

St. Bartholomew's Church



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15 Palmer Road
Yonkers • New York 10701

www.saintbartsparish.org



Rev. Raphael Ezeh, MSP, *Pastor*
Rev. Anthony Mbanefo, MSP, *Parochial Vicar*
Deacon Robert A. Clemens
Cheryl Duda, *Religious Education Coordinator*
Erika Podoprigora, *Organist and Music Director*

Rectory/Parish Office : (914) 965-0566
Religious Education Office: (914) 476-6676

Sunday Masses: 5:00 p.m. on Saturday;
8:30, 10:00, 11:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Sunday

Weekday Masses: 7:00 a.m. & 9:00 a.m. Monday through Friday;
9:00 a.m. Saturday

Confessions: Saturdays 4:00 to 4:45 p.m.

Parish Membership: Every family and single adult to be considered active members of St. Bartholomew's Parish must be properly registered in the parish, receiving and regularly using the parish weekly donation envelopes. Only in this way can the parish issue documents attesting to parish membership and Catholic practice, e.g. a letter to be a Godparent or Sponsor. New parishioners are requested to visit the parish office.

Sick & Shut-ins: The priests are available to administer the Sacraments to those who are unable to come to Church. The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is part of the healing ministry of the Church, and should be received early in an illness or before a serious operation.

Baptisms: Please call the parish office to make arrangements.

Marriages: In order to provide sufficient time for the Marriage Preparation Course, please call the parish office and ask to speak with the pastor at least six months in advance of the wedding.

Parish Council: Meets on the Monday evening after the third Sunday of the month. Chairperson: Richard Califano

Holy Name Society: Meets on the Monday evening after the second Sunday of the month. President, Dan Panik

Rosary Altar Society: Meets on the Monday evening after the first Sunday of the month. Co-Presidents, Carolyn Mesler, Frances Raffa

Bereavement Ministry: For information call (914) 965-0566,
Tina Falcone

Trustees: Catherine Hickey, Aureo Pinto

Mission Statement: We, the members of St. Bartholomew's Parish, will strive to work for a vibrant and loving Eucharistic community. In the spirit of Christ, we commit ourselves to the service of humanity - in our parish, neighborhood, archdiocese and the universal Church. We will strive to enrich our community spiritually, pastorally and socially, and to be a family of worship and prayer for all.

SCRIPTURAL REFLECTION: REMAIN IN MY LOVE

There is a survey on almost everything nowadays. Some are very insightful and vital and some are less than that. I wonder if there is any survey that shows how many people on earth feel unloved. The result might surprise many of us – or probably won't – since each of us most probably have come across a number of people who felt or feel unloved, that is, apart from the ones we read about or see in the news. More surprising might be the number of Christians who feel unloved; and closer to home - Catholics who feel unloved. Now consider the vast number, probably all of us on earth, who feel that we are not nearly loved as we should be or as we would like to be loved.

So, what's the point? Paul's Letter to the Hebrews informs us that "In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us through His Son" (1:1-2). Jesus is the full revelation of God's identity and qualities. And now, because of Christ's coming, we know that God is Love! (today's second reading - 1 John 4:8). In the Gospel this reality takes on a somewhat incredulous meaning. Jesus tells His disciples that He loves them as the Father loves Him. In His own words, "As the Father loves Me, so I also love you." How many times have we heard this passage and never stopped to think how live-changing this is supposed to be for us, God's children, and especially for those of us who follow Christ.

This week I want to invite us to stop and think or reflect on the enormity of Christ's point. He meant what He was saying. Let's start by imagining God's love for His Only Begotten Son! It must be an extraordinary love. It has to be mindboggling to say the least. Now we move to the next level – imagining that God loves us with the same love, same intensity! Yep! That's what Jesus was saying to them and is saying to you and me: God loves me the same way, with the same love. Remember, Jesus said that He and the Father are ONE. So, when He says He loves us as the Father loves Him, the meaning should not be lost on us.

This can be challenging to us, mere mortals. It can become overwhelming and almost incomprehensible. When adoptive parents have blood kids of their own, they may be conscious of and struggle to love both equally and still not succeed. But Jesus tells us that Our Father loves us, His adopted children, as much as He loves His Beloved Son.

