

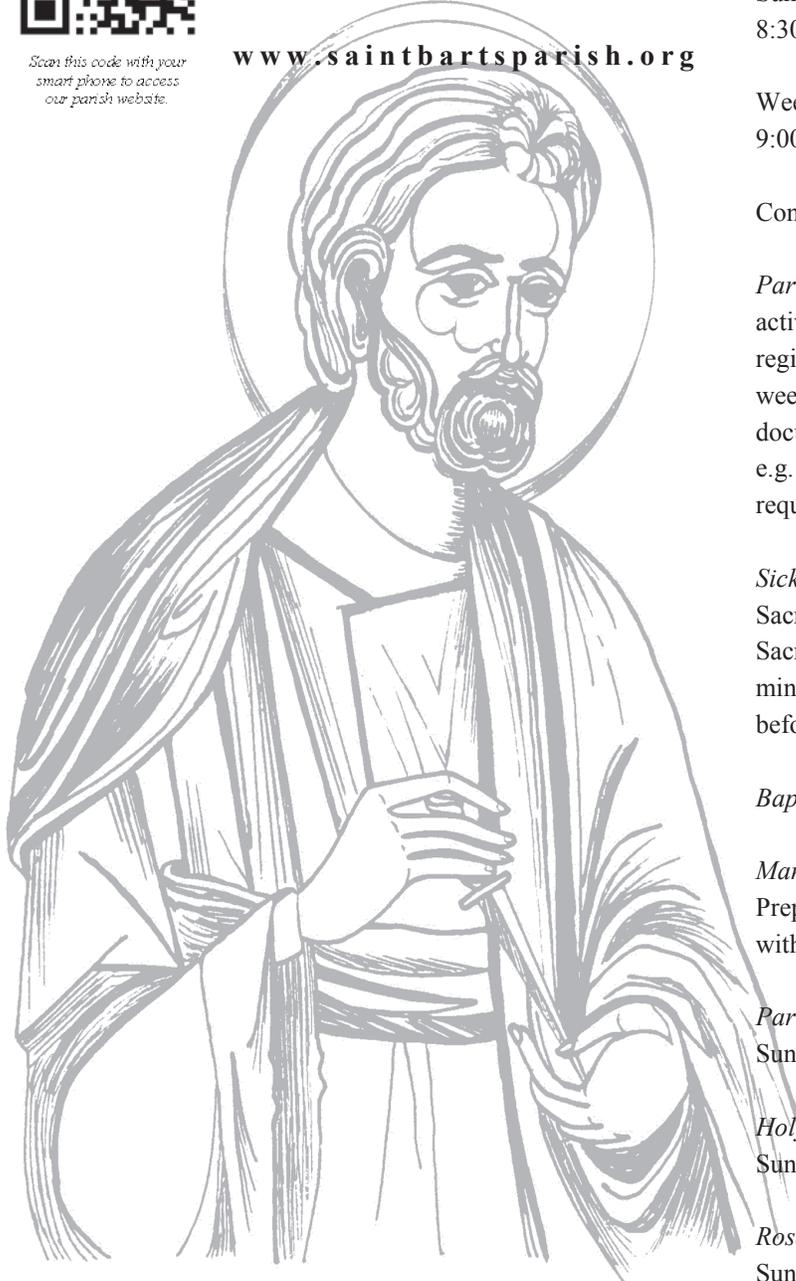
# St. Bartholomew's Church



Scan this code with your  
smart phone to access  
our parish website.

15 Palmer Road  
Yonkers • New York 10701

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

## WHO DO YOU IMITATE?

# Pastor's COLUMN

I continue to be amazed at how relevant and even unambiguously familiar scriptural passages and stories can be in our modern life. This reality clearly confirms their authenticity as divinely inspired, and the fact that they truly fulfill their purpose, according to 2 Timothy 3:16, which tells us that "all scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness."

Our first reading this weekend tells the story of the Prophet Elijah on the run. Space and time from his austere desert environment to our comparatively comfortable daily lives may seem unbridgeable. But a closer look at his world shows that we face the same basic realities that sent him running for his life.

First, Israel was surrounded by nations with cultures that contradict their Jewish culture. For example, all of them had multiple gods as opposed to Israel's One True God. Just like in our world today, their neighbors decided that their gods, values and cultures were the best things that happened to the human race and wanted to 'export' same to Israel. Well, they succeeded exceedingly well. Check out 1 Kings chapter 18 and the opening verses of 19.

