

# St. Bartholomew's Church



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15 Palmer Road  
Yonkers • New York 10701

[www.saintbartsparish.org](http://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

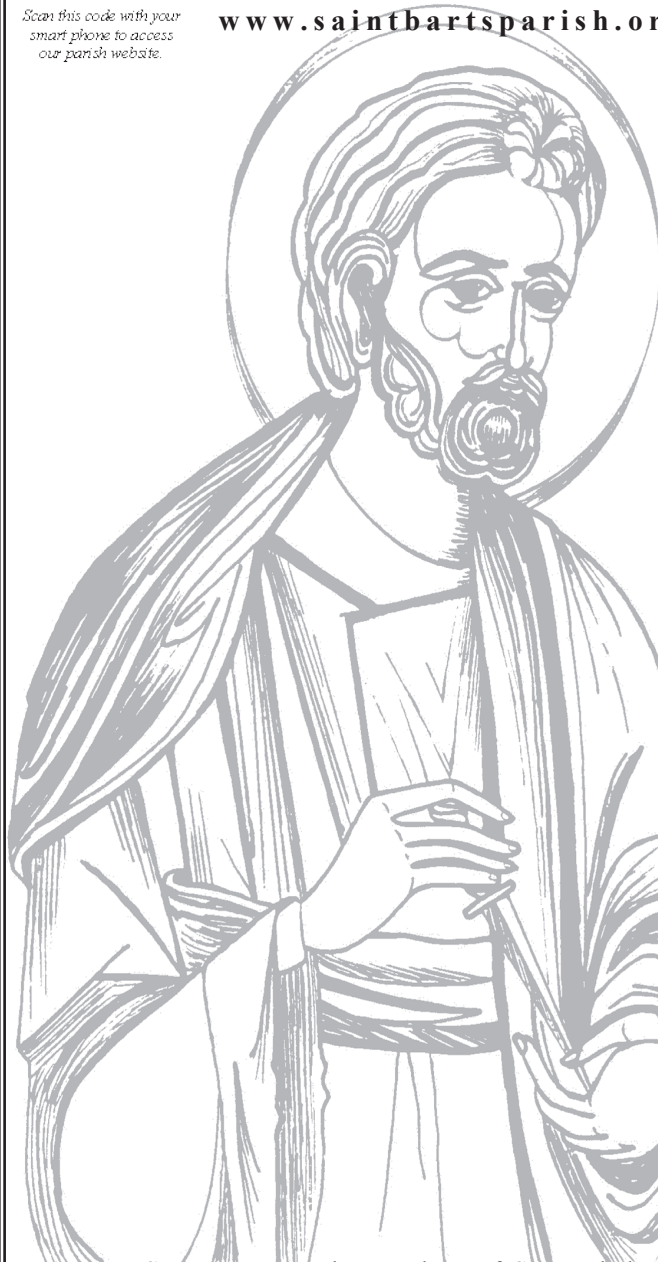
*Holy Name Society:* Meets on the Monday evening after the second Sunday of the month. President, Dan Panik

*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.



**WE ARE NOT FINISHED PRODUCTS**

I wonder why we lie. I wonder why we sometimes pretend to be who we are not. I wonder why we wear masks, even porous ones. I wonder why we cover up our weaknesses. One of the reasons behind these actions could be because of the low level of tolerance in the people around us in our families, communities (including religious), school and work places and in the larger society. One reason behind our low tolerance could be because we do not look at others and ourselves the way we should. We look at ourselves as finished products. Yes, we know we're not finished products. But in reality, when it really matters, most of the times the way we actually relate with each other shows we expect ourselves and others to be finished products.

In the Gospel today (Matthew 16:13-20), we see the finest moments in Peter's life. I just shook my head as I read it. This same Peter that proclaimed, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God," was the same Peter who later said, "I do not know this man" (Matthew 26:74). Peter was never a finished product. Did Jesus ever expect Peter to be a finished product? No! No! No! But He did want him and all the disciples to grow and blossom into great disciples and children of God. And they all did. Indeed, they all did. And it took time and lots and LOTS of work and tons of patience.

So, what about you and me and the next person beside you? What do all these teach or remind us? For one, a clear message is that there existed a division within Peter, just as there exists and will always exist a division within each of us. The level of division differs though. Jesus knows that and is patient with us as He was with Peter. He did not condone or encourage this division; but again, He knew Peter and his brothers and sisters were not finished products. This helped them to be themselves before Jesus, and hopefully in the presence of one another. It helped them to be patient with one another and grow in virtues.

