

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 29, 2018
Fifth 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.



Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 29, 2018

“Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit.”

Today’s gospel we hear Jesus say: “I am the true vine.” He goes a step further to say that: “My Father is the vine grower.” Jesus reminds us of the vine grower’s role. Not only does the vine grower ensure its viability, but he prunes branches to produce fruit, and cuts away those that do not produce any fruit. In a stark vision of the end time, Jesus takes yet another step to say that those branches that have been cut away will be thrown into the fire to be burned. As vine grower, the Father tends his precious vine. Once transplanted, the real work begins.

Where are we in the metaphor? We are the branches, fully aware that no branch bears fruit on its own. We must remain attached to the vine to bear fruit on its own. We must remain attached to the vine to bear fruit. So as not to be lopped off, we remain in Jesus.

This agricultural image is ancient, but easily applicable and comprehended. Anyone with experience in gardening or observing nature grasps the symbolism here. The metaphor is simple yet sublime, and seems to be evidence of a good Teacher.

The image used in today’s gospel has a number of different meanings. It can be understood in a number of ways. For one, Jesus says that the branches that do not bear fruit are pruned, to bear more. We can reflect on that to wonder why these fruit-bearing branches need to be pruned at all! Isn’t it enough to cut off the branches that do not bear fruit? No, for the vine grower, merely producing fruit is not enough. He knows that the branch can produce more. And anyone with gardening experience would agree.

And so we at times have the experience of being pruned. We can wonder why. Things seem to be going well. Life is in order. Good things are happening. And yet, we are pruned. We die to parts of ourselves regularly. And this dying is essential if we are to produce more fruit. The vine grower, the Father, knows what he is doing. Our task is simply to remain on the vine, and to produce fruit. Our being pruned is a natural and healthy, though perhaps painful, experience that is necessary for us to grow into the people we are to become. This process of being pruned, of dying to self, is essential for the Christian life, and it is directed, even carried out by the Father. It is the paschal mystery. The result of which is producing fruit.

Jesus also tells his disciples in the Gospel that the vine grower—the Father—prunes the branches that bear fruit so that they bear more fruit. We might profitably reflect on the questions: Where do I need some pruning? What in me needs to be pruned so that I can bear more fruit for God?

Next weekend we welcome 47 children of our parish to the Table of the Lord, as they receive First Holy Communion. We pray that the Lord will continue to touch their hearts, so that as they grow in age and wisdom they will be faithful disciples of the Lord.

In the Good Shepherd,

Fr. Robert



April 22, 2018 318 Envelopes \$9,810.00
We Share (Online Giving) 40 Families \$210.00

Mass Attendance 856

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	125
Amount Pledged	\$67,185.00
Paid to Date	\$41,477.00

*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 28th
 Vincenzo Sperrazza

8:45 AM
 5:00 PM
 Michael Sloan
 Paul Murphy
 Nicholas & Thelma Baranello
 Giuseppe & Clementina Soracchi
 James & Catherine Soracchi

Sunday, April 29th
 Peter Murray
 Michael Cennamo
 Josephine Mauriello
 For the People of St. Ephrem

8:00 AM
 10:00 AM
 12 Noon
 5:00 PM

Monday, April 30th
 Rajiv Goulab
 Cavallaro & DeBlasio Family

7:00 AM
 8:45 AM

Tuesday, May 1st
 For the People of St. Ephrem
 Antonio Alaimo

7:00 AM
 8:45 AM

Wednesday, May 2nd
 For the People of St. Ephrem
 For the People of St. Ephrem

7:00 AM
 8:45 AM

Thursday, May 3rd
 Mary O'Hara
 For the People of St. Ephrem

7:00 AM
 8:45 AM

Friday, May 4th
 Sean & Teresa O'Sullivan
 Michael Anthony Miglino
 (100th Birthday in Heaven)

7:00 AM
 8:45 AM

Saturday, May 5th
 Purgatorial Society Mass

8:45 AM
 5:00 PM
 Pasquale Marsill
 Robert Offitto
 Paul Murphy
 Eleanor DeLorenzo
 Thomas & Christopher Joyce

Sunday, May 6th
 Bridie McDonald & Nancy Gorham
 Mary Bonfiglio
 Julia Costanza
 For the People of St. Ephrem

8:00 AM
 10:00 AM
 12 Noon
 5:00 PM



The Bread & Wine
 In Loving Memory of
Sean & Marcella O'Sullivan
Requested by: The O'Sullivan Family



Altar Candles & Sanctuary Lamp
 In Loving Memory of
Sean & Marcella O'Sullivan
Requested by: The O'Sullivan Family



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



First Holy Communion

Next weekend May 5th & 6th
 47 Children from St. Ephrem Parish,
 will receive First Holy Communion at the
 Saturday Vigil Mass, 10:00 AM Mass & the
 12 Noon Mass.

