

Saint Bartholomew's Church

15 Palmer Road
Yonkers • New York 10701
stbartschurch@aol.com

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

SPREAD THE JOY

There's something about ChristmasThe age old songs, like old wine that tastes better with age. The candles, that lift our wishes high. The glittering lights and decors. The welcoming pine fragrance that fills our homes and churches. The Christmas trees and rituals that we love so much. The shopping ... yes, the shopping done with so much love and desire to bring a smile to a face. The love in the air, descending like the dew upon our troubled world, upon our restless souls. From Our loving Father above the joy of the season, that should know no bounds. It's indeed a season. So magical! (Father Raphael)

Yet at such a beautiful season, some, indeed many, are far from joyous, and definitely, not magical. A former parishioner and friend sent me this text a few days ago: "At such a beautiful and glorious time of the year, why is it so sad?"

I have often heard of so many who feel depressed during the holidays, especially during the Christmas season. I never really gave it much thought, thinking that the numbers or reality must be exaggerated. Why would someone be depressed at such a beautiful time, except those who probably lost a loved one, especially around this time. Two things happened back to back. I got the text. I also stumbled into a survey from the University of Utah School of Medicine. It reported that 90% of us suffer from emotional reactions caused by the stress associated with the Christmas season. It went further to say that one particular year 300 counselors operated a hot line from December 21 – 27 in the city of Chicago alone. They clocked 2000 calls from depressed people. Of course, you may have heard that suicide rates rise at this time. Heart attack related deaths and others peak around December 25 & 26 and January 1. The list went on, but let me not sadden you further.



Why did I choose to focus on this at this time? Because, it is a reality that many among us are not rejoicing with us. And we must be our brothers and sisters' keepers. If you (or anyone you know) is not enjoying the birth of Christ and the peace and joy of this season, here's something to remember ... something that I hope might help cheer you up. Share it with someone who might need to hear it.

My answer, if you're wondering, to my friend's question is that the devil is very busy at work, making sure that we do not enjoy the birth of our Messiah. He's making sure that the peace and joy and love that descends upon the world and our troubled souls like the dew does not reach the depths of our hearts. Never doubt that the Father does indeed send these down to us.

Secondly, think of the buildings around earthquake zones, built to withstand the most devastating earthquakes. We are built that way, and better too. The peace and joy of Christmas is not, and should not be dependent on any external circumstances AT ALL. It is deeper than anything nature or the devil or any human enemy could throw at us. So, the joy of Christmas can be yours. And should be yours. It may be lessened, but not denied to the point of depression. To the point of suicide. No!

So, may your heart and your home, and those of your loved ones, be filled with love, joy and hope. May the presence and peace of the New Born King be upon you and among you. And may the New Year bring all of you God's abundant blessings. Amen.

2018 Christmas Gift

I invite everyone to please be generous with your Christmas donation so we could reach our budget of \$20,000.

Going Home

I will be leaving for Nigeria on Dec. 26, and return on January 17. Father Anthony will be taking care of business. Please, keep me in your prayers.

Fr. Raphael Ezeh, MSP

PARISH NEWS



The Pastor and Staff heartily wish you and your family safe travels as you gather with family and friends to celebrate the birth of Christ and the New Year. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

The Parish office will be open until Noon on Monday, December 24th and will be closed on Tuesday December 25th

and Wednesday, December 26th.

Advent and Christmas Candle Set Donated by:

Theresa & Quincy Venturino in loving memory of the deceased members of the Martucci & Venturino Families

Christmas Wreaths Donated by:

Ellen & Rich Califano and Joyce Pietrowski in loving memory of Helen & Pete Pietrowski

Ellen & Rich Califano and Joyce Pietrowski in loving memory of Reverend Anthony Ita Bassey

Joan Laredo Lidell in loving memory of Robert Liddell

Clare Yaskovic in loving memory of Charles & Evangeline Yaskovic

**Christmas Arrangements Donated by:**

Laurie Bartolini in loving memory of Peter & Andrea Objay

Ed, Martha & Madeline Cesaitis in loving memory of Cesaitis & Lovett Families

Maryann & Anthony Cognatello in loving memory of Cognatello & Gregorio Families

Vivan Cortes in loving memory of Eleonora Caballero-Cortes

Dolly De Rosa in loving memory of Daniel De Rosa Jr.

& Daniel De Rosa, Sr.

Joan Laredo Lidell in loving memory of Carl & Elizabeth Laredo

John & Karen McKenna in loving memory of Margaret & Carmine Maccia

Janet Madonia in loving memory of Dennis Madonia

Pat Mahoney in loving memory of Joseph Mahoney

Joanna Pragana in loving memory of Albert Pragana, Mary & Joseph

Cuozzo, Lucille and Victor Serricchio & Christine Bellino

Lorraine Zigabarra in loving memory of Walter Zigabarra

Chasubles:

Mary Popot in loving memory of Albert Popot

Mary Popot in loving memory of deceased members of the Zeleznik Family

A SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OF THE PEOPLE INVOLVED IN

THE NATIVITY PLAY, PRODUCING, ACTING OR BEHIND THE SCENES. A LOT OF HARD WORK AND EFFORT WENT INTO IT AND IT WAS WELL WORTH IT. THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CAME TO SEE THE PLAY AND WE HOPE THAT YOU ENJOYED IT!!



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PLEASE NOTE A CHANGE IN MASS TIME ON



CHRISTMAS EVE, MONDAY, DECEMBER 24TH. THE 5 PM VIGIL MASS IS CHANGED TO 4 P.M. CAROLS WILL BEGIN AT 3:30 PM PRIOR TO MASS.



