

Saint Bartholomew's Church

15 Palmer Road
Yonkers • New York 10701
stbartschurch@aol.com
www.saintbartsparish.org
Visit us on facebook:
St. Bartholomew's Yonkers

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE LORD, YOUR GOD, IS IN YOUR MIDST,
A MIGHTY SAVIOR;
HE WILL REJOICE OVER YOU WITH GLADNESS,
AND RENEW YOU IN HIS LOVE.

—ZEPHANIAH 3:17

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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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 Ezech, MSP, Pastor
Rev. Victor Ameh, MSP, Associate Pastor
Karen Maccia McKenna, Parish Office Manager
Cheryl Duda, Religious Education Coordinator
Erika Podoprigora, Organist and Music Director

Rectory/Parish Office : (914) 965-0566
Religious Education Office: (914) 476-6676

Masses: 5:00 p.m. on Saturday (Vigil);
9:30, **11:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m. (Spanish Mass)** and 5 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 4:30 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, Joseph Chimenti

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: Thomas Hoffman, Tina Falcone

BEAR WITNESS TO THE LIGHT

If the first half of the first reading sounds familiar, it may be because this is the passage that Jesus reads in the synagogue at the beginning of His ministry. If you recall, after reading it Jesus



proclaims that this scripture passage has been fulfilled in their hearing. Because Jesus is with us as we are gathered here today, Isaiah's words are fulfilled now as well. Jesus continues to bring glad tidings, healing, justice, favor, and vindication. So we prepare ourselves this

Advent as a bride prepares for her wedding, wearing the promise of justice and the hope of salvation and shining with the jewels of generosity and praise.

In darkness, the first need is for light. At any given time the world can be full of darkness, but lately it seems like the darkness threatens to overwhelm us. War abroad. Strife at home. COVID-19. Mass shooting. Natural disasters. And on and on. But into all this darkness comes a light. Not just a light, but the light, the light John testified to. The kingdom of God has drawn near to us in Christ and we respond with joy when we realize that He comes to us, for us, and remains with us, even when we're not conscious of His abiding presence. May we recognize the light of the Lord that is within us and our neighbor as well.

May we be as bold as John the Baptist, who testified to the light but declared that he himself was not the light. Even if we have the light within us, we did not create that light, we did not produce that light. That light comes from above and we merely direct it in the way that we live. May we bear witness to the light by directing it upon the darkensses in our world, producing glimmers of goodness.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

How can I recognize and then bear witness to the light that comes from God?

Blessings

Fr. Raphael Ezeh, MSP

Christmas Wish List

You can purchase :

- (2) 36" wreaths (\$140 each)
- (1) 48" wreaths (\$150 each) and
- Pointsettia Arrangements (75 each)
- in memory of a loved one(s).

Please contact the Parish Office if you are interested.



Heavenly Father, This third week of Advent, let us remember that the good news of Jesus' birth has the power to bring us great joy this Christmas season. Our joy isn't dependent on what is going on in our life, in our world, or the people that we are with. It doesn't depend on the gifts we give or the gifts we find under the tree. No earthly thing can ever give us complete joy. Our joy comes from You. That joy that flooded the hearts of the shepherds, the angels, the wise men, the hosts of heaven, and Mary and Joseph is the joy that still has the power to overwhelm our hearts with rejoicing.

Father, You offer that same joy to us now if we know You and recognize Jesus as our Savior and Lord. You gave us a reason to celebrate when You gave us the unspeakable gift of Jesus Christ. You came to dwell among us. You went to Calvary's cross for us. You overcame death and rose from the dead for us. You forgive our sin and give us eternal life when we believe in You.

Our joy doesn't come from our jobs, our family, our relationships, our finances, or our success. Our joy doesn't come from what we have on earth or who we are with. Our joy is a gift. It is the gift that You gave us that first Christmas in Jesus Christ. Our joy is encompassed in our Savior, King Jesus. Flood our heart with joy this Advent season as we reflect on the good news of Jesus' birth. In Jesus' precious name we pray. Amen



PARISH NEWS

THE HOURS FOR THE PARISH OFFICE ARE AS FOLLOWS: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10 AM to 2 PM. The Parish Office will be closed on Tuesday and Thursday.



