

Church of St. Ephrem

929 Bay Ridge Parkway ♦ Brooklyn, New York 11228

www.stephremparish-brooklyn.org

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

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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*

February 24 2019
Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time



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.stephremcatholicacademy.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.



Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 24, 2019

“Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”

In today’s gospel Jesus tells us twice, “Love your enemies.” This statement is placed into a longer list of moral commands. We could say, however, that this phrase, “love your enemies,” encompasses all the others and also points the way to imitating God’s love. God does not love only those who are worthy or good. God loves everyone simply because of their very existence.

Christians are to love their enemies blessing them and praying for them. The Christian standard is one higher than what we could expect from the world with its transactional view of relationships. As Jesus himself notes, it’s fairly easy to love those who love us, and to do good to those who do good to us. But it’s another thing entirely to love those who are our enemies, to pray for them and to bless them.

We Christians are to be this way because God is this way. God is “kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.” Should we be any different? We are to be merciful as the Father is merciful. And here we see in our own times the example of mercy given to us by Pope Francis. It is said that the word “mercy” is the main key to his papacy. It is the way to understand and make sense of his actions. Pope Francis chose mercy because mercy is of God, and acting in this way demonstrates that we are followers of his son, Jesus.

When faced with extraordinary demands of today’s gospel, one could say, “How can I do that? I’d end up with nothing?” Then we look to the example of Jesus who lived the words he preached. Jesus himself loved his enemies and prayed for those who persecuted him. In the Gospel of Luke we will hear Jesus from the cross pray for their forgiveness. What did he end up with? Nothing: he died on a cross. But of course we know the rest of the story. God raised him from the dead. Only by Jesus giving himself completely and without reservation to the point of death is he ultimately raised up to glory with the Father. The words that form the conclusion of today’s gospel are especially fitting. “Forgive and you will be forgiven...For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you.” We forgive others not so much for their sake but for our own.

Our enemies can be one specific person with whom we have a feud, or it could be a group of people that we see as “other” than ourselves and therefore not worthy of our concern. No matter how we might encounter “enemies” Jesus’ command remains the same, love them with the mercy, forgiveness, and compassion of God.

I encourage you to please read page 4 in today’s bulletin, which contains an announcement from the Diocese of Brooklyn regarding the list of clergy who have been credibly accused of sexual misconduct with a minor. In addition, I have given my own statement. I am available to meet with anyone to discuss this matter. Please call the rectory office to make an appointment.

In the Good Shepherd,

Fr. Robert



February 17, 2019	258 Envelopes	\$7,470.00
St. Elizabeth Seton	160 Envelopes	\$2,454.00
We Share (Online Giving)	40 Families	\$220.00

Mass Attendance 651

1179 Families Registered and Receive Envelopes
Thank you for your generosity to St. Ephrem Parish!



Annual Contribution Statement for 2018

For your 2018 statement of contribution to St. Ephrem Parish, Please contact the rectory office.



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction

Friday, March 1st
Immediately following the 8:45 AM Mass
(If there is a Funeral Mass, then following.)

Come and stay with me.
Come and pray with me.



Generations of Faith continues across the Diocese!

Generations of Faith Campaign Update as of February 16, 2019 at St. Ephrem R.C. Church	
Campaign Goal	\$980,000.00
Total Pledged	\$1,045,969.00
Total Payments to Date by Parishioners	\$886,611.82
Total # Donors	198
Total Funds already paid to the Parish to Date	\$336,719.00



Mass Intentions for the week

Saturday, February 23rd
 8:45 AM John Chin
 5:00 PM Anne, Florence & Nicholas Infantino
 Josephine & Domenic Albergio
 Josephine & Nunzio Mauriello
 Deceased Members of the Basti & Connell Families
 Frank Rizzo

Sunday, February 24th
 8:00 AM Marie Manfredo
 10:00 AM Eileen M. Maguire
 12 Noon Thomas Costanza
 5:00 PM For the People of St. Ephrem

Monday, February 25th
 7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
 8:45 AM Phillip San Antonio

Tuesday, February 26th
 7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
 8:45 AM Diane Ondreicka

Wednesday, February 27th
 7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
 8:45 AM William M. Hyland

Thursday, February 28th
 7:00 AM Gloria Pavlik
 8:45 AM Artur Jerzy Watroba

Friday, March 1st
 7:00 AM John Mollica
 8:45 AM Michael Iannelli

Saturday, March 2nd
 8:45 AM Purgatorial Society Mass

5:00 PM Brian Joseph Decker
 Dorothy & Gerry O'Neill
 Robert Gencarelli
 Marie Manfredo
 Eleanore Mantone

