

# Church of St. Ephrem

929 Bay Ridge Parkway ♦ Brooklyn, New York 11228

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



[stephrembklxn](https://twitter.com/stephrembklxn)



[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 30, 2018**  
**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**



### 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.

## The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

December 30, 2018

*“His parents found Jesus sitting in the midst of the teachers.”*



In today's gospel story we hear how the Holy Family had lost Jesus in the capital city of Jerusalem! This is a reminder that though Jesus' family is holy it was not without challenges, like

any family. Joseph and Mary dealt with parenting a preteen who though he was fine on his own. Obviously miscommunication was a challenge for them as it might be for us as well.

It can be simple for us to imagine that the Holy Family was perfect, something to which we could never measure up. But Luke gives us a story of a family with real-life challenges and problems. In fact, this is a challenge we would not wish upon anyone, losing track of a child for days in a major city.

Even so, such a story might give us hope as we deal with daily activities in family life, striving not for perfection, which is an unattainable ideal. But instead, we recognize that family life can be messy, punctuated with misunderstandings, miscommunication, and mistakes. Such events are not “sinful” and they were obviously part of life for the Holy Family. It is significant that Luke tells us not only that Jesus was obedient to his parents but that as a human being he naturally learned things.

The family has been called the “domestic church” as it is the first encounter children have with the Gospel, and it is the dwelling place of faith and Christian relationships. But oftentimes we hear such ideas and think that a family must therefore be a place of perfection, and we all know from our own experiences that families are anything but places of perfection. So the idea can be daunting and seem unattainable. But Luke gives us an image of family life that might be more relatable. Even the Holy Family had their share of challenges, and so we have hope for ourselves and our own family situations. We know from experience (confirmed by research) that we learn more by imitation and example than we do by preaching and teaching. In other words, one's actions speak more loudly than words. How we live the gospel message in the midst of family life says much more about our faith commitment than what we say about the Gospel. Our homes and families ought to be places of security, welcome, love, care, concern, and forgiveness. Speaking about such things does not mean as much as living them. The same can be said for the Holy Family. Their behaviors spoke more loudly than their words. Today on this feast of the Holy Family, we might pause to consider what message we convey by our actions.

In the Good Sphered,

*Fr. Robert*



December 23, 2018                      249 Envelopes                      \$9,469.00  
 Christmas Gift to the Church                      \$17,230.00  
 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	219
Amount Pledged	\$112,322.75
Paid to Date	\$109,327.25

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



### Mass Intentions for the week

#### 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

#### Monday, December 31st

7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem  
8:45 AM Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Ingenito  
5:00 PM Vigil Grace Bellino

#### Tuesday, January 1st

8:00 AM Pasquale Marsillo  
10:00 AM Onofrio & Maria Calderone  
12:00 Noon Angelina Mollica

#### Wednesday, January 2nd

**No 7:00 AM Mass**  
8:45 AM Domenick Mazzone

#### Thursday, January 3rd

7:00 AM For the Intentions of Philomena Hickey  
8:45 AM Gasper & Margarita Cuccia

#### Friday, January 4th

7:00 AM Paul Murphy  
8:45 AM Colavito Family

#### Saturday, January 5th

8:45 AM Purgatorial Society Mass  
5:00 PM Theresa Offitto  
Peter A. Carlin  
Eileen M. Maguire  
Kevin Walsh

#### Sunday, January 6th

8:00 AM Dominick Hoang, Grace &  
Nicolas Vrablec  
10:00 AM Margaret DeFilippo  
12 Noon Salvatore & Carmela Messina &  
Maria Emmanuele  
5:00 PM For the People of St. Ephrem



### Altar Candles & Sanctuary Lamp

In Loving Memory of

**Anna & Joseph Ciavarella**

*Requested by Janet & Donald Cassamassino*

## Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

*A Holy Day of Obligation*



## Mass Schedule

*Monday, December 31st*  
Vigil Mass at 5:00 PM

*Tuesday, January 1, 2019*  
8:00 AM  
10:00 AM  
12 Noon



### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction

**Friday, January 4th**, 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!*



## Happy New Year

*On behalf of the*

*Priests, Deacon, Religious and Staff of St. Ephrem 's.*

## PARISH NEWS

### Pope Francis's Prayer to the Holy Family

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph,  
in you we contemplate  
the splendor of true love,  
to you we turn with trust.

Holy Family of Nazareth,  
grant that our families too

may be places of  
communion and prayer,  
authentic schools of the Gospel, and small  
domestic Churches.



Holy Family of Nazareth,  
may families never again  
experience violence, rejection, and division:  
may all who have been hurt or scandalized  
find ready comfort and healing.

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph,  
graciously hear our prayer.  
Amen.

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

 @stephremyouth

# Thank You!

Your Generosity and  
support throughout the  
year helps us to continue  
our pastoral ministry.

In addition, thank you for  
your many Christmas  
Wishes, Sweets,  
Spirits & Gifts



### Our Lady of Perpetual Help Food Pantry

We will be collecting non-perishable and  
non-expired food items the weekend of

January 6, 2019

Thank you for your usual generosity!



### "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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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!**