

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
Visit us on facebook:
St. Bartholomew's Yonkers

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.

Holy Name Society: Meets on the Monday evening after the second Sunday of the month. President, Anthony Martelli

Rosary Altar Society: Meets on the Monday evening after the first Sunday of the month. President, Liz Mulvaney

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

Trustees: Angela Brusco, Louis Caloia



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.

You Will Be Doing What Is Right

"It is the decision of the Holy Spirit and of us not to place on you any burden beyond these necessities, namely, to abstain from meat sacrificed to idols, from blood, from meats of strangled animals, and from unlawful marriage. If you keep free from these, you will be doing what is right." (Acts 15:28-29).

This is the conclusion and instruction from the Council of Jerusalem. And it was a monumental decision with consequences that were definitive and far reaching. The core of the issue was whether gentile converts needed to become Jews first, before becoming Christians. To become a Jew basically meant embracing circumcision and accepting all the other provisions of the Mosaic Law. There were as many as 613 offshoots of such laws. This would have definitely meant slavery to laws, which was what Jesus was against. As Paul argued, our salvation does not depend upon these laws but flows from the grace Christ won for us on the Cross. Our salvation depends on our faith and belief in the risen Christ.

It's important to note that Christ left the Church no guidelines on how to deal with crisis such as the one above – from our first reading today. However, He did leave us with a consoling assurance in Matthew 28:20 – *"And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."* He also promised to send the Holy Spirit and to fill us and His Church with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. This is definitely better than any set of rules or guidelines. It shows that it is not any human who is in charge but God himself. It shows that our salvation is ultimately not dependent on any set of rules but is a gift from God, to those who believe in Him and who obey Him.

Having said all this, the other side of the coin is also very important, because our God is not a God of confusion. The Holy Spirit is not a God of confusion and chaos. Two aspects of our readings bring this reality to the fore.

First, is about the action and decision of the early Church. It's amazing how they came to that decision, as noted in Acts 15:22. "Then the apostles and presbyters, in agreement with the whole church, decided" This is followed by opening reference above, from Acts 15:28-29. It was a decision made by the Apostles, the presbyters, the whole Church, in concert with the Holy Spirit. It didn't mean that there were no dissenting voices. I always love it when a group gathers, deliberates, invokes the guidance of the Holy Spirit and bravely and boldly makes a decision as one unit, perfect or imperfect as the group or decision may be. And that's what the Council of Jerusalem achieved, by the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit. And it was binding.

The second aspect comes from our Gospel today, from John 14:23-29. It throws more light on how we could settle a crisis as the body of Christ – the Church. The words came from Jesus himself. *"Whoever loves Me will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and we will come to Him and make our dwelling with Him. Whoever does not love Me does not keep My words; yet the word you hear is not Mine but that of the Father who sent Me."*

The early Church turned to the words and actions of Christ as they grappled with the crisis they found themselves in. Thus, after examining and deliberating on the issue they realized that indeed Jesus would not exclude anyone from following Him simply because they were not circumcised, nor would Jesus expect anyone to embrace the 613 Mosaic Laws. Already He himself was angry with the Scribes and Pharisees for placing that burden on others. In addition to building up an inclusive body of Christ, the Council recognized the need to obey the Word of God too. So, they instructed the converts to obey some basic aspects of the law as referenced above – Acts 15:19.

The Church has continued to grapple with issues in every age and that will most probably continue until Christ's second coming. We must first of all remain obedient to the Holy Spirit. We must invoke His help at each turn. We must imitate and obey Christ's command to love and embrace everyone. We must obey the word of God as Christ commanded us. Ultimately, our decisions and actions, must bring unity and cohesion (which does not mean that everyone has agreed – not everyone agreed at the Jerusalem Council), be about love and mercy, and be aimed at making people holy (for we are called to be saints), bring people into deeper intimacy with Christ and finally lead them to eternal life.

"And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." Amen.

Father Raphael Ezeh, MSP

PARISH NEWS



The **ALTAR FLOWERS**, flanking the tabernacle, the **ALTAR BREAD & WINE**, **ALTAR CANDLES & SANCTUARY LAMP** for this week are donated in loving memory of Fiore Brusco by Louis & Angela Brusco.



