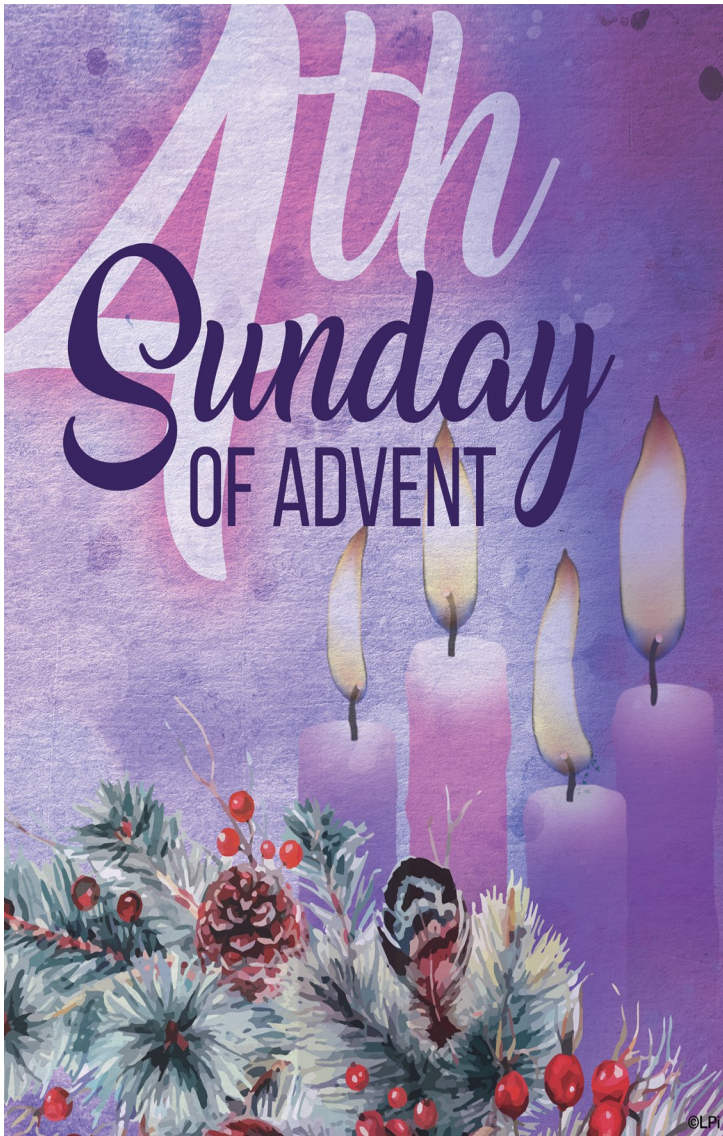


# Saint Bartholomew's Church

15 Palmer Road  
Yonkers • New York 10701

[www.saintbartsparish.org](http://www.saintbartsparish.org)  
Visit us on facebook:



**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  
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:** Sam Farraj, Anna Legio

THE GIFT OF JESUS

Advent is a time for us to prepare to celebrate Christ's coming into this world as one of us, as a baby boy, born of a woman. It is also a time to prepare again a place in our hearts and a place in our world for Christ. David took it upon himself to provide a better dwelling place for the ark of God. Mary agreed to be the dwelling place for God's Son. We too are called to prepare a dwelling place in our hearts for Christ as so that Christ is again made manifest in the world today, a world that clearly needs His presence.



"The Lord is with you." We hear this phrase twice in today's readings. The prophet Nathan says it to David when David is disturbed that the ark of the covenant is kept in a humble tent. Then Gabriel says it to Mary when he greets her. But in fact we've heard it other times as well, and not just today, but in every Mass. When the priest says, "The Lord be with you," he is saying to all of us gathered here so that the presence of the Lord is within and among us all as we worship together. When we act in service and acceptance of the will of God, the Lord is with us.

In Saint Paul we have the person who is perhaps most responsible for ensuring that the good news of Jesus Christ was spread to the whole world. Christianity could have remained a sect with Judaism. Other early Christians valued the exclusivity they felt when they kept their faith secret. But Paul would have none of this. He insisted that just as God sent Jesus to the whole world, Christians are called to proclaim Jesus to the whole world. So Paul closes his most well developed letter, that to the Romans, by praising God in Jesus, the fullness of God's revelation, made known to all nations.

Question of the Week

How can I take the gift of Jesus that I have been given and share this gift with others?



To God Be The Glory

We continue to thank God for the amazing success of our 5-year Capital Campaign. Thanks for your prayers and terrific generosity. For those who missed the Masses last Sunday, here's the summary of the Campaign:

\*\*From meetings with individual families we raised \$733,000 and an additional \$31,000 towards specific projects, bringing it to a total of \$764,000 from 89 families.

\*\*From our in-pew campaign (2 weekends) we raised \$168,820 from 70 families.

\*\*Direct mailing by the Archdiocese brought in \$2,900 from 4 families.