Our **SOCIAL MINISTRY GROUP** 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: hams, desserts, and fresh baked goods. These food items should be brought to the church before the 5 pm Mass on **THIS Saturday evening (December 16th)** or before the 9:30 and 11 am **THIS Sunday Masses (December 17th)** for distribution on **THIS Monday, December 18th.**

THE OPPORTUNITY FOR CONFESSION/SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION BEFORE

CHRISTMAS IS: Monday, December 18th.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH WILL HOLD CONFESSIONS FROM 2:00 to 4:00 pm and 6:00 to 8:00 pm. ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 18TH.



However, times for confession at other parishes may vary.

SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S DAY

CHRISTMAS EVE:

Sunday, December 24th

VIGIL AT 4 P.M.

Begins with Carols at 3:30 p.m.

MIDNIGHT MASS

Begins with Carols at 11:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY:

Monday, December 25th

9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. & 12:30 (Spanish Mass)

(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 31st

5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

Monday, January 1st

11:00 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. (Spanish

Mass)



(There will be no 9:30 or 5:00 p.m. Mass on New Year's day)

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**THE SCHEDULE FOR MASSES IN ST. BART'S
IS AS FOLLOWS:**

MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
7 AM AND 9 AM
SATURDAY MASS: 9 AM
SATURDAY VIGIL AT 5 PM

SUNDAY MASSES
9:30 AM, 11:00 AM,
12:30 PM (SPANISH) & 5 PM

CONFESSIONS ARE ON SATURDAY FROM 4 TO 4:30 PM

THE GIVING TREE

Please note that the "Giving Tree" is up. Pick an ornament off the tree and return the gift to the back of the church no later than Monday, December 18th. Every gift goes to someone in need. St. Bart's donates to:



Elizabeth Seton Children's Center, Richmond Center, Immaculate Conception in the Bronx and Westchester Assisted Living. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

NOTE: Please note for Elizabeth Seton Children's Center (yellow tags), gifts must be placed in a gift bag and not wrapped.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

A Constant Companion

As Christians, we are called to a life of prayer. This is not just during seasons like Advent, but all year long. When we talk about being prayerful everyday stewards, we are speaking about cultivating an awareness of God being with us at all times. Each day we begin by offering God the entirety of our day. Each night we rest in Him and hope that the hours that passed gave Him glory.

During this busy time of Advent, it is hard to cultivate this life of prayer, but without it we can too easily lose sight of the reason for the season. It is during this time of year we need to heed the words of St. Paul more than ever when he wrote to the Thessalonians, "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing." This is how we will be able to avoid the pitfalls of consumerism and secularism and keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

Bring Jesus with you into the office Christmas party. Take him with you shopping for gifts in the department store. Be aware of him when you sit down to watch television specials you have seen every year of your life. Give him all your time and let his presence fill your every moment. By striving to be connecting with Jesus at all times, you will bear greater fruit and the joy you experience will be much greater than you could imagine. You might even spend a few less dollars and spend more time with those you love, particularly the one who loves you the most, the Incarnation himself. Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS LPI

CWWY CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Catholic Widows and Widowers of Yonkers will hold their Annual Christmas Luncheon at **Tombolino's Ristorante**, 356 Kimball Ave, Yonkers, on **Thursday, Dec 21st, at 1:00pm**. \$30 cash per person payable at the luncheon. Members and guests are welcome. For required reservations/information, please call 914 423-5331.

† STEWARDSHIP †

What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits to me?

