

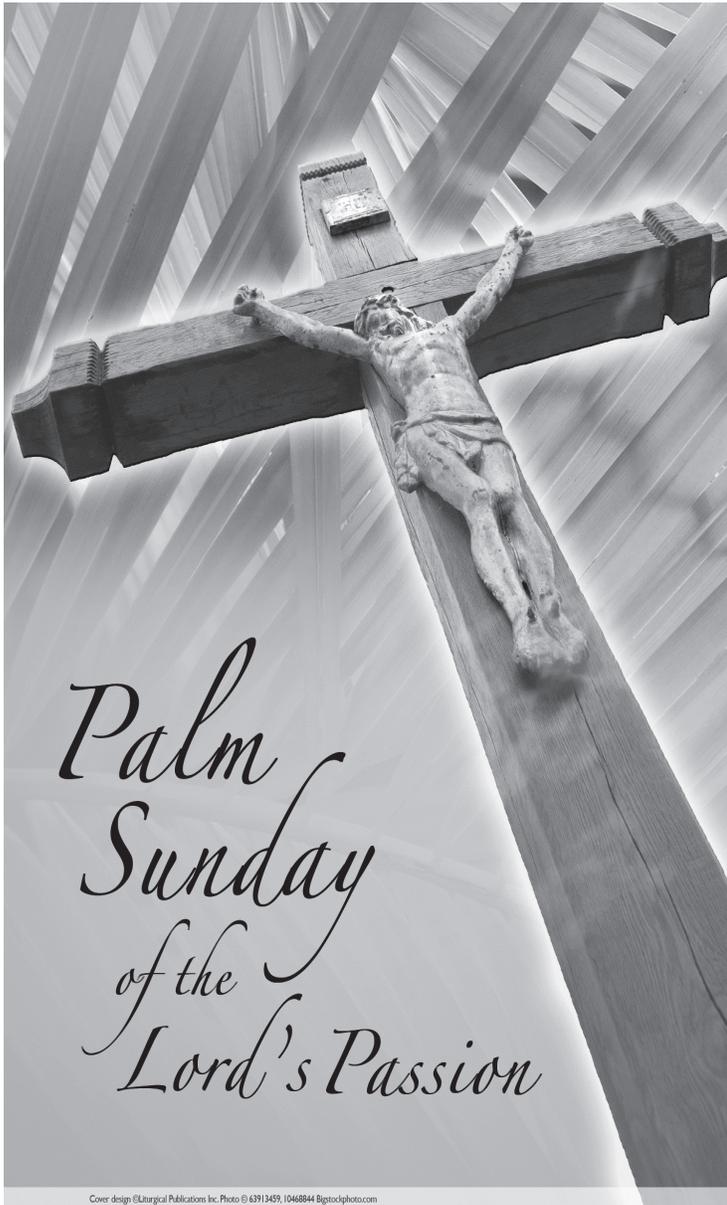
St. Bartholomew's Church



Scan this code with your
smart phone to access
our parish website.

15 Palmer Road
Yonkers • New York 10701

www.saintbartsparish.org



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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

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

OF GRACE AND HOLINESS

Palm Sunday is here! It means Holy Week and Easter are here – much too fast. As prepared or unprepared as each of us may be, I invite us to try and create or enter the mood for the coming solemn celebrations and what God is ever ready to work in our lives. For the Passion Play cast, we always encourage them at rehearsals to try and get in their respective moods. So, we too much try and be in the mood of this holy season. I thought of something that might help us to remain focused through the celebrations – grace.

The issue of grace is one of the long-standing debates between the Catholic and the Protestant churches. Both do agree that without grace we human beings cannot please God or be acceptable before God. Without grace, we are all condemned, like Barabbas.

Barabbas was a revolutionary, a guerilla or rebel. Matthew refers to him as a notorious prisoner (27:16). Luke and Mark refer to him as “one involved in a riot (Mark 15:7; Luke 23:19). He is also referred to as a bandit. This is one of the children of God whose lives were substituted with Christ's. Jesus substituted his life for mine. He substituted his life for yours. We speak of “substitute teacher.” I invite you to use this week to reflect on how Jesus achieved this. Here are some aids to help you.

