

Church of St. Ephrem

929 Bay Ridge Parkway ♦ Brooklyn, New York 11228

www.stephremparish-brooklyn.org



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Parish Staff

December 1, 2019
First Sunday of Advent

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*



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

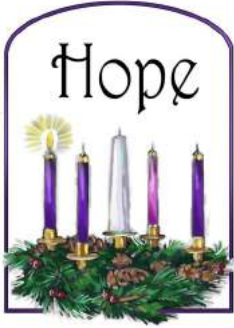
To make arrangements for communion to be brought to any parishioner who is seriously ill or confined to the house, or if they wish to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. To see a particular Staff Member, please call for an appointment.

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.



First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2019

“Stay awake, that you may be prepared!”

“Stay awake!” These words in the Gospel of Matthew today strike us to the core as we begin the Advent season. These words also foreshadow the disciples’ struggle during the agony in the garden. The

call to stay awake presumes that we might be dozing off, idling our time away. Disciples must be ready at all times without resorting to a false sense of security.

Jesus tells his listeners that the Son of Man will come when we do not expect it. These words were written for Matthew’s community, which might have grown complacent during the intervening decades between Jesus’ time on earth and the composition of the gospel. But these same words are for us, even two thousand years later. Rather than expecting an event like a major flood of Noah, we might consider our own death, which may come when we least expect it.

Today we enter the season of Advent with a request for action that needs attention. The patterns of our lives continue from one season to the next, and yet, on this first day of December and first day of Advent, we are called to pause and adjust all of our senses to what really matters: Christ present in our midst and the kingdom of heaven being built here and now.

In the northern hemisphere, the season of Advent coincides with the darkest time of the year. As we look ahead to the feast of Christmas, when we celebrate the light of God coming into the world in the mystery of the incarnation, we might ponder, what is it that helps us to heed Jesus’ call to stay awake? When we let the light of God shine in our lives, we are compelled to waken to the reality of what is-to confront the darkness inside ourselves and the darkness in our world. And then to recommit to being people of light.

In the Good Shepherd,

Fr. Robert



November 17, 2019	241 Envelopes	\$7,043.00
Landscaping	135 Envelopes	\$1,879.00
We Share (Online Giving)	40 Families	\$220.00
<u>Mass Attendance 770</u>		

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

Due to the early publication the Stewardship report remained the same.



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	206
Amount Pledged	\$106,734.00
Paid to Date	\$100,429.30

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 October 29, 2019 at St. Ephrem R.C. Church	
Campaign Goal	\$980,000.00
Total Pledged	\$1,045,969.00
Total Payments to Date by Parishioners	\$933,982.18
Total # Donors	198
Number of Donors who completed Pledge	134
Total Funds already paid to the Parish to Date	\$442,560.09



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 **December 8th**. 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



Mass Intentions for the week

- Saturday, November 30th**
8:45 AM Frank Calabrese
5:00 PM George Haggar
Elise Rupolo
- Sunday, December 1st**
8:00 AM Frances L. Marciano
10:00 AM Salvatore Bonfiglio
12 Noon Michael Pratt
5:00 PM For the People of St. Ephrem
- Monday, December 2nd**
7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
8:45 AM Marta & Pasquale Florio
- Tuesday, December 3rd**
7:00 AM Frank Calabrese
8:45 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
- Wednesday, December 4th**
7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
8:45 AM Michael A. Iannizzi
- Thursday, December 5th**
7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
8:45 AM Carmine & Mary Calderone
- Friday, December 6th**
7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
8:45 AM Joseph Ligammari & Miriam Ligammari
- Saturday, December 7th**
8:45 AM Mickle Lepore
5:00 PM Dominick Bergamini
Tozzi & Bergamini Families
- Sunday, December 8th**
8:00 AM Louis Novellino
10:00 AM Josephine & Frank Saccente
12 Noon Croce Carluzzo
5:00 PM For the People of St. Ephrem



*You can honor or remember a loved one by requesting a Mass intention, Bread & Wine, Altar Candles & Sanctuary Lamp and Flowers for The Tabernacle Altar, Blessed Mother Altar and Holy Family Altar.
Please come to the rectory if interested.*



Bread and Wine

In Loving Memory of:
Agnes Warnke

Requested by The Lavelle Family



*Solemnity of Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Not A Holy Day of Obligation
Monday, December 9th*



**Adoration of the
Blessed Sacrament and
Benediction**

Friday, December 6th
Immediately following the 8:45 AM Mass
(If there is a Funeral Mass, then following.)



100th ANNIVERSARY

Our Parish

Our Prayer

Our Legacy

Save the Date

100th Anniversary Gala

Sunday, October 25, 2020

2:00 PM

El Caribe Country Club

5945 Strickland Ave, Brooklyn, New York 11234

*If you are interested in being part of one of the
100th Anniversary Committees please call the Rectory Office.*



SPIRITUALITY CENTER

Bereavement Support Group

Monday, December 2nd at 7:00 PM.

An Advent Retreat "An Advent Journey"

With Fr. Michael Himes (DVD Program)
Tuesday December 3rd 1:00 PM. *"The
Second Coming is NOW."*

Exploring the Sunday Readings
Thursday, December 5th at 10:00 AM.