Sunday, March 3rd
 8:00 AM Salvatore Bonfiglio
 10:00 AM Nicola Ierace
 12 Noon Diane Ondreicka
 5:00 PM For the People of St. Ephrem



Flowers at the Blessed Mother Altar

In Memory of:

Robert Gencarelli

*Requested by
St. Ephrem Catholic Academy
Faculty and Staff*



Bread and Wine

In Loving Memory of: **Eileen M. Maguire**
*Requested by Sylvester Sichenze, John Lavelle
and John Reilly*



Altar Candles & Sanctuary Lamp

In Loving Memory of: **Eileen M. Maguire**
Requested by St. Ephrem Baseball

*"Let us not close our hearts,
let us not lose confidence,
let us never give up:
there are no situations
which God cannot change."*

Pope Francis



Ashes will be distributed

7:00 AM Mass

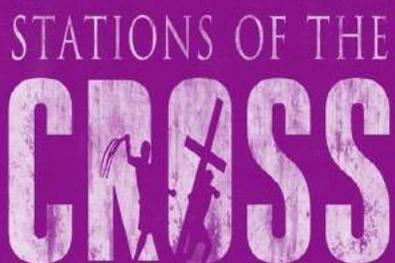
8:45 AM Mass

with children from our Academy

3:45 PM Prayer Service

with children from Faith Formation Program

7:00 PM Prayer Service



We will pray the

Stations of the Cross
*Thursday's of Lent at 1:30PM
With the Children of Our Academy*

&
*Friday's of Lent
Following the 8:45 AM Mass
And at
7:00 PM*

PARISH NEWS

Celebrate the Bay Ridge St. Patrick's Day Parade with St. Ephrem Catholic Academy

Sunday, March 24, 2019

Parade Mass at 9:00 AM at St. Patrick's Church,
Brooklyn, New York

Parade begins at 1:00 PM at 3rd Avenue
And Marine Avenue

*St. Ephrem Catholic Academy and Parish will be marching in
the parade all are welcomed to join us!*

St. Patrick Celebration Continues 3:00 PM-7:00 PM

Msgr. Kain Hall, 924 74th Street,
Brooklyn, NY 11228



Live Music
Brooklyn's Own Canny Brothers
Band

\$25 Adult \$20 per child
Includes Entertainment:

Corned Beef Sandwiches,
Irish Soda Bread, Soda Water & BYOB
Only a limited number of tickets available.
First come, First Served.

For Tickets contact:

Mary Donnelly Brian Cassidy
917-816-3733 917-803-8176



Fun for Seniors

St. Ephrem Friendship Club

All Seniors 55 years and
older are invited to join
us on Wednesdays in the
Msgr. Peter V. Kain Hall

11:00 AM to 2:00 PM (Doors open at 10:30)

Do you enjoy playing cards, bingo, join in the 50/50,
or just talk to your new friends, even bring your own
friends for a table of your own.

We look forward to your company!!!

SPIRITUALITY CENTER



A new Bereavement Support Group will begin
Monday, February 25th at 7:00 PM.
Sessions run on a 6 week cycle. If you have recently
lost a loved one and would like to join the group for
some compassionate listening, honest sharing &
consoling prayer, please come to the Center.

Save the Dates

A Lenten Retreat – "Encountering Jesus' Way of Life"
will begin Tuesday, March 5 at 1:00 PM. .

Spiritual Direction

Please call Sister Ann 718-921-9518
All are welcome!!!!



San Alfonso Retreat House



A group of women from
St. Ephrem will be attending the
Women's Retreat.
March 8th to 10th.
\$240 per person
*A non-refundable deposit of \$50
is necessary by
February 24th
Space is limited.*

If you would like to car pool please call
Carol Ann Pallonetti (347) 484-9958

**To make your reservations please contact
San Alfonso Retreat House
(732) 222-2731**

YOUTH MINISTRY



For more information email:

Support St. Ephrem's
Youth Ministry

stephremyouthministry@gmail.com



@stephremyouth

*"Wherever we may be and whatever we may do, we can always look
up and say, 'Lord, teach me to love as you have loved us.'"*
Pope Francis, World Youth Day, Panama

St. Ephrem Family Madri Gras

Tuesday, March 5, 2019, 5 to 8 PM
\$5.00 per person/\$15.00 per family of 3+

For information please contact the Office of Faith Formation:
(718) 745-7486 or stephremreligoused@gmail.com

Deadline for tickets: Friday, March 1st.



DIocese OF BROKkLYN NEWS



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

As many of you know, our Diocese just published the list of 108 priests who have been credibly accused of sexual misconduct with a minor. These allegations date back as far as 1934.

