

# St. Bartholomew's Church

15 Palmer Road  
Yonkers • New York 10701

[www.st-barts-parish.org](http://www.st-barts-parish.org)

Rev. Anthony Bassey, MSP, *Pastor*  
Rev. Francis Oroffa, MSP, *Parochial Vicar*  
Deacon Robert A. Clemens  
Mark Valentinetti, *Principal*  
Cheryl Duda, *Religious Education Coordinator*  
Erika Podoprigora, *Organist and Music Director*

Rectory/Parish Office: (914) 965-0566  
School: (914) 476-7949  
Religious Education Office: (914) 476-6676

Sunday Masses: 5:00 P.M. on Saturday; 8:30, 10:00, 11:30 and 5:00 P.M. on Sunday.

Weekday Masses: 7:00AM & 9:00AM 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: Edward Sheeran

*Holy Name Society:* Meets on the Monday evening after the second Sunday of the month. President, Paul Mercandetti

*Rosary Altar Society:* Meets on the Monday evening after the first Sunday of the month. Co-Presidents, Joan Liddell and Nancy Pelliccio

*Trustees:* Joseph Chimenti, Bill Mascetta

*Support Groups:* N.A.: Monday evenings at 7:30 PM

*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.



BAPTISM  
of the LORD

**BAPTIZED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT AND FIRE!**

*(Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7; Psalm 29:1-4, 9-10; Acts 10:34-38; Matt. 3:13:17)*

During the ceremony of the presentation of the lighted candle at Baptism, the minister presents the lighted candle to a parent or godparent with this instruction: *Receive the light of Christ! Parents and godparents, this light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly. This child of yours has been enlightened by Christ. He/she is to walk always as a child of the light. May he/she keep the flame of faith alive in his/her heart. When the Lord comes, may he/she go out to meet Him with all the saints in the Heavenly Kingdom.*

Today the Church celebrates the Baptism of the Lord! This Sunday also marks the end of the Christmas season, and begins the liturgical season of Ordinary Time. On Christmas Day we celebrated the birth of Jesus and His manifestation to the entire human race as Man. Last Sunday, on the feast of the Epiphany, we celebrated His manifestation to the nations with a visit by the three wise men or three kings. Today, at His baptism by John the Baptist in the Jordan River, we celebrate Jesus' manifestation as the Son of God, thus in today's Gospel we hear a voice that came from the heavens, saying, "This is My beloved Son, with Whom I am well pleased." This testimony from St. Matthew echoes the words of the Prophet Isaiah in today's first reading: "Here is My servant Whom I uphold, My Chosen One with Whom I am pleased."

The Lord Jesus did not need to be baptized, thus, as the Catechism of the Catholic Church puts it, "Our Lord voluntarily submitted Himself to the baptism of St. John, intended for sinners, in order to fulfill all righteousness. Jesus' gesture is a manifestation of His self-emptying. The Spirit Who had hovered over the waters of the first creation descended then on the Christ as a prelude of the new creation, and the Father revealed Jesus as His beloved Son" (#1224). Our Lord Jesus "is a man like us in all things but sin." He did not have to be baptized but He emptied Himself and received baptism so that we, His followers, might emulate His humility and thereby empty ourselves so that we might be filled by Him. The servant is never greater than His Master!

Our Pentecostal brothers and sisters often question why we, in the Catholic Church, baptize infants who have no need of repentance. The simple answer is that our Baptism is different from that of John the Baptist. It is a Baptism where John himself declared, "I baptize you in water for a change of heart, but the One Who is coming after me is more powerful than me...He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit and fire" (Matthew 3:11). Ours is a Baptism of Jesus Christ, where one is baptized not just in water, but also in the "Holy Spirit and fire." More so, ours is a Baptism where we hear the voice of the Father saying, "This is My beloved Child." Thus, at Baptism, you and I instantly become adopted children of God and members of Christ's Body, the Church. It also makes us "servants of God," called to carry out His will by "going about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil" – of joblessness, hunger, poverty, diseases and godlessness.

Thus, the Baptism of our Lord is a reminder for you and me that when we were baptized we were baptized into Christ's suffering and death. Our baptismal action is not just an external ritual but also a personal adhesion to Christ, therefore, see to it that the light entrusted to you at baptism "is kept burning brightly" by putting your faith into action.

**Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP**

**PARISH NEWS**

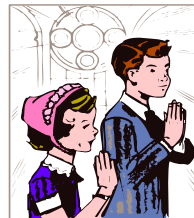


HOLY NAME SOCIETY

**MEETING:** This Monday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, the Holy Name Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the McManus Parish Center. All men of the Parish are welcome.

