

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 8, 2019
Twenty-Third 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-Third Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

September 8, 2019

**“Anyone of you who does not
renounce all possessions cannot
be my disciple.”**

In today’s gospel we hear Jesus say: “Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.” This phrase appears in all three of the Synoptic Gospels: Matthew, and Luke repeated twice, and Mark one time. It’s hard to imagine the pre-crucifixion Jesus uttering these words. What would they have meant to the crowd that was following him? Looking back from two thousand years after the event, we know Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem where he will literally carry his own cross and then be crucified upon it. The spiritual life requires struggle and sacrifice. But we also know the end of the story: life everlasting.

Jesus is an effective preacher: he used the rhetorical tools of hyperbole and exaggeration to make his point. This can be a challenge for us if we want to take literally each and every saying of his in the New Testament. But gratefully we are part of a long line of believers, a large family of faith. And we can look to ancient Christians to see that they recognized this as hyperbole too.

In the end, what Jesus demands is a wholehearted, complete commitment, without distraction. And that’s no exaggeration.

Discipleship is a lifelong process, often called a journey. We learn things along the way, likely starting out resolutely as Jesus does on his own journey to Jerusalem. During this lifelong process we encounter different ways of looking at reality, new insights, challenging statements, and more. The metaphor of a journey is especially apt as we never stay still, nor does our environment or the people around us. We are all growing in knowledge, understanding, and experience with former ways of understanding giving way to the new.

Developmentally, human beings tend to grow from a place of literalism to understanding the broader picture. Children can be told not to touch the stove, but as they mature they internalize the lesson and take care around a hot stove.

Discipleship follows a similar path. We tend to be more literal in the early stages of a relationship with Christ, but as we mature we see the deeper meaning of his injunctions and exhortations. Let us continue on this path to an adult relationship with Christ.

In the Good Shepherd,

Fr. Robert



September 1, 2019	254 Envelopes	\$7,378.00
9/11 Memorial	94 Envelopes	\$1,450.00
We Share (Online Giving)	40 Families	\$220.00

Mass Attendance 539

**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	187
Amount Pledged	\$98,275.00
Paid to Date	\$85,453.70

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 7th
Mickele Lepore

8:45 AM
5:00 PM
Victims of 9/11
JoAnne Blandi
Ramona Musto

Sunday, September 8th
8:00 AM Byron Mancuso
10:00 AM Josephine Saccente
12 Noon Croce Carluzzo
5:00 PM For the People of St. Ephrem

Monday, September 9th
7:00 AM For the Intentions of Carol O'Donnell
8:45 AM John Carr

Tuesday, September 10th
7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
8:45 AM Josephine Mazzone

Wednesday, September 11th
7:00 AM Felipa Olga Delatorre
8:45 AM For the Victims of 9/11

Thursday, September 12th
7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
8:45 AM For the Intentions of Pam Regan

Friday, September 13th
7:00 AM Giuseppina LoBrutto
8:45 AM McGuirk & Delehanty Families

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



Bread and Wine

In Loving Memory of:

Carolyn Trippe

Requested by Sylvester & Cynthia Sichenze



Altar Candles & Sanctuary Lamp

In Loving Memory of:

Anne Lamia

Requested by Her Loving Husband Dino and Her family, Mike, Risa & Anne Renee



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



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

Religious education classes are held on Wednesday afternoons from 3:30 PM to 4:45 PM for all children in grades 1 through 7 who do not attend a Catholic elementary school. We have set aside the following dates for new registration and completion of re-registration:

Monday, September 9 through Wednesday, September 11 from 10 AM to 4 PM

Tuesday, September 10 from 7 PM to 9 PM

Sunday, September 15 from 12 Noon to 2 PM

All registration takes place in the Faith Formation Office located on the 3rd floor of the school.

Classes begin on Wednesday, September 18.

All registered children who have completed registration should report to Msgr. Kain Hall by 3:20 PM on September 18.

Summer Super 50/50 Raffle

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

Collected to date: \$2,495.00

Last year our winner took home \$1,405.00



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
Auxillary Bishop of Brooklyn

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.



Children's Choir & Bell Choirs

Our wonderful Parish Children's Choir and Bell Choir, which is open to all children of the parish from grades 3-8, are returning again this September. The children will begin their new season with registration and rehearsal on Thursdays, September 19th and

26th from 3:15-4:00 PM. Those who choose to join the Bell Choir continue their rehearsal from 4:00-4:30. The children sing and ring bells at the 10:00 AM Mass, just about every other Sunday and will learn basic music skills and vocal techniques while having fun. Some highlights of the fall season include the Thanksgiving Eve Mass when the children join with the adult choir to sing and the Christmas Eve 5:00 PM Mass when they sing with multiple instruments

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!**

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



SEPTEMBER EVENTS AT THE 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 16 at 7:00 PM.

*****ATTENTION – SAVE THE DATES*****

Monday, October 7 – at 9:30 AM, Sister Ave Clark, OP will give a Mini-Retreat on "A Sacred Bead." See flyers in church for more information. All are welcome.

Tuesday, October 8, "Meet the Real Mary Magdalene" will begin at 1:00 PM in the Spirituality Center with Father Raymond Collins, S. T. D. (DVD Program) This program has 6 sessions. You will explore Mary Magdalene in the Gospels, Gnosticism, and popular culture. As you do so, you will gain a powerful portrait of this Galilean follower of Jesus. Discover this essential biblical figure today.

All are welcome. See flyers around the church.

Spiritual Direction

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



CATECHETICAL SUNDAY: 2019

We will celebrate Catechetical Sunday on September 15th at the 10 AM Mass. Our catechists will be commissioned and our families blessed as we continue our faith journey through our faith formation program.

The theme for the 2019-2020 catechetical year is: "Stay With Us." Jesus' staying presence is most

authentically realized when we gather around the Lord's table to celebrate the Eucharist. It is in our communal prayer, in receiving the body and blood of Jesus Christ and in the faith community gathered together that we know the abiding presence of Jesus. Please join us for Mass each and every weekend. After the 10 AM Mass on Catechetical Sunday, September 15th there will be reception in the new school cafeteria. All are invited to join us as we begin another year of faith formation classes.



Friendship Club is back!!!

All Seniors 55 years and older are invited to join us on Wednesday, September 11th 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!!!



"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

Take another look at Catholic education



Seats available for 2019-20 at



**St. Ephrem
Catholic Academy**

Contact us at 718.833.1440