

# St. Bartholomew's Church



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15 Palmer Road  
Yonkers • New York 10701

[www.saintbartsparish.org](http://www.saintbartsparish.org)  
Visit us on facebook:  
St. Bartholomew's Yonkers

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.

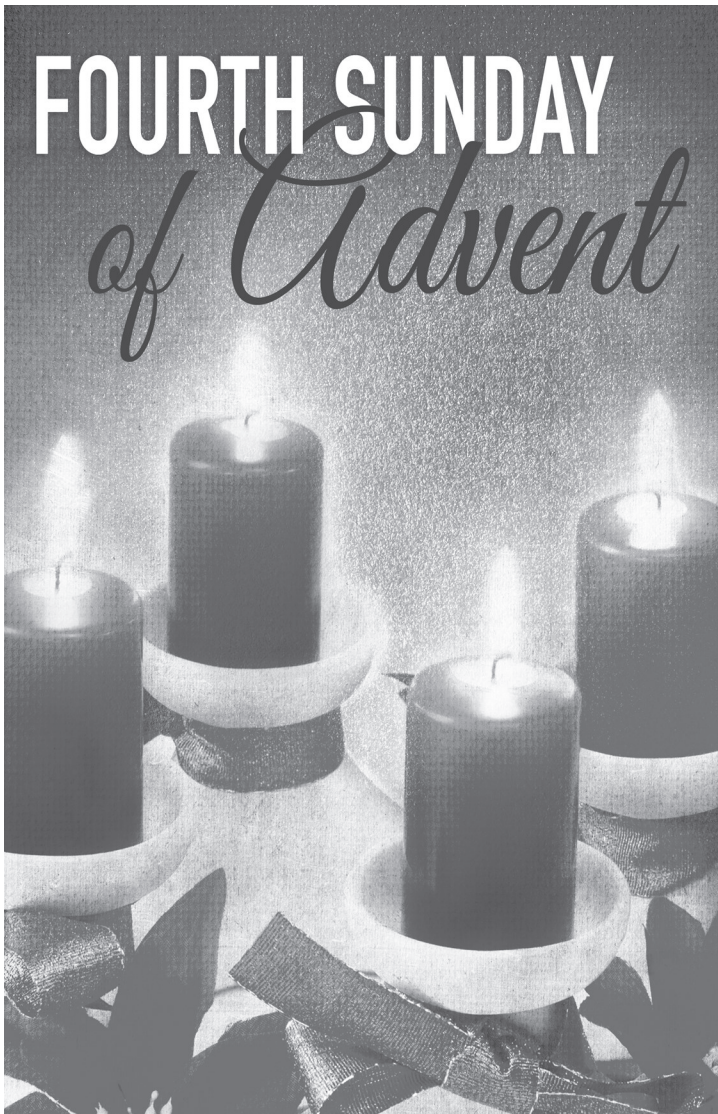
*Parish Council:* Meets on the Monday evening after the third Sunday of the month.

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

*Rosary Altar Society:* Meets on the Monday evening after the first Sunday of the month. President, Liz Mulvaney

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

*Trustees:* Angela Brusco, Louis Caloia



*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.

## Joseph, An Example of Obedience

Obedience: Who wants to listen to a sermon on obedience again, or read it for that matter. It has been talked about for what should really be more than enough times. But like a lot of the virtues we are supposed to have acquired as Christians, we are not only finding it difficult to acquire this all-important virtue, we (or many Christians) seem to have given up on it entirely, at least in many aspects of their lives.



As we draw closer to the celebration of the Lord's birthday, the Church presents Joseph to us for reflections. He appeals to us from different perspectives – faith, fatherhood, mercy, patience, sacrifice, etc. He is also a wonderful example of obedience. To assume the role God wanted him to play meant giving up his personal dreams. It meant going against his own will. It meant obeying God, even when it hurts and especially when it doesn't make sense.

We encounter situations where we want to hold onto our dreams. There are so many situations where we want to satisfy our own desires. There are many situations that could hurt us if we are to follow God's will. The challenge is to follow God's will and trust that "in his will is our peace".

I read a report today in the New York Times. It's about an empirical result that disproves long held belief that women who committed abortion suffered from depression, etc. years after the incident. The new survey, they claim, shows that it is not true. It shows that women who committed abortion feel the same as those who were denied abortion. As I skimmed through the report, I shook my head in sorrowful amazement.

Remember that little quote, "**Which Part Of Thou Shalt Not Kill Do You Not Understand?**". We not only disobey this fifth commandment, we convince ourselves that we are right in doing so. So, we have deadened our consciences. I use this example because at a time we should be rejoicing in the gift of a child, Jesus, and encouraging respect to life, 'experts' are busy publishing a research to convince us that it's OK to kill unborn babies without any qualms.