The **ALTAR FLOWERS** in front of the Altar are donated by the Confirmation Class in honor of their living and deceased family members and friends who cannot be with them as they receive the sacrament.

CONGRATULATIONS

We congratulate 28 of our children who made their First Holy Communion last Sunday, April 24th, and we welcome them to the Table of the Lord:

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Alexmar Alonso-Mendoza | Josfil Alonso Mendoza |
| Randy Arevalo | Robert Batac |
| Emilia Bondal | Selena Calixto |
| Nicholas Chang | Emily Delgado |
| Steven Delgado | Emily Garcia |
| Alexus Gongora | Matthew Guerra |
| Jordy Guzman | Saylah Henriques |
| Dylan Lima | Tomas Maceda |
| Marcel Morgan | Mason Murray |
| Lorenzo Ragusa | Elijah Rios |
| Kayla Rodriguez | Aylin Rojas |
| Andrew Segarra | Katterina Shuba-Ramirez |
| Madison Steptoe | Monserath Valdovinos |
| Alex Vazquez | Johalfy Victoria-Ramirez |

Please keep these children in your prayers.



The **ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY** meeting will be held this Monday, May 2nd, at 7:30 p.m. in the McManus Parish Center. All women of the Parish are invited.

MAY PROCESSION & CROWNING: This **Tuesday, May 3rd, at 6:45 p.m.**, St. Bartholomew's will celebrate the Queenship of Mary, our Mother. Our newly confirmed and this year's First Communicants will process to the Church and crown the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary in this beautiful May devotion. The Rosary Altar Society will also participating. The short program is filled with devotional songs to Mary that are sure to bring back youthful memories. Please help us fill the Church to honor Our Blessed Mother.



SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Please pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed, especially Reverend Monsignor Robert B. O'Connor.

SHARING COMMUNITY MEAL: This Thursday, May 5th, 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.



CALLING ALL SENIORS! CALLING ALL SENIORS! Thursday, May 5th



9 a.m. Mass with a Special Blessing, followed by light refreshments and gathering at the McManus Parish Center. Francis DeStefano will be giving a short presentation on the Shroud of Turin.

ADORATION & HOLY HOUR: This Friday, May 6th, is First Friday. We will have our Friday Adoration, beginning at 9:30 a.m. and ending at 7 p.m. Our monthly Friday Holy Hour will be held at 1 p.m. This Saturday, May 7th, the Divine Mercy Holy Hour will begin at 3 p.m. All are invited to spare an hour and come to adore Jesus Christ Who is truly present in the Holy Eucharist.



COME JOIN US FOR FAMILY BINGO

Friday, May 6th

Doors and Kitchen open at 6:00 p.m. Bingo starts at 6:45 p.m. Cost is \$5 per person. All are welcome!!!!

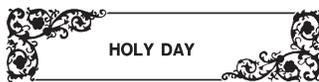
ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S PARISH TAG SALE

Saturday, May 21st, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Indoors— Rain or Shine

Donations Needed (Please no Books or Stuffed Animals)
Volunteers needed May 18th, 19th & 20th to help set up!!
Contact Cheryl Duda at 914 476-6676 for more details

The **YOUTH GROUP** meets on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month. Their next meeting is this Sunday, May 1st after the 5 p.m. Mass. All youths age 13 and up are invited.

Follow our Youth Group on Twitter @ St_Barts_youth.



ASCENSION THURSDAY MASS TIMES: This Thursday, May 5th, we celebrate the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord, a Holy Day of Obligation. The Mass schedule will be as follows:

Wednesday, May 4th, at 7:30 p.m.; and **Ascension Thursday**, May 5th, at 7 a.m., 9 a.m., 12 Noon & 7:00 p.m.

Please note that the Parish office will be closed Thursday, May 5th, for Ascension Thursday.

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

	4/26/15	4/24/16	Difference
Adults	\$5,098.35	\$4,921.20	- \$ 177.15
Children	\$ 107.55	\$ 196.00	+\$ 88.45
Total	\$5,205.90	\$5,117.20	- \$ 88.70

The Second Collection for next week will be in support of the Church in Central & Eastern Europe.

