

St. Bartholomew's Church



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15 Palmer Road
Yonkers • New York 10701

www.saintbartsparish.org

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

Sixth Sunday of

EASTER



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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.

OF CONFLICTS, WITNESSING & GROWTH



Over the past weeks we've followed the activities, growth, challenges, and conflicts that faced the budding Christian community. First was the persecution from the Sanhedrin, and then the martyrdom of Stephen, followed by wide scale outright

war against the Community, led by Saul. As usual, God drew straight with crooked lines. Instead of stifling the Good News, the antagonists fuelled it like wild fire.

In today's first reading (Acts 8:5-17), Philip, one of the deacons chosen in last week's reading (Acts 6:1-7), who fled the persecution in Jerusalem ends up in the city of Samaria. The success that followed his preaching there was dramatic. Soon, the apostles went down to Samaria to pray over the converts for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Bishop Walsh came down to St. Bart's a few weeks ago to do the same (confirm our children), in the footsteps of the apostles.

These readings poignantly remind us that neither internal conflicts nor external attacks could discourage the early Christians or stop the spread of the Good News. The signs and wonders that accompanied their good deeds showed that God was indeed with them.

Similarly, the readings remind us that neither turmoil from within nor conflicts from without should discourage us as we live out our baptismal commitment in our faith communities and in the Church. On the personal and family levels our faith should continue to be evident. In the easy or difficult, joyful or sorrowful moments of our daily lives, like the disciples, we must continue to do the work of God. As the Holy Spirit did then, He continues to do in our day: accompany our sincere witnessing efforts with signs and wonders, less dramatic but no less effective.

May the Lord continue to bless our efforts. Amen.

PARISH TIDBITS

****Msgr. John Kennedy:** Welcome Back Home! Hope your stay with us will be relaxing and fun. As he mentioned to me, he has remained the only constant in the midst of changes in the rectory over the years. As I walked in the first morning, he and Emily (housekeeper) were chatting vigorously. The chat continued when Loren came in. Beautiful and heartwarming indeed. Welcome.

****Father Daniel:** He returns to St. Bart's on Fri., May 30th. He'll be in Houston earlier in the week.

****Landscaping:** The landscaping project is still at the planning stage. We hope to have it look as wonderful as possible so we're taking time to consult and plan and compare prices. If you like gardening or landscaping, and you have ideas, we'll be glad to hear from you or have you on the team. Also, we want to extend the project to other parts of the property rather than just the Ferro street side.

YOUR FAMILY CELEBRATIONS & FAMILY VISITS

As I mentioned last Sunday at some of the Masses, I've been going to some events featuring our children. Please invite me to your child's sports events, awards, graduations, recitals, etc. As a family, we should celebrate and rejoice together as much as we mourn and suffer together. Attending such events has helped me

to know each family and child better. I love it. Always did in all of my parishes. Also, as summer draws near, I look forward to resuming fully the family visits. I've enjoyed it so far and look forward to visiting you, if I have not done so. There's always return visits to the homes I already visited. It's fun for both parties. Let's keep it up. Amen to that!

Blessings and Peace.

~ Father Raphael Ezech, MSP



This Monday, May 26th, is a legal holiday. The Rectory Office will be closed. There will be only one Mass at 9 a.m.



ASCENSION THURSDAY MASS TIMES: This Thursday, May 29th, we celebrate the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord, a Holy Day of Obligation. The Mass schedule will be as follows: Wednesday, May 28th, at 7:30 p.m.; and *Ascension Thursday*, May 29th, at 7 a.m., 9 a.m., 12 Noon & 7:30 p.m. The office will be closed for the Holy Day.

The **ALTAR BREAD & WINE** and **ALTAR CANDLES** for this week have been donated in loving memory of Frank Comito by Josephine Smith.



The sanctuary lamp for this week is lit in loving memory of their deceased veterans by the Rosary Altar Society.

The **ALTAR FLOWERS** have been donated in loving memory of the following deceased veterans: Fiore Brusco, John Brusco, Victor D'Angelo, Carmine Davi, Gene Del Bene, Daniel DeRosa, Vito J. DeSantis, Anthony DiPaolo, John DiRodio, Anthony Giuriceo, Robert J. Howley, Sr., Joseph Laudadio, Margaret Liddell, Robert Liddell, Martin Magzag, Carmine Manno, Andrew T. McCormack, Gabriel Nanoia, Anthony Pelliccio, Jr., John Raffa, Jr., John Raffa, Sr., Francis J. Romano, Orlando Romano, Harold Smith, and Daniel Talone.

**FIRST COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION CLASSES**

Register **now** for next year's Religious Education program. Children in public school who will be entering First Grade through High School in September are eligible for these classes. Evening classes are available to accommodate the children of working parents. Besides grade level classes, instruction prepares children for Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation. Call Cheryl Duda (476-6676) for information.

Sixth Sunday of Easter

WELCOME BACK, MONSIGNOR JOHN KENNEDY!

Monsignor Kennedy arrived this past Wednesday and will be with us (except for a side trip) until Saturday, June 7th. We warmly welcome him back to our community, our neighborhood, and our Parish!



WEDDING JUBILEE MASS & CELEBRATION



St. Bartholomew's couples who are celebrating their 25th or 50th Wedding Anniversary anytime this year (2014) are invited to attend the 11:30 a.m. Mass on June 8th. They will be blessed and honored during the Mass which will be followed by a Reception in the McManus Parish Center. Please call the Rectory to register your participation and tell us how many guests you might be expecting at the Reception.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

"Let all the earth cry out to God with joy." Come and rekindle the joy of being with your spouse on the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. For more information, call toll free (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.

