

St. Bartholomew's Church



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our parish website.

15 Palmer Road
Yonkers • New York 10701

www.saintbartsparish.org

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.

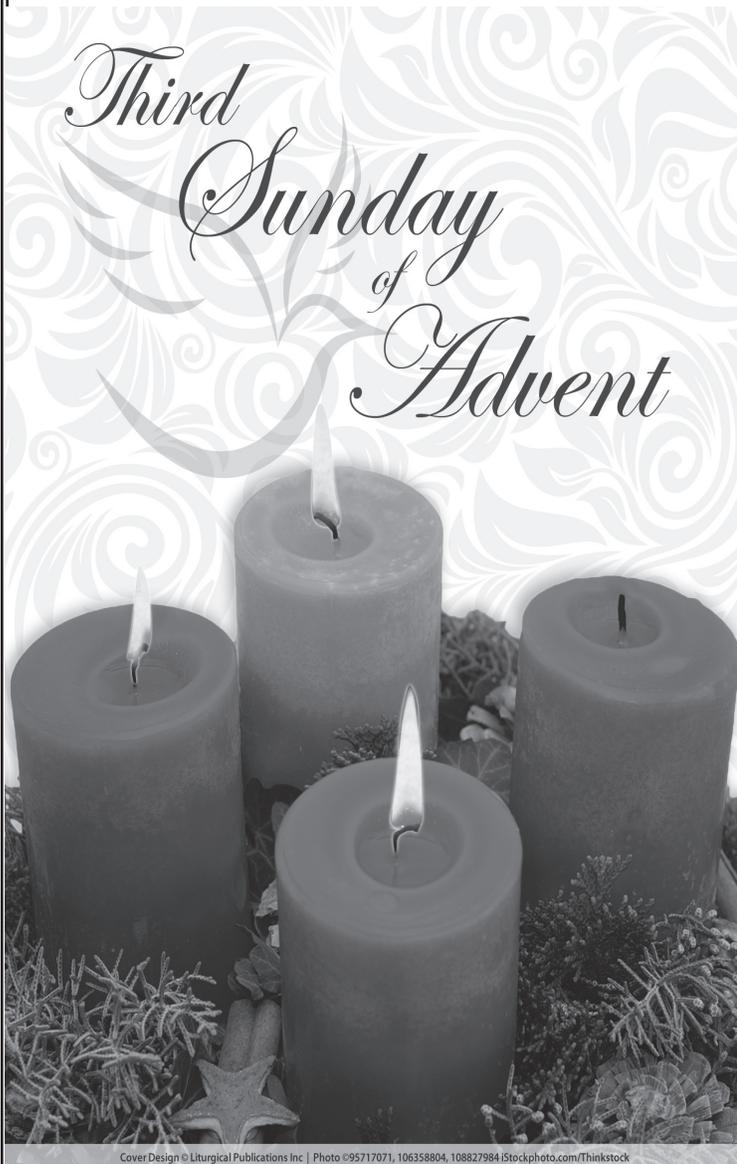
Parish Council: Meets on the Monday evening after the third Sunday of the month. Chairperson: Richard Califano

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



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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.

LIVING IN HARMONY

Isaiah's voice brings hope and joy to a condition we humans will perceive as irredeemable: "The desert and parched land will exult; the steeps will rejoice and bloom. They will bloom with abundant flowers, and rejoice with joyful song" (Isaiah 35:1-2). A desert bloom? A few cacti might spring up a few colorful flowers but not in abundance. And who could make desert bloom? Isaiah continues, "Say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not." Then he concludes, "Here is your God ... He comes to save you" (verse 4).



The third Sunday of Lent is called Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday. Little by little education, technology, commerce, medicine, social media, etc. are making our world a richer and better place in many ways. But one often wonders if we are happier for it. We work sixty to seventy hours a week, trying to make ends meet. We manage a few hours of sleep. Yet for many, their own 'ends' are far from meeting; their accounts are always in red or close to red. Our schedule is so tight that for many it is a struggle to squeeze in Sunday Mass, not to talk of daily prayer or spiritual activities. We are constantly on the phone, Internet, Facebook, tweeting or something else, yet our loneliness is hitting an all-time high. Quality relationships and marriages are becoming so difficult they are countable. Quality family time is shrinking by the day. Students are rushing from class to class hoping to get one credential or another. Our children are rushing from one event to another or glued to their games and TV shows. In the midst of all these, we have Christmas shopping to do, decorations await us, Christmas dishes to prep, and top it with where the money will come from and we're up to our necks with worries and anxieties.

