

Saint Bartholomew's Church

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www.saintbartsparish.org
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They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2: 10-11

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

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. 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: Sam Farraj, Anna Legio

PAY HOMAGE TO THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Light is a common thread running through today's readings. In Isaiah, Jerusalem becomes a beacon to the rest of the world: "Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance" (Isaiah 60:3). For the writer of Ephesians, that light comes as a revelation, that all believers are "members of the same body and copartners in the promise of Christ Jesus through the Gospel" (Ephesians 3:6). And in the Gospel, of course, we have the star. The star has marked the location of Jesus' birth; the star that indicated the birth of a new ruler. The star led these wise men from afar to the little child in the manger.

Isaiah tells of caravans coming from across the desert bearing gold and frankincense. Gold was appropriate for a king, a precious metal used for jewelry and ornamentation. Frankincense was burned as incense or perfume, often used by those offering prayers to God. To these two gifts, the magi add myrrh, an oil used for anointing, particularly for burial. It foreshadows the Passion, for Jesus is not only king and high priest, but also a sacrificial victim, anointed with myrrh when buried in the tomb.

When seeing Jesus for the first time, the magi "prostrated themselves and did him homage" and "offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh" (Matthew 2:11). Nowhere in Matthew's account do we see them offering homage or bringing gifts to King Herod. They recognized the difference between the temporal king and the eternal king, between the one worthy of reverence and the one unworthy of the honor.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

To whom shall I pay homage: Are they worth of my respect?



PARISH NEWS

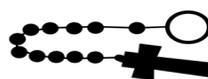
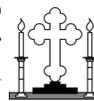


Rest in Peace

Please pray for the souls of all the faithful departed especially Nancy Melillo.



THE ALTAR BREAD AND WINE AND SANCTUARY LAMP for the week of December 30th and the week of January 6th are donated in loving memory of Frank Nanoia by Lou and Angela Brusco.



The Rosary Altar Society will meet this Monday, January 7th at 7 p.m. in the school building. All ladies of the Parish are welcome to attend.

Religious education classes resume on this Tuesday, January 8th.



CHILDREN'S MASS: Please make it a point to bring your child to our Children's Mass next Sunday, January 6th at 10 a.m. and the rest of the Sunday's in January. The 10 a.m. Mass will focus on our children. The Parish Children's Choir will sing at this Mass. The children are encouraged to sit with other children at a designated place during the Mass.

The Rite of Christian Initiation (popularly known as RCIA) is the process designed by the Church for adults to receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion. Please contact Cheryl Duda at 914-476-6676 if you or somebody you know might be interested in the program.



Our warmest welcome to our visitors. We are glad you came to celebrate the Eucharist with us today. If you are looking for a "Church" home," please consider our faith community. Speak with any of our hospitality ministers after Mass or contact the parish office at 914 965-0566.

And our course welcome to each and every parishioner. Thank you so much for all you do for St. Bart's all year round. We remember especially our Sick and Homebound; you are always in our thoughts and prayers. May the Lord grant you healing and peace.

2019 MASS BOOK

The 2019 Mass Book is open with dates available. Consider giving a loved one or someone (living or deceased) who has a special place in our life, the graces associated with having a Mass offered on their behalf. You may have a thanksgiving Mass offered for your loved one or yourself on such occasions as birthday's, wedding anniversaries, etc. Also you may consider offering the Altar Flowers (\$100; or \$125 for roses), Altar Bread and Wine (\$30), Altar Candles (\$10) or the Sanctuary Lamp (\$10) for your intention. Come to the Parish Office from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



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!!!! Go to: www.saintbartparish.org and click on the **We Share online giving link**. (WE SHARE HAS REPLACED PARISH PAY).



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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.

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.

Our **YOUTH GROUP** meets on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of each month immediately following the 5 p.m. Mass in the school building. Their next meeting is **next** Sunday, January 6th. **Follow our Youth Group on Twitter @ St_Barts-Youth.**



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Our newly formed **EDGE GROUP (AGES 11-13)** meets the second Sunday of each month immediately following the 5 p.m. Mass in the school building.

Our **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY (AGES 4-10)** meets the third Friday each month at 6:30 p.m. in the school building.



**TITHING - GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING
Sunday Collection Update**

Amount Needed Weekly	\$7,000.00
Actual Received Last Sunday	\$5,509.15
Balance	- \$1,490.85
*(Envelopes \$5,068.15, Online \$441.00)	

Amount Needed for Month of December	\$35,000.00
Amount Collected Thus Far	\$29,764.25

The collection for Christmas will be announced in next week's bulletin.

"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!

It's time to sign up for on line giving with We Share. Please contact the parish office or fill out the cards at the rear of the Church.



Please pray for all the sick & the homebound members of our Parish, especially Marian Fletcher, Ann Lackner, Audrey Falcone, Louis Brusco, Gail Chappory, Anna Bonacci, Deacon Bob Clemens, Mary De Santis, Gina Obalde, Ron and Sally Petro, Theresa Venturino, Angela Lutomski, Richard (Dick) Novak, Larry Vandak, Harold Sullivan, Clare Yaskovic, Manuel Obalde, Jr., Anthony Spinner, and Edison Blanco.

