

Church of St. Ephrem

929 Bay Ridge Parkway ♦ Brooklyn, New York 11228

www.stephremparish-brooklyn.org



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Parish Staff

December 22, 2019
Fourth 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.



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2019

“Jesus will be born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.”

On this Fourth and final Sunday of Advent we have a story about Joseph in today gospel told by Matthew. There are so few stories where

Joseph is even named in the New Testament that it is good to read this one carefully. Interestingly, we have no words from Joseph in this story or any other in the New Testament. He is a quiet but righteous man, doing what is right in the sight of God.

Thus, Joseph’s desire to end the relationship with Mary quietly upon finding out that she is with child is in keeping with his character. Technically, Mary could be exposed to the law, which would mean a death sentence. But Joseph is not that kind of person. He is content instead to handle this matter discreetly. Such was his intention before the appearance of an angel in a dream.

On this Fourth Sunday of Advent the stage is set for Christmas morning, the nativity of our Lord. A discreet, quiet man who does what is right in the sight of God has taken the pregnant Mary into his home as his wife. What was a scandal worthy of death under the law has been directed by an angel in a dream into safety and security for the woman and her unborn child. God is doing something new.

Our Advent has undoubtedly been spent in preparation. But no matter how much preparation we’ve done, there’s likely more we could do. In the end, the day is going to come whether we are ready or not. Despite all of our planning or lack of, soon the celebration will begin. In these remaining days, let us die to anything that takes our focus and attention away from the reason for the preparation. The Christ Child is about to be born. Life has profound meaning Ready or not, Christmas is coming.



Nativity of the Lord

December 25, 2019

“Today a Savior has been born for you.”

The reading from Luke at the Midnight Mass is sublime, yet popular. Luke entraps us with the story of Jesus’ birth. The simple clause “because there was no room for them at the inn” has inspired innumerable artists, homilists, theologians, and more. But Luke says no more about that episode than those few simple words. He says much more about the shepherds, the angel, and the multitude or the heavenly host. The few verses of this gospel reading light up our imagination, touching on key themes for Luke, such as Jesus as Savior, Jesus as food for the world (laid him in a manger), and the situation of the Christ-event at a particular time and place. How appropriate that we read this story of the shepherds keeping the night watch at our Midnight Mass.

Merry Christmas to you and your loved ones!

In the Good Shepherd,

Fr. Robert



December 15, 2019	238 Envelopes	\$6,422.00
Christmas Gift	173 Envelopes	\$15,859.00
We Share (Online Giving)	40 Families	\$220.00

Mass Attendance 721

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	214
Amount Pledged	\$110,404.00
Paid to Date	\$106,008.72

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 21st**
 8:45 AM Nicodemo Mazzone
 5:00 PM Ilario & Maddalena Piscioneri
 Anna Striano
- 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
- Monday, December 23rd**
 7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
 8:45 AM Michael F. Mathieson
- Tuesday, December 24th**
 7:00 AM Dorothy Earley
 8:45 AM Frances Gambino
 5:00 PM John Riordan
 12 Midnight Domenick Mazzone
- Wednesday, December 25th**
 8:00 AM Rita Anderson
 10:00 AM Matthew A. Gilmartin
 12:00 PM Natalino Guglielmetti
- Thursday, December 26th**
No 7:00 AM Mass
 8:45 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
- Friday, December 27th**
 7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
 8:45 AM Eddie Boutross
- Saturday, December 28th**
 8:45 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
 5:00 PM Winifred Maley
 Adolf Mascari
 Gerard Bakay
- Sunday, December 29th**
 8:00 AM Eleanore Vitale & Josephine DiNapoli
 10:00 AM Raymond Duffy
 12 Noon The Rogers Family
 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:
Natalino Guglielmetti

Requested by His Loving Family



Altar Candles & Sanctuary Lamp

In Loving Memory of:
Carole Griseta

Requested by The Comes Family

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, January 6th 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.

