

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

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.

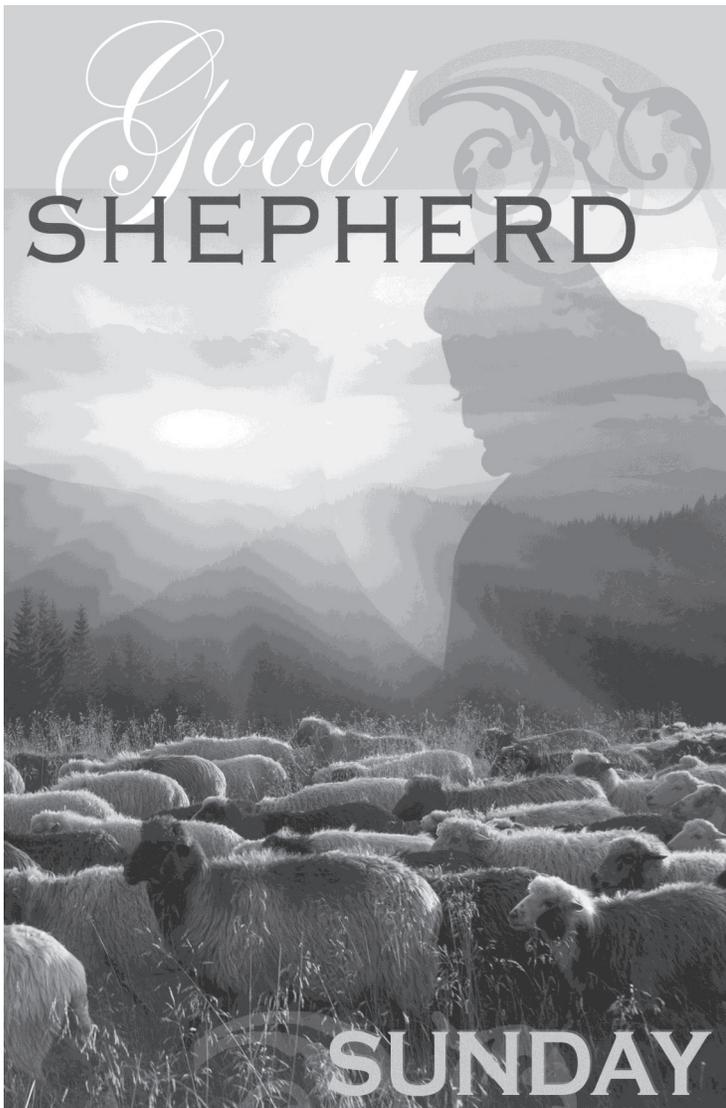
Marriages: In order to provide sufficient time for the Marriage Preparation Course, please call the parish office and ask to speak with the pastor at least six months in advance of the wedding.

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



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.

Love & Protection of A Shepherd

"No one will ever snatch my sheep from me," says the Lord in today's gospel (John 10:27-30).



This statement is loaded with meanings. Above all, it means that if I hold firmly to Jesus, I'll always be safe until the very end. The devil will have little or no power over me; and above all cannot separate me from the Risen Lord. Now, this is huge when we consider the primary mission of the devil – to separate you and me from God!

But let's look at this from a different but very relevant perspective. I once read about a principal of a Catholic school who took his work very seriously. For him it was more than a job. He cared about his students and he loved them. One day one of his pupils was attacked by a gang right outside the school. He tried to protect the child and was stabbed in the process. He was rushed to the hospital but didn't survive the wounds. He was definitely a good shepherd to his pupils.

The principal's action reminds us of what it means to truly love and care for those under our care. Yes, Jesus is indeed our Good Shepherd, but we too are to be good shepherds to those under our care. It's quite easy to point to priests and religious and teachers as shepherds and forget that parents, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and grandparents are all shepherds too. And if we are all shepherds, what kind of shepherds are we? Especially, when it comes to the kids God placed under our care.