Well, that's just one out of so many examples of our collective and individual disobedience. And it's not just adults; it's our children too. I always wince when an embarrassed parent asks a child (in public) to do something and the child blatantly refuses. I personally don't know where we're all heading in this issue of obedience. Everyone wants to be free and to do their own thing. And it's leading us to go astray and to our own destruction. But the devil will make sure that we are not fully aware of the repercussions.

Like Joseph, may we choose well; may we obey the Lord in all His ways and His will, for in His will is our peace.

## FR. ANTHONY

Father Anthony is taking his annual vacation during this holiday period. He's heading home to Nigeria. We wish him a safe trip home. He leaves on Christmas Day and returns at the end of January.

*Blessings and Peace.*

**-Fr. Raphael Ezeh. MSP**



# PARISH NEWS




## Rest in Peace

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed especially Reverend William J. Delaney.

The **ALTAR CANDLES** for this week have been lit in loving memory of Gennaro Del Bene and Family by Anna Campana.



Parents of the children in the Religious Education program are reminded that the children will be attending the Nativity Play in the church on Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> in lieu of their regular class. A parent or other responsible adult must attend with each child, as supervision will not be provided by the Religious Education program. Please plan to arrive by 6:15 p.m. and sign the attendance register so your child is not marked with an absence. No classes will be held the Tuesday between Christmas and New Year's, December 27<sup>th</sup>. Religious Education classes will resume after the holidays, on Tuesday, January 3, 2017



If you or someone you know needs 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.

Our **SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE** is having a special Food Drive to provide **Christmas Baskets** to some less fortunate brothers and sisters. What we need to complete this year's baskets are: candy, cookies, juices, and a few hams. These food items should be brought to the church before the Masses this Saturday evening (December 17<sup>th</sup>) or the Sunday morning Masses (December 18<sup>th</sup>).

### RE: 2016 CHRISTMAS WISH LIST



I sincerely thank you for your generous donations toward past Christmas wish lists. **2 Christmas arrangements are remaining and can be donated in memory of loved ones, at \$60 each.**

**The opportunity for Confession (Sacrament of Penance) before Christmas is:**

**This Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup> 3 - 8 p.m.  
at St. Bartholomew's**

**Throughout the Archdiocese of New York, Advent Reconciliation this Monday (December 19<sup>th</sup>), gives Catholics the opportunity to go to any parish for confession between the hours of 4 and 8 p.m. However, times for confession at some churches may vary.**



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Rosary Altar Society are still selling "Keep Christ in Christmas" car magnets for \$5.00 each. Look for them and please support their efforts.

### CHRISTMAS MASSES

Saturday, December 24 4:30 p.m. Carols/ Vigil Mass  
Saturday, December 24 11:30 p.m. Carols, followed by  
Midnight Mass  
Sunday, December 25 8:30, 10, and 11:30 a.m.  
There will not be a 5 p.m. Mass on Christmas Day.



### THE NATIVITY PLAY

Performed by some of our very own St. Bart's  
Parishioners

**This Sunday**, December 18<sup>th</sup>, at 3 p.m.  
and  
**Tuesday**, December 20<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m.

**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.

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. All youths age 13 and up are invited. Their next meeting is this Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> and they will be having a Christmas Fun Pajama Party.

*Follow our Youth Group on Twitter @ St\_Barts\_youth.*

#### *A Special Thank You*

Thank you to all those who made our Christmas fundraiser a success: vendors, parish committees and parishioners. We look forward to another one in the spring. Look for details in in upcoming months

### UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

#### *Children's Ministry Winter Break Party*

*McManus Parish Center, Friday, December 30<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Children ages 4 to 10, Admission \$2.00 per child  
Crafts, Games, Music and Dancing. Please join us!*

#### *St. Bart's Angels Bake Sale*

*Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> after all of the Masses  
All proceeds go to Relay for Life.*

*If you can donate baked goods, please call the Parish Office.*

✠ **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*

|              | 12/13/15          | 12/11/16          | Difference          |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Adults       | \$6,962.50        | \$5,295.65        | - \$1,666.85        |
| ,Children    | \$ 169.50         | \$ 115.90         | - \$ 53.60          |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>\$7,132.00</b> | <b>\$5,411.55</b> | <b>- \$1,720.45</b> |

The collection in support of the Retired Religious of our Archdiocese totaled \$1,098.80.

The collection on the Holy Day, the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, totaled \$1,576.25.

Thank you to all those who are participating in our *tithing program*! May God bless and reward your sacrifices! For those who are not yet tithing, I encourage you to please give it a prayerful thought. Thank you!

In lieu of filling out envelopes weekly, please consider signing up for online giving at [www.parishpay.com](http://www.parishpay.com) or contact the Parish Office. So far, we have 8 families that have signed up.



