

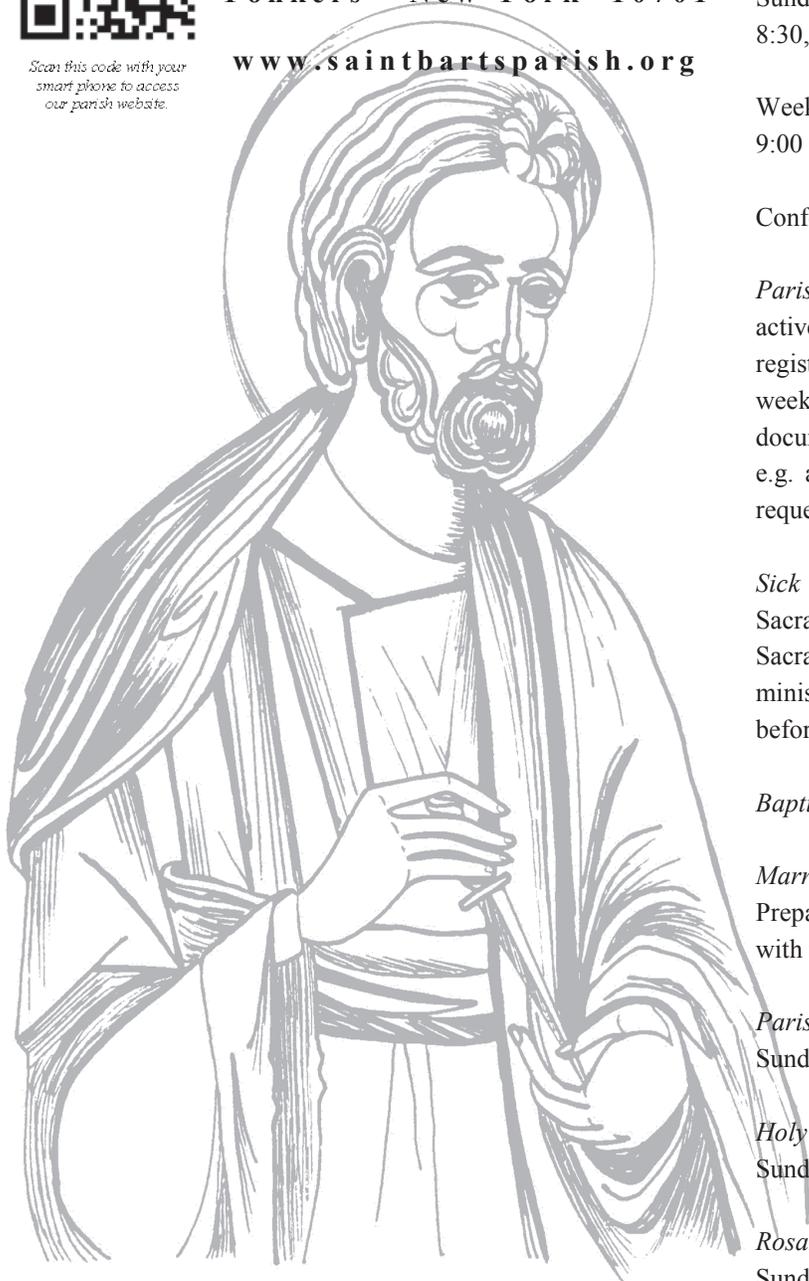
St. Bartholomew's Church



Scan this code with your
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our parish website.

15 Palmer Road
Yonkers • New York 10701

www.saintbartsparish.org



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. 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

CLEANSING OF THE LEPER

Last Sunday we reflected on the healing of Peter's mother-in-law. We focused on the aspect of service as part of being grateful for God's gift of good health and blessings. The theme of healing continues in today's readings. The first reading sets the stage for the gospel reading.

Take another look at Moses' instruction to the Israelites in the opening of that reading from Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46. *"If someone has on his skin a scab .. which appears to be the sore of leprosy, he shall be brought to Aaron, the priest ... the priest shall declare him unclean ... the one who bears the sore of leprosy shall keep his garments rent and his head bare, and shall muffle his beard; he shall cry out, 'Unclean, unclean!' He shall dwell apart, making his abode outside the camp".* My initial thoughts were, "That's so inconsiderate and I dare say, heartless! How do you treat the sick that way, when all they need is love and compassion?" But to be fair, one has to interpret the reading from the perspective of the time and circumstances.

