

St. Bartholomew's Church



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15 Palmer Road
Yonkers • New York 10701

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.

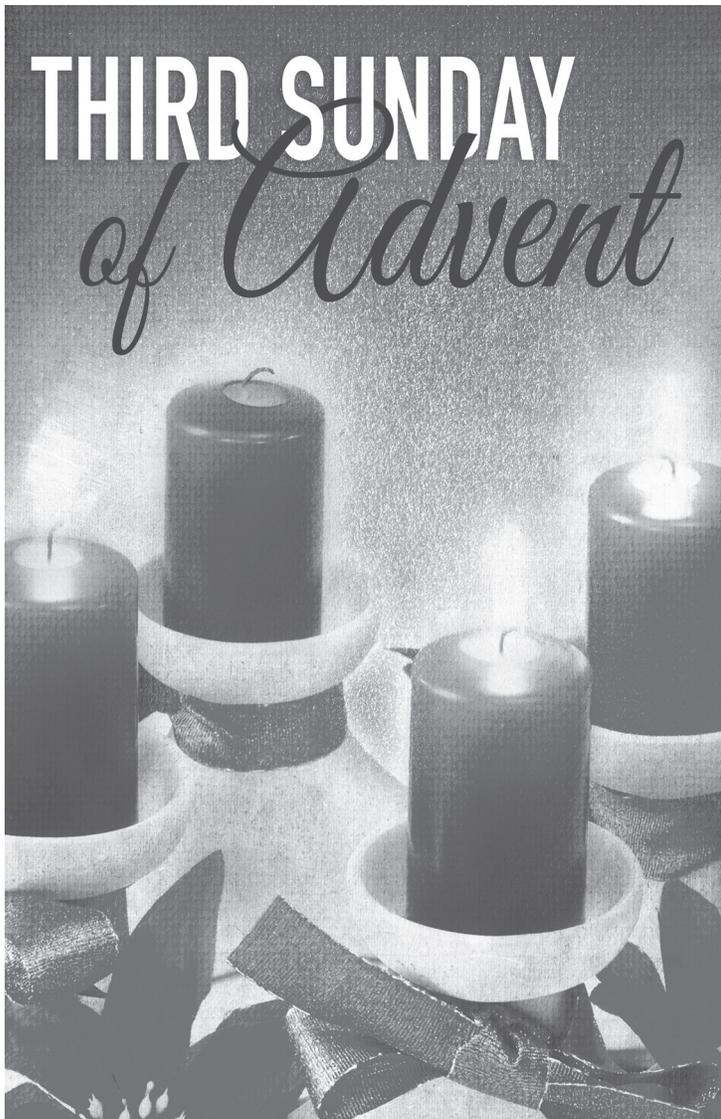
Parish Council: Meets on the Monday evening after the third Sunday of the month.

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.

**Blessed Is the One
Who Takes No Offense At Me**



According to a news outlet, Trump made a total of 76 campaign promises on the campaign trail. To his credit, he has convinced Carrier to keep over 1,100 jobs here and not move to Mexico. He has threatened other companies too. He went after Boeing, and the Chief executive said they'd be open to renegotiate, although he said he didn't know from where Trump got his figures.

So far, even before he takes oath of office, some are already impressed and some disappointed. A union leader in Detroit was disappointed that Trump lied about the numbers – 700 jobs saved, not 1,100. Some are disappointed that after bashing Wall Street insiders, Trump is now appointing some of them to key cabinet positions. A disappointed supporter actually lunched a page for those already disappointed.

This is rather a long analogy to today's Gospel story (Matthew 1:18-24). Last Sunday, John the Baptist was firing away, crying out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths" (Matthew 3:1-12). He was confidently announcing how the Messiah would baptize them with "the Holy Spirit and fire" and how "his winnowing fan is in his hand". He was 100% sure of what he was saying.

One week later, the story changed for John the Baptist, just like it did for Trump's supporters. Unlike Trump, Jesus is probably a few months into his actual ministry. John was expecting the fulfillment of his prophecies to the Israelites. He was expecting instant salvation – as defined by him, John. When he realized it was not forthcoming, his disappointment knew no bounds. It was up to the extent that he sent his disciples to ask Jesus if He was the one to come.

Jesus gave them an answer that I'm not sure how helpful it was to John himself, but which is so typical of Jesus: "Blessed is the one who takes no offense at me" (Matthew 11:5). Thus, in a very short but powerful way, Jesus both encourages and challenges John without doing anything extraordinary to set him free from jail.

