

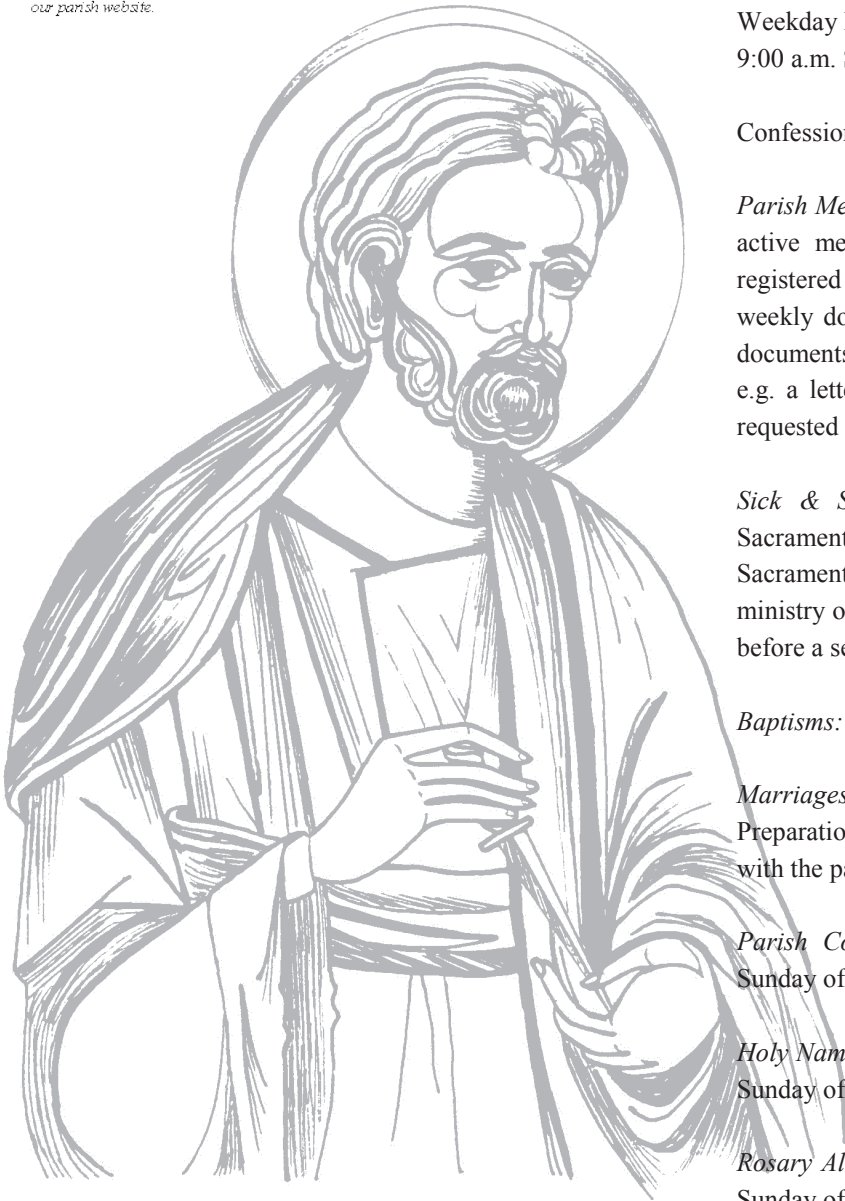
St. Bartholomew's Church



Scan this code with your
smart phone to access
our parish website.

15 Palmer Road
Yonkers • New York 10701

www.saintbartsparish.org



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. Daniel Oghenerukevwe, 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, Dan Panik

Rosary Altar Society: Meets on the Monday evening after the first Sunday of the month. President, Joan Liddell

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

Trustees: Catherine Hickey, Aureo Pinto

BEAR NO HATRED & CHERISH NO GRUDGE

Many of us have been following the tragic story of the 19-yr old boy, Jordan Davis, shot dead by Michael Dunn over loud music. This past Monday the jury found Mr. Dunn guilty of attempted second-degree murder in firing on 3 other kids in the same vehicle with Jordan. However, they could not agree on the murder charge against him in Jordan's death.



