

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, *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 9, 2018
Twenty-Third 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

Office in School Room 307

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 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 9, 2018

“He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.”

Ephphatha – “Be opened!” The exhortation *Ephphatha* is not only addressed to the man born deaf but also to his disciples both then and now who fail to hear and see and speak the presence of God in their very midst.

The Aramaic word *Ephphatha* literally means “be opened”: Jesus “opens” not only the man’s ears but also a life of community, shutting the door on exclusion from the people of God. Jesus’ curing of the deaf man with saliva is an act of recreation. God has entered human history in the extraordinary ministry of Jesus.

Mark includes several interesting details in his story of Jesus’ curing of the deaf man. When presented with the deaf man, Jesus stops, makes time for the man, and takes him away from the crowd to a quiet, safe place. Jesus then “put his finger into the man’s ears/ and, spitting, touched his tongue.” Jesus cures the man with only a fleeting word and, by his touch, he enters into the man’s struggle and pain-in doing so, Jesus brings hope and healing to his life.

Throughout Mark’s gospel, Jesus insists that his healings be kept quiet in order that his full identity be revealed and understood only in the light of his cross and resurrection. But this man, like so many others, cannot keep the Good News to himself. He is compelled to proclaim it despite an injunction from Jesus himself.

We might not witness such dramatic deeds as the deaf hearing, or the mute speaking, but we witness God’s activity in the world on a daily basis. We can participate in the activity of Jesus by bringing in the excluded, reaching out to those on the margins, and empathizing with those who have less. Each time we go outside of ourselves to deal with the needs of another person, we are acting as an “other Christ” or an *alter Christus*. By virtue of our baptism that is our vocation, to be another Christ on earth, ministering to those in need where and whenever we find them. Figuratively, and even literally, we can help to give a voice to the voiceless, and assist those who cannot hear to hear. The voiceless might not be a mute, but instead the marginalized without access to the microphone of public debate. Those who cannot hear might be the deaf, but those who are figuratively deaf of the injustice in our world. As another Christ, it is our duty as baptized Christians to enact God’s kingdom on earth. Today we are given a model for doing that. When we do so, our behavior might be thought of as odd, but is nevertheless our calling and our vocation.

In the Good Shepherd,

Fr. Robert



September 2, 2018	234 Envelopes	\$7,893.00
9/11 Memorial	104 Envelopes	\$1,759.00
We Share (Online Giving)	40 Families	\$220.00

Mass Attendance 606

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	199
Amount Pledged	\$100,142.00
Paid to Date	\$88,269.75

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 8th
8:45 AM Veronica Glowacki

5:00 PM Gilbert Bonilla
Emily Marchesiello

Sunday, September 9th
8:00 AM Anna Marie Walsh
10:00 AM Dominick Roberti & Victor Manfredi
12 Noon Josephine Saccente
5:00 PM For the People of St. Ephrem

Monday, September 10th
7:00 AM John Ward
8:45 AM John Carr

Tuesday, September 11th
7:00 AM For the Victims of 9/11
8:45 AM Josephine Mazzone

Wednesday, September 12th
7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
8:45 AM Ted Curry

Thursday, September 13th
7:00 AM Gloria Petrilli
8:45 AM John Riordan

Friday, September 14th
7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
8:45 AM McGuirk & Delehanty Families

Saturday, September 15th
8:45 AM Matthew O'Connor

5:00 PM Michael Sloan
Catherine O'Connell
Edmund & Marie Pionegro
Michael Piccolo
Marie Parrino

Sunday, September 16th
8:00 AM For the Intentions of the
Kinnane Family
10:00 AM Costanza & Guariglia Family
12 Noon Anne Lamia
5:00 PM For the People of St. Ephrem

There are many Masses being offered without any intentions. You can honor or remember a loved one by requesting a Mass intention, Bread & Wine, Altar Candles & Sanctuary Lamp.
Please come to the rectory



The Bread & Wine

In Loving Memory of

Ted Curry

Requested by St. Ephrem Faculty & Staff



Altar Candles & Sanctuary Lamp

In Loving Memory of

Mary & Harry Arnold

Requested by Pat Arnold

Holy Land Pilgrimage October 23rd to 31st, 2018

Fr. Anthony Chanan

\$3,199 from JFK Airport

For information please contact
(718) 445-9377 or (212) 676-9070



St. Ephrem Catholic Academy

Welcomes you to
Catholic High School
Information Day

*Sunday, September 23rd
11 to 2:00 PM
Msgr. Kain Hall*



Our Lady of Perpetual Help Food Pantry

*We will be collecting
non-perishable and non-expired
food items the weekend of
September 15/16.*

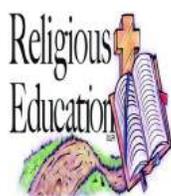
Thank you for your usual generosity !

