

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*

September 15, 2019
Twenty-Fourth 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.



Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 15, 2019

“There will be great joy in heaven over one sinner who repents.”

Today’s gospel is one of the most memorable of Jesus’ parables and it’s told only in the Gospel of Luke. It is the parable of the Prodigal Son, or the two sons, or perhaps more appropriately, the story of the mercy of the father. This short story has been the subject matter of innumerable artistic works, including paintings by some of the world’s masters.

Since the story is a parable, it has many possible meanings. Each person may have something different that speaks to them in the parable. But one meaning which would have been clear to the early Christians is that the two sons can represent Gentiles and Jews. The younger son, the one who spends his share of the inheritance on shameless living, is certainly representative of the Gentiles for it reflects the attitudes that many Jews had of the Gentiles of the day. The Gentiles, not having the Mosaic Law, had a different moral code than Jews. Because there was not a uniform moral code among non-Jews, Gentiles were perceived by Jews as more libertine.

On the other hand, the Jews had Mosaic Law, which in the parable, could be said to be the wishes of the father or God the Father. They kept the Mosaic Law and served God for many years without disobeying, as the parable indicates. But God rejoices when the self-indulgent Gentile repents while offering nothing for the observant Jews. So although the story on its face is about two sons and their father, there is a deeper meaning with respect to the Gentiles and Jews of the apostolic era.

The moral of the story, the mercy of the father, is echoed throughout the gospel in other parables such as the payment of day laborers, who all receive the same wage even though some worked all day and others only an hour. These parables tell us about God’s mercy, which does not follow strict justice. The love, care, and concern that our Father shows for his creation is superabundant. How do we react when faced with this overwhelming generosity? Are we repentant, ready to be received by this mercy? Or are we despondent, questioning why mercy is given so freely to others, thinking we might not have receive our “rightful” share?

Mercy is a keyword in the gospel today even though it does not appear in the text. But mercy is the motivation force behind the father’s actions, and the experience of the younger son who has been forgiven. Only when the younger son has “hit bottom,” so to speak, does he awaken to the notion of returning to his father’s home, where he hopes to be a hired hand. And that part of the story is an accurate reflection of human nature. Often, before we seek repentance and ask forgiveness we must hit bottom. The younger son was not interested in repentance when he had plenty of money and resources! Only when he was feeding the pigs and desirous of their food did the realization strike him.

And so it may be with us. We must die to our own pride, self-assurance, and resources, recognizing that all is a gift of the Father. The son did not earn this money on his own. Perhaps it is only when we hit bottom with the recognition that all is the Father’s, not our own, will we be ready to return to the embrace of mercy, and live a new life of reconciliation.

In the Good Shepherd,

Fr. Robert



September 8, 2019	271 Envelopes	\$9,781.00
Catholic University	113 Envelopes	\$1,788.00
We Share (Online Giving)	40 Families	\$220.00

Mass Attendance 778

713 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	189
Amount Pledged	\$98,875.00
Paid to Date	\$87,473.70

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 continues across the Diocese!

Generations of Faith Campaign Update as of July 15, 2019 at St. Ephrem R.C. Church	
Campaign Goal	\$980,000.00
Total Pledged	\$1,045,969.00
Total Payments to Date by Parishioners	\$912,995.17
Total # Donors	198
Number of Donors who completed Pledge	130
Total Funds already paid to the Parish to Date	\$336,719.00



Mass Intentions for the week

Saturday, September 14th
8:45 AM For the People of St. Ephrem

5:00 PM Jim O'Connor
Catherine Colligan O'Connel
Anne Lamia
Carole Griseta
Teresa Urna
JoAnne Blandi

Sunday, September 15th
8:00 AM Matthew O'Connor
10:00 AM Paulette Sbordone
12 Noon Susan & Mimi Quarino
5:00 PM For the People of St. Ephrem

Monday, September 16th
7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
8:45 AM Eileen Fitzpatrick

Tuesday, September 17th
7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
8:45 AM For the Intentions of Pat Coats

