who works for money. The latter has no real concern for the sheep. He is in it only for the pay. Jesus, on the other hand, loves the sheep and has concern for them. He lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand will run away at the first sign of danger. The result of his running away is that the sheep are scattered. As we consider this in our own time we can see the many Christians, many of us, who have been scattered. As we listen for the voice of the Good Shepherd and come to him, we will be reunited.

Though the imagery in today’s gospel may be foreign to our everyday experience, it rings true nonetheless. In some ways the story’s setting sound similar to a fairy tale with the shepherd, the hired hand a wolf, and scattered sheep. But of course, the lessons from this gospel are much more profound than a fairy tale. This gospel tells us that the kingdom of God is not merely like a shepherd and his sheep; but rather, Jesus himself is the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep. The sheep know his voice. The Good Shepherd smells like the sheep. We can ask ourselves how we attune ourselves to the voice of the Good Shepherd. Where do we hear him calling? Have we been scattered, or are we attentive to the voice and near the Shepherd?

Jesus lays down his life for his sheep but takes it up again. The process does not conclude with the laying down, but culminates in the taking up. And thus we have the paschal mystery.

Last Friday, over 270 people gathered for Radio Bingo. I want to thank all who participated and support our parish. In these ways we are able to make up the difference in our budget and have fun in the same time. Thank you!

In the Good Shepherd,

Fr. Robert



April 15, 2018 273 Envelopes \$8,227.00
 We Share (Online Giving) 40 Families \$220.00

Mass Attendance 687

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	114
Amount Pledged	\$63,475.00
Paid to Date	\$36,055.00

If 160 parishioners made a pledge of \$30 for the next nine months, we will reach our parish goal. No gift is too small or insignificant!

Thank you for your continue generosity to help our brothers and sisters in through these ways:

Catholic Charities; Hospitals, College & Prison Chaplains; Diocesan Vocations Office; Catholic Migration Services; Parish Assistance Programs; Office of Faith Formation; Bishop Mugavero Residence for infirmed clergy;

Answer the Call



Generations of Faith continues across the Diocese!

Generations of Faith Campaign Update as of April 17, 2018 at St. Ephrem R.C. Church	
Campaign Goal	\$980,000.00
Total Pledged	\$1,063,569.00
Total Payments to Date by Parishioners	\$788,132.12
Total # Donors	197
Total Funds To Be Returned to Parish to Date	\$336,719.00



Mass Intentions for the week

Saturday, April 21st
Catherine Kain

8:45 AM
5:00 PM
Mary C. O'Hara
Margaret & Louis Parise
Paul Murphy
Angelo Tesoriero
Michael Cennamo

Sunday, April 22nd
8:00 AM Alice Milora
10:00 AM Salvatore Cirmia
12 Noon Helen Sullivan
5:00 PM For the People of St. Ephrem

Monday, April 23rd
7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
8:45 AM For a Special Intention

Tuesday, April 24th
7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
8:45 AM Florence E. McLoughlin

Wednesday, April 25th
7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
8:45 AM Salvatore Moscola

Thursday, April 26th
7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
8:45 AM For the People of St. Ephrem

Friday, April 27th
7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
8:45 AM Harry Lawless

Saturday, April 28th
8:45 AM Vincenzo Sperrazza

5:00 PM
Michael Sloan
Paul Murphy
Nicholas & Thelma Baranello
Giuseppe & Clementina Soracchi
James & Catherine Soracchi

Sunday, April 29th
8:00 AM Peter Murray
10:00 AM Michael Cennamo
12 Noon Josephine Mauriello
5:00 PM For the People of St. Ephrem



The Bread & Wine

In Loving Memory of

Paul Murphy

Requested by: Frank & JoAnn Spadaro



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction

Friday, May 4th, immediately following the 8:45 AM Mass
(If there is a Funeral Mass, Adoration will follow).
Benediction at 12:30 PM.

Come and spend time with the Lord!



27th Anniversary Nurses Mass

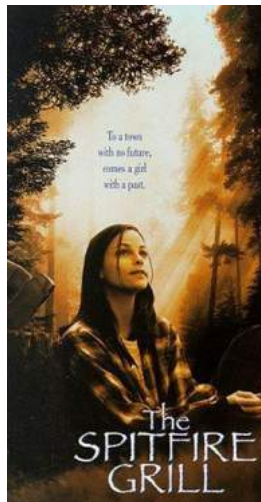
Saturday, May 5th at 5:30 PM
Sacred Hearts & St. Stephen

108 Carroll Street, Brooklyn, New York 11231

Reception & Raffles to follow.

