

# St. Bartholomew's Church



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15 Palmer Road  
Yonkers • New York 10701

[www.saintbartparish.org](http://www.saintbartparish.org)  
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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. Chairperson: Richard Califano

*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



*The Holy Family*

*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.

**May Your Family Know The Mercy of God**

I grew up not knowing my father as he passed before I was born. But also, due to hardships, my siblings and I grew up living with different relatives. I ended up with my uncle – my mom’s brother. The closest memory I have of us living as a family unit was short but sweet – I believe it ended before I was five. Mine was not completely unique because again, we’re used to living with relatives for various reasons, even when parents are alive. But I know what I missed coming from the kind of family I have.

So, as we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family today, and as we remember our families in these modern times, I am also aware (indeed all of us) of the changing face of the family. While the “traditional family” is still definitely the ideal, there are growing numbers of family configurations. We now have among others, single parent families, foster families and blended families. These make up a large percentage of the families in today’s society.

For some, family now means more than being biologically related. For them family is now those people they are closely linked to; mutually supportive people with whom they interact with most.

While we may be sad about the situation of our modern family, it actually does not water down the feast we celebrate today. If handled well, something great could come out of this new normal, just as something evil could emerge from it too. Already, ISIS is now exploiting it as if offers people who have not really felt the true and sincere love of belonging (for various reasons) an alternative. It advertises itself as a community of love and peace and freedom and great ideal of fighting and dying for Allah and being rewarded in the next life. And we know how false that truly is! But for some reason, it resonates with a few disenchanted people.

As we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family and the Jubilee Year of Mercy, God offers us, once again, true love, peace, freedom, and virtues to fight for – the opposite of what ISIS is offering their recruits. Above all, God offers us His mercy and compassion. He offers us healing.

The New Year coming up could be a life changer for you and your family if you could rise up and take advantage of what Our Good Shepherd is offering us once again. The issue is not what kind of family configuration you have been dealing with. It’s not how bad things have been. It’s not how bleak the future looks in the present configuration. The issue is that God’s love and mercy can change all that. How?

Well, God may not suddenly give you a father or mother if you don’t have one; or give you a husband or wife or child if you don’t have one. God may not suddenly change the configuration of your family if you don’t like it. But I definitely know what God is capable of doing: He could, in spite of all our human weaknesses and faults (beginning with yours and then those of the people in your family) give peace, love, hope, joy, and mercy to your heart and the heart of your family! Yes, He is indeed God of the impossible! Who else would send His Only Son to convince us how much He loves us? Who else would allow Him to die – to save us?

May the joy of this beautiful and grace filled season fill your family, home and your heart. May you know true mercy and love and peace of the Lord in 2016. Amen!

**In Thanks & Praise:**

We are sincerely grateful to all who made this season a success and a blessing to all. More on this next Sunday. Blessings upon each and every one of you.

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and your family!**

**~ Father Raphael Ezeh, MSP**



**NEW YEAR’S DAY  
Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Mother of God**

Just as we begin all things with prayer, this New Year’s Day, every Catholic is encouraged to begin the year by attending Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God; which is a holy day of obligation. As a parish family we will honor our Blessed Mother, Mary, and also pray for peace in our world. The times for Masses are as follows:

Thursday, Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> 5 p.m. Vigil Mass  
Friday, Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.

**There will be no 5 p.m. Mass on New Year’s Day.**

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**The Parish Office will be closed this Friday, New Year’s Day, in celebration of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**



The members of the ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY will attend the 8:30 a.m. Mass next Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Parents of the children in the Religious Education program are reminded that there are no classes held this Tuesday between Christmas and New Year’s, December 29<sup>th</sup>. Religious Education classes will resume after the holidays, on Tuesday, January 5, 2016.



**OUR MONTHLY FAMILY MASS will be celebrated next Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>.**



The Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. All children and their families are encouraged to attend. Mass will be followed by “Family Breakfast” at the McManus Parish Center. All are welcome!



A special thanks from Rich Scardino for the Christmas presents that were donated. Over 300 gifts were collected and the recipients were extremely grateful. Thanks to all who continue to support our social ministry group and the needy within and outside of our parish family.

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A special thanks to all who helped and all who were present for the St. Bart’s Christmas Luncheon, December 19<sup>th</sup>. It was a wonderful gathering that was enjoyed by all.

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A special thanks to all who worked so hard to present a wonderful Nativity Play: Father Raphael, Elvis Valdez, all the cast and those also who worked behind the scenes.