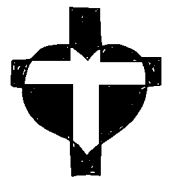
**OUR PARISH R.C.I.A. PROGRAM**

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



**CHILDREN'S MASS:** Please make it a point to bring your child to our Children's Mass next Sunday and the rest of the Sundays in January. 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 with other children at a designated place during the Mass.

**SOCIAL MINISTRY:** Our Food Pantry needs some restocking, especially with rice, peanut butter, jelly, soup/broth, tuna fish, canned fruits & vegetables, pasta sauces, boxed mashed potatoes & juices. **Please keep this in mind when you see sales on your trips to the supermarket.** Thank you for your continuing support!



**OUR SCHOOL IS STILL ACCEPTING NEW STUDENTS**



St. Bartholomew's School is still accepting applications for this school year. We have classes for 3 year olds through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Please call the school office (476-7949) for more information.

**ATLANTIC CITY TRIP**

The Rosary Altar Society is sponsoring an Atlantic City trip to Trump Plaza on Saturday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, at 9 a.m. For information or reservations call Carolyn on 963-2622 or Dolly on 969-6575.



**NAR-ANON FAMILY GROUPS** provide support for the family and friends of substance abusers. Meetings are held in St. Bartholomew's School on Saturday nights at 7 p.m.

*Please remember to keep our children in your prayers as they prepare to celebrate their First Reconciliation on January 15<sup>th</sup>. Please pray that this will be the beginning of a lifetime of celebrating God's love and mercy in this special sacrament.*



## THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



Rosalie Hall, Inc.  
4150 Bronx Boulevard  
Bronx, NY 10466

December 17, 2010

Dear Father Bassey:

Thank you for all the grand gifts that you and your parishioners provided for our residents of Rosalie Hall.

Please keep us in your blessings and prayers. Please be assured of our grateful prayers.

Gratefully,  
Sr. Diane Prusinski, s.m.  
President

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Helping Hands  
Immaculate Conception Church Outreach  
754 East Gun Hill Road  
Bronx, NY 10467

December 30, 2010

Dear Parishioners of St. Bartholomew's,

Thank you for your generous donations of gifts for the people we serve in our Helping Hands ministry where we seek to fulfill the most basic of human needs by providing hot nutritious meals to our guests Monday to Friday each week, and by providing food baskets for many of the families in our neighborhood to take home with them once each month.

Each year we seek to spread a little bit of the joy of the gift we have received in the divine child of Bethlehem by sharing gifts with those families we regularly serve in our ministry. Without your generous help we would never be able to provide these families with the wonderful gifts they received this Christmas.

It is a guiding principle of the Helping Hands ministry that we recognize Christ in the faces of the people we serve. Because of your donations we are better able to provide for the needs of Jesus present in our brothers and sisters.

May God bless you for your generosity.

Sincerely,  
Fr. Robert Williams, OFM Cap.  
Director

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**MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA:** Held after the 9 AM Mass on Mondays.

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**EUCCHARISTIC DEVOTION:** Held the First Friday of every month at 1 PM. Please join us for this most efficacious prayer.

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**DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION:** Held the First Saturday of every month at 3 PM. All are encouraged to participate.

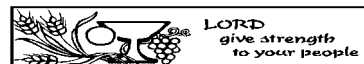
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**RECITATION OF THE ROSARY:** Join your fellow parishioners in praying the Rosary after the 9 a.m. Mass on weekdays and Saturdays.



### LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

- The **budgeted** Collection for last Sunday was \$7550.00.
- The **actual** Collection for last Sunday was \$4970.45.
- Collection in support of our School totaled \$2129.75.
- The **New Year's Day** Collection in honor of the Solemnity of Mary totaled \$2417.75.

We thank everyone for their generosity to St. Bartholomew's Church at this special time of year. May God bless and reward all your sacrifices for the Parish!



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Please pray for all the sick & the homebound members of our Parish, especially Ethel Thomas, Aldina Pereira, Rebecca Conroy, Alejandra Santander, Amadeu Amorim, Gloria Flanagan, Grace Raguso, Andy DeFabritis, Maryann Tolli, Maria Marte, Julieann Moroch, Ed Carpenter, Barbara Rup, Jule Yaskovic, Rosalie Heit, Dolores Santamarena, Florence B. Swetz, Clare Yaskovic, Neil Caruso, Raymond Fitzpatrick, Sr., Deacon James Byrnes, Andrea Objay, Carmen Torres, John Esposito, Francis Farrell, Mark Baum, Christine Bellino, Deacon Patrick Troy, Josephine Apuzzo, Mildred Moscarello, Edith Dugan, John & Gary Roth, Lena Castaldo, Joyann Allan, Anna Rita Morgante, Frank Marra, Josephine Somma, Carmela Massaroni, Lois Burton, Rose O'Brien, Mary DeStefano, Carmella DelBene, and Frank Umbrino.

