

# Church of St. Ephrem

929 Bay Ridge Parkway ♦ Brooklyn, New York 11228

[www.stephremparish-brooklyn.org](http://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, May 6, 2018  
Sixth 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](mailto:stephremreligious@gmail.com)

## St. Ephrem School

924 74th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11228 ♦ 718-833-1440 ♦ Fax 718-745-5301 ♦ [www.stephremschool.org](http://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](http://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.



**Sixth Sunday of Easter  
May 6, 2018**

***“No one has greater love than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”***

Jesus gives us a command in today’s gospel that replaces all others. It is simply this *“love one another.”* Of course like this, it can be appealing to return to a checklist! How much easier would it be to maintain a checklist, such as, going to church, celebrating the sacraments, fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. But the command issued by Jesus is much more difficult. A command to love knows no bounds, knows no checklist. It can be much easier to simply attend church once a week and again on days of obligation, than it can be to “love.” By this command Jesus invites us to an adult spirituality, no longer satisfied by keeping a list. We are not children who need to be told to help with cleaning up after dinner. We do this naturally out of love. And we likely do much more.

There is no box to check for “love.” Love does not count the cost or put a limit on what price is too high. Love can always do more. Love is based on a personal relationship with another that is not transactional but self-giving. As Jesus says in the gospel, his love for his friends reaches the point of laying down his own life for them. There is no boundary to what love calls us to do. And for that reason, we might prefer to list of dos and don’ts. But that is not what we receive from Jesus. We receive from him a command simple but demanding: *“love one another.”*

The Christian life, modeled on Jesus, is about a freedom to love to the point of laying down one’s life for the other. A relationship with Jesus necessarily involves a relationship with his friends. And these friends are called to love not only Jesus and the Father but, perhaps more importantly, one another. How much simpler the spiritual life would be if we only had to focus on loving Jesus, or loving God. But to be a friend means we must love his other friends as well. This kind of love is not simply a checklist of good deeds, but a dying to self that put s the other first. This love is self-sacrificial and demands we put our own wants, needs, and desires aside to serve and love the other. But same might respond, others have so many needs there is no way we can meet them all. We would die trying “Precisely,” is the answer we might expect. The Christian life is one that demands a kind of heroism of daily self-sacrifice, daily dying to one’s self. This is the paschal mystery given to us by Jesus himself. For when we give ourselves to the point of no return, God is there to raise us up to new life.

What a great day for us, as we welcome the children from our parish, these friends of Jesus, around the Table of the Lord, for the first time as they receive Jesus in the Eucharist. We continue to pray for these children and their families that they will continue to strengthen their relationship with Jesus.

In the Good Shepherd,

*Fr. Robert*



**April 30, 2018**                      273 Envelopes                      \$8,370.00  
**Home Missions**                      140 Envelopes                      \$2,476.00  
**We Share (Online Giving)**                      40 Families                      \$210.00

**Mass Attendance 620**

***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!**

<b>St. Ephrem Parish Goal</b>	<b>\$104,459.00</b>
<b>Number of Donors</b>	<b>139</b>
<b>Amount Pledged</b>	<b>\$71,795.00</b>
<b>Paid to Date</b>	<b>\$44,977.00</b>

***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!**

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



## Mass Intentions for the week

- Saturday, May 5th**  
Purgatorial Society Mass
- 8:45 AM  
5:00 PM Pasquale Marsillo  
Robert Offitto  
Paul Murphy  
Eleanor DeLorenzo  
Thomas & Christopher Joyce
- Sunday, May 6th**  
8:00 AM Bridie McDonald & Nancy Gorham  
10:00 AM Mary Bonfiglio  
12 Noon Julia Costanza  
5:00 PM For the People of St. Ephrem
- Monday, May 7th**  
7:00 AM Eileen Conway  
8:45 AM John Carr
- Tuesday, May 8th**  
7:00 AM Louis Thomas Tuorto  
8:45 AM Sr. Angela Miller, IHM
- Wednesday, May 9th**  
7:00 AM Rose Smith  
8:45 AM Michael & Winifred McNamara  
7:00 PM Vigil Agatha Lombardo (100th Birthday)
- Thursday, May 10th**  
7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem  
8:45 AM Daniel Marchesiello  
11:00 AM Esther Phelon
- Friday, May 11th**  
7:00 AM Clara Calabrese  
8:45 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
- Saturday, May 12th**  
8:45 AM Maria Gorizia & Nicolas Irace  
5:00 PM Mary C. O'Hara  
Louis Thomas Tuorto  
Steven Lopez  
Florence Anne Infantino  
Dr. Al Giordano
- Sunday, May 13th**  
8:00 AM Mother's Day Mass Remembrance  
10:00 AM Frances Gambino  
12 Noon Raffaella Losardo  
5:00 PM For the People of St. Ephrem



## The Bread & Wine In Loving Memory of Louis Thomas Tuorto

*Requested by: His Loving Sons Greg & Paul*



## Altar Candles & Sanctuary Lamp

In Loving Memory of  
Louis Thomas Tuorto

*Requested by: His Loving Sons Greg & Paul*



**Pope Francis invites us to pray the Rosary during the month of May, especially for Peace in Syria and throughout the world .**

