

Saint Bartholomew's Church

15 Palmer Road
Yonkers • New York 10701

www.saintbartsparish.org
Visit us on facebook:
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.

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: Sam Farraj, Anna Legio

Melt and Remold me, Lord

The Old Testament reading today is a prayer thought to have been written during the time that the Chosen People were exiled in Babylon. The writer – not Isaiah, but writing in the tradition of Isaiah – acknowledges their sinfulness and expresses their repentance. He longs for God to “rend the heavens and come down,” to redeem them from their sin. What he cannot know is that God will do exactly that in the person of Jesus. Though he could not imagine God’s Son coming into the world, he prophesied that God could do awesome deeds for those who place their trust in the Lord.



The writer of this passage from Isaiah uses this wonderful image of God as the potter. Think of a potter throwing the clay on a wheel and shaping a pot or vase. The potter’s hands immediately get messy with the wet clay. We who are the clay have this image of God actively shaping us through a hands-on, messy process. Perhaps this sense of intimacy enables the writer to plead with God the way he does.

The caution in today’s Gospel – “You do not know when the time will come” – is reminiscent of a pop quiz in school or a surprise inspection at work (Mark 13:33). The only assurance of being prepared, then, is to be prepared always. But Jesus does not only come at Christmas or at the end of time. Jesus also comes to us everyday. Let us prepare our hearts to receive Him always.

Question for the Week

As we begin this season of Advent, how am I preparing a place for Jesus in my life?

(Pastoral Patterns, Winter 2017-2018)

This age-old hymn to the Potter may help you to reflect more and assimilate the Gospel message more.

Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on us.
Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on us.
Break me, melt me,
Mold me, fill me,
Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on us.

WELCOME, GOODBYE

**We welcome back Fr. Anthony. He said that his journey and the celebrations went very well. Many thanks to God for the safe journey granted to him.

**On the other hand, we pray and wish Fr. Felix Efobi, who has been with us for the past six weeks, a safe trip back to Nigeria. Those who came to the Morning Masses saw him more as he did some of the Masses.

As we begin this holy season of Advent, I wish each of you a fruitful preparation for the birth of our Lord. Remember to make Confessions part of the preparations.

Blessings and Peace.

Fr. Raphael Ezech, MSP.

PARISH NEWS



Friday, December 8th is the feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary and is a holy day of obligation. Masses are as follows: Thursday, December 7th, Vigil Mass at 7: 30 p.m. and Friday December 8th, 7a.m., 9 a.m., 12 Noon, and 7 p.m.

The Parish Office is closed in observance of the Holy Day.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed especially  *Rest in Peace* Thomas Zammikiel.

Calling all Seniors! Calling all Seniors!

Join fellow seniors for Mass and Gathering Thursday, December 7th for the 9 a.m. Mass with a Special Blessing followed by light refreshments and gathering at McManus Parish Center.



SHARING COMMUNITY MEAL: This Thursday, December 7th, 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.

BE “INFORMED” FOR DECEMBER

We hope you are enjoying the free parish subscription to www.formed.org which gives you access to quality Catholic on line programs, movies, audios, and books. Simply register with parish code **YWHDC2** and enjoy. Today is the First Sunday of Advent. Study: Advent, Session 1: *Prepare the Way* or listen to: *Prepare the Way of the King*. On Friday, The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, study: *The Bible and the Virgin Mary*, Lessons 3: *Wedding at Cana, Garden in Eden*; 4: *The New Eve*; 9: *Full of Grace*; or 10: *All Holy*. You can also listen to, *Mary, Handmaid of the Lord*. Contact Cheryl Duda at 914-476-6676 if you have any questions.

The women of the Parish are invited to join the members of the Rosary Altar Society this Monday, December 4th for their annual Christmas dinner at Fogarty’s (at 6:30 p.m.) on Kraft Avenue in Bronxville, NY. The cost

is \$25 per person. Please call Josephine at 914 476-5386 or Liz at 914 403-8844. Payment marked RAS dinner can be dropped in the collection basket or brought to the Parish Office no later than Monday by Noon.