Recently Nigeria's new president was in Washington for a meeting. He met with President Obama. One of the issues Obama brought up for discussion was Nigeria's stance on gay marriage. In his recent visit to Kenya, the topic came up also. Recently, countries whose values and cultures 'abhor' gay relationships have been under pressure from those who see it as a value to be upheld. So, Israel too was under pressure from their neighbors to imbibe their (neighbors') foreign cultures, religion, and values. Some caved in. Elijah would not be silent or inactive. So, now he's on the run for his life.

In Elijah's Israel, public policies and personal lifestyles not only contradicted the covenant commands but pressured believers to conform. From Nigeria to the US, we all know how true this reality is. Elijah definitely didn't find this funny. He spoke up. And now he's on the run.

In Elijah's Israel, corrupt politics and politicians bred social injustice. If one thinks that our politicians here in US are corrupt, that person ought to visit Nigeria and some other countries.

These are samples of what Elijah fought until he couldn't take it any longer. "Enough, O Lord!" he cried out (1 Kings 19:4). Next, he sought escape. But the Lord ultimately sent him back to work.

Examining these stark realities of our human society is not meant to discourage or get us angry. Rather they are to teach us, correct us, train us, etc. And Paul offers us a way out of the problem or at least an alternative. He challenges us to be "imitators of God" and to remove "bitterness, fury, anger, shouting, and reviling ... malice" (Ephesians 5:1, 4:31).

In effect, even when our values differ from others and we're under pressure to conform, we must hold firm but do so without the negativity that is counterproductive. This way, we'll be imitators of God our Father (Ephesians 5:1).

~ Father Raphael Ezech, MSP

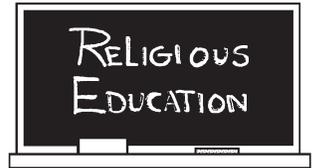
## PARISH NEWS



This **Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup>**, we will celebrate the Feast of the **Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary** into heaven. Because it falls on a Saturday this year, it is not a Holy Day of Obligation; however, Catholics are encouraged to attend the 9 a.m. Mass on that day in honor of our Blessed Mother, Mary.

### 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 classes. Evening classes are available to accommodate the children of working parents. Besides grade level classes, instruction prepares children for Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation. Call Cheryl Duda (914 476-6676) for information.



If you or someone you know needs information on the Catholic Faith or have not been confirmed, please call the Religious Education Office (914 476-6676) for information on the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (R.C.I.A.) in our parish.

**CHILDREN'S MASS:** Please make it a point to bring your child to our Children's Mass next Sunday and the rest of the Sundays in August. The 10 a.m. Mass will focus on our children. The Parish Children's Choir will sing at the Mass. The children are encouraged to sit together with other children at a designated place during the Mass.



### 2016 MASS BOOK IS OPEN

The Mass Book for 2016 opened on Ash Wednesday 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 and wine, altar candles, or sanctuary lamp for your intention. Come to the Rectory Office, **Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.** to make arrangements or to inquire about the availability of a particular date.



The **SANCTUARY LAMP** is lit this week in loving memory of Thomas Jurus by Dolly DeRosa.

**PARISH CELEBRATION**

Our parish is planning a block party for Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 6 - 10 p.m. to celebrate the **Feast of St. Bartholomew**. Besides attending, we are asking for your help with this celebration by providing money donations toward the cost of food and drink. We are also looking for volunteers to help with this event.



Please place your donation in an envelope marked Block Party and your family name. Donations can be given to the Rectory Office, or dropped in the collection basket.

Please mark your calendar now and plan on attending this celebration of our Parish Patron, St. Bartholomew!!!

THIS IS A RAIN OR SHINE EVENT;  
PRAY FOR GOOD WEATHER!



*"So be imitators of God ... and live in love, as Christ loved us ..."* Let Worldwide Marriage Encounter help you better live your sacrament of Matrimony or Holy Orders. For more information, call toll free (877) 697-9963, ext. 3 or visit [www.wwme.org](http://www.wwme.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.



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, August 16<sup>th</sup>. All youths age 13 and up are invited.

**FRANK CONROY BASKETBALL CAMP**

Monday to Friday, from 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m.

