

Saint Bartholomew's Church

15 Palmer Road
Yonkers • New York 10701
stbartschurch@aol.com
www.saintbartsparish.org
Visit us on facebook:
St. Bartholomew's Yonkers

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*A VOICE OF ONE CRYING OUT IN THE DESERT:
"PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD,
MAKE STRAIGHT HIS PATHS.
EVERY VALLEY SHALL BE FILLED
AND EVERY MOUNTAIN AND HILL SHALL BE MADE LOW."*

—LUKE 3:4-5

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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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 Ezech, MSP, Pastor
Rev. Victor Ameh, MSP, Associate Pastor
Karen Maccia McKenna, Parish Office Manager
Cheryl Duda, Religious Education Coordinator
Erika Podoprigora, Organist and Music Director

Rectory/Parish Office : (914) 965-0566
Religious Education Office: (914) 476-6676

Masses: 5:00 p.m. on Saturday (Vigil);
9:30, **11:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m. (Spanish Mass)** and 5 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 4:30 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.

Holy Name Society: Meets on the Monday evening after the second Sunday of the month. President, Joseph Chimenti

Rosary Altar Society: Meets on the Monday evening after the first Sunday of the month. President, Liz Mulvaney

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

Trustees: Thomas Hoffman, Tina Falcone

WHAT GETS IN THE WAY OF PREPARING FOR CHRIST?

It is the passage we hear in the first reading that Mark chooses in part to open his Gospel, which he calls "the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God" (Mark 1:1). This is telling. His goal in writing this account, the first of the Gospels to be written, is to establish that the man Jesus was, first, the Messiah (Christ in Greek), but more importantly, the Son of God. Therefore, it makes sense that he starts by quoting Isaiah and Malachi, identifying John the Baptist as the messenger who prepared the way for the Messiah. Immediately after this passage, Mark describes Jesus' baptism, during which God's voice is heard saying, "You are my beloved Son" (Mark 1:11). However, as Mark goes on to reveal, both assertions are rejected by most people and doubted by even His disciples. As His disciples now, we too can have our doubts.



Perhaps our task this Advent is to prepare our hearts for the Lord by removing those obstacles that can lead us to doubt. Perhaps the mountain that blocks our faith is a narcissism that wants to believe that we can do it alone. Perhaps the valley that needs to be filled in is a despair that makes us feel abandoned by God. Perhaps the rugged land is an overwhelming guilt that makes us feel unworthy of forgiveness. Perhaps making a straight path is as simple as opening our hearts to the possibility that God has an answer to all our doubts. Perhaps God's power, comfort, and forgiveness, proclaimed by both Isaiah and John, are just searching for a clear path into us.

John the Baptist baptized with water, precious to someone like John who had emerged from the desert. But ever since Jesus, the Holy Spirit has also come in baptism, bringing life and sustenance to our spiritual thirst. May we realize what a life-giving gift we have received in baptism. May we find in the Holy Spirit the power we need to overcome the obstacles that thwart our joy.

QUESTION OF THE WEE:

What is the most difficult obstacle I face in preparing a way for Christ to come into my heart anew this Christmas? How can I remove this obstacle?

Blessings

Fr. Raphael Ezeh, MSP

Christmas Wish List

You can purchase :

- (2) 36" wreaths (\$140 each)
- (2) 48" wreaths (\$150 each) and
- Pointsettia Arrangements (75 each)
- in memory of a loved one(s).



Please contact the Parish Office if you are interested.

The Advent Wreath was donated in loving memory of the Hoffman & Guarente Families.



PARISH NEWS

THE HOURS FOR THE PARISH OFFICE ARE AS FOLLOWS: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10 AM to 2 PM. The Parish Office will be closed on Tuesday and Thursday.



Rest in Peace

Please pray for the souls of all the faithful departed especially
Jeri Michele Sugrue, Marie Porcello & Joan Laredo Liddell.

