

St. Bartholomew's Church



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15 Palmer Road
Yonkers • New York 10701

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

SCRIPTURAL REFLECTION: FAITH AND SACRIFICE



In ages past, among far away and not-so-far-away tribes, peoples tied their loved and not-so-loved ones up, laid them across blood stained altars and with joyous celebrations offered their precious lives to their gods in return for one favor or another. All we know

about human sacrifice came from the pages of history. I remember discussing this topic with my deceased uncle, not so long ago, with regards to our tribe. Surprisingly, he explained that human sacrifice was extremely rare among our forefathers, even before the advent of Christianity. That was not the same among some other African tribes. Even here in the Americas, we know that human sacrifice was widely practiced among the natives.

With this, we can appreciate what Abraham was up against. He lived among the Canaanites who proudly practiced human sacrifice. We know very well how peer pressure and societal pressure could easily sweep people off their feet, even against their better judgment. It is not far fetched that Abraham must have somehow gotten the idea that God was demanding the sacrifice of his son, Isaac, after all, that's what the Canaanite gods were supposedly doing.

If Abraham was having sleepless nights over this issue, God helped to put it to rest for him. While at it, God probably decided to test his faith, too. Talk of killing two birds with one stone! So, He orders Abraham to sacrifice his only son, on whose shoulders rested the future of the promised nation of Israel. And here we go ballistic! Atheists smile with glee and that "I told you your God is crazy" smirk. Ironically, this story was meant to put an end to human sacrifice to God. And that it did! Through Abraham and Israel God showed us clearly that He does not request, much less rejoice in the killing of any children in His name!

As old and shocking as the story is, sadly, it still happens in our time, albeit, differently. ISIS and Boko Haram and their agents and recruits are still murdering God's children in God's name! Unbelievable! Incredulous! Shocking! But they do so with full conviction that Allah demands that of them and that they will be rewarded for doing so.

Well, I don't belong to ISIS or Boko Haram and neither does anyone here. Thanks to God! So, the message for us is the same, but on a different level. Beyond not supporting human sacrifice, we are called to imitate Jesus' example of self-sacrifice. God does not want us to mete out hurt for hurt, pain for pain, life for life. Once in a while, or more often than we may admit, we play God's avengers. Like Abraham and Jesus, we place our faith in God and let God be God in all aspects of our lives.

IN THANKS AND PRAISE

Many thanks to John McKenna, Yanni Orozco and Jennifer Batac (Co-Chairs) of the Family Life Commission who planned and executed the Singles' Dinner and Couples' Dinner last weekend; and also to the young people who provided baby sitting services. It was very successful, given the weather conditions and the fact that it was our first attempt. We also thank the members of Social Ministry who helped them out.

It was very well enjoyed by those who braved the weather to come out. And there were requests that we do it more than once a year. Hopefully, we can do it again during the summer or in September.

~ Father Raphael Ezeh, MSP



The ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY meeting will be held this Monday, March 2nd, at 7:30 p.m. in the McManus Parish Center. All women of the Parish are invited.

SHARING COMMUNITY, INC. is a community-based organization in southwest Yonkers which provides an array of services for people who are homeless, those infected/affected by HIV/AIDS, those who lack job skills or need health, mental, or substance abuse treatment.



Once a month, seventeen different community organizations either make or buy food that is collected by the Sharing Community. St. Bart's does its share by preparing half-trays of baked ziti and desserts on the first Thursday of the month. One half-tray feeds about 10 people. We have a few regular donors who unfailingly drop their trays of ziti or desserts off every month. Won't you join them?

This Thursday, March 5th, we will be providing our Sharing Community Meal. Please bring your ziti or dessert to the Rectory. Doors will open at 6:45 a.m. The Sharing Community truly appreciates our efforts. For more information, please call the Parish Office.

CALLING ALL SENIORS! CALLING ALL SENIORS!

