

# St. Bartholomew's Church



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15 Palmer Road  
Yonkers • New York 10701

[www.saintbartsparish.org](http://www.saintbartsparish.org)

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, Dan Panik

*Rosary Altar Society:* Meets on the Monday evening after the first Sunday of the month. Co-Presidents, Carolyn Mesler, Frances Raffa

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

*Trustees:* Catherine Hickey, Aureo Pinto



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*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.

## SPIRITUAL REFLECTION: OF TESTING AND ANGELS

Mark tells us in today's gospel that the "Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and He remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan" (Mark 1:12). The original Greek word used by Mark translated "test" and not "tempt". I guess they convey the same meaning to us. But as I reflected on the verbs "test" and "drive" my mind pulled up some TV commercials from automakers that I had seen several times. In one such commercial, a truck is driven out from the factory into the wild and through the jungle, up the mountain and down the valley, climbing boulders and swimming through muddy ponds. Finally, it emerges on the other side, battle tested and victorious, with mud as the only scar.

So, why spend a lot of money to show customers all that? Of course, they want us to believe that their truck has been tested and been found worthy. We can now put our trust in them and spend thousands to purchase them. We can trust that they will deliver on serving us for years to come.

What has all this to do with today's gospel? Again, Jesus is driven out into the desert by the Spirit, to be tested! While the trucks spend at most an hour going through their rigorous tests, Christ spends 40 days and nights being tested. And he emerged triumphant. He is found worthy and ready to begin His ministry. But also notice the part that says that the angels ministered to Him. For Mark, the angels were with Jesus all through His testing, not just at the end as we read in some of the other gospels.

So, what is the message for us this First Sunday of Lent? Like Jesus (and like the trucks), we too will be (have been and will continue to be) driven into the wilderness of this world, into its mountains and valleys, through its storms and ponds, obstructed by boulders, rocks and irritating pebbles (as in our shoes). Lenten Season offers us another opportunity to reflect on these and other such realities of our spiritual journey and re-strategize for ourselves. As we do so, there are some facts to remember.

As for being tested in the desert, let us remember that God does not test us. Yes, we do pray, "Lead us not into temptation" but God does desire us to do only what is right and good. Mark notes that Jesus was "tempted by Satan."

Secondly, we must remember that "temptation" is not a sin in itself. Yielding to temptation is! Like Jesus, every Christian, and even atheists, will be tempted.

Third, no you will not have less testing or temptations as you grow spiritually and become a better Christians, as much as you'd love it to be so. Actually, the opposite is the case. The better Christians we become, the more temptations Satan will throw our way. Temptation can be a very trying time.

Finally, we have another Good News. The same angels that ministered to Jesus all through His testing in the desert will be there to minister to us, too. I prefer this interpretation to the other versions where the angels ministered to Him at the very end of His testing. I need them all through, for I may not even survive till the end.

So, as we begin our Lenten journey, as we practice our Fast, Pray more and Give to others in need, as we become more re-aligned with God, and grow towards God, Satan, the Master of Lies and Deceit, will not like it and will put up a fight to stop us. But as the Scripture tells us, "Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your enemy, the devil, is prowling round like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of testing are being experienced by your brethren who are in the world" (1 Peter 5:8 & 9).

**May you have a fruitful Lenten Season! And May the Angels minister to you, too. Amen.** ~ Father Raphael Ezeh, MSP




The members of the **ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY** will attend the 8:30 a.m. Mass next Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>.

**OUR MONTHLY FAMILY MASS** will be celebrated **next Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>**. The Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. All children and their families are encouraged to attend. Mass will be followed by "Family Breakfast" at the McManus Parish Center. All are welcome!



### OPENING OF THE 2016 MASS BOOK



The Mass Book for 2016 opened on **Ash Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>**, and there are still many dates open in this year's Mass Book, as well. Consider giving a loved one or someone (living or deceased) who has a special place in

your life the graces associated with having a Mass offered on their behalf. You may have a thanksgiving Mass offered for your loved ones or for yourself on such occasions as birthdays, wedding anniversaries, etc. Also, you may consider offering the Altar Flowers, Altar Bread & Wine, Altar Candles, or Sanctuary Lamp for your intention. Come to the Parish Office, **Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.** to make arrangements or to inquire about the availability of a particular date.

