

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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Mrs. Michele James, *Business Manager*
Mr. Thomas Marchesiello, *Director of Music/Liturgy*
Mr. Craig Mercado, *Academy Principal*
Mrs. Lisa Pinsky, *Parish Secretary*

January 2, 2022
Feast of the Epiphany



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-kindle 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 2, 2022

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

Matthew 2: 1-12

Dear Parishioners:

This weekend’s readings are all about people from different cultures and tribes coming together to celebrate the Lord. In the first reading, Isaiah describes a caravan of nations gathering in the light of the Lord. In the second reading, Paul makes the case for salvation outside of the Jewish faith when he tells the Ephesians that *“Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.”*

This is a relatively pedestrian concept for modern Catholics, but for Christians in the years after Christ’s resurrection, this notion is radical. The special covenant between God and Abraham now extends to all nations, including those outside of the Hebrew faith. This isn’t something Paul proposes for the first time in his letter to the Ephesians. It begins the week Jesus is born, when the leaders of nations with no ethnic relation to Israel come and pay a tiny Hebrew boy homage.

The most important gift we can offer Christ—the gift that is richer than any gold, frankincense, or myrrh—is, of course, the wealth of our love and the fragrant readiness of suffering that this will inevitably entail. In the gifts that mystery: the myrrh of embalming, the frankincense that fragrancd the temple sacrifices and burned before the holy of holies, the gold of precious value the magi go home by another route when they realize that they are being manipulated by hypocrisy and jealous power-seeking. It is, Matthew suggests, often the strangers and outsiders or the poor or those who work for justice—who reveal to us, as individuals and as nations, how and what we should be seeking and how to come home to this truth.

May this New Year find us with eyes open, hearts prepared and hands outstretched. Blessings in 2022 along with health and safety for all.

In the Good Shepherd,



Sunday, January 2, 2022 Special Second Collection for the Midwest

We have all seen the painful images of devastation and heard of the deaths caused by the most recent tornadoes in the Midwest. Our hearts and prayers go out to all those affected by this terrible disaster.

In an effort to give aid and support to our brothers and sisters in need in Midwest, I ask that every parish in the Diocese take up a voluntary second collection.

Most Reverend Robert J. Brennan

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

The Work of Christmas

**When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with
their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.**

*Howard Thurman
Mentor to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*



PEACE LIGHT OF BETHLEHEM

DID YOU KNOW?



The Peace Light first came to the United States in December 2001. In our darkest days after 9/11/2001, the Austrian Broadcasting Company said the United States needed this light from Bethlehem. The Peace Light was not allowed to fly to the United States because of precautions after the terrorists attacks. The Bethlehem Peace Flight flew into Canada and traveled by train to New York City. The woman who drove that train twenty years ago has come every December since to Kennedy Airport to welcome the Peace Light.

This year, an 80 year old Scout drove from New York to Kentucky to deliver this light of hope and peace. The Bethlehem Peace Light continues to be a symbol of hope and peace for many throughout the world. Let us continue to carry that light within us as we continue through the dark days of winter.

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>

ST. EPHREM'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY



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

Strickland Avenue, Brooklyn
 More Details to Follow!



Watch the Bulletin for Details!
Week of February 28th - March 4th
Our Deanery will be the site
for the Relic
of Blessed Carlo Acutis.

We will be having mass and other opportunities to gather for prayer.

Feast of the Epiphany House Blessing

The Epiphany house blessing is a popular custom. Using blessed chalk (*see the prayer of blessing below*), many families mark above the entrance door of their homes with the year and with the inscription CMB, the initials of the traditional names of the Magi:

Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar
 (example: **20 + C + M + B + 22**).

The inscription also stands for *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, Latin for "Christ, bless this house."

Blessing of Chalk:

O God of heaven and earth, we ask for your blessing on this chalk, to make it helpful to us. Grant that we who use it in faith to inscribe upon the entrance of our home may enjoy physical health and spiritual protection. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

House Blessing:

Christ, bless this house, and all who live within it. Let all who visit our home this year rejoice to find you dwelling among us. May we seek and serve you, Jesus, in everyone we meet, forever and ever. Amen.



