

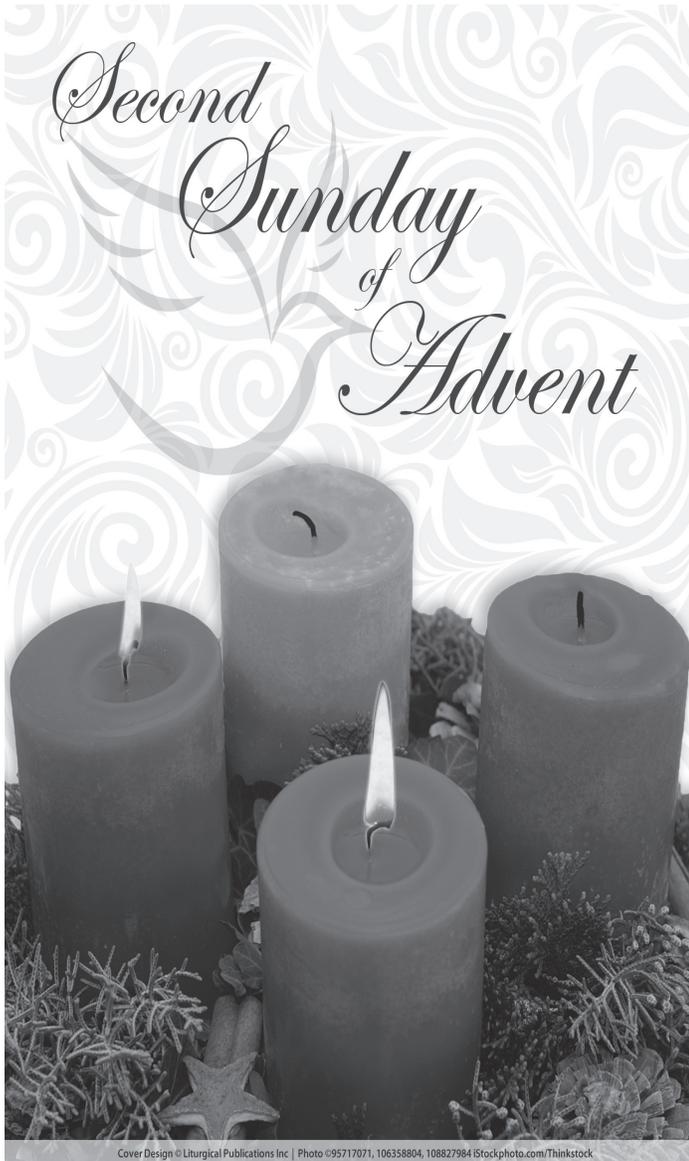
St. Bartholomew's Church



15 Palmer Road
Yonkers • New York 10701

www.saintbartparish.org

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our parish website.



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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.

Rev. Raphael Ezeh, MSP, *Pastor*
Rev. Daniel Oghenerukevwe, 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. President, Joan Liddell

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

Trustees: Catherine Hickey, Aureo Pinto

LIVING IN HARMONY

"May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another, in keeping with Christ Jesus, that with one accord you many with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."



Kids have a lot to teach us older humans, even as we teach them the ways and things of life. For one, in terms of harmony, they seem to fare better than us. Under our watch, they bicker and quarrel this moment and the next moment they're friends again, playing, building nothing and destroying something together. Even older siblings who are thorns in each other's flesh sooner or later learn that they are together for life and must work together as a family. In a beautiful way, our family teaches and reminds us that the things that unite us are more in number and value than those that divide us.

In the second reading for this Sunday, Paul writes about the duties we owe each other as Christians ... the marks that should identify us as Christians. One of such marks is harmony. We need it in our lives, that is within ourselves; we need it in our relationships; we need it in our families; we need it in our parishes; we need it in our schools; we need it in our work places; we need it while running around in the pitches and fields, and on the sidelines, too.

As we continue our Advent journey, I invite each of us to reflect on how we work for harmony in our relationships, families, here at St. Bart's, at work and school, etc. We often think of ourselves first. But St. Paul tells us to do this for the sake of the other and to glorify God.

