

St. Bartholomew's Church



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15 Palmer Road
Yonkers • New York 10701

www.saintbartsparish.org

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. 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. Co-Presidents, Carolyn Mesler, Frances Raffa

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

Trustees: Catherine Hickey, Aureo Pinto



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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.

SCRIPTURAL REFLECTION: ANGER & LOVE

Recently I stumbled into a TV show titled, *My Little Secret*. It showed horrible stories of teens who murdered their parent(s), driven by various reasons (or lack of) and emotions. The one I briefly watched (for fear of nightmares) was nearing the end anyway. The daughter had stabbed her mother almost 40 times! Her reason: she (daughter) was angry with her. No, the teen was not emotionally or psychologically sick. She was actually an 'A' student. She was intelligent enough, aided by some loophole in the system, to not only be free in less than years, but applied to Harvard. She was accepted until she was identified.

Now that's an extreme case of what pure anger can do. We have seen it again and again in our society and around the world. In our homes and all around us, we have seen lesser forms and effects of anger. The gospel invites us to observe Jesus in a rare moment of anger and learn a few things from the Master.

An angry Jesus, whip in hand! That's beyond anger, that's more like furious! This image will not sit well with many of us who would rather an eternally smiling Jesus. The good news is that Jesus is the gentlest guy who ever walked our planet! But that doesn't mean He was weak. When the occasion demanded it, He was very strong and very assertive. The saying goes that virtue lies in the middle. That will help us in a lot we do in life and in our relationship with God. First, our relationship with God.

Not too long ago, the Church focused on a strict God and what He demands from us. It drove many into this fear-filled relationship with God, much like the child of a very strict no-nonsense parent. Now, that has been or is being corrected. But we might be heading into another extreme where God loves us so much that He's cool with just about whatever we do that makes us happy or will simply dismiss them with a wave of hand. Well, Jesus was cool and gentle with the marginalized and with sinners who knew their need of repentance. As for those on the other side of that divide, He never minced words in trying to bring them, like straying sheep, back into the fold. Today, He used whip to achieve just that and clean up their mess.

Now, let's see how Jesus' example could help us in what we do daily. First, Jesus was OK with being angry, reminding us that there's a good side to anger. Call it good anger. Good anger is an anger that can spur us to make right that which is blatantly wrong. There are times we **ought** to be angry. An unjust situation should make us angry. In this case, it becomes an expression of love, especially, if we're acting like Jesus, that is, doing it for God and for the good of our neighbors.

Finally, there's bad anger. Another saying comes to mind: you can measure the size of a person's soul by the size of the things that make that person angry. I'm always awed and frustrated at the extent we get worked up (including myself) over practically inconsequential things. Making it even worse, unlike Jesus, our Master and our model, most often our anger is motivated and propelled to great heights by our selfish interests.

May our Lenten journey help us appreciate the two sides of Jesus and help us imitate Him.

2015 MISSION /RETREAT

This week, we here at St. Bart's will embark on our 3-day Lenten Mission to re-align our lives and mission with God's. Sister Eileen Burns, OSF, will be touching on issues of Community, Forgiveness, and Servant Leadership. Please, plan to attend the 3-Day spiritual journey with your brothers and sisters. Sister and her companion have a unique way of breaking open God's word and message in a practical and lively way. Don't miss it.

~ Father Raphael Ezeh, MSP


PARISH NEWS



HOLY NAME SOCIETY

MEETING: Because of the conflict with our Parish Mission, the Holy Name Society will meet in the McManus Parish Center this Sunday, March 8th, at 10 a.m. following the 8:30 a.m. Mass. All men of the Parish are invited to attend.

ADORATION: Eucharistic Adoration will be held in our church every Friday during Lent from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., with the exception of Good Friday. All are invited to spare some time and come to adore Jesus Christ Who is truly present in the Holy Eucharist.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Every Friday evening during Lent, we have the devotion of the Stations of the Cross in the Church at 7 p.m. (On Good Friday, Stations will be at 2 p.m. just prior to the 3 p.m. Good Friday Service). It is a Lenten tradition. Families are encouraged to participate together in preparation for Easter.

The **ALTAR CANDLES** and **SANCTUARY LAMP** for this week are lit in loving memory of Pasquale Alessi.



