

St. Bartholomew's Church



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15 Palmer Road
Yonkers • New York 10701

www.saintbartsparish.org

Rev. Raphael Ezeh, MSP, *Pastor*
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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ADVENT

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

PARISH UPDATES

OUTGOING PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

We always speak of the gifts of Time, Talent, and Treasure. For over three years the outgoing members of the PPC have given of their Time and Talent. When Fr. Anthony left and I came in, there was need for them to stay on during the transition period. They generously accepted to do so. Putting together a new pastoral plan extended their stay in office even longer but they didn't mind. We sincerely thank them for their service. So, many thanks to you: **Rich Califano** (Chairperson); **Nancy Arzola** (Vocation), **Ellen Chimenti** (Youth), **Deacon Clemens** (Ex-Officio), **Cheryl Duda** (Liturgy & Religious Ed), **John McKenna** (Social Ministry), **Fred Madera** (Communications), **Karen McKenna** (Recorder), **Caroline Messler** (Rosary Altar – current rep), **Dan Panik** (Holy Name), **Frances Raffa** (Rosary Altar – current rep), **Joan Liddell** (Rosary Altar – former rep), **Sally Pinto**, **Jeanne Simmons**, and **Kelly Foley**.

Thanks so much and may the Lord of the Vineyard bless and reward you abundantly.

FINANCE COUNCIL

We have a fine and active Finance Council. We thank them. One of the members, **Helen Harahan**, who served as the Council's secretary, stepped down due to health concerns – nothing major. Many of our senior members have served for years and we need younger ones and newer parishioners to step up. We're working on this and so far so good. So, we sincerely thank Helen for her dedication and time. May the Lord continue to bless you and your family. We're also trying to strengthen the Finance Council. More in the coming weeks.

FINANCE REPORT

Still on finance. We'll be presenting the annual finance report next Sunday (Dec 6 & 7), along with the rest of the annual State of the Parish report. We'll let you digest the report and then members of the Finance Council will expatiate on some of the key points in the report on the weekend of Dec 13 & 14. As we implement the new Pastoral Plan, the Pastoral Council will be dealing with the pastoral aspects while the Finance Council will be dealing with the financial aspects.

TRUSTEES

The Archdiocese expects every parish to have two lay trustees. They serve a one-year term and may serve up to three consecutive terms. Our current Trustees, **Dr. Katherine Hickey** and **Aurio Pinto** have served for three years plus. I want to sincerely thank them for staying on during the transition period. Their term will officially end by December 31. Thanks for your gifts of time and talent. May the Lord continue to bless you and your loved ones. Two new trustees will be appointed by January 1, 2015.

PARISH PASTORAL PLAN UPDATE - SURVEY

Although we're a little bit behind in our implementation of the Pastoral Plan, we're actively working on it. The difficulties of various committees' members with full-time jobs and families to run make it harder for people to volunteer more time and energy. Often the spirit is willing but time and energy may not be readily available. Anyhow, we've been able to craft a quick and comprehensive survey (a difficult combination), that will help us as we plough into the plan. So, next weekend, we'll be doing a quick survey at the Masses and after Masses for those that might need extra time or help to fill theirs out. It is of utmost importance to us. Please, plan to be part of it.

Hope you had a blessed, thankful, wonderful & fun-filled family celebration of Thanksgiving. As we begin this First Week of Advent, may the Lord bless you and your loved ones abundantly

~ **Father Raphael Ezeh, MSP**

PARISH NEWS

ST. BART'S SHARING COMMUNITY MEAL: This Thursday, December 4th, we will be preparing our Sharing Community Meal. Please bring your ziti or dessert to the Rectory. The door will open at 6:45 a.m. **Note, food can also be dropped off on Wednesday, December 3rd, at the school from 5 - 6:30 p.m.** The Sharing Community truly appreciates our efforts. Please keep up the good work! For information, please call the Parish Office.



CALLING ALL SENIORS! CALLING ALL SENIORS!

