

Church of St. Ephrem

929 Bay Ridge Parkway ♦ Brooklyn, New York 11228

www.stephremparish-brooklyn.org



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Parish Staff

December 8, 2019
Second Sunday of Advent

Rev. Robert B. Adamo, KCHS, *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.



Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2019

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!”

Though today is December 8 when we might expect the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, it happens to fall on a Sunday. Therefore, the Second Sunday of Advent is what we celebrate today. We will commemorate the Immaculate Conception on Monday. And for this Advent Sunday we hear the fiery preaching of John the Baptist, introduced for the first time in the Gospel of Matthew.

It almost goes without saying that John the Baptist is Jewish, and he is preaching to fellow Jews. But because he is considered a Christian saint, it’s possible to overlook that he is a Jewish prophet calling the Jewish people to repentance, as prophets had done for centuries before. He directly confronts the Phariasees and Sadduccess, name-calling them a “brood of vippers.” They are not to rest assured in their being part of the chosen people of God, the children of Abraham from the stones.

The people confessed their sin and were baptized for repentance. Even this, however, is only a foreshadowing of the one who is to come, for he will baptize “with the Holy Spirit and fire.” It can be easy to overlook the “fire” with which the one mightier than John will baptize.

As human beings we desire consistency, predictability, and stability. Though it’s good to experience new things, not many of us thrive on doing new things all the time. Our lives may be punctuated by difference, but regularity reigns. Even the liturgical cycle of readings is regulated, and each Advent we read from John the Baptist’s fiery preaching.

Even so, it’s good for us to be shaken up a bit and jostled from our regular routine, as John the Baptist is doing today. We are reminded that we need to repent, turn away from selfish interests and turn toward God. This interior renewal is nothing less than a dying to self and rising with Christ, the paschal mystery. What regular routines do we need to abandon? From what in our lives do we need to turn away? What does turning toward God look like in our own time and place, in the midst of the relationships we have? Going to church, being Catholic, or knowing about God is not enough. An interior reorientation toward God and the values of his kingdom is demanded.

In the Good Shepherd,

Fr. Robert



November 24, 2019	291 Envelopes	\$8,586.42
Human Development	129 Envelopes	\$2,046.00
December 1, 2019	258 Envelopes	\$8,460.00
Christmas Flowers	109 Envelopes	\$2,436.00
We Share (Online Giving)	40 Families	\$220.00

Mass Attendance

November 24, 2019—845 & December 1, 2019—667

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	210
Amount Pledged	\$109,304.00
Paid to Date	\$103,836.38

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!

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 7th**
 8:45 AM Miekele Lepore
 5:00 PM Dominick Bergamini
 Tozzi & Bergamini Families
 Marilyn O'Keef Major
- 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
- Monday, December 9th**
 7:00 AM For the Intentions of Jeffry McNamara
 8:45 AM Emilia Diaz
- Tuesday, December 10th**
 7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
 8:45 AM The Florio Family
- Wednesday, December 11th**
 7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
 8:45 AM Joan Dixon
- Thursday, December 12th**
 7:00 AM For the Intentions of Thomas Ancito
 8:45 AM Luigi & Lucia Marsillo
- Friday, December 13th**
 7:00 AM In Thanksgiving of St. Lucy
 8:45 AM Eleanor Trombone
- Saturday, December 14th**
 8:45 AM Tina & Gail Boutross
 5:00 PM Aida Offitto
 Rosalie & Louis Tuorto
 Brian McLaughlin
 John Lavin
 Orazio Arrabito
 For the Intentions of Veronica Caggiano
- 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



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:
Concetta Altieri

Requested by her loving daughter



Altar Candles & Sanctuary Lamp

In Loving Memory of:

Concetta Altieri

Requested by her loving daughter



Solemnity of Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Not A Holy Day of Obligation

Monday, December 9th



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 9th at 7:00 PM.

An Advent Retreat "An Advent Journey"

With Fr. Michael Himes (DVD Program)

Tuesday December 10th 1:00 PM.

"Threaten by Grace."

Spiritual Direction

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



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!

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, a former auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of New York, will be beatified Saturday, Dec. 21. Bishop Daniel R. Jenky of Peoria, Ill., announced late Nov. 18 that the Vatican had just notified him of the beatification and he was announcing the news “with great joy and thanksgiving.” Plans for the beatification are already under way, the bishop said. The ceremony will be at 10 a.m. local time at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception in Peoria.

