

St. Bartholomew's Church

15 Palmer Road
Yonkers • New York 10701

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.

PARISH NEWS

OUR PARISH SCHOOL WILL CLOSE AFTER 52 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY! IT'S LIKE A DEATH IN THE FAMILY!

My dear parishioners and parents:

Two years ago we gathered as a parish community to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of our parish school. Some of you graduated from the school. Many of you have children who graduated from the school. Some of you currently have children in the school. All of us have benefited from the presence of the school in our parish. Through the school we have produced present and future community leaders – we have produced lay ministers: Catechists, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Ushers, Choir members and Altar Servers. Our parish school has been a great tool for evangelization. It has served our parish and our community well in the past fifty-two years. It has done its best to provide excellent education for the children who graduated from here. We are proud and fortunate to have had a school in our parish. It has been a loving and caring family! Every parent who joined our school / parish family has been received with the warmest affection one can imagine. There is always a feeling of a sense of belonging! We are a family!

You all know that we are not going to enjoy some of these benefits going forward, because as you already know our school is one of the twenty-six schools that must close at the end of this school year in June 2011. Our school will not reopen its doors this September! Needless to say, this is a very bitter and painful chapter in our parish history. It is sad and unfortunate that I have to be the one to write this "painful chapter." Anyone who read my *State of the Parish Report* would testify that we tried our best to save the school from closing. We submitted what we thought was a very good and competitive five-year plan to the Archdiocesan Configuration Committee, but it was "not good enough" to sway its decision in our favor; hence, we are asked to close. May I also inform you that the decision is deemed final!

I want to sincerely thank the men and women who worked tirelessly and devotedly to put the five-year plan together. I thank all the parishioners, alumni, teachers and our many friends who responded positively to our pledge drive. I personally believe a great opportunity has been missed by the Archdiocese to use our resources to help give a child a Catholic education. I am very much indebted to you all, and I pray that God will bless you abundantly.

I know how painful and difficult the decision to close our parish school is for all our children, especially those presently in the 7th Grade. I know how devastating it is for our parents, faculty and staff. I know how painful it is for you, the parishioners, to understand this decision, especially those of you who went through the school or had children who graduated from it. I can only imagine how painful and disheartening it is for very many of you. It is like a death in the family! I am saddened by it as you surely are!

Understandably, when there is a death in the family, members ought to pull together to support, comfort and strengthen one another. Our children and their families need our support and our prayers. We are all confused; thus, this is the time we have to try and lift each other up. It is the time to do everything in our power to ensure the happiness and well being of our children. Please, should any parent need counsel on a Catholic school they would like to consider placing their child in, my door is always open – to give counsel and support to the families. For parents who are parishioners, I ask that your first option should not be to move out of the parish to where your child might be enrolled, but that you work with me to see how we might help to ensure that you remain a member of your beloved parish of St. Bartholomew, while your child attends another school.

Finally, I also would like to address the questions that may arise about the school building after it is closed. The building is the property of the parish and the patrimony of the Archdiocese of New York, and will continue to be used for the purpose of the Parish Religious Education Program and other parish activities. Going forward, the Parish trustees, the Parish Pastoral Council and the Finance Committee will decide on how the facility shall be managed and maintained after the school is closed this June.

Please, let us keep our children, their families, our faculty and staff in our prayers as they go through this difficult and challenging time.

Father Anthony Bassey, MSP (Pastor)

LET THE CHILDREN COME TO ME AT 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 on your next trip to the supermarket.** Thank you for your continuing support!



Join Father Anthony and your fellow parishioners in discovering more about the Bible this Friday and every Friday at 7:30 p.m. in the School. Bring a friend! Come and have fun exploring both Old and New Testaments.



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 for information on the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (R.C.I.A.) in our parish.



MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

And they shall name Him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." Learn how to keep your marriage Christ-centered.

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...

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY IS FEBRUARY 13TH LONGEST MARRIED COUPLE SEARCH

The search for the longest married couple in the Archdiocese of New York has begun. To enter, the couple must be Sacramentally married for a minimum of 65 years...

DO YOU OR A LOVED ONE HAVE ANY CONCERNS ABOUT PREGNANCY?

Anyone experiencing concerns associated with an unintended pregnancy that would like information regarding an adoption plan, is invited to contact the Catholic Guardian Society and Home Bureau's (CGSHB) Maternity Services Department.

The CANCER SUPPORT GROUP will meet this Wednesday, January 19th, at 7 p.m. in Room 111 of St. John's Riverside Hospital, 967 North Broadway, Yonkers...



ATLANTIC CITY TRIP

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

The SANCTUARY LAMP and ALTAR CANDLES for this week will be lit in loving memory of Raffaele Falcone.



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) will meet this Monday, January 17th, at 7:00 p.m. in the school. All members are encouraged to attend this very important meeting.



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

- The budgeted Collection for last Sunday was \$6550.00.
The actual Collection for last Sunday was \$8210.55.
The Collection to support Catholic Communications and the Catholic University of America totaled \$1571.90.