You will have the added opportunity to book Masses on Saturday evening, February 28<sup>th</sup>, following the 5 p.m. Mass and Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, following the 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. Masses.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** Starting this Friday and every Friday evening during Lent, we have the devotion of the Stations of the Cross in the Church at 7 p.m. (On Good Friday, Stations will be at 2 p.m. just prior to the 3 p.m. Good Friday Service). It is a Lenten tradition. Families are encouraged to participate together in preparation for Easter.



The **SANCTUARY LAMP** for this week is lit in loving memory of Antonio Vitullo by Angela Sacchetta.

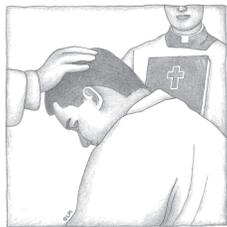
**All Catholic children attending public schools should enroll in a religious education program.** Please call (914 476-6676) for more information.



**ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASSES:** If you or an adult you know has not been Confirmed and would like to explore the possibility, please contact the Religious Education Office on (914) 476-6676.

## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

### CHRISM MASS - TUESDAY, MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup>



Mass of Chrism will be celebrated this year on **Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>**, at 4 p.m. at St. Patrick's Cathedral. Every parishioner is encouraged to attend this beautiful ceremony, where we celebrate with our Archbishop and witness our priests renew their vow to serve God's people. **Please come support our own parish priests. The cost of the bus is \$15 per person, please call the Parish Office ASAP if you plan to attend.**



*"Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless Glory."* As we begin the holy season of Lent, why not schedule time to examine your marriage and improve your communication with each other on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend? For more information or upcoming dates, call (877) 697-9963, ext. 3 or visit [www.wmearchny.org](http://www.wmearchny.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.

**BEGINNING EXPERIENCE** is offering a healing weekend from March 20<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup>, at the St. Lawrence Retreat Center in Beacon, NY. This invitation is open to men and women of all ages and faiths who have suffered the loss of a spouse through death, divorce, or separation. It is a time to heal and a time to begin anew. It is endorsed by the Archdiocese Office of Family and Youth and reservations are required. For information or registration please call Tom on 845 462-6192 or Nancy on 518 785-1351 extension 304 or e-mail [ny.hudson.valley@beginningexperience.org](mailto:ny.hudson.valley@beginningexperience.org).

The **YOUTH GROUP** meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month immediately following the 5 p.m. Mass in the school building. There will be a meeting next Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. 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.

### 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

	2/16/14	2/15/15	Difference
Adults	\$4,992.60	\$5,078.00	+\$ 85.40
Children	\$ 68.60	\$ 63.15	-\$ 5.45
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,061.20</b>	<b>\$5,141.15</b>	<b>+\$ 79.95</b>

The Peter's Pence Collection in support of the Holy Father totaled \$1,064.00.

**"WHAT WE HAVE DONE FOR OURSELVES ALONE  
DIES WITH US; WHAT WE HAVE DONE FOR OTHERS  
AND THE WORLD REMAINS AND IS IMMORTAL."**

~ Albert Pike



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 Cianfaglione, Shawn Colon, Margaret Maccia, Nicole Ryan Betancourt, Anthony Spinner, Audrey Falcone, Kathleen Hayes, Marge Muraik, Nicole Pisani-Frame, Louis Petrulo, Cynthia Swiatkowitz, 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, Barbara McCormack, Josephine Lehotyak, Lawrence Girsch, Fran Romano, Joe Forlini, Rosemarie Petti, Marie Murtha, Mary Walsh, Natalie Marrero, Richard Meyers, Carlo Gentile, Angelo Gianfrancesco, Vince Delgado, Charles Wighton, Michael Tomanelli, Steven Colon, Louis Loscalzo, Gina Obalde, Ann Lackner, Ariella Castillo, Brian Detz, John Marietti, Dominick Gravino, Angelica Blanco and Joseph Melillo.



