

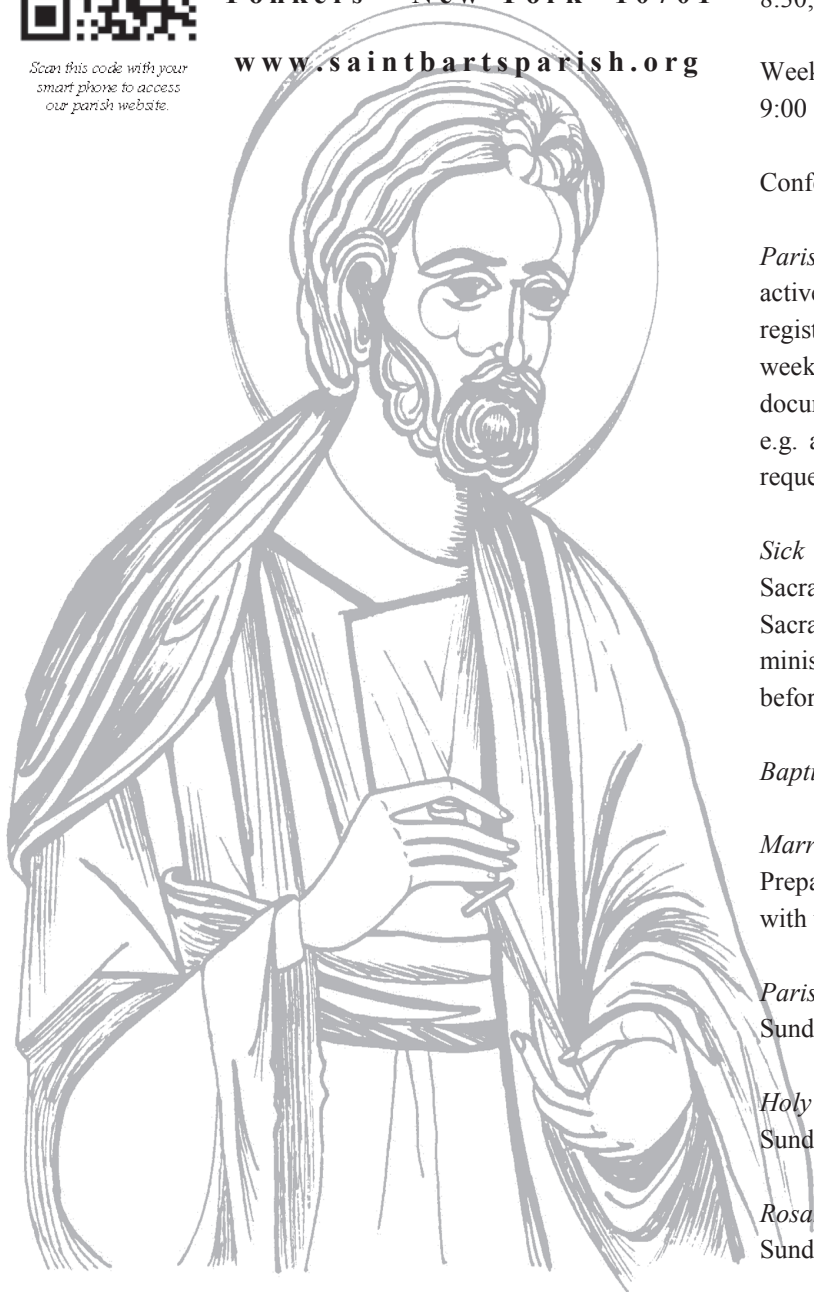
St. Bartholomew's Church



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15 Palmer Road
Yonkers • New York 10701

www.saintbartsparish.org



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.

Rev. Raphael Ezeh, MSP, *Pastor*
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



SERVICE WITH GRATITUDE

In today's Gospel Jesus visited the home of Simon and Andrew, his brother. Simon's mother-in-law was sick and they spoke to Him about her. With compassion, He healed her. As soon as she was healed, she got up, prepared a meal and served them. So, did Jesus heal her so she could do just that? Was Jesus simply hungry and needed free food? Was Peter missing his in-law's uniquely delicious dishes? Was that why he spoke to Jesus about her?

Well, we may never know the real answers to these questions, and they probably don't matter that much. For one, many grandmothers and in-laws who cook well, love to feed family members any chance they get. One important thing I gleaned from this passage is that Simon's mother-in-law seemed to enjoy serving Jesus and His bunch of followers. As soon as she was healed, without any excuses (she could have come up with many), she waited on them. I think that she did so more out of gratitude than anything else. I'd choose to serve others than to be sick like a dog any day!

