

# Church of St. Ephrem

929 Bay Ridge Parkway ♦ Brooklyn, New York 11228

[www.stephremparish-brooklyn.org](http://www.stephremparish-brooklyn.org)



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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, *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*

December 2, 2018  
First Sunday of Advent



### 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](mailto:stephremreligious@gmail.com)

## St. Ephrem Catholic Academy

924 74th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11228 ♦ 718-833-1440 ♦ [www.stephremscatholicacademy.org](http://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 following the 8:45 AM Mass

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.



## First Sunday of Advent

December 2, 2018

*“Your redemption is at hand.”*

Advent is a season of preparation. We prepare our hearts and homes to celebrate the feast of Christmas. We prepare spiritually to greet Christ when he comes again. And we also look to how we can prepare our world to

become more and more like the kingdom of God where love and justice rule. Advent is a time when we live this preparation in an intentional manner, but waiting and preparing are constant hallmarks of the Christian life.

The gospel for today gives the reader signs that will accompany the end times, the coming of the Son of Man. But we would be mistaken if we took these passages literally. And it’s certainly true that hundreds if not thousands of people have done just that – looked for these signs to be fulfilled literally.

The message of this passage sought to give hope to a struggling people, the Christians, who anticipated their redemption. Many of them desperately wanted to see the coming of the Son of Man who would establish justice and peace. Many of the early Christians were on the bottom of the social ladder, experiencing difficulty and trials. Jesus himself had faced a violent end at the hands of the state. The Christians needed to be reminded that their salvation would come, and that they also need to be vigilant, watching for that same salvation. And at the time this gospel was written there were many other Christians who may have lost hope or grown weary of waiting. This message was for them; and the message is also for us.

How would I live today if I knew it was my last day on the earth? What priorities would guide my choices and decisions? The church gives us the reading from Luke’s gospel to start this Advent season in part so that we might call to mind the “end times” and the contemporary coming of the Son of Man. When our minds are drowning in lists, shopping, groceries, and gifts, we might pause, raise our head above these pressing concerns, and reflect from another point of view. In the end, what does it all mean? What is driving my actions and behaviors? Am I watchful, vigilant for the Lord’s coming? And what would such watchfulness look like? The dying and rising of Christ gives meaning to my own personal death and resurrection each season, when I set aside my own desires and aims and focus on something eternal, something lasting. It is then that we recall the relationships forged and celebrated on the earth endure forever. The coming of the Son of Man means death to an old way of life, and resurrection of hope and life everlasting.

Next Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup> immediately following the 5:00 pm Vigil Mass, we will have our Fourth Annual Christmas Tree Lighting. I hope you will join us as we let the Light of Christ shine from our parish for all to see. Our choirs, adult and children, will lead us in singing and there will be light refreshments served. Please joins us!

In the Good Shepherd,

*Fr. Robert*



November 25, 2018	240 Envelopes	\$8,190.00
Landscaping	114 Envelopes	\$1,919.00
We Share (Online Giving)	40 Families	\$220.00

Mass Attendance 797

1179 Families Registered and Receive Envelopes

*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	207
Amount Pledged	\$109,387.75
Paid to Date	\$104,713.25

### Answer the Call



Thank you for your continued generosity and helping us reach our parish goal. Everything received over goal is returned to St. Ephrem Parish.

**Thank you!**



**Generations of Faith continues across the Diocese!**

<b>Generations of Faith Campaign Update as of May 15, 2018 at St. Ephrem R.C. Church</b>	
Campaign Goal	\$980,000.00
Total Pledged	\$1,062,069.00
Total Payments to Date by Parishioners	\$846,192.81
Total # Donors	198
Total Funds To Be Returned to Parish to Date	\$336,719.00





