

# Church of St. Ephrem

929 Bay Ridge Parkway ♦ Brooklyn, New York 11228

[www.stephremparish-brooklyn.org](http://www.stephremparish-brooklyn.org)



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



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## Parish Staff

November 17, 2019  
Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

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](mailto:stephremreligious@gmail.com)

## St. Ephrem Catholic Academy

924 74th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11228 ♦ 718-833-1440 ♦ [www.stephremcatholicacademy.org](http://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](http://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.



**Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**November 17, 2019**

***“By your perseverance you will secure your lives.”***

Today’s gospel from Luke is written for Christians who were looking for signs that the end was near, as it had seemed to be so clear. Perhaps Luke’s lesson in all of this is that looking for signs, discerning the events of our day seeking clues to the end of the world is essentially misguided. After nearly two thousand years of such expectation, we are better off concerning ourselves with helping our neighbors, caring for the sick, and comforting the afflicted. There will always be nation rising against nation and kingdom against kingdom. That is unfortunately the experience of our world. The kingdom of this age tend to promote war. But Jesus preached a kingdom of God, when God himself will rule, putting an end once and for all to unjust systems, practices, and war itself. Then will we experience an age of peace. This is good news indeed.

The *examen* is a Jesuit practice at the end of the day, when one reviews the day’s activities discerning God’s presence and looking for his direction in our lives. It can help place one’s emotions and experiences in a different perspective, sometimes seeing a bigger picture. Events in daily life may take on new meaning with reflection. What seemed to be a critically important encounter may not have been so critical, whereas a small gesture might become more profound upon reflection.

In today’s gospel, the disciples want to know when the end of the world is coming. What signs will they be able to read to discern this important time? Jesus responds with a number of various elements that each generation since has interpreted to be fulfilled in their own time and place.

But perhaps we might experience something of the *examen* and reflect on the events in our own lives to see a bigger picture. Perhaps there is more meaning and more of God’s activity in our daily coming and going than we imagine. While it could be more exciting to be on the hunt for clues to Jesus’ return, in actuality, nobody knows when that will be! But God is present with us here and now. Let us discern his presence in the daily activity of our lives, the flow of our emotions, our existence, and our dying and rising to newness of life.

In the Good Shepherd,

*Fr. Robert*



November 10, 2019	242 Envelopes	\$7,252.00
Military Services	150 Envelopes	\$2,253.00
We Share (Online Giving)	40 Families	\$220.00

**Mass Attendance 656**

**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	205
Amount Pledged	\$106,124.00
Paid to Date	\$98,892.38

**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!**

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



## Mass Intentions for the week

### Saturday, November 16th

8:45 AM For the Intentions of James Francis Ryan

5:00 PM Sebastian Striano  
Gregory Emmett  
Brian McLaughlin  
Michael Liberth  
For the Intentions of Nick Campanella

### Sunday, November 17th

8:00 AM Frances Rauso  
10:00 AM Raymond Duffy  
12 Noon Croce Carluzzo  
5:00 PM For the People of St. Ephrem

### Monday, November 18th

7:00 AM Michael Zraick  
8:45 AM Philip Sesitito

### Tuesday, November 19th

7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem  
8:45 AM Barbara Gencarelli

### Wednesday, November 20th

7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem  
8:45 AM Vincent Monteleone  
(50th Anniversary in Heaven)

### Thursday, November 21st

7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem  
8:45 AM Rose & Frank Mitaratonda

### Friday, November 22nd

7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem  
8:45 AM Cosimo Corsaro

### Saturday, November 23rd

8:45 AM Clara Calabrese  
5:00 PM Rose & Louis Di Pretoro  
Vincenzo Peragine  
Madeline Behette  
Kathleen O'Connor

### Sunday, November 24th

8:00 AM Frances L. Marciano  
10:00 AM Rita Anderson  
12 Noon Thomas & Julia Costanza  
5:00 PM For the People of St. Ephrem



## Altar Candles & Sanctuary Lamp

In Loving Memory of:

**John Stavropoloulos**

*Requested by The Sichenze Family*



## Altar Flowers

*In Loving Memory  
Of  
Sean & Marcella*



## St. Ephrem Grandparents Association

November 17th at 1pm  
Marian Room  
(Rectory basement)

Topic: Vocation of Grandparents  
Bonus Topic: Advent activities  
with your grandkids  
All grandparents are invited!



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.*

MASS  
BAPTISM

Sunday, November 24th  
at the 10:00 AM Mass

We welcome those who will be baptized into  
our faith community through the  
Sacrament of Baptism



## PARISH NEWS

### Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults



The R.C.I.A. process is designed for adults who have never been baptized, perhaps been baptized in another faith, or baptized Catholic but never received Eucharist and Confirmation. This is an opportunity to explore life in the Catholic Community, have a companion on your faith journey, and prepare for the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, and/or Eucharist, and Confirmation). What can you do to help someone who seeks to be a part of the Catholic Church? Accompany them to Mass; encourage them on the journey; introduce them to other parishioners. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about RCIA, contact Eileen Maguire at (718)745-7486 or [stephremreligioused@gmail.com](mailto:stephremreligioused@gmail.com)



### Christian Awareness Program (CAP)

Our next meeting is on  
**November 19th at 9:30 AM**  
in the Marian Room




### *The Book of the Dead*

Will be available in our Church during the month of November.

