

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*

March 31, 2019
Fourth Sunday of Lent



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.



Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 31, 2019
“Your brother was dead and has come to life again.”

In our gospel today, Jesus gives us the parable of the Prodigal Son. This parable illustrates the abundant mercy of God. The father in the parable respects his son’s freedom. He gives him the inheritance he requests and lets him go. But he never stops watching for this son to return home. And when he does catch sight of his wayward son, the father does not wait for the son to complete his journey or to speak the

words of contrition he had so carefully practiced. It’s as if Jesus wants to tell us that we need only turn toward God for our merciful father to run out to meet us and usher us home.

In today’s telling, the story is often interpreted more literally, or at least personally, as referring to a wayward person who has ultimately been redeemed. The story is particularly meaningful to many who have lived lives of regret or shame, only to feel the loving embrace of God, a community of hope, a family or even church upon turning away from their wayward lifestyle.

One of the advantages of a story like this is that it has so many possible interpretations. And this story is told only by Luke. Without him we would know nothing of the Prodigal Son, and certainly nothing of the many works of art inspired by the parable, such as Rembrandt’s “Return of the Prodigal Son,” seen above. There is no sole or singular point to this story. The parable has many different meanings and ought to make us ponder it, as the church has done for centuries.

Redemption and forgiveness are powerful themes, and they are articulated in today’s gospel in a particularly dramatic way. These themes are also favorites of Luke, who uses the term “forgiveness of sins,” more than any other New Testament author. The apostle Paul, for example, never says the word “forgiveness.” Luke is a master storyteller, he crafts a brief but memorable narrative here. The characters are stock: we probably know people like the sons in today’s gospel. Do we know people like the father? Would we react like the father? Do we react like the father? Though we might or might not have lost wayward children there are many opportunities to express mercy and loving kindness, and share reconciliation and forgiveness with another. When we behave in this way, we are acting like the father, acting in a way that God acts. Perhaps this is why Pope Francis chose the theme “mercy” for his pontificate. As we learn in today’s gospel, mercy is a fundamental expression of God and God’s character. Mercy is not merely for God alone: mercy is worthy of imitation.

Today we welcome Bishop James Massa, Auxiliary Bishop of Brooklyn, to St. Ephrem. Bishop Massa will celebrate the 12 Noon Mass and following the Mass he will meet with the leaders and staff of the parish. I ask you to please pray for us as we work together, as the Diocese and parish, to serve the people of God.

I would like to thank everyone who participated in the Bay Ridge St. Patrick’s Day Parade. St. Ephrem’s was very well represented both by marchers and cheerers along the route. The celebration after was a great way to end the beautiful day.

In the Good Shepherd,

Fr. Robert



March 24, 2019	274 Envelopes	\$8,879.50
Easter Flowers	134 Envelopes	\$1,942.00
We Share (Online Giving)	40 Families	\$220.00

Mass Attendance 751

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



Annual Catholic Appeal 2019
DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

How will our Parish Benefit?

St. Ephrem Parish Goal is:
\$99,236.00

You may notice that our parish goal has been reduced. This as a result that our weekly collections have gone down due to less attendance at weekly Masses. Once we exceed our goal, then we will receive 100% of all funds raised above goal.

Last year we received back **\$8,794.75 Thank You!**

St. Ephrem Parish Goal	\$99,236.00
Number of Donors	85
Amount Pledged	\$48,925.00
Paid to Date	\$27,516.00

Faith & Good Works

How Your 2019 Annual Catholic Appeal Gift Will Be Used:

- \$2,700,000 Vocation Support**
- \$2,500,000 Catholic Schools & Faith Formation**
- \$1,600,000 Catholic Charities & Parish Assistance**
- \$700,000 Welcome the Stranger**
- \$500,000 Chaplaincies in Schools, Prisons & Hospitals**

Your gift allows the Church to share faith and do good works in Brooklyn & Queens.



Generations of Faith

Generations of Faith continues across the Diocese!