******PLEASE NOTE: A CORRECTION TO LAST WEEK’S INFORMATION, THERE WILL NOT BE A MASS, AT 5:30 p.m. PRIOR TO THE DINNER.**



Our **YOUTH GROUP** meets on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of each month immediately following the 5 p.m. Mass, in the school building. **Their next meeting is this Sunday, December 3rd from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., lunch included.** All Youth ages 13 and up. **Follow our Youth Group on Twitter @ St_Barts-Youth.**

PARISH UPCOMING EVENTS

FAMILY BREAKFAST:

This Sunday, December 3rd is Family Mass at 10 am. All children and their families are encouraged to attend.



In addition there will be breakfast with Santa after all morning Masses (8:30, 10:00 and 11:30)

Join us after the three morning Masses for some breakfast and social time with your fellow parishioners.

CELEBRATION OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

PATRON SAINT OF MEXICO AND THE AMERICAS

Tuesday, December 12th

6 am special reading and songs in honor of Our Mother Mary

7 am Mass followed by traditional Mexican breakfast at

McManus Center. See the flyer in the bulletin.



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Saturday, December 16th

All are welcome. See the flyer in the bulletin.



CHRISTMAS WREATHS

Boy Scouts of Troop 5 will be selling fully decorated Christmas wreaths for only \$14 each, **this Saturday, December 2nd after the 5 p.m. Mass and Sunday, December 3rd after the morning and evening Masses.** If paying by check, please make check out to Boy Scout Troop 5.



CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

Our traditional Advent and Christmas candle set (\$100), 4 Christmas wreaths (\$115 each) and 9 Christmas arrangements (\$60 each) can be donated in memory of loved ones. Please contact the Parish Office if you are interested at 914 965-0566.



St. Bart's and Hudson Valley Blood Services express sincere appreciation to the **68 donors, 18 students and 4 adult volunteers who came down to the 88th Blood Drive on November 24, 2017 to donate 69 pints.**



Once again, Hudson Valley Blood Services can depend on St. Bart's friends and parishioners to understand the need for blood, particularly during critical times of shortage. 15 donors gave double red cell donations using the ALYX system. 39



donors gave a regular donation. 14 donors were deferred for various reasons. There were 7 new donors and 11 walk-ins. 35 prospective donors had signed up but were not able to attend. These 35 prospective donors and anyone else who is interested can make an appointment to donate at their convenience by calling HVBS at 1 800 933-2566. If you wish, ask to credit your donation to St. Bart's group #7747. We have tentatively scheduled our next drive for the Friday after Easter, 2018 and look forward to continuing this much needed community service. **Once again, thanks to all!!**

Anthony Sciacca, Chairperson

Food Pantry is in need of turkey, ham and desserts for Christmas. They can be dropped off the weekend prior to Christmas, December 23rd and 24th. Details to follow.



**TITHING - GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING
Sunday Collection Update**

Amount Needed Weekly	\$7,000.00
Actual Received Last Sunday	\$7,377.00
Balance	+ \$ 377.00
*(Envelopes \$7,162. Online (\$215.00))	

Amount Needed for Month of November	\$28,000.00
Amount Collected For November	\$24,731.90

**Quarter Summary (September—November, For Fiscal Year)
(Includes all On Line Giving)**

Amount Budgeted	\$91,000.00
Amount Collected	\$76,785.50
Total Quarterly Deficit	- \$14,214.50

"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 Marian Fletcher, Ann Lackner, Richard Meyers, Rosalie Heit, Andrea Objay, Audrey Falcone, Louis Brusco, Michael Tomanelli, Ariella Castillo, Gail Chappory, Randolph Castillo, Jr., Deacon Jim Byrne, Gregory Clemens, Mary Bryce, Anna Bonacci, Efrain Arzola, Henry Joseph, Deacon Bob Clemens, Carolyn Cesta, William Bodack, Joseph Mahoney, Mary De Santis, Leticia Agosto, Manuel Obalde, Jr., Gina Obalde, Rosalia Guzman, Ann McGarry, Daniel Pezzola, Brittany Arzola, Ron and Sally Petro, Anthony Guarente, Theresa Venturino, Nicholas Arzola, Angela Lutomski, Richard (Dick) Novak, and Cynthia Mascetta King.

