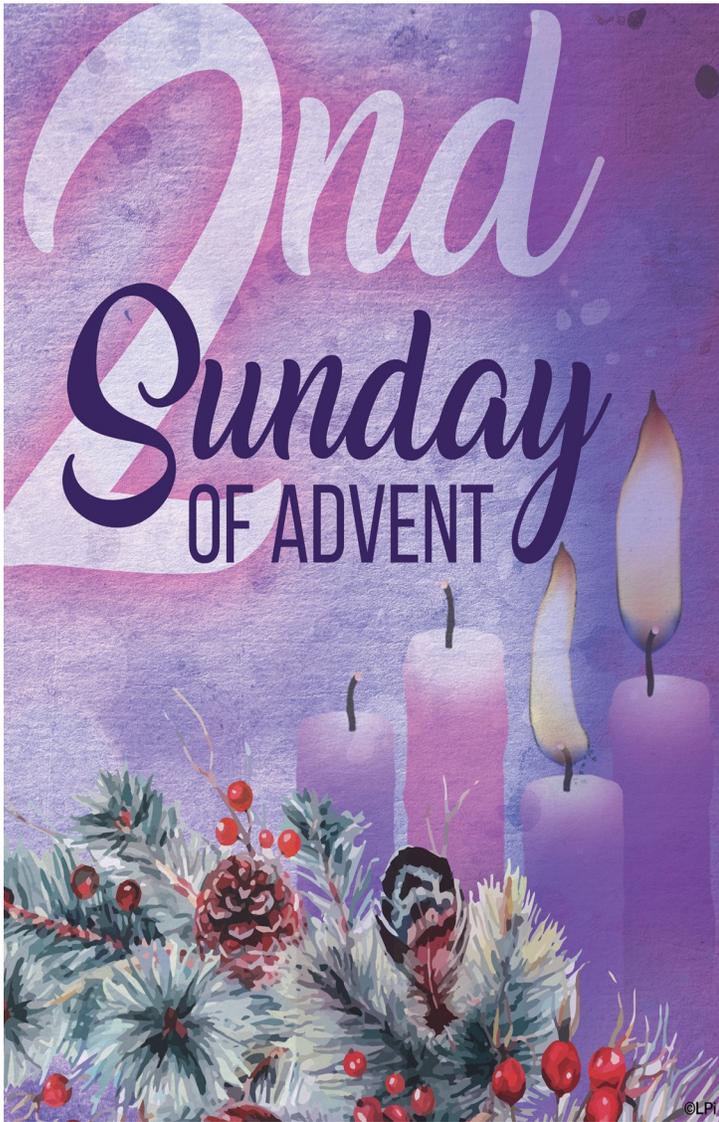


# Saint Bartholomew's Church

15 Palmer Road  
Yonkers • New York 10701

[www.saintbartsparish.org](http://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 Ezech, 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

## ARE YOU READY FOR THE COMING OF JESUS?

It may be difficult to fully appreciate the extent of the suffering that the Jewish people underwent during the years of their exile in Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar's army had defeated Judah, the temple was destroyed, and the people were deported from the Promised Land. It would have been easy to lose hope, not knowing how long they would be without a home. The author of this section of Isaiah wrote during this bleak time. It would have been natural to write a diatribe or a lament. But he wrote a message of hope, a book of consolation as it is often called. One can hope that it consoled the faithful, giving them a vision of redemption. Such a vision can sustain us as we suffer trials in our own time.

The author of Second Peter wrote during an interesting era. A hundred years or so after the Resurrection, Christians still anticipated that Jesus would return in glory any day. We still believe this, but we are not surprised when another year, or indeed our entire lifetime goes by without it happening. But at this time, in the second century, Christians were just gradually coming to accept the reality that the *parousia*, the Second Coming, was not right around the corner. This may have led to consternation among the faithful and derision from nonbelievers. Second Peter makes the observation that God's perspective of time is nothing like ours, so "one day" could be "a thousand years" (2Peter3:8). He then attributes this delay as a sign of God's patience, giving time for all to repent and become holy.

In order to prepare people for the coming of Jesus, John the Baptist invited them to repent and be forgiven. The water of the Jordan River symbolized the cleansing of sin that baptism brought to the believer. It also symbolized the renewal of life after being parched in the desert, as John was, as Isaiah was, as the people in exile were, as we still can be today.

### Question for the Week

In what ways do I feel parched, spiritually or emotionally? How can Jesus' presence satisfy my thirst? How can I prepare myself for Christ's presence?

**Blessings on you and your loved ones.**

**Fr. Raphael Ezech, MSP**

# PARISH NEWS



HOLY NAME SOCIETY

The **HOLY NAME SOCIETY** meeting will be held this Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. in the McManus Parish Center. All men of the parish are invited.



## Rest in Peace

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed especially Ines M. Areizaga.

The **penny drive for the school in Abuja** was a great success. We raised \$626 that we will be sending to the Missionary Society of St Paul to help support the school which they run. That's over 60,000 pennies! Thanks to all for supporting the religious education children's project.



### BE "INFORMED" FOR DECEMBER

We hope you are enjoying the free parish subscription to [www.formed.org](http://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 Second Sunday of Advent. Study: Advent, Session 2: *Trust in God*. Tuesday is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Watch: *Guadalupe: the Miracle and Message* or listen to, *Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Juan Diego*. Contact Cheryl Duda at 914-476-6676 if you have any questions.