After the verdict, Jordan's mom, Lucia McBath, did what I'm not even sure I could do, but precisely what God is asking us, His children, to do in the

first reading: "You shall **not bear hatred** for your brother or sister in your heart. Though you may have to **reprove your fellow citizen**, do not incur sin because of him. Take no revenge and **cherish no grudge** against any of your people" (Leviticus 19:17-18). She was happy that the truth has come out (reprove), and sad for Mr. Dunn because, "...he will live the rest of his life in that sense of torment ..." She said she and her family will be praying for him.

Not surprisingly, some people disapproved of her (quick) response while others actually got annoyed with her. Last Sunday, Jesus told us that our righteousness must surpass that of the Scribes and Pharisees! One commentator said that we need more Lucia McBaths in our society. God must be going: This is My beloved daughter, in whom I'm very pleased. May we, too, avoid bearing hatred and cherishing grudges. Amen!

ABOUT VOLUNTEERING AT CHURCH

MYTH #2: "They Don't Need My Help."

If your faith community is anything like mine, an amazingly efficient staff plus a handful of dedicated volunteers are its best asset, and its greatest threat. The problem with parishes where everything seems handled is that everything seems, well, handled. New volunteers don't come forward because it seems as though they're not needed – and sometimes it's hard to feel welcome. But slowly, quietly, staff turns over and volunteers burn out. Do yourself (and your fellow parishioners) a favor and get involved even when it seems like they could do it without you.

ANNUAL STATE OF THE PARISH REPORT

In anticipation of low attendance at the Masses last weekend due to the bad weather, we decided to postpone the report until this weekend. It will be posted to our website too. I hope parishioners do read the report. I thank you for being a member of St. Bart's and for giving of your time, talent and treasure. I pray that the Lord will continue to bless you and your family and loved ones. Amen. Happy reading!

CARDINAL'S ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

The appeal is underway and it's good to note that parishioners have given over \$10,000 already. Thanks for the effort. I know we need funds here at St. Bart's but do give from your means. I look at it positively, too: we get a percentage of the overage at the end. This past year we got close to \$8,000 in rebate. That's money we'd never have gotten. Last year 200 donors gave to the Appeal. This year we hope we can raise the number to 230 or more. The appeal weekend is coming up on March 8/9. Thanks for your generosity.

Have a Blessed Week.

~ Father Raphael Ezeh, MSP

PARISH NEWS



This Saturday, March 1st the Divine Mercy Holy Hour will begin at 3 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to participate in this wonderful devotion.

The members of the Rosary Altar Society will attend the 8:30 a.m. Mass next Sunday, March 2nd.



OUR FAMILY MASS: Next Sunday, March 2nd, we will celebrate our Family Mass 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.

SOCIAL MINISTRY: Our Food Pantry has an ongoing need, especially for pasta, pasta sauces, canned fruits, jelly, cereal, juices and beverage mixes. Please keep this in mind when you see sales on your trips to the supermarket. Thank you for your continuing support!



OPENING OF THE 2015 MASS BOOK



The Mass Book for 2015 will open on **Ash Wednesday, March 5th**. You may come to the Rectory Office immediately following the Masses at 9 a.m. and 12 noon to have Masses offered for yourself and for your loved ones, whether living or deceased.

You will have the added opportunity to book Masses on Saturday evening, April 5th, following the 5 p.m. Mass and Sunday, April 6th, following the 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. Masses.



All Catholic children attending public schools should enroll in a religious education program. Please call (476-6676) for more information.

