

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*

December 23, 2018
Fourth 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.



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 23, 2018

“And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?”

We are only days away from Christmas when we celebrate the fourth Sunday of Advent this year. This season is especially short and can make for a hectic, frenetic time as we consider all that needs to happen before Christmas. Some are preparing homes to receive guests, others are preparing meals, and many are doing both! Still others are setting out on their travels to see loved ones during these holy days. We are busy with many tasks.

We might imagine Mary and Elizabeth sharing these feelings in the reading from Luke. Mary visits her cousin and Elizabeth has certainly been preparing for her guest. The greeting is joyful and Luke tells us that Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. For Luke the evangelist the Holy Spirit is active not only in Jesus’ ministry but also before Jesus was born, and in preparation for it. Recall that Mary conceives by the power of the Holy Spirit, and after Jesus is raised from the dead Luke will recount how the Holy Spirit was poured out on the assembled disciples at Pentecost as tongues of fire. Some have even said Luke’s Acts of the Apostles would be better termed the Acts of the Holy Spirit. So it is significant here that Elizabeth, too, is filled with the Holy Spirit, as she proclaims the baby in Mary’s womb to be “Lord.” Here again Luke is displaying his theological insight that Jesus was not merely Lord at the moment of his baptism, but he could rightfully be called Lord before he was even born. Even the baby John in Elizabeth’s womb shares the joy.

This gospel passage calls to mind for us how important human relationships are. Amidst all the travel, preparation, meals and general business, the bonds of human love bind us together. When we consider the holiday season with its pressing demands let us recall the ultimate reason for our cares and concerns. We have in mind those we love and care for. May the relationships we celebrate this season, especially the relationships we have in Christ, inspire us to live in a meaningful way.

When the daily activities of life seem to overwhelm us, as they might this time of the year, it is good to pause and to reflect on the lives of these women who were open to God’s activity in their lives.

As we near the end of Advent our joy grows ever greater. We, too, prepare to herald Jesus, the Prince of Peace, in our words and actions.

In the Good Shepherd,

Fr. Robert



December 16, 2018 271 Envelopes \$ 9,734.00
Christmas Gift 153 Envelopes \$15,884.00

We Share (Online Giving) 40 Families \$220.00

Mass Attendance 705

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



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!

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 already paid to the Parish to Date	\$336,719.00



Mass Intentions for the week

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 Francis & Madeline Scotto
 10:00 AM Sal Bonfiglio
 12 Noon The Aalbue Family
 5:00 PM For the People of St. Ephrem

Monday, December 24th
 7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
 8:45 AM In Thanksgiving of the Rosary Group
 5:00 PM Michael F. Mathieson
 12 Midnight Domenick Mazzone

Tuesday, December 25th
 8:00 AM Sharon Pascale
 10:00 AM Matthew A. Gilmartin
 12:00 Noon Esther Iqbal

Wednesday, December 26th
NO 7:00 AM MASS
 8:45 AM For the Intentions Pastor Joe Pauls & Family

Thursday, December 27th
 7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
 8:45 AM Lefande & Pascale Family

Friday, December 28th
 7:00 AM Dolph & Frances Mascari Wedding Anniversary
 8:45 AM Hiram Piro 50th Anniversary in Heaven

Saturday, December 29th
 8:45 AM Dolph & Frances Mascari Wedding Anniversary
 5:00 PM John Riordan
 Rosetta & Salvatore Volpe
 Phyllis, Linda & Joseph Vasta
 Peter A. Carlin

Sunday, December 30th
 8:00 AM Maria Monticciolo
 10:00 AM Peter Puleo
 12 Noon Raymond Duffy
 5:00 PM For the People of St. Ephrem



The Bread & Wine

In Loving Memory

Anna Marie Walsh



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.



*May the peace and hope of
Christ's birth*

be with you now and in the days ahead...

*Merry Christmas from the
Priests', Deacons, Sisters, and Staff of St. Ephrem*

PARISH NEWS

Once again your generosity through the Giving Trees brought much joy to the children of Heart Share & Hour Children this Christmas!

A shout out goes to all who helped pack & organize all the beautiful gifts to be delivered to the children.



Christmas Giving

“As we find strength and joy in this Christmas season, there are many who are struggling... These men, women and children can find hope, care and a helping hand through Catholic Charities.”



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



Please give generously to Catholic Charities through the special collection on Christmas.

“To live charitably means not looking out for our interests, but carrying the burdens of the weakest and poorest among us.”

Pope Francis



Congratulations to those from our parish who were commissioned.

Daniel Cutrone, Lector
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Nicholas Cutrone
Diane Cutrone
John Cullen
Altar Servers
Jack Camma
Adam Giordano
Rocco Guardavaccaro
Bina Mancini
Alessia Marchese
Grace McGinn
Frank Milea

SPIRITUALITY



Bereavement Support Group

A new Bereavement Support Group will begin Monday, January 7th at 7:00 PM in the Spirituality Center. Sessions run on a 6 week cycle. If you recently lost a loved one and need consoling prayer, please come to the Center. Individual (one on one) sessions are available on request.

St. Patrick Parish

Sister Jeanne Elaine at
718-238-2600 x178

Our Lady of Angels Parish

Judy Chiarchiaro at 718-748-1164

St. Ephrem Parish

Sister Ann Martha at 718-921-9518

Exploring the Sunday Readings
Thursday, January 3rd 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

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

“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.



Registration for 2019-20 is now open at St. Ephrem Catholic Academy

Don't miss out on scholarship opportunities!

NEED-BASED TUITION ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR ELIGIBLE K-8 FAMILIES

www.futuresineducation.org

RECEIVED AN AWARD LAST YEAR? RE-APPLY BY MARCH 29, 2019
FIRST TIME APPLICANT? APPLY BY APRIL 29, 2019



To learn about the benefits of a Catholic education,
contact us at **718.833.1440**

We're saving a seat for you!

924 74th Street


Brooklyn, NY 11228

stephremacademy.org


Tuition Assistance Available 2019-2020

Financial aid is available for eligible students in grades K to 8,
who attend a Brooklyn or Queens Catholic School or Academy.

Families must meet Financial eligibility requirements and be registered/enrolled for 2019/2020 order to be considered. No consideration will be given for a family who has not completed the enrollment process. Only completed financial aid applications will be considered.



TO APPLY
Starting January 14, 2019 go to www.futuresineducation.org
From the main menu, click SCHOLARSHIPS and then APPLY



SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE
March 29, 2019—Families who received an award last academic year
April 29, 2019—New Families



FOR MORE INFORMATION
Please visit: www.futuresineducation.org

Flu Season—Feeling Ill?



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



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



Christmas Cards

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 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

We can use your "old" Christmas Cards!

If you would like to recycle your Christmas cards for our Advent Giving Tree Tags, please bring them to the Rectory Office.

Thank You!