So, the challenge and lesson for us here is to assess how we show our own gratitude for all the things God has done and continues to do for us. One way to show our gratitude is through service. How often do we hear of people who truly feel they have been blessed and want to give back to their community? That's social work. For those who believe in God, it's not social work, but works of faith and giving back to God Who has blessed us so much. So, how are you doing at giving back to God and your brothers and sisters out of gratitude?

One more point, this reading has a lot of personal touches to it, and I love it. I'm constantly inspired that Jesus was always visiting people's homes and eating with them. Apart from today's gospel, remember Mary and Martha, Lazarus' sisters and how Jesus frequented their home (Luke 10:38-42). Jesus was very close to the people He came to minister to. Again, that inspires my attitude to parish ministry. I believe in visiting each of you at home. I don't and won't mind how organized or disorganized, or how big or small your home is. I want to visit every family – and I mean every family. I can't heal your sick, but Jesus can, and together, we'll pray to Him. I can't solve your problems (maybe one or two), but we can talk about them and pray about them. I know I can offer encouragement, share your joys and sorrows, play with the kids and encourage them toward the right path, etc. And now that Fr. Anthony, our associate pastor, is here, I can do so even more. And he might love it, too. Again, each priest has his own gifts.

Blessings and God's healing love be with you. Amen.

~ Father Raphael Ezeh, MSP

WELCOME FATHER ANTHONY!

We happily welcome our new Associate Pastor, Fr. Anthony Mbanefo, MSP, to our parish.



PARISH NEWS



HOLY NAME SOCIETY

MEETING: This Monday, February 9th, the Holy Name Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the McManus Parish Center. All men of the Parish are invited to attend.

CHILDREN'S MASS: Please make it a point to bring your child to our Children's Mass for the next two Sundays in February. The 10 a.m. Mass will focus on our children. The Parish Children's Choir will sing the Mass. The children are encouraged to sit together during the Mass.



OPENING OF THE 2016 MASS BOOK



The Mass Book for 2016 will open on **Ash Wednesday, February 18th**. You may come to the Rectory Office immediately following the Masses at 9 a.m. and 12 noon to have Masses offered for yourself and for your loved ones, whether living or deceased.

You will have the added opportunity to book Masses on Saturday evening, February 28th following the 5 p.m. Mass and Sunday, March 1st, following the 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. Masses.

PARENTS' VALENTINE'S DAY BLESSING



God of all love,
 You brought us together as man and woman
 So that we might love each other
 And show Your love to the world through the gift
 Of the child(ren) You have given us.
 Help us to be loving and kind to one another
 Each day of our lives.
 Bless our child(ren) with Your love in our home
 And in every other place.
 May Your love be shown to others,
 In our family and beyond the walls of our home.
 May all of us know the depth of Your enduring love
 And be strengthened to share that same love
 That comes from You
 And is spread throughout the world.
 Amen.

ADOPTION: Children in China need homes. More boys are available than girls from ages two & up. Older parents & single women are welcome. For more information, call Barbara Salvesen at 845 623-5277.

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

WORLD DAY OF THE SICK



February 11th is World Day of the Sick, an observation started by Pope John Paul II as a way for believers to offer prayers for those suffering from illnesses and for their caregivers. The day coincides with the commemoration of Our Lady of Lourdes.

We will be having a Healing Mass with a special anointing on Wednesday, February 11th at 7 p.m.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Our Parish is planning a **Sweepstakes Social on Saturday, March 14th**, doors open at 6 p.m. The Sweepstakes Social Committee can use your donations and your help! Please start collecting new appropriate items to be dropped off as early as the beginning of February. Anyone interested in volunteering to help with this fundraiser is asked to leave their name and phone number at the Parish Office during the week.

Our newly formed **Fund Raising Committee** has started selling chances to win a second set of *100 five dollar New York Lottery Scratch-Offs*. You know those 100 *scratch-offs* have to contain some winners! The winner of the first set of tickets purchased multiple chances and still more than doubled her investment.

There are only 200 of the \$10 chances to win the *scratch-offs*. Because not all tickets have been sold yet, the drawing for the winner of our second set of *100 scratch-off tickets* will be extended. Please support our efforts and take a chance!!!

COME AND HAVE SOME FUN

Dinner and dance party for singles on February 20th from 8 - 11 p.m. and for couples on Saturday, February 21st from 6:30 - 10 p.m. Only \$15 per person. Includes: food, drink, music and games. Baby sitting services available for free!!! Don't miss out on a fun filled evening.



Please see the representatives at the rear of the church to sign up for these great events.

The **YOUTH GROUP** meets on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month immediately following the 5 p.m. Mass in the school building. There will be a meeting next Sunday, February 15th. 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.