Join fellow seniors for a Mass and Gathering

Thursday, March 5th

9 a.m. Mass with a Special Blessing, followed by light refreshments and gathering at the McManus Parish Center.

ADORATION & HOLY HOURS: Because this Friday, March 6th, is First Friday, our Friday Adoration will begin at 9:30 a.m. and end at 7 p.m. Our monthly Friday Holy Hour will be held at 1 p.m. This Saturday, March 7th, the Divine Mercy Holy Hour will begin at 3 p.m. All are invited to spare an hour and come to adore Jesus Christ Who is truly present in the Holy Eucharist.



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 ALTAR BREAD & WINE, ALTAR CANDLES & SANCTUARY LAMP for this week are donated in loving memory of John Brusco by Louis & Angela Brusco.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

PARISH MISSION - WE ARE THE CHURCH

Mon, March 9th to Wed, March 11th

7 p.m.—8:15 p.m.

Sister Eileen Burns, OSF & Mrs. Jenny Echevarria



Sister Eileen Burns will give a short introduction to our **2015 Parish Mission** at all the Sunday Masses next weekend. All parishioners are encouraged to take advantage of this Lenten opportunity. Please plan on joining us each evening at 7 p.m. Endeavor to invite along your friends and neighbors.

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, the bus departs at 1:30 pm promptly from the parking lot. Please make your reservations immediately so that St. Bart's can get their reserved space.**



MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

"This is My beloved Son. Listen to Him." Sometimes the stress of life makes it difficult to listen to your beloved spouse. A weekend away may allow you to see each other in a new way. For more information or upcoming dates, call (877) 697-9963, ext. 3 or visit www.wmearchny.org.

BEGINNING EXPERIENCE is offering a healing weekend from March 20th – 22nd, 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. Call Tom on 845 462-6192 or Nancy on 518 785-1351 extension 304 or e-mail ny.hudson.valley@beginningexperience.org, for information or registration.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S SWEEPSTAKES SOCIAL SATURDAY, MARCH 14TH - 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!

MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA: Held after the 9 a.m. Mass on Mondays.

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

	2/23/14	2/22/15	Difference
Adults	\$5,578.70	\$4,443.20	-\$ 1,135.50
Children	\$ 101.25	\$ 78.90	-\$ 22.35
Total	\$5,679.95	\$4,522.10	-\$ 1,157.85

The Collection on Ash Wednesday totaled \$2,285.65.

**"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

Next weekend we will take up a second collection to cover the expenses "old man winter" brings for snow removal and salting of our parking lot and walkways. Please be as generous as possible.



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 Swiatkovicz, 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.



The **YOUTH GROUP** meets on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month immediately following the 5 p.m. Mass in the school building. There will be a meeting this Sunday, March 1st. All youths age 13 and up are invited.

MARCH 1, 2015

Mass  for the
Intentions Week

Second Sunday of Lent

Saturday, February 28 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Charles Sullivan +

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

Monday, March 2

Lenten Weekday

7:00 AM Linda Sartori +

9:00 AM John Brusco +

Tuesday, March 3

Lenten Weekday

7:00 AM Anna Brucculeri +

9:00 AM Stefania Pleszak +

Wednesday, March 4

Lenten Weekday

7:00 AM John & Anne Gaffney +

9:00 AM Antonio Darretta +

Thursday, March 5

Lenten Weekday

7:00 AM Maria Bellone +

9:00 AM Nicola Lalli +

Friday, March 6

Lenten Weekday

7:00 AM Bridget O'Malley (living)

9:00 AM Pasquale Alessi +

Saturday, March 7

Lenten Weekday

9:00 AM Ronald Casali +

12 Noon Mary Flynn +

Third Sunday of Lent

Saturday, March 7 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Catherine Moore +

Sunday, March 8

8:30 AM Frances Starkenberg +

10:00 AM For All the People of Our Parish

11:30 AM Anna Baumeister +

5:00 PM Julio Blanco & Jovita Romero +

