

# 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)



[stephremparish-brooklyn](https://www.facebook.com/stephremparish-brooklyn)

## 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*

January 5, 2020  
The Epiphany of the Lord



### 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.



## The Epiphany of the Lord

January 5, 2020

*“We saw his star at its rising  
and have come to  
do him homage.”*

Today we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord, which is only told in Matthew’s gospel and is given to us this Sunday.

This story gives us many points to consider. One might be the fact that Gentiles (considered “the other” non-Jew) come to worship Jesus. Herod needs to ask his advisors about the prophecy when those from Persia (Gentiles) are seeking out the child on their own. We, too, might be open to the other; those who come to the truth and to the person of Jesus on their own accord or by following their own stars. We know that by the end of the gospel, this is Jesus’ intention too, that his teachings are not restricted to a few, but are open to all. This is the same gospel that will tell us that not everyone who says, “Lord, Lord” will enter the kingdom of heaven. Instead entry is only for those who do the will of the Father. And the will of the Father is that we act mercifully, much like the magi of the gospel today.

The magi in today’s gospel represent all those who are not part of the “in” crowd. These foreigners who do not know Jesus come to worship him before anyone else. They recognize in signs of nature that something significant has happened, and they seek it out.

We can ask ourselves, too, what we might miss when signs are right in front of our eyes. What is God doing in our midst? Is it something that others-foreigners, those not part of the “in” crowd-notice, but it escapes our attention? Let us die to our preconceived notions and surety in knowing the Lord, and be open to what God has in store for us. God is doing something new. There is an epiphany under way. May we have eyes to see and ears to hear.

In the Good Shepherd,

*Fr. Robert*

### Our Lady of Perpetual Help Food Pantry

*We will be collecting non-perishable  
and non- expired food items  
the weekend of*

**January 19, 2020**

***Thank you for your usual generosity!***



December 22, 2019      262 Envelopes      \$8,944.00  
We Share (Online Giving)      40 Families      \$220.00

**Mass Attendance 698**

**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	216
Amount Pledged	\$112,654.00
Paid to Date	\$107,388.72



**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!

<b>Generations of Faith Campaign Update as of October 29, 2019 at St. Ephrem R.C. Church</b>	
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, January 4th**  
 8:45 AM Paul Murphy  
 5:00 PM Frank, Filomena & Vincent Pologruto  
 Anna Striano  
 Mrs. Bruno (Grandmother)  
 Angela Kotash
- Sunday, January 5th**  
 8:00 AM Frances L. Marciano  
 10:00 AM For the Intentions of Carmela DeFrancesco  
 12 Noon Therese Offitto  
 5:00 PM For the People of St. Ephrem

**Monday, January 6th to Friday, January 10th**  
 Mass will be celebrated at St. Ephrem Convent  
 935 Bay Ridge Parkway

*Enter through the main entrance*

- Monday, January 6th**  
 7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem  
 8:45 AM John Carr
- Tuesday, January 7th**  
 7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem  
 8:45 AM Josephine DeStefano (5 Years)
- Wednesday, January 8th**  
 7:00 AM Joseph Lovett  
 8:45 AM Marion Reilly
- Thursday, January 9th**  
 7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem  
 8:45 AM Florence Migliano (100th Birthday)
- Friday, January 10th**  
 7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem  
 8:45 AM Marion Reilly
- Saturday, January 11th**  
 8:45 AM For the People of St. Ephrem  
 5:00 PM Louis Diaferia  
 Steven & Nicola Frasca  
 Anna Striano
- Sunday, January 12th**  
 8:00 AM Frances L. Marciano  
 10:00 AM Salvatore, Giuseppe & Antonia Baio  
 12 Noon Michele Lepore  
 5:00 PM For the People of St. Ephrem

## SPIRITUALITY CENTER



**Bereavement Support Group**  
 meets Monday, January 6 at  
 7:00pm.

**The Book Discussion Group**  
**Thursday, January 9th at 4:00 PM.**  
 The book discussed is *"The Hamilton Affair"*  
 by Elizabeth Cobbs. New members are welcome.

### 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*

MASS  
**BAPTISM**

Sunday, January 12th at the 10:00 AM Mass

We welcome those who will be baptized into our  
 faith community through the Sacrament of Baptism

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.*



## 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.



**Celebrate Catholic  
Schools Week 2020**  
January 26 - February 1  
#CSW1920

ST. EPHREM  
CATHOLIC ACADEMY

St. Ephrem Catholic Academy  
Celebrates Catholic Schools Week  
January 26th - February 1

**Sunday - 10am Mass Open House 11am - 2pm**

- Registration Begins for the 2020-2021 school year.

**Monday - Career and vocation day**

- Students learn about what opportunities await them in their future.

**Tuesday - Student appreciation and Ring Day**

- 8th Grade receives their graduation rings

**Wednesday - Culture Day**

- Students go on a trip to a cultural institution.

**Thursday - Community Day**

- Students go out into the community to help our neighbors.

**Friday - Faculty appreciation Day**

- Student vs. Faculty Hockey Game

**Registration for St. Ephrem Catholic Academy  
For the 2020-2021 School Year  
Begins Sunday, January 26th**

**Please join us for our Open House and see the wonderful opportunities  
available for a quality Catholic Education.**

**(718) 833-1440 or [www.stephremcatholicacademy.org](http://www.stephremcatholicacademy.org)**



**Youth Ministry Meeting January 12th  
6:00 to 8:00 PM**

For more information email:  
[stephremyouthministry@gmail.com](mailto:stephremyouthministry@gmail.com)

@stephremyouth

## Saint Ephrem Centennial Campaign *Our Church, Our Prayer, Our Legacy*

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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 23rd, we have received pledges totaling **\$957,230.00** from only **126 families, representing 76% 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!*



## PARISH NEWS



### GOLD

The royal metal; signifies Jesus' Kingship (hence, the gift for a king).



### FRANKINCENSE

Symbol of prayer; signifies Jesus as the High Priest/Mediator between God and man (hence, the gift for a priest).



### MYRRH

A burial ointment; meaning that Jesus had to die for the salvation of all (hence, gift for one who would die).



### 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](mailto:stephremreligious@gmail.com)

# 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.



### 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!

## 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

### 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!