

Church of St. Ephrem

929 Bay Ridge Parkway ♦ Brooklyn, New York 11228

www.stephremparish-brooklyn.org



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, *Academy 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*

September 30, 2018
Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time



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

Third Floor of Academy

718-745-7486

stephremreligious@gmail.com

St. Ephrem Catholic Academy

924 74th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11228 ♦ 718-833-1440 ♦ www.stephremscatholicacademy.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.



Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 30, 2018

“Whoever is not against us is for us. If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off.”

Today in the gospel the disciples are continuing to misunderstand, and come to Jesus with some news. It’s as though they are snitching. “Teacher, we saw someone driving out demons in your name, and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow us.” Jesus responds with the equivalent of, “Do not prevent him. There is one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me.” He then makes a claim that can be described in various ways by different people.

“Whoever is not against us is for us,” the double negative “not against” is significant, and seems to be a rather low bar. If simply not being against is the equivalent of being “for” there seems to be hope!

Yet, this rather low-bar admonition is followed immediately by a stern and disturbing warning: Causing a little one to sin is worthy of death. What then follows are a series of prophetic exaggeration intended to make the point that the kingdom of God is worth any price. Lopping off a body part that causes one to sin is better than losing eternal life. The early church recognized these commands concerning self-maiming as embellishment and did not take them literally. These are warnings to sever any relationship that causes sin. The kingdom of God is the ultimate prize worth any price.

Like the disciples, we too can be quick to point out who belongs to the “in crowd” and who does not. Too often we fail to recognize that the people we see as outsiders—those who look differently, speak differently, vote differently, or worship differently—can help us grow tremendously in our Christian life. An immigrant mother who works two jobs to provide a better future for her children models Christ’s unconditional love for others; a devout Muslim’s commitment to prayer five times a day might inspire us to embody a more fervent prayer life of our own; and even those people who think differently or have a different opinion from ourselves (gasp!) can teach us new, richer ways to pray and experience the Living God.

In the Good Shepherd,

Fr. Robert



September 23, 2018 272 Envelopes \$10,102.00

We Share (Online Giving) 40 Families \$220.00

Mass Attendance 702

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	201
Amount Pledged	\$101,232.00
Paid to Date	\$91,625.75

Thank you for your continued generosity to help our brothers and sisters 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 May 15, 2018 at St. Ephrem R.C. Church	
Campaign Goal	\$980,000.00
Total Pledged	\$1,063,769.00
Total Payments to Date by Parishioners	\$819,500.46
Total # Donors	198
Total Funds To Be Returned to Parish to Date	\$336,719.00



Mass Intentions for the week

- Saturday, September 29th**
 8:45 AM The Vellucci & Ballaro Family
- 5:00 PM David M. Durney
 Audi Vurckio
 Vita DePetro
 For the Intentions of Jo-Anna Perrone
 Pietro V. Puleo
- Sunday, September 30th**
 8:00 AM John Vellucci
 10:00 AM Caterina & Giuseppe Sama
 12 Noon James Hayes
 5:00 PM For the People of St. Ephrem
- Monday, October 1st**
 7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
 8:45 AM John Carr
- Tuesday, October 2nd**
 7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
 8:45 AM Tony Grbic
- Wednesday, October 3rd**
 7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
 8:45 AM Denis Ferris
- Thursday, October 4th**
 7:00 AM Jack Costello
 8:45 AM Cosimo & Cecilia Cavallaro
- Friday, October 5th**
 7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
 8:45 AM Frances & Norman MacDonald
- Saturday, October 6th**
 8:45 AM Purgatorial Society Mass
- 5:00 PM For the Intentions of Anthony Nicola
 Louis Thomas Tuorto
 John Riordan
 Francesco & Maria Crocitto
 Conversions of Sinners
- Sunday, October 7th**
 8:00 AM Harry D'Amura
 10:00 AM Dolores Contes
 12 Noon Tracy Reilly Nelson
 5:00 PM For the People of St. Ephrem



The Bread & Wine

In Loving Memory of

John Riordan

Requested by Kevin Kelly



Altar Candles & Sanctuary Lamp

In Loving Memory of

Eric Platow

Requested by Janet & Donald Cassamassino



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction

Friday, October 5th, 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!



Blessing of the Animals

In honor of

St. Francis of Assisi

Please bring your pet to be blessed on

Sunday, October 7th at 2 PM

by the outside statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary

We are happy to Announce that St. Ephrem Catholic Academy has opened.



Bishop James Massa, Auxiliary Bishop of Brooklyn Will celebrate Mass on Monday, October 1st at 8:45 AM with the School Community. Bishop will bless our new Academy. Light refreshments will follow.

All are welcome to join us!



Silver Circle

Support the Retired IHM Sisters

For information please contact:
Sister Mary Jane at (718) 833-1555



Congratulations to Rich & Sera Barry who are the winners of our Summer 50/50 Raffle Total Collected: \$2,810.00 Winner Received: \$1,405.00

OCTOBER—*Month of Mary*

During the Month of October, dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary, please join us in praying the Rosary at 8:15 AM & 7:00 PM



In our church Monday through Friday.

Throughout the month we will pray the Rosary for Healing for all victims of abuse and for the Church

SPIRITUALITY



Bereavement

A new Bereavement Support Group will begin **Monday, October 1st at 7:00 PM.**

Mini-Retreat

Monday, October 15th at 9:30 AM, Sister Ave Clark, OP will give a Mini-Retreat on "Parables of the Heart." See flyers in church for more information.

