

Church of St. Ephrem

929 Bay Ridge Parkway ♦ Brooklyn, New York 11228

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 16, 2018
Third 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

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 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 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.



Third Sunday of Advent

December 16, 2018

“What should we do?.”

As we are moving toward the imminent coming of the Son of Man, we hear in today’s gospel John the Baptist preaching and motivating his audience to action in their own lives. Three times we hear the question repeated in this passage, ***“What should we do?”*** First by the crowds, then the tax collectors, and finally the soldiers. And three times John replies to this question. He tells the crowds to share their excess with those that have nothing. He instructs the tax collectors and soldiers to practice fairness and prudence in their professions. John the Baptist’s good news requires action and sows seeds for the kingdom of God of which Jesus will preach.

John the Baptist’s simple message of justice and mercy has global ramifications in the modern world. Though it’s easy to glance backward and recognize the challenges faced by those in the ancient world, John’s message is for us too. There are those today who are cheated out of wages and/or benefits by others who game the system. Many of us might even benefit, intentionally or not, from a system that encourages unjust practices when it comes to labor conditions or wages and benefits. Those in the developed world have the equivalent of multiple cloaks while many throughout the world go without. While it might be rare for us to see outright stealing of wages, more often we encounter poor working conditions, a minimum wage that requires 120 hours of work each week to support a family, or cheap goods whose real costs are borne an ocean away. What are the values that guide our lives? How are we to live in preparation for the coming of the Son of Man? Justice and mercy are a sure foundation.

I am so grateful to the 216 families and all who participated in the second collection for our parish to reach the Annual Catholic Appeal parish goal. Your generosity not only enabled us to reach goal, but we have gone over goal and each dollar over goal is returned to the St. Ephrem’s Parish. Once again, I am most grateful to you so that we can help our brothers and sisters throughout the Diocese of Brooklyn.

In the Good Shepherd,

Fr. Robert



December 9, 2018	307 Envelopes	\$10,223.00
<i>Retired Religious</i>	<i>130 Envelopes</i>	<i>\$3,931.00</i>
<i>Immaculate Conception</i>	<i>122 Envelopes</i>	<i>\$2,267.00</i>
We Share (Online Giving)	40 Families	\$220.00

Mass Attendance 822

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	216
Amount Pledged	\$111,017.75
Paid to Date	\$107,637.25

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	\$1,062,069.00
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 15th
 8:45 AM Winifred Fugowski
 5:00 PM George Glessing
 Santa Kennedy
 Louis Novellino
 Theodore T. O'Driscoll
 Virginia Giorgio

Sunday, December 16th
 8:00 AM Eleanor Vitale & Josephine DiNapoli
 10:00 AM Julia & Thomas Costanza
 12 Noon Cataldo Piccarreto
 5:00 PM For the People of St. Ephrem

Monday, December 17th
 7:00 AM Julia & James Murphy
 8:45 AM Diane Ondreicka

Tuesday, December 18th
 7:00 AM John Mollica
 8:45 AM Clement McHugh

Wednesday, December 19th
 7:00 AM Helen & John Richardson
 8:45 AM Maria Gorizia Ierace

Thursday, December 20th
 7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
 8:45 AM Michael & Winifred McNamara

Friday, December 21st
 7:00 AM Colleen, Kevin & Edward O'Connor
 8:45 AM John Riordan

Saturday, December 22nd
 8:45 AM Cosimo Corsaro
 5:00 PM Michael Sloan
 Evelyn & Frank Giaquinto
 Peter A. Carlin
 Ilario & Maddalena Piscioneri
 Deceased Members of the Cascio Family and
 Robert Alfors

Sunday, December 23rd
 8:00 AM Frances & Madeline Scotto
 10:00 AM Sal Bonfiglio
 12 Noon The Aalblue Family
 5:00 PM For the People of St. Ephrem



The Bread & Wine

In Loving Memory
Anna Laura Dinkel
Requested by JoAnne & Frank Spadaro



Altar Candles & Sanctuary Lamp

In Loving Memory of
Anna & Joseph Ciavarella
Requested by Janet & Donald Cassamassino

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve
Monday, December 24th
5:00 PM Mass
With Children's Choir and Children's Hand Bell Choir
11:30 PM "Lessons & Carols" With Adult Choir
12 Midnight Mass
Christmas Day
Tuesday, December 25th
8:00 AM Mass, 10:00 AM Mass & 12 Noon Mass

New Year's Mass Schedule

Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God
Monday, December 31st, 5:00 PM Vigil
Tuesday, January 1, 2019
8:00 AM, 10:00 AM & 12 Noon

We wish you a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



Joy-filled Giver of Life,
 Let the anticipation of your birth
 Fill us with overflowing joy.
 May our excitement and anticipation
 be a sign to the world that you are always near.
 Amen.

Thank You



Retirement Fund for Religious

Thank you very much for your generosity to the Retirement Fund for Religious. Our parish contributed \$3,931.00 to senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious priests who have ministered in the Diocese of Brooklyn.
Thank You!

ADVENT OPPORTUNITIES

Advent Reconciliation Monday



Monday, December 17th

As we prepare to welcome the new born Saviour, Jesus, once again this Christmas, let us spiritually and sacramentally make room for Jesus in our hearts.

The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** will be offered at St. Ephrem Church from 4:00 to 8:00 PM.

“Nothing can Separate you from His Love”
Romans 8:38-39

SPIRITUALITY



Bereavement

Bereavement Support Group
Monday, December 17th at 7:00 PM.

