

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*

December 15, 2019
Third Sunday of Advent



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.



Third Sunday of Advent
December 15, 2019

“Are you the one who is to come or should we look for another?”

John the Baptist’s presence features prominently in the gospel today. Though we are in the midst of Jesus’ ministry and John is in prison, he has a question for the would-be-Christ: *“Are you the one who is to come or should we look for another?”* Though it might be surprising to us, it seems as though Jesus did not fit the expectations of John the Baptist! Two thousand years later, we see these in the context of their day.

Jesus reminds the one who baptized him that among other things, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news preached to them. This is the mission of the Christ sent by God. Though John is greater than any person, the least in the kingdom of God is greater than he. Nowhere does it say how John responded to this beatitude addressed specifically to him. That silence speaks volumes. Jesus’ mission is proclaiming this kingdom and creating it. Let us not take offense at his priorities, even if they are not our own. Instead, let us align ourselves with the Christ sent by God, assisting in proclaiming and creating the kingdom in our own day and time.

Expectations can be lofty things and it is disappointing when we see someone fall short of when we ourselves fall short. Then again, how often are we held to expectations beyond our ability or opposed to our own priorities? If and when we fail to meet the expectations of others, especially when we’ve had no say in those expectations, the fallout may be significant. Not many of us like to be told what we need to do or how we need to do it. So it is incumbent upon us not to lay unrealistic or uninformed expectations on others either.

Today we learn about John the Baptist’s expectations for Jesus, the one he baptized. John the Baptist was likely offended at Jesus’ behavior and preaching because it was not what he had foretold. The disconnect was so great that John the Baptist wondered if there was someone else who was to come. This is a good reminder for us to temper our expectations of others. We are ultimately responsible for ourselves, not anyone else. We can let God raise up in others the special gifts, talents, and abilities given to them. We would do well to let die any desire to control others through the expectations we might place on them.

In the Good Shepherd,

Fr. Robert



December 8, 2019 247 Envelopes \$7,316.00
Religious Retirement 154 Envelopes \$3,072.00
 We Share (Online Giving) 40 Families \$220.00

Mass Attendance 742

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	211
Amount Pledged	\$109,704.00
Paid to Date	\$104,486.72

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



Mass Intentions for the week

Saturday, December 14th
 8:45 AM Tina & Gail Boutross
 5:00 PM Aida Offitto
 Rosalie & Louis Tuorto
 Brian McLaughlin
 John Lavin
 For the Intentions of Veronica Caggiano
 Orazio Arrabito

Sunday, December 15th
 8:00 AM Nancy F. Parise
 10:00 AM Winifred E. Fugowski
 12 Noon Graffagnino & Savarese Families
 5:00 PM For the People of St. Ephrem

Monday, December 16th
 7:00 AM For the Intentions of St. Ephrem
 8:45 AM John Carr

Tuesday, December 17th
 7:00 AM Colleen, Edward & Kevin O'Connor
 8:45 AM For the People of St. Ephrem

Wednesday, December 18th
 7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
 8:45 AM Maria Gorizia & Nicola Irace

Thursday, December 19th
 7:00 AM Michael Libirth
 8:45 AM Clement McHugh

Friday, December 20th
 7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
 8:45 AM Michael & Winifred McNamara

Saturday, December 21st
 8:45 AM Nicodemo Mazzone
 5:00 PM Ilario & Maddalena Piscioneri

Sunday, December 22nd
 8:00 AM Concetta Altieri
 10:00 AM Peter James Carlin & Peter Anthony Carlin
 12 Noon Thomas & Julia Costanza
 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:
Nicodemo Mazzone
Requested by Rita & Bruno Cavallaro



Altar Candles & Sanctuary Lamp

In Loving Memory of:
Frances Marciano
Requested by Frank & Joanne Spadaro



Thank you very much for your generosity to the Retirement Fund for Religious. Our parish contributed \$3,072.00 to senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious priests who have ministered in the Diocese of Brooklyn. Thank You!

