

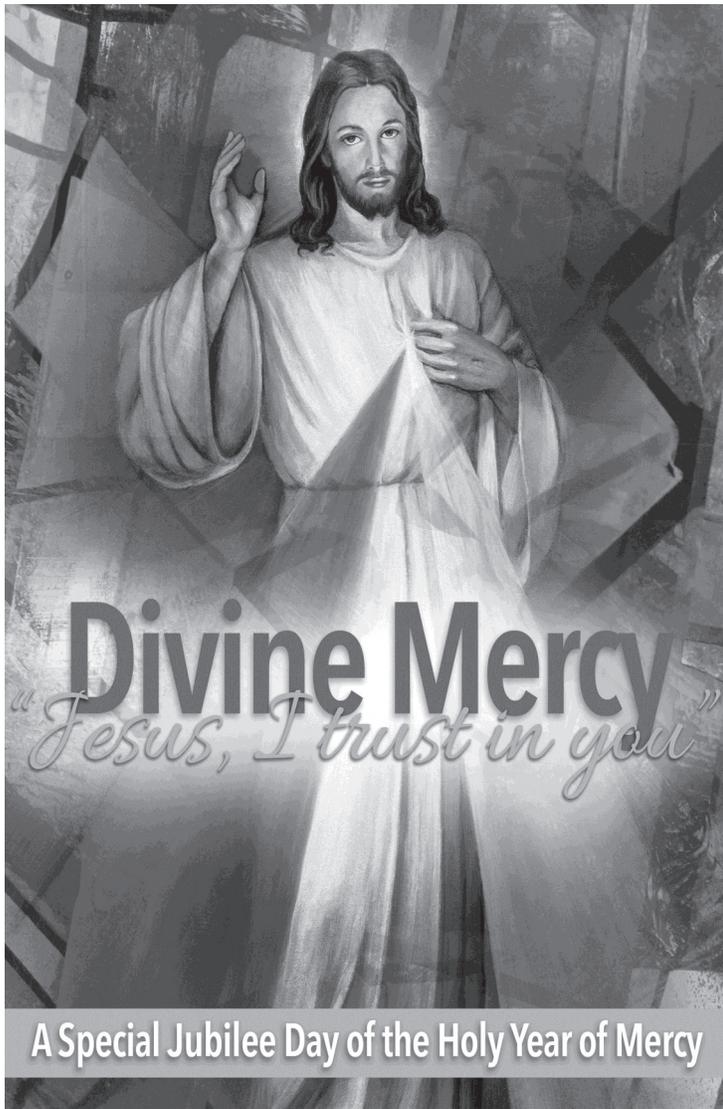
St. Bartholomew's Church



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15 Palmer Road
Yonkers • New York 10701

www.saintbartparish.org
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St. Bartholomew's Yonkers



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

OF MERCY AND PEACE

One of the touching stories from our 2016 mission was Fr. Charles' personal story about the nuns he worked with when he was in Yemen. Later I read the story in more details as told by one of the nuns, Sister Sally, who escaped after she hid in a refrigerator. According to her, after their prayers and Mass they went to work at the home where they serve elderly and disabled people. Terrorists from ISIS laid siege on the home, killing the guard, and five Ethiopian Christian men who ran to warn the sisters. After they shot them, they smashed their heads in. Four of the women who worked there pleaded and shouted, "Don't kill the sisters! Don't kill the sisters!" They too were murdered.

Sister Sally who escaped ran to the convent to warn the priest. Instead of escaping, he went back to the chapel to consume the consecrated hosts so that the terrorists would not defile them. He is still missing. And of course, the terrorists did destroy every religious item they saw – the empty tabernacle, altar, crucifix, image of our Blessed Mother, etc. May the soul of the four sisters and the 12 others slain in that horrible attack rest in peace. Amen.

On March 27th we woke up to yet another sad day, a story of attack on innocent and helpless Christians by Islamic extremists. This time around it happened in one of the cities in Pakistan. The suicide blast killed at least 65 people and injured more than 280, mostly women and children. One of the terrorist spokesmen said Christians were the target and more would follow in the region.