THE CARDINAL'S APPEAL—SHARING GOD'S GIFTS

Our bond with Christ is everlasting. The Cardinal's Appeal now supports offices and programs that nurture and encourage our journey in faith including Adult Faith Formation, Family Life/Respect Life, Hispanic Ministry, Black Ministry, Youth Ministry, Young Adult Outreach, Liturgy, and University Apostolate.

Thank you to all who braved last week's inclement weather and participated in our In Pew Solicitation for the Cardinal's Appeal. **As a parish we are prayerfully asked to all participate as our means allow.** To that end, next weekend you will have another opportunity to do so at Mass.

Your gift to the 2015 Appeal ensures we are in a position to continue providing support to those most in need throughout the Archdiocese. May God bless you for your generosity.

PARISH MISSION - WE ARE THE CHURCH
THIS Mon, March 9th to Wed, March 11th
7 p.m.—8:15 p.m.

Sister Eileen Burns, OSF & Mrs. Jenny Echevarria



Sister Eileen Burns will give a short introduction to our **2015 Parish Mission** at all the Sunday Masses next weekend. All parishioners are encouraged to take advantage of this Lenten opportunity. Please plan on joining us each evening at 7 p.m. Endeavor to invite along your friends and neighbors.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S SWEEPSTAKES SOCIAL SATURDAY, MARCH 14TH - DOORS OPEN AT 6 PM

- Donations of new items now being accepted. Call 914 476-6676 or 914 965-0566 to arrange for drop off
- Volunteers leave name & number at Parish Office
- Please plan on attending this Fundraising event!

CHRISM MASS - TUESDAY, MARCH 31ST



Mass of Chrism will be celebrated this year on **Tuesday, March 31st**, at 4 p.m. at St. Patrick's Cathedral. Every parishioner is encouraged to attend this beautiful ceremony, where we celebrate with our Archbishop and witness our priests renew their vow to serve God's people. **Please come support our own parish priests. The cost of the bus is \$15 per person, the bus departs at 1:30 pm promptly from the parking lot. Please make your reservations immediately so that St. Bart's can get their reserved space.**

BEGINNING EXPERIENCE is offering a healing weekend from March 20th – 22nd, at the St. Lawrence Retreat Center in Beacon, NY. This invitation is open to men and women of all ages and faiths who have suffered the loss of a spouse through death, divorce, or separation. It is a time to heal and a time to begin anew. It is endorsed by the Archdiocese Office of Family and Youth and reservations are required. Call Tom on 845 462-6192 or Nancy on 518 785-1351 extension 304 or e-mail ny.hudson.valley@beginningexperience.org, for information or registration.

Maria Regina High School hosts **A TASTE OF WESTCHESTER & THE BRONX**

Thursday, March 26th, 7 - 10 p.m.

Food, wine & beverage (supplied by favorite local restaurants) tasting event to provide their students with the latest advances in instructional technology. Admission is \$40 per person. For information and tickets, please call 914 761-3300, ext. 210 or visit www.mariaregina.org.

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, March 15th. All youths age 13 and up are invited.

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.



TITHING - GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING *Last Weekend's Contribution Comparison*

	3/2/14	3/1/15	Difference
Adults	\$5,196.40	\$5,312.15	+\$ 115.75
Children	\$ 202.70	\$ 167.80	-\$ 34.90
Total	\$5,399.10	\$5,479.95	+\$ 80.85

The Collection to maintain our buildings and grounds totaled \$1,205.30.

***"WHAT WE HAVE DONE FOR OURSELVES ALONE
DIES WITH US; WHAT WE HAVE DONE FOR OTHERS
AND THE WORLD REMAINS AND IS IMMORTAL."***

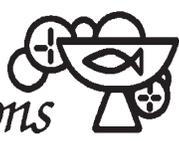
~ Albert Pike

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION: Next week, our parish will take up the *Catholic Relief Services* collection, which supports six Catholic agencies that touch more than 100 million lives around the world. The funds from the collection help to provide food to the hungry, welcome and support to displaced refugees, and invaluable life skills to those seeking a better life. **How will you help?** Next week please give generously to the *Catholic Relief Services* collection - **Jesus in disguise**