DIOCESAN AND PARISH NEWS



Retirement Fund for Religious

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.



Collection on the Weekend of December 8th

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 on the weekend of December 8th, for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands of elderly religious.

Thank you for your generosity!

39th Anniversary of the Murder of American Missionaries



On December 2, 1980, four Catholic Missionaries from the United States working in **El Salvador** were raped and **murdered** by five members of the **El Salvador** National Guard. They were Maryknoll **Sisters** Maura Clarke and Ita Ford, Ursuline Dorothy Kazel, and lay missionary Jean Donovan.

These women lost their lives because of their work among the Salvadoran poor.

On this their 38th Anniversary of the giving of their lives, let us join our prayers and remember these courageous women.

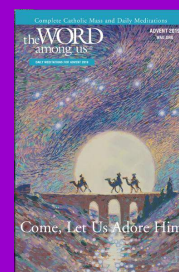
Sister Ita Ford, is an Alumna of St. Ephrem School.

*The movies commemorating these events is:
"Roses In December"
By: First Run Features*



Advent Prayer Opportunities

Please take a copy of **The Word Among Us. Daily Meditations for Advent 2019**, so to prepare spiritually for the coming of the Lord this Christmas.



ST. EPHREM CHURCH 100th ANNIVERSARY
Our Church, Our Prayer, Our Legacy

Saint Ephrem Centennial Campaign
Our Church, Our Prayer, Our Legacy

St. Ephrem Church's Centennial Campaign is officially underway! We will celebrate our 100th anniversary during the 2020-2021 pastoral year.

In honor of this milestone and to address our pressing needs, we have embarked on a **\$1.25 million capital campaign** called *Our Church, Our Prayer, Our Legacy*.
100% of the proceeds will stay at our parish.

Thank you to all families who have already generously committed to our campaign. We are excited to report that as of November 22, we have received pledges totaling **\$668,600.00** from only **61 families, representing 53% of our goal.**

We need participation from all parishioners to reach and exceed our goal and make this a true success. Last week, you received a campaign letter, brochure, and pledge card in the mail. I invite you to review our plans and prayerfully make a commitment.

Pledges can be fulfilled over a five-year period.

Please return your pledge card to the Rectory this week or place it in the collection during mass. If you have any questions, please call the Rectory at (718) 833-1010.



Saint Ephrem, pray for us!

5th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting



Please join us for our Christmas Tree Lighting

*Saturday, December 14th, 2019
5:00 PM Mass with both our Adult & Children's Choirs*

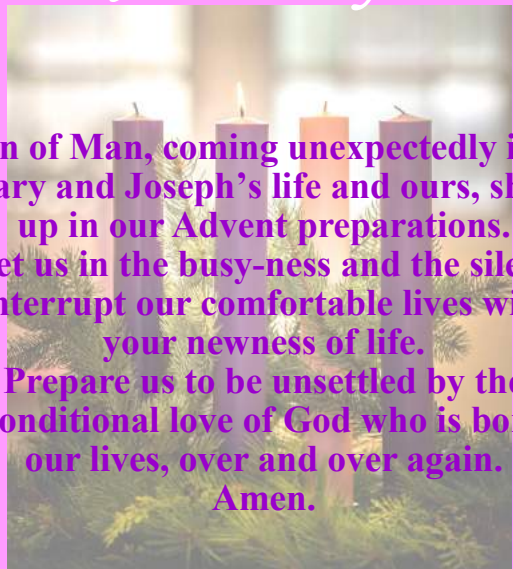
Followed by the Lighting of Christmas Trees & Light Refreshments

Brochures are available in the church if you like to participate in this Annual Event. Our Church property will be adorned with these beautiful Christmas Trees so that the Light of the World—Jesus will shine for all to see! This is an opportunity to honor or remember in a special way our loved ones.



Please return all brochures by Friday, December 6th

Advent Prayer



Son of Man, coming unexpectedly into Mary and Joseph's life and ours, show up in our Advent preparations. Meet us in the busy-ness and the silence. Interrupt our comfortable lives with your newness of life. Prepare us to be unsettled by the unconditional love of God who is born in our lives, over and over again. Amen.

Black Friday. Cyber Monday.

#GIVINGTUESDAY

December 3, 2019

Consider making St. Ephrem your charity for this day! Thank You!



Our Advent Giving Trees will be available for the first weekend in Advent, November 30th & December 1st. Please take one of the gift giving tags, which indicates a gift for an infant up to a

teenager, or an adult.

The gifts will provide much happiness to the children of Hour Children and adults of Heartshare.

Please return all gifts NO LATER THAN 5:00 PM Mass on SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH

ADVENT JESSE TREE CELEBRATION



Our Faith Formation is having an Advent celebration on **Wednesday, December 11th** in the Msgr. Peter V. Kain Hall at 5:30 PM. At this gathering we will share faith, food and friendship as we decorate our Jesse Tree and pray together. There will be crafts for the children to do.

Each family is asked to

bring a potluck dish of pasta or pizza; we'll provide salad, drinks and dessert. Please respond to the Faith Formation Office at 718-745-7486 or stephremreligious@gmail.com so we can set up and prepare in advance. Let us know your family name and number of guests. **All are Welcome!!!**