Please RSVP to TheNursesMass@gmail.com

Easter Film Series



The story centers on a young woman named Percy (Alison Elliott) who was recently released from prison. She arrives in a small town in Maine with hopes of beginning a new life. She lands a job as a waitress in the Spitfire Grill, owned by Hannah (Ellen Burstyn), whose gruff exterior conceals a kind heart and little tolerance for the grill's regular customers who are suspicious of Percy's mysterious past. None is more suspicious than Nahum, Hannah's nephew, although his wife, Shelby, has a kinder curiosity.

When Hannah is bedridden after a nasty fall, Percy and Shelby pitch in to save the Grill and win the approval of Hannah, who learns she does need friends. Joe, an attractive young man in town, becomes smitten with Percy. He is approached by a scientist who thinks that the town's trees might have medicinal benefits. As the plot unfolds, Hannah holds a \$100-per-entry essay contest to find a new owner for the grill. This creates a positive change in the town, but the plans are disrupted by Nahum's suspicions about Percy and the revelation that a local hermit is Hannah's shell-shocked, Vietnam veteran son. Percy sacrifices her own life to save Hannah's son and prompts a number of the town's citizens to examine their own conduct more deeply.

Overall, the film deals with powerful themes of redemption, hatred, compassion, independence, the economic problems of small towns, the plight of Vietnam War veterans, and, to some extent female empowerment. The film somewhat misleads the audience into thinking that it will be Percy who finds redemption, but it is other characters and relationships, and indeed the town itself, that are powerfully redeemed through Percy's actions.

Sunday, April 22nd at 1:15 PM

St. Ephrem Spirituality Center

Entrance on the side

935 Bay Ridge Parkway, Brooklyn, New York



Mass Book Opening *July to December 2018*

You may enroll your loved ones for a Mass Intention, on **Wednesday, May 16, 2017**

9:00 AM to 11:30 AM
1:30 PM to 4:30 PM

To help us with your request, please indicate your Mass Intention on the blue sheet located in our church and bring it with you to the Rectory



Christian Awareness Program (CAP)

Our next meeting is on

April 24th at 9:45 AM

in the Rectory Meeting Room

YOUTH MINISTRY

St. Ephrem Youth Ministry Presents...



FOOD ● FUN ● FAITH ● FELLOWSHIP
ALL NIGHT IN THE GYM!

MAY 4-5 2018
9 PM—9 AM OPEN TO ALL GRADES 6-9
RSVP BY April 29th at
STEPHREMYOUTHMINISTRY@GMAIL.COM

SPIRITUALITY & DEVOTIONS



Bereavement Support Group
Monday, April 23rd at 7:00 PM in the
Spirituality Center.

Mini-Retreat \$ Brunch Morning

"Mary's Path of Holiness"

Monday, May 7th at 9:30 AM

Sister Ave Clark, OP

Spiritual Direction

Please call Sister Ann 718-921-9518

All are welcome!!!!



St. Ephrem Friendship Club

Wednesday, April 25, 2018
Bus departs at 9:00 AM Sharp
\$30.00 per person,
with a rebate of \$25.00
\$20.00 Slots & \$5.00 Meal

For information please call
Frank (347) 267-3644
Reservations & full payment
no later than April 23rd



May the Month of Our Blessed Mother

Recitation of the Rosary

During the Month of May, Dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary
we will pray the Rosary through the intercession of Mary at
8:15 AM & 7 PM

Please join us!

May Crowning

On Sunday, May 13th following the 10:00 AM Mass we will
have our May Crowning with the children of our parish who
have received First Holy Communion.

*O Mary we crown thee with flowers today,
Queen of Angels & Queen of the May!*

Memorial Pavers

You can have your loved one (Living or Deceased) remembered
in a very special way by having a paver placed by our
Blessed Virgin Mary Prayer Garden.

Each paver is 11 x 11 and a donation of \$350.00.

For information please contact the rectory.



*Holy Mary, Mother of God,
Prayer for us!*

SCHOOL NEWS

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



Don't miss out on
scholarship opportunities!