The majority of these priests are already deceased. Those who are living have either been laicized or permanently removed from active ministry. The names have been published to offer greater transparency and accountability to the Church at large as well as to the general public. In this way, we hope to promote healing and justice.

The Church recognizes the pain that has been caused to those who are victims of child abuse, as well as to their families; the victims have been offered the opportunity for counseling, as well as financial reparation through the special Compensation program (IRCP). As Pope Francis has reminded us, we need to take time to listen to those who have survived this painful trauma, we need to be in solidarity with them in their suffering, and continue to work to prevent this from happening again.

We acknowledge the confusion and anger this has caused many of the faithful of the Church. Difficult as it is, we are doing everything possible to rebuild the trust.

Since 2002 and the “Charter for Protection of Children and Young People,” the Church in the United States has taken many important steps to prevent such abuse from happening in our parishes, programs and schools. Any member of the clergy with a credible allegation of sexual misconduct with a minor is removed from ministry. Also, every member of the clergy, every lay employee and volunteer who has contact with children is required to undergo a background check (which is now reviewed quarterly) as well as participate in a training program on abuse prevention. We also publicize the independent Reporting line to facilitate filing reports of abuse within our Diocese, which immediately are communicated to civil authorities. That number is: **888-634-4499**.

We ask God to watch over us, and to give us the fortitude to face the painful truth of abuse, as we move forward to work for healing and reconciliation.

STATEMENT FROM FR. ROBERT ADAMO

On Friday, February 15, 2019 the Diocese of Brooklyn released the names of clergy who had a credible allegation of abuse against a minor or vulnerable adult since 1934.

While the assignments are listed, I do not know in which assignments a credible allegation took place. The Diocese decision to release the names is a welcome and essential step as we work toward healing within the Catholic Church. Only through transparency can we find justice and help build a stronger, better future as a Church and as a community. As a parish that works to ensure a safe environment for every member of our community, we have a zero-tolerance approach to abuse and a commitment to report any allegations immediately to authorities.

This news is deeply troubling for all of us to hear, particularly for those members of our community, who may recall interactions with these individuals. I hope you will join me not just in prayer but also in support for all survivors of clerical sexual abuse.

I do apologize for any of my brothers who have committed crimes of abuse and pledge to work to provide safe environments for all to who we minister and to offer support and possibilities for healing to victims.

These have been trying times for our Church, and the body of Christ knows the suffering of its Lord in real ways. May we together pray for healing that our wounds may be transformed by the God of love.

Each morning our parishioners gather to recite the Rosary for healing and reparation. In addition, I invite you to join me in a Holy Hour of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, for reparation and healing on **Sunday, March 10th from 11:00 AM to 12 Noon**.

I am available for anyone who wishes to discuss this matter. Please call the rectory office for an appointment.



**St. Ephrem 4th Annual
Mardi Gras Celebration**
Saturday, March 2nd
Following the 5:00 PM Mass

The Msgr. Kain Hall
St. Ephrem Catholic Academy
924 74th Street
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11228

DJ, Hot Food, Chips, Soda,
Dessert, Coffee
50/50 Raffles & Much More

B.Y.O.B.

Casual Attire,
Mardi Gras Attire Optional
\$25.00 Per Person
(Adults Only)

Individual Ticket
or
Table Reservations Available

No Tickets will be sold after
February 25th
No Tickets will be sold at the door

**Tickets are available for
purchase at the Rectory
(718) 833-1010
Hope to see you there!**



Adult Choir

We are extending an invitation to come and join our Adult Choir. The generous sharing of time and talent by our choir members is truly a blessing. We encourage all who can contribute, to join us in our music ministry. Now is a great time to join us as we are preparing for Holy Week and Easter. Rehearsals are on Monday nights beginning February 25th at 7:30 pm in the church. Light refreshments are served.

Children's Choir

Our children's choir is now accepting new members from 2nd grade through 8th grade. Any children interested in joining our choir may begin attending our weekly rehearsals beginning on Thursday, February 28th or Thursday, March 7th. Rehearsals are held weekly in the Music Room, Room 208 from 3:15-4:00 pm. The children sing on Sunday's at the 10:00 am Mass twice a month.

VOCATION NEWS

Vocation Retreat with Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio



March 1-3, 2019

- *Encounter Jesus Christ*
- *Hear inspiring talks from Bishop DiMarzio & Seminarians*
- *Reflect on your own vocation*
- *Spend time with God*

Immaculate Conception Center
7200 Douglaston Parkway
Brooklyn, New York 11362

For more information contact:

Vocation Office
(718) 827-2454
or
vocations@diobrook.org