I always smile when I think of how we were raised back home and the situation today. One thing is constant in every society – it's not enough to love the young ones, they need to know that they are loved. So, back then providing basic necessities of food and shelter and school fees and a few Christmas gifts were enough evidence of your parents' or guardians' love and care. Then teachers only needed to do some basic things and that was enough evidence of their love and care.

Well, the world is changing a lot by the day. We who are entrusted with shepherding God's precious ones must explore more ways to help them know that they are loved by God their maker and loved by us. They need to know they are loved unconditionally. Yes, unconditionally, because that's how the Good Shepherd loves them and wants us to love them. Short cuts cannot do the trick. So, stuffing their rooms with all sorts of material things will not suffice. Allowing them every inch of freedom they want will not suffice. Pampering them will not suffice. These alone will only make them more vulnerable and if you like, "snatchable."

To be a good shepherd after our Master entails the hard task of actually loving and protecting. This is the kind of love that is selfless and truly sacrificial. This kind of love can be felt by the child even in the absence of toys and material things and pampering. And truly, this is the kind of love our kids are lacking today, and with that comes a big sense of insecurity, which is like leaving the gate open.

Sincerely, this is not about who is to be blamed, because then we miss the real enemy. Again, Jesus says, "No one will ever snatch my sheep from me." I pray and hope that we, the priests and religious, every parent, guardian and teacher who acts as a shepherd can say the same with Jesus. Denying the devils efforts to snatch them from under our care will be a huge mistake. And if we know his antics, then we must do more to protect those in our care. And it begins with making sure that we truly love them and that they know that they are loved. That way, they'll come to know and believe that God truly loves them. This way, the Snatcher will have to work three times harder to snatch them from us and from the Good Shepherd.

Father Raphael Ezech, MSP



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) will meet this Monday, April 18th, at 7:00 p.m. in the school. All members are encouraged to attend this meeting.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed, especially  *Rest in Peace* Josephine Confalone.



The **ALTAR BREAD & WINE, ALTAR CANDLES, & SANCTUARY LAMP** for this week are donated in loving memory of Elsie Esposito by Josephine Smith.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION - RCIA

Do you know a non-Catholic adult who wishes to explore the Catholic faith; or a Catholic who has never received First Communion or been Confirmed? We have a program tailored for these adults. Call Cheryl Duda at 476-6676.



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



CHILDREN'S MASS: Please make it a point to bring your child to pray with the Risen Christ at the Children's Mass for the rest of the Sundays in April. The 10 a.m. Mass will focus on our children. The children are encouraged to sit with their friends and classmates during the Mass.



SOCIAL MINISTRY: Our Food Pantry has an **ongoing need**, for coffee, pasta sauces, canned tuna, rice and paper products. Please keep this in mind when you see sales on your trips to the supermarket. We are averaging around 12 families per week. Thank you for your continuing support!



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.

The **Catholic Widows and Widowers of Yonkers** will hold their next meeting this Thursday, April 21st at 1 p.m. in the afternoon at St. Ann's Church, Fr. Anthony Hall, 31 College Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10704. New members are welcome. For more information, please call 914 423-5331.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Please come and share the joy with our children who will be making their First Holy Communion at the 11:30 a.m. Mass next Sunday, April 24th. Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare to receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. Confirmation will take place the following week on Sunday, May 1st at the 11:30 a.m. Mass.

50th Anniversary Jubilee Mass

Couples celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary anytime during 2016 are invited to attend the Annual Golden Wedding Jubilee Mass with Cardinal Dolan at the Cathedral of St. Patrick, Saturday, June 25th at 1:30 p.m. or Sunday, June 26th at 2:00 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Please contact your parish for registration. **The closing date to register for the Mass is Tuesday, May 24th, 2016.** This event is sponsored by the Family Life † Respect Life Office of the Archdiocese of New York.



Rosary Altar Society Retreat

Saturday, April 23rd from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.



Sr. Mary McCormick is guest speaker and will be talking about the "Two Marys" of Easter." All ladies of the parish are invited. Come join them for Mass, Breakfast, and presentations on Mary the Mother of Jesus and Mary Magdalene ending with Benediction.

Cost is \$25.00 per person.

