

Church of St. Ephrem

929 Bay Ridge Parkway ♦ Brooklyn, New York 11228

www.stephremparish-brooklyn.org



[stephrembklyn](https://twitter.com/stephrembklyn)



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

Parish Staff

March 22, 2020 Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 29, 2020 Fifth Sunday of Lent

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—11:30 AM

1:00 PM—6:30 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.



Saint Ephrem Church

929 Bay Ridge Pkwy, Brooklyn, NY 11228
(718) 833-1010 | stephremparish-brooklyn.org



#stephrembklyn



St. Ephrem Roman Catholic Church
[Stephremchurchbrooklyn](http://Stephremchurchbrooklyn.org)

March, 2020

Dear Parishioner,

As your pastor, I wanted to take the opportunity to address the current situation with regard to the Novel Coronavirus. Quite naturally, many people feel powerless in the face of this pandemic. We see in a devastating way how widely a virus spreads person to person. As a people of faith, however, we have confidence that God allows the good that we do, our prayer and our actions, to make a positive impact on brothers and sisters. As Pope Francis encourages us, *“Let us call upon him today, firmly rooted in prayer, for without prayer all our activity risks being fruitless and our message empty.”* (Evangelii Gaudium, no. 259)

At **St. Ephrem Church** our clergy and staff’s primary concern is the health and safety of our community. We continue to pray for those who are sick, and for a fast-moving resolution to the current public health crisis. We are all impacted by the spread of COVID-19. Our parish does not want to add to any anxieties. For that reason, we intend to continue communication through our parish website: www.stephremparish-brooklyn.org.

Bishop DiMarzio has dispensed all the Catholic faithful of the Diocese of Brooklyn from the obligation of attending Sunday Mass and all public masses have been cancelled until further notice. All mass intentions are being fulfilled by the priests of St. Ephrem as we celebrate private mass. All churches in the Diocese of Brooklyn remain closed until further notice. There are no funerals, weddings, baptisms celebrated until further notice.

As we look to Holy Week, there will be no masses celebrated publicly. We are working to have the Mass from St. Ephrem and our Holy Week Liturgies and Services made available on our website and social media. For Holy Week, the Mass of the Lord’s Supper, the Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion, and the Easter Vigil will be celebrated by the Bishop in the Cathedral without a congregation and will be broadcast for the benefit of the faithful in their homes. Please continue to check our website for the most updated information and to see if the mass is being broadcast from our Church. On Palm Sunday, blessed palms will be available in our church. Please know that we are committed to continuing the mission of our parish and our Church at this time. If, and when, we have new information, we will also be sharing this news through our website and social media. All these addresses can be found on the cover of the parish bulletin. Of course if there are any questions or concerns feel free to contact us.

Even though there are no public masses celebrated during this time, our parish staff is still working remotely. Our parish is dependent upon the weekly offertory collection to continue its ministry and its ability to maintain our staff. As you are aware from your own household, there are still bills to be paid, which we had budgeted based on our weekly collections.

If we cannot meet these budgeted responsibilities, we might have to make drastic changes that will affect our staff and limit services. I ask you to please support the work of the Church. We would be most grateful for your continued financial support while our collections may be significantly affected. You may mail in your weekly offertory donations to the parish and for your convenience I have enclosed a self-addressed envelope, or transition to a secure online giving through our parish website and clicking on “Ways to Give” tab. I am once again grateful for your generosity to St. Ephrem throughout the years. Most especially through our 100th Anniversary Jubilee Capital Campaign, ***Our Parish, Our Church, Our Legacy***, in which we have raised in pledges \$1,314,865.00 and our beautiful church has been restored.

It is not just our parish that will experience the financial consequences of COVID-19. We must continue to support those most vulnerable – the poor, those with less stable employment, parents who need to work and are unable to provide childcare with school closures. The elderly and sick may feel isolation and loneliness, too. In the spirit of Lent, this pandemic is forcing us to change our daily lives, and to continue to reach out to those in need.