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

**Arise, shine, for the Light of the World has come!
Darkness covers the earth and its people,
but the radiance of God's Light**



burns away its shadows, illuminates the smallest corner, and heralds in the start of a new dawn, where hearts no longer fear, souls might be set free, and sister shall

**follow brother,
nation shall follow nation, and kings and princes bow down in awe before the one who comes to reign.
Arise, shine, for the Light of the World has come!
Alleluia!**

January 6, 2019

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, January 5 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Joseph & Lucy Laudadio +

**Sunday, January 6, 2018
The Epiphany of the Lord**

8:30 AM Caroline Klee +
10:00 AM Dennis Madonia +
11:30 AM For All the People of the Parish
5:00 PM Maria de Carmen Vazquez & Julio Blanco +

Monday, January 7

Christmas Weekday

7:00 AM Carmela Maria Guerney +
9:00 AM Yanny & Francesco Orozco (Living)

Tuesday, January 8

Christmas Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention
9:00 AM Joseph Mahoney +

Wednesday, January 9

Christmas Weekday

7 00AM No Intention
9:00 AM Joseph Mahoney +

Thursday, January 10

Christmas Weekday

7 00AM No Intention
9:00 AM Joseph & Anna Chesmar +

Friday, January 11

Christmas Weekday

7 00AM No Intention
9:00 AM Francis Sr. & Francis Jr. Yaskovic +

Saturday, January 12

Christmas Weekday

9:00 AM Marie Porcello +

Saturday, January 12(Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Clement Giuriceo +

**Sunday, January 13, 2018
The Baptism of the Lord**

8:30 AM Dec. Mem. Of Holy Name Society & Rosary Altar Society
10:00 AM Arlene Tiplady +
11:30 AM For All the People of the Parish
5:00 PM Marialys Vega +

January 6, 2019

A PRAYER TO KEEP GOD FIRST THIS YEAR

Dear God, Thank you that you make all things new. Thank you for all that you've allowed into our lives this past year, the good along with the hard things, which have reminded us how much we need You and rely on Your presence filling us every single day.



We pray for Your Spirit to lead us each step of this New Year. We ask that You will guide our decisions and turn our hearts to deeply desire You above all else. We ask that You will open doors needing to be opened and close the ones needing to be shut tight. We ask that You help

us release our grip on the things to which You've said "no," "not yet," or "wait." We ask for help to pursue You first, above every dream and desire You've put within our hearts.

We ask for Your wisdom, for Your strength and power to be constantly present within us. We pray You make us strong and courageous for the road ahead. Give us ability beyond what we feel able, let Your gifts flow freely through us, so that You may be honored by our lives, and others will be drawn to You.

We pray that You keep us far from the snares and traps of temptations. That You whisper in our ear when we need to run, and whisper in our heart when we need to stand our ground.

We pray for Your protection over our families and friends. We ask for Your hand to cover us and keep us distanced from the evil intent of the enemy; that You be a barrier to surround us, that we be safe in Your hands. We pray that You give us discernment and insight beyond our years, to understand Your will, hear Your voice, and know Your ways.

We ask that You keep our footsteps firm, on solid ground, helping us to be consistent and faithful. Give us supernatural endurance to stay the course, not swerving to the right or to the left, or being too easily distracted by other things that would seek to call us away from a close walk with You.

Forgive us for the times we have worked so hard to be self-sufficient, forgetting our need for You, living independent of Your spirit. Forgive us for letting fear and worry control our minds, and for allowing pride and selfishness wreak havoc over our lives. Forgive us for not following Your ways and for living distant from Your presence.

We confess our need for You...fresh...new...again. We ask that You make all things new, in our hearts, in our minds, in our lives, for this coming year. We pray for Your refreshing over us.

Keep Your words of truth planted firm within us, help us to keep focused on what is pure and right, give us the power to be obedient to Your word. And when the enemy reminds us where we have been, hissing his lies and attacking our way, we trust that Your voice speaks louder and stronger, as You remind us we are safe with You and Your purposes and plans will not fail. We ask that You be our defense and rear guard, keeping our way clear, removing the obstacles, and covering the pitfalls. Lord, lead us on Your level ground.

We ask that You provide for our needs, we ask for Your grace and favor. We pray for Your blessings to cover us, we pray that You help us to prosper and make every plan that You have birthed in our heart to succeed. We pray that others would take notice of Your goodness and cannot help but to say, "These are the ones that the Lord has blessed."

Help us to be known as great givers, help us to be generous and kind, help us to look to the needs of others and not be consumed by only our own.

May we be lovers of truth, may the fruits of Your spirit be evident in our lives - Your love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Shine Your light in us, through us, over us. May we make a difference in this world, for Your glory and purposes. Set Your way before us. May all Your plans succeed so we may reflect Your peace and hope to a world that so desperately needs Your presence and healing.

To You be glory and honor, in this New Year, and forever.

In Jesus' name, Amen.