Meals for a Soup Kitchen:

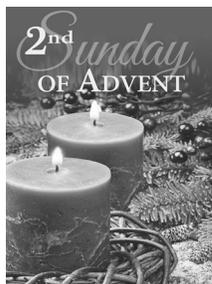
St. Joseph's monthly meal of either ziti or rice and beans **will be collected for December on THIS Saturday, December 9th one half hour before the 5 p. m. Mass and on Sunday December 10th, one half hour before the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Masses. Thank you for your generosity.**

Our **SOCIAL MINISTRY GROUP** 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 are: hams, desserts, and fresh baked goods. These food items should be brought to the church before the 5 pm Mass on Saturday evening (December 16th) or before the 9:30 and 11 am Sunday Masses (December 17th) for distribution on Monday, December 18th.



SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT PRAYER

"O holy, patient, and loving God, in this season of grace-filled longing, we await the coming of Your Son and our



Savior. It is difficult for us to remember that this is a holy time. There are many distractions: commitments seem to pile up, and expectations are high. In the midst of our busy world, our busy lives, we need Your help to remind us of what is important and necessary. While many of those things that we do not need will come to us in packages gleaming and bright, the one gift that will last comes

from You alone, gracious God, as we grow in our awareness of Your love. Bless us, our family and friends, and the food and the company that we share. Increase in us a growing urgency to celebrate the birth of Your Son, in whose name we pray. Amen."

THE GIVING TREE

Please note that the "Giving Tree" is up. Pick an ornament off the tree and return the gift to the back of the church no later than Monday, December 18th. Every gift goes to someone in need. St. Bart's donates to:



Elizabeth Seton Children's Center, Richmond Center, Immaculate Conception in the Bronx and Westchester Assisted Living. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

NOTE: Please note for Elizabeth Seton Children's Center (yellow tags), gifts must be placed in a gift bag and not wrapped.

SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S DAY

CHRISTMAS EVE:

Saturday, December 24th

VIGIL AT 4 P.M. (not 5 p.m.)

Begins with Carols at 3:30 p.m.

MIDNIGHT MASS

Begins with Carols at 11:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY:

Sunday, December 25th

9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. & 12:30 (Spanish Mass)
(There will be no 5:00 p.m. Mass on Christmas day)

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

NEW YEAR'S MASSES:

Saturday, December 31st

5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

Sunday, January 1st

11:00 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. (Spanish Mass)
(There will be no 5:00 p.m. Mass on New Year's day)

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS Jubilation to Share

Sometimes you have something to share with people that causes you to well up inside with excitement to the point of going crazy. A pregnancy test, a pay raise, a college acceptance, a wedding or engagement are all examples of moments in life when we might be bursting at the seams to tell somebody the good news. When we finally get the chance to tell somebody, joy just seems to flow through us with ease. We literally want the entire world to share in our jubilation.

When was the last time you shared with a friend or loved one how much your faith in Jesus means to you? You don't feel the same motivation to share? Are you not overwhelmed with a desire to spread the Good News?

Don't feel bad. You are not alone. As Christians, we often fail to grasp the powerful implications of being a disciple of Jesus Christ. We can become complacent and lose sight of what matters the most. That is when sharing with others about our faith seems uncomfortable.

Faith is a gift. As everyday stewards we are called to share with others what God has given us. Advent is a great time to grow in our faith and love of the Lord. The more we cultivate our faith and the closer we draw to Him, the more we will want to share about Him. We might not have the impact of John the Baptist in the course of human history, but our proclamation of the Gospel to another might be the gift that changes their history.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS LPI

STEWARDSHIP

What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits to me?

TITHING - GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

SUNDAY COLLECTION

November 26th

Sunday collection: \$4,790.00
On Line giving: \$1,100.00
Total: \$5,890.00

IT'S EASY TO SIGN UP FOR ONLINE GIVING EASY LINK FROM THE PARISH WEBSITE

You can set up separate one time or recurring donations for the different collections (regular weekly, snow removal, Christmas, etc.) or you may wish to begin with the regular collections, try it out and when you are comfortable, you can sign up for the others. **Also, know if you set up for recurring donations, you are in full control and can always change or cancel at any time.** And by donating in this manner you may get the added benefit of accumulating additional points or cash on your credit card while at the same time helping out the parish. So, give it a try and sign up today!!!! **IT'S EASY!!!** Go to: www.saintbartsparish.org (**BE SURE TO SPELL OUT SAINT**) and click on the We Share online giving link. Follow the instructions. (WE SHARE HAS REPLACED PARISH PAY). If you have any questions or problems, contact the Parish Office and leave a message or e mail us at stbartschurch@aol.com.



