

# St. Bartholomew's Church



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15 Palmer Road  
Yonkers • New York 10701

[www.saintbartsparish.org](http://www.saintbartsparish.org)  
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St. Bartholomew's Yonkers

Rev. Raphael Ezeh, MSP, *Pastor*  
Rev. Anthony Mbanefo, 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.

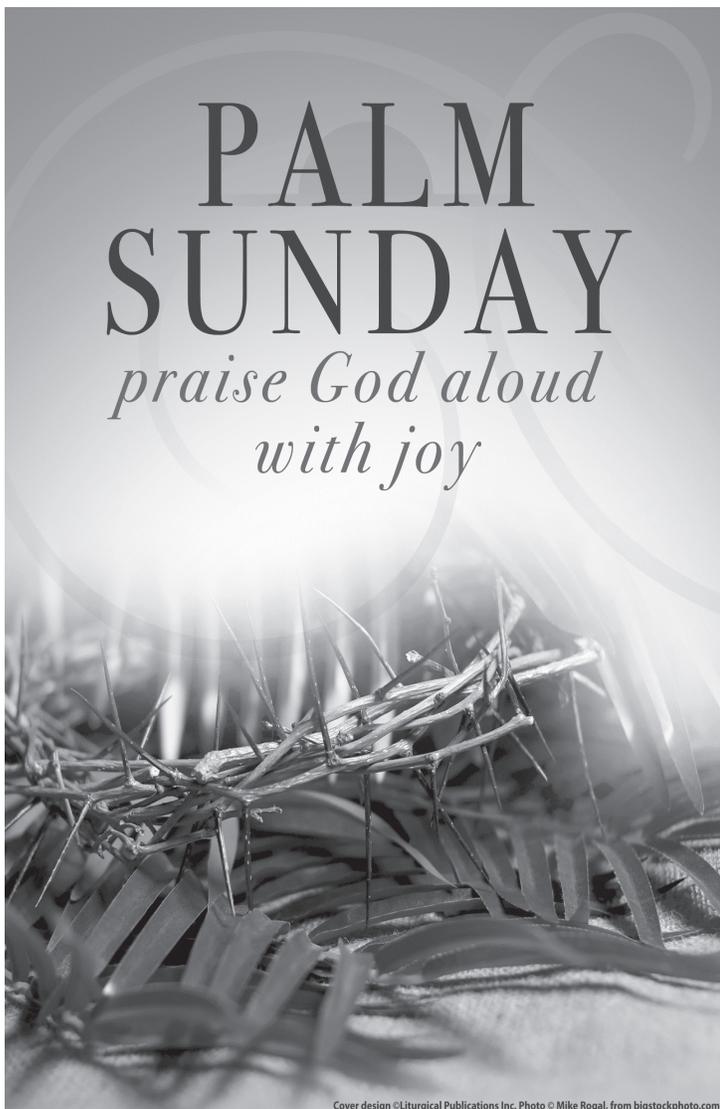
*Parish Council:* Meets on the Monday evening after the third Sunday of the month.

*Holy Name Society:* Meets on the Monday evening after the second Sunday of the month. President, Anthony Martelli

*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:* Angela Brusco, Louis Caloia



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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.



I grew up singing the hymn below every Lenten Season, especially during the Stations of the Cross on Fridays of Lent. I invite you to savor the words.

### GOD OF MERCY AND COMPASSION

*God of mercy and compassion, Look with pity upon me;  
Father, let me call thee Father,  
'Tis thy child returns to thee.*

#### Chorus:

*Jesus Lord, I ask for mercy, Let me not implore in vain;  
All my sins I know detest them. Never will I sin again.*

*By my sins I have deserved death, Death and endless misery;  
Hell with all its pains and torments, And for all eternity.*

*By my sins I have abandoned, Right and claim to heaven above;  
Where the saints rejoice forever. In a boundless sea of love.*

*See our Savior, bleeding, dying; On the Cross of Calvary;  
To that cross my sins have nailed Him,  
Yet He bleeds and dies for me.*

This hymn brings tears to my eyes and melts my heart. The tune is perfect and fits the lyrics and the mood of the Lenten season, especially as we enter Holy Week.

Anyhow, I share it with you because it speaks of our God as God of Mercy and Compassion. Many of us, or at least many people, often ask or wonder why there is so much evil in the world. Atheists use this as a reason to reject the reality of the existence of God. Don't even get them riled up about the reality that the God we worship is a **loving** God.