Our **SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE** is having a special food drive to provide **Christmas baskets** to some less fortunate brothers and sisters. What we need to complete this year's baskets are: candy, cookies, juices, some turkeys, hams and desserts. These food items should be brought to the church before the Masses on Saturday evening (December 16<sup>th</sup>) or the Sunday morning Masses (December 17<sup>th</sup>). Thank you for your generosity



### THE OPPORTUNITY FOR CONFESSION (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION) BEFORE CHRISTMAS IS: Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup>

Throughout the Archdiocese of New York, Advent Reconciliation Monday, Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, gives Catholics the opportunity to go to any parish for confession between the hours of 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. However, times for confession at some parishes may vary.



**ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH WILL HOLD CONFESSIONS FROM 3 P.M. TO 8 P.M. ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>**

PARISH UPCOMING EVENTS

CELEBRATION OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

PATRON SAINT OF MEXICO AND THE AMERICAS,

THIS TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>

6 a.m. special reading and songs in honor of Our Mother Mary  
7 a.m. Mass followed by a traditional Mexican breakfast at McManus Center.



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

THIS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>

12 Noon to 4 p.m., All are welcome.



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.*



The following are left to donate:

*Advent and Christmas Candle Set*

*1 Christmas Wreath*

*3 Christmas Arrangements*

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 18<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your continued support in this very special season of giving.



PRAYER FOR ADVENT

Dear God, as the Advent candles are lit  
In joyous anticipation of Your Son's nativity,  
Remind us always of the reason for our joy.



As the purple candles stands for both penance

And atonement for sin,

Give us the grace to do penance for our wrongs,

And to love Christ,

Whose sacrifice atoned for the sins of the whole world.

But just as the rose candle stands

For joy in the midst of suffering and expectation,

Give us the joy of Your Son, Jesus Christ, Who came into a world that had so longed for its Savior,

And made the angels themselves sing with joy at His birth.

Amen.



TITHING - GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING  
Sunday Collection Update

Amount Needed Weekly \$7,000.00  
Actual Received Last Sunday \$5,411.45  
Balance - \$1,588.55  
\*(Envelopes \$5,011.45. Online (\$400.00)

Amount Needed for Month of December \$35,000.00  
Amount Collected Thus Far \$ 5,411.45

"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!

**It's time to sign up for on line giving with We Share. Please contact the parish office or take a flyer and sign up sheet at the rear of the church.**



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.**

**MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA:** Held after the 9 a.m. Mass on Mondays.

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

Our **YOUTH GROUP** meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of each month immediately following the 5 p.m. Mass, in the school building. All Youth ages 13 and up.

**Follow our Youth Group on Twitter @ St\_Barts-Youth.**

Our newly formed **EDGE GROUP (AGES 11-13)** meets the second Sunday of each month immediately following the 5 p.m. Mass in the school building. **Their next meeting is this Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>.**

Our **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY (AGES 4-10)** meets the third Friday each month at 5:30 p.m. in the school building. Their next meeting is Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.

December 10, 2017

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*Mass*  *for the*  
*Intentions* *Week*

**Second Sunday of Advent**

**Saturday, December 9 (Anticipated Mass)**

5:00 PM Josephine Giuriceo +

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**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 +

\*\*\*\*\*

**Monday, December 11**

Advent Weekday

7:00 AM Edison & Salvadora Blanco (Living)

9:00 AM Giovanna Fantini +

**Tuesday, December 12**

Our Lady of Guadalupe

7:00 AM Gloria Bassegy +

9:00 AM Helen & Pete Pietrowski +

**Wednesday, December 13**

Saint Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

7:00 AM Reverend James F. McNamara +

9:00 AM Frank Lutomski, Jr. +

**Thursday, December 14**

Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

7:00 AM Edison & Salvadora Blanco (Living)

9:00 AM Candido Scanga +

**Friday, December 15**

Advent Weekday

7:00 AM Anne Morrissey +

9:00 AM Aristede Scipioni; Angela, Orientale, Silvia  
& Carmine Scipioni +

**Saturday, December 16**

Advent Weekday

9:00 AM Ana Cabrera +

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**Third Sunday of Advent**

**Saturday, December 16 (Anticipated Mass)**

5:00 PM Ana Leida Cuevas +

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**Sunday, December 17, 2017**

8:30 AM Ethel Castagnozzi +

10:00 AM Mary Gregorio +

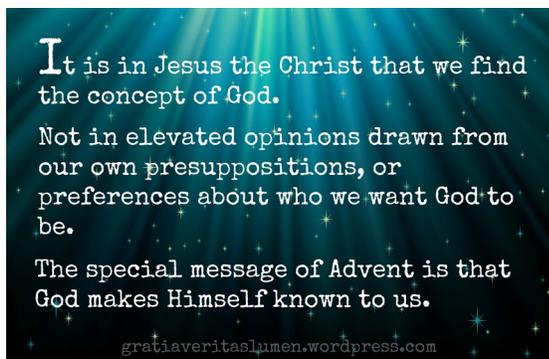
11:30 AM Maddalena & Paul Coniglio, & Ralph Ricciardno+

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish



## ADVENT A TIME OF PREPARATION

It can be difficult to prepare our lives for Christ  
Amidst the busy preparations  
Of a material Christmas.  
The four weeks before Christmas  
Are a time to prepare our families  
To celebrate Christ' birth:  
To prepare our minds to accept  
That God's Son became a baby  
And lived and died for us;  
To prepare our hearts to accept God's forgiveness,  
And to change our ways;  
To prepare our souls to receive  
God's healing grace through the celebration of Mass;  
To take part in not only the work of preparation  
But also the hope and joy in the midst of our work.



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### *AGAIN A SPECIAL THANKS*

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 88<sup>th</sup> 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*