May each of us recognize that God is constantly at work in us and in the brother or sister beside us. May such comforting knowledge help us to accept the division within us and constantly work on growth. May we then, in our relationships, be sincerely patient with each other. Amen.

**FATHER DANIEL'S SEND-OFF**

Be sure to join us this coming Saturday as we thank Father Daniel for all he did for us and among us. I know that many people are coming and going from vacation at this time of the year. However, please be sure to extend your gratitude and best wishes to him. After a short visit Father Anthony left this past week. We hope that Father Daniel will be able to visit us in the future.



**Have a blessed week!**

~ Father Raphael Ezech, MSP

**PARISH NEWS**

**FIRST COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION CLASSES**



Registration for Religious Education classes for public school children, running September through June, is open. Classes are available for children in 1<sup>st</sup> grade through High School senior year, including those with Special Education needs. Classes are available to prepare children of all ages for the sacraments of Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation, regardless of any lack of previous instruction. **All Catholic children attending public schools should enroll in a religious education program.** Please call (914 476-6676) for more information.

If you or someone you know need information on the Catholic Faith or have not been confirmed, please call the Religious Education Office (914 476-6676) for information on the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (R.C.I.A.) in our parish.



**MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER**

*Upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.* Let your Sacrament of Matrimony or Holy Orders be the rock for your vocation. Find out how on the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. For more information, call toll free (877) 697-9963, ext. 3 or visit [www.wwme.org](http://www.wwme.org).

Worldwide Marriage Encounter's mission of renewal in the Church and change in the world is to assist couples and priests to live fully intimate and responsible relationships by providing them with a Catholic "experience" and ongoing community support for such a lifestyle.

*Rest in Peace* Please pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed, especially Antoinette C. Cognatello.

This coming Saturday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, at 5 p.m. **all our parishioners** are invited to a Mass and a pot luck dinner in honor of our Parochial Vicar, Father Daniel Oghenerukevwe, MSP, who is leaving us for a new assignment.



It is our hope that you will join us to say "Thank You" and express our appreciation for the work he has done in our parish. **If you haven't already signed up to attend, please notify the Parish Office (965-0566) by this Wednesday, August 27<sup>th</sup>.**

## Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time



St. Bartholomew's Church and Hudson Valley Blood Services express sincere appreciation to the 84 donors and 18 dedicated volunteers, including 11 high school students, who participated in our July 11<sup>th</sup> Blood Drive, providing 78 units of blood.

St. Bart's has now collected 5,885 units since 1981. You can still participate by calling (800) 933-2566. Please credit your donation to St. Bart's Group # 7747.

Our next Blood Drive will be the day after Thanksgiving, Friday, November 28<sup>th</sup>. Please come support this effort and encourage your family and friends to do so, also.

**PREGNANCY & ADOPTION SERVICES:** If you know anyone who is experiencing concerns associated with an unintended pregnancy, and would like information regarding an adoption plan, please contact Catholic Guardian Society and Home Bureau's (CGSHB) Maternity Services Department. They provide non-judgmental, non-directive counseling and information on all parenting options, including adoption. It is a New York State authorized adoption agency, offering a full range of counseling, education, and placement services to the expectant mother and father. CGSHB's professional social workers provide sensitive, compassionate, and confidential counseling to any client regardless of age, legal status, religion, race, or economic status. All services are free. Maternity services social workers are available to schedule visits with the client at a convenient location, either an office setting, the client's home or a site requested by the client.

Home studies and placement services for prospective adoptive parents planning to adopt domestically or internationally are also provided. They have instituted an International Adoptive Placement program with the Democratic Republic of the Congo and expect to do so with Bulgaria.

For information or referrals please call 212 371-1011, ext. 2153 or 800 592-4357; bi-lingual services are available on 212 371-1000, ext. 2238 or 2236.

Our **YOUTH GROUP** meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month immediately following the 5 p.m. Mass in the school building. Their next meeting will be Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. 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.



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

	8/18/13	8/17/14	Difference
Adults	\$4,888.15	\$4,704.25	-\$ 183.90
Children	\$ 28.75	\$ 35.00	+\$ 6.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,916.90</b>	<b>\$4,739.25</b>	<b>-\$ 177.65</b>

The collection in honor of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary totaled \$1,440.75.