## Mass Intentions for the week

- Saturday, December 1st**  
 8:45 AM Purgatorial Society Mass
- 5:00 PM Anne Culkin  
 Rosetta & Salvatore Volpe  
 Paul Murphy  
 Veronica Menke  
 MaryAnn Kelly
- Sunday, December 2nd**  
 8:00 AM Anna Laura Dinkel  
 10:00 AM Vera Fox  
 12 Noon Josephine & Frank Saccente  
 5:00 PM For the People of St. Ephrem
- Monday, December 3rd**  
 7:00 AM Frank Calabrese  
 8:45 AM John Carr
- Tuesday, December 4th**  
 7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem  
 8:45 AM Michael A. Iannizzi
- Wednesday, December 5th**  
 7:00 AM Mary & Carmine Calderone  
 8:45 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
- Thursday, December 6th**  
 7:00 AM Regina Barckley  
 8:45 AM Marianna Frustaci
- Friday, December 7th**  
 7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem  
 8:45 AM McGuirk & Delehanty Families  
 7:00 PM For the People of St. Ephrem
- Saturday, December 8th**  
 8:45 AM Joseph Ligammari & Miriam Ligammari  
 11:00 AM For the Intentions of Phyllis Trezza
- 5:00 PM Peter A. Carlin  
 For the Intentions of the Blessed Mother  
 For the Intentions of Elaine Capper  
 Domenick Bergamini & Tozzi & Bergamini Families
- Sunday, December 9th**  
 8:00 AM Margaret & Michael Farrell  
 10:00 AM For the Intentions of Alfred and  
 Robert Maffia and their wives  
 12 Noon Graffagnino & Savarese Families  
 5:00 PM For the People of St. Ephrem



# Retirement Fund for Religious

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.



## Aging religious need your help.

Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests ministered for years for little to no pay. Their sacrifices now leaves their religious communities without adequate retirement savings.

Your gift to *next week's collection* for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands of elderly religious.

Please be generous.

## Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction



Friday, December 7th,  
immediately  
following the 8:45 AM Mass  
(If there is a Funeral Mass,  
following).

Benediction at 12:30 PM.

***Come and spend time with the Lord!***



## Solemnity of Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

*A Holy Day of Obligation*

Friday, December 7th  
Vigil Mass 7:00 PM

Saturday, December 8th  
8:45 AM & 11:00 AM

## PARISH & COMMUNITY NEWS

### 4th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting



*Please join us for our Christmas Tree Lighting*

*Saturday, December 8th, 2018  
5:00 PM Mass with both our  
Adult & Children's Choirs*

*Followed by the Lighting of  
Christmas Trees & Light Refreshments*

**Brochures are available in the church if you like to participate in this Annual Event. Our Church property will be adorned with these beautiful Christmas Trees so that the Light of the World—Jesus will shine for all to see!  
This is an opportunity to honor or remember in a special way our loved ones.**



Our Advent Giving Trees will be available for the first weekend of Advent, **December 1st and December 2nd**. Please take one of the gift giving tags. These gifts will go to children ranging in age from infants to teenagers. Heartshare and Hour

Children are the agencies servicing these children. Please return all gifts **No Later than the 5:00 pm Mass on Sunday, December 16th**

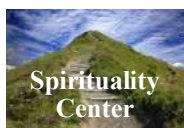
### ADVENT JESSE TREE CELEBRATION



Our Faith Formation is having an Advent celebration on **Wednesday, December 5th** in the Msgr. Peter V. Kain Hall at 5:30 PM. At this gathering we will share faith, food and friendship as we decorate our Jesse Tree and pray together. There will be crafts for the children to do. Each family is asked to bring a potluck dish

of pasta or pizza; we'll provide salad, drinks and dessert. Please respond to the Faith Formation Office at 718-745-7486 or [stephremreligious@gmail.com](mailto:stephremreligious@gmail.com) so we can set up and prepare in advance. Let us know your family name and number of guests.  
**All are Welcome!!!**

## SPIRITUALITY



### Bereavement

Bereavement Support Group  
Monday, December 3rd at 7:00 PM.

Advent Retreat—"An Advent Journey"  
a DVD with

Fr. Michael Himes  
Tuesday, December 4 & 11 at 1 :00 PM

Exploring the Sunday Readings  
Thursday, December 6th at 10:00 AM

### Spiritual Direction

Please call Sister Ann 718-921-9518

All are welcome!!!!