The **YOUTH GROUP** meets on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month immediately following the 5 p.m. Mass in the school building. There will be a meeting next Sunday, June 1st. A fun "game night" is planned. All youths age 13 and up are invited.



SAVE THE DATES: Our Youth Group is hosting two activities toward the end of June.

- Fri, June 27th - **Kids' Night** for kids under 13 & their parents
- Sat, June 28th - Parish inclusive **Roaring 20s** themed Dance Watch for more information in the coming weeks.

FAMILY MASS: Next Sunday, June 1st, we will celebrate Family Mass at 10 a.m. After the Mass, we will gather, with the new Communicants and Confirmed for our Annual **Communion Breakfast** in the McManus Parish Center. The Family Mass provides an opportunity for you to get to know other families and members of the parish. Therefore, endeavor to join us every first Sunday of the month. All are welcome!



Have you returned your Raffle stubs for our Annual Parish Raffle? Additional Chances and Chance Books are available at the Rectory Office during the week. The drawing for a cash prize will take place at the Picnic on Sunday, June 22nd. Good Luck!

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

	5/19/13	5/18/14	Difference
Adults	\$8,277.75	\$4,496.45	-\$3,781.30
Children	\$ 84.55	\$ 73.45	-\$ 11.10
Total	\$8,362.30	\$4,569.90	-\$3,792.40

"The true purpose of **tithing** is to secure not the **tithe**, but the **tither**; not the gift, but the **giver**; not your money, but **you** ... for God."

"**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



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, 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 Swiatkowitz, Jimmy Maimone, 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, Gerald Mazzerese, Jr., Patricia Keane, Carol Stola, Amada Ortiz, Karen Aprea, Stephen Sarich, Neil Cawley, Barbara McCormack, Josephine Lehotyak, Lawrence Girsch, Fran Romano, Joe Forlini, Michael Treacy, Rosemarie Petti, and Marie Murtha.


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.

May 25, 2014

Mass  for the
Intentions Week

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Saturday, May 24 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

Sunday, May 25

8:30 AM Leonore Erb +

10:00 AM Thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin Mary

11:30 AM Paul & Maddalena Coniglio +

5:00 PM Timothy O'Sullivan +

Monday, May 26

Saint Philip Neri, Priest - Memorial Day

9:00 AM Donato Sacchetta +

Tuesday, May 27

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM Victoria Shannon & Gallego Children (living)

9:00 AM Dolores Santamorena +

Wednesday, May 28

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM Theresa Fontanello +

9:00 AM Jennie, Frank & George Salerno +

7:30 PM Frances Campana +

Thursday, May 29

Ascension of the Lord

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Margaret Riggs+

12 Noon Frank Comito +

7:30 PM No Intention

Friday, May 30

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM Thanksgiving for Baby Grace (living)

9:00 AM Maria & Michael Silvestri +

Saturday, May 31

Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9:00 AM Cipriano & Angela Sacchetta +

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Saturday, May 31 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Sister Maria Cira +

Sunday, June 1

8:30 AM Oscar Starkenberg +

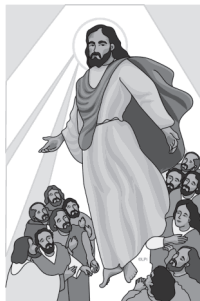
10:00 AM For All the People of Our Parish

11:30 AM Gene DelBene +

5:00 PM Michael Brini +

ASCENSION THURSDAY (May 29th)

The fortieth day after Easter Sunday, commemorates the Ascension of Christ into heaven, according to Mark 16:19, Luke 24:51, and Acts 1:2.



In the Eastern Church this feast was known as *analepsis*, the taking up, and also as the *episozomene*, the salvation, denoting that by ascending into His glory Christ completed the work of our redemption. The terms used in the West, *ascensio* and, occasionally, *ascensa*, signify that Christ was raised up by His own powers. Tradition designates Mount Olivet near Bethany as the place where Christ left the earth. The feast falls on Thursday. It is one of the Ecumenical feasts ranking with the feasts of the Passion, of Easter, and of Pentecost among the most solemn in the calendar, has a vigil and, since the fifteenth century, an octave which is set apart for a novena of preparation for Pentecost, in accordance with the directions of Leo XIII.

Although the place of the Ascension is not distinctly stated, it would appear from the Acts that it was Mount Olivet. Since after the Ascension, the disciples are described as returning to Jerusalem from the mount that is called *Olivet*, which is near Jerusalem, within a Sabbath day's journey. Tradition has consecrated this site as the Mount of Ascension and Christian piety has memorialized the event by erecting over the site a basilica. St. Helena built the first memorial, which was destroyed by the Persians in 614, rebuilt in the eighth century, to be destroyed again, but rebuilt a second time by the crusaders. This the Moslems also destroyed, leaving only the octagonal structure which encloses the stone said to bear the imprint of the feet of Christ, that is now used as an oratory.

Not only is the fact of the Ascension related in the passages of Scripture cited above, but it is also elsewhere predicted and spoken of as an established fact. Thus, in John 6:63, Christ asks the Jews: "If then you shall see the son of Man ascend up where He was before?" and 20:17, He says to Mary Magdalene: "Do not touch Me, for I am not yet ascended to My Father, but go to My brethren, and say to them: I ascend to My Father and to your Father, to My God and to your God." Again, in Ephesians 4:8-10, and in Timothy 3:16, the Ascension of Christ is spoken of as an accepted fact.

The language used by the Evangelists to describe the Ascension must be interpreted according to usage. To say that He was taken up or that He ascended does not necessarily imply that they locate heaven directly above the earth; no more than the words "sitteth on the right hand of God" mean that this is His actual posture. In disappearing from their view "He was raised up and a cloud received Him out of their sight" (Acts 1:9), and entering into glory He dwells with the Father in the honor and power denoted by the scripture phrase.