TITHING - GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

SUNDAY COLLECTION

December 3rd
Sunday collection: \$3,851.00
On Line giving: \$2,480.00
Total: \$6,331.00

**IT'S EASY TO SIGN UP FOR ONLINE GIVING
EASY LINK FROM THE PARISH WEBSITE**

You can set up separate one time or recurring donations for the different collections (regular weekly, snow removal, Christmas, etc.) or you may wish to begin with the regular collections, try it out and when you are comfortable, you can sign up for the others. **Also, know if you set up for recurring donations, you are in full control and can always change or cancel at any time.** And by donating in this manner you may get the added benefit of accumulating additional points or cash on your credit card while at the same time helping out the parish. So, give it a try and sign up today!!!! **IT'S EASY!!!** Go to: www.saintbartsparish.org (**BE SURE TO SPELL OUT SAINT**) and click on the **We Share** online giving link. Follow the instructions. (WE SHARE HAS REPLACED PARISH PAY). **If you have any questions or problems, contact the Parish Office and leave a message or e mail us at stbartschurch@aol.com.**



LORD
give strength
to your people

Please pray for all the sick & the homebound members of our Parish, especially Ann Lackner, Gail Chappory, Gina Obalde, Ron and Sally Petro, Angela Lutomski, Richard (Dick) Novak, Manuel Obalde, Jr., Anthony Spinner, Steven Sarich, John McKenna, Antony Gorge Ferreira, Eileen Fitzpatrick, Ann Pezzola, Edith Kelly, Carole Romanowski, Susan Rivera, Kenneth Chappory, Ann McShane, Ellen Chimenti, Gianna Whitehead, Dan Panik, Dominick Francis Marra, Edward Minozzi, Robert Minnucci, Lucia Sevivas, Josephine Giabattista, Loni Shost, Ken Shost, Emil Kurak, John & Patricia Quirk, Lucille McGeough, Baby Joseph Anthony Coddington, Tony Sciacca, Megan Weingarten, Richard Gritta, Luz Maria Izurieta, Joan Manno, Ana Herrera, Edna McShane, Faust Venturino, Patricia Nieman, Richard Romanowski, Salvador Aviles, Judy Hanrahan, John Smith, Theresa Liuzzi, Barbara Olivieri, Michael & Joseph Diaz (twin babies) and Patricia Mahoney.

The Parish Office and leave a message or e mail us at stbartschurch@aol.com, if you wish to add a loved one to the sick list.



Rest in Peace

Please pray for the souls of all the faithful departed especially *Anna Bonacci and Patricia Mahoney.*

December 10, 2023

Mass Intentions  *for the Week*

Saturday, December 16 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Andrew Tacyn +

**Sunday, December 17
Third Sunday of Advent**

9:30 AM Elizabeth & Carl Laredo +

11:00 AM Steven Fitzpatrick +

12:30 PM Ines Santos +

5:00 PM Agnes Uduebo (Living)

Monday, December 18

Late Advent Weekday

7:00 AM Rose Zanca (Living)

9:00 AM Special Intention

Tuesday, December 19

Late Advent Weekday

7:00 AM Grace Hicks (Living)

9:00 AM Daniel Curtin +

Weekday, December 20

Late Advent Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Joan Laredo Liddell +

Thursday, December 21

Late Advent Weekday

7:00 AM Dilon & Dillen Garvey (Living)

9:00 AM Emilio Lucchetti & Family (Living)

Friday, December 22

Late Advent Weekday

7:00 AM Roger Hicks (Living)

9:00 AM Carol Stola +

Saturday, December 23

Late Advent Weekday

9:00 AM Arnaldo & Rita De Sanctis +

Saturday, December 23 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Patrick J. Conway +

**Sunday, December 24
Fourth Sunday of Advent**

9:30 AM Deceased Members of the Legio Family

11:00 AM Anna & Anthony Faracco +

12:30 PM Omar Arias +

**Sunday, December 24
Christmas Eve**

3:30 PM Carols

4:00 PM Christmas Vigil—

George & Maryanne Klobosits +

11:30 PM Carols

12:00 AM Midnight Mass—For All The People of
Our Parish

Monday, December 25th Christmas Masses are at 9:30 AM, 11 AM and 12:30 PM (Spanish Mass). There is no 5 pm Mass on Christmas Day.

December 17, 2023

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 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 Parish Office. Thank you!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Comment: _____

- I am interested in parish membership.
- I am a visitor.
- 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.

WE ALL NEED A LITTLE HUMOR

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

