

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, 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*

December 29, 2019

The Holy Family of Jesus Mary and Joseph



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.



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

December 29, 2019

“Take the child and his mother, and flee into Egypt.”

Matthew in today’s gospel tells us the story of the Holy Family’s flight into Egypt which is a story of refugees. Matthew states clearly that Joseph was afraid. He feared the authorities and what might happen if he and his family were apprehended. This is no mere artistic rendering, painting, or sculpture of an exhausted family, such as we might see with the caption “flight into Egypt.” The fears were real, and the danger immediate. The Holy Family crossed boundaries into Egypt and then settled somewhere else. Instead of settling in Bethlehem, their home, they made a home in Nazareth. The shifting, perhaps chaotic early years of Jesus’ life speak to a reality that millions unfortunately face, and have faced throughout human history.

In our modern world, we are witnessing a magnitude of migration of peoples not seen since World War II. As Christians we might ask ourselves how do we treat these people? Can we see the Holy Family in their plight? Or are they violating the law, evading the authorities? It can be one thing to look with pity on the Holy Family and their flight into Egypt. We admire the artistic representation of this biblical story. But what of the lived reality of this biblical story in the lives of so many in our world today? May we as followers of this child refugee, this migrant Holy Family, recognize that same presence today and, in so doing, act on their behalf.

Domesticating the gospel happens far too frequently. It’s difficult to read or hear these stories fresh or in a new way when we are so familiar with them. But with today’s gospel we are reminded of the reality that Joseph, Mary, and the child Jesus were political refugees. They feared for their lives, as Herod had massacred the innocents. The Holy Family found safety and refuge in a foreign country. Through Jesus was Emmanuel, danger was present and must have seemed a life at the hands of the state. Is it any wonder that the gospel message was so popular with the outcast and marginalized?

As we live the paschal mystery, we are called to let go of the domestication of the gospel and allow it to speak to the realities we face. Let us, as disciples identify with the outcast, marginalized, and afflicted, for that is how the Holy Family lived. In so doing we will suffer and die in the struggle only to be raised to new life.

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!

Due to the early publication the Stewardship report remained the same.



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



Thank you for your continued generosity and helping us reach our parish goal. Everything received over goal is returned to St. Ephrem Parish.

Thank you!



Generations of Faith continues across the Diocese!

Generations of Faith Campaign Update as of December 16, 2019 at St. Ephrem R.C. Church	
Campaign Goal	\$980,000.00
Total Pledged	\$1,045,969.00
Total Payments to Date by Parishioners	\$966,064.52
Total # Donors	198
Number of Donors who completed Pledge	139
Total Funds already paid to the Parish to Date	\$442,560.09



Mass Intentions for the week

- Saturday, December 28th**
For the People of St. Ephrem
- 8:45 AM
5:00 PM
Winifred Maley
Adolf Mascari
Gerard Bakay
- Sunday, December 29th**
Eleanore Vitale & Josephine DiNapoli
Raymond Duffy
The Rogers Family
For the People of St. Ephrem
- 8:00 AM
10:00 AM
12 Noon
5:00 PM
- Monday, December 30th**
For the People of St. Ephrem
Nancy Ferris
- 7:00 AM
8:45 AM
- Tuesday, December 31st**
For the People of St. Ephrem
For the People of St. Ephrem
Sal Restivo
- 7:00 AM
8:45 AM
5:00 PM
- Wednesday, January 1st**
Pasquale Marsillo
For the Intentions of Joseph and Robert Mazza
Nancy Ferris
- 8:00 AM
10:00 AM
12:00 PM

Thursday, January 2nd & Friday, January 3rd
Mass will be celebrated at St. Ephrem Convent
935 Bay Ridge Parkway

Enter through the main entrance

- Thursday, January 2nd**
No 7:00 AM Mass
- 8:45 AM
Domenick Mazzone
- Friday, January 3rd**
For the People of St. Ephrem
For the People of St. Ephrem
- 7:00 AM
8:45 AM
- Saturday, January 4th**
Paul Murphy
- 8:45 AM
- 5:00 PM
Frank, Filomena & Vincent Pologruto
Anna Striano
Mrs. Bruno (Grandmother)
Angela Kotash
- Sunday, January 5th**
Frances L. Marciano
For the Intentions of Carmela DeFrancesco
Therese Offitto
For the People of St. Ephrem
- 8:00 AM
10:00 AM
12 Noon
5:00 PM



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



Daily Mass
Monday
thru
Friday Only

Beginning January 2, 2020
Daily Mass 7:00 AM & 8:45 AM
Will be celebrated in
St. Ephrem Convent
935 Bay Ridge Parkway.

Please enter through the main entrance



Bread and Wine

In Loving Memory of:
Winifred Maley

Requested by Her Loving Children, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren



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.

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 stephremreligiously@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!



Happy 50th Anniversary of Priesthood, Pope Francis

On December 13th Pope Francis celebrated his 50th Anniversary of Priesthood. May Jesus the High Priest continue to renew, increase, and strengthen in Pope Francis the graces received at his ordination as he continues to carry his priestly ministry in service to our Holy Church.

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 20th, we have received pledges totaling **\$931,730.00** from only **118 families, representing 74% 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!

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

A Holy Day of Obligation



Mass Schedule

Tuesday, December 31st
Vigil Mass at 5:00 PM

Wednesday, January 1, 2020
8:00 AM
10:00 AM
12 Noon

Pope Francis's Prayer to the Holy Family

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph,
in you we contemplate
the splendor of true love,
to you we turn with trust.

Holy Family of Nazareth,
grant that our families too

may be places of communion and prayer,
authentic schools of the Gospel, and small
domestic Churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth,
may families never again
experience violence, rejection, and division;
may all who have been hurt or scandalized
find ready comfort and healing.

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph,
graciously hear our prayer.
Amen.



Thank You!

Your Generosity and
support throughout the
year helps us to
continue our pastoral
ministry.

In addition, thank you
for your many
Christmas Wishes,
Sweets,
Spirits & Gifts.



Happy New Year

GOD IS ALL YOU NEED

let spirituality
be your new years resolution
may God bless you
we wish you the happiest of years
God is all you need to succeed



Christmas Cards



We can use your "old" Christmas Cards!

If you would like to recycle your Christmas
cards for our Advent Giving Tree Tags, please
bring them to the Rectory Office.

Thank You!