In a practical way, it may be good to remind ourselves that as much as we may dream it, our relationships at any level whatsoever will never be devoid of conflicts and disputes. There will be differences of opinion, arguments and debates, but at the end, we must, like kids, find ways to resolve them and live in harmony. Our churches, no matter how beautifully decorated they may be, and no matter how angelic our songs and liturgical celebrations, without harmony will lose an essential part of their soul. Our homes, no matter how beautiful they are, will lose all if we can't find ways to live in harmony. This injunction is not optional; it is imperative on each of us as Christians.

As Christians we have a better shot at harmony than those who don't believe. This is so because we are quite sure that the Christ who unites us is far greater than the differences that divide us. So, as you continue your journey toward welcoming Christ at Christmas, as you continue to make straight the path of the Lord (Matthew 3:1-12), look around you for ways to promote harmony so that when you sing "Glory to God on high and on earth peace to people of good will," you will be helping to make that peace real in your heart, home, church, and the world.

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another.

Wishing You God's Every Blessing.

~ Father Raphael Ezech, MSP

PARISH NEWS



HOLY NAME SOCIETY

MEETING: This Monday, December 9th, the Holy Name Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the McManus Parish Center. All men of the Parish are welcome.

PARISH BIBLE SHARING / STUDIES: Bible Studies is held on the 2nd & 4th Friday of each month at 7 p.m. in the school building. A meeting will be held this Friday, December 13th. These sessions will be moderated by our Parochial Vicar, Father Daniel. Bring a friend! Come and have fun exploring the Bible.



OUR PARISH GIVING TREE



In keeping with the true spirit of Christmas, we have the opportunity to share our resources with several charities who serve the disadvantaged (Immaculate Conception's and St. Peter's Needy Families, and Richmond Hill). Please take an ornament(s) from the tree in the back of the church. **It is important that this ornament, indicating gender and gift specific information, be securely attached to your wrapped package.** Please return all packages to the church by next Sunday, December 15th. Thank you for your continued support in this very special season of giving.

**COME CELEBRATE THE INSTALLATION OF
OUR PASTOR, FATHER RAPHAEL EZECH, MSP
NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH, AT 11:30 AM**

Father Raphael will be installed as the Pastor of St. Bartholomew's Church by the Vicar of the Yonkers Vicariate, Father Leonard Villa, at the 11:30 a.m. Mass. A Potluck Lunch Reception will follow immediately in the McManus Parish Center. All parishioners are invited to participate by attending. Monetary or personal favorite food donations are appreciated. Installation of a Pastor is always a Parish Family event. It's open to all, please come celebrate our Pastor and Parish next Sunday!

Besides those of you who contribute throughout the year, the Social Ministry Committee would like to thank all the parishioners, Religious Education families, and friends who contributed to the Food Pantry for our Thanksgiving Drive. Most especially we thank **Stew Leonard's** for their generous donation of 10 turkeys. Twenty-five very thankful families received Thanksgiving Baskets. May God continue to bless the very special people of St. Bartholomew's Parish and our generous friends!



Second Sunday of Advent

OUR CHRISTMAS "WISH LIST"

My very first Wish List comes at this wonderful and magical season of Christmas. The Thanksgiving Day celebration ushers us into the season and spirit of Christmas, a season of gratitude and giving and receiving gifts. Thank you for your past generosity when Fr. Anthony was here. In response to the requests to provide a Wish List, here's one for our liturgical and devotional needs. As usual, your donations could be in thanksgiving and/or in memory of a deceased loved one.

3 Christmas Wreaths	\$115 each
5 Artificial, lighted Christmas Trees	\$240 each
6 Church Christmas Arrangements	\$75 each
1 Alb (robe) for priests	\$250
(Used for Mass and other celebrations)	
24 Sets of Altar Servers' robes/surplices	\$80 each set
(Black robes with white surplices)	
3 Sets of covers for our Missalettes	\$400 each set

The intentions will be published in the bulletin of the 4th Sunday of Advent. Please call the Parish Office (914-965-0566), if you wish to donate any item.



CONGRATULATIONS to our newest **Lector, Prela Gegovic**, and our newest **Altar Server, Jaden Ocasio**. We thank them for their willingness to serve this community and thank their parents for their sacrifices in making their service possible.

Our **SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE** is having a special Food Drive to provide Christmas Baskets to some less fortunate brothers and sisters. What we need to complete this year's baskets is a few hams, candy, cookies and juices. These food items should be brought to the church next Saturday evening or Sunday morning, December 14th & 15th.



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 next Sunday, December 15th. All youths age 13 and up are invited.