1921 + 2021



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 16th at 7:00 PM.

An Advent Retreat "An Advent Journey"
 With Fr. Michael Himes (DVD Program) Tuesday December 16th 1:00 PM.

"Christmas the Eternal Giving of God."

Exploring the Sunday Readings

Thursday, December 19th at 10:00 AM.

Spiritual Direction

Please call Sr. Ann at (718) 921-9518



PARISH & ACADEMY NEWS

St. Ephrem Catholic Academy Drama Club Proudly Presents



Friday, January 10th at 7:00 PM
Saturday, January 11th at 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM
Sunday, January 12th at 2:00 PM

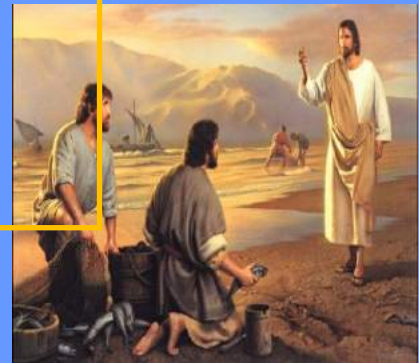
Msgr. Kain Hall
\$10.00 per person—Tickets are available at the doors.



**St. Ephrem
Grandparents Association**
December 15th at 1pm
Marian Room
(Rectory basement)

Topic: Traditions
Bonus Topic: Christmas
activities with your grandkids!
All grandparents are invited!

*Prayer for our
Seminarians*



These men have answered Jesus' invitation to "Come Follow Me." Please take a Seminary'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***



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 Fourth Sunday of Advent, **December 22nd**. 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*

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 December 9th, we have received pledges totaling **\$840,600.00** from only **91 families, representing 67% 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!

ADVENT OPPORTUNITIES



Advent Reconciliation Monday

Monday, December 16th

As we prepare to welcome the new born Saviour, Jesus, once again this Christmas, let us spiritually and sacramentally make room for Jesus in our hearts.

The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** will be offered at St. Ephrem Church from **4:00 to 8:00 PM**.

“Nothing can Separate you from His Love”

A Brief Examination of Conscience

Based on the Ten Commandments

**I am the Lord your God:
you shall not have strange Gods before me.**

Have I treated people, events, or things as more important than God?

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

Have my words, actively or passively, put down God, the Church, or people?

Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.

Do I go to Mass every Sunday (or Saturday Vigil) and on Holy Days of Obligation? Do I avoid, when possible, work that impedes worship to God, joy for the Lord's Day, and proper relaxation of mind and body? Do I look for ways to spend time with family or in service on Sunday?

Honor your father and your mother.

Do I show my parents due respect? Do I seek to maintain good communication with my parents where possible? Do I criticize them for lacking skills I think they should have?

You shall not kill.

Have I harmed another through physical, verbal, or emotional means, including gossip or manipulation of any kind?

You shall not commit adultery.

Have I respected the physical and sexual dignity of others and of myself?

You shall not steal.

Have I taken or wasted time or resources that belonged to another?

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

Have I gossiped, told lies, or embellished stories at the expense of another?

You shall not covet your neighbor's spouse.

Have I honored my spouse with my full affection and exclusive love?

You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

Am I content with my own means and needs, or do I compare myself to others unnecessarily?

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 24th

5:00 PM Mass

With Children's Choir and Children's Hand Bell Choir

11:30 PM “Lessons & Carols” With Adult Choir

12 Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

Wednesday, December 25th

8:00 AM Mass, 10:00 AM Mass & 12 Noon Mass

New Year's Mass Schedule

Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

Tuesday, December 31st, 5:00 PM Vigil

Wednesday, January 1, 2020

8:00 AM, 10:00 AM & 12 Noon

We wish you a Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year!



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



St. Ephrem Youth Ministry Service Project—open to Grades 6–12 December 15th after the 5:00 PM Mass

Please meet in Church to help pack up the Giving Tree Gifts.