All are welcome to inscribe the names of your loved ones who have died this past year.



Support St. Ephrem's Youth Ministry

For more information email:  
[stephremyouthministry@gmail.com](mailto:stephremyouthministry@gmail.com)  
 [@stephremyouth](https://www.instagram.com/stephremyouth)

### 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!



### SPIRITUALITY CENTER

**Bereavement Support Group** meets  
Monday, November 18th at 7:00 PM.

### Save the Date An Advent Retreat "An Advent Journey"

With Fr. Michael Himes (DVD Program) will be held on Tuesday December 3rd & 10th and Monday, December 16th at 1:00 PM. The topic for Session 1 is "*The Second Coming is NOW.*"

### Spiritual Direction

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



### *St. Cecilia*

*Patroness of Musicians*

**Feast Day: November 22nd**

*God Bless all musicians!*



### Fun for Seniors

## 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!!!

*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.



*Thanksgiving Mass*

*Wednesday, November 27, 2019 at 7:00 PM*

Join us around the table of the Lord to give thanks for all the blessings we have received. We invite you to bring non-perishable food items for Our Lady of Perpetual Help's Food Pantry



*On behalf of the Parish Staff  
We wish you a Blessed Thanksgiving!*

**Black Friday. Cyber Monday.**

**#GIVINGTUESDAY**

**December 3, 2019**

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



The hope of the poor shall not perish for ever

2019

Pope Francis has asked all to observe the *Third World Day of the Poor*.  
November 17th.

“The hope of the poor will not perish forever.”

Commenting on the present world situation, Pope Francis, decries a world in which the poor are marginalized, often made to be excluded from the consciousness of the majority of the non-poor. Pope Francis hopes that observance of the *World Day of the Poor* raises the consciousness of all members of the Church that the poor are our sisters and brothers, ensuring that no one feels like a stranger or outcast.

On Wednesday, November 27th at 7:00 PM our parish will gather to celebrate our Thanksgiving Mass. We invite you to bring non-perishable & non expired food items for the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Food Pantry.

Together we respond to Pope Francis' call to help our sisters and brothers in need.



**Diocese of Brooklyn  
Vocation Office**

**Jeremiah Project  
High School & College Discernment  
Group**

*But the Lord answered me, "Do not say, 'I am too young.' To whomever I send you, you shall go; whatever I command you, you shall speak."*

November 22—23, 2019  
Immaculate Conception Center  
7200 Douglaston Parkway  
Douglaston, New York 11362

To register please call or email the Vocation Office  
(718) 827-2454 or [cdost@diobrook.org](mailto:cdost@diobrook.org)

*Prayer for our Seminarians*

These men have answered Jesus' invitation to "Come Follow Me." Please take a Seminarian's prayer card (located in our church by the Blessed Mother Statue) and pray for him so that he may continue in his journey toward priesthood.

*"They abandoned their nets  
and followed him."  
Mark 1:18*



**"Be An Angel" to a  
St. Ephrem Student**

Be an  
Angel,  
give a  
blessing  
today.

The "Be An Angel Program" is one of the ways Futures In Education, a Diocesan organization, provides a student with need-based scholarship the chance for a St. Ephrem parishioner to change the life of a child through the gift of a Catholic education. There are different ways one can help: partial tuition assistance starting at \$1,500.00 per year.

(St. Ephrem Catholic Academy Annual Tuition is \$4,975.00 per student.)

Please prayerfully consider assisting a child from St. Ephrem Catholic Academy.

For more information please call the academy office at (718) 833-1440.



You can help our Academy by saving your Box Tops. For each Box Top our Academy receives 10 cents. Please bring your Box Tops to the Rectory or place them in the box located in the cafeteria.

For the New Box Tops app:  
Download the latest version of the Box Tops app, scan your receipt and St. Ephrem Academy will

**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

**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*

**PASTORAL CARE**



Are you homebound? Are you or someone you know sick? Are you or someone you know going into the hospital or a nursing home or rehabilitation?

Please let us know!

Would you like us to send a card, visit, bring Holy Communion, or be in contact for any need—such as a walker, cane, homemaker or housekeeper.

Please contact: Tom Sbordone  
Christian Awareness Program (CAP) Office  
718-833-1143

We will be happy to assist you!

*"I was sick & you visited me.."*

Matthew 25:36

**Flu Season—Feeling Ill?**



*Please be thoughtful of others and refrain from receiving from the cup and physically exchanging the Sign of Peace.*