We pray that God Continues to Bless these children!



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*

St. Vincent de Paul Gives Back

St. Ephrem's could share in the profits. For donated cars, trucks or vans, running or not. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul will give back to our church \$50/\$100 per vehicle. Maybe you don't have a vehicle, but a family member, friend or neighbor has an old or neglected vehicle in their driveway that they would like to dispose of.



Call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at
 718-491-2525 or svdpauto-brooklynqueens.org.
 Thank you for your participation

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 30th 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

Exploring the Sunday Readings
Thursday, May 3rd at 10:00 AM

Bereavement Support Group

St. Patrick Parish

Sister Jeanne Elaine at 718-238-2600 x178

Our Lady of Angels Parish

Judy Chiarchiaro at 718-748-1164

St. Ephrem Parish

Sister Ann Martha at 718-921-9518

Spiritual Direction

Please call Sister Ann 718-921-9518

All are welcome!!!!



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 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 Second Honors

Samantha Dunne	Eric Guzman
Veronica Nekoula	Sophia Venturelli
Jack Correnti	Annabelle Zhao
Matthew Blandino	Dominic Colavito
Ashleen McGinn	Grace McGinn
Thomas Surace	Julianna Cecere
Francis Giordano	Maria Hlinka
Olivia LoFaso	Nereida Flores
Roman Garratt	Gavin Yu
Mia Franki	Nicholas Maffei
Jolie Avignone	Joseph Avignone
Jean Pierre Benavides	Christian Daloul
Owen Nach	Caitrin Smith
Samantha Fadel	Christian Franki,
Thomas Guardavaccaro	

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.

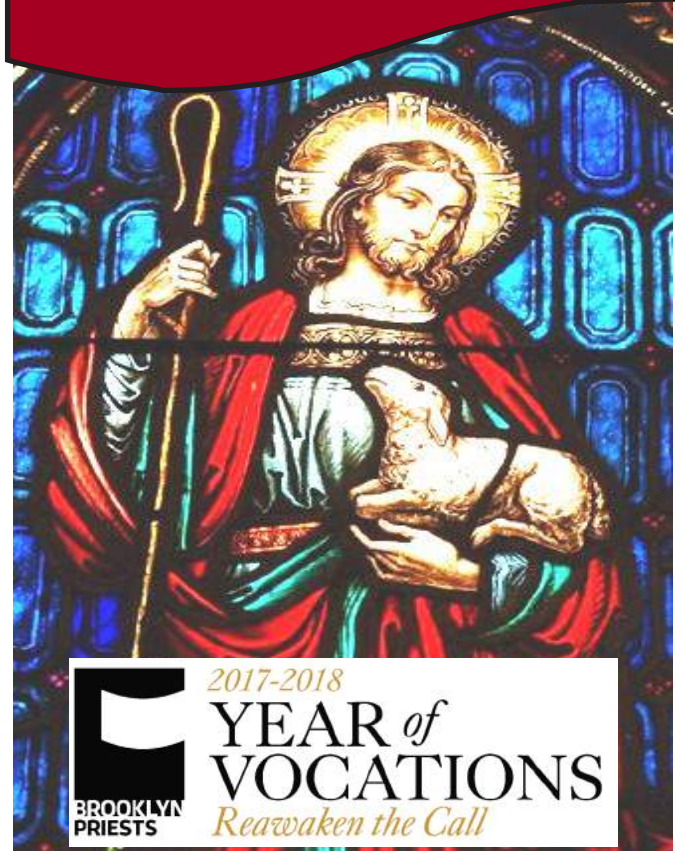
For information
 (718) 871-1310 x 10



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