I too, am also disappointed with Trump over some of the things he has done and/or how he's doing them. I'm also happy with some of the things he has done, including reaching across the board to bring in just about any name that floats into his/their mind, friends and foes. It's really like a talent show; but I admire his boldness. I think he should borrow Jesus' words to John: Blessed is he/she who does not take offense at me. Those words are packed with meaning.

Now, the spiritual aspect of all this. Many have taken offense at Jesus – including many who used to be his staunch followers and used to preach him to others. How did they change? The devil! He found a crack – an unfulfilled dream or need, a seemingly unanswered prayer. He exploited that and used that to convince them that Jesus was not what they thought he was, or that He was not as powerful or loving as they thought He was. He (devil) played that game on John the Baptist and almost got him. But the grace of God won the battle for John. He took Jesus' words to heart, despite it being a bitter pill. He persevered in his faith in Jesus.

May we never fall pray to the devil's evil tactics of making us doubt Jesus' power, compassion, love, etc. And when we're tempted, may we take Jesus' words to heart and may we remain firm till the very end, no matter the trials. Amen.

Blessings and Peace.

-Fr. Raphael Ezeh. MSP



Rest in Peace

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed, especially Timothy Guilfoyle, Mary De Stefano and Mary Gregorio.

The **ALTAR CANDLES** for this week have been donated in loving memory of Luigi Campana and Family by Anna Campana.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

It is not too late to register. Classes are available for children in 1st grade through High School senior year, including those with Special Education needs. Classes are available to prepare children of all ages for the sacraments of Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation, regardless of any lack of previous instruction. **All Catholic children attending public schools should enroll in a religious education program.** Please call (914 476-6676) for more information.



Religious Education

CHILDREN'S MASS: Please make it a point to bring your child to our Children's Mass for the remaining Sundays in December. The 10 a.m. Mass will focus on our children. The Parish Children's Choir will sing the Mass. The children are encouraged to sit together during the Mass.

OUR PARISH GIVING TREE

In keeping with the true spirit of Christmas, we have the opportunity to share our resources with several charities who serve the disadvantaged, both adults and children (Immaculate Conception's Needy Families, Richmond Hill, Westchester Living Center, and the Central Committee of Veterans Org.). Please take an ornament (s) from the tree in the back of the church. It is important that this ornament, indicating gender and gift specific information, be securely attached to your wrapped package. Please return all packages to the church by **this Wednesday, December 14th**. Thank you for your continued support in this very special season of giving.



Our **SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE** 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: candy, cookies, juices, and a few hams. These food items should be brought to the church before the Masses next Saturday evening (December 17th) or the Sunday morning Masses (December 18th).

RE: 2016 CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

I sincerely thank you for your generous donations toward past Christmas wish lists. Christmas arrangements can be donated in memory of loved ones, **4 Christmas arrangements at \$60 each.**

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Annual Christmas Luncheon

Next Saturday, December 17th McManus Parish Center
1 to 4 p.m.

All are welcome

Join us as we celebrate this holy season together.

The **Rosary Altar Society** will be selling "Keep Christ in Christmas" car magnets for \$5.00 over the next few weeks. Look for them and please support their efforts.

The **Knights of Columbus** will be selling "Keep Christ in Christmas" Lawn Signs" this weekend, December 10th and 11th. The cost of the signs are \$6.00. Please support their efforts.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Saturday, December 24 4:30 p.m. Carols/ Vigil Mass
Saturday, December 24 11:30 p.m. Carols, followed by
Midnight Mass
Sunday, December 25 8:30, 10, and 11:30 a.m.
There will not be a 5 p.m. Mass on Christmas Day.



THE NATIVITY PLAY

Performed by some of our very own St. Bart's
Parishioners

Sunday, December 18th, at 3 p.m.
and

Tuesday, December 20th, at 6:30 p.m.

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 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month immediately following the 5 p.m. Mass, in the school building. All youths age 13 and up are invited. Their next meeting is Sunday, December 18th and they will be having a Christmas Fun Pajama Party.

Follow our Youth Group on Twitter @ St_Barts_youth.

Help Needed

Volunteers are needed at Cabrini of Westchester in Dobbs Ferry. If you have a few hours to give to this rewarding experience, please contact Simone Smith (Director of Human Resources and Volunteers) at 914 693-6800, or Yvonne at extension 592.

✠ 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

	12/6/15	12/4/16	Difference
Adults	\$7,937.75	\$6,250.80	- \$1,686.95
,Children	\$ 271.35	\$ 151.15	- \$ 120.20
Total	\$8,209.10	\$6,401.95	- \$1,807.15

The Building and Grounds collection totaled \$1,510.70

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 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, and Daniel Pezzola.