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

While snow and ice, such as we have been experiencing of late, can turn our world into a winter wonderland, the financial strain caused by the understandable drop in attendance and contributions is further compounded by the hefty added expense of clearing and salting our sidewalks and parking lot.



For the December snow storms alone, we have spent over \$3000 to clear the ice and salt the grounds. Therefore, next Sunday, January 23rd, we will have our first and much needed second collection for snow removal.



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

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.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.'S BIRTHDAY: This Monday, January 17th, is a legal holiday. There will only be one Mass at 9 a.m. that day.



JANUARY 16, 2011

Mass  *for the*
Intentions *Week*

Monday, January 17

Weekday – Saint Anthony, abbot

9:00 AM Tony Desiderio +

Tuesday, January 18

Weekday

7:00 AM Denis Lavallo +

9:00 AM John Beirne +

Wednesday, January 19

Weekday

7:00 AM Deceased Members of Bolduc & Savard Families

9:00 AM No Intention

Thursday, January 20

Agnes, virgin & martyr

7:00 AM James Mahoney +

9:00 AM No Intention

Friday, January 21

Saint Agnes, virgin & martyr

7:00 AM Sister Mary Denis Cashin +

9:00 AM No Intention

Saturday, January 22

Weekday

9:00 AM Daniel & Brian Esposito +

Anticipated Mass for Sunday

5:00 PM Jack Gronowski & William Bruder +

Sunday, January 23

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 AM Frances Starkenberg +

10:00 AM For All the People of Our Parish

11:30 AM Mary & Nicholas Maccia +

5:00 PM Reverend Patrick J. Mee +

THAT BABY COULD HAVE BEEN A PROPHET!

(Isaiah 49:3, 5-6; Ps. 40: 2, 4, 7-10; 1Cor. 1:1-3; John 1: 29-34)

In today's first reading the Lord said to Prophet Isaiah: "You are my servant...through whom I show my glory. Now the Lord has spoken Who formed me as His servant from the womb...I am made glorious in the sight of the Lord, and my God is now my strength!" This past week we commemorated the *Fourth Annual Yonkers Respect Life Week*. This Saturday, January 22, will be the 37th anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* 7-2 ruling by the Supreme Court in favor of abortion. As we think about this atrocious legislation in our nation's existence, we cannot but reflect on the fact that the Lord has formed each and every human being in the womb. A recent survey shows that four out of ten pregnancies in New York State are terminated by abortion. This figure is twice that of the national rate! It is appalling, and makes one wonder how many "servants of God," who would have brought "words of comfort" to our nation, are being terminated every day by abortion.

It is indisputable that life begins at conception! Thus, in Luke 1:41, the Bible tells us that upon hearing Mary's greeting, Elizabeth acknowledged, "the child in my womb leapt for joy." John Baptist, while still in his mother's womb recognized the presence of Christ, Who was also in the womb of His mother, Mary. John bonded with Jesus while still in the womb to show us that every child conceived is bonded with Christ at the moment of conception, therefore, she / he is a child of God and has an undeniable right to life. The Lord, Who forms us in the womb, endows you and me with His Holy Spirit at our baptism. He claims us as His adopted son and daughter, thus, like John the Baptist we become members of Jesus' family.

In today's gospel we are told when he saw Jesus approaching, John the Baptist pointed Him out to his disciples and said: "Behold, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world." The scripture further tells us that because of that testimony, John's disciples left him and followed Jesus. Like John, our parents, priests, catechists and educators pointed Jesus out to us as the "Lamb of God" Who takes our sins away. We followed Him, sometimes sheepishly without really having a relationship with Him. You and I ought to accept Him as our Lord and personal Savior! He must be a friend that we know, and thus, be proud of being in a relationship with Him.

Jesus has formed you and me from the womb. He has commissioned "you (and me) as a light to the nations that (His) salvation may reach to the ends of the earth." The only way to show that you and I have a personal relationship with Jesus is to keep the light we received at baptism burning in every facet of our life. We must do this by being faithful to the will of God – believing and trusting in God especially when times are difficult – when we are confronted with the challenges of making tough decisions. You and I must uphold the truth of the Gospel even in the midst of hostility and harassment. To truly know Christ is for you and me to submit ourselves to Him always and say: "Here am I, Lord; I come to do Your will" – to preserve every life that is *formed in the womb*. It is absolutely God's will that you and I fight to preserve, especially, the lives of the unborn and the defenseless. As we commemorate *Roe v. Wade*, it is the will of God that you and I understand that the life that is snuffed out in the womb via abortion could have been a Prophet Isaiah, a John the Baptist or a Jesus Christ – a child "through whom I show My glory" to the people of the United States of America.

Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP



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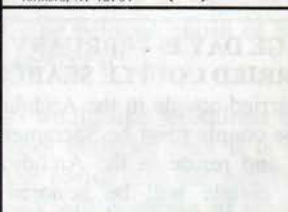
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