

Church of St. Ephrem

929 Bay Ridge Parkway ♦ Brooklyn, New York 11228

www.stephremparish-brooklyn.org



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St. Ephrem Catholic Church Dyker Heights

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December 26, 2021
Feast of the Holy Family



Abbreviated Bulletin—For Full Copy
<https://stephremparish-brooklyn.org/bulletins>



Hearing Assistance
iOS & Android

Rectory Office

929 Bay Ridge Parkway
718-833-1010
Fax **718-921-5232**

Faith Formation Center

Side Entrance of St. Ephrem Convent (off Bay Ridge Parkway)
718-745-7486
FaithFormation@stephremparish-brooklyn.org

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 and 5:00 PM
Weekdays Monday through Friday 7:00 AM & 8:45 AM
Saturday 8:45 AM

Rectory Office Hours

Monday—Thursday: 9:00 AM—12 Noon
1:00 PM—5:00 PM
Friday: 9:00 AM—12 Noon
1:00 PM—4:00 PM
Saturday **No Office Hours**
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 26, 2021

*“His parents found Jesus sitting
in the midst of the teachers.”*

Luke 2: 41-52

Dear Parishioners:

“Family” today has many cultural and moral connotations and challenges for Christians. The “Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph” may seem to exist on another planet or, at least, be light-years away from twenty-first-century relevance. Yet the gospel truth that the word of God for this feast affirms is that family life is “a kind of school of deeper humanity” that is penetrated by the spirit of Christ. It is a challenge to live in mutual respect and love: for parents to honor the dignity of their children, and children to respect the dignity of their parents, each one bound to the other in the love that God has lavished upon us, as John writes in today’s second reading.

Today’s gospel signifies the movement of Jesus from being Mary’s miracle baby to a self-reflective adult. The entirety of his childhood, adolescence, and young adulthood is covered in a few short sentences. What we know of Jesus’ upbringing is contained in the words that he “was obedient” and “advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.” Like last week, this is an opportunity to reflect on what the gospel writer must have heard about Jesus’ life. Since the gospel contains accounts and parables of remarkable things, often turning the mundane remarkable, we are invited to wonder at the notion that Jesus’ upbringing was probably fairly normal for a boy of his place and time. Whatever personal relationship Jesus may have developed with his Father in heaven, while here on earth, he was raised by a young mother and a father who likely built furniture for a living. He grew up in a religious minority in an occupied territory. The lack of information given to us by the gospels is, in fact, information. Jesus was a child, then a teenager, then a twentysomething, and when he began his public ministry, he still lived with his mom.

For Mary and Joseph, as for all parents, there is the pain of allowing this child his independence, his identity, loving him, not possessing him, or punishing him, but not fully understanding him. Surely a sword

passes also through Joseph’s heart as, in response to Mary’s words about “your father and I,” and as if gently contradicting her, Jesus refers to “my Father.” For us, as for Joseph, commitment to gospel priorities will always cause some pain. Parents know this in a special and poignant way. For now, this “Passover” of the adolescent Jesus is a theological sign of what is to come.

After this, Jesus returns to Nazareth with Mary and Joseph and is obedient to them. In the verse preceding this gospel, Luke had written of Jesus’ growth in human and divine wisdom after his presentation in the temple. The last verse of this temple incident with which Luke ends his narrative of Jesus’ childhood is again a comment that it was in this human family that such growth continued. An aspect of doing this Father’s will was his openness to being graced by the precious relationships of his family at Nazareth. Children and parents in every age and culture are meant to be grace for one another.

In the Good Shepherd,



**FEAST OF THE
HOLY FAMILY**
Sunday, December 26th
**8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12
Noon and 5:00 p.m. Masses**
*New Year’s Mass
Schedule*

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD
A HOLY DAY BUT NOT OF OBLIGATION

Saturday, January 1, 2021
8:45 Only!

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
January 1st & 2nd

NO CONFESSIONS Regular Weekend Mass Schedule

**Due to COVID19 you MUST register a mass
reservation on our Parish Website:**

www.stephremparish-brooklyn.org

**Click on Mass Times then Mass Reservations.
Scroll to bottom. You must wear a mask and
maintain Social Distancing. Thank you!**

ST. EPHREM'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

PEACE LIGHT OF BETHLEHEM COMING TO ST. EPHREM PARISH SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19TH AT 10:00 AM MASS

December 2020 was the first time in 33 years that the Peace Light of Bethlehem was not able to travel due to the COVID-19 Pandemic travel restrictions.