This should be a game changer for us. But that's if we are able to grasp and internalize this beautiful good news. Jesus then ends by telling His disciples and us, "Remain in My love" (John 15:9). In other words, savor, bask, glory in My love, let My love saturate you, enfold you, etc. What could be more beautiful and fulfilling than that? Sadly, we sit atop a gold mine and live in want; some of us wallow in poverty, and worse still, some in abject poverty.

May we rise and take possession of our wealth and live like the princes and princesses that we are. Amen.

Today, we pay tribute to our beloved mothers, living and deceased, those wonderful ladies in our lives, families, churches, communities who, like our Heavenly Father, love us immensely. We pay tribute to all those who, though not mothers in the strict sense, love us with true and motherly passion. May your love wells never run dry. May you always bask in God's love, now and to eternity. Amen.

May the souls of our deceased mothers and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

~ Father Raphael Ezeh, MSP

PARISH NEWS



May God bless all the mothers of our Parish on this very special day! In this month of May, set aside for a special devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Mother; we ask for her intercession and protection for all mothers.

We love you all!

The **ALTAR FLOWERS** are donated this week in loving memory of Frances Nanoia & Angelina Brusco by Louis and Angela Brusco.



The **ALTAR BREAD & WINE, ALTAR CANDLES, and SANCTUARY LAMP** for this week have been donated in loving memory of Frances Nanoia & Angelina Brusco by Louis and Angela Brusco.

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING:

This Monday, May 11th, the **Holy Name Society** attend Holy Mass at 7 p.m., which will be followed by a dinner in the McManus Parish Center. Contact Tom Hoffman on 476-7976 for details.



HOLY NAME SOCIETY



CHILDREN'S MASS: Please make it a point to bring your child to our Children's Mass next Sunday and the rest of the Sundays in May. The 10 a.m. Mass will focus on our children. The Parish Children's Choir will sing at the Mass. The children are encouraged to sit together with other children at a designated place during the Mass.

MOTHER'S DAY NOVENA MASSES: This Sunday, May 10th, is Mother's Day. Our Parish will have a Novena of Masses for all our mothers – living and deceased. The Novena of Masses will begin today and finish on Monday, May 18th.



There are cards and/or envelopes at the back of the church. If you want your mother, mother-in-law or any mother remembered in the Novena of Masses, please write out the envelope with your donation and bring it to the Parish Office during the week.

FIRST COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION CLASSES



Register **now** for next year's Religious Education program. Children in public school who will be entering First Grade through High School in September are eligible for these classes. Evening classes

are available to accommodate the children of working parents. Besides grade level classes, instruction prepares children for Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation. Call Cheryl Duda (476-6676) for more information.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Confirmation
Congratulations

May 3rd.

Itzel Ahoqui	Kayla Mulvaney-Cherico
Reimond Batac	Dominic Nicolo
Angleina Cooke	Kurt Nuguid
Amanda Cuevas	Isabella Piarulli
Emily Figueroa	Anthony Pires
Charlie Guachichullca	Fatima Valdovinos
James Medori	Alexander Velez
Paulina Minasi	Sean Wasylenko
Anissa Molina	Brandon Wong

Congratulations to the 18 children who were sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation here at St. Bartholomew's Church by Bishop Gerald T. Walsh last Sunday,

We thank God for these children and ask all our parishioners to pray that the graces they have received from the Sacrament of Confirmation be used for their salvation and the salvation of all.

WEDDING JUBILEE MASS & CELEBRATION

St. Bartholomew's couples who are celebrating their **25th or 50th Wedding Anniversary** anytime this year (2015) are invited to attend the 11:30 a.m. Mass on June 14th. They will be blessed and honored during the Mass which will be followed by a Reception in the McManus Parish Center. Please call the Rectory to register and tell us how many guests you might be expecting at the Reception.



PLAN ON ATTENDING THESE PARISH FUNCTIONS

- ◆ Family Bingo on Friday, May 15th
- ◆ Parish Picnic on Sunday, June 28th, at 12 noon at St. Joseph's Seminary

The **YOUTH GROUP** meets on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month immediately following the 5 p.m. Mass in the school building. They will meet next Sunday, May 17th. All youths age 13 and up are invited.

MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA: Held after the 9 a.m. Mass on Mondays.

EUCCHARISTIC DEVOTION: Held the First Friday of every month at 1 p.m. Please join us when you are able.

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION: Held the First Saturday of every month at 3 p.m. All are encouraged to participate.

RECITATION OF THE ROSARY: Join your fellow parishioners in praying the Rosary after the 9 a.m. Mass on weekdays and Saturdays.

You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving.

~ Amy Carmichael

✠ **STEWARDSHIP** ✠
What shall I render unto the Lord
for all his benefits to me?

TITHING - GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING
Last Weekend's Contribution Comparison

	5/4/14	5/3/15	Difference
Adults	\$6,861.25	\$6,136.00	-\$ 725.25
Children	\$ 51.90	\$ 82.50	+\$ 30.60
Total	\$6,913.15	\$6,218.50	-\$ 694.65

The Collection in support of our Buildings & Grounds totaled \$1,361.15

***"WHAT WE HAVE DONE FOR OURSELVES ALONE
DIES WITH US; WHAT WE HAVE DONE FOR OTHERS
AND THE WORLD REMAINS AND IS IMMORTAL."***

~ Albert Pike




Please pray for all the sick & the homebound members of our Parish, especially Ethel Thomas, Aldina Pereira, Rebecca Conroy, Andy DeFabritis, Maria Marte, Rosalie Heit, Florence B. Swetz, Clare Yaskovic, Deacon James Byrnes, Andrea Objay, Carmen Torres, Frank Marra, Deacon Patrick Troy, Josephine Apuzzo, Gary Roth, Joyann Allan, Lois Burton, Mary DeStefano, Mark Cianfaglione, Shawn Colon, Margaret Maccia, Nicole Ryan Betancourt, Anthony Spinner, Audrey Falcone, Kathleen Hayes, Marge Muraik, Nicole Pisani-Frame, Louis Petruolo, Cynthia Swiatkowitz, Jimmy Maimone, Roseanne Mercandetti, Louis Brusco, Josephine Daniele, Jennifer Dorsey, Valerie Riccardi, Fatima Panik, Marian Fletcher, Anna Bonacci, Minerva Hernandez, Paula Parente, Bridget O'Malley, Gerald Mazzerese, Jr., Patricia Keane, Carol Stola, Karen Aprea, Stephen Sarich, Neil Cawley, Barbara McCormack, Josephine Lehotyak, Lawrence Girsch, Fran Romano, Joe Forlini, Rosemarie Petti, Marie Murtha, Mary Walsh, Natalie Marrero, Richard Meyers, Carlo Gentile, Angelo Gianfrancesco, Vince Delgado, Charles Wighton, Michael Tomanelli, Steven Colon, Louis Loscalzo, Gina Obalde, Ann Lackner, Ariella Castillo, Brian Detz, John Marietti, Dominick Gravino, Angelica Blanco, Joseph Melillo, Gail Chappory, Rev. Anthony Bassey, MSP, and Agnes Masterson.

GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Couples celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary anytime during 2015 are invited to attend the Annual Golden Wedding Jubilee Mass with Cardinal Dolan at the Cathedral of St. Patrick, Saturday, June 20th or Sunday, June 21st, at 2 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Please contact your Parish Office for registration. **The closing date to register for the Mass is Tuesday, May 19th.** This event is sponsored by the Family Life + Respect Life Office of the Archdiocese of New York.

MAY 10, 2015

Mass  for the
Intentions Week

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Saturday, May 9 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Anna Baumeister +

Sunday, May 10

8:30 AM Ethel Castagnozzi +

10:00 AM Frances Nanoia & Angelina Brusco +

11:30 AM Novena for Our Living & Deceased Mothers

5:00 PM Dorothy Karol +

Monday, May 11

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM Novena for Our Living & Deceased Mothers

9:00 AM Deceased Members of Swetz Family

Tuesday, May 12

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM Novena for Our Living & Deceased Mothers

9:00 AM Margaret Pezzente +

Wednesday, May 13

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM Novena for Our Living & Deceased Mothers

