

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



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.

WHO ARE YOU?

Sounds like a stupid, dumb, at best simple question, right? Maybe yes, maybe no. We humans of the 21st Century often walk around like we have it all together. I guess most people do and many, more than we probably think so, struggle with who they really are and what the heck they're doing here in this *valley of tears*.

The religious figures of John the Baptist's time were not sure who he was, so they sent messengers to ask him (John 1:6-8, 19-28). Luckily, John knew who he was and who he was not. He was not ashamed of who he was, or ambitious to claim who he was not, and so, he proudly proclaimed the truth and his mission. He did so, in words as well as through his life.

The psychologist, Erik Erikson, coined the term 'identity crisis' long ago. It applies to our natural human development as well as to our spiritual development. In our world today, many Christians (indeed many of God's children) don't know who they are and why they are here. Advent is a period of soul searching. And Christ, the Light, can and will shine on us when we seek and ask His help. If you're having any problem in this area, it could make for a priceless Christmas blessing or gift from God. Ask Him. You might be surprised. Or maybe it's for someone else. A loved one.

STATE OF THE PARISH REPORT - OMISSIONS

Inadvertently, I left out our Trustees and Blood Drive efforts.

Trustees: Catherine Hickey and Aureo Pinto have served as our Parish Trustees for over three years. Trustees have a one-year term but can serve a second term. Aureo and Catherine served for an extra year and half due to the transition. We sincerely thank them for their service and dedication to the parish and pray that the Lord will continue to bless them and their loved ones. Their term will come to an end on December 31st. Our new Trustees will be announced in the coming days.

Blood Drive: Many thanks to Tony Sciacca who coordinates the Blood Drive. Although we don't seem to see it as part of our parish ministry, in many ways it really is, and should really be. We are proud of all our blood donors through the years. The gift of blood is a wonderful way to show Christian love and concern for others in need.

Tony reported that 106 donors turned up and 96 units, 82 Regular and 7 Double Red Cell were collected at our 2014 Thanksgiving Drive. Our July 4th Drive figures were 84 donors, 78 units, 60 Regular and 9 Double Red Cell.

I have heard that those of us from Africa can't donate. For starters, the malaria spells we've gone through in life provide enough of a scare. All you need to do is mention malaria and airport immigration and hospital staff will begin to panic. Next, they'll quarantine you. Yet, malaria is mostly like flu to many back home. Anyway, let's get back to blood drive.

Thanks to our parish high school students and parish volunteers who help during the drive. To everyone, please keep up the good work. I can hear Jesus saying proudly: *I needed blood and you donated yours to Me.* Amen.

Cub Scouts: We're also going to dialogue with the Cub Scout leaders on how best to collaborate more and in what areas. We thank our parishioners who are Cub Scout leaders – Joe Forlini, Nirsa Bianchi, Shawn Godfrey, Frank Hernandez, and Ed Carpenter. There are many ways we serve God, and dedicated service to kids through the Scout is an excellent one. Blessings upon you all and upon our young ones.

Have a blessed week!

~ Father Raphael Ezeh, MSP

PARISH NEWS



HOLY NAME SOCIETY

MEETING: This Monday, December 15th, the Holy Name Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the McManus Parish Center. All

men of the Parish are welcome.

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 this Tuesday, December 16th. Thank you for your continued support in this very special season of giving.



The **SANCTUARY LAMP** for this week is lit in honor of Sister Celia Harrington by St. Bart's Religious Education program.

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 candy, cookies, juices, and a few hams. These food items should be brought to the church before the Mass next Saturday evening (December 20th) or the Sunday morning Masses (December 21st).



CHILDREN'S MASS: Please make it a point to bring your



child to our Children's Mass for the remaining Sundays in December. 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 together during the Mass.

The **CANCER SUPPORT GROUP** will meet this Wednesday, December 17th, 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.

The **CATHOLIC WIDOWS & WIDOWERS OF YONKERS** will hold their next meeting this Thursday, December 18th, at 1 p.m. at St. Ann's Church, Father Anthony Hall, 31 College Place, Yonkers. For more Information, please call (914) 423-5331. **New members are welcome!**

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Wednesday, December 24 4:30 p.m. Carols/ Vigil Mass
Wednesday, December 24 11:30 p.m. Carols, followed by
Midnight Mass
Thursday, December 25 8:30, 10, and 11:30 a.m.
There will not be a 5 p.m. Mass on Christmas Day.



