

# 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

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*

November 3, 2019  
Thirty-First 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](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-First Sunday in Ordinary Time  
November 3, 2019**

**“The Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost.”**

In today’s gospel we hear that both Zacchaeus and Jesus share something in common. They are both “seekers.” In the beginning of this gospel passage we are told that Zacchaeus is “seeking to see who Jesus was” and at the end Jesus discloses that he is in fact the one who has “come to seek and to save what was lost.” To seek requires effort and an ability to be open to what one might find. Jesus and Zacchaeus are both rewarded in their seeking. Their search ends with joy and communion.

The question naturally comes to us, how do we use our wealth? How have we gained it? Are we willing to make amends if some of our resources are ill-gotten? Such amends are much more than merely paying a fine as a part of doing business. Zacchaeus offers up to four times the amount extorted if such a thing happened.

In the end, this “sinner,” for he is a tax collector, is willing to use his money rightly, and for that he has salvation. We too can examine how we use our money, resources, and wealth. It’s it for the building up of other people or for our own self-hording or pleasure? Our own salvation may hang in the balance.

The right use of money has been a perennial challenge for Christians and many others. We are not in the “rat race” to enrich ourselves but we undoubtedly want to provide for our families and give them the care and concern that leads to a healthy, productive life. Yet we hear commands to give to the poor, in one case to sell everything and give it to the poor! Luke’s warning in today’s story is not that every Christian disciple sell everything and give it to the poor. That command was for one person, for whom wealth had become a true obstacle to following Jesus. Rather, each disciple is required to use wealth and money rightly. What that looks like will be as different as each person. But ultimately, we are not disciples of money. We are disciples of Christ. And nobody can serve two masters. Perhaps one question we might ask ourselves today is: Do we serve money, or does our money serve us? In Zacchaeus’s case, his wealth served him. He was master over his wealth and was willing to give away a substantial portion. What are we willing to give away to serve the Lord. Is there anything we serve rather than him?

In the Good Shepherd,

*Fr. Robert*



October 27, 2019                      249 Envelopes                      \$7,980.00  
We Share (Online Giving)              40 Families                      \$220.00

**Mass Attendance 805**

**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!**

<b>St. Ephrem Parish Goal</b>	<b>\$99,236.00</b>
<b>Number of Donors</b>	<b>203</b>
<b>Amount Pledged</b>	<b>\$105,499.00</b>
<b>Paid to Date</b>	<b>\$97,244.04</b>

**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 2nd**  
8:45 AM Pasquale Marsillo

11:30 AM All Souls Mass

5:00 PM Croce Carluzzo  
Marie & Anthony Barbera  
Rita Palumbo  
Giancarlo Traverso

**Sunday, November 3rd**  
8:00 AM Phyllis, Linda & Joseph Vasta  
10:00 AM Vincenzo Mazzone  
12 Noon Mickle Lepore  
5:00 PM For the People of St. Ephrem

**Monday, November 4th**  
7:00 AM Chao-nan & Theresa Kuo  
8:45 AM John Carr

**Tuesday, November 5th**  
7:00 AM All Souls  
8:45 AM Cosimo Corsaro

**Wednesday, November 6th**  
7:00 AM All Souls  
8:45 AM Michael & Winifred McNamara

**Thursday, November 7th**  
7:00 AM All Souls  
8:45 AM Cecilia & Cosimo Cavallaro

**Friday, November 8th**  
7:00 AM All Souls  
8:45 AM Concetta Mongirido

**Saturday, November 9th**  
8:45 AM All Souls  
5:00 PM Angelina Femia  
James E. Durney  
Elaine Capper  
Brian Joseph McLaughlin

**Sunday, November 10th**  
8:00 AM Martin Murray  
10:00 AM Mary Bonfiglio  
12 Noon Graffagnino & Savarese Families  
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:  
**Betty Walsh**

*Requested by Patricia Rochford*



### Altar Flowers

*In Loving Memory Of  
Sean & Marcella*



*"We need to participate for the common good. Sometimes we hear: a good Catholic is not interested in politics. This by offering the best of themselves so that the leader can govern."*

Pope Francis



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.*



**Monday, November 11th**  
There will be no 7:00 AM Mass & Rectory Office will be closed.

## PARISH NEWS

### SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK



**Saturday, November 16th  
at the 5:00 PM Mass**

The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is both “a liturgical and a communal celebration.” In the family home, hospital, or church, members of the Body of Christ gather for the sacramental rite led by a priest. The Penitential Rite followed by the Liturgy of the Word and sacramental anointing of the sick can inspire and comfort both those who are ill and their family and friends who are gathered. (CCC, nos. 1517-18).

Anointing of the Sick is the sacrament that is received by those who are ill or suffering or elderly. By the sacred anointing and the prayer of the priest, the whole Church commends those who are sick to Christ. The sick person receives the Holy Spirit’s gifts of strength, faith, peace, and courage, and his or her suffering is united with the suffering of Christ for the building up of the Church. (CCC, nos. 1520-23).

The Rite of Anointing tells us there is no need to wait until a person is at the point of death to receive the Sacrament.

*If you wish to be anointed please place your completed card in the collection basket or drop off at the Rectory.*



### *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  
@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

**A DVD Program  
“Meet the Real Mary Magdalene”  
will be held Tuesday, November 5th at  
1:00 PM.** Session 4 is “Mary Magdalene  
in Gnostic Literature and other  
Ancient Texts”.

### **Bereavement Support Group**

Monday, November 4th at 7:00 PM a new Bereavement Support Group. Sessions run on a 6 week cycle. If you have recently lost a loved one and would like to join the group for some compassionate listening, honest sharing and consoling prayer, please come to the Center.

Individual (one on one) sessions are available on request.

### **Exploring the Sunday Readings**

Thursday, November 7th at 10:00 AM.

### **The Book Discussion Group**

Thursday, November 7th at 4:00 PM.

The book discussed is “*Where the Crawdads Sing*” by Delia Owens. New members are welcome.

### **Spiritual Direction**

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



## 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.



National Vocations Awareness Week:  
November 3-9, 2019



**Prayer for Vocations**

God our Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom as priests, deacons, and consecrated persons. Send your Holy Spirit to help others to respond generously and courageously to your call. May our community of faith support vocations of sacrificial love in our youth and young adults. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

*United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*



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.

## Christmas Cards for Ghana



If you would like to send a Christmas Card to the students of

**St. Catherine's High School  
Ghana**

**There are cards at the main doors of the church.**

**If you like to participate, please sign a card and drop it in the box.**

**Thank You!**

## 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

**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



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

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

## 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.*