Summer Super 50/50 Raffle
Last year our winner took home \$1,530.00

**Once again we have our
Annual Summer 50/50 Raffle
available in church.**

Collected to date: \$2,295.00

FAITH FORMATION



Religious Education Classes

All children who do not attend Catholic School should register for religious education classes beginning in first grade. Our religious education classes meet on Wednesday afternoons from 3:30 pm to 4:45 pm. Diocesan regulations require that all children attend two full years of religious education before first Communion and then attend religious education classes faithfully each year until Confirmation, presently celebrated in the fall of eighth grade. New registration and re-registration for the 2018-2019 year can be completed on:

Monday, September 10, Tuesday, September 11,

Wednesday, September 12, 10 AM to 4 PM

Wednesday, September 12

7 PM to 9 PM

Sunday, September 16

12 Noon to 2 PM

A copy of the child's baptismal certificate is required for all new registrations. All registration takes place in the Office of Faith Formation located on the third floor of the Saint Ephrem Catholic Academy – entrance at 924 74 Street. If you have questions or concerns, please contact us at 1(718)745-7486 or stephremreligioused@gmail.com We look forward to walking in faith with you and your family as together we pass on the Catholic faith to the next generation.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults



The R.C.I.A. program is designed for adults who have never been baptized, perhaps been baptized in another faith, or baptized Catholic but never received Eucharist and Confirmation. This is an opportunity to explore life in the Catholic Community have a companion on your faith journey, and prepare for the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, and/or Eucharist, and Confirmation). What can you do to help someone who seeks to be a part of the Catholic Church? Accompany them to Mass; encourage

them on the journey; introduce them to other parishioners. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about RCIA, contact Eileen Maguire at 1(718)745-7486 or stephremreligioused@gmail.com

**WE NEED YOU
TO SHARE THE FAITH**



Are you interested in passing on our faith to the next generation?

Children in grades 1 through 7 meet each Wednesday afternoon from 3:30 to 4:45 PM to be informed about the

beliefs and traditions of our Catholic Faith, to share faith experiences and to be transformed by the love of God. Parents are the first educators in the ways of faith; catechists assist and support what families are already doing.

If you think you might be a catechist, please contact Eileen Maguire at the Faith Formation Office at (718) 745-7486 or stephremreligioused@gmail.com Classes for prospective catechists will be available to accommodate your schedule.

SPIRITUALITY & COMMUNITY



SEPTEMBER EVENTS

We welcome all to the Spirituality Center as we begin our Fall 2018 Programs. Brochures are available at the exit doors of church.

Book Discussion Group

The Group meets every 6 weeks at 4pm. The first session begins Thursday, October 4th. The Books, **One Perfect Lie** by Lisa Scottoline and **Behold the Dreamers** by Imbolo Mbue will be discussed.

Bereavement

A new Bereavement Support Group will begin Monday, September 24 at 7:00 PM. Sessions run on a 6 week cycle. If you have recently lost a loved one and would like to join the group for some compassionate listening, honest sharing and consoling prayer, please come to the Center. Individual (one on one) sessions are available on request.

***Attention—Save the Dates

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) The Program includes 12 sessions. Six sessions will be held in the Fall. The remaining sessions will be held in the Spring. This series explores the Bible through the fascinating lens of feminism. Sister Barbara will teach you different ways to approach the Scriptures from a feminist perspective. You will uncover new outlooks that enable spiritual flourishing for women and men. Look for flyers around the church for more information.

Thursday, October 4, "Exploring the Sunday Readings" will begin at 10:00 AM. These sessions will be held the first and third Thursday of the month. The sessions include prayer, scripture and faith sharing.

