

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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April 3, 2022

Fifth Sunday of Lent



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.



Fifth Sunday of Lent

***"Let the one among you who is without sin
be the first to throw a stone at her."***

John 8:1-11

Dear Parishioners:

In today's gospel, we hear that Jesus went off to pray alone, then returned and was swarmed by those who wanted to hear him speak. ***"So he was left alone with the women before him. Then Jesus straightened up and said to her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you? She replied, 'No one, sir.'"*** In the midst of this bout of celebrity, the Pharisees, already uncomfortable with what Jesus is doing in the Jewish community, try to use theatrical punishment to turn the mood. They're trying to catch him in a lie and make him resort to violence. He does neither of these things. Instead, he ignores them, and when annoyed, he flips their judgement back on them. It's not an extremely deft moment of rhetoric, but a way to completely diffuse the tension. And what's the result? A sinner repents. The women who committed adultery and was being manipulated by social shame in order to make a point, who could have been violently harmed, walks away a better person.

Sometimes, especially as we read and pray the Scriptures reflectively, we can allow our imagination to lead us deeper into the heart of Jesus, into his human memory and experience. Reflecting on this gospel, might we wonder if, on that temple morning, he remembered his own mother: the fear (holy yet human) she must have experienced, the gossip she probably endured about her pregnancy. And did Jesus also remember the gentle and just man named Joseph who would not cast a stone?

Far away from the temple, in our own experience, are we tempted to use the sins of others to mask our own self-righteousness, our personal failures and limitations? What attitude do we show to those who believe they have the right to arbitrarily dispense death by war, capital punishment, euthanasia, abortion, or subtle defamation? Are we brave enough to oppose their ethic, in personal encounter or by the ballot box? Do we pray that they will read their own hearts and change them? And are some of us still most condemnatory about those who sin against the two commandments that seem to be written larger than the other eight in our Christian troubles because they are concerned with things sexual? What we need to heap up in our own hearts and in our church is compassion that heals, not stones that hurt.

Today at the 12:00 Noon Mass we are celebrating the

third Scrutiny with Sarah and Andy. We hear of the death of Lazarus and Jesus' returning to Bethany to Mary and Martha. Jesus goes to the tomb of Lazarus and calls for him to, ***"Come forth!"*** Lazarus, bound in burial bands exits the tomb. Jesus then commands others to ***"Unbind him!"*** We pray not only for Sarah and Andy but for ourselves to recognize what are the things in our life that bind us; that keep us from truly following in Jesus' footsteps—in his love.

Thank you to all who participated in the Bay Ridge St. Patrick Day Parade. It was so great to see so many friends along the way and to celebrate Irish heritage!

St. Ephrem is hosting Radio Bingo once again! I hope you will be able to participate; by buying a ticket or reserving a table, or if you like to donate a gift, we have a wish list on Amazon (St. Ephrem Radio Bingo 2022). Thank you in advance for all your support and participation.

In the Good Shepherd,

Fr. John J. O'Connell



**Annual Catholic
Appeal 2022**
DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

St. Ephrem Parish Goal is \$100,198.00

These funds support ministries and programs in our diocese. These include: Retired Priests, Seminarians, Catholic Charities, Catholic Migration, Youth Ministry, Hospital Chaplaincy, School Chaplaincy, Respect Life and Faith Formation, Catholic Schools and Scholarships.

No funds from the Annual Catholic Appeal are ever used for legal fees or settlements.

All funds received over our assigned goal will be returned to our parish.

Ordinarily, we average 175-180 donors each year. We have 835 parish families receiving envelopes. Imagine if each family contributed something to the Annual Catholic Appeal. Will you be counted in that number?