Mass Intentions for the week of January 2, 2022

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, 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

Monday, January 3rd

7:00 AM Valerie F. Patterson

8:45 AM John Carr

Tuesday, January 4th

7:00 AM Joseph & Mary Patterson

8:45 AM Paul Murphy (Anniversary)

Wednesday, January 5th

7:00 AM Therese Offitto

8:45 AM Laura S. Manning

Thursday, January 6th

7:00 AM Millicent Patterson

8:45 AM Valerie F. Patterson

Friday, January 7th

7:00 AM Joseph & Mary Patterson

8:45 AM Millicent Patterson

Saturday, January 8th

8:45 AM Angela Mazzone

5:00 PM Laura S. Manning

Eammon Hamilton

Valerie F. Patterson

Joseph & Mary Patterson

Millicent Patterson

Sunday, January 9th

8:00 AM Laretta Cannariato

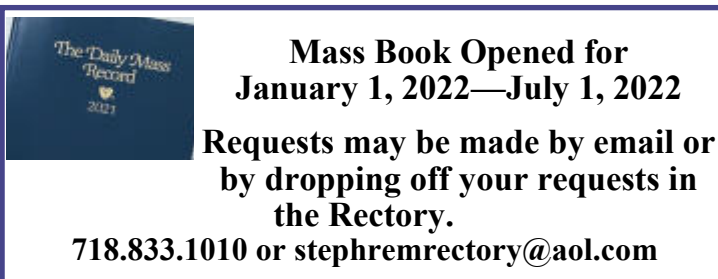
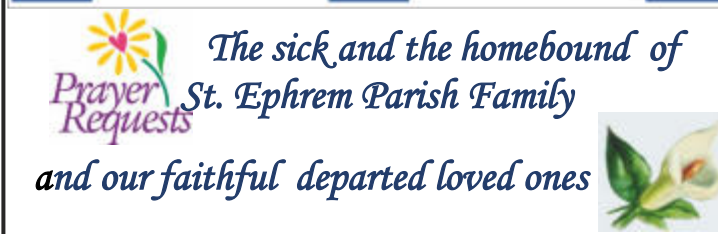
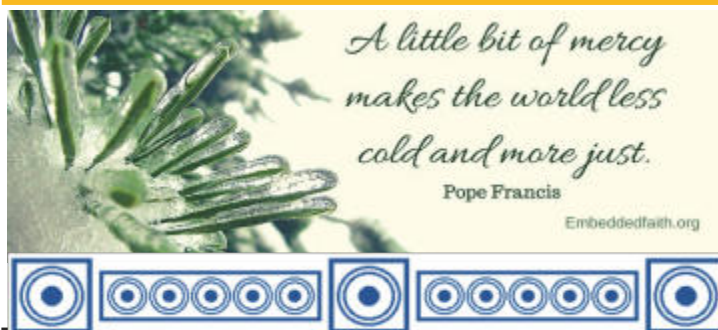
10:00 AM Josephine & Frank Saccente

12 Noon Donna Carlisle

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.



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 19, 2021 205 Envelopes \$7,182.00
Second Collection Christmas Gift
 145 Envelopes \$18,900.00

We Share On-Line Not available at printing
Attendance 424

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 website website at: www.stephremparish-brooklyn.org




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CONNECT with us on **FACEBOOK** by searching and 'liking':
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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)



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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	167
Amount Pledged	\$96,607.00
Paid to Date	\$94,707.00


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.

PARISH HAPPENINGS



Thank You!
 Your generosity has helped to make Christmas bright 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.

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!



**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 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.

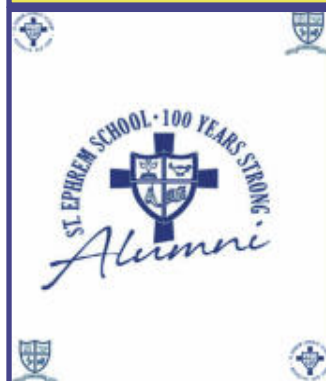


Follow the Christmas Star!

On January 6th we celebrate the visit of the three wise men to the Baby Jesus. The feast is called the Epiphany, a word that means "to reveal." The wise men experienced the presence of God that day and bowed down to worship him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. What are the different ways God has revealed himself to you in people, places, and things?

Maybe it happened when you were praying or receiving the Eucharist. Maybe it happened at a time of indecision, when you suddenly felt God was leading you in a different direction. Maybe it happened when you found yourself in a state of awe over the beauty of nature or the wonder of creation.

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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