Thank you to all those who are participating in our tithing program! May God bless and reward your sacrifices! For those who are not yet tithing, I encourage you to please give it a prayerful thought. Thank you!

In lieu of filling out envelopes weekly, please consider signing up for online giving at www.parishpay.com or use the forms at the rear of the church. Thus far, we have 6 families that have signed up.



Please pray for all the sick & the homebound members of our Parish, especially Marian Fletcher, Ann Lackner, Richard Meyers, Rosalie Heit, Andrea Objay, Margaret Maccia, Audrey Falcone, Louis Brusco, Charles Wighton, Michael Tomanelli, Ariella Castillo, Gail Chappory, Randolph Castillo, Jr., Deacon Pat Troy, Deacon Jim Byrne, Gregory Clemens, Florence McCormack, Mary Bryce, Anna Bonacci, Benjamin Pelliccio, William Flower, Efrain Arzola, Joan Oliver, Henry Joseph, Deacon Bob Clemens, Thomas & Carolyn Cesta and William Bodack.

Please contact the Parish Office if you wish to add a loved one to the sick list.

MOTHER'S DAY NOVENA MASSES: Sunday, May 8th, is Mother's Day. Our Parish will have a Novena of Masses for all our mothers – living and deceased. The Novena of Masses will begin on Sunday, May 8th, and finish on Monday, May 16th.

There are cards and/or envelopes at the back of the church. If you want your mother, mother-in-law or any mother remembered in the Novena of Masses, please write out the envelope with your donation and drop it in the collection basket or bring it to the Rectory during the week.

Next Sunday, May 8th, the Annual Holy Name Mother's Day breakfast will take place after the 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. Masses. Come and share the joy with all our mothers.

MAY 1, 2016

Mass Intentions for the Week

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Saturday, April 30 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

Sunday, May 1

8:30 AM Elizabeth Laredo & Margaret Liddell +

10:00 AM Deceased members of Del Bene & Salerno Families

11:30 AM Susie & Vincent Streva +

5:00 PM Chris Amendola +

Monday, May 2

Saint Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

7:00 AM Reimond Batac (Living)

9:00 AM Rose Fasanella+

Tuesday, May 3

Saints Philip and James, Apostles

7:00 AM Luigi Lucchetti +

9:00 AM Joseph Melillo +

Wednesday, May 4

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM Vincent, Gerard & Mary Hickey+

9:00 AM Antonio Marchetti +

7:30 PM Carrie D'Angelo +

Thursday, May 5

The Ascension of the Lord

7:00 AM Reverend Anthony Ita Basse, MSP +

9:00 AM Barbara McCormack +

12 Noon Patrick & Thomas Keane +

7:00 PM Antoinette Angioletti +

Friday, May 6

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM Rita Bolduc +

9:00 AM Fiore Brusco +

Saturday, May 7

Easter Weekday

9:00 AM Joseph S. Forlini +

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Saturday, May 7 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Lucille & Victor Serricchio +

Sunday, May 8

8:30 AM Ethel Castagnozzi +

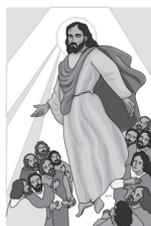
10:00 AM Frances Nanoia & Angelina Brusco +

11:30 AM Kenneth & Catherine Moore +

5:00 PM Novena For Our Living & Deceased Mothers

MAY 1, 2016

ASCENSION THURSDAY (May 5th)



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.

(Catholic Encyclopedia)

Confirmation Prayer—A Spirit To Know You

Gracious and Holy Father, Please give me:
intellect to understand You, reason to discern you,
diligence to seek You, wisdom to find You,
a spirit to know You, a heart to meditate upon You,
ears to hear You, eyes to see You, a tongue to proclaim
You,
a way of life pleasing to You, patience to wait for You,
and perseverance to look for You.
Grant me a perfect end, Your holy presence,
a blessed resurrection and life everlasting.
Amen