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

EUCHARISTIC 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

	2012	2013	Difference
Adults	\$7,746.90	\$5,652.90	-\$2,094.00
Children	\$ 144.65	\$ 204.20	+\$ 59.55
Total	\$7,891.55	\$5,857.10	-\$2,034.45

Our Thanksgiving Collection totaled \$1,226.00.

The Collection in support of our buildings & grounds totaled \$1,163.05.



Please pray for all the sick & the homebound members of our Parish, especially Ethel Thomas, Aldina Pereira, Rebecca Conroy, Andy DeFabritis, Maria Marte, Barbara Rup, Jule Yaskovic, Rosalie Heit, Florence B. Swetz, Clare Yaskovic, Neil Caruso, 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, Donna Vasconez, Nicole Pisani-Frame, Louis Petrulo, Cynthia Swiatkowicz, Jimmy Maimone, Robert Mirsky, Roseanne Mercandetti, Louis Brusco, Josephine Daniele, Jennifer Dorsey, Valerie Riccardi, Fatima Panik, Marian Fletcher, Anna Bonacci, Minerva Hernandez, Paula Parente, Bridget O'Malley, Anna Brucculeri, Peggy Clevenberg, Gerald Mazzerese, Jr., Patricia Keane, Carol Stola, Amada Ortiz, Karen Aprea, Stephen Sarich, Neil Cawley, Barbara McCormack, Josephine Lehotyak, Lawrence Girsch, Fran Romano, and Gail Villafana.

REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES, LIVING AND DEAD

The Mass Book for 2014 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.

It's never too late! If you know of a school age child who has not prepared for First Communion or Confirmation, please contact our Religious Education Office on 914 476-6676. We have **Religious**

Education classes for public school children in Pre-K through High School, including those with Special Education needs. **All Catholic children attending public schools should be enrolled in a Religious Education program.**



December 8, 2013

Mass  *for the*
Intentions *Week*

Second Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 7 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Josephine Giuriceo +

Sunday, December 8

8:30 AM Oscar Starkenberg +

10:00 AM Joseph Prior +

11:30 AM Deceased Members of Legio Family

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

Monday, December 9

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:00 AM Rita Bolduc +

9:00 AM Harold Smith, Jr. +

Tuesday, December 10

Advent Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM No Intention

Wednesday, December 11

Advent Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Dennis Madonia +

Thursday, December 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe

7:00 AM Gloria Bassey +

9:00 AM Helen & Pete Pietrowski +

Friday, December 13

Saint Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

7:00 AM Reverend James F. McNamara +

9:00 AM Frank Lutomski, Jr. +

Saturday, December 14

Saint John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church

9:00 AM Aristide Scipioni +

Third Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 14 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Ethel Castagnozzi +

Sunday, December 15

8:30 AM Caroline Klee +

10:00 AM Aristide Scipioni +

11:30 AM Deceased Members of Zucconi Family

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

December 8, 2013

PRAYER FOR ADVENT

Dear God,
As an Advent candle is lit
In joyous anticipation of Your Son's nativity,
Remind us always of the reason for our joy.
As the purple of the candles stands for both penance
And atonement for sin,
Give us the grace to do penance for our wrongs,
And to love Christ,
Whose sacrifice atoned for the sins of the whole world.
But just as the rose candle stands
For joy in the midst of suffering and expectation,
Give us the joy of Your Son, Jesus Christ,
Who came into a world that had so longed for its Savior,
And made the angels themselves sing with joy at His birth.
Amen.



ADVENT: A TIME OF PREPARATION

It can be difficult to prepare our lives for Christ
Amidst the busy preparations
Of a material Christmas.
The four weeks before Christmas
Are a time to prepare our families
To celebrate Christ' birth:
To prepare our minds to accept
That God's Son became a baby
And lived and died for us;
To prepare our hearts to accept God's forgiveness,
And to change our ways;
To prepare our souls to receive
God's healing grace through the celebration of Mass;
To take part in not only the work of preparation
But also the hope and joy in the midst of our work.

..+

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE DECEMBER 12TH

Our Lady of Guadalupe is the Patroness of the Americas. We are going to have prayers and traditional hymns in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe in the church at **6 a.m.** this Thursday, December 12th, followed by the 7 a.m. Mass and a reception in the McManus Parish Center. There will also be an evening service of prayers and traditional hymns without Mass at **6:30 p.m.** on Thursday. This service will be followed by a reception in the school building.

