

St. Bartholomew's Church



Scan this code with your
smart phone to access
our parish website.

15 Palmer Road
Yonkers • New York 10701

www.saintbartsparish.org

Rev. Raphael Ezeh, MSP, *Pastor*
Rev. Daniel Oghenerukevwe, 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. President, Joan Liddell

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.

**SHARING MY FAITH – SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS
WE ARE AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST THE AMSPs**

The gift of Faith is one of God's most beautiful gifts. Even stripped of its religious meaning, it has the effect of transforming life and situations from bad to the very best, hopeless to hopeful. This is the gift that every Christian, every Catholic, is endowed with, for his or her own sake and for the sake of the Kingdom of God. It's important that we reap the fruits of Faith for ourselves, but beyond that, we should never be satisfied with the idea of what Faith can offer us.

Thus, we must take it to the next level: what fruits can my Faith bear? One of the greatest gifts we can offer to God is to contribute, in our own capacity, to the building of the Kingdom of God. We do this beginning from our family to our parish, and to the Universal Church. In all, we do this to help bring others to Faith the same way we were brought to Faith by the efforts of others.

We hear of lay Catholics and other Christians, often professionals and even youth, who decide to spend some weeks or months in a mission outside their country (comfort zones) working among the poorest of the poor, spreading the Good News by doing what they know best. Many of us silently applaud their efforts and wish we could do the same.

One beautiful and encouraging thing about us Catholics is that we are always invested in the universal mandate of Christ to preach the gospel to the whole world, baptizing everyone in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Mt. 28:19). Indeed, more than other Christian denominations, we are the most missionary minded. How else do you explain the fact that two priests from far away Nigeria, trained with monies from outside Nigeria, are here in Yonkers, very well accepted and at home, teaming up with parishioners from diverse backgrounds who have known them for a few months - together we're all spreading the Good News and actively building the Kingdom of God here in this tiny corner of the globe.

Since this missionary mandate is very central to the mission of the Church and to our Faith as individuals, each of us must consciously and continually be missionaries in our own unique way. Beautifully, the Church has hundreds of ways to channel our efforts toward the same goal of building the Kingdom. Fr. Daniel and I, and other priest members of the Missionaries of St. Paul chose to respond by answering God's call to be priests and work among God's people. Here at St. Bart's someone could wish to go off and spend a week or month in a poor mission anywhere around the globe, for example where the MSPs work. But that might be farfetched. Another could wish to become a priest or nun or brother. That too is even more farfetched. Of course, we must not forget or minimize the importance of our contributions toward the Church's missionary works. But since a missionary group (MSP), works here among us, they provide a clear opportunity to understand and participate in our missionary mandate.

The lay Associate Missionaries of St. Paul (AMSP), choose to exercise this mandate in their own unique way; by praying for the work of the missions, by supporting them financially, or by simply being more conscious of this aspect of our Faith and helping others to do so, too.

This coming Saturday, the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, at our 5 p.m. Mass, about 16 members will officially become AMSP members in a brief ceremony that will be officiated by Very Rev. Fr. Ilesami Osasona, the coordinator of the Promotions Office in Houston, and the Vice Regional Superior of MSP in the US. Please, come join us in the celebration or at the reception that follows.

Beyond this celebration, I want to invite each of us to think about our Faith as a gift, how we cherish, appreciate, and nurture it, and how we respond to the call to bear fruits and bring the Good News to others near and far! **This is the purpose of this long reflection to constantly remind us of our Christian duty to evangelize directly or indirectly, far and near and anywhere in between.**

May the Lord Jesus and Our Lady of the Missions help us as we carry out this mission. Amen.

IN THANKS & PRAISE

**I forgot to thanks those that helped to decorate the rectory for Christmas. Many thanks to Ellen Chimenti, Cheryl Duda, the Arzola and Pastor families, Fr. Daniel, etc.

**Thanks to John McKenna, Mike Schettino and Dominga Fermin, who did the bulk of dismantling the Christmas decorations, and to the men of the Holy Name Society who helped with the trees inside and outside the Church. Blessings on each and every of you.

Wishing you a blessed week!

~ Father Raphael Ezeh, MSP

PARISH NEWS



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.'S BIRTHDAY: This Monday, January 20th, is a legal holiday; the Rectory Office will be closed; and there will only be one Mass at 9 a.m. that day .

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) will meet this Monday, January 20th, at 7:00 p.m. in the school. All members are encouraged to attend this meeting.



The **ALTAR FLOWERS** and **ALTAR CANDLES** for this week have been donated in loving memory of Carol Swetz by Thomas Swetz.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Our Parish is planning a Sweepstakes Social on Saturday, March 15th, doors open at 6 p.m. The Sweepstakes Social Committee will hold a **Volunteer Meeting this Wednesday, January 22nd, at 6 p.m.** in the McManus Parish Center. Anyone interested in volunteering to help with this fundraiser is asked to attend this meeting. If you are unable to make this meeting, please leave your name and number at the Parish Office during the week.





FEEDING OUR NEIGHBORS: AN INTERFAITH RESPONSE
January 26th – February 2nd

Catholic Charities is once again running its *Feeding Our Neighbors Campaign* to restock the food pantries and soup kitchens of the Archdiocese of New York. Our parish along with the other parishes and Catholic schools in the New York Archdiocese will be joined this year by the United Jewish Appeal Federation (UJA); we are asked to make a special effort to feed our hungry neighbors.

Expect the large donation box to appear next weekend, January 25th – 26th. Our donations will support our Food Pantry, as well as other food pantries; and once again our Social Ministry Committee will organize, tally, and report our donations to Catholic Charities. Thank you for doing your part to make this Campaign a success!