Received as of March 21, 2022

Donors 56

Pledged \$42,630.00

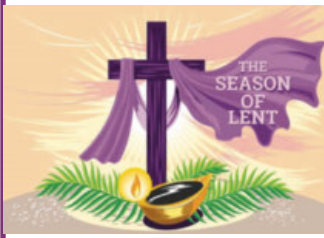
Paid \$21,955.00

I am forever grateful to all who gave in last year's Appeal. Today I humbly ask you to consider giving to the 2022 Annual Catholic Appeal.

To see Bishop Brennan's Message go to:

<https://catholicfoundationbq.org/ACAVideo/>

Fr. John J. O'Connell



**The Parish Family of
St. Ephrem
Invites You to Join Us
on the
Sacred Lenten Journey.**

***Fridays of Lent
Following the 8:45 am Mass
7:00 p.m.
(in church & livestream)***



Holy Week

**Passion (Palm) Sunday
Saturday, April 9th at 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 10th at
8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:00 Noon & 5:00 pm
(Palm will be distributed at Mass)**



**Monday, April 11th
Reconciliation Monday
2:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.
6:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.**



**Chrism Mass
Tuesday, April 12th at 7:30 p.m.
Can be viewed via Cable at NETTV**



***Holy Thursday, Good Friday
and Holy Saturday***

(No Morning Masses) Morning Prayer 9:00 a.m.



***Details for the Triduum (Mass of the Lord's Supper,
Passion of the Lord, Easter Vigil and Easter
Sunday) are available in On-Line Bulletin and will
be in next week's print Bulletin.***

2022 Lucky March Calendar Raffle Winners

March 16th	Joe Gallagher	\$50
March 17th	Margaret Rose Rizza	\$200
March 18th	Celeste Mary Ryan	\$75
March 19th	Theresa Spoto	\$200
March 20th	Denise & John Campbell	\$100
March 21st	Richard Baron	\$50
March 22nd	Joann DiMeglio	\$50
March 23rd	Rich & Sera Barry	\$50
March 24th	Carmela Montanile	\$50
March 25th	Madeline DiGiacomo	\$75
March 26th	Carolyn DeLuca	\$50
March 27th	Greg & Janet Warnock	\$100
March 28th	Maureen Haggerty	\$50
March 29th	Sr. Mary Sivillo, CSJ	\$50
March 30th	Richard McLaughlin	\$50
March 31st	Lisa Bonilla	\$1,000

**Thank You to All Who Have
Participated in Our
March Calendar Raffle!**



Mass Intentions for the week of April 3, 2022

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!

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.

8:45 AM	<u>Saturday, April 2nd</u> Domenico Mazzone
5:00 PM	Louis DiPretoro Helen & Edward Ryan Nancy D'Amato For the Conversion of sinners John Diana Ramesh Chandar Gujral
8:00 AM	<u>Sunday, April 3rd</u> Florinda Arnao
10:00 AM	Louis Offitto, Sr.
12 Noon	Andrea LaRocca
5:00 PM	For the People of St. Ephrem
7:00 AM	<u>Monday, April 4th</u> In Appreciation of Andy Sichenze
8:45 AM	Rev. Joe Giordano
7:00 AM	<u>Tuesday, April 5th</u> Pat Oliver
8:45 AM	Tony Grbic, Mike & Danica Vucina
7:00 AM	<u>Wednesday, April 6th</u> Pat Oliver
8:45 AM	Valerie F. Patterson
7:00 AM	<u>Thursday, April 7th</u> Pat Oliver
8:45 AM	James Francis Ryan
7:00 AM	<u>Friday, April 8th</u> Theresa Murray
8:45 AM	Sylvia Razzano
8:45 AM	<u>Saturday, April 9th</u> Matthew O'Connor
5:00 PM	Luigi Mazza Josephine Henry Ruth Larsen Frances Gambino Antonina LoFaso
8:00 AM	<u>Sunday, April 10th</u> Lauretta Cannariato
10:00 AM	Louis Bonfiglio
12 Noon	Joseph A. Graffagnino
5:00 PM	For the People of St. Ephrem



**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

Thank You!