9:00 AM Eduviges Munguia +

7:30 PM Jason Etue (living)

Thursday, May 14

Ascension of the Lord

7:00 AM Novena for Our Living & Deceased Mothers
Rev. Anthony Ita Basse, MSP (living)

9:00 AM Marcello Barcello +

12:00 Noon John Palermo +

7:30 PM Daniel DeRosa +

Friday, May 15

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM Novena for Our Living & Deceased Mothers

9:00 AM Gene & John DelBene +

Saturday, May 16

Easter Weekday

9:00 AM Novena for Our Living & Deceased Mothers

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Saturday, May 16 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Novena for Our Living & Deceased Mothers

Sunday, May 17

8:30 AM Robert Liddell +

10:00 AM Carole Ferraro+

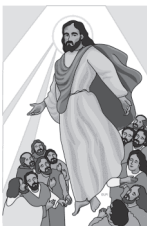
11:30 AM Frank & Carmela Legio +

5:00 PM Theresa Fontanello +

MAY 10, 2015

ASCENSION THURSDAY (May 14th)

The fortieth day after Easter Sunday, commemorates the Ascension of Christ into heaven, according to Mark 16:19, Luke 24:51, and Acts 1:2.



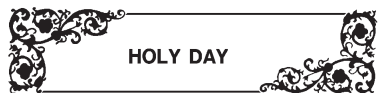
In the Eastern Church this feast was known as *analepsis*, the taking up, and also as the *episozomene*, the salvation, denoting that by ascending into His glory Christ completed the work of our redemption. The terms used in the West, *ascensio* and, occasionally, *ascensa*, signify that Christ was raised up by His own powers. Tradition designates Mount Olivet near Bethany as the place where Christ left the earth. The feast falls on Thursday. It is one of the Ecumenical feasts ranking with the feasts of the Passion, of Easter, and of Pentecost among the most solemn in the calendar, has a vigil and, since the fifteenth century, an octave which is set apart for a novena of preparation for Pentecost, in accordance with the directions of Leo XIII.

Although the place of the Ascension is not distinctly stated, it would appear from the Acts that it was Mount Olivet. Since after the Ascension, the disciples are described as returning to Jerusalem from the mount that is called *Olivet*, which is near Jerusalem, within a Sabbath day's journey. Tradition has consecrated this site as the Mount of Ascension and Christian piety has memorialized the event by erecting over the site a basilica. St. Helena built the first memorial, which was destroyed by the Persians in 614, rebuilt in the eighth century, to be destroyed again, but rebuilt a second time by the crusaders. This the Moslems also destroyed, leaving only the octagonal structure which encloses the stone said to bear the imprint of the feet of Christ, that is now used as an oratory.

Not only is the fact of the Ascension related in the passages of Scripture cited above, but it is also elsewhere predicted and spoken of as an established fact. Thus, in John 6:63, Christ asks the Jews: "If then you shall see the son of Man ascend up where He was before?" and 20:17, He says to Mary Magdalene: "Do not touch Me, for I am not yet ascended to My Father, but go to My brethren, and say to them: I ascend to My Father and to your Father, to My God and to your God." Again, in Ephesians 4:8-10, and in Timothy 3:16, the Ascension of Christ is spoken of as an accepted fact.

The language used by the Evangelists to describe the Ascension must be interpreted according to usage. To say that He was taken up or that He ascended does not necessarily imply that they locate heaven directly above the earth; no more than the words "sitteth on the right hand of God" mean that this is His actual posture. In disappearing from their view "He was raised up and a cloud received Him out of their sight" (Acts 1:9), and entering into glory He dwells with the Father in the honor and power denoted by the scripture phrase.

(Catholic Encyclopedia)



ASCENSION THURSDAY MASS TIMES: This Thursday, May 14th, we celebrate the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord, a Holy Day of Obligation. The Mass schedule will be as follows:

Wednesday, May 13th, at 7:30 p.m.; and **Ascension Thursday**, May 14th, at 7 a.m., 9 a.m., 12 Noon & 7:30 p.m.

Please note that the Parish office will be closed Thursday, May 14th, for Ascension Thursday.