Well, the answer to why there's so much evil and suffering in the world lies in our backyard – our rejection of God. This rejection is the root cause of human suffering – separation from the source of our happiness. Next is the fact that all of us have sinned. All of us are indeed accomplices in bringing evil, and the suffering that results from it, into our world, our society, our community, our family, and upon ourselves.

Anyway, as the saying goes, there's no need in crying over spilt milk, rather, our focus should be on how to deal with the reality of evil and suffering that have become thorns in our very flesh. The events of Holy Week give us the answer.

What do we mean when we tell atheists, battle wearied and besieged believers and ourselves that our God is God of compassion? *Compassion* means 'to suffer with'. This is the key answer to the question of how we are to deal with suffering.

On our own, we are simply powerless, and our loving God knows that more than we do. Knowing this and loving us as He does, He came among us in compassion. He came to share in our suffering- to suffer with us. Jesus took on our human condition by joining Himself into our humanity. Thus, at the same time he empowers us to share in his life!

What marvelous and tremendous good news! God did not shield Himself from the consequences of our sins and the resulting human suffering. He took it head on, so that you and I will live. And as if that is not enough, God turns his compassion into mercy! He opened up for us the door of grace and mercy that flow from His suffering, passion, death and resurrection.

I don't know about atheists and others, but as for me, I know and believe without the slightest doubt that our God, my God is a God of Mercy and Compassion. In Him, believers can and will conquer sin, suffering and finally death itself, and live forever, free, joyful and victorious in Christ. Amen. Amen.

Blessings and Peace! ~ Reverend Raphael Ezeh, MSP

## PARISH NEWS



**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:** The Parish Pastoral Council will meet this Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, at 7 p.m. in the school. All members are encouraged to attend this meeting.

The **ALTAR BREAD & WINE**, **ALTAR CANDLES**, and **SANCTUARY LAMP** for this week are donated in loving memory of Gloria Brusco Flanagan by Louis and Angela Brusco.



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** Good Friday, Stations will be at 2 p.m. (both indoor and outdoor, weather permitting) just prior to the 3 p.m. Good Friday Service.

**CHRISM MASS:** Mass of Chrism will be celebrated this **Tuesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>**, at 4 p.m. at St. Patrick's Cathedral. There are some seats still available. Please call the Parish office on Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup> if you are interested.



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*Religious Education classes will not be held this Tuesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Classes will resume on Tuesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>.*

### THE HOMEBOUND

St. Bartholomew's Parish wishes to show our love and care for our members who for reasons of health or infirmity cannot be with us as we gather for Mass each week. Our aim is for all parishioners who are homebound, permanently or temporarily, to be visited by a Priest and/or an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion on a regular basis.

Often we will hear of someone who is homebound and has not been receiving the Eucharist for a long time, although this individual may have been, during healthier times, a very devout Catholic. Often we will hear that the person didn't want to "bother anyone" or "put anyone out." Often these individuals become our "hidden Catholics" and we sometimes don't learn of them until years later when we celebrate their funeral liturgy.

We want our sick and homebound to know they are valued members of our parish and we want to bring Jesus to them. **However, we need your help.** These individuals are often hidden in our community and only a neighbor knows of their presence. Please help by personally contacting those homebound Catholics whom you know of and telling them of our availability and deep desire to bring the Eucharist to them. We are flexible and very willing to work around their personal needs and schedules. If you know of a homebound Catholic who would like to receive the Eucharist please contact Cheryl Duda at 476-6676 or the Rectory at 965-0566.

**ADOPTION OPPORTUNITY:** Children in China need homes. More boys available than girls from age two and up. Older parents and single women are welcomed. For more information call Barbara Salvesen on (845) 623-5277.

**PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD**



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

**WITH GRATITUDE TO OUR PALM DONORS**

Thank you very much for your generosity! The palms for this Palm Sunday have been donated by the following:

- ◆ Richard & Ellen Califano & Joyce Pietrowski in memory of Helen & Pete Pietrowski
- ◆ Richard & Ellen Califano & Joyce Pietrowski in memory of Reverend Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP
- ◆ Martha & Ed Cesaitis in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Cesaitis & Mr. & Mrs. Simon P. Lovett
- ◆ Angelina De Rosa in memory of Daniel De Rosa
- ◆ A friend in memory of Carrie D'Angelo.
- ◆ Janet Madonia in memory of Dennis Madonia
- ◆ Joanne Pragana in memory of Albert Pragana, Mary & Joseph Cuozzo, Lucille & Victor Serricchio, & Christine Bellino
- ◆ An Anonymous Donor

