

# St. Bartholomew's Church



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our parish website.

15 Palmer Road  
Yonkers • New York 10701

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

## SPREAD THE JOY

There's something about Christmas ....  
 The age old songs, like old wine  
 That tastes better with age  
 The candles, that lift our wishes high  
 The glittering lights and decors.  
 The welcoming pine fragrance  
 That fills our homes and churches  
 The Christmas trees and rituals  
 That we love so much  
 The shopping ... yes, the shopping  
 Done with so much love  
 And desire to bring a smile to a face  
 The love in the air,  
 Descending like the dew  
 Upon our troubled world,  
 Upon our restless souls  
 From Our loving Father above  
 The joy of the season,  
 That should know no bounds.  
 It's indeed a season  
 So magical!  
**Father Raphael**

Yet at such a beautiful season, some, indeed many, are far from joyous, and definitely, not magical. A former parishioner and friend sent me this text a few days ago: "*At such a beautiful and glorious time of the year, why is it so sad?*" It woke me up.

I have often heard of so many who feel depressed during the holidays, especially during the Christmas season. I never really gave it much thought, thinking that the numbers or reality must be exaggerated. Why would someone be depressed at such a beautiful time, except those who probably lost a loved one, especially around this time. Two things happened back to back. I got the text. I also stumbled into a survey from the University of Utah School of Medicine. It reported that 90% of us suffer from emotional reactions caused by the stress associated with the Christmas season. It went further to say that on one particular year, 300 counselors operated a hot line from December 21 – 27 in the city of Chicago alone. They clocked 2000 calls from depressed people. Of course, you may have heard that suicide rates rise at this time. Heart attack related deaths and others peak around December 25 & 26 and January 1. The list went on, but let me not sadden your Christmas day further.

Why did I choose to focus on this on such a beautiful day? Because, it is a reality that many among us are not rejoicing with us. And we must be our brothers' and sisters' keepers. If you (or anyone you know) is not enjoying the birth of Christ and the peace and joy of this season, here's something to remember ... something that I hope might help cheer you up. Share it with someone who might need to hear it.

My answer, if you're wondering, to my friend's question is that the devil is very busy at work, making sure that we do not enjoy the birth of our Messiah. He's making sure that the peace and joy and love that descends upon the world and our troubled souls like the dew does not reach the depths of our hearts. Never doubt that the Father does indeed send these down to us.

Secondly, think of the buildings around earthquake zones, built to withstand the most devastating earthquakes. We are built that way, and better too. The peace and joy of Christmas is not, and should not be dependent on any external circumstances AT ALL. It is deeper than anything nature or the devil or any human enemy could throw at us. So, the joy of Christmas can be you. And should be yours. It may be lessened, but not denied to the point of depression. To the point of suicide. No!

So, may your heart and your home, and those of your loved ones, be filled with love, joy and hope. May the presence and peace of the New Born King be upon you and among you. And may the New Year bring to all of you God's abundant blessings. Amen.

MERRY CHRISTMAS  
 TO YOU & YOUR FAMILY & LOVED ONES

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 Bernard J. McDonald.

The **BREAD AND WINE, ALTAR CANDLES, AND SANCTUARY LAMP** for this week have been donated in loving memory of the Brusco and Nanoia Families by  Angela and Louis Brusco.

**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.**



The Pastor and the Staff heartily wish you and your family safe travels as you gather with friends and family to celebrate the birth of Christ and the New Year. Have a Merry Christmas & a happy, healthy and prosperous 2017.

*Merry  
 Christmas*

**Please note that the Parish Office will be closed this Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup> in celebration of Christmas.**

## THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

### 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,  
Just 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.

### St. Bart's Angels Bake Sale

Sunday, January 8, 2017 after all Masses  
If you can donate baked goods, it would be greatly appreciated.  
Call the Parish Office. All proceeds go to Relay for Life. See the  
flyer in next week's bulletin.



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

	12/20/15	12/18/16	Difference
Adults	\$6,370.40	\$5,395.55	- \$ 974.85
,Children	\$ 204.20	\$ 119.50	- \$ 84.70
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,574.60</b>	<b>\$5,515.05</b>	<b>- \$1,059.55</b>

The Snow Removal collection totaled \$1,115.25

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, Daniel Pezzola and Benjamin Pelliccio.

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

**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. Their next meeting is Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>. All youths age 13 and up are invited.

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

**DECEMBER 25, 2016**

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

**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 +

**Monday, December 26**

**Saint Stephen, The First Martyr**

9:00 AM Monsignor Charles McManus +

**Tuesday, December 27**

**Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist**

7:00 AM Arvin Falarme+

9:00 AM John F. Brusco +

**Wednesday, December 28**

**The Holy Innocents, Martyrs**

7:00 AM For a Special Intention

9:00 AM Bernardo Francisco Almonte +

**Thursday, December 29**

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

7:00 AM Cecile Marra +

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

**Friday, December 30**

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

7:00 AM Reverend Sean Connolly & Family (Living)

9:00 AM Rafael & Edwin Rivera +

**Saturday, December 31**

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

9:00 AM Bernard Mistal & Margaret Kielkucki +

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**Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

**Saturday, December 31 (Vigil Mass)**

5:00 PM Victor D'Angelo +

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**Sunday, January 1**

8:30 AM Maria Loreta & Luigi Lucchetti +

10:00 AM John J. Esposito, Sr.

11:30 AM Vincent J. Campisi +

## **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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