Please call the Parish Office if you are interested in attending.



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!!!!

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



The **YOUTH GROUP** meets on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month. They will meet this Sunday, April 17th immediately following the 5 p.m. Mass. All youths age 13 and up are invited.

Follow our Youth Group on Twitter @ St_Barts_youth.

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

	4/12/15	4/10/16	Difference
Adults	\$5,659.45	\$5,204.95	- \$ 454.50
Children	\$ 91.50	\$ 151.55	+\$ 60.05
Total	\$5,750.95	\$5,356.50	-\$ 394.45

The second collection for the Archdiocese of Military Services totaled \$1,180.75

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.paritypay.com or use the forms at the rear of the church. Thus far, we have 5 families that have signed up.



LORD
give strength
to your people

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 and Henry Joseph.

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

REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES, LIVING AND DEAD



The Mass Book for 2017 is open and has 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. There are also some weekday Masses available in 2016.

Mass  for the
Intentions Week

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Saturday, April 16 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Lucille & Carl Rossi +

Sunday, April 17

8:30 AM Michael & Loretta Kennedy +

10:00 AM Joseph Paul Prior +

11:30 AM For All the People of Our Parish

5:00 PM Anthony Cuomo +

Monday, April 18

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM Anthony Vy Hoang +

9:00 AM Benjamin Filippone+

Tuesday, April 19

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM Teresa Phoung Hoang +

9:00 AM Carrie D'Angelo +

Wednesday, April 20

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM Joseph & Maria Nguyen+

9:00 AM Elsie Esposito +

Thursday, April 21

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM Sister Mary Patrice Whalen, RSM +

9:00 AM Carrie D'Angelo +

Friday, April 22

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM Deceased Members of Bolduc & Savard Families

9:00 AM Carol Swetz +

Saturday, April 23

Easter Weekday

9:00 AM Special Intention

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Saturday, April 23 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Frank & Carmela Legio +

Sunday, April 24

8:30 AM Daniel P. De Rosa +

10:00 AM For All the People of Our Parish

11:30 AM Ann Marie Selvaraj +

5:00 PM Living & Deceased Members of Baumeister Family

APRIL 17, 2016

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS



This is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The world needs leaders with courage and integrity. The Church needs good leaders as well; leaders who will unselfishly care for the needs of God's people and minister to them. Please remember in your prayers those who have answered and those who contemplate answering God's call to His service.

For more information, visit the website
www.nyreligiouslife.org.

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PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Gracious God,
You have blessed me with many gifts and talents.
Grant me the wisdom to know how best to use them
For the glory of Your name.
Jesus calls, "Come follow Me."
I want to follow Him and be faithful to my call.
Help me to see in myself what You see,
And give me the courage
To follow wherever You may lead.
Bless the Church with generous hearts,
Eager to serve Your people and to spread Your Word.
Amen.

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Local Events

Experience Mass with Seminarians on Sunday, April 24th at Noon at St. Joseph's Seminary followed by brunch. Donation is \$17.00 per person which will assist the Seminarians with their expenses. For more information please call 914 709-5090 or e mail Kofe3995@gmail.com. Donation can be made to Cardinal Hayes Council, PO Box 503, Yonkers, NY 10710.

**Sacred Heart High School Drama Club
Presents Thoroughly Modern Millie**

Friday, April 22nd and Saturday, April 23rd at 7 p.m. and a matinee performance on Sunday, April 24th at 2 p.m.
Tickets \$10, General Admission and \$8 for students and senior citizens. For information and tickets, please call 914 965-6953

**The Serra Club of the Bronx & Westchester
Luncheon, Wednesday April 27th**

Fr. Elvin Rivera, Parochial Vicar, St. Raymond's Parish, Bronx, NY to address the Serra Club of the Bronx and Westchester. The Serra Club is an international organization whose mission is to foster and promote vocations to the ordained priesthood and vowed religious life. Luncheon is held at Eastwood Manor, 3371 Eastchester Road in the Bronx. Cost of the luncheon is \$25.00. Please call for additional information and to make reservations at 718 671-8915.