BIBLE STUDIES is held on the 2nd & 4th Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the school building. The next meeting will be this Friday, January 24th. These sessions will be moderated by our Parochial Vicar, Father Daniel Oghenerukevwe, MSP. Bring a friend! Come and have fun exploring the Bible.



All Catholic children attending public schools should enroll in a religious education program. Please call (476-6676) for more information.

CHILDREN'S MASS: Please make it a point to bring your child to our Children's Mass next Sunday. 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 with other children at a designated place during the Mass.



The **YOUTH GROUP** will meet this Sunday, January 19th. The subject matter will be "spirituality." The group meets in the school building immediately follow the 5 p.m. Sunday Mass.

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.



TITHING - GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

Last Weekend's Contribution Comparison

	2013	2014	Difference
Adults	\$6,495.35	\$6,530.70	+\$ 35.35
Children	\$ 112.85	\$ 139.35	+\$ 26.50
Total	\$6,608.20	\$6,670.05	+\$ 61.85

The 2nd Collection to support Catholic Communications and the Catholic University totaled \$1,454.80.

REMEMBER YOUR BELOVED PARISH

Remember, "We make a living by what we earn. We make a life by what we share." Please remember our Parish in your Will as a lasting and loving gift to your parish family. Thank you!

"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, Jule Yaskovic, Rosalie Heit, Florence B. Swetz, Clare Yaskovic, Neil Caruso, 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 Petrulo, Cynthia Swiatkiewicz, Jimmy Maimone, Robert Mirsky, Roseanne Mercandetti, Louis Brusco, Josephine Daniele, Jennifer Dorsey, Valerie Riccardi, Fatima Panik, Marian Fletcher, Anna Bonacci, Minerva Hernandez, Paula Parente, Bridget O'Malley, Anna Brucculeri, Peggy Clevenberg, Gerald Mazzerese, Jr., Patricia Keane, Carol Stola, Amada Ortiz, Karen Aprea, Stephen Sarich, Neil Cawley, Barbara McCormack, Josephine Lehotyak, Lawrence Girsch, Fran Romano, Gail Villafana, Joe Forlini, and Gertrude Woska.

REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES, LIVING AND DEAD

The Mass Book for 2014 is open and has availability. Consider giving a loved one the graces associated with having a Mass offered on their behalf. Also, you may consider offering the Altar flowers, Altar bread and wine, Altar candles, or lighting the Sanctuary lamp for a week for your intention. Come to the Rectory Office, **Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.** to make arrangements or to inquire about the availability of a particular date.

JANUARY 19, 2014

Mass Intentions for the Week

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, January 18 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Denis LaValle +

Sunday, January 19

8:30 AM Elizabeth Laredo +

10:00 AM Arlene Tiplady +

11:30 AM Josephine & Anthony Brucculeri +

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

Monday, January 20

Weekday - Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday

9:00 AM Stephen Fecko +

Tuesday, January 21

Saint Agnes, Virgin & Martyr

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Joanne Moscarello +

Wednesday, January 22

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Stanis Buoninfante +

Thursday, January 23

Weekday

7:00 AM Deceased Members of Bolduc & Savard Families

9:00 AM Jack Gronowski & William Bruder +

Friday, January 24

Saint Francis de Sales, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

7:00 AM Reverend Patrick J. Mee +

9:00 AM Carol Swetz +

Saturday, January 25

Conversion of Saint Paul the Apostle

9:00 AM Maria Loreta Lucchetti +

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, January 25 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM James Cabrera +

Sunday, January 26

8:30 AM Frank & Carmela Legio +

10:00 AM Mary & Nicholas Maccia +

11:30 AM Clement Giuriceo +

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

41ST ANNIVERSARY OF ROE vs. WADE

As we celebrate the 41st anniversary of the Supreme Court ruling on Abortion (the Roe v Wade case) this Wednesday, January 22nd, we think of the adverse effects the practice of abortion is having on us as individuals and as a society.



Reproduced below is a discussion of one of the issues included in the U.S. Catholic Bishops' Political Responsibility Statement:

“Human life is a gift from God which all of us are called to protect, nurture, and sustain. The right to life, the most basic of all human rights, must be protected by law. Abortion has become the fundamental human rights issue of our day because it is the deliberate destruction of a human being before birth.

The United States, avowedly a defender of the weak, has one of the highest legal abortion rates and the most extreme abortion policy of any industrialized Western nation in the world. There are now more than 1.5 million abortions every year in the United States, over 4,400 a day, with well over 95 percent performed for economic or social reasons. Thousands of unborn children are killed each year in the final months of pregnancy.

We support policies and laws that encourage childbirth over abortion, and urge government and the private sector to provide programs that assist pregnant women and their children, especially those who are poor. We support efforts to prohibit domestic and foreign abortion funding, as well as efforts to protect states from having to fund abortions contrary to their own laws. We reject the 1973 Supreme Court abortion decisions which deny legal protection to unborn children, and we support efforts to prohibit or restrict abortion legislatively and to provide constitutional protection for unborn human life. Laws and policies on medical research, health care, and related issues must respect and protect human life from the moment of conception.”

..+..+..+..+..+..+..+..+..+..+..+..+..

Prayer to End Abortion

Lord God, I thank You today for the gift of my life,
And for the lives of all my brothers and sisters.
I know there is nothing that destroys more life than abortion,
Yet I rejoice that You have conquered death
by the Resurrection of Your Son.
I am ready to do my part in ending abortion.
Today I commit myself
Never to be silent,
Never to be passive,
Never to be forgetful of the unborn.
I commit myself to be active in the pro-life movement,
And never to stop defending life
Until all my brothers and sisters are protected,
And our nation once again becomes
A nation with liberty and justice
Not just for some, but for all,
Through Christ our Lord. Amen!