How does grace work in our lives, in your life? Again, this is the great division between the Catholics and Protestants. Both do agree that grace is God's gift, won for humanity by the sacrifice of Christ Jesus. It's a question of our justification or means of salvation. The Protestants hold firmly to the ideas that grace works extrinsically on each of us. It simply means that grace does not penetrate and cleanse our human nature from within. So, for little Isabel Villanueva, whom we baptized last Saturday, her Original Sin remains. Yes, she did receive God's grace but it's much like a cloak that covers the corruption of her human nature. Thus she's acceptable to God, even though she remains depraved deep within her. It was said that Martin Luther (Protestant Reformation) said that a justified soul is like a “snow-covered pile of dung.”

I don't mince words when I proudly proclaim that I'm so glad to be a Catholic. I have not been brainwashed, but if anyone thinks so, then I'm mighty glad that I've been brainwashed. I don't want to be a “snow-covered pile of dung.” I want to attain that original nature in which God created me and saw that I was beautiful (Genesis chapter 1). Once you reach a vital conclusion, it affects other aspects of life. So, what follows this Protestant teaching on grace is that my actions are worth nothing toward my justification or salvation. Yes, they help me to be holy, but that's all.

As Catholics, we believe that baptism does indeed cleanse us intrinsically, and makes us truly a “new creation” (2 Cor. 5:17). Through baptism we share in God's divine nature. We are indeed made holy! Amen to that! This then means that we can become holy again, even after we commit sins after baptism! Thus the need for more grace, apart from the grace of baptism! Thus we have our wonderful, Christ instituted 7 Sacraments, through which we receive graces at various points of our lives. When we're sick, we receive the grace of healing through Anointing of the Sick. When we sin we receive the grace of forgiveness through the Sacrament of Penance. Through Confirmation we receive the grace to be strong soldiers for Christ. Through the Sacrament of Marriage we receive the grace to live a holy married life. Through the Sacrament of Ordination, the priest receives power to sanctify God's children in the name of Christ. And through the wonderful gift of the Holy Eucharist, we receive the grace to, what can I say, be like God! Share in God's Divine Life!

I invite you to use this Holy Week to reflect on how Jesus has been sanctifying your life through these grace-filled Sacraments. It all began when He substituted His life for Barabbas, you, and I. It all begin on Palm Sunday, through Holy Week, all the way to Easter Sunday. I'll not miss these grace-filled celebrations for anything in this world. Because he subbed for me. Because I need those graces to strive to be holy. Because, this is the week grace flows freely for all.

~ Father Raphael Ezeh, MSP


PARISH NEWS



STATIONS OF THE CROSS: 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 BREAD & WINE, ALTAR CANDLES & SANCTUARY LAMP** for this week are donated in loving memory of Daniel De Rosa by Josephine Smith.



FRIDAY, APRIL 10TH

1:30 – 7:30 PM

MCMANUS PARISH CENTER



St. Bartholomew's will be conducting its 80th Annual Blood Drive the **Friday** after Easter. St Bart's parishioners and friends have made **5981** donations to date. We run drives during holiday periods when the need for blood is great and donations are usually down. If you can donate, please call Tony Sciacca (423-3592) for an appointment; and please spread the word to your family and friends, too.

Give Thanks - Give Blood !!!

CHRISM MASS - THIS 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.** Arrangements have been made for reserved seats at the Cathedral and for a coach to leave from our parking lot at the cost of \$16 per person. A few seats are still available. **Please plan on arriving at our parking lot by 1:30 p.m. this Tuesday.**



ADULT FAITH FORMATION: Adults interested in learning more about the Catholic faith or wishing to prepare for Confirmation should contact the Religious Education Office for information about the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. (RCIA) Call 914-476-6676 for further information.

The Parish Office will be closed on Good Friday, April 3rd.

ADOPTION OPPORTUNITY: Children in China need homes. More boys available than girls from age two and up. Older parents and single women are welcomed. For more information call Barbara Salvesen on (845) 623-5277.

