

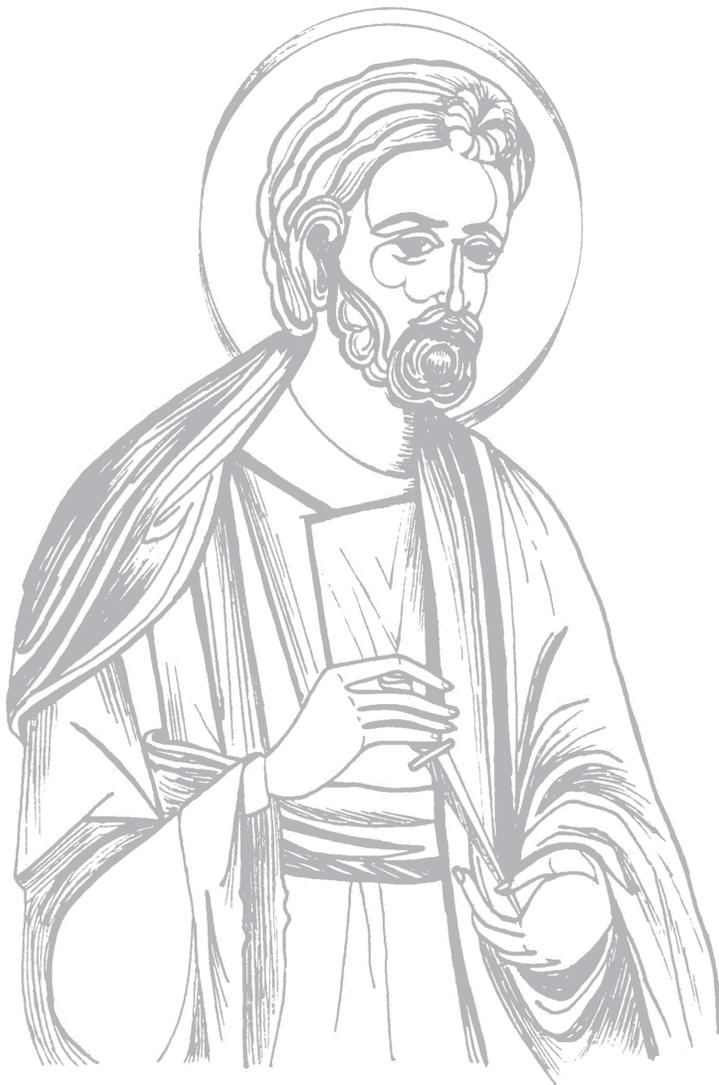
St. Bartholomew's Church



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15 Palmer Road
Yonkers • New York 10701

www.saintbartsparish.org
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St. Bartholomew's Yonkers



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.

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, 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

The Mission

In one of the scenes in our Christmas Play, Livinus, the Romans ambassador to Jerusalem, went to visit Herod. It wasn't for a friendly chat over some wine. Both men merely tolerated each other. Livinus started with Herod's health and then went on to Caesar Augustus's displeasure with Herod. Then he went onto the dangerous rumors that the High Priest of the Temple was robbing the poor to fatten the rich, and then onto Caesar's worry over the so-called Messiah. Exasperated, Herod said to Livinus at this point, *"But, Livinus, you have not come to merely warn me of the latest of these 'zealots' with their false messiahs. I smell ... gold!"* In other words, he was asking Livinus, "why are you here?" or "what's your mission here?"

I also thought of those times, while growing up, when we were sent on errands, duly instructed on what to do, but forgot the mission halfway to the place or upon arriving at the place. Sometimes, we didn't forget but simply put the mission on the side and went on to play our beloved soccer.