THE NATIVITY PLAY

Performed by some of our very own St. Bart's Parishioners

This Sunday, December 14th, at 3 p.m.
and

This Tuesday, December 16th, at 6:30 p.m.

OUR CHRISTMAS "WISH LIST"



As has become a tradition here at St. Bart's during this season of giving and sharing, I share with you the things that would enhance our sacred worship, devotion, and environs. Your generosity over the past years has made many improvements, especially here in the Church building.

We are in the throws of major improvements in the Rectory to take the barely usable basement and turn it into more functional, safe space. Also, in preparation for our expected, new Associate Pastor, the 3rd floor which has been damaged by leaks, needs work, too. Some of our parishioners have generously volunteered their expertise to undertake the needed improvements and work is under way. This year's Wish List reflects these pressing needs:

- 3 Christmas Wreaths** \$115 each
- Lectionary for Sunday Mass (used for readings)** \$100
- Advent & Christmas Candles** \$100
- Donations toward the Basement & Third Floor Renovations**

Thank you in advance for any help you can offer.

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 21st. 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.



TITHING - GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING
Last Weekend's Contribution Comparison

	12/8/13	12/7/14	Difference
Adults	\$6,827.95	\$6,605.05	-\$ 222.90
Children	\$ 132.20	\$ 176.25	+\$ 44.05
Total	\$6,960.15	\$6,781.30	-\$ 178.85

The collection in support of our buildings & grounds totaled **\$1,806.15.**

The collection on the Holy Day, the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, totaled **\$1,727.50.**

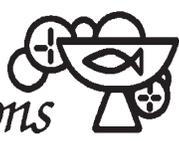


Please pray for all the sick & the homebound members of our Parish, especially Ethel Thomas, Aldina Pereira, Rebecca Conroy, Andy DeFabritis, Maria Marte, Rosalie Heit, Florence B. Swetz, Clare Yaskovic, Deacon James Byrnes, Andrea Objay, Carmen Torres, Frank Marra, Deacon Patrick Troy, Josephine Apuzzo, 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 Swiatkowitz, 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 Bruculeri, 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, and Louis Loscalzo.

CONGRATULATIONS to Angela Brusco who won our First Scratch-Off Raffle - 100 Five Dollar New York Lottery Scratch-Off Tickets. We hope they contained lots of winning tickets! Thank you to all who participated. Watch for our next Scratch-Off Raffle, coming early next year.



Andy Maniglia has provided CDs with seasonal music to be sold as a fund raiser for St. Bart's. The songs are sung by a variety of people including Stan Buoninfante, Andy himself and his daughter, Bianca. The songs include *All of Me*, *Let It Snow*, *Christmas at St. Bart's*, *A Merry Little Christmas*, and five others. The CDs cost \$10 each, and can be purchased after Sunday Masses or in the Parish Office during the week.

Mass  for the
Intentions Week

Third Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 13 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Anthony Joseph Fontanello, Sr. +

Sunday, December 14

8:30 AM Adolf Steffens +

10:00 AM Ethel Castagnozzi +

11:30 AM Frank & Carmela Legio +

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

Monday, December 15

Advent Weekday

7:00 AM Eileen Walpole +

9:00 AM Aristide Scipioni +

Tuesday, December 16

Advent Weekday

7:00 AM Reverend Hung-Khong +

9:00 AM Rose & Frank Bielak +

Wednesday, December 17

Late Advent Weekday

7:00 AM Anna Baumeister +

9:00 AM Silvia DiMarcello +

Thursday, December 18

Late Advent Weekday

7:00 AM Dilon Garvey (living)

9:00 AM Daniel Jordano +

Friday, December 19

Late Advent Weekday

7:00 AM Deceased Members of Bolduc & Savard Families

9:00 AM Lucas Vazquez +

Saturday, December 20

Late Advent Weekday

9:00 AM Mario & Marie Lerro +

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 20 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Peter Objay & Carmine Aprea +

Sunday, December 21

8:30 AM Robert Liddell +

10:00 AM For All the People of Our Parish

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

5:00 PM Ann Trancynger & John Ono W. Lennon +

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 this Monday, December 15th.

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.

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Despite what our Christmas Schedule says, the opportunities for Confession (Sacrament of Penance) before Christmas are:

- Monday, December 15th 4 - 8 p.m.*
- Saturday, December 20th 4 - 4:45 p.m.*

Throughout the Archdiocese of New York, Advent Reconciliation this Monday (December 15th), gives Catholics the opportunity to go to any parish for confession between the hours of 4 and 8 p.m. However, times for confession at some churches may vary.