Now in its 34th year, the Peace Light from Bethlehem campaign was originally organized by the Austrian Broadcasting Company - ORF (Linz) - and was part of a large charitable relief mission - Light into Darkness, for children in need in Austria and abroad. Each year, a child from Upper Austria kindles a flame from the "Eternal Flame" from the Nativity Grotto in Bethlehem where Jesus was born. The light is carried in two blast proof miners lamps on an Austrian Airlines jet from Tel Aviv, Israel to Vienna, Austria from where it is distributed at a Service of Dedication to delegations from across Europe who take it back, with a message of Peace, to their own countries. Austrian Airlines then flies the miners lamps containing the Peace Light from Bethlehem to New York City. After landing at JFK Airport., the Peace Light is brought to Our Lady of the Skies Chapel where a special ceremony is held. This will take place on Saturday, December 11th. Scouts and Guides can then take the light on to other churches, hospitals, nursing homes, prisons, and places of public, cultural and political importance - to anybody that appreciates the significance of the "gift."

We will welcome the Peace Light here, at St. Ephrem, on Sunday, December 19th at the 10:00 a.m. Mass. Please join us we begin the fourth week of Advent in preparation for the birth of the Prince of Peace in our hearts. May we be a light, a sign of the Peace Light in our community.



The Peace Light will burn throughout the Christmas Season (January 9th). To learn more about the Peace Light visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nz2SF9BxHd0&t=299s>



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2022
12:00 NOON MASS
CLOSING LITURGY OF
OUR JUBILEE YEAR
followed by a light reception

A GALA RECEPTION
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2022

The El Caribe
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More Details to Follow!

**On Behalf of the Women and Men
Religious of Our Diocese, Thank You
for Your Amazing Generosity!**



Please give to those who have given a lifetime.



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Mass Intentions for the week of December 26, 2021

Due to the Omicron Variant, New York City is asking ALL TO WEAR a masks in indoor settings regardless of your vaccination status. Thank you for your cooperation and care for others. For the purpose of Contact Tracing, please continue to use the Reservation Form through our parish website or by calling the Rectory Office.

8:45 AM Mass, the Saturday 5:00 PM Mass and the Sunday, 10:00 AM Mass are being live streamed through our parish website. Please share and join us!

Saturday, December 25th

8:00 AM Theresa & Chanan
10:00 AM Eugenia Lepore
12 Noon George Watt
NO 5:00 PM Mass

Sunday, December 26th

8:00 AM For the Intentions Carlmele D'Alessio and Family
10:00 AM Anthony A. Cavalcante
12 Noon Thomas Basile
5:00 PM For the People of St. Ephrem

Monday, December 27th

7:00 AM Millicent Patterson
8:45 AM St. Ephrem Prayer Warrior

Tuesday, December 28th

7:00 AM Valerie Patterson
8:45 AM For the Intentions of Ann Elder

Wednesday, December 29th

7:00 AM Joseph & Mary Patterson
8:45 AM James, Frank & Dolores Carr

Thursday, December 30th

7:00 AM Millicent Patterson
8:45 AM Valerie F. Patterson

Friday, December 31st

7:00 AM Joseph & Mary Patterson
8:45 AM Millicent Patterson

Saturday, January 1st

8:45 AM Domenick Mazzone
5:00 PM Valerie F. Patterson
Joseph & Mary Patterson
Millicent Patterson

Sunday, January 2nd

8:00 AM For the Intentions Maria D'Alessio and Family
10:00 AM Geraldine Bonfiglio
12 Noon Elizabeth King
5:00 PM For the People of St. Ephrem

MEMORIALS

You can honor or remember a loved one by requesting a Mass intention, Bread & Wine, Altar Candles, Sanctuary Lamp, Flowers for The Tabernacle Altar, Blessed Mother Altar and Holy Family Altar. Please contact the rectory if interested.



Bread and Wine

In Memory of:

Anthony A. Cavalcante

Requested by Frank & JoAnn Spadaro



*The sick and the homebound of
St. Ephrem Parish Family
and our faithful departed loved ones*



**Mass Book Opened for
January 1, 2022—July 1, 2022**

**Requests may be made by email or
by dropping off your requests in
the Rectory.**

718.833.1010 or stephremrectory@aol.com


COVID-19 UPDATE OCTOBER 2021

Just a Gentle Reminder:

New York State and our Diocese has reinstated all to wear a mask in indoor settings due to the omicron variant regardless of your vaccination status. Thank you for your cooperation and care for others.

Social Distancing is still required in the Church. While there are no ropes, every other pew is a good guide for seating.