In today's gospel, after 30 years, Jesus finally announced his mission – the very reason the Father sent him: *"to bring glad tidings to the poor ... to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind ... to let the oppressed go free ... and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord"* Thank God no "soccer game" sidetracked Him. And it wasn't for lack of one, rather because He had the commitment and focus. We don't normally think Jesus had any option but to do what He came to do. We often take it for granted. But we need to always remind ourselves, in the danger of such thoughts, that Jesus is fully man and fully God. He could have changed course. Lucifer used to be the angel of light. But he was distracted by some heavenly 'soccer game'. He embarked on his own self-defined mission. Unlike Lucifer, again and again, Jesus refused to be distracted, let alone abandon His mission.

We have so many life lessons and examples that should help us to remain focused on the minor and major missions in our lives, and most importantly, the sole mission of our life here on earth. Just in case you've forgotten or need a reminder, just take a second (or first) look at today's Gospel reading from Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21.

Pope Francis highlights this same passage while announcing the Jubilee Year of Mercy. It is a year of favor or mercy. He invites us to *"console the poor, to liberate those bound by our society's contemporary forms of enslavement, to shed light on those who have been blinded by self-interest, and to restore dignity to all who have been robbed of the most basic human right"*

I want to add two things here. First is the reality of the recipients of our actions. Our minds rush to think of some far off poor and needy guy or that homeless woman you pass on the street or starving kids in far off countries, rather than our family members, friends, coworkers, church members, teammates, etc. It all starts with them. Secondly, we need to also break the acts down to their lowest denominator: any good deed, big, small or mindboggling. I believe that such exercises will help us tremendously to remain focused on our individual and collective missions as families and as a parish.

The stakes were high for Jesus and no less for you and me. Sadly, we have so many distractions that make many of us to either forget our mission or to ditch it by the wayside and embark on self-determined mission that will only lead us to temporary or fleeting happiness and lots of regret, and ultimate doom.

Lord, often the mission you've given us seems to be an impossible one. Help us to truly know that with You anything is indeed possible. Amen.

~ Reverend Raphael Ezeh, MSP

PARISH NEWS

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed, especially Caroline Hoffman, *Rest in Peace* Jennie Ayala, Joseph S. Forlini and Theresa Jardine.

CHILDREN'S MASS: Please make it a point to bring your child to our Children's Mass the rest of the Sundays in January. The 10 a.m. Mass will focus on our children. The Parish Children's Choir will sing at the Mass. The children are encouraged to sit with other children at a designated place during the Mass.

REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES, LIVING AND DEAD
The Mass Book for 2016 is open and has some availability. 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, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.** to make arrangements or to inquire about the availability of a particular date.

FEEDING OUR NEIGHBORS: AN INTERFAITH RESPONSE January 23rd – January 31st

Catholic Charities is once again running its *Feeding Our Neighbors Campaign* to restock the food pantries and soup kitchens of the Archdiocese of New York. Our parish along with the other parishes and Catholic schools in the New York Archdiocese are asked to make a special effort to feed our hungry neighbors.



Expect the large donation box to appear this weekend, January 23th - 24th through next weekend January 30th - 31st. Our donations will support our Food Pantry, as well as other food pantries; and once again our Social Ministry Committee will organize, tally, and report our donations to Catholic Charities. Thank you for doing your part to make this Campaign a success.

St. Bart's Upcoming Events

Valentine's Day Gathering

Singles—Saturday February 6, 2016

Couples—Saturday, February 13, 2016

Holy Name Pasta Night in memory of Vincent J. Campisi
Saturday, March 12, 2016

ADOPTION: Children in China need homes. More boys are available than girls from ages two & up. Older parents & single women are welcome. For more information, call Barbara Salvesen at 845 623-5277.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Nations shall walk by your light ... We as Catholics must be a light to the world. Spend a weekend growing closer to your spouse and to God and make your marriage/Holy Orders to be a "light" shining brighter than ever. For more information on Worldwide Marriage Encounter or for upcoming dates, call (877) 697-9963, ext. 3 or go to www.wwme.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.