We congratulate the winner of our latest *New York Lottery Scratch-Off Raffle*, **Kevin Albanese**; and thank all who participated in this Parish fundraiser. Watch for our next *Scratch-Off Raffle* in the upcoming months.

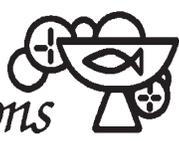
Please pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed, especially John Pedrotti.

*Rest in Peace*

**FEBRUARY 22, 2015**

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*Mass Intentions for the Week*



**First Sunday of Lent**

**Saturday, February 21 (Anticipated Mass)**

5:00 PM Nicholas A. Falcone +

**Sunday, February 22**

8:30 AM Michael Castagnozzi & Mary Ann Karpinski +

10:00 AM For All the People of Our Parish

11:30 AM Nick Lalli +

5:00 PM Antonio Vitullo +

**Monday, February 23**

**Lenten Weekday**

7:00 AM Deceased Members of Bolduc & Savard Families

9:00 AM Margaret (Peggy) O'Boyle +

**Tuesday, February 24**

**Lenten Weekday**

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Daniel DeRosa +

**Wednesday, February 25**

**Lenten Weekday**

7:00 AM Kenneth F. Moore +

9:00 AM Ramon Ramos +

**Thursday, February 26**

**Lenten Weekday**

7:00 AM Msgr. Joseph F. Tracey +

9:00 AM Frank Lutomski, Sr. +

**Friday, February 27**

**Lenten Weekday**

7:00 AM John Pedrotti +

9:00 AM Yanny Orozco (living)

**Saturday, February 28**

**Lenten Weekday**

9:00 AM Mary O'Donnell Purce +

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**Second Sunday of Lent**

**Saturday, February 28 (Anticipated Mass)**

5:00 PM Charles Sullivan +

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**Sunday, March 1**

8:30 AM Peter Klee +

10:00 AM Luigi Campana +

11:30 AM William Mitchell +

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

**POLYCARP**  
**Bishop & Martyr (d. 156)**  
**February 23**

Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna (modern Izmir, Turkey) disciple of Saint John the Apostle and friend of Saint Ignatius of Antioch, was a revered Christian leader during the first half of the second century.

Saint Ignatius, on his way to Rome to be martyred, visited Polycarp of Smyrna, and later at Troas wrote him a personal letter. The Asia Minor churches recognized Polycarp's leadership by choosing him as a representative to discuss with Pope Anicetus the date of the Easter celebration in Rome - quite a controversy in the early church.

Only one of the many letters written by Polycarp has been preserved, the one he wrote to the Church of Philippi, Macedonia.

At eighty-six, Polycarp was led into the crowded Smyrna stadium to be burned alive. The flames did not harm him and he was finally killed by a dagger. The centurion ordered the saint's body burned. The "Acts" of Polycarp's martyrdom are the earliest preserved, fully reliable account of a Christian martyr's death. He died in 156.

**COMMENT:** Polycarp was recognized as a Christian leader by all Asia Minor Christians - a strong fortress of faith and loyalty to Jesus Christ. His own strength emerged from his trust in God, even when events contradicted this trust. Living among pagans and under a government opposed to the new religion, he led and fed his flock. Like the Good Shepherd, he laid down his life for his sheep and kept them from more persecution in Smyrna. He summarized his trust in God just before he died: "Father...I bless Thee, for having made me worthy of the day and the hour..." (*Martyrdom*, Chapter 14).

**QUOTE:** "Stand fast, therefore, in this conduct and follow the example of the Lord, 'firm and unchangeable in faith, lovers of the brotherhood, loving each other, united in truth,' helping each other with the mildness of the Lord, despising no man" (Polycarp, *Letter to the Philippians*).

From *Saint of the Day*, edited by Leonard Foley, O.F.M., & Pat McCloskey, O.F.M.

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**ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S SWEEPSTAKES SOCIAL**  
**SATURDAY, MARCH 14<sup>TH</sup> ~ DOORS OPEN AT 6 PM**

- Donations of new items now being accepted. Call 914 476-6676 or 914 965-0566 to arrange for drop off
- Volunteers leave name & number at Parish Office
- Please plan on attending this Fundraising event!