August 17 to 21 & August 24 to 28

Boys & Girls, ages 6 - 14

Register online at [www.conroybasketballcamp.com](http://www.conroybasketballcamp.com)

Call Coach Conroy at 914 980-0820

**Holy Trinity Church, New Rochelle**

**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*

	8/3/14	8/2/15	Difference
Adults	\$5,972.95	\$5,259.30	-\$ 713.65
Children	\$ 31.25	\$ 34.95	+\$ 3.70
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,004.20</b>	<b>\$5,294.25</b>	<b>-\$ 709.95</b>

**The second Collection in support of our buildings and grounds totaled \$1,310.60.**

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**The collection for the Propagation of the Faith to support the work of the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus totaled \$2,277.40.**

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***"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*



**LORD**  
give strength  
to your people

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 Swiatkiewicz, 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, Gina Obalde, Ann Lackner, Ariella Castillo, Brian Detz, John Marietti, Dominick Gravino, Angelica Blanco, Joseph Melillo, Gail Chappory, Agnes Masterson, Gregory Clemens, Carol Hoffman, Randolph Castillo, Jr., Carolyn Mesler, Grace Finnerty, Sister Eileen Burns, OSF, and Judith Elliott.

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***As you plan and enjoy your summer and vacations, please do not forget your financial obligations to our Parish. God bless and keep you all.***

**AUGUST 9, 2015**

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

**Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Saturday, August 8 (Anticipated Mass)**

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

**Sunday, August 9**

8:30 AM Rose Marie Yannicelli +

10:00 AM Raymond Shannon, Jr. & Raymond Shannon, Sr.+

11:30 AM Sister Maria Cira +

5:00 PM Constance M. Ballanno +

**Monday, August 10**

**Saint Lawrence, Deacon & Martyr**

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Marcello Barcello +

**Tuesday, August 11**

**Saint Clare, Virgin**

7:00 AM Deceased Members of Bulduc & Savard Families

9:00 AM Benjamin & Corazon Sotto +

**Wednesday, August 12**

**Weekday**

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Nicholas DeRosa (living)

**Thursday, August 13**

**Weekday**

7:00 AM Song Nguyen +

9:00 AM Amada Ortiz +

**Friday, August 14**

**Saint Maximilian Kolbe, Priest & Martyr**

7:00 AM Lourdes Torres +

9:00 AM Leslie DeBrocky & Margaret McGuirk +

**Saturday, August 15**

**Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

9:00 AM Anna & Tom Brucculeri +

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**Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Saturday, August 15 (Anticipated Mass)**

5:00 PM Lawrence Fraher +

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**Sunday, August 16**

8:30 AM Eileen Brennan Hines +

10:00 AM Barbara Shannon (living)

11:30 AM Francisco Alvarez +

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

**AUGUST 9, 2015**

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## **Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (SOLEMNITY - AUGUST 15<sup>th</sup>)**

On November 1, 1950, Pius XII defined the Assumption of Mary to be a dogma of faith: "We pronounce, declare and define it to be a divinely revealed dogma that the immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul to heavenly glory." The pope declared this dogma only after a broad consultation of bishops, theologians, and laity. There were few dissenting voices. What the pope solemnly declared was already a common belief in the Catholic Church.

We find homilies on the Assumption going back to the sixth century. In following centuries the Eastern churches held steadily to the doctrine, but some authors in the West were hesitant. However, by the thirteenth century there was universal agreement. The feast was celebrated under various names (Commemoration, Dormition, Passing, Assumption) from at least the fifth or sixth century.

Scripture does not give an account of Mary's Assumption into heaven. Nevertheless, chapter 12 of Revelation speaks of a woman who is caught up in the battle between good and evil. Many see this woman as God's people. Since Mary best embodies the people of both Old and New Testament, her Assumption can be seen as an exemplification of the woman's victory. Furthermore, in 1 Corinthians 15:20 Paul speaks of Christ's resurrection as the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep. Since Mary is closely associated with all the mysteries of Jesus' life, it is not surprising that the Holy Spirit has led the Church to belief in Mary's share in His glorification. So close was she to Jesus on earth, she must be with Him body and soul in heaven.

**COMMENT:** In the light of the Assumption of Mary, it is easy to pray her Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55) with new meaning. In her glory she proclaims the greatness of the Lord and finds joy in God her savior. God has done marvels to her and she leads others to recognize God's holiness. She is the lowly handmaid who deeply revered her God and has been raised to the heights. From her position of strength she will help the lowly and the poor find justice on earth and she will challenge the rich and powerful to distrust wealth and power as a source of happiness.

**QUOTE:** "In the bodily and spiritual glory which she possesses in heaven, the Mother of Jesus continues in this present world as the image and first flowering of the Church as she is to be perfected in the world to come. Likewise, Mary shines forth on earth, until the day the Lord shall come (cf. 2 Peter 3:10), as a sign of certain hope and comfort for the pilgrim People of God" (*Dogmatic Constitution on the Church*, 68).

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