#### 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, 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 Swiatkowicz, 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, Anna Brucculeri, Gerald Mazzerese, Jr., Patricia Keane, Carol Stola, Amada Ortiz, Karen Aprea, Stephen Sarich, Neil Cawley, Barbara McCormack, Josephine Lehotyak, Lawrence Girsch, Fran Romano, Joe Forlini, Michael Treacy, Rosemarie Petti, Marie Murtha, Mary Walsh, Natalie Marrero, Richard Meyers, John Palermo, Carlo Gentile, Angelo Gianfrancesco, Vince Delgado and Charles Wighton.

**The Mass Book for 2015 opened** on Ash Wednesday and there are still some dates open in this year's Mass Book, as well. Consider giving a loved one or someone (living or deceased) who has a special place in your life the graces associated with having a Mass offered on their behalf. You may have a thanksgiving Mass offered for your loved ones or for yourself on such occasions as birthdays, wedding anniversaries, etc. Also, you may consider offering the altar flowers, altar bread and wine, altar candles, or sanctuary lamp 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.

August 24, 2014

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Mass  for the  
Intentions Week

**Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Saturday, August 23 (Anticipated Mass)**

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

**Sunday, August 24**

8:30 AM Elizabeth Laredo +

10:00 AM Frank & Carmela Legio +

11:30 AM Carl Dietze, Robert & Chester Rodesky +

5:00 PM Costanza Stangarone +

**Monday, August 25**

**Weekday**

7:00 AM John Verno +

9:00 AM Linda Sarich +

**Tuesday, August 26**

**Weekday**

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Khazneh Fraih +

**Wednesday, August 27**

**Saint Monica**

7:00 AM Brian Shannon (living)

9:00 AM Antoinette Cordts +

**Thursday, August 28**

**Saint Augustine, Bishop & Doctor of the Church**

7:00 AM Michael Bybel +

9:00 AM Alice Reynolds +

**Friday, August 29**

**Passion of Saint John the Baptist**

7:00 AM Loretta Riccardi +

9:00 AM Carmel & John Farina +

**Saturday, August 30**

**Weekday**

9:00 AM Yolanda Rosa +

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**Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Saturday, August 30 (Anticipated Mass)**

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

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**Sunday, August 31**

8:30 AM Sister Michelle Guerin, OSU +

10:00 AM Dennis Madonia +

11:30 AM Deceased Members of Coniglio & Mistretta Families

5:00 PM Luis Angel Blanco +

*August 24, 2014*

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## **FEAST OF THE PATRON SAINT OF OUR PARISH, BARTHOLOMEW THE APOSTLE**

*AUGUST 24*



In the New Testament, Bartholomew is mentioned only in the lists of the apostles. Some scholars identify him with Nathanael, a man of Cana in Galilee who was summoned to Jesus by Philip. Jesus paid him a great compliment: "Here is a true Israelite. There is no duplicity in him" (John 1:47b). When Nathanael asked how Jesus

knew him, Jesus said: "I saw you under the fig tree" (John 1:48b). Whatever amazing revelation this involved, it brought Nathanael to exclaim, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel" (John 1:49b). But Jesus countered with, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this" (John 1:50b).

Nathanael did see greater things. He was one of those to whom Jesus appeared on the shore of the Sea of Tiberias after His resurrection (see John 21:1-14). They had been fishing all night without success. In the morning, they saw someone standing on the shore though no one knew it was Jesus. He told them to cast their net again, and they made so great a catch that they could not haul the net in. Then John cried out to Peter, "It is the Lord."

When they brought the boat to shore, they found a fire burning, with some fish laid on it and some bread. Jesus asked them to bring some of the fish they had caught, and invited them to come and eat their meal. John relates that although they knew it was Jesus, none of the apostles presumed to inquire who He was. This, John notes, was the third time Jesus appeared to the apostles.

**COMMENT:** Bartholomew or Nathanael? We are confronted again with the fact that we know almost nothing about most of the apostles. Yet the unknown ones were also foundation stones, the twelve pillars of the new Israel whose twelve tribes now encompass the whole earth. Their personalities were secondary (without thereby being demeaned) to their great office of bearing tradition from their firsthand experience, speaking in the name of Jesus, putting the Word made flesh into human words for the enlightenment of the world. Their holiness was not an introverted contemplation of their status before God.

The simple fact is that humanity is totally meaningless unless God is its total concern. Then humanity, made holy with God's own holiness, becomes the most precious creation of God.

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