\*\*Overall total is \$935,720 from 163 families.

Again, we want to thank God for this special favor. We thank Our Blessed Mother, Undoer of Knots for her special intercession. Thanks again to everyone, especially those that pledged something. I prayed that we could make a strong statement that we're alive and are facing the future with confidence. And we did so. Bravo!

Going Home

I will be leaving for Nigeria on Dec. 25, after the Masses. I'll be returning January 25. Father Anthony will be taking care of business. Please, keep me in your prayers.

Blessings, a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Fr. Raphael

PARISH NEWS



The Pastor and Staff heartily wish you and your family safe travels as you gather with family and friends to celebrate the birth of Christ and the New Year. Have a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous 2018.

The Parish office will be closed on Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>.



THE ALTAR BREAD AND WINE, SANCTUARY LAMP AND ALTAR CANDLES are donated in loving memory of the Brusco and Nanoia families by Louis and Angela Brusco.



Rest in Peace

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed

especially Reverend John B. Tou.

There will be no Religious Education classes on Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>. Classes will resume on Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>.



BE "INFORMED" FOR DECEMBER

We hope you are enjoying the free parish subscription to [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org) which gives you access to quality Catholic on line programs, movies, audios, and books. Simply register with parish code YWHDC2 and enjoy. Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Study: Advent, Session 4: *The Gift*. Monday is The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord. Study: Symbolon, Knowing the Faith, Session 4: *The Story of Salvation*, or watch: *The Story of the Nativity*.: You can also listen to: *The True Meaning of Christmas*, *God Made Man*, *The Story of Christmas*, or *The King is Born*.. Contact Cheryl Duda at 914-476-6676 if you have any questions.



A special thanks to all who made our Parish Christmas Party a on December 16<sup>th</sup> a huge success, to those who volunteered and to those who attended. A joyous time was had by all.

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

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





FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**CHRISTMAS WISH LIST~ A SPECIAL THANK YOU  
TO ALL OUR DONORS**

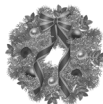


**Advent and Christmas Candle Set Donated by:**  
Joan Laredo Liddell in loving memory of Carl &  
Elizabeth Laredo

**Christmas Wreaths Donated by:**

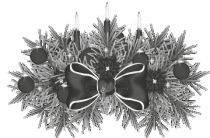
Ellen & Rich Califano and Joyce Pietrowski in loving  
memory of Helen & Pete Pietrowski

Mary Ann & Anthony Cognatello in loving memory of  
deceased members of the Cognatello and Gregorio families  
Joan Laredo Liddell in loving memory of Robert Liddell  
Janet Madonia in loving memory of Dennis Madonia



**Christmas Arrangements Donated by:**

Ellen & Rich Califano in loving memory of Linda & Gene Skelly  
Joan Laredo Liddell in loving memory of Oscar Starkenberg  
Joan Laredo Liddell in loving memory of Caroline  
& Peter Klee



Joan Laredo Liddell in loving memory of Dr.  
Louis J. Loscalzo

John & Karen McKenna in loving memory of  
Margaret & Carmine Maccia

Joanna Pragana in loving memory of Albert Pragana, Mary & Joseph  
Cuozzo, Lucille and Victor Serricchio & Christine Bellino

Maria & Rich Scardino in loving memory of deceased members of the  
Scardino & D'Arienzo families

Quincy & Theresa Venturino in loving memory of the Martucci  
families

Quincy & Theresa Venturino in loving memory of the Venturino  
families

**SCHEDULE OF MASSES  
FOR CHRISTMAS AND  
NEW YEAR'S DAY**

**CHRISTMAS EVE:**

**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> Vigil at 5:00 p.m.**  
(This Mass fulfills your Christmas obligation and  
does not fulfill Sunday Mass obligation).

Begins with Carols at 4:40 p.m.

**Midnight Mass**

Begins with Carols at 11:30 p.m.



**CHRISTMAS DAY;**

**Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

(There will be no 5:00 p.m. Mass on Christmas day)

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD  
NEW YEAR'S MASSES:**

**Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>**

5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

(This Mass fulfills your Holy Day, January 1<sup>st</sup>  
obligation, and does not fulfill Sunday Mass  
obligation).

**Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup>**

8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

(There will be no 5:00 p.m. Mass on New Year's day)



**TITHING - GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING  
Sunday Collection Update**

Amount Needed Weekly	\$7,000.00
Actual Received Last Sunday	\$6,354.50
Balance	- \$ 645.50
*(Envelopes \$6,129.50. Online (\$225.00))	

Amount Needed for Month of December	\$35,000.00
Amount Collected Thus Far	\$16,611.90

**The second collection for snow removal totaled: \$1,241.50**

"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!