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD



OUR 2015 LENTEN & EASTER WISH LIST

In the spirit of Lent and in anticipation of a joyous Easter feast, our parish families and individuals are invited to assist the parish in purchasing items needed for Holy Week and Easter. Thank you to all who have already responded. **We can still use help to cover *Passion Play props & accessories*, ranging from \$20 - \$60.**

Please note that items can be donated in memory of your loved ones; and will be noted in the **bulletin the week after Easter**. Thank you for your consideration.

THE CATHOLIC'S DIVORCE GUIDE

Wednesdays, April 8 - June 24, 7 - 9 PM

Cost: \$35

The Family Life / Respect Life Office of our Archdiocese is for the first time offering the Catholic's Divorce Guide, a 12 week course beginning in April. It is intended to bring hope and healing to those who have gone through a divorce - even years ago, and to those who recently or are currently going through divorce or separation. There is a flyer posted on a church bulletin board with more information. **Register at events.nyfamilylife.org/cdsg/ or call Denise Tomas on 646 794-3188.**

Couples celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary anytime during 2015 are invited to attend the Annual Golden Wedding Jubilee Mass with Cardinal Dolan at the Cathedral of St. Patrick, Saturday, June 20th or Sunday, June 21st, at 2 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Please contact your Parish Office for registration. The closing date to register for the Mass is Tuesday, May 19th. This event is sponsored by the Family Life + Respect Life Office of the Archdiocese of New York.

SHARING COMMUNITY MEAL: This Thursday, April 2nd, we will be providing our Sharing Community Meal. Please bring your ziti or dessert to the Rectory. Doors will open at 6:45 a.m. The Sharing Community truly appreciates our efforts. For more information, please call the Parish Office.

The **YOUTH GROUP** usually meets on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month immediately following the 5 p.m. Mass in the school building. Because Easter falls on the 1st Sunday of April, the next meeting will Sunday, April 19th. 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.



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

	3/23/14	3/22/15	Difference
Adults	\$5,283.80	\$5,599.05	+\$ 315.25
Children	\$ 103.95	\$ 157.25	+\$ 53.30
Total	\$5,387.75	\$5,756.30	+\$ 368.55

"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, 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, 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 Gail Chappory, and Rev. Anthony Bassey, MSP.

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 evening classes. Besides grade level classes, instruction prepares children for Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation. Call Cheryl Duda (476-6676) for information.

PLEASE BRING BELLS FROM HOME to participate in the age-old tradition of ringing bells during the Gloria on **Holy Thursday**, April 2nd, and for the **Easter Vigil**, Saturday, April 4th



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

MARCH 29, 2015



Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Saturday, March 28 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Anthony & Nick Lalli +

Sunday, March 29

8:30 AM Elizabeth & Carl Laredo +

10:00 AM For All the People of Our Parish

11:30 AM Robert Mirsky +

5:00 PM Carmela & Nicolantonio Romagnoli +

Monday, March 30

Monday of Holy Week

7:00 AM Phan Nguyen +

9:00 AM Alice Olsen +

Tuesday, March 31

Tuesday of Holy Week

7:00 AM Pasqua Capuano +

9:00 AM Daniel De Rosa +

Wednesday, April 1

Wednesday of Holy Week

7:00 AM Antonia & Willie Diaz (living)

9:00 AM Raymond Shannon, Jr. & Raymond Shannon, Sr. +

Thursday, April 2

Holy Thursday

7:30 PM For All the People of Our Parish

Friday, April 3

Good Friday of the Passion of the Lord

2:00 PM Stations of the Cross

3:00 PM Service – No Mass

7:30 PM Service with Passion Play – No Mass

Saturday, April 4

Holy Saturday - Easter Vigil

8:30 PM For All the People of Our Parish

Sunday, April 5

**Easter Sunday of the Resurrection
of the Lord**

8:30 AM Deceased Members of Brusco & Nanoia Families

10:00 AM Deceased Members of Lucchetti & Capuano Families

11:30 AM Deceased Members of DiVenuto Family