Generations of Faith Campaign Update as of March 15, 2019 at St. Ephrem R.C. Church	
Campaign Goal	\$980,000.00
Total Pledged	\$1,047,969.00
Total Payments to Date by Parishioners	\$892,152.49
Total # Donors	198
Total Funds already paid to the Parish to Date	\$336,719.00



Mass Intentions for the week

- Saturday, March 30th**
 8:45 AM Domenick Iannizzi
- 5:00 PM Nancy & Michael Bagnato
 Vincent Bagnato
 Michael Bagnato (Grandson)
 Raymond Duffy, Sr.
 William Stamatis
- Sunday, March 31st**
 8:00 AM Maria Agostino
 10:00 AM Eileen M. Maguire
 12 Noon Francesco Iannelli
 5:00 PM For the People of St. Ephrem
- Monday, April 1st**
 7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
 8:45 AM Domenico Mazzone
- Tuesday, April 2nd**
 7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
 8:45 AM Millie & Joseph Muratore
- Wednesday, April 3rd**
 7:00 AM Louis Offitto, Sr.
 8:45 AM Mr. Andrea LaRocca
- Thursday, April 4th**
 7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
 8:45 AM Christine Kloess
- Friday, April 5th**
 7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
 8:45 AM Francis Ryan
- Saturday, April 6th**
 8:45 AM Purgatorial Society Mass
- 5:00 PM Louis DiPretoro
 Robert Gencarelli
 Marie Manfredo
 Richard P. Barnett
 Michael Clark
- Sunday, April 7th**
 8:00 AM Franco Cinquepalmi
 10:00 AM Eileen M. Maguire
 12 Noon Wahing Chang
 5:00 PM For the People of St. Ephrem



Bread and Wine

In Loving Memory of:
Rose Sollecito

Requested by Sylvester & Cynthia Sichenze



Altar Candles & Sanctuary Lamp

In Loving Memory of:
Philomena Murtagh

Requested by The Spollen Family

LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

We will pray the
Stations of the Cross
Thursday's of Lent at 1:30 PM
With the children of Our Academy
Friday's of Lent
Following the 8:45 AM Mass & 7:00 PM

Lenten Dinner & Movie

Tuesday, April 2, 2019
7:00 to 9:00 PM
St. Ephrem Catholic Academy Cafeteria
Free Will Offering
RSVP by Monday, April 1st
Please call the Rectory Office (718) 833-1010

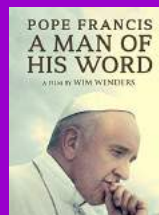


Catholic Wedding Music Night



Thursday, April 11th
at 7:30 PM
in our Church

The evening will provide you with an opportunity to listen to all of the music selections, the singers and the different instruments available for your wedding.



Wim Wenders' new documentary, "Pope Francis - A Man of His Word," is intended to be a personal journey with Pope Francis, rather than a biographical documentary about him. The pope's ideas and his message are central to this documentary, which sets out to present his work of reform and his answers to today's global questions. From his deep concern for the poor and wealth inequality, to his involvement in environmental issues and social justice, Pope Francis engages the audience face-to-face and calls for peace.

96 Minutes

Sixth Anniversary of Pope Francis' Election

ACADEMY NEWS



**St. Ephrem Catholic Academy
Will be holding open registration for
2019 Summer Camp**

**Wednesday, April 10th
Thursday, April 11th
3:00 to 4:30 PM
Academy Cafeteria**

**Camp dates July 1, 2019 through August 9, 2019
Accommodating Ages 4-12
Rates based on
3 days, 5 days & full 6 week enrollment**

**Early drop off & aftercare
available for an additional rate**

**For information
summerfun@stephremschool.org**

FRIENDSHIP CLUB



St. Ephrem Friendship Club

**Wednesday, April 24, 2019
Bus departs at 9:00 AM Sharp
\$30.00 per person,
with a rebate of \$25.00
\$20.00 Slots & \$5.00 Meal
For information please call
Frank (347) 267-3644
Reservations & full payment
no later than April 19th**



SPIRITUALITY CENTER



**A Lenten Retreat
“Encountering Jesus’ Way of Life”
will be held Tuesday, April 2nd at 1:00 PM.**

**Exploring the Sunday Readings Group
Thursday, April 4th at 10:00 AM.**

**Bereavement Support Group
Monday, April 1st at 7:00 PM**

**Spiritual Direction
Please call Sister Ann 718-921-9518**

All are welcome!!!!