Exploring the Sunday Readings
Thursday, December 20th at 10:00 AM

Spiritual Direction

Please call Sister Ann 718-921-9518

All are welcome!!!!



A Brief Examination of Conscience

Based on the Ten Commandments

I am the Lord your God:

you shall not have strange Gods before me.

Have I treated people, events, or things as more important than God?

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

Have my words, actively or passively, put down God, the Church, or people?

Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.

Do I go to Mass every Sunday (or Saturday Vigil) and on Holy Days of Obligation? Do I avoid, when possible, work that impedes worship to God, joy for the Lord's Day, and proper relaxation of mind and body? Do I look for ways to spend time with family or in service on Sunday?

Honor your father and your mother.

Do I show my parents due respect? Do I seek to maintain good communication with my parents where possible? Do I criticize them for lacking skills I think they should have?

You shall not kill.

Have I harmed another through physical, verbal, or emotional means, including gossip or manipulation of any kind?

You shall not commit adultery.

Have I respected the physical and sexual dignity of others and of myself?

You shall not steal.

Have I taken or wasted time or resources that belonged to another?

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

Have I gossiped, told lies, or embellished stories at the expense of another?

You shall not covet your neighbor's spouse.

Have I honored my spouse with my full affection and exclusive love?

You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

Am I content with my own means and needs, or do I compare myself to others unnecessarily?

YOUTH MINISTRY



For more information email:

stephremyouthministry@gmail.com

 [@stephremyouth](https://www.instagram.com/stephremyouth)

Advent increases our hope, a hope which does not disappoint.
The Lord never lets us down.

Pope Francis

“Be An Angel” to a St. Ephrem Student

The “Be An Angel Program” is one of the ways Futures In Education, a Diocesan organization, provides a student with need-based scholarship the chance for a St. Ephrem parishioner to change the life of a child through the gift of a Catholic education. There are different ways one can help: partial tuition assistance starting at \$1,500.00 per year.

(St. Ephrem Catholic Academy Annual Tuition is \$4,825.00 per student.)

Please prayerfully consider assisting a child from St. Ephrem Catholic Academy.

For more information please call the academy office at (718) 833-1440.



St. Ephrem Catholic Academy

924 74th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11228
718.833.1440
stephremacademy.org



Dear Parishioner Families,

Our communities and world need leaders with a foundation in their faith and strong moral values. That's the goal of Catholic education at St. Ephrem Catholic Academy, where students find a nurturing, yet rigorous learning environment based in Christ's teachings.

At the Academy each child grows in meaningful ways, learning they are part of something much greater than themselves and feeling empowered to reach for their highest potential. When our students go on to high school, they not only succeed academically, they also are viewed as compassionate, intellectually strong, faith-filled leaders.

We recognize the cost of a Catholic education may be a barrier to realizing all these benefits. Our parishes are committed to working with each interested family to provide need-based scholarship support to make the Academy's tuition possible.



Expand your knowledge of St. Ephrem Catholic Academy by taking a tour and seeing what we offer. You will meet our dedicated faculty and familiarize yourself with the challenging academic programs and learning opportunities available.

To arrange a personal tour, please contact **Principal Craig Mercado** at **718.833.1440**. More information about the **St. Ephrem Catholic Academy** experience can be found at stephremacademy.org. We look forward to welcoming you to our campus.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Robert B. Adamo
Pastor
St. Ephrem Parish

Rev. Msgr. Ronald T. Marino
Pastor
Basilica of Regina Pacis Parish

Let your child take flight on the wings of a Catholic education!

Flu Season—Feeling Ill?



Please be thoughtful of others and refrain from receiving from the cup and physically exchanging the Sign of Peace.

Saint Lucia
The Island of Light
February 14—19, 2019
From JFK Airport
Msgr. Theo
\$2,450.00 per person
For information please call:
Peter's Way Tours
800-225-7662

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*

Offering Envelopes



Many parishioners have not received the church offering envelopes in the mail. The envelope company has assured us that they have all been mailed. It seems to be a U.S. Post Office problem. You may want to call your local post office to file an official complaint.

For your convience this is the list of envelopes in the packet:

- | | | |
|---------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| December 2nd | Weekly Offering | Christmas Flowers |
| December 8th | Immaculate Conception | |
| December 9th | Weekly Offering | Religious Retirement |
| December 16th | Weekly Offering | Christmas Offering |
| December 23rd | Weekly Offering | |
| December 25th | Christmas Offering | Catholic Charities |
| December 30th | Weekly Offering | |
| January 1st | Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God | |

If you like you may place your donation in a white envelope and indicate for which collection it is for. Please put your name and envelope number and the amount on your temporary envelope.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Associated Vincentian Charities of Brooklyn Gives Back



St. Ephrem's could share in the profits. For donated cars, trucks or vans, running or not. The Associated Vincentian will give back to our church \$75/\$200 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.

Please call
718-491-2525

or
svdpauto-brooklynqueens.org.
Thank you for your participation

Congratulations



Anthony Mastroianni,
Tenth Grade
St. Ephrem Alumni
First Honors:
an overall average of 90%

Congratulations

St. Ephrem Alumne

Chiara Moraca, 11th Grade, Principal's List
Giovanna Ambrosio, 12th Grade, Second Honors
Anne Baghdadi, 12th Grade Principal's List

Principal's List: 95-100% average
Second Honors: 84.5-89.499%