OUR PARISH R.C.I.A. PROGRAM: If you or someone you know needs information on the Catholic Faith or has not been confirmed, please call the Religious Education Office for information on the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (R.C.I.A.) in our parish.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

"He redeems your life from destruction." There is so much in modern life to erode the love in marriage/holy orders. Come away and renew your sacrament on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. For more information or upcoming dates, call (877) 697-9963, ext. 3 or visit www.wmearchny.org.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter's mission of renewal in the Church and change in the world is to assist couples and priests to live fully intimate and responsible relationships by providing them with a Catholic "experience" and ongoing community support for such a lifestyle.



If you have blessed palms from last Palm Sunday, please bring them next weekend only, March 1st & 2nd; and place them in the waste paper basket in the back of the church on the Rectory side. These palms will be burned to provide ashes for our Ash Wednesday, March 5th, services.

SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, MARCH 22ND



HOLY NAME SOCIETY

PASTA NIGHT

St. John the Baptist Rosary Altar Society is holding their annual card party on Friday, February 28th, in the church hall, 670 Yonkers Avenue. Doors open at 7 p.m. Admission is \$20 and includes sandwiches, drinks, cake & coffee. For more information call Beth (914 776-6071) or Laura (914 497-2313).

POST-ABORTION HELP: If you are suffering from the pain of a past abortion, know that there is hope and healing! Retreats are available in the tri-state area for those who have lost a child to abortion. Upcoming Days of Prayer and Healing for Women: March 15th and May 31st. You must preregister for a retreat by contacting the Sisters of Life on 866 575-0075.

FAMILY LIFE CONFERENCE

Saturday, March 29th - 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

St. Joseph's Seminary, 201 Seminary Avenue, Yonkers

Admission, including Lunch: \$30

Registration required; Go to www.flrl.org or call 646 794-3195

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.

RECITATION OF THE ROSARY: Join your fellow parishioners in praying the Rosary after the 9 a.m. Mass on weekdays and Saturdays.

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

	2013	2014	Difference
Adults	\$5,659.70	\$4,993.20	-\$ 666.50
Children	\$ 122.50	\$ 68.60	-\$ 53.90
Total	\$5,782.20	\$5,061.80	-\$ 720.40

The second collection to defray the cost of snow removal and salting totaled \$1,393.75.

PARISH SUPPORT: Next Sunday, March 2nd, we will take up a second collection in support of our Parish buildings and grounds. Please endeavor to donate generously.

"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



LORD give strength to your people

Please pray for all the sick & the homebound members of our Parish, especially Ethel Thomas, Aldina Pereira, Rebecca Conroy, Andy DeFabritis, Maria Marte, Jule Yaskovic, Rosalie Heit, Florence B. Swetz, Clare Yaskovic, Neil Caruso, Deacon James Byrnes, Andrea Objay, Carmen Torres, Frank Marra, Deacon Patrick Troy, Josephine Apuzzo, Gary Roth, Joyann Allan, Lois Burton, Mary DeStefano, Mark Cianfaglione, Shawn Colon, Margaret Maccia, Nicole Ryan Betancourt, Anthony Spinner, Audrey Falcone, Kathleen Hayes, Marge Muraik, Nicole Pisani-Frame, Louis Petrulo, Cynthia Swiatkiewicz, Jimmy Maimone, Robert Mirsky, Roseanne Mercandetti, Louis Brusco, Josephine Daniele, Jennifer Dorsey, Valerie Riccardi, Fatima Panik, Marian Fletcher, Anna Bonacci, Minerva Hernandez, Paula Parente, Bridget O'Malley, Anna Brucculeri, Peggy Clevenberg, Gerald Mazzerese, Jr., Patricia Keane, Carol Stola, Amada Ortiz, Karen Aprea, Stephen Sarich, Neil Cawley, Barbara McCormack, Josephine Lehotyak, Lawrence Girsch, Fran Romano, Gail Villafana, Joe Forlini, Gertrude Woska, Michael Treacy, and Rosemarie Petti.

REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES, LIVING AND DEAD

The Mass Book for 2014 is open and has availability. Consider giving a loved one the graces associated with having a Mass offered on their behalf. Also, you may consider offering the Altar flowers, Altar bread and wine, Altar candles, or lighting the Sanctuary lamp for a week for your intention. Come to the Rectory Office, **Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.** to make arrangements or to inquire about the availability of a particular date.

PARISH BIBLE SHARING / STUDIES: Bible Studies is held on the 2nd & 4th Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the school building. The next meeting will be held this **Friday, February 28th**.



February 23, 2014

Mass  *for the*
Intentions *Week*

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, February 22 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Angela & Amedeo Lepore +

Sunday, February 23

8:30 AM Michael Castagnozzi & Mary Ann Karpinski +

10:00 AM For All the People of Our Parish

11:30 AM Anna & Anthony Faracco +

5:00 PM Antonio Vitullo +

Monday, February 24

Weekday

7:00 AM Raymond Fennell +

9:00 AM Patrick Castaldo +

Tuesday, February 25

Weekday

7:00 AM Lucy Tresca +

9:00 AM Joseph Carmody +

Wednesday, February 26

Weekday

7:00 AM Joyce Couto +

9:00 AM Msgr. Joseph F. Tracey +

Thursday, February 27

Weekday

7:00 AM Mary Capper +

9:00 AM Louis Salamone +

Friday, February 28

Weekday

7:00 AM Anthony Bonacci +

9:00 AM William Mitchell +

Saturday, March 1

Weekday

9:00 AM Malin Leon-Ayala +

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, March 1 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Mary Wenger +

Sunday, March 2

8:30 AM Peter Klee +

10:00 AM John Brusco +

11:30 AM Deceased Members of Pisacreta Family +

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

February 23, 2014

POLYCARP

Bishop & Martyr (d. 156)

February 23

Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna (modern Izmir, Turkey) disciple of Saint John the Apostle and friend of Saint Ignatius of Antioch, was a revered Christian leader during the first half of the second century.

Saint Ignatius, on his way to Rome to be martyred, visited Polycarp of Smyrna, and later at Troas wrote him a personal letter. The Asia Minor churches recognized Polycarp's leadership by choosing him as a representative to discuss with Pope Anicetus the date of the Easter celebration in Rome - quite a controversy in the early church.

Only one of the many letters written by Polycarp has been preserved, the one he wrote to the Church of Philippi, Macedonia.

At eighty-six, Polycarp was led into the crowded Smyrna stadium to be burned alive. The flames did not harm him and he was finally killed by a dagger. The centurion ordered the saint's body burned. The "Acts" of Polycarp's martyrdom are the earliest preserved, fully reliable account of a Christian martyr's death. He died in 156.

COMMENT: Polycarp was recognized as a Christian leader by all Asia Minor Christians - a strong fortress of faith and loyalty to Jesus Christ. His own strength emerged from his trust in God, even when events contradicted this trust. Living among pagans and under a government opposed to the new religion, he led and fed his flock. Like the Good Shepherd, he laid down his life for his sheep and kept them from more persecution in Smyrna. He summarized his trust in God just before he died: "Father...I bless Thee, for having made me worthy of the day and the hour..." (*Martyrdom*, Chapter 14).

QUOTE: "Stand fast, therefore, in this conduct and follow the example of the Lord, 'firm and unchangeable in faith, lovers of the brotherhood, loving each other, united in truth,' helping each other with the mildness of the Lord, despising no man" (Polycarp, *Letter to the Philippians*).

From *Saint of the Day*, edited by Leonard Foley, O.F.M., & Pat McCloskey, O.F.M.



ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S SWEEPSTAKES SOCIAL

SATURDAY, MARCH 15TH ~ DOORS OPEN AT 6 PM

- Donations of new items being accepted now at Rectory Office or School building
- Volunteers leave name & number at Rectory Office
- Please plan on attending this Fundraising event!