Wednesday, September 18th
7:00 AM Michael DeMeo
8:45 AM For the Intentions of Nickie Florio

Thursday, September 19th
7:00 AM Sebastian Rocco
8:45 AM Settimio & Addolorata Crivellone

Friday, September 20th
7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
8:45 AM Elizabeth Lorraine Feroletto and Family

Saturday, September 21st
8:45 AM Clara Calabrese
5:00 PM Mario D. Sbordone
Michael Derosa
Victoria Balsamo
For the Intentions of the Wolfgang Fritsch Family
For the Intentions of Antonie Fritsch, Maria Engels
and Marita Fritsch
For the Intentions William F. Fritsch

Sunday, September 22nd
8:00 AM Bryon Mancuso
10:00 AM Mary Bonfiglio
12 Noon Carlos Maure
5:00 PM For the People of St. Ephrem



Bread and Wine

In Loving Memory of:

Barbara Gencarelli

Requested by Sylvester & Cynthia Sichenze



Altar Candles & Sanctuary Lamp

In Loving Memory of:

Phillip Sanantonio

Requested by The Calderone Family



Flowers at the Blessed Mother Altar

In Memory of:

Norma Frevolo

Requested by

Frank & Judy Chiarchiaro



Catholic Grandparent Association

St. Ephrem is working on an exciting new Grandparent program for this year. If you're interested in volunteering or learning more, join us on Sunday, September 22nd at 1:00 PM in the Marian Room (Rectory Meeting Room).



St. Ephrem Youth Ministry

Join us on Sunday, September 22nd for a Game Night! 6pm-7:30pm in the Rectory Meeting Room
Games - Pizza - Fun
All Middle School and High School Youth are invited



The Class of 1976 is having a reunion on October 13, 2019. If you would like to attend or get more information please join our Facebook page St Ephrem's Class of 1976 Reunion or you can call Laura Rodino Multari at 718-236-8371

Summer Super 50/50 Raffle

Once again we have our Annual Summer 50/50 Raffle available in church.

Collected to date: \$2,645.00

Last year our winner took home \$1,405.00

PARISH NEWS



New Adult Choir Format

Our Adult Choir, which enhances our liturgies through God's great gift of music, will be alternating the rehearsal schedule between Monday nights and Sunday mornings so that new members who find it hard to make a commitment to evening rehearsals can still join the choir.

The new season will begin with 2 Monday night rehearsals, September 16th and 23rd at 7:30pm. The first Sunday rehearsal will be on Sunday, September 29th at 11:00am.

All rehearsals are in Church and are open to those interested from High School age and up. Now is a great time to join our Choir as we prepare for the Fall holydays, Advent and one of the highlights of the choir year, Christmas Eve Midnight Mass with our chamber orchestra.



SPIRITUALITY CENTER

We welcome all to the Spirituality Center as we begin our Fall 2019 Programs.

Program Brochures are available at the exit doors of the church.

Bereavement Support Group meets Monday, September 16th at 7:00 PM.

Exploring the Sunday Readings meets Monday, September 16th at 10:00 AM.

Spiritual Direction

Please call Sister Ann at the Spirituality Center at 718-921-9518 for information or to make an appointment.



St. Ephrem Friendship Club is sponsoring a bus trip to
Sands Resort Casino, Bethlehem, Pa.

Wednesday, September 18th, 2019
the bus departs at 9:00 am sharp
\$35.00 per person, with a rebate of \$25.00
\$20.00 Slots & \$5.00 Meal



For information please call Frank (347) 267-3644 till
7:00 PM in the evening
Reservations and full payment no later than
September 16th, 2019

Friendship Club is back!!!

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!!!