YOUTH MINISTRY



**Support St. Ephrem’s
Youth Ministry
For more information email:**

**stephremyouthministry@gmail.com
@stephremyouth**

Grandparents Retreat
*Are you a grandparent?
...praying for your grandchild
...introducing them to your Catholic faith
...worried for them in today’s world*



**St. Joachim & Anne, the parents of Mary
and the grandparents of Jesus.**

Together we will explore the vocation of grandparents!

**Join us for a retreat to learn, share,
and pray with one another.**

**Sunday, April 7th 1:00 to 3:00 PM
St. Ephrem Catholic Academy Cafeteria**

Lunch will be served.

**RSVP by Wednesday, April 3rd
(718) 833-1010 or
stephremyouthministry@gmail.com**

*Sponsored by St. Ephrem Youth Ministry because Grandparents
are an important part of the faith life of our youth!*



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN
PRE-K 3 FULL AND HALF DAY
PRE K 4 FULL DAY

Get the academic start your child needs to succeed with a moral foundation

Call for tours and info 718-833-1440

*Congratulations to the Children of our Parish
Who received First Penance
March 23, 2019*

Aleah Blomquist
Matteo Bolognino-D'Egidio
Gabiella Bove
Gerald Brody
Nathaniel Brogan
Cristian Camaret
Matteo Convertini
Graziella Cottone
Adriana Diaz
Brooke DiMeglio
Samantha Dunne
William Farrelly
Sofia Giurdanella
Emily Gnerre
Eric Guzman
Luca Ho
Jackson Holowachak
Madison Kacey
Christian Keegan
Anthony LaBarbera
Brianna La Duca

Gianvito Manning
Thomas Manto
Francesca Marchese
Amelia McKinney
Isabella Morales
Nicholas Mousouroulis



Ethan Murillo
Isabella Neglia
Brian Nigro
Benjamin Nunez
Lucas Nunez

Logan Ojeda
Mia Isabella Orapeza
Isabella Palazzolo
Leila Parascandolo
Natalia Passanisi
Olivia Plantamura
Joseph Rodriguez, Jr.
Amanda Rodriguez
Santino Romero
Stephen Saraniti
Adriana Sferrazza
Gianna Solitario
Hailey Stauffer
Christopher Susi
Giovanni Temperino
Mario Tutino
Cosimo Ursino
Julianna Vacirca
Sophia Venturelli
Joseph Villa
Mia Lucia Warshaw

**HELP
WANTED!**
*Christ Needs
You*

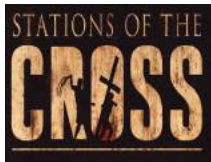
Holy Thursday Washing of the Feet



The washing of the feet during the Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper is a beautiful ritual full of meaning which represents the service and charity of Christ, who came 'not to be served, but to serve.' With this in mind we are asking for volunteers that would like to represent the parish family, young and old, by having their feet washed during the Mass of the Lord's Supper, on

Holy Thursday, April 18th at 7:30 PM.
Please call the rectory if you are interested

Good Friday Stations of the Cross



We are looking for volunteers to participate in the Good Friday Stations of the Cross
April 19th at 7:30 PM

If you are interested please call the rectory.



**Pilgrimage to:
Medjugorje, Austria,
Prague & Poland
with
Fr. Anthony Chanan**

**September 9th—19th
\$3,395,00**

**For information please call
(718) 445-9377 or (212) 676-9070**



**Welcome
Fr. Sean Suckiel
Vocation Director
Diocese of Brooklyn**

On Sunday, April 7th
Fr. Sean will join us for the

10:00 AM
and
12 Noon Masses

Hosted by
DJ @ WORK
Where
**'Name That Tune'
Meets Bingo!**

Friday, May 3rd
7:00 PM
St. Ephrem Catholic Academy
924 74th Street
Brooklyn, New York

**Adoration of the
Blessed Sacrament
and
Benediction**

**Friday, April 5th
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.*

\$35.00 Per Person Includes:
**Snacks, Sandwiches, Cookies, Soda, Water,
Coffee & Tea**
Available for sale:
Wine, Beer & Signature Drink

**For Information & Reservations Contact
St. Ephrem Rectory (718) 833-1010
You can arrange for tables of 8 or 10 people.**

**Please make reservations by April 26th
No Tickets will be sold at the door**

Prizes
50/50 Raffle
Basket Raffles

St. Ephrem Friendship Club

Fun for Seniors

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!!!