Please pray for all the sick & the homebound members of our Parish, especially Ethel Thomas, Aldina Pereira, Rebecca Conroy, Andy DeFabritis, Maria Marte, 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 Swiatkovicz, 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, Gerald Mazzerese, Jr., Patricia Keane, Carol Stola, Karen Aprea, Stephen Sarich, Neil Cawley, Barbara McCormack, Josephine Lehotyak, Lawrence Girsch, Fran Romano, Joe Forlini, Rosemarie Petti, Marie Murtha, Mary Walsh, Natalie Marrero, Richard Meyers, Carlo Gentile, Angelo Gianfrancesco, Vince Delgado, Charles Wighton, Michael Tomanelli, Steven Colon, Louis Loscalzo, Gina Obalde, Ann Lackner, Ariella Castillo, Brian Detz, John Marietti, Dominick Gravino, Angelica Blanco, Joseph Melillo and Gail Chappory.

MARCH 8, 2015

Mass  for the
Intentions Week

Third Sunday of Lent

Saturday, March 7 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Catherine Moore +

Sunday, March 8

8:30 AM Frances Starkenberg +

10:00 AM For All the People of Our Parish

11:30 AM Anna Baumeister +

5:00 PM Julio Blanco & Jovita Romero +

Monday, March 9

Lenten Weekday

7:00 AM Rita Bolduc +

9:00 AM Frank Lutomski, Jr. +

Tuesday, March 10

Lenten Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Marcello Barcello +

Wednesday, March 11

Lenten Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Antonio Marchetti +

Thursday, March 12

Lenten Weekday

7:00 AM Catherine Moore +

9:00 AM Leonard Revellese +

Friday, March 13

Lenten Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Lillian & Robert Kurtz +

Saturday, March 14

Lenten Weekday

9:00 AM Marina McCue +

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Saturday, March 14 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

Sunday, March 15

8:30 AM Michael Castagnozzi +

10:00 AM Anthony Perrino +

11:30 AM Frank & Carmela Legio +

5:00 PM Sofia, Juan Rosa & Magdaleno Vazquez +

MARCH 8, 2015

**FRANCES OF ROME
RELIGIOUS (1384 - 1440)**

MARCH 9TH

Frances' life combines aspects of secular and religious life. A devoted and loving wife, she longed for a lifestyle of prayer and service, so she organized a group of women to minister to the needs of Rome's poor.

Born of wealthy parents, Frances found herself attracted to the religious life during her youth. But her parents objected and a young nobleman was selected to be her husband.

As she became acquainted with her new relatives, Frances soon discovered that the wife of her husband's brother also wished to live a life of service and prayer. So the two, Frances and Vannoza, set out together - with their husbands' blessings to help the poor.

Frances fell ill for a time, but this apparently only deepened her commitment to the suffering people she met. The years passed, and Frances gave birth to two sons and a daughter. With the new responsibilities of family life, the young mother turned her attention more to the needs of her own household. The family flourished under Frances' care, but within a few years a great plague began to sweep across Italy. It struck Rome with devastating cruelty and left Frances' second son dead. In an effort to help alleviate some of the suffering, Frances used all her money and sold her possessions to buy whatever the sick might possibly need. When all the resources had been exhausted, Frances and Vannoza went door to door begging. Later, Frances' daughter died, and the saint opened a section of her house as a hospital.

Frances became more and more convinced that this way of life was so necessary for the world, and it was not long before she requested and was given permission to found a society of women bound by no vows. They simply offered themselves to God and to the service of the poor. Once the society was established, Frances chose not to live at the community residence, but rather at home with her husband. She did this for seven years, until her husband passed away, and then came to live the remainder of her life with the society - serving the poorest of the poor.

COMMENT: Looking at the exemplary life of fidelity to God and devotion to her fellow human beings which Frances of Rome was blessed to lead, one cannot help but be reminded of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who loved Jesus Christ in prayer and also in the poor. The life of Frances of Rome calls each of us not only to look deeply for God in prayer, but also to carry our devotion to Jesus living in the suffering of our world. Frances shows us that this life need not be restricted to those bound by vows.

QUOTE: In *Something Beautiful for God*, Mother Teresa said of the sisters in her community: "Let Christ radiate and live His life in her and through her in the slums. Let the poor seeing her be drawn to Christ and invite Him to enter their homes and lives." Says Frances of Rome: "It is most laudable in a married woman to be devout, but she must never forget that she is a housewife. And sometimes she must leave God at the altar to find Him in her housekeeping" (*Butler's Lives of the Saints*).

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