During this unprecedented time Catholic Charities, Diocese of Brooklyn (Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens) is available to assist those who are in need. If anyone needs assistance, please call the Catholic Charities Call Center (718) 722-6001 Monday to Friday from 9:00 AM to 6:00PM. Catholic Charities is continuing operations, especially emergency food pantries and mental health services; please be aware that the mental health clinics have the capacity for offering counseling over the phone.

Please join me in prayer for the recovery of those who are sick, for the strength of healthcare workers and caregivers and for the repose of those who have died, and for an end to this health crisis.

As a parish family we look forward to celebrating our parish’s 100th Anniversary Jubilee this Fall. This special year will enable us to gather together once again as a family of faith and celebrate ***Our Parish, Our Prayer, Our Legacy***.

Please be assured of my prayers for all of you, our St. Ephrem parishioners, and know that the parish priests and staff are here for you.

In the Good Shepherd,



Reverend Robert B. Adamo
Pastor

**This letter will be mailed to every registered family of
St. Ephrem Parish (750 Families).**



Mass Intentions for the weeks of March 22nd and March 28th

As of March 16th there are no public celebrated masses throughout the
Diocese of Brooklyn.

The priests' of St. Ephrem will be
celebrating private mass and fulfilling these Mass Intentions.
We are working on broadcasting the Masses from our church.
Please check our website, twitter and facebook pages.

Saturday, March 21st

Nicola Irace
Nancy & Michael Bagnato
Vincent Bagnato (Son)
Michael Bagnato (Grandson)
Maria Bagnato
Raymond Duffy, Sr.
William Stamatis

Sunday, March 22nd

Ilario Piscioneri
For the Intentions of Evelyn Costanza
For the Intentions of Maria D'Alessio
For the People of St. Ephrem

Monday, March 23rd

Olinda Bonici
Brigid O'Kane

Tuesday, March 24th

For the People of St. Ephrem
Mary Lou Doolan

Wednesday, March 25th

For the People of St. Ephrem
Natalino Guglielmetti

Thursday, March 26th

Domenic Cavallaro
Rae Esposito

Friday, March 27th

For the People of St. Ephrem
Joseph Losaro

Saturday, March 28th

Vincent Kennedy
Rita & Salvatore DeAngelis
Susanna Sylvester
Kathleen O'Connor
Anna Striano
Nicola Comes
Giulia Peragine

Sunday, March 29th

Teresa Poggioli
Paulette Sbordone
Anna Striano
For the People of St. Ephrem

Saturday, March 28th

Vincent Kennedy
Rita & Salvatore DeAngelis
Susanna Sylvester
Kathleen O'Connor
Anna Striano
Nicola Comes
Giulia Peragine

Sunday, March 29th

Teresa Poggioli
Paulette Sbordone
Anna Striano
For the People of St. Ephrem

Monday, March 30th

For the People of St. Ephrem
Domenick Iannizzi

Tuesday, March 31st

For the People of St. Ephrem
Domenick Cavallaro

Wednesday, April 1st

For the People of St. Ephrem
Francesco Iannelli

Thursday, April 2nd

For the People of St. Ephrem
Domenic Cavallaro

Friday, April 3rd

Louis Offitto, Sr.
Andrea LaRoca

Saturday, April 4th

For People of St. Ephrem
Louis DiPretoro
Anne, Florence & Nicholas Infantino
Joseph Nardo
Anna Striano
Natalino Guglielmetti

Sunday, April 5th

Laura Poggioli
Deceased Members of the Hyland
and Blundell Families
Anna Striano
For the People of St. Ephrem

Spiritual Communion Prayer

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally,

Come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace you as if you were already there

And unite myself wholly to you.

**Never permit me to be separated from you.
Amen.**

About the author: Archdiocese of New York

It has long been a Catholic understanding that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an Act of Spiritual Communion, which is a source of grace. Spiritual Communion is an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament and lovingly embrace him at a time or in circumstances when one cannot receive Him in sacramental Communion. The most common reason for making an Act of Spiritual Communion is when a person cannot attend Mass. Acts of Spiritual Communion increase our desire to receive sacramental Communion and help us avoid the sins that would make us unable to receive Holy Communion worthily.