Born in El Paso, Ill., Fulton John Sheen was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Peoria at St. Mary’s Cathedral on Sept. 20, 1919. The cathedral is the current resting place for the archbishop, who is entombed in a marble vault next to the altar where he was ordained. In July, Pope Francis approved a miracle attributed to the intercession of Archbishop Sheen, leading the way to his beatification. The miracle concerns the healing of James Fulton Engstrom of Washington, Ill., who was considered stillborn when he was delivered during a planned home birth Sept. 16, 2010. His parents, Bonnie and Travis Engstrom, immediately invoked the prayers of Archbishop Sheen and encouraged others to seek his intercession after the baby was taken to OSF HealthCare St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria for emergency treatment.

Just as doctors were preparing to declare that he was dead, James Fulton’s tiny heart started to beat at a normal rate for a healthy newborn. He had been without a pulse for 61 minutes.

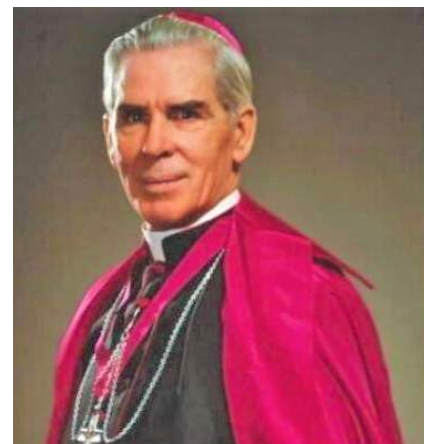
Despite dire prognoses for his future, including that he would probably be blind and never walk, talk or be able to feed himself, the child has thrived. Now a healthy 8-year-old, he likes chicken nuggets, “Star Wars” and riding his bicycle. The decree of the miracle came about a week after Archbishop Sheen’s remains were transferred from St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York to Peoria’s cathedral. Archbishop Sheen had been placed in a crypt below the main altar of St. Patrick’s Cathedral after his death Dec. 9, 1979. After protracted legal proceedings, his remains were brought to Peoria June 27 at the request of his niece, Joan Sheen Cunningham, and now rest in a new marble tomb in the Peoria cathedral. After a brief period of priestly ministry in Peoria, the future archbishop went on to serve on the faculty of The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., for nearly 30 years. He began his broadcast career in radio in 1930. In 1952, his renowned television show “Life Is Worth Living” began airing and quickly gained a large audience with many non-Catholics becoming regular viewers. He won an Emmy for outstanding television personality for the show.

He was national director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, headquartered in Manhattan, 1950-1966. An auxiliary bishop of New York, 1951-1966, he served as bishop of Rochester, 1966-1969, and was given the personal title of archbishop when he retired from that diocesan post.

He is the author of dozens of books, including his autobiography: “Treasure in Clay.”

In 2012, 10 years after his canonization cause was officially opened, Pope Benedict XVI announced that the Vatican Congregation for Saints’ Causes had recognized Archbishop Sheen’s life as one of “heroic virtue,” and proclaimed him “Venerable Servant of God Fulton J. Sheen.”

In general, two miracles must be accepted by the Church as having occurred through the intercession of a prospective saint, one before beatification and the other before canonization.



Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen
Beatification December 21st

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 as of December 3, 2019 we have received pledges totaling **\$810,700.00** from only **77 families, representing 65% 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

Thank you
**Mc Laughlin & Sons,
Funeral Home and
Mr. Jay Sessa**
for providing us with the
beautiful annual
Catholic calendars



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.**

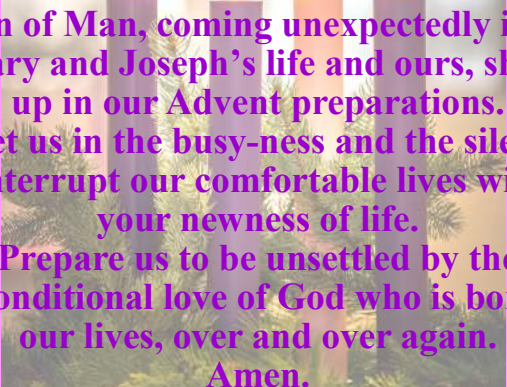
“Nothing can Separate you from His Love”
Romans 8:38-39

The Lord never tires of forgiving, it is we who tire of asking for forgiveness.

Pope Francis



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.

COME,
Lord Jesus!



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!!!**



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 –12
December 15th after the 5:00 PM Mass

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