*The sick and the homebound of
St. Ephrem Parish Family*

and our faithful departed loved ones



**CHECK OUT THE ON-LINE BULLETIN
FOR THE FULL VERSION FOR THE WEEK!**

<https://stephremparish-brooklyn.org/bulletins>

For Lenten Resources visit:

<https://stephremparish-brooklyn.org/Lent>

COVID-19 UPDATE FEBRUARY 28, 2022

The Mask Mandate regarding gatherings indoors has been lifted by the Governor.

We ask you to keep in mind those in our parish family who may be more vulnerable. Consider the dear neighbor.

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





March 27, 2022 206 Envelopes \$7,254.00

Second Collection Catholic Relief Services
122 Envelopes \$2,356.00

We Share 43 Donors \$1,397.43
Catholic Relief Services 3 Donors \$ 51.19

Attendance 614

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 at: www.stephremparish-brooklyn.org

Click on 'Giving' then scroll to 'Donation.'

Thank you for your generosity to St. Ephrem Parish!

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

As of	March 7, 2022
Parish Goal	\$1.25 Million
Number of Donors	249
Amount Pledged	\$1,372,612.64
Paid to Date	\$947,004.31
Percent of Goal	109%



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



Annual Catholic Appeal 2022
DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

Respond in Faith, Hope & Charity



ST. EPHREM R.C. CHURCH PARISH STEWARDSHIP

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

ST. EPHREM CATHOLIC CHURCH DYKER HEIGHTS.

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 level of offertory support.

PARISH HAPPENINGS

Eucharistic Adoration will not take place in March and April. Stations of the Cross will take place immediately after 8:45 am Mass.

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP FOOD PANTRY

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

**Saturday and Sunday
April 23rd & 24th**

Thank you for your generosity!



Virtual Synod

Listening Session!

Scan the Code to access the survey on-line or visit:

<https://bit.ly/3HFAcTs>.

The diocese hopes to hear from you!



***Let us be renewed by God's mercy ...
and let us become agents of this mercy,
channels through which God
can water the earth, protect all creation
and make justice and peace flourish.***

Pope Francis - Easter Message 2013

Church of St. Ephrem



Radio BINGO

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Friday, May 13, 2022
7:00 PM
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Please make reservations by May 9th
No Tickets will be sold at the door


Prizes
50/50 Raffle
Basket Raffles

Want to help us? You can purchase an item from our wish list. Thank You!
St. Ephrem Radio Bingo 2022



This week we celebrate the feast day of St. Isidore of Seville who is often associated with the internet. He was a bishop and a scholar who wrote a huge encyclopedia. This collection was used as a textbook for nine centuries. He also invented the period, comma, and colon! His encyclopedia was the wikipedia of the ancient world!

This week, expand your knowledge! Look up something about a saint, Lent, the Church, etc. and learn. Pray for the intercession of St. Isidore to use the internet to expand our knowledge and bring people closer to God.



ST. EPHREM CATHOLIC ACADEMY NEWS!

2022 SPRING GALA VIRTUAL AUCTION FRIDAY, APRIL 29TH

Help to make this event a huge success by donating items for the Auction.

Ways to donate:

Amazon Wish List at:

<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/27IYWN8OV5I41>

Donate Amazon Gift Cards any denomination

Gift Certificate or Service
for Neighborhood Business

Donations accepted through March 18th

Questions—contact: haa@stephremschool.org



Children's Faith Formation Classes

March/April Calendar:

April 6th	4:00 pm	School
April 13th	Holy Week No Class	
April 20th	Easter Break No Class	
April 27th	4:00 pm	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.

April 3, 2022

Confirmation Fall 2022

Proximate Preparation Sunday Gatherings

Sunday, March 27th

April 3rd, May 1st & 15th

10:00 a.m. Mass followed by 11:00 a.m. Gathering

Called to Mercy Modules

Module 1	Due March 31st
Module 2	Due April 30th
Module 3	Due April 30th

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