Here at home, our politicians are strategizing and explaining their plans of how to keep Americans safe. Almost every government in the world is doing just about the same. Yet many are increasingly feeling unsafe. It's as though the world is at war. Add the lesser but very destructive conflicts on our streets and in our homes and in our relationships and you realize how busy the devil has been and how busier he gets by the day.

But the Risen Christ tells us in today's gospel, "Peace be with you." Elsewhere He tells the frightened disciples, "I have told these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." In other words, He reminds us that He has overcome the Devil. Anyone who kills in God's name is really against God and is a tool in the hands of the crafty Devil.

As we continue our Year of Mercy celebration and as we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday, we must recognize once again, the connection between mercy and peace, at any level that we humans encounter conflicts. Yes, achieving mercy and peace between Islamic extremists and those they believe are their enemy, which is just about half the world might indeed seem far fetched but we must never lose hope or give up praying for this, for Our Risen Christ has conquered the world and the evil one.

On a more practical level, we must contribute to the overall peace in the world by working for peace, first of all within us. My inner peace will rub off on those around me and believe me, it goes a very long way. Next we must work on our relationships. Peace is within our reach! Christ has already given us the gift of His peace. And knowing how difficult it is to achieve peace and how fleeting it can be, He gives us a second gift, the Holy Spirit. Now we have all we need to achieve peace within us, around us, among us and in the world.

We just need to pledge to ourselves to do our part, through prayers and some tough choices and actions. Our efforts are never in vain, no matter how tiny they may seem. May the Lord bless our efforts to bring mercy and peace to our neighbors, to our troubled families, communities, nation and world. Amen.

Father Raphael Ezech, MSP

PARISH NEWS



The **ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY** meeting will be held this Monday, April 4th. All women of the Parish are invited.

The **ALTAR BREAD & WINE, ALTAR CANDLES,** and **SANCTUARY LAMP** for this week are donated in loving memory of Carol Swetz by Tom Swetz.



ADULT FAITH FORMATION - RCIA

Do you know a non-Catholic adult who wishes to explore the Catholic faith; or a Catholic who has never received First Communion or been Confirmed? We have a program tailored to these adults. Call Cheryl Duda on 476-6676.

FIRST COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Register **now** for next year's Religious Education program. Children in public school who will be entering First Grade through High School in September are eligible for these after school and evening classes. Besides grade level classes, instruction prepares children for Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation. Call Cheryl Duda (476-6676) for information.



CHILDREN'S MASS: Please make it a point to bring your child to pray with the Risen Christ at the Children's Mass for the rest of the Sundays in April. The 10 a.m. Mass will focus on our children. The children are encouraged to sit with their friends and classmates during the Mass.



CALLING ALL SENIOR! CALLING ALL SENIORS!

Join fellow seniors for a **Mass and Gathering Thursday, April 7th**



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

SHARING COMMUNITY MEAL: This Thursday, April 7th, we will be providing our Sharing Community Meal. Please bring your ziti or dessert to the Rectory. Doors will open at 6:45 a.m. The Sharing Community truly appreciates our efforts. For more information, please call the Parish Office.

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

**Follow our Youth Group on Twitter @
St_Barts_youth.**

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.

Sweepstakes Social

This coming Saturday, April 9th

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

You can donate goods up until April 8th.
Contact the Parish Office if you can help!!

St. Bart's Angels Fundraiser Breakfast

Sunday, April 17th, after the 8:30, 10 & 11:30 a.m. Masses

Any money collected for this breakfast will go to the American Cancer Society. Please call the Parish Office if you plan on attending. 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.



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

The Divine Mercy Novena began as a private devotion which Our Lord revealed to St. Maria Faustina Kowalska. The words of the prayers were dictated by Christ Himself to Saint Faustina, and Saint Faustina recorded them in her diary. These notebooks are known today as the *Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, and the words contained within are God's loving message of Divine Mercy.

You can visit the relics at:
St. Barnabas, in the Bronx on Friday April 8th

Schedule is as follows: 2:45 p.m.—welcome the relic; 3—4 p.m. Chaplet of the Divine Mercy; 4—6 p.m. Veneration and Confessions; Rosary—6 p.m.; Reflection—6:30 p.m. and Mass—7 p.m.