LORD
give strength
to your people

Please pray for all the sick & the homebound members of our Parish, especially Ann Lackner, Gail Chappory, Anna Bonacci, Gina Obalde, Ron and Sally Petro, Angela Lutomski, Richard (Dick) Novak, Manuel Obalde, Jr., Anthony Spinner, Steven Sarich, John McKenna, Antony Gorge Ferreira, Eileen Fitzpatrick, Ann Pezzola, Edith Kelly, Carole Romanowski, Susan Rivera, Kenneth Chappory, Ann McShane, Ellen Chimenti, Gianna Whitehead, Dan Panik, Dominick Francis Marra, Edward Minozzi, Robert Minnucci, Lucia Sevivas, Josephine Giabattista, Loni Shost, Ken Shost, Emil Kurak, John & Patricia Quirk, Lucille McGeough, Baby Joseph Anthony Coddington, Tony Sciacca, Megan Weingarten, Richard Gritta, Luz Maria Izurieta, Joan Manno, Ana Herrera, Edna McShane, Faust Venturino, Patricia Nieman, Richard Romanowski, Salvador Aviles, Judy Hanrahan, John Smith, Theresa Liuzzi, Barbara Olivieri, Michael & Joseph Diaz (twin babies) and Patricia Mahoney.

The Parish Office and leave a message or e mail us at stbartschurch@aol.com, if you wish to add a loved one to the sick list.

CWWY CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Catholic Widows and Widowers of Yonkers will hold their Annual Christmas Luncheon at **Tombolino's Ristorante**, 356 Kimball Ave, Yonkers, on **Thursday, Dec 21st, at 1:00pm**. \$30 cash per person payable at the luncheon. Members and guests are welcome. For required reservations/information, please call 914 423-5331.

December 10, 2023

Mass  for the
Intentions Week

Saturday, December 9 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Paul Romero +

**Sunday, December 10
Second Sunday of Advent**

9:30 AM Deceased Members of the Rosary Altar &
Holy Name Societies

11:00 AM Benjamin & Corazon Sotto +

12:30 PM For All The People Of Our Parish

5:00 PM For All The People Of Our Parish

Monday, December 11

Advent Weekday

7:00 AM Grace Hicks (Living)

9:00 AM Joan Millington+

Tuesday, December 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe

7:00 AM Gloria Bassey +

9:00 AM Helen & Pete Pietrowski +

Weekday, December 13

Saint Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

7:00 AM Leticia Serano +

9:00 AM Theresa Venturino +

Thursday, December 14

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

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Daniel Pezzola +

Friday, December 15

Advent Weekday

7:00 AM Roger Hicks (Living)

9:00 AM Alberta Blasewitz & Joan Magratten +

Saturday, December 16

Advent Weekday

9:00 AM Malachi Martin +

Saturday, December 16 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Andrew Tacyn +

**Sunday, December 17
Third Sunday of Advent**

9:30 AM Elizabeth & Carl Laredo +

11:00 AM Steven Fitzpatrick +

12:30 PM For All The People Of Our Parish

5:00 PM Agnes Uduebo (Living)

December 10, 2023

Our warmest welcome to our visitors! We are glad you came to celebrate the Eucharist with us today. We thank God for you!

Do not hesitate to let us know how we may serve you.



Every family and single adult to be considered an active parishioner of St. Bartholomew's Parish must be properly

registered in the Parish, receiving and regularly using the Parish Weekly Collection Envelopes. Only in this way can the Pastor

issue documents attesting to Catholic practice of the faith and Parish membership, e.g. a letter to be a Godparent or Sponsor. For further information call the Parish Office at (914) 965-0566.

If you have not registered or need to correct some of the information in our file, please fill out this form and check (X) the appropriate box below, or you may also use the Registration Form found on the table at the rear of the Church; and drop the completed form into the collection basket or drop off/mail it to the Parish Office. Thank you!

Name:

Address:

City/Zip:

Telephone:

Comment:

- I am interested in parish membership.
- I am a visitor.
- Change of Address / Telephone Number.
- I am moving out of the Parish.
- I am going to the hospital.
- I would like to be visited by a priest / minister.
- Please send me the Catholic New York.

WE ALL NEED A LITTLE HUMOR