Thursday, December 4th

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



ADORATION & HOLY HOUR: This Friday, December 5th, is First Friday. We will have our Friday Adoration, beginning at 9:30 a.m., ending at 7 p.m. Our monthly Friday Holy Hour will be held at 1 p.m. This Saturday, December 6th, the Divine Mercy Holy Hour will begin at 3 p.m. As we prepare for the coming of our Savior, all are invited to spare an hour and come to adore Jesus Christ Who is truly present in the Holy Eucharist.



The **ALTAR BREAD & WINE** for this week are donated in thanksgiving, by the Orozco Valdovinos family.



The **SANCTUARY LAMP** and **ALTAR CANDLES** for this week are lit in loving memory of Anthony Martino by Barbara Troutman.



ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY: The ladies of the Rosary Altar Society will attend the 8:30 a.m. Mass next Sunday, December 7th.



Please Join Us

The women of the parish are invited to join the members of the Rosary Altar Society on **Tuesday, December 9th**, for a special **6 p.m. Mass and their Christmas Dinner** at Reno's Restaurant, 33 Lockwood Avenue, Yonkers. The cost is \$35 per person. Reservations are required by this Wednesday, December 3rd. Please call Carolyn (914 963-2622) or Mary Anne (914 963-8885 or 629-9299). Payment marked RAS Dinner can be dropped in the collection basket or brought to the Parish Office.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



OUR FAMILY MASS: Next Sunday, December 7th, we will celebrate our Family Mass at 10 a.m. All children and their families are encouraged to attend. Mass will be followed by "Family Breakfast" at the McManus Parish Center. All are welcome.

ADULT CONFIRMATION PREPARATION PROGRAM is for Catholic adults who are practicing their faith and have been baptized, received First Communion but have not been Confirmed for various reasons. This is a wonderful opportunity that combines presentations, group discussion, reflection and prayer. Please contact Cheryl Duda at 914 476-6676 to register or for more information.



The **YOUTH GROUP** meets on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month immediately following the 5 p.m. Mass in the school building. Their next meeting will be next Sunday, December 7th. All youths age 13 and up are invited.

SANTA'S BREAKFAST & BOUTIQUE

This Saturday, December 6th - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Pictures with Santa * Breakfast * Crafts * Holiday Boutique * Bake Sale * **Stop by and support our Youth Group!**

NEUMANN CLASSICAL SCHOOL

A new private Catholic school with a classical curriculum will be opening in the Archdiocese of New York in the fall of 2015. Neumann Classical School will provide elementary age children with a rigorous classical education in a faithful Catholic environment. The school will not be implementing Common Core. They are accepting applications from families for grades Junior Kindergarten to Grade Two. There are limited spots left for Kindergarten. If you are interested, please join their Open-House on December 6th, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at St. Casimir's Parish in Yonkers. For more information about Neumann Classical School, please see the web site (neumannschool.org) or contact the Director of Admissions, Lucas Lopes, (914 476-7615)

A special thank you to the Leonard Family, Stew Leonard's, and to John Hunker, the manager at Shoprite, for their donation of turkeys to St. Bartholomew's for our annual Thanksgiving baskets given to some of our less fortunate brothers and sisters.

SNOW CANCELLATIONS FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES: For notification of closures of our Religious Education classes due to inclement weather, calls will go out to the telephone number provided for this purpose once it begins snowing.

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*

	11/24/13	11/23/14	Difference
Adults	\$5,055.15	\$4,577.95	-\$ 477.20
Children	\$ 145.15	\$ 189.05	+\$ 43.90
Total	\$5,200.30	\$4,767.00	-\$ 433.30

The collection for Catholic Campaign for Human Development totaled \$1,422.10.

"Next Sunday, December 7th, there will be a second collection to help support the upkeep of our buildings and grounds.

*"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



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 Petruolo, 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, Anna Brucculeri, Gerald Mazzerese, Jr., Patricia Keane, Carol Stola, Amada Ortiz, 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, John Palermo, Carlo Gentile, Angelo Gianfrancesco, Vince Delgado, Charles Wighton, Michael Tomanelli, Daniel Pezzola, Steven Colon, Daniel DeRosa, Louis Loscalzo, and Dominick Gravino.

Sunday, December 7th, 2:30 - 4 p.m.