Tuesday, October 2, AN INTRODUCTION to a FEMINIST INTERPRETATION of the BIBLE will begin at 1:00 PM in the Spirituality Center with Sister Barbara Reid, OP Ph.D. (DVD Program)

Book Discussion Group meets Thursday, October 4th at 4:00pm. The books discussed are "**One Perfect Lie**" by Lisa Scottoline and "**Behold the Dreamers**" by Imbolo Mbue.

Spiritual Direction
Please call Sister Ann
718-921-9518



All are welcome!!!!

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Sports Activity Mass

St. Ephrem's Baseball and Basketball Teams will join us for the 10:00 AM Mass on Sunday, October 7th

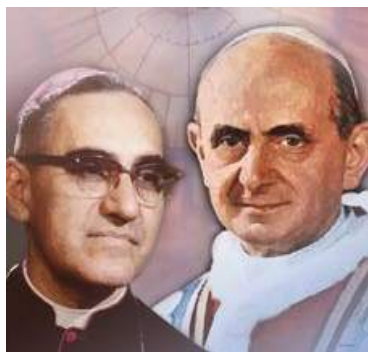


For more information please email:
stephremyouthministry@gmail.com

 @stephremyouth

Canonization of Saint Paul VI & Saint Oscar Romero

October 14, 2018



In order to participate in this historic event and to learn more about these two men, We are offering an opportunity to view the Documentary Movies, & to have a discussion about these new Saints Lives.

Tuesday, October 16, 23 & 30 at 6:00 PM
in the Spirituality Center with Pizza Dinner.

Please call the Rectory Office for Reservations.

LETTER FROM BISHOP DIMARZIO



Office of the Bishop
Diocese of Brooklyn

310 Prospect Park West
Brooklyn, New York 11215

September 24, 2018

Dear Faithful of the Diocese in Brooklyn and Queens:

It is with profound sadness, but with redoubled resolve, that I write to you concerning the many disturbing news stories that have come out during the last several weeks. First and foremost, as your Bishop, know that I am completely committed to enforcing the zero tolerance policy established in the 2002 Dallas Charter, as well as doing everything in my power to ensure that safe environments exist for all members of the Church, especially our children, youth, and vulnerable adults. Stories of past abuses and failures on the part of some in leadership must strengthen our commitment to always strive to do better as we continue the important mission of the Church.

Last week it was announced that the Diocese of Brooklyn, along with the Dorothy Bennett Mercer Center, agreed to settle a case involving four individuals, who were sexually abused by Mr. Angelo Serrano, who is currently serving a prison term for his crimes. Even though Mr. Serrano was a church volunteer, and not a member of the clergy, and even though the abuse occurred in his apartment, and not on church property, priests assigned to the parish failed to recognize signs of the abuse and take appropriate actions. The settlement of \$27 million will be divided by the four victims, each of whom will receive about \$6.8 million, less attorney fees, which is usually about one third. The Diocese's portion of the settlement, \$17.4 million will be completely covered by our insurance policy; however, insurance premiums may have to rise. We are deeply saddened by the abuse they suffered at the hands of Mr. Serrano, and hope that this settlement will assist the victims and their families in the years to come.

In order to assist survivors of sexual abuse by members of the clergy, I initiated an Independent Reconciliation and Compensation Program (IRCP), which is administered by Mr. Kenneth Feinberg, Esq., whose firm has handled several similar programs, including the 9-11 Compensation Program. In addition to a financial compensation, survivors are offered the opportunity for counseling, as well as other forms of support through our Victims Assistance Coordinator. **It is important to note that none of your donations are used to pay for this program. The Diocese sold property and secured a loan, which will be repaid through the leasing of ecclesiastical property. The contributions of the faithful of the diocese are dedicated to the core mission of the Church, and are essential for us to continue our much-needed work.**

Finally, as was recently announced, the Office of the New York State Attorney General issued subpoenas to all the Roman Catholic Dioceses in the state. These subpoenas order the handing over of all documents relating to the sexual abuse of minors by members of the clergy, as well as cases involving non-consenting adults. The Diocese of Brooklyn will certainly comply with this subpoena, which requests documents from January 1, 1950 to the present. You should be aware of the fact that since 2002 we have been sharing our files and allegations against clergy with the District Attorneys of Brooklyn and Queens. In addition, in 2004 I established an independent toll-free number, **1-888-634-4499**, so that anyone with an allegation against a member of the clergy can make a report, which is also shared with the corresponding District Attorney. If the allegation is within the statute of limitations, it is also shared with the Special Victims Bureau of the NYPD, for their immediate intervention. The Diocese of Brooklyn is committed to protecting our most vulnerable members as well as the pursuit of justice.

With assurances of your remembrance in my prayers, especially at the celebration of the Eucharist, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicholas DiMarzio".

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

FALL FUNDRAISER

ST. EPHREM FEVER ON SATURDAY NIGHT

DRESS TO IMPRESS IN YOUR DISCO BEST!

Featuring

**DISCO
UNLIMITED**

Live Show



**\$50 Per Person
Includes:
Sandwiches, Snacks, Beer,
Wine, Soda & Water.**

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

**Two live shows
1 Hour and 15
Minutes Each**

**Dancing
Best Costume Prize
50/50 Raffle**

Saturday, October 27, 2018

7:00—11:00 PM

St. Ephrem Catholic Academy

924 74th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11228

Please make your reservations by October 22nd

No Tickets will be sold at the door.