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD



Each Sunday we have a special children's liturgy at the 10 AM Mass. Under the direction of our children's liturgy catechists, children in grades K through 4 are invited to listen to the Gospel and discuss and engage in an activity appropriate to the age which relates to its message. If you are not already doing so, please consider joining us each week for Eucharist. We'd love to have you be part of our faith community and the younger children will enjoy sharing God's Word with other children. **CHILDREN'S LITURGY FOR GRADES K - 4 EVERY SUNDAY AT THE 10 AM MASS!**

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES



Religious education classes will begin this Wednesday, September 18th. Classes begin at 3:30 PM and dismiss at 4:45 PM each Wednesday. We ask the children and catechists to gather in Msgr. Kain Hall (New Gym) by 3:20 PM. If you have not completed re-registration or have new registration,

please call the Office of Faith Formation before Wednesday. We will not be able to accept re-registrations or new registrations on the first day of classes but will happily accommodate your needs by appointment. Our number is 1(718)745-7486.



We are happy to Announce
that
The Sacrament of Confirmation
will be conferred on
Saturday, October 12, 2019
At 11:30am

Bishop Raymond Chappetto, DD, VG
Auxiliary Bishop of Brooklyn



"An Evening of Timeless Music"

*The Great American
Songbook*

- *Jazz Standards*
- *Big Band Swing*
 - *Oldies*
- *Rock n' Roll*
- *Doo-Woop*



Live Performance by:
Charlie Romo

Saturday, October 19, 2019 at 6:00 PM

**St. Ephrem Catholic Academy
924 74th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11228
*The Msgr. Kain Hall***

\$40.00 Per Person Includes:

Snacks, Hot Food, at each table 1 bottle of White Wine & 1 bottle of Red Wine, Soda, Water, Cookies, Coffee & Tea

BYOB

Signature Drink, available for purchase

**For information & Reservations Contact the Rectory
You can arrange for tables of 8 or 10 people by October 15th
No Tickets will be sold at the door.**

50/50 Raffle & Basket Raffles Available

PARISH NEWS



Teen Club is for 6th, 7th and 8th graders only and takes place in the Msgr. Peter V. Kain Hall from 7:30 –

10:00pm. The kids have the opportunity to get

together with their friends and play games (basketball, volley ball, ping pong, air hockey, foosball, etc), have pizza, snacks and drinks and just hang out and have a good time. The pizza is provided by Teen Club, snacks and drinks can be purchased. Teen Club is run by St. Ephrem Catholic Academy parents Deidre & Alex Franki and is supervised by parent volunteers.

Registration for the 2019 – 2020 season will be held in the St. Ephrem Catholic Academy cafeteria on Wednesday 9/25 and Thursday 9/26 from 7-8:30 pm. The registration fee is \$40 per member for the school year.

We look forward to seeing your children this year!

Congratulations



Sister Edyth Therese Fitzsimmons, 70 years
Sister Rosemarie Cecilia Baglivio, 50 years
As Sisters of St. Joseph, Brentwood, N.Y.
and reside at St. Ephrem Convent.

On Sunday, September 29th at the 12 Noon Mass
Sisters Edyth & Rosemarie will celebrate
their many years of service.

Sisters of
St. Joseph
Uniting all in
God's love

DIOCESAN NEWS

Permanent Diaconate Information Sessions



Information for men who feel called to the permanent diaconate will be held:

Diocesan Office

310 Prospect Park West
Brooklyn, New York 11215

Monday, September 30th

7:00 –9:00 PM

Monday, October 7th

7:00 –9:00 PM

Wednesday, October 23rd

7:00-9:00 PM

Saturday, November 9th

10:00 AM—12:00 Noon

Wednesday, December 4th

7:00-9:00 PM

To attend one of these above sessions, men must first have spoken with Fr. Robert, the Pastor, and register for the desired date

“Serve one another in love.” Galatians 5: 13

ACADEMY NEWS



St. Ephrem Catholic Academy
Community and the Parish
Family will gather for Mass on
Sunday, September 22nd at the
10:00 AM Mass to celebrate
the new academic year.



St. Ephrem Catholic Academy

Welcomes you to
Catholic High School
Information Day

Sunday, September 22nd
11 to 2:00 PM
Msgr. Kain Hall