## Welcome to our New Altar Servers!



**Maria Hlinka**

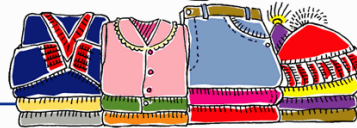
**Olivia Lo Faso**

**Michaela Mathis**

**Olivia Mone**

**St. Vincent de Paul Society will be here on Saturday, May 19th 9 to 11:45 AM, in the parking lot on 74th Street.**

## Clothing Drive



**All types of clean usable clothing, blankets and towels will be accepted.**

## 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  
**May 15th at 9:45 AM**  
in the Rectory Meeting Room

## YOUTH MINISTRY



Sunday, May 20th at 6:00 PM  
Rectory Meeting Room  
Grades 6-12

For more information please email:  
stephremyouthministry@gmail.com

 @stephremyouth

## SPIRITUALITY & DEVOTIONS



**Bereavement Support Group**  
Monday, May 7th 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!!!!



## Give God a Second Thought

What good is God?  
Monday

Ten kinds of people  
we don't have to love  
Wednesday

Why prayers don't work?  
Tuesday

**Save the Date for the Parish Mission: June 4—6th**

Come explore these and other questions in a humorous, down-to-earth manner with Paulist Father John Collins.

Haven't been to church recently? Don't worry! All are welcome.

Three days of talks will be offered, in the morning and again in the evening



## 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!*

Registration for 2018—2019 is Ongoing

ST. EPHREM CATHOLIC ACADEMY

- Faith-based, caring environment
- Certified Teachers
- Technology
- Early Morning Drop Off
- After School Program
- Art & Music Programs



**Our students consistently score higher on NY State Tests than their public school counterparts**

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

Scholarship information is available at:  
[www.futuresineducation.org](http://www.futuresineducation.org)

924 74th Street Brooklyn, NY 11228    [www.stephremschool.org](http://www.stephremschool.org)

We work with all families to make Catholic education possible



Partnership with Bishop Kearney High School



COMMUNITY & SCHOOL NEWS

St. Ephrem Friendship Sponsoring



Wednesday, May 23, 2018

The bus departs at 9:00 AM Sharp

\$40.00 per person & Casino gives back \$30.00

For information please call Frank (347) 267-3644 till 7:00 PM

Reservations & Full Payment by May 18th

St. Ephrem Summer Camp & Enrichment



**6 Weeks of Activities**

July 2<sup>nd</sup> to August 10<sup>th</sup>

(Closed July 4<sup>th</sup>)

**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](mailto:summerfun@stephremschool.org)



Fontbonne Hall Academy 7th Grade Open House  
Thursday, May 17th 6-7:30 PM  
RSVP Victoria Hein, Director of Admissions at  
[hein@fontbonne.org](mailto:hein@fontbonne.org)

## YEAR OF VOCATIONS



An invitation to single young adult

**“YOU WILL BE MY WITNESS”**

As the Father has sent me, so I send you...

**Presenter: Sr. Barbara O’Dea, DW**  
Saturday, May 19, 2018—Eve of Pentecost  
10:00 AM—4:00 PM

**Montfort Mission House**  
101-18 104th Street  
Ozone Park, N.Y. 11416

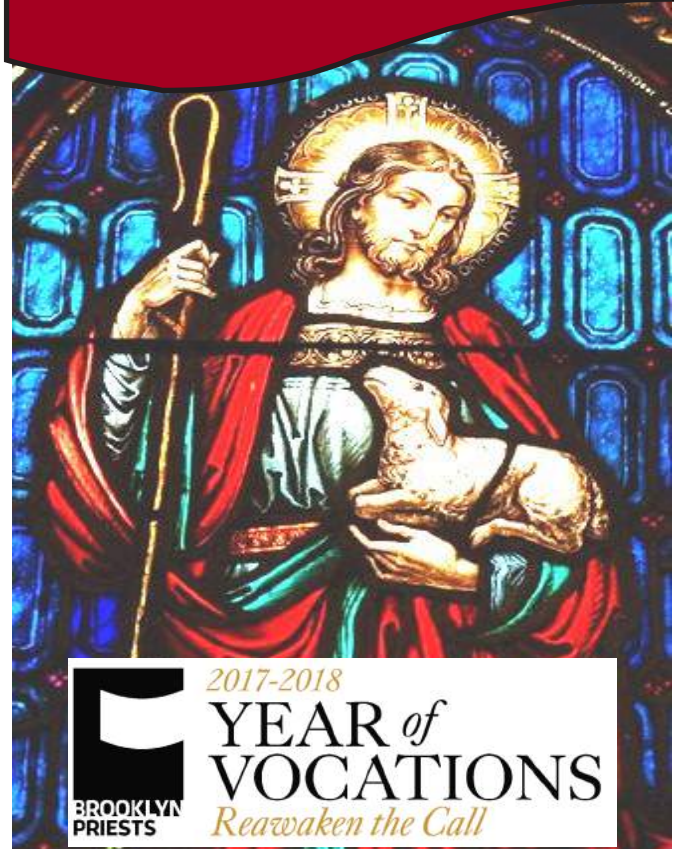
**For information and directions contact:**  
**Sr. Bernadette Sassone, DW**  
bsassonedw2@aol.com  
(631) 470-4896  
(347) 567-3997

**Sponsored by the Daughters of Wisdom**  
An International Congregation of Sisters  
serving in twenty countries

## 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*

## 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](http://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*