Please pray for all the sick & the homebound members of our Parish, especially Marian Fletcher, Ann Lackner, Richard Meyers, Rosalie Heit, Andrea Objay, Margaret Maccia, Audrey Falcone, Louis Brusco, Charles Wighton, Michael Tomanelli, Ariella Castillo, Gail Chappory, Randolph Castillo, Jr., Deacon Jim Byrne, Gregory Clemens, Florence McCormack, Mary Bryce, Anna Bonacci, William Flower, Efrain Arzola, Henry Joseph, Deacon Bob Clemens, Carolyn Cesta, William Bodack, Joseph Mahoney, Mary De Santis, Leticia Agosto, Manuel Obalde, Jr., Rosalia Guzman, Ann McGarry, Florence B. Swetz, and Daniel Pezzola.

Please contact the Parish Office if you wish to add a loved one to the sick list.

### CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Education and Support to Help Cope with Cancer

Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 7 p.m.

St. John's Riverside Hospital  
967 North Broadway, Yonkers, NY  
Room 111

#### Topic

Reflection on past year and looking forward to 2017!  
For additional information, please call Stephanie Kamiel, MA at 914 964-4583, or e mail at [skamiel@riversidehealth.org](mailto:skamiel@riversidehealth.org).

**DECEMBER 18, 2016**

*Mass Intentions for the Week*



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**Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Saturday, December 17 (Anticipated Mass)**

5:00 PM Pasquale Cercone +

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**Sunday, December 18**

8:30 AM Ethel Castagnozzi +  
10:00 AM Carrie D'Angelo +  
11:30 AM Anna & Anthony Faracco +  
5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

**Monday, December 19**

**Late Advent Weekday**

7:00 AM Deceased Members of Bolduc & Savard Families  
9:00 AM Irene Gayzur +

**Tuesday, December 20**

**Late Advent Weekday**

7:00 AM Anna Phan Nguyen +  
9:00 AM Alexandra & Bonifacio Marchetti +

**Wednesday, December 21**

**Late Advent Weekday**

7:00 AM For a Needy Soul  
9:00 AM Deceased Members of Salerno & Del Bene Families

**Thursday, December 22**

**Late Advent Weekday**

7:00 AM Salvatore Darretta +  
9:00 AM Joseph Fletcher +

**Friday, December 23**

**Late Advent Weekday**

7:00 AM Reverend Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP +  
9:00 AM Lucas Vazquez +

**Saturday, December 24**

**Late Advent Weekday**

9:00 AM Bernie Mistal +

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**Nativity of the Lord  
Saturday, December 24 (Vigil Mass)**

5:00 PM Peter Objay & Carmine Aprea +

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**Sunday, December 25**

12 Midnight For All the People of Our Parish  
8:30 AM Carmine Nicholas Maccia +  
10:00 AM Brusco & Nanoia Families  
11:30 AM Frank & Carmela Legio +

## WELCOME TO OUR PARISH FAMILY

Our warmest welcome to our visitors! We are glad you came to celebrate the Eucharist with us today. We thank God for you! Do not hesitate to let us know how we may serve you.

Every family and single adult to be considered an active parishioner of St. Bartholomew's Parish must be properly registered in the Parish, receiving and regularly using the Parish Weekly Collection Envelopes. Only in this way can the Pastor issue documents attesting to Catholic practice of the faith and Parish membership, e.g. a letter to be a Godparent or Sponsor. For further information call the Parish Office at (914) 965-0566.

If you have not registered or need to correct some of the information in our file, please fill out this form and check (X) the appropriate box below, or you may also use the complete Registration Form found on the table at the rear of the Church; and drop the completed form into the collection basket or drop off/mail it to the Rectory. Thank you!

Name:

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Address:

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City/Zip:

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Telephone:

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Comment:

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- I am a visitor.
- I am interested in parish membership.
- Change of Address / Telephone Number.
- I am moving out of the Parish.
- I am going to the hospital.
- I would like to be visited by a priest / minister.
- Please send me the Catholic New York.
- I would like to learn more about the Catholic Faith.

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A woman, short of years but abundant in wisdom, hears the call of God through an angel and all of creation waits for her response. Have you ever had to make a decision that would entirely change your life and the lives of those around you? Has God ever asked you to risk it all for the kingdom? Maybe the question came in the form of a loved one's death. Perhaps a cross country move or a job change was the request. Confronting the reality of the call made your stomach ache and your head spin. What was your response?

As this Advent draws to a close, and a new calendar year lies just beyond your Christmas tree, let us pray that when the call comes, we may respond as mature disciples. Age does not define maturity. Neither does experience. Maturity is defined by how we respond to God in those most challenging of moments. This Christmas, may a young girl in a far off land lead us to an infant Child who one day will most certainly ask us a question that will shake us to our core, and may our answer echo hers, "yes."