**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

Congratulations

St. Ephrem Students who achieved First Honors

Jackson Holowchak	Francesca Marchese,
Amelia McKinney	Nicholas Mousouroulis
Ethan Murillo	Olivia Plantamura
James Stower	Cosmo Ursino
Rami Alkhoury	Jack Camma
Chelsea Casero	Daniel Frisari
Jack Laurenti	Molly Merced
Adam Sayar	Andrew Tolfree
Christian Wilson	Rita-Rose Chahine
Matthew Donnelly	Olivia Mone
Lorenzo Schoenfeld	Alfred Chen
Elizabeth Donnelly	Benjamin Fernandes
Dylan Malone	James Rivera
John Rivera	Abigale Giordano
Jiatu Liang	Natalie Mazzaferro
Julia Mc Loughlin	Sara Oliveri
John Porcu	Sofia Giudice
Alessia Bruzzese	Sofia Oliveri

St. Ephrem Summer Camp & Enrichment



6 Weeks of Activities
July 2nd to August 10th
(Closed July 4th)

Registration is ongoing

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

St. Ephrem School Clothing Drive
May 4, 2018

Gently used clothing, shoes, linens & accessories.

No Books or Toys

Drop off in the Church Parking Lot 8:00 AM to 12 Noon.

PARISH & COMMUNITY EVENTS

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish
Spring Extravaganza
 Thursday, May 3rd at 7:00 PM
 Rex Manor
 \$50.00 Per Person

No Admission Tickets will be sold at the Door.

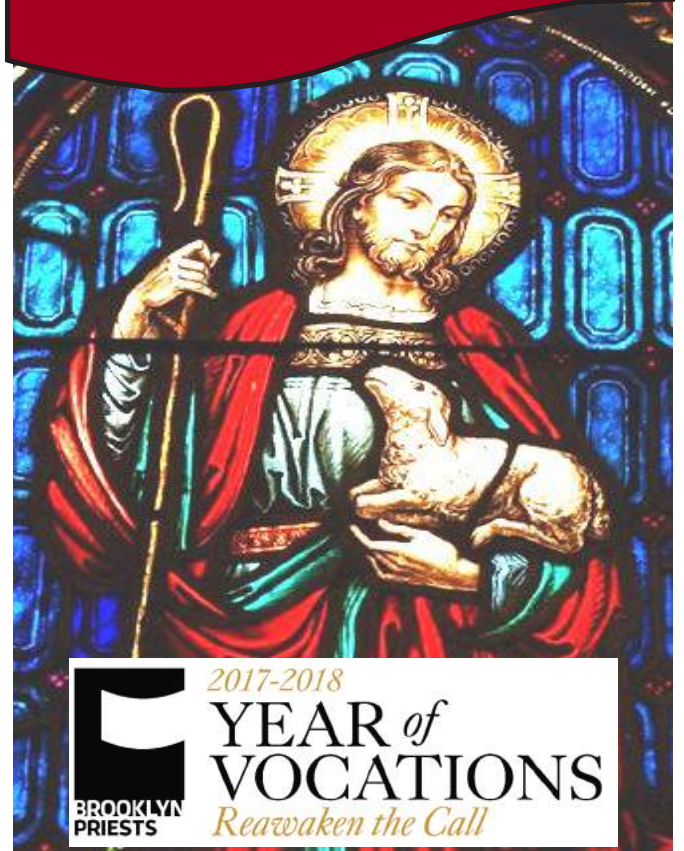
For information
 (718) 871-1310 x 10



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



YEAR OF VOCATIONS

COME & SEE



What's it like to be a Religious Sister?

Visitation Monastery is seeking those who:
 Love Jesus, Those who wish to give their life to Jesus, Those who are willing to serve Him as the Virgin Mary still does...With all her heart.
Is it you?

www.brooklynvisitationmonastery.org
 Accepting Retreatants Now: (718) 745-5151
 Schedule a retreat for a day, a weekend or a week.
 The cost? Your time. Given to God.

Prayer for our Seminarians

These men have answered Jesus' invitation to "Come Follow Me." Please take a Seminarian's prayer card (located in our church by the Vocation Banner) and pray for him so that he may continue in his journey toward priesthood.

"They abandoned their nets and followed him."
 Mark 1:18

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