Spiritual Direction
Please call Sister Ann
718-921-9518



St. Ephrem Basketball Registration is ongoing. For more information email STEPHREMBASKETBALL@GMAIL.COM. If you are looking to volunteer as a coach or assist w the concession stand , please call Brian Cassidy at 917-803-8176



For more information please email:

stephremyouthministry@gmail.com



@stephremyouth

PARISH/ACADEMY/COMMUNITY NEWS



Adult Choir

Our Adult Choir, which enhances our liturgies through God's great gift of music, will begin their new season on Monday, September 17th in the church choir loft.

Our brilliant choir, which is open to all those in our parish from High School age and up, is in great need of new members.

CAN YOU HELP???

Rehearsals are on Monday evenings from 7:30PM (new time) till 8:45, light refreshments are offered.

Now is a great time to join our Choir as we prepare for the Fall holidays, Advent and one of the highlights of the choir year, Christmas Midnight Mass with our small orchestra.

Children's Choir & Bell Choirs



Our wonderful Parish Children's Choir and Bell Choir, which is open to all children of the parish from grades 3-8, are returning again this September. The children will begin their new season with registration and rehearsal on Thursdays, September 20th and 27th from 3:15-4:00PM. Those who choose to join the

Bell Choir continue their rehearsal from 4:00-4:30. The children sing and ring bells at the 10:00AM Mass, just about every other Sunday and will learn basic music skills and vocal techniques while having fun. Some highlights of the fall season include the Thanksgiving Eve Mass when the children join with the adult choir to sing and the Christmas Eve 5:00PM Mass when they sing with multiple instruments.

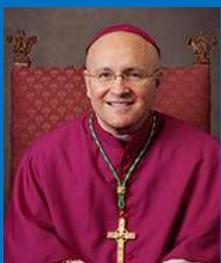


**Blessing
of the Backpacks**

As the new school year has begun, we invite you to join us with you backpacks for a special blessing on:

**Sunday, September 16th
10:00 AM Mass**

**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!

Statement from Fr. Robert Adamo

How do we face such challenge? Do we put too much attention to externals? Are we so strict with documents, rubrics, and always following rules without thinking about the intention behind them? Jesus reminds us that we do not become holy by our actions alone, rather we become holy when we allow Him to transform our entire being.

As I prepared, in July, for my vacation during the month of August, I knew I was leaving our Parish of St. Ephrem in "good hands". My staff and our Priests' are truly here to make sure ministry continues effectively. However, while on vacation, so much has happened in "the Universal Church." Christ had left His Church in the hands of the Successors, the Apostles, and then the bishops. Unfortunately, it seems as if He didn't leave it in "good hands." Unfortunately, due to some, and because of their inability to effectively protect God's people, we encounter the heartache, pain, trauma, and anger of so many – me included. My heart first and foremost goes out to the "children of God" who have been hurt – the victims. I continue to pray for them and their families; for healing and consolation.

I pray for you! That during this unfortunate period in our lives, a time that we should not be experiencing, I pray that your faith in God grows ever deeper. Place your trust in the Holy Trinity, who is the Father of all, Son who is Consoler, and Spirit who strengthens! I also pray for the priests' who have done one thing; that being, leading souls to Christ. I pray that our faith does not waiver and we continue to do what we have been ordained to do; namely, be here in the person of Christ to administer the Sacraments, teach, and govern for the sanctification of souls. I pray for our Holy Father, Pope Francis, that he be the instrument used by the Three Persons of the Trinity for the purification needed so desperately amongst the clergy in the Church.

I then pray for the priests who abused their authority, who brought about pain and distrust, those who brought about darkness instead of light, and those who have hurt "the children of God." I pray that God has mercy on their souls and that justice is brought to those who still live amongst us. Finally, I pray for the cardinals, bishops, and those part of the hierarchy who chose to darken these unimaginable and unfortunate experiences by concealing as opposed to bringing them to the light. May God have mercy on them as well.

Please join me in prayer that the Church Christ created be brought back to its core; namely, a Church of mercy, love, justice, peace, joy, and transparency. Please pray for us, your priests', and always know we are praying for you. Just as we become holy by Jesus transforming us, let us pray that, transformation may be experienced by all in the Church.

In the Good Shepherd,

Fr. Robert

*For Bishop DiMarzio's statement please visit the
Diocese of Brooklyn website:*

www.dioceseofbrooklyn.org

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.