

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 9, 2018
Second 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.



Second Sunday of Advent

December 9, 2018

“All flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

Today’s gospel begins with the historical details, demonstrates that Jesus was a historical figure, both for the modern day Christian as well as those in Jesus’ time.

The Christ-event is not a mere myth like so many other Greek and Roman tales. Jesus was a living, breathing Jewish human being who lived in the Roman Empire in the province of Judea.

Once the events are situated in there historical setting, Luke continues the narrative with the story about John the Baptist, whose birth is recounted in the first chapter of Luke’s gospel. There we hear the story of Zechariah and Elizabeth having a child even though Elizabeth is barren. It is Luke who essentially makes John a cousin of Jesus, a detail found nowhere else in the New Testament. The designation of John as “son of Zechariah” is an affirmation to the story in the first chapter of Luke.

These details alone: the historical setting and the family relationship between John and Jesus – tell us we are dealing with a unique author in Luke, who has his own theological insights to convey. Luke is a gifted storyteller, theologian, and evangelist. We do well to read his story carefully.

Christians believe in the person of Jesus, the Christ, the son of the living God. Jesus walked this earth, breathe the air, enjoyed the sunshine, had meaningful relationships, and ultimately suffered death at the hands of the state. His story really happened: it is not a myth, a make believe story or something we simply tell children so that they will be nice to one another. Luke is an evangelist who gives us the details, which allow scholars to situate the life of Jesus in a historical context. The names of civil and religious leaders like Tiberius, Pontius Pilate, Herod, Philip, and others throughout the gospel are known by ancient pagan sources as well. They form something of an anchor or peg upon which to hang a timeline for Jesus and his ministry. In the language of another gospel, this is the story of the Word made flesh in a given time and place.

On this Second Sunday of Advent a season of preparation in the church year, it provides us with an annual opportunity for us to enter into the desert on retreat. We are given time to follow in the footsteps of Jesus and John, to listen to God away from all distractions. Where can we find space in our life to cultivate interior silence and contemplation? How might we set time aside for deep listening to the word of God?

In the Good Shepherd,

Fr. Robert



December 2, 2018 **303 Envelopes** **\$8,295.00**
Christmas Flowers **87 Envelopes** **\$1,919.00**
We Share (Online Giving) **40 Families** **\$220.00**

Mass Attendance 785

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	212
Amount Pledged	\$110,367.75
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!

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 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

Monday, December 10th

7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
8:45 AM Diane Ondreicka

Tuesday, December 11th

7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
8:45 AM Diane Ondreicka

Wednesday, December 12th

7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
8:45 AM Emilia Diaz

Thursday, December 13th

7:00 AM Aida Offitto
8:45 AM Luigi & Lucia Marsillo

Friday, December 14th

7:00 AM Sharon Pascale
8:45 AM Eleanor Trombone

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



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 *this 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.

The Bread & Wine



In Loving Memory
Rose Polizzotto
Requested by The Stella Family

Thank you
to
**McLaughlin & Sons,
Funeral Home and
Mr. Jay Sessa**
for providing us with the
beautiful annual
Catholic calendars



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 10th at 7:00 PM.

**Advent Retreat—"An Advent Journey"
a DVD with**

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

Spiritual Direction

Please call Sister Ann 718-921-9518

All are welcome!!!!



A Blessing for Your Nativity Baby Jesus



You are invited to bring the baby Jesus from your home Nativity scene to church for a special blessing that will be given at each of the Masses after Communion on the Third Sunday of Advent, **December 16th**. So in this way, your Nativity and home will be blessed for the Holy Season of Christmas.

"She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."

Luke 2:7

YOUTH MINISTRY



For more information email:

stephremyouthministry@gmail.com

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



Our Advent Giving Trees are placed in our church. 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**

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, 2018
8:00 AM, 10:00 AM & 12 Noon

We wish you a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

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!

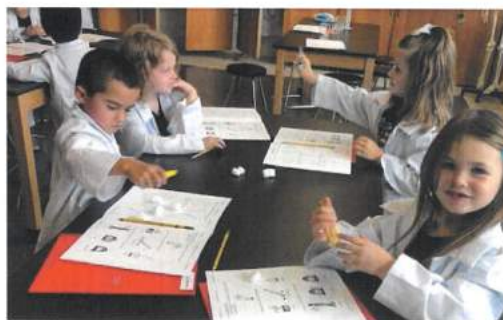
Will your child be 5 years old in 2019?



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 29th at www.futuresineducation.org



924 74th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11228
stephremacademy.org

**St. Ephrem
Catholic Academy**

THE TABLET—DIOCESAN NEWSPAPER



THE TABLET

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Parish

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P18YRPDR

For fastest service, order online:
TheTablet.org/Save55

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.

PARISH NEWS



Christian Awareness Program (CAP)

Our next meeting is on
December 11th at 9:45 AM
in the Academy Cafeteria

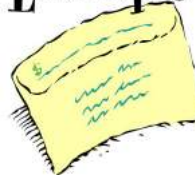


Flu Season—Feeling Ill?

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

Offering Envelopes



Many parishioners have not received the church offering envelopes in the mail. The envelope company has assured us that they have been all 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.

IF YOU HAVE GOD AS THE CENTER OF ALL YOUR ACTION, YOU WILL REACH THE GOAL.



Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati

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*