## YOUTH MINISTRY



For more information email:

[stephremyouthministry@gmail.com](mailto:stephremyouthministry@gmail.com)

 @stephremyouth



## An Advent Prayer

God of light and hope, look upon us in love, and fill us with the Spirit of Jesus that we may love you and serve you in your kingdom. Protect us during this season and keep us watchful in prayer as we await the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ, who is the light of the world, and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

### *Advent Prayer Opportunities*

Please take a copy of *The Word Among Us, Daily Meditations for Advent 2018*, so to prepare spiritually for the coming of the Lord this Christmas.





2019-20 Registration is Open!

Will your child be 5 years old in 2019?



**K** It's time for  
Kindergarten

Let your child take flight in our caring, nurturing environment!

To learn about the benefits of a values-based education, contact  
**Principal Craig Mercado**  
718.833.1440



Tuition assistance available for eligible families  
Applications for 2019-20 open in January, 2019  
Apply by April 29<sup>th</sup> at [www.futuresineducation.org](http://www.futuresineducation.org)



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

**St. Ephrem  
Catholic Academy**

THE TABLET—DIOCESAN NEWSPAPER



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The Tablet is published 50 times per year at a cover price of \$1 per issue. Please allow 2 weeks from order receipt for the delivery of your first issue.

You may have noticed the new *Tablet Display*. The Diocese is asking everyone to consider taking a subscription. Please take a form from the display to subscribe or you may place a dollar in the display case.

The parish has been paying for *The Tablet* each month \$1,500.00.

Please help the parish with this large bill, by taking a subscription.

Thank You!

Due to the many financial commitments that individual parishes have, *The Tablet* is now being transitioned from its former publishing model, which relied heavily on parish funding, to a new, reader-paid model. Parishes will not be asked to pay for your subscriptions to *The Tablet*. That's where we need your help.

## 38th Anniversary of the Murder of American Missionaries



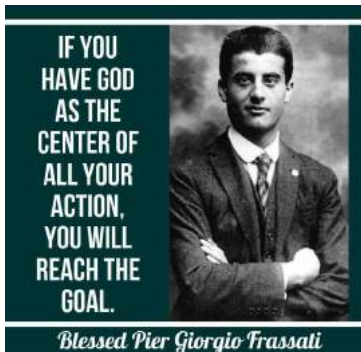
On December 2, 1980, four Catholic Missionaries from the United States working in **El Salvador** were raped and **murdered** by five members of the **El Salvador** National Guard. They were Maryknoll Sisters Maura Clarke and Ita Ford, Ursuline Dorothy Kazel, and lay missionary Jean Donovan.

These women lost their lives because of their work among the Salvadoran poor.

On this their 38th Anniversary of the giving of their lives, let us join our prayers and remember these courageous women.

Sister Ita Ford, is an Alumna of St. Ephrem School.

The movies commemorating these events is:  
**"Roses In December"**  
By: First Run Features



**FRATERNITAS** is a group for middle school boys (grades 6 to 8), dedicated to instilling Christian values in young men with the goal of fostering true Catholic gentlemen. The monthly meetings take place at Cathedral Preparatory School & Seminary (56-25 92nd Street; Elmhurst, NY 11373) on Saturdays from 1:00 to 5:00 PM

The afternoon will include prayer, catechesis, sports and the celebration of Holy Eucharist.

The next gathering is on **Saturday, December 15, 2018**

For information  
cbethge@cathedralprep.org or call (718)827-2454

### **Jeremiah Project** *High School Discernment Group*

Join our monthly overnights & experience Christ through fraternity & prayer.

**December 14—15th**

Immaculate Conception Center  
7200 Douglaston Parkway, Douglaston, NY 11362

To register please contact the Vocation Office  
vocations@diobrook.org or (718) 827-2454

### *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 Blessed Mother Statue) and pray for him so that he may continue in his journey toward priesthood.

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