So beautiful from Pope Francis:

"Tonight before falling asleep
think about when we will return to the street.

When we hug again,
when all the shopping together will seem like a party.

Let's think about when the coffees will return to the bar,
the small talk, the photos close to each other.

We think about when it will be all a memory but
normality will seem an unexpected and beautiful gift.

We will love everything that has so far seemed futile to
us.
Every second will be precious.

Swims at the sea, the sun until late, sunsets, toasts,
laughter.

We will go back to laughing together.

Strength and courage.



Covid-19: A Prayer of Solidarity

For all who have contracted coronavirus,
We pray for care and healing.

For those who are particularly vulnerable,
We pray for safety and protection.

For all who experience fear or anxiety,
We pray for peace of mind and spirit.

For affected families who are facing difficult decisions between food on the table or public safety,
We pray for policies that recognize their plight.

For those who do not have adequate health insurance,
We pray that no family will face financial burdens alone.

For those who are afraid to access care due to immigration status,
We pray for recognition of the God-given dignity of all.

For our brothers and sisters around the world,
We pray for shared solidarity.

For public officials and decision makers,
We pray for wisdom and guidance.

Father, during this time may your Church be a sign of hope, comfort and love to all.

Grant peace.
Grant comfort.
Grant healing.
Be with us, Lord.

Amen.



Reflections on the Importance of both Prayer and Action



“In our Christian life too prayer and action are always profoundly united. Prayer that does not lead to concrete action toward a brother who is poor, sick, in need of help, the brother in difficulty, is a sterile and incomplete prayer. But, in the same way, when in ecclesial service we are only concerned with doing, we give greater weight to things, functions, structures, and we forget the centrality of Christ; we do not set aside time for dialogue with him in prayer, we are in risk of serving ourselves and not God present in our needy brother.” (Pope Francis, Sunday Angelus, July 22, 2013)

“People who pray are not wasting their time, even though the situation appears desperate and seems to call for action alone. Piety does not undermine the struggle against the poverty of our neighbors, however extreme. In the example of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta we have a clear illustration of the fact that time devoted to God in prayer not only does not detract from effective and loving service to our neighbor but is in fact the inexhaustible source of that service.” (Pope Benedict XVI, Deus Caritas Est, no. 36)

The Stations of the Cross began as the practice of pious pilgrims to Jerusalem who would retrace the final journey of Jesus Christ to Calvary.

Later, for the many who wanted to pass along the same route, but could not make the trip to Jerusalem, a practice developed that eventually took the form of the fourteen stations currently found in almost every church.

This devotion can be practiced at home. The USCCB website provides an [audio version](#) of the Stations of the Cross, as well as [several different versions](#) of the devotion that can be read in both English in Spanish.



March 15, 2020 191 Envelopes \$6,662.00
 Landscape 92 Envelopes \$1,500.00
 We Share (Online Giving) 40 Families \$220.00

Mass Attendance 403

740 Families Registered and Receive Envelopes

If you are able to send in your weekly donation or enroll on the secure online donation through our website it would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your generosity to St. Ephrem Parish!

St. Ephrem Centennial Campaign Our Church, Our Prayers, Our Legacy

As of	March 9, 2020
Parish Goal	\$1.25 Million
Number of Donors	223
Amount Pledged	\$1,314,865.64
Paid to Date	\$407,192.64
Percent of Goal	105%

Thank You for your Generosity!

Saint Ephrem, pray for us!



How will our Parish Benefit?

St. Ephrem Parish Goal is: \$109,682.00

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

St. Ephrem Parish Goal	\$109,682.00
Number of Donors	47
Amount Pledged	\$24,910.00
Paid to Date	\$7,536.00

received back \$12,159.00 Thank You!