Advent calls us to transform our lives. What pressures cause you to tremble now? What will it take to release the joy that is already in you so you too can rejoice and bloom where God has planted you?

On our way from Sight and Sound's *The Miracle of Christmas*, I came across a piece of writing that said, "It is what it is, but it is what you make it to be." Our lives can be better. Jesus wants it to be better – less stressed and more joyful. But we have to let go and let God. **We really have to make things happen.** Above all, we have to be patient as we work to make the necessary changes. We must "wait for the precious fruit" of our labors (second reading James 5:7-10).

The world has been enamored by Nelson Mandela's life, personality and contributions to his people, his country and to humanity. Memorial services have been going on this past week in anticipation of his burial. He gave us an example of "It is what it is, but it is what you make it to be." He gave us an example of living in hope – hope that God can make a desert indeed blossom. He showed us that in life we must make changes happen in our lives and lives around us. The status quo is often in need of change but very often we lack the courage, moral strength, patience, and perseverance needed to make changes. Be strong, Isaiah tells us, fear not. Emmanuel can and is willing to help us. Amen.

~ Father Raphael Ezech, MSP

PARISH NEWS

The **CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE** for the **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** is as follows:

Mon., Dec 16 3-8 p.m.
Sat., Dec 21 4-4:45 p.m.



Throughout the Archdiocese of New York, **Advent Reconciliation this Monday (Dec 16th)**, gives Catholics the opportunity to go to any parish for confession between the hours of 3 and 8 p.m.

CHRISTMAS MASSES



Tues., Dec. 24 4:30 p.m. Carols/ Vigil Mass
Tues., Dec. 24 11:30 p.m. Carols, followed by Midnight Mass
Tues., Dec. 25 8:30, 10, and 11:30 a.m.

There will not be a 5 p.m. Mass on Christmas Day.

Come to **Lessons and Carols** - an Advent Reflection - following the 5 p.m. Mass in church next Saturday, December 21st. Our Lectors, Religious Education children and choirs present the Nativity story in a short program that focuses on the true inspiration for Christmas.



If you haven't already done so, please return your gifts for our **GIVING TREE by this Monday, December 16th**. The gifts will be sorted and distributed that day. We will be unable to accept additional gifts once the distribution takes place. God bless you and your families for your generous responses to all the charitable requests made of you at this busy time of the year!

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



St. Bartholomew's Church and the Hudson Valley Blood Services express sincere appreciation to the 94 donors that came to our Blood Drive on Friday, November 29th. We collected 81 pints with 13 deferrals. Those who were unable to donate or unavailable that day can still be part of our Blood Drive by making an appointment with the Hudson Valley Blood Services to donate at their convenience. **Call 800 933-2566** and ask that your donation be credited to St. Bartholomew's Church, **group # 7747**. Our next Drive will be held on the Friday after Easter, April 25th. Please join us if possible and invite your family and friends!



Third Sunday of Advent



The Pastoral Staff, the Administrative Staff, and the parishioners of our Parish would like to congratulate Father Raphael on the occasion of his installation as Pastor of St. Bartholomew's Parish. May God bless you and the people entrusted to your care.



ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASSES: If you or an adult you know has not been Confirmed and would like to explore the possibility, please contact the Religious Education Office on (914) 476-6676.

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.**



The **CANCER SUPPORT GROUP** will meet this Wednesday, December 18th, at 7 p.m. in Room 111 of St. John's Riverside Hospital, 967 North Broadway, Yonkers, for education & support to help cope with cancer. Call (914) 964-4441 for information.

POST-ABORTION HELP: If you are suffering from the pain of a past abortion, know that there is hope and healing! Retreats are available in the tri-state area for those who have lost a child to abortion. Upcoming Days of Prayer and Healing for Women: January 18th, February 15th, March 15th, and May 31st. You must preregister for a retreat by contacting the Sisters of Life at 866-575-0075 (toll free) or e-mail hopeandhealing@sistersoflife.org. All communication is confidential.