Grinton I. Will Library, 1500 Central Park Avenue, Yonkers

CHRIS SPINNER is presenting "Voices Heard 6" Celebrate the Holidays, a musical concert to benefit the Center for Discovery. Proceeds will go toward funding of the Center's innovative programs and services for children and adults with severe disabilities, medical frailties and autism spectrum disorders. Seating is limited. Tickets can be purchased online at voicesheardholidayconcert.eventbrite.com or at the door.

NOVEMBER 30, 2014

Mass Intentions for the Week



First Sunday of Advent

Saturday, November 29 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Frank & Carmela Legio +

Sunday, November 30

8:30 AM Angela & Amedeo Lepore +

10:00 AM Rose, Leo & Gloria Sevona +

11:30 AM For All the People of Our Parish

5:00 PM Dorothy Karol +

Monday, December 1

Advent Weekday

7:00 AM Improved Health of Laura Varrajas (living)

9:00 AM Raymond Shannon, Sr. +

Tuesday, December 2

Advent Weekday

7:00 AM Maurice Rosch +

9:00 AM Antonio Marchetti +

Wednesday, December 3

Saint Francis Xavier, Priest

7:00 AM Anna Baumeister +

9:00 AM Rev. Lamont Hamilton & Msgr. Vincent Case +

Thursday, December 4

Advent Weekday

7:00 AM A Needy Soul +

9:00 AM Lt. Thomas Leone +

Friday, December 5

Advent Weekday

7:00 AM Harriet Siegal +

9:00 AM Harry Brewus +

Saturday, December 6

Advent Weekday

9:00 AM Marcello Barcello +

Second Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 6 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

Sunday, December 7

8:30 AM Oscar Starkenberg +

10:00 AM Joseph Prior +

11:30 AM Josephine Giuriceo +

5:00 PM Miguel Angel Ocasio +



ADVENT IS UPON US - AGAIN!

**HOW CHRISTIANS SHOULD CELEBRATE
ADVENT & CHRISTMAS**

By John Feister

Did you ever notice that dessert is the first dish in line at many buffet restaurants? Yes you could eat dinner backwards - starting with dessert, then moving on to the appetizer and main course. In the end you eat all of the food, but it's nowhere near as fulfilling as enjoying each part of the meal in its proper place. Or worse, dessert could fill you up before you eat a balanced meal.

Sometimes we suffer the same temptation with Christmas. Our culture tends to skip Advent and start celebrating Christmas after Thanksgiving - if we're lucky enough to make it that far! Then it's all packed up and stored away by New Year's. This year, consider returning to the ancient practice of seeing the whole Christmas "cycle" - the period that embraces both the Advent and Christmas seasons - as one unit of joyous celebration. Preparation comes first, then comes the celebration extending a few weeks after Christmas Day.

The focal point of the Christmas cycle is obvious: God becoming one of us in Jesus, the Incarnation. All three phases of the cycle - Advent, Christmas and Epiphany - hinge on and celebrate that point. These celebrations help us to name the ways our lives are caught up in the "big story" of Christ. And these feasts tie our lives to Christians throughout history. The tradition of the Church, the living gospel, is the real-life experience of Christians like you and like me, and those who have gone before us.

During Advent, which begins in 2014 on November 30th, we emphasize the joy that some would compare to the months before a child is born: excitement, wonder, joy, expectation, even exhilaration at the life that is in our midst right now, yet also a hope and longing, and a carefulness to get things into order.

During the Christmas season we celebrate the wonder of the Incarnation. How wondrously we are made that the Word of God would become one of us!! God shows us how to live fully: by pouring out our lives for others. That is what the days of Christmas are all about.

Epiphany and the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord celebrate Christ becoming manifest - that is, present - to all peoples. On Epiphany, we focus on the three Wise Men symbolizing the many races for whom Christ was born. The baptism of Jesus marks the beginning of His public ministry. God's "Christmas gift" of the Incarnation is a gift for everyone.

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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 Needy Families, Richmond Hill, Westchester Living Center, and the Central Committee of Veterans Org.).



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 Sunday, December 14th. Thank you for your continued support in this very special season of giving.