	3/15/15	3/13/16	Difference
Adults	\$6,125.50	\$5,540.05	- \$ 585.45
Children	\$ 148.75	\$ 173.45	+\$ 24.70
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,274.25</b>	<b>\$5,713.50</b>	- \$ 560.75

The second collection for Catholic Relief Services totaled **\$1,507.15**

**Thank you to all those who are participating in our tithing program! May God bless and reward your sacrifices! For those who are not yet tithing, I encourage you to please give it a prayerful thought. Thank you!**

In lieu of filling out envelopes weekly, please consider signing up for online giving at [www.parishpay.com](http://www.parishpay.com) or use the forms at the rear of the church. Thus far, we have 5 families that have signed up.

**Sweepstakes Social**  
*Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>*

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED BEFORE AND ON SWEEPS NIGHT**

Contact the Parish Office if you can help!!

**St. Bart's Angels Fundraiser Breakfast**  
*Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, after the 8:30 and 10 a.m. Masses*

Any money collected for this breakfast will go to the American Cancer Society. Please support this effort. Also those interested can partake in the Relay for Life Walk in June. More details to follow in the upcoming months.



Please pray for all the sick & the homebound members of our Parish, especially Marian Fletcher, Ann Lackner, Richard Meyers, Rosalie Heit, Andrea Objay, Margaret Maccia, Audrey Falcone, Louis Brusco, Charles Wighton, Michael Tomanelli, Ariella Castillo, Gail Chappory, Randolph Castillo, Jr., Deacon Pat Troy, Deacon Jim Byrne, Gregory Clemens, Florence McCormack, Mary Bryce, Anna Bonacci, Benjamin Pelliccio and William Flower.

**Other Local Events**

Capuchin Youth and Family ministries presents  
**Living Stations of the Cross**

Please join this powerful prayer service as teens bring the journey of Christ's Passion alive. The service also includes Eucharistic Adoration and will take place at Capuchin Youth & Family Ministries, 781 Route 9D, Garrison, NY, 10524 on Palm Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m., rain or shine.

**Please contact the Parish Office if you wish to add a loved one to the sick list.**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup>**  
**MCMANUS PARISH CENTER**



The **YOUTH GROUP** meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month. They will meet this Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup> immediately following the 5 p.m. Mass. All youths age 13 and up are invited.

St. Bartholomew's will be conducting its Annual Blood Drive the **Friday** after Easter. We run drives during holiday periods when the need for blood is great and donations are usually down. If you can donate, please call Tony Sciacca (423-3592) for an appointment; and please spread the word to your family and friends, too.



**Follow our Youth Group on Twitter @**

**Give Thanks - Give Blood !!!**

MARCH 20, 2016



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**Palm Sunday**

**Saturday, March 19 (Anticipated Mass)**

5:00 PM Ronald V. Romano, Sr. +

**Sunday, March 20**

8:30 AM Elizabeth & Carl Laredo +

10:00 AM Helen Clemens +

11:30 AM For All the People of Our Parish

5:00 PM Mr. & Mrs. Kelly (Living)

**Monday, March 21**

**Monday of Holy Week**

7:00 AM Deceased Members of Salerno & Del Bene families

9:00 AM Elvera & Anthony Faranda +

**Tuesday, March 22**

**Tuesday of Holy Week**

7:00 AM Joe Forlini +

9:00 AM Alice Jacob +

**Wednesday, March 23**

**Wednesday of Holy Week**

7:00 AM Concetta Darretta +

9:00 AM Gloria Brusco Flanagan +

**Thursday, March 24**

**Thursday of Holy Week—Holy Thursday**

7:30 PM For All the People of Our Parish

**Friday, March 25**

**Friday of the Passion of The Lord—Good Friday**

2:00 PM Stations of the Cross

3:00 PM Service—No Mass

7:30 PM Service—No Mass

**Saturday March 26**

**Holy Saturday—Easter Vigil**

8:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

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**Sunday, March 27**

**Easter Sunday of the Resurrection  
of the Lord**

8:30 AM Deceased Members of Brusco & Nanoia families

10:00 AM Deceased Members of Lucchetti & Capuano families

11:30 AM Rose, Leo & Gloria Savona +