December 12, 2021	198 Envelopes	\$6,004.00
Second Collection	Religious Retirement	
	108 Envelopes	\$3,875.00
Immaculate Conception		
	107 Envelopes	\$1,883.00
We Share On-Line	43 Donors	\$2,025.38
Attendance	562	

835 Families Registered and Receive Envelopes

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

Thank you for those who mailed in your donation or signed up for online giving!

To learn more about ways to give, visit our parish web-



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SUSTAIN our parish offertory: Enroll in electronic giving by scanning the QR Code.
(Scroll down to Recurring Donation and click then follow directions to complete form)



Include St. Ephrem in your **ESTATE PLANNING**

Consider a **REASONABLE INCREASE** to your generous



How will our Parish Benefit?
St. Ephrem Parish Goal is:
\$104,198.00


You may notice that our parish goal has been reduced. This is 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 did not achieve our goal.

St. Ephrem Parish Goal	\$104,198.00
Number of Donors	165
Amount Pledged	\$96,190.00
Paid to Date	\$94,108.00

Thank You to all who have contributed!
WE ARE THE CHURCH, TOGETHER!
We are just \$8,818.00 short of achieving our goal!
Monies will be accepted through December.

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

As of	December 13, 2021
Parish Goal	\$1.25 Million
Number of Donors	249
Amount Pledged	\$1,372,612.64
Paid to Date	\$898,654.31
Percent of Goal	109%




Thank You for your Generosity!
Saint Ephrem, pray for us!

PARISH HAPPENINGS



Thank You!
Your generosity has helped to make Christmas brig.ht for so many from Hour Children (babies, children, teens, moms and households) and HeartShare (men and women).

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
FIRST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH



Adoration following the 8:45 a.m. Mass

In the event of a funeral, Adoration begins after the funeral.
Benediction takes place at 12:00 Noon.

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP FOOD PANTRY



We will be collecting non-perishable and non-expired food items on

Saturday and Sunday
January 22nd & 23rd

Thank you for your generosity!

PARISH HAPPENINGS



**Additional Synod
Listening Session**

Sunday, January 23, 2022
1:00 p.m. in Msgr. Kain Hall
Located in the School (Entrance 74th St.)

Help us prepare the space by Registering for the session at: <https://stephremparish-brooklyn.org/>

The Fundamental Question:

A synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, "journeys together." How is this "journeying together" happening today in your local Church? What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our "journeying together"? (PD, 26)



Mark Your Calendar!

Of course, these events are dependent on NO COVID Restrictions in place by the Diocese, City or State!



Watch the Bulletin for details.

Saturday, February 26, 2022
Mardi Gras

Following the 5:00 p.m. Mass

Friday, May 13, 2022
Radio Bingo

Details to Come!



Children's Faith Formation Classes

December/January Calendar:

December 22nd	4:00 p.m.– 5:00 p.m.	Church
December 29th	NO CLASS	
January 5th	4:00 p.m.	School
January 12th	4:00 p.m.	School
January 19th	4:00 p.m.	School
January 26th	4:00 p.m.	School



***First Penance and First Eucharist
Proximate Preparation***

Both the children preparing for First Holy Communion and First Penance in spring of 2022 and their parents will gather on Sunday Mornings at 11:00 am in Msgr. Kain Hall.

January 23, 2022 March 6, 2022
February 6, 2022 April 3, 2022

Families of the parish whose children attend other Catholic Schools or Faith Formation Programs but choose to receive the Sacraments at St. Ephrem should call or email S. Mary Ann to register for Proximate Preparation: 718.745.7486 or faithformation@stephremparish-brooklyn.org.

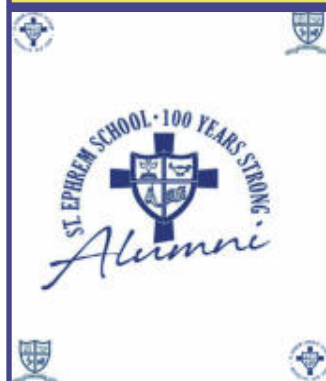


FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family. Pope Francis announced a special Year of the Family through June 26, 2022. While off from school, what are you doing with your family? This week is a great time to be with your family and reflect on the Holy Family – Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

“The family is called to join in daily prayer, to read the word of God and to share in Eucharistic communion, and thus to grow in love and become ever more fully a temple in which the Spirit dwells.” —Amoris Laetitia, 29

ST. EPHREM CATHOLIC ACADEMY NEWS!



CALLING ALL ALUM

St. Ephrem School's 100th anniversary is quickly approaching! We have some wonderful things planned including a reunion this spring. Scan the QR code to read all about it.



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