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

Our Parish Giving Tree

In keeping with the true spirit of Christmas, we have the opportunity to share our resources with several charities who serve the disadvantaged, both adults and children (Immaculate Conception's Needy Families, Richmond Hill, Westchester Living Center, and the Central Committee of Veterans Org.) Please take an ornament(s) from the tree in the back of



the church. It is important that this ornament, indicating gender and gift specific information, be securely attached to your wrapped package. Please return all wrapped packages to the church, no later than Monday, December 18th. Thank you for your continued support in this very special season of giving.

December 3, 2017

Mass  for the
Intentions Week

First Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 2 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Deacon Robert Clemens (Living)

Sunday, December 3, 2017

8:30 AM Oscar Starkenberg +

10:00 AM Joseph Prior +

11:30 AM Edward Madaffari+

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

Monday, December 4

Advent Weekday

7:00 AM Ronald Warner +

9:00 AM Anna & William Groth+

Tuesday, December 5

Advent Weekday

7:00 AM Edison & Salvadora Blanco +

9:00 AM Antonio Marchetti +

Wednesday, December 6

Advent Weekday

7:00 AM Edison & Salvadora Blanco +

9:00 AM Mary Gregorio +

Thursday, December 7

Saint Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

7:00 AM Edison & Salvadora Blanco +

9:00 AM Harold W. Smith III +

7:30 PM Mary De Stefano +

Friday, December 8

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:00 AM Dec, Members of the Lucchetti & Capuano families

9:00 AM Harold W. Smith III +

12 NOON Bernard Mistal & Margaret Kielkucki +

7:00 PM Margaret T. Maccia +

Saturday, December 9

Advent Weekday

9:00 AM Audrey Falcone (Living)

Second Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 9 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Josephine Giuriceo +

Sunday, December 10 2017

8:30 AM Deceased Members of Holy Name Society

10:00 AM For All the People of Our Parish +

11:30 AM Corazon & Benjamin Sotto+

5:00 PM Miguel Angel Ocasio +

December 3, 2017

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH FAMILY



Our warmest welcome to our visitors! We are glad you came to celebrate the Eucharist with us today. We thank God for you!
Do not hesitate to let us know how we may serve you.

Every family and single adult to be considered an active parishioner of St. Bartholomew's Parish must be properly registered in the Parish, receiving and regularly using the Parish Weekly Collection Envelopes. Only in this way can the Pastor issue documents attesting to Catholic practice of the faith and Parish membership, e.g. a letter to be a Godparent or Sponsor. For further information call the Parish Office at (914) 965-0566.

If you have not registered or need to correct some of the information in our file, please fill out this form and check (X) the appropriate box below, or you may also use the complete Registration Form found on the table at the rear of the Church; and drop the completed form into the collection basket or drop off/mail it to the Rectory. Thank you!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Comment: _____

- I am interested in parish membership.
 - I am a visitor.
 - Change of Address / Telephone Number.
 - I am moving out of the Parish.
 - I am going to the hospital.
 - I would like to be visited by a priest / minister.
 - Please send me the Catholic New York.
 - I would like to learn more about the Catholic Faith.
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LOCAL EVENTS

Emmaus Ministry for Grieving Parents

To meet the spiritual needs of parents whose children of *any* age have died by *any* cause--no matter how long ago--the Family Life Office, in collaboration with the Emmaus Ministry for Grieving Parents, (www.emfgp.org) is offering four more retreats in 2018 for parents in the following locations:



- January 13, 2018, Putnam County
- February 24, 2018, Westchester County
- April 28, 2018, Rockland County (Spanish-language retreat)
- October 20, 2018, Manhattan

See the flyer on the bulletin boards at the rear of the church.