### **REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES, LIVING AND DEAD**

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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, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.** to make arrangements or to inquire about the availability of a particular date.

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The **Bread & Wine** and **Altar Candles** for the week have been donated in loving memory of Pat Fico by Jean Fico.



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The NY Family Life/Respect Life Office & Lumina/Hope & Healing After Abortion are sponsoring **A Morning of Prayerful Remembrance & Intercession.**


Saturday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 9 a.m. – 12 Noon  
St Patrick's Cathedral, Our Lady's Chapel  
460 Madison Avenue, New York City

For information call (877) 586-4621 or e-mail, lumina@postabortionhelp.org.

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Anyone who needs to report an alleged incident of sexual abuse of a minor by priest, deacon, religious or lay person serving in the Archdiocese of New York is asked to contact Sister Eileen Clifford, O.P. at (212) 371-1000, ext. 2949 or Deacon George J. Coppola at (914) 861-1762. Both may also be reached via e-mail at [victimassistance@archny.org](mailto:victimassistance@archny.org). Information can also be found on the Archdiocesan website, [www.archny.org](http://www.archny.org). In keeping with the Archdiocesan policy regarding sexual abuse of minors, this information is provided to ensure that our children remain safe and secure.

JANUARY 9, 2011

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

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Monday, January 10

**Weekday**

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Jerome C. Renners I +

Tuesday, January 11

**Weekday**

7:00 AM Pat Fico +

9:00 AM Gloria Bassey +

Wednesday, January 12

**Weekday**

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Robert Bruce +

Thursday, January 13

**Weekday**

7:00 AM Father Francis' Birthday

9:00 AM Lucille Garafola +

Friday, January 14

**Weekday**

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM James Mahoney +

Saturday, January 15

**Weekday**

9:00 AM Charles Sweeney +

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Anticipated Mass for Sunday

5:00 PM Vincent DiBattista +

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Sunday, January 16

**Second Sunday of Ordinary Time**

8:30 AM Pierce & Pidany Families

10:00 AM Arlene Tiplady +

11:30 AM Frank & Carmela Legio +

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

*JANUARY 9, 2011*

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AN OPEN LETTER  
TO  
FATHER FRANCIS OROFFA, MSP

Dear Father Francis:

First, I want to heartily thank you for all you have done for the parish in the past two years or so. I can vouch for the fact that you will surely be missed by many in the parish.

Once you settled into this parish and acclimatized to the people, the culture, and the environment, you were on a roll. I must say, although I have known you for the past twenty-six years, working with you has been a source of strength and comfort to me. I admire your humility, your spirituality, and your dedication to duty. You were ready and willing to carry out any task that was assigned to you. You were willing to ask for help whenever you were faced with challenging pastoral situations or otherwise. Last November when I had surgery you showed great care and concern. You were also willing to assume all the pastoral activities at the time without requiring any extra help. For these and many other things, I thank you very much. I am grateful to you!

When our Mission Superior, Father Desmond, called me shortly before this past Thanksgiving to inform me of your impending withdrawal from St. Bartholomew's Parish, I tried to argue against the idea; but he quickly reminded me that our vocation calls on us to be flexible to move to wherever the Society needs us. Surely, we are saddened by your transfer. Separation is always painful, but we are consoled by the fact that we will remain in each other's thoughts and prayers. We are going to miss your dedication to duty and the simplicity in your approach to life. The children and the catechists in the Religious Education Program are going to miss your weekly presence in their midst. The ladies of the Rosary Altar are going to miss your willing, helping hands whenever a need arose. Many in the parish are going to miss your wit, gentle smile, and your dry sense of humor. We are all going to miss your friendship.

As we gather today to celebrate with you and bid you farewell, we want you to realize that we all love you and care deeply for you. We will support you with our love and prayers. We will continue to hold you dear in our hearts, looking forward to when we see you again. We will try to remain faithful to your counsels. We will try our best to live out the gospel you fervently preached to our consciences while you were here with us, because we are aware that this is the best way to show you our appreciation for all you did for us during your time here at St. Bartholomew's.

Once again, thank you, Father Francis, for all you did for the parishioners of St. Bartholomew's Parish. I pray that God blesses you in all your endeavors. As you leave, keep the entire parish and me in your daily Masses and prayers. Rest assured that you will often be in my thoughts and prayers. God's choicest blessings! I write this letter on behalf of the entire Parish Family of St. Bartholomew's.

Lots of love and prayers,  
Father Anthony Basse, MSP





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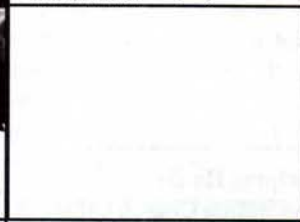
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