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



We wish to thank all 74 donors that came to our Blood Drive on Friday, November 25th. We collected 75 units, 45 Regular and 15 Double Red Cell (ALYX). There were 4 deferrals and 9 new donors. 11 students and 6 parishioners helped as volunteers during the day.

To those who were not able to make it or unable to sign up, we wish you well and hope that if you are interested and able, to donate blood to Hudson Valley Blood Services at your convenience by calling [800-933-2566](tel:800-933-2566). If you wish, you may credit your donation to St. Bartholomew's Church by specifying Group #7747. St Bart's parishioners and friends do a great service for the community by donating at three critical times during the year, a day the week after Easter, a day near the 4th of July and the Friday after Thanksgiving. In 85 drives since 1981, St Bart's has collected 6,460 units of blood, which, on average, has saved over 19,000 lives! So, we look forward to our next drive, in April 2017, and hope that many of you are able to sign up. Ask your family and friends to sign up to.

DECEMBER 11, 2016

Mass Intentions for the Week



Third Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 10 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Lourdes Torres +

Sunday, December 11

8:30 AM Oscar Starkenberg +

10:00 AM Helen & Pete Pietrowski +

11: 30 AM For All the People of Our Parish +

5:00 PM Helen Wirth +

Monday, December 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe

7:00 AM Our Lady of Guadalupe

9:00 AM Blasie DeRosa (living)

Tuesday, December 13

Saint Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

7:00 AM Frank Lutomski, Jr. +

9:00 AM Reverend James F. McNamara +

Wednesday, December 14

Saint John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church

7:00 AM Maria Phan Nguyen +

9:00 AM Edward Casey (living)

Thursday, December 15

Advent Weekday

7:00 AM Joseph Song Nguyen +

9:00 AM Antonio & Assunta Aloia +

Friday, December 16

Advent Weekday

7:00 AM Sherry Edmonds +

9:00 AM Aristide Scipioni, Maria Orientale, & Angela Rush+

Saturday, December 17

Advent Weekday

9:00 AM Jennifer Sacaradis +

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 17 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Pasquale Cercone +

Sunday, December 18

8:30 AM Ethel Castagnozzi +

10:00 AM Carrie D'Angelo +

11: 30 AM Anna & Anthony Faracco +

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

IT'S TIME TO CONFESS YOUR SINS

Once again as we enter into the final period of preparation for Christmas, the Church offers us a unique opportunity to examine our hearts and minds and cleanse our souls in the Sacrament of Penance this Monday, December 15th.



Almost every parish has set aside that afternoon and evening to welcome all the faithful. Because it is a universal experience in our Archdiocese we can stop by any church and be assured that there will be a priest present to assist in reconciling oneself to God and to the Church. If you

harbor any doubts about its effectiveness in raising our spirit and giving greater meaning to the season I ask you only to return to those days of our youth. As the priest gave us our penance, we recited the Act of Contrition and received absolution, was there not a great weight lifted from us? Did we not experience a joy that we felt at no other time? Before going any further let us put our cards on the table. If it has been some time since receiving the sacrament, then realize the form of the ritual has not changed substantially. The priest will guide you. And yes, if you forgot the Act of Contrition, you can bring a cheat sheet. There might even be one in the confessional itself.

But what should I say? What sins did I commit? I can't remember them all. Let us take each issue. When we sin we can do so by committing or omitting certain actions. We should reflect on both sides of the coin. Did we do something that was wrong that injured our relationship with God or man or was there an opportunity in witness or charity that I failed to fulfill? We are told by the Church that to make a good confession we must admit to all mortal sins and be conscious as well of venial ones. If one has been away for some time, it is very possible that we will miss some of both kinds of sins. We must make a good faith effort to recall those offenses which are more serious. This is where a good examination of conscious is necessary. We must spend some time prior to entering the confessional reflecting on our life and its pitfalls. If one forgets and later remembers a serious or less serious sin, we need not run back to the confessional. It has been forgiven as long as we did not make a conscious attempt not to mention it.

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The opportunity for Confession (Sacrament of Penance) before Christmas is:

Monday, December 19th 3 - 8 p.m.

Throughout the Archdiocese of New York, Advent Reconciliation this Monday (December 19th), gives Catholics the opportunity to go to any parish for confession between the hours of 4 and 8 p.m. However, times for confession at some churches may vary.