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*

	2/2/14	2/1/15	Difference
Adults	\$6,637.15	\$5,232.00	-\$ 1,405.15
Children	\$ 124.35	\$ 145.45	+\$ 21.10
Total	\$6,761.50	\$5,377.45	-\$ 1,384.05

Next Sunday, February 15th, we will take up a second collection for *Peter's Pence*. Please endeavor to donate generously.



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 and Joseph Melillo.

CALLING ALL SENIORS!

Due to inclement weather on February 5th, the Senior Mass will be this Thursday, February 12th. Join your fellow seniors at the 9 a.m. Mass with a Special Blessing followed by refreshments and gathering at McManus Parish Center



MARK THIS DATE



ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY LENTEN RETREAT

Saturday, February 21st, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

All women of the parish are invited to participate. There will be more information in the coming weeks.

CHRISM MASS - TUESDAY, MARCH 31st

St. Patrick's Cathedral

We are running a bus. Cost is \$15 per person, round trip. Please contact the parish office for reservations. More details to follow in the coming weeks.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, February 7 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM George Goresen +

Sunday, February 8

8:30 AM For All the People of Our Parish

10:00 AM Gino & Ann Coniglio +

11:30 AM Frank & Carmela Legio +

5:00 PM Felix Vazquez & Jose Romero +

Monday, February 9

Weekday

7:00 AM Rita Bolduc +

9:00 AM Stephen Fecko +

Tuesday, February 10

Saint Scholastica, Virgin

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Marcello Barcello & Rosa Greco +

Wednesday, February 11

Weekday - World Day of the Sick

7:00 AM Antonio Marchetti +

9:00 AM John & Karen McKenna (living)

7:00 PM Healing Mass

Thursday, February 12

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Vito Traversa +

Friday, February 13

Weekday

7:00 AM Virginia DeYorio +

9:00 AM Margaret (Peggy) O'Boyle +

Saturday, February 14

Saints Cyril, Monk, & Methodius, Bishop

9:00 AM Joseph Martin +

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, February 14 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Maria Gianfrancesco +

Sunday, February 15

8:30 AM Robert Liddell +

10:00 AM Carmine Nicholas Maccia +

11:30 AM Martha Cianfaglione +

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

**OUR LADY OF LOURDES
FEBRUARY 11TH**



On December 8, 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed the dogma of the Immaculate Conception in the apostolic constitution *Ineffabilis Deus*. A little more than three years later, on February 11, 1858, a young lady appeared to Bernadette Soubirous. This began a series of visions. During the apparition on March 24, the lady identified herself with the words: "I am the Immaculate Conception."

Bernadette was a sickly child of poor parents. Their practice of the Catholic faith was scarcely more than lukewarm. Bernadette could pray the Our Father, the Hail Mary and the Creed. She also knew the prayer of the Miraculous Medal: "O Mary conceived without sin."

During interrogations Bernadette gave an account of what she saw. It was "something white in the shape of a girl." She used the word *aquero*, a dialect term meaning "this thing." It was "a pretty young girl with a rosary over her arm." Her white robe was encircled by a blue girdle. She wore a white veil. There was a yellow rose on each foot. A rosary was in her hand. Bernadette was also impressed that the lady did not use the informal form of address (*tu*), but the polite form (*vous*). The humble virgin appeared to a humble girl and treated her with dignity.

Through that humble girl, Mary revitalized and continues to revitalize the faith of millions of people. People began to flock to Lourdes from other parts of France and from all over the world. In 1862, church authorities confirmed the authenticity of the apparitions and authorized the cult of Our Lady of Lourdes for the diocese. The Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes became worldwide in 1907.

COMMENT: Lourdes has become a place of pilgrimage and healing, but even more of faith. Church authorities have recognized over sixty miraculous cures, although there have probably been many more. To people of faith this is not surprising. It is a continuation of Jesus' healing miracles - now performed at the intercession of His mother.

Some would say that the greater miracles are hidden. Many who visit Lourdes return home with renewed faith and a readiness to serve God in their needy brothers and sisters. There still may be people who doubt the apparitions of Lourdes. Perhaps the best that can be said to them are the words that introduced the film, *Song of Bernadette*: "For those who believe in God, no explanation is necessary. For those who do not believe, no explanation is possible."

From *Saint of the Day*, edited by Leonard Foley, O.F.M., & Pat McCloskey, O.F.M.

O Mary, Seat of Wisdom, intercede as our Mother for all the sick and for those who care for them! Grant that, through our service of our suffering neighbors, and through the experience of suffering itself, we may receive and cultivate true wisdom of heart!