In Jesus' day leprosy was a dreaded and incurable disease. The equivalent in our modern time would be AIDS and most recently, Ebola, but without the cure or medications that reduce their spread and fatality. Today leprosy and small pox are no longer a scourge. In addition to the health dilemma, leprosy was then considered a curse from God. Consequently, people avoided lepers even more than a corpse. They were to keep their distance or risk being stoned to death.

They were unwanted because people, even family members, were afraid of contracting the disease.

Enters Jesus! Note that by this time, there were so many lepers in Israel. And because of this, people gave up caring for them in any tangible way. But not Jesus! He felt sorry for the leper. Now we're talking! "Pity" or better, "empathy," motivates us to help others. Because Jesus felt sorry for him, He was willing to help him.

Last Sunday was mostly about service as a sign of gratitude to God for our good health and for His blessings upon us. One way we could continue to show our gratitude would be by feeling others' pain and agony and empathizing with them. When we lose our sense of empathy and even our ability to feel sorry for someone, we lose a lot. At best we ignore lots of good **required** of us because we simply don't care. That could be manageable if we stay on that level, but we don't. When we (human beings) act cruelly towards another, it's mostly because we've lost touch with our sense of empathy towards that person. A leper at the time of Jesus was considered dead. The burial service was read over him. I've heard people say that someone is as good as dead to them. Often, they'd be talking of a family member or a formerly loved one.

Do you have someone who is alive, but to you is half dead or fully dead and forgotten? Do you have someone you overlook or ignore? Of course, we'll have thousands of reasons why we have to treat them so. But I wonder what Jesus thought of the reasons the Jews proffered for treating their own kith and kin that way, leprosy or no leprosy! And to know He expects us to treat them as He would! Happily, too! And smiling!

Wow, what a challenge the Christian life can be! But not to worry, where there's a will there's a way. His grace will always be enough for those who are willing to follow in His footsteps. Amen!



A VERY BUSY WEEK AHEAD

My, do I love an active parish! Not active just to be active, but for a beautiful purpose. So, this week, our Youths will be engaged in various activities. All of them are geared toward a deeper relationship with Christ, service to their neighbors, support to one another, bonding together, becoming better Catholics, etc. Next, we have the Singles' Dinner Dance Party. Next we have the Altar Rosary Society retreat. Of course, the goal is evident. Finally, we have the Couples' Valentine Celebration. The two celebrations are meant to help jumpstart our Couples' and Singles' ministries. The main goal of both ministries is to strength and offer help to parishioners in these categories as they integrate their daily life and their faith and put it into practice. **Please, give your support to all the events.**

~ Father Raphael Ezeh, MSP

PARISH NEWS

Lent  *Lent begins this week on Ash Wednesday, February 18th. See the flap of today's bulletin for the times ashes will be distributed.*

ASH WEDNESDAY and **GOOD FRIDAY** are days of **fasting and abstinence**. **FRIDAYS** during Lent are days of **abstinence**.

FASTING requires that only one full meal be taken per day. Two smaller meals that together do not equal a full meal in quantity may be taken to maintain strength. Fasting applies to those between the ages of 18 & 59; others are encouraged to participate to the extent they are able.

ABSTINENCE prohibits those who are 14 years of age and older from eating meat on Ash Wednesday and Fridays during Lent.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) meeting will take place this Monday, February 16th, at 7 p.m. in the school. All members are encouraged to attend.



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 **Flowers** before the statue of Mary are donated in loving memory of Ethlyn Joseph by Jeanne Simmons.





President's Day: This Monday, February 16th, is Presidents' Day, a legal holiday. The Rectory Office will be closed and there will be only one Mass at 9 a.m.

OPENING OF THE 2016 MASS BOOK



The Mass Book for 2016 will open this week on **Ash Wednesday, February 18th**. You may come to the Rectory Office immediately following the Masses at 9 a.m. and 12 noon to have Masses offered for yourself and for your loved ones, whether living or deceased.

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Our Parish is planning a **Sweepstakes Social on Saturday, March 14th**, doors open at 6 p.m. The Sweepstakes Social Committee can use your donations and your help! Please start collecting new appropriate items to be dropped off as early as the beginning of February. Anyone interested in volunteering to help with this fundraiser is asked to leave their name and phone number at the Parish Office during the week.

COME AND HAVE SOME FUN

Dinner and dance party for singles on February 20th, from 8 - 11 p.m. and for couples on Saturday, February 21st, from 6:30 - 10 p.m. Only \$15 per person. Includes: food, drink, music and games. Baby sitting services available for free! Don't miss out on a fun filled evening.



Please see the representatives after Sunday Mass to sign up for these great events or call the Parish Office (914 965-0566) during the week.