✠ **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

	3/29/15	3/27/16	Difference
Adults	\$5,985.00	\$6,435.60	+\$ 450.60
Children	\$ 171.00	\$ 204.90	+\$ 33.90
Total	\$6,156.00	\$6,640.50	+\$ 484.50

Last year's Easter Gifts totaled \$13,452.00
This Year's Easter Gifts totaled \$12,312.00

The Holy Thursday collection to aid the poor totaled \$1,387.25.

The Good Friday collection in support of the Holy Land totaled \$1,238.35.

**The second collection next week is for the
Archdiocese of the Military**

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 or use the forms at the rear of the church. Thus far, we have 5 families that have signed up.



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, William Flower, Efrain Arzola and Joan Oliver.

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

Experience Mass with Seminarians on Sunday, April 24th at Noon at St. Joseph's Seminary followed by brunch. Donation is \$17.00 per person which will assist the Seminarians with their expenses. Reservations can be made by April 10th. For more information please call 914 709-5090 or e mail Kofe3995@gmail.com. Donation can be made to Cardinal

APRIL 3, 2016

Mass  for the
Intentions Week

Second Sunday of Easter - Divine Mercy

Saturday, April 2 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Peter & Josephine Pisacreta +

Sunday, April 3

8:30 AM Deceased Members of Lucchetti & Capuano families

10:00 AM For All the People of Our Parish

11:30 AM Julieann Campisi Moroch +

5:00 PM Raymond Shannon, Jr. +

Monday, April 4

The Annunciation of the Lord

7:00 AM Victoria Chimenti (Living)

9:00 AM Antonio Marchetti+

Tuesday, April 5

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM Reverend Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP +

9:00 AM Rev. William B. Duggan +

Wednesday, April 6

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM Erasmo Rivera Aviles +

9:00 AM Barbara McCormack +

Thursday, April 7

Saint John Baptist de la Salle, Priest

7:00 AM Joseph Stroncek (Living)

9:00 AM Carol Swetz +

Friday, April 8

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM Reverend Anthony Fontanella +

9:00 AM Pasquale D'Alessio +

Saturday, April 9

Easter Weekday

9:00 AM Joseph Melillo +

Third Sunday of Easter

Saturday, April 9 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Anthony Giuriceo +

Sunday, April 10

8:30 AM Robert Liddell +

10:00 AM Antonio & Rosa Troia +

11:30 AM Gina & Ann Louise Coniglio +

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish



HOW TO PRAY THE DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

The Divine Mercy Chaplet is a relatively recent but very popular devotion revealed by Our Lord to St. Maria Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun. On Good Friday 1937, Christ appeared to Saint Faustina and asked her to recite this chaplet for nine days, starting on Good Friday and ending on the Octave of Easter (the Sunday after Easter Sunday), now known as Divine Mercy Sunday.

The chaplet is most often recited during those nine days, but it can be prayed at any time of the year, and Saint Maria Faustina recited it almost unceasingly. A standard rosary can be used to recite the chaplet. Here's how:

◆ Make the Sign of the Cross

◆ Pray the Opening Prayers

"You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us."

"O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in You!" (*three times*)

◆ Pray the Our Father

◆ Pray the Hail Mary

◆ Say the Apostles' Creed

◆ Pray the Prayer "Eternal Father" on the Our Father bead

"Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world. Amen."

◆ Pray the Prayer "For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion" Ten Times on the Hail Mary beads

"For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world."

◆ Repeat Steps 6 and 7

On each of the next four decades of the Chaplet, repeat steps 6 and 7 (pray the Eternal Father, followed by ten "For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion").

◆ Pray the Concluding Doxology Three Times after all five decades

"Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world." (*three times*)

◆ Pray the Closing Prayer

"Eternal God, in Whom mercy is endless, and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us, and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments, we might not despair, nor become despondent, but with great confidence, submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy Itself. Amen."

◆ End With the Sign of the Cross