**It's time to sign up for on line giving with We Share. Please contact the parish office or take a flyer and sign up sheet at the rear of the church.**



Please pray for all the sick & the homebound members of our Parish, especially Marian Fletcher, Ann Lackner, Richard Meyers, Rosalie Heit, Andrea Objay, Audrey Falcone, Louis Brusco, Michael Tomanelli, Ariella Castillo, Gail Chappory, Randolph Castillo, Jr., Deacon Jim Byrne, Gregory Clemens, Mary Bryce, Anna Bonacci, Efrain Arzola, Henry Joseph, Deacon Bob Clemens, Carolyn Cesta, William Bodack, Joseph Mahoney, Mary De Santis, Leticia Agosto, Manuel Obalde, Jr., Gina Obalde, Rosalia Guzman, Ann McGarry, Daniel Pezzola, Brittany Arzola, Ron and Sally Petro, Anthony Guarente, Theresa Venturino, Nicholas Arzola, Angela Lutomski, Richard (Dick) Novak, Cynthia Mascetta King, and Matthew Fitzpatrick.

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



Our **SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE** thanks you for your generosity during this holy season to help the needy in our community with food as well as 400 Christmas gifts to the various charities we

support.

Our **YOUTH GROUP** meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of each month immediately following the 5 p.m. Mass in the school building. Their next meeting is Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>. **Follow our Youth Group on Twitter @ St\_Barts-Youth.**

Our newly formed **EDGE GROUP (AGES 11-13)** meets the second Sunday of each month immediately following the 5 p.m. Mass in the school building.

Our **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY (AGES 4-10)** meets the third Friday each month at 6:30 p.m. in the school building.

December 24, 2017

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Mass  for the  
Intentions Week

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

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

5:00 PM George Klobosits +

\*\*\*\*\*

**Sunday, December 24 2017**

8:30 AM Robert Liddell +

10:00 AM For All the People of Our Parish

11:30 AM Anna & Anthony Faracco +

5:00 PM Deceased Members of Salerno & Del Bene families  
(CHRISTMAS VIGIL)

**Midnight Mass** Catherine Skelly +

\*\*\*\*\*

**Monday, December 25**

**The Nativity of the Lord**

8:30 AM Carmine & Margaret Maccia +

10 AM Deceased Members of Brusco and Nanoia families

11:30 AM Benjamin Pelliccio +

**Tuesday, December 26**

**Saint Stephen, The First Martyr**

7:00 AM Monsignor Charles McManus +

9:00 AM Angelina Rauso +

**Wednesday, December 27**

**Saint John, Apostle & Evangelist**

7:00 AM Deceased Members of Faranda & DePole families

9:00 AM John F. Brusco +

**Thursday, December 28**

**The Holy Innocents, Martyrs**

7:00 AM Deceased Members of Faranda & DePole families

9:00 AM Reverend David McDonnell (Living)

**Friday, December 29**

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

7:00 AM Catherine Draghi +

9:00 AM Rafael & Edwin Rivera +

**Saturday, December 30**

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

9:00 AM Tony Cognatello +

\*\*\*\*\*

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

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

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

\*\*\*\*\*

**Sunday, December 31, 2017**

8:30 AM Elizabeth & Carl Laredo +

10:00 AM Deceased Members of Casey & Chimenti families

11:30 AM Lena & Patrick Castaldo +

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish  
(VIGIL FOR JANUARY 1, SOLEMNITY OF  
MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD)

**CHRISTMAS ANTICIPATION PRAYER**



Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother.

Amen.

+--+

**A CHRISTMAS BLESSING FOR THE HOME**

Loving God,

As we gather at Christmas around the manger,  
Which reminds us of the birth of Your Son,  
We ask you to dwell in our hearts and our home.

Bless every member of our family,  
And strengthen the bond of love  
among us.

May we joyfully praise You like the  
angel choir  
That announced the birth of Your Son  
To the shepherds watching over their  
flocks.

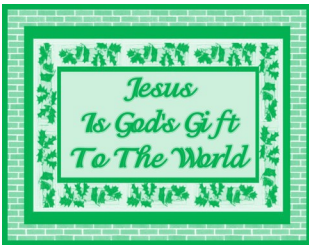


May we show Your love to others  
With the same brightness of the star that guided  
The Wise Men to offer gifts to the newborn King.  
Make our family holy,  
And like Jesus, Mary, and Joseph,  
So that we may always live in peace and love.  
Amen

+--+

**GIVING GIFTS**

At the Savior's birth,  
Magi from the east presented gifts  
Of gold, frankincense and myrrh,



Reflecting Christ's kingship,  
divine nature,  
And human nature subject to  
death.

Though the magi once worshiped  
the gods of their land,  
They knew before them was a  
king greater than all kings  
And a God greater than all gods  
they'd known.

As we buy or make gifts for one another this Christmas,  
May we remember amid the hustle, bustle and commotion  
That Christmas gift giving honors our Savior and Lord,  
Who came to dwell among us as one like ourselves.

May we remember that the giving of gifts  
Was a sign of love  
Begun in response to the greatest gift of all from God:  
The only begotten Son.