**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH**

**PRAYER FOR FAMILIES**



Dear Lord, during the coming year, and beyond, please help all mothers and fathers to create a home of love, acceptance and mercy.

Let the good news of Christ reach each child, and let the mothers and fathers be the constant model of love, permeated with a living faith.

Also Lord, may every husband and wife be open to the gift of life - it is in God's loving arm.

May couples accept the child born to them, no matter what. Each child has their own personality and character.

May we all be sensitive, loving and merciful to all, and even people outside the family. Children should learn every person is worthy of love, and there is a basic, universal brotherhood that embraces every human being.

Amen.



**WORLD DAY OF PEACE**

In December of 1967, Pope Paul VI invited people of good will throughout the world to begin 1968 with a "Day of Peace." It was his intention that the first day of the civil New Year begin with a consideration of the need to preserve peace and to work assiduously for the promotion of peace through various cultural, social, and political institutions. Pope Paul made it clear in his first message for the Day of Peace, that his concern was not exclusively religious. In choosing to call it a "Day of Peace" rather than a day of *prayer* for peace, the pope wanted to highlight the importance of the duty of all men and women (even unbelievers) to work for peace that leads to human development and the advancement of civilization. To this day, January 1<sup>st</sup>, remains dedicated as a Day of Peace.



**Our warmest welcome to our visitors. We are glad you came to celebrate the Eucharist with us today. If you looking for a "church home," please consider our faith community. Speak with any of the hospitality ministers after Mass or call the parish office.**

**And of course welcome to each and every parishioner. Thank you so much for all you do for St. Bart's all year round. We remember our Sick and Homebound.; you are always in our thoughts and prayers. May the Lord grant you healing and peace.**



**A reminder that On Line Giving is now available at St. Bart's Please pick up a flyer at the rear of the church if you are interested.**



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

	12/21/14	12/20/15	Difference
Adults	\$5,781.55	\$6,370.40	+\$ 588.85
Children	\$ 92.00	\$ 204.20	+\$ 112.20
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,873.55</b>	<b>\$6,574.60</b>	<b>+\$ 701.05</b>

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**The collection in support of Snow Removal totaled \$1,032.40**  
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*The true purpose of tithing is to secure not the tithe, but the tither; not the gift, but the giver; not your money, but you... for God. **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!*

***"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 Cianfagione, 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, Gerald Mazzerese, Jr., Patricia Keane, Carol Stola, Karen Aprea, Stephen Sarich, Neil Cawley, 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, Gina Obalde, Ann Lackner, Ariella Castillo, Brian Detz, John Marietti, Dominick Gravino, Angelica Blanco, Joseph Melillo, Gail Chappory, Agnes Masterson, Gregory Clemens, Carol Hoffman, Randolph Castillo, Jr., Carolyn & Lawrence Mesler, Grace Finnerty, Mary Ann Klobosits, Theresa Venturino, Nicholas Arzola, Manuel Obalde, Jr., Maryellen Esposito, and Bernie Mistal.

**DECEMBER 27, 2015**

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*Mass*  *for the*  
*Intentions* *Week*

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

**Saturday, December 26(Anticipated Mass)**

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

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**Sunday, December 27**

8:30 AM Elizabeth & Carl Laredo +

10:00 AM John F. Brusco +

11:30 AM Anna & Anthony Faracco +

5:00 PM Rafael & Edwin Rivera +

**Monday, December 28**

**The Holy Innocents, Martyrs**

7:00 AM Stephen & Catherine Yaskovic +

9:00 AM John Palermo +

**Tuesday, December 29**

**Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord**

7:00 AM Andrea Henna & Carmela Jo Young +

9:00 AM Tony Cognatello +

**Wednesday, December 30**

**Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord**

7:00 AM Andrew & Jule Yaskovic +

9:00 AM John J. Esposito, Sr. +

**Thursday, December 31**

**Seventh Day within Octave of the Nativity of the Lord**

7:00 AM Margaret & James Kelly +

9:00 AM John C. Zielinski +

5 PM Vigil Victor D'Angelo +

**Friday, January 1**

**Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

8:30 AM Marilyn Lynch +

10:00 AM Theresa Venturino (Living)

11:30 AM Donato Sacchetta +

**Saturday, January 2**

**Saints Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors of the Church**

9:00 AM Michael & Helen Kelly +

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**Epiphany of the Lord**

**Saturday, January 2(Anticipated Mass)**

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

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**Sunday, January 3**

8:30 AM Caroline Klee +

10:00 AM Frank Nanoia +

11:30 AM Vincent J. Campisi +

5:00 PM Maria De La Carmen & Julio Blanco +