"The **YOUTH GROUP** meets on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month immediately following the 5 p.m. Mass in the school building. Youth Week begins this Sunday, February 15th. All youths age 13 and up are invited to participate in a variety of activities - serve the community, learn, worship & have fun. See the flyer in today's bulletin for more information.

The **ALTAR BREAD & ALTAR WINE** donated for this week in loving memory of Carmine Nicholas Maccia by Margaret Maccia & Karen Maccia McKenna.



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



TITHING - GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING
Last Weekend's Contribution Comparison

	2/9/14	2/8/15	Difference
Adults	\$5,217.85	\$5,921.25	+\$ 703.40
Children	\$ 114.60	\$ 135.25	+\$ 20.65
Total	\$5,332.45	\$6,056.50	+\$ 724.05

The second collection for snow removal and salting of our parking lot and walkways totaled \$1,202.50.



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.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed, especially Kenneth F. Moore. *Rest in Peace*

MARK THIS DATE



**ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY
LENTEN RETREAT**

Saturday, February 21st, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

All women of the parish are invited to participate. There will be more information in the coming weeks.

CHRISM MASS - TUESDAY, MARCH 31st

Mass of Chrism will be celebrated this year on **Tuesday, March 31st**, 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.**

Mass Intentions for the Week

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, February 14 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Maria Gianfrancesco +

Sunday, February 15

8:30 AM Robert Liddell +
10:00 AM Carmine Nicholas Maccia +
11:30 AM Martha Cianfaglione +
5:00 PM Maria & Francisco Chavez +

Monday, February 16

Weekday - President's Day

9:00 AM Luigi Lucchetti +

Tuesday, February 17

Weekday

7:00 AM Anna Baumeister +
9:00 AM Sebastian Orozco (living)

Wednesday, February 18

Ash Wednesday

7:00 AM Deceased Members of Lucchetti & Capuano Families +
9:00 AM James Hanrahan +
12:00 N Amada Ortiz +
4:00 PM No Intention
7:30 PM No Intention

Thursday, February 19

Thursday after Ash Wednesday

7:00 AM No Intention
9:00 AM Angela & Amedeo Lepore +

Friday, February 20

Friday after Ash Wednesday

7:00 AM No Intention
9:00 AM Mikhail Podolyak +

Saturday, February 21

Saturday after Ash Wednesday

9:00 AM Alfred Bruno, Jr. +

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 +

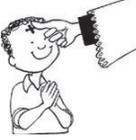
LENT IS UPON US



Metanoia is a Greek word for Lent, which connotes a change of mind and heart, altering one's mind-set toward whole new ways of thinking and acting. Lent is a period where we take a long look at where we are and try to see where we ought to be. It involves testing our values and discerning how they stack up against the values that our Lord Jesus offers His followers. Subsequently, Lent is a time when we acknowledge our guilt for the sins that led to Christ's passion and death.

ASH WEDNESDAY

This **Wednesday, February 18th**, is **Ash Wednesday** and marks the beginning of Lent. As the beginning of Lent, Ash Wednesday calls us to the conversion journey that marks the season. The readings assigned to Ash Wednesday highlight this call to conversion. The first reading from the prophet Joel is a clarion call to return to the Lord "with fasting, and weeping and mourning." On Ash Wednesday the Church invites us to receive ashes on our foreheads as a sign that during the season of Lent we will make sincere efforts to cleanse our lives of sin, and discipline ourselves through almsgiving, prayer and fasting.



SYMBOLISM OF ASHES

As with all material things which are used as religious symbols, the symbolism of ashes is complex and difficult to understand. In themselves, ashes have little meaning, but they have their own biblical and historical context in the liturgical practices of today. Ashes are an ancient symbol of repentance (sackcloth and ashes). Consequently, when received in the light of God's revealing word, ashes can become a biblical symbol for us, and our desire to turn back to God. When we receive ashes on our foreheads, we remember who we are. We remember that we are creatures of the earth ("Remember that you are dust"). We remember that we are mortal beings ("and to dust you will return"). The reception of the ashes on our foreheads reminds us of the fact that we are God's chosen children on a journey of conversion, hence "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel." The ashes remind us that we are members of the body of Christ, and the blotch on our foreheads will proclaim that identity to others, too.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES



Ashes will be distributed at each Mass on Ash Wednesday, February 18th; Mass times are 7 a.m., 9 a.m., 12 Noon, **4 p.m.**, and 7:30 p.m. With the exception of those who are ill, ashes will only be distributed at these Masses and Service.