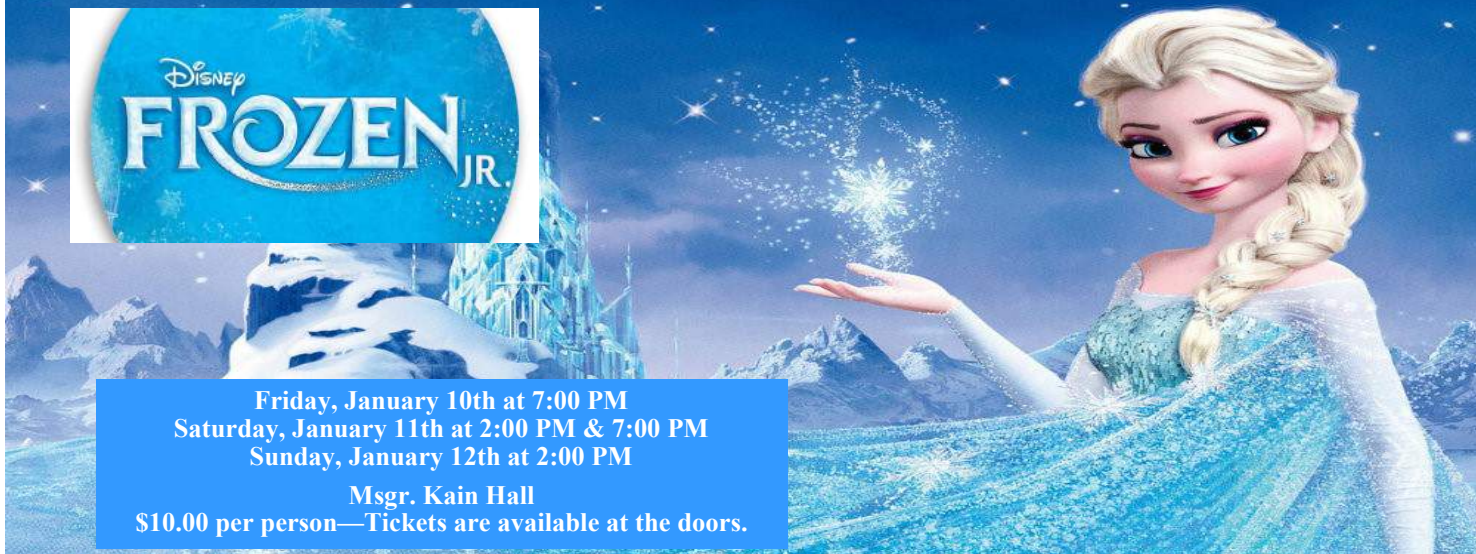
Spiritual Direction

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.

Taxes & Giving at Christmas & Year's End

Did you know that “charitable giving” is one of only a few tax provisions that was not greatly impacted by recent federal tax legislation. Many people enjoy using Christmas and year’s end as a special time to give to their favorite Catholic institutions and also positively impact their federal and state income taxes. Christmas and year end giving provides many advantages to you, the donor. Please consider St. Ephrem Parish.



Thank you for your continued generosity to St. Ephrem Parish!

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 stephremreligious@gmail.com

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!!!

Club Resumes January 8th, 2020

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!

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 16th, we have received pledges totaling **\$880,330.00** from only **105 families, representing 70% 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.

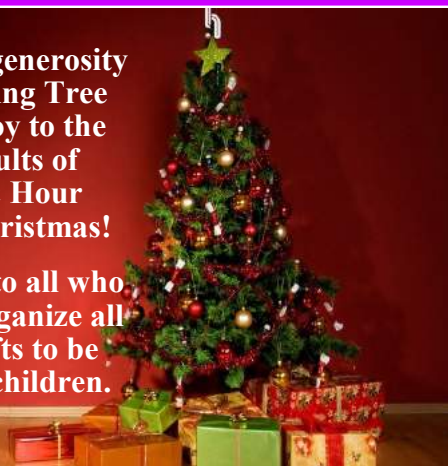
Please return your pledge card to the Rectory this week or place it in the collection during mass. If you have any questions, please call the Rectory at (718) 833-1010.



Saint Ephrem, pray for us!

Once again your generosity through the Giving Tree brought much joy to the children & adults of Heart Share & Hour Children this Christmas!

A shout out goes to all who helped pack & organize all the beautiful gifts to be delivered to the children.



Christmas Giving

“As we find strength and joy in this Christmas season, there are many who are struggling...These men, women and children can find hope, care and a helping hand through Catholic Charities.”



**Most Reverend Nicholas DiMarzio, Ph.D., D.D.
Bishop of Brooklyn**

Please give generously to Catholic Charities through the special collection on Christmas.



“To live charitably means not looking out for our interests, but carrying the burdens of the weakest and poorest among us.”

Pope Francis

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

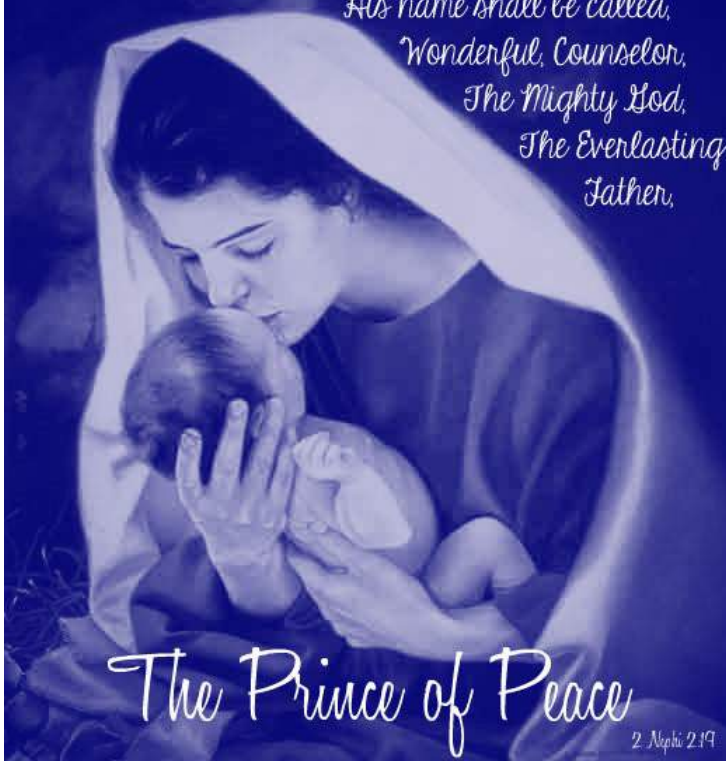
Wednesday, January 1, 2020

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



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

*His name shall be called,
Wonderful, Counselor,
The Mighty God,
The Everlasting
Father,*



The Prince of Peace

2 Nephi 2:19

*Wishing you and your
loved ones a
Merry Christmas
filled with
Peace & Joy!*

*The Priests’, Sisters,
Deacons, & Staff of
St. Ephrem*