TITHING - GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING Sunday Collection Update

Amount Needed Weekly \$7,000.00
Actual Received Last Sunday \$6,222.35
Balance - \$ 777.65
*(Envelopes \$4,621.35, Online \$1,601.00)

Amount Needed for Month of December \$35,000.00
Amount Collected Thus Far \$18,782.15

The Second Collection in support of the Snow Removal totaled: \$878.00

"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 fill out the cards at the rear of the Church.

SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S DAY



CHRISTMAS EVE: Monday, December 24th

VIGIL AT 4 P.M. (not 5 p.m.) Begins with Carols at 3:30 p.m.

MIDNIGHT MASS Begins with Carols at 11:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY:

Tuesday, December 25th

8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

(There will be no 5:00 p.m. Mass on Christmas day)

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD NEW YEAR'S MASSES:

Monday, December 31st 5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

Tuesday, January 1st

8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

(There will be no 5:00 p.m. Mass on New Year's day)



Please pray for all the sick & the homebound members of our Parish, especially Marian Fletcher, Ann Lackner, Audrey Falcone, Louis Brusco, Gail Chappory, Anna Bonacci, Deacon Bob Clemens, Mary De Santis, Gina Obalde, Ron and Sally Petro, Theresa Venturino, Angela Lutomski, Richard (Dick) Novak, Larry Vandak, Harold Sullivan, Clare Yaskovic, Manuel Obalde, Jr., Anthony Spinner, and Edison Blanco.

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

SIGN UP FOR ONLINE GIVING EASY LINK FROM THE PARISH WEBSITE



You can set up separate one time or recurring donations for the different collections (regular weekly, snow removal, Christmas, etc.) or you may wish to begin with the regular collections, try it out and when you are comfortable, you can sign up for the others. Also, know if you set up for recurring donations, you are in full control and can always change or cancel at any time. And by donating in this manner you may get the added benefit of accumulating additional points or cash on your credit card while at the same time helping out the parish. So, give it a try and sign up today!!!! Go to: www.saintbartsparish.org and click on the We Share online giving link. (WE SHARE HAS REPLACED PARISH PAY).

ANYONE WHOSE CHILD WAS BAPTIZED THIS YEAR AND HAS NOT RECEIVED THEIR BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE, PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE.



Father Raphael is looking for IT, Help Desk Support and also a Plumber and Electrician. If you have expertise in either area, please contact the Parish Office.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OF THE VOLUNTEERS AND TO THOSE WHO DONATED THEIR TIME, TREASURE AND TALENT IN MAKING OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON A GREAT SUCCESS. WE HOPE ALL THAT ATTENDED HAD FUN. MAY GOD BLESS ALL AND MAY EVERYONE HAVE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR.



December 23, 2018

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, December 22 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM George Klobosits +

Sunday, December 23, 2018

Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30 AM Robert Liddell +

10:00 AM Alexandra & Bonifacio Marchetti +

11:30 AM Emily & Peter Domanska (Living)

5:00 PM Rafael & Edwin Rivera +

Monday, December 24

Late Advent Weekday

7:00 AM Richard Scanlon +

9:00 AM Arnaldo De Sanctis +

4:00 PM (Vigil) Charles & Evangeline Yaskovic +

Midnight Mass Cosimo Fiorentino +

Tuesday, December 25

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

8:30 AM Carmine & Margaret Maccia +

10:00 AM Deceased Members of Brusco & Nanoia Families

11:30 AM Deceased Members of Vitullo & Romagnoli Families

Wednesday, December 26

Saint Stephen, The First Martyr

No 7 AM Mass

9:00 AM Monsignor Charles McManus +

Thursday, December 27

Saint John, Apostle & Evangelist

No 7 AM Mass

9:00 AM John F. Brusco +

Friday, December 28

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

No 7 AM Mass

9:00 AM Victor Orsetti +

Saturday, December 29

Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

9:00 AM Rafael & Edwin Rivera +

Saturday, December 29 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Isadore Heit +

Sunday, December 30, 2018

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

8:30 AM Elizabeth and Carl Laredo +

10:00 AM Tony Cognatello +

11:30 AM Ralph Licciardno & Joe Parisi +

5:00 PM Dolores Bellitto (Living)

CHRISTMAS ANTICIPATION PRAYER

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of



God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother.

Amen.

+--+

A CHRISTMAS BLESSING FOR THE HOME

Loving God,

As we gather at Christmas around the manger,

Which reminds us of the birth of Your Son,

We ask you to dwell in our hearts and our home.

Bless every member of our family,

And strengthen the bond of love among us.

May we joyfully praise You like the angel choir

That announced the birth of Your Son
To the shepherds watching over their flocks.

May we show Your love to others

With the same brightness of the star that guided
The Wise Men to offer gifts to the newborn King.

Make our family holy,

Like Jesus, Mary, and Joseph,

So that we may always live in peace and love.

Amen



+--+

GIVING GIFTS

At the Savior's birth,

Magi from the east presented gifts

Of gold, frankincense and myrrh,

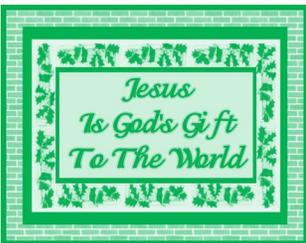
Reflecting Christ's kingship,
divine nature,

And human nature subject to
death.

Though the magi once worshiped
the gods of their land,

They knew before them was a
king greater than all kings

And a God greater than all gods
they'd known.



As we buy or make gifts for one another this Christmas,
May we remember amid the hustle, bustle and commotion

That Christmas gift giving honors our Savior and Lord,
Who came to dwell among us as one like ourselves.

May we remember that the giving of gifts
Was a sign of love

Begun in response to the greatest gift of all from God:
The only begotten Son.