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

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

	2012	2013	Difference
Adults	\$6,434.30	\$6,827.95	+\$ 393.65
Children	\$ 137.15	\$ 132.20	-\$ 4.95
Total	\$6,571.45	\$6,960.15	+\$ 388.70

The Collection in support of the retired religious of the Archdiocese of New York will be reported next weekend.



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 Swiatkiewicz, 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, Gail Villafana, Joe Forlini, and Gertrude Woska.

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.

PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN: Anyone who needs to report an alleged incident of sexual abuse of a minor by a priest, deacon, religious, or lay person serving in the Archdiocese of New York is asked to contact Sister Eileen Clifford, O.P. at 212-371-1000 ext. 2949 or Deacon George J. Coppola at 914-861-1762. Both may also be reached via e-mail at victimassistance@archny.org. Information can also be found on the Archdiocesan website, www.archny.org. In keeping with the Archdiocesan policy regarding sexual abuse of minors, this information is provided to ensure that our children remain safe and secure.

December 15, 2013

Mass  for the
Intentions Week

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

Monday, December 16

Advent Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Maria Orintale Scipioni +

Tuesday, December 17

Late Advent Weekday

7:00 AM Philomena Conte +

9:00 AM Blasie DeRosa (living)

Wednesday, December 18

Late Advent Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Deceased Members of Salerno & DelBene Families

Thursday, December 19

Late Advent Weekday

7:00 AM Deceased Members of Bolduc & Savard Families

9:00 AM Stephen Hickey +

Friday, December 20

Late Advent Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Lucas Vazquez +

Saturday, December 21

Late Advent Weekday

9:00 AM Emma Dumalag (living)

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 21 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

Sunday, December 22

8:30 AM Robert Liddell +

10:00 AM John J. Esposito, Sr. +

11:30 AM Carl Dietze, Robert & Chester Rodesky +

5:00 PM Miguel Angel Ocasio, Raphael & Edwin Rivera+

December 15, 2013

IT'S TIME TO CONFESS YOUR SINS

Once again as we enter into the final period of preparation for Christmas, the Church offers us a unique opportunity to examine our hearts and minds and cleanse our souls in the Sacrament of Penance on Monday, December 16th.

Almost every parish has set aside that afternoon and evening to welcome all the faithful. Because it is a universal experience in our Archdiocese we can stop by any church and be assured that there will be a priest present to assist in reconciling oneself to God and to the Church. If you harbor any doubts about its effectiveness in raising our spirit and giving greater meaning to the season I ask you only to return to those days of our youth. As the priest gave us our penance, we recited the Act of Contrition and received absolution, was there not a great weight lifted from us? Did we not experience a joy that we felt at no other time? Before going any further let us put our cards on the table. If it has been some time since receiving the sacrament, then realize the form of the ritual has not changed substantially. The priest will guide you. And yes, if you forgot the Act of Contrition, you can bring a cheat sheet. There might even be one in the confessional itself.

But what should I say? What sins did I commit? I can't remember them all. Let us take each issue. When we sin we can do so by committing or omitting certain actions. We should reflect on both sides of the coin. Did we do something that was wrong that injured our relationship with God or man or was there an opportunity in witness or charity that I failed to fulfill? We are told by the Church that to make a good confession we must admit to all mortal sins and be conscious as well of venial ones. If one has been away for some time, it is very possible that we will miss some of both kinds of sins. We must make a good faith effort to recall those offenses which are more serious. This is where a good examination of conscious is necessary. We must spend some time prior to entering the confessional reflecting on our life and its pitfalls. If one forgets and later remembers a serious or less serious sin, we need not run back to the confessional. It has been forgiven as long as we did not make a conscious attempt not to mention it.



WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE HERE WITH US!

WE WELCOME OUR GUESTS AND VISITORS.

THANK YOU FOR WORSHIPPING WITH US TODAY.

**IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR A "CHURCH" HOME, PLEASE
CONSIDER ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S.**

**WE ARE A WARM AND WELCOMING COMMUNITY OF
FAITH.**

**OUR BULLETIN LISTS OUR SERVICES FOR THE ADVENT
AND THE CHRISTMAS SEASONS.**

**AGAIN, WELCOME! BLESSINGS ON YOU AND YOUR
LOVED ONES!**