REMINDER YOUTH WEEK

Sunday to Saturday, February 14th - 20th

- Sunday, February 14th—5 p.m. Mass, Youth Group Singing
 - Monday and Tuesday, February 15th and 16th—2 Day Retreat for registered participants
 - Wednesday, February 17th—Volunteering at the Westchester Center
 - Thursday, February 18th—"Speak of the Devil..."
 - Friday, February 19th—Volunteering at AFYA and Lesson on the Rosary with Father Raphael
 - Saturday, February 20th—Movie Night
 - Sunday, February 21st—Overview of the week and focus on God's Love and Mercy
- Stay tuned for more details in the upcoming weeks!!!

The **YOUTH GROUP** meets on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month immediately following the 5 p.m. Mass in the school building. 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.

LIFE LINE SCREENING

will be here again this year at our McManus Parish Center on Friday, March 11th. They will be providing ultrasound screenings for stroke, vascular diseases, heart rhythm abnormalities, and osteoporosis risk. They have partnered with over 150 hospitals across the country and have screened over 7 million participants. More information to follow in February.



TITHING - GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

Last Weekend's Contribution Comparison

| | 1/18/15 | 1/17/16 | Difference |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Adults | \$3,638.00 | \$5,116.80 | -\$1,478.80 |
| Children | \$ 40.75 | \$ 155.95 | -\$ 115.20 |
| Total | \$3,678.75 | \$5,272.75 | -\$1,594.00 |

The collection in support of Snow Removal totaled \$1,213.65

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!



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 Cianfagione, Shawn Colon, Margaret Maccia, Nicole Ryan Betancourt, Anthony Spinner, Audrey Falcone, Kathleen Hayes, Marge Muraik, Nicole Pisani-Frame, Louis Petrulo, Cynthia Swiatkiewicz, 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, Josephine Lehotyak, Lawrence Girsch, Fran Romano, Rosemarie Petti, Marie Murtha, Mary Walsh, Natalie Marrero, Richard Meyers, Carlo Gentile, Angelo Gianfrancesco, Vince Delgado, Charles Wighton, Michael Tomanelli, Steven Colon, Gina Obalde, Ann Lackner, Ariella Castillo, Brian Detz, John Marietti, Dominick Gravino, Angelica Blanco, Gail Chappory, Agnes Masterson, Gregory Clemens, Randolph Castillo, Jr., Carolyn & Lawrence Mesler, Grace Finnerty, Mary Ann Klobosits, Theresa Venturino, Nicholas Arzola, Manuel Obalde, Jr., and Maryellen Esposito.

"Saint of the Day"

Learn more about Saint Bartholomew and all the saints. Go to AMERICAN.CATHOLIC.ORG each day and read interesting stories about the "Saint of the Day". You can sign up with your e mail address and have the daily saint info sent to you each day.



JANUARY 24, 2016

Mass  *for the*
Intentions *Week*

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, January 23 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Jack Gronowski & William Bruder +

Sunday, January 24

8:30 AM Mary & Nicholas Maccia +

10:00 AM Anna Brucculeri +

11:30 AM For All the People of Our Parish

5:00 PM Reverend Patrick J. Mee +

Monday, January 25

The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle

7:00 AM Maria Loreta Lucchetti +

9:00 AM Carol Swetz +

Tuesday, January 26

Saints Timothy & Titus, Bishops

7:00 AM Miguel Carao +

9:00 AM Rose Maniglia +

Wednesday, January 27

Weekday

7:00 AM Daniel Pezzola (Living)

9:00 AM David Pagliaroli +

Thursday, January 28

Saint Thomas Aquinas, Priest & Doctor of the Church

7:00 AM Mary DeSantis (Living)

9:00 AM Josephine Gilligan +

Friday, January 29

Weekday

7:00 AM Marie Caloia +

9:00 AM Joseph S. Forlini +

Saturday, January 30

Weekday

9:00 AM Carmina Castle +

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, January 30 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Margaret Verderosa +

Sunday, January 31

8:30 AM Elizabeth Laredo +

10:00 AM Emily Lavelle +

11:30 AM Reverend Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP +

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

