

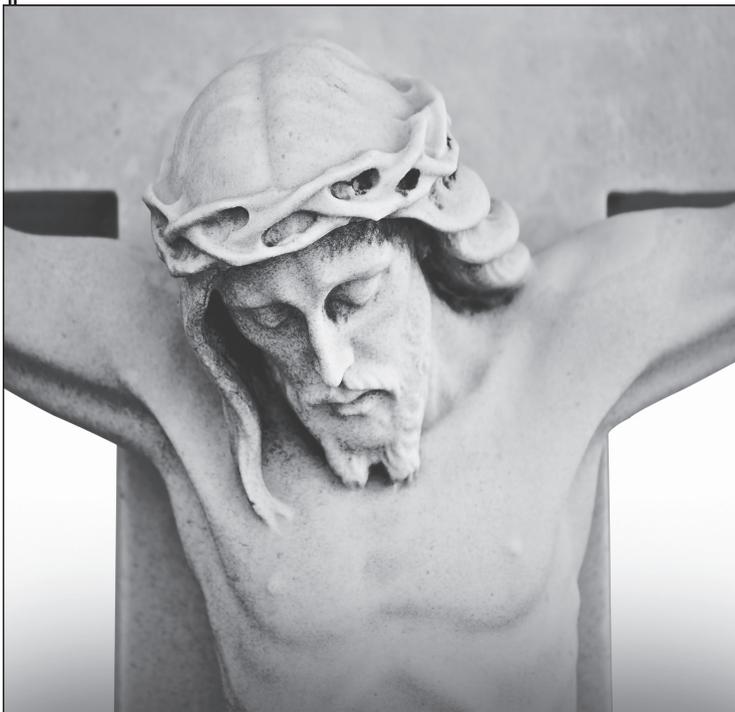
St. Bartholomew's Church



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our parish website.

15 Palmer Road
Yonkers • New York 10701

www.saintbartsparish.org



Second Sunday of LENT



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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 Ezeh, MSP, *Pastor*
Rev. Daniel Oghenerukevwe, 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. 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. President, Joan Liddell

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

Trustees: Catherine Hickey, Aureo Pinto

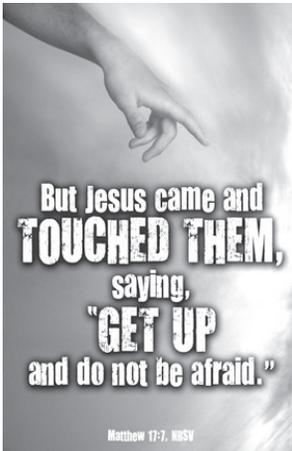
Pastor's COLUMN

SCRIPTURAL REFLECTION

THE FEAR FACTOR

Getting to know other people's culture, way of life, beliefs, etc. can be very informative and helpful in life. Growing up I was extremely afraid of ghosts, like most Nigerian kids. Adults are not exempt either. For instance, very few Nigerians would live near a cemetery, not even for free. I was shocked to observe that people live (comfortably) beside cemeteries here in the US. Of course, ghost stories are told here, too, though maybe less than back home. So, my question has been: why are many children and adults not afraid of ghosts here? It's not as though Nigerian ghosts are more wicked or dangerous than American ghosts. After all, I have never met anyone attacked or terrorized by a ghost.

So the recurring answer in my mind is the 'fear factor.' That must be the difference! And even worse is that it's a fear of something that does not match reality. I have never seen a ghost. Again, those who said they had seen one (or more) never said they were attacked or terrorized. Most of them didn't even show any sign of fear.



The devil uses fear to harass us and ultimately paralyze us. We might be pleasantly surprised that more often than we think, he makes us believe things that simply exist in our heads or are exaggerated out of proportions.

When Jesus walked on the waters, the disciples (like Nigerians) were terrified for they thought he was a ghost (Mark 6:45-52). In today's gospel, they are also afraid after His transfiguration (Mark 17:1-9). Jesus calms their fear and encourages them to not be afraid.

Oh, what we humans could achieve if not for the fear factor! Better still, what we Christians could achieve but for the fear factor! What greater things you and I could achieve if only we could let go of our fear of the unknown!

The call of Abraham in the first reading (Genesis 12:1-4) is a wonderful example of what God can achieve through us if we could let go of our fears, founded and unfounded!

May this Lenten season be a period of letting go of our fears so that God can use us for His greater glory. Amen.

Father Raphael Ezeh, MSP

PARISH NEWS



This Monday, March 17th, is the feast of St. Patrick, Patron of the Archdiocese of New York. The Rectory Office will be closed.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) will meet this Monday, March 17th, at 7:00 p.m. in the school. All members are encouraged to attend this meeting.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Every Friday evening during Lent, the devotion of the Stations of the Cross is held in the Church at 7 p.m. Families are encouraged to participate together. We will also have the Stations of the Cross at 2 p.m. on Good Friday, just prior to the 3 p.m. Good Friday Service.

CHILDREN'S MASS: Please make it a point to bring your child to our Children's Mass the next two Sundays in March. The 10 a.m. Mass will focus on our children. The Parish Children's Choir will sing at the Mass. The children are encouraged to sit with other children at a designated place during the Mass.



CHRISM MASS: Mass of Chrism will be celebrated this year on **Tuesday, April 15th**, at 4 p.m. at St. Patrick's Cathedral. Every parishioner is encouraged to attend this beautiful ceremony, where we celebrate with the Archbishop of our Archdiocese and witness our priests renew their vow to serve God's people with the humility of a good shepherd.

Please come support our own parish priests. To help plan an appropriate size bus, please call the Parish Office ASAP if you plan to attend.

THE 2015 MASS BOOK HAS OPENED

The Mass Book for 2015 opened on Ash Wednesday and there are still many dates open in this year's Mass Book, as well. Consider giving a loved one or someone (living or deceased) who has a special place in your life the graces associated with having a Mass offered on their behalf.



You may have a thanksgiving Mass offered for your loved ones or for yourself on such occasions as birthdays, wedding anniversaries, etc. Also, you may consider offering the altar flowers, altar bread and wine, altar candles, or sanctuary lamp for your intention. Come to the Parish Office, **Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.** to make arrangements or to inquire about the availability of a particular date.

Second Sunday of Lent

PARISH MISSION
Sun, March 23rd to Thurs, March 27th
At 7 p.m.
Rev. Jack Gaffney



Father Jack will direct our 2014 Parish Mission. He will preach at all the Sunday Masses that weekend. Each day of the Mission, Sunday through Thursday, will have a different topic. All parishioners are encouraged to take advantage of this Lenten opportunity. Please plan on joining Father Jack each evening at 7 p.m. Endeavor to invite along your friends and neighbors. Father Jack will also give a different short talk after the 9 a.m. Masses Monday through Thursday.

SAVE THE DATE

Ladies' Lenten Retreat - Saturday, April 5th
9 a.m. Mass to 2 p.m. Benediction
A Lenten Journey of Joy
By Sr. Eileen Burns, OSF

Sponsored by the Rosary Altar Society

Cost \$20, includes Breakfast & Lunch

For reservations, call Dolly DeRosa (914 969-6575)

LENTEN OPPORTUNITY

At 7:30 p.m., immediately following the Stations of the Cross on Friday, April 4th, the Mel Gibson movie, "The Passion of the Christ," will be shown in the McManus Parish Center.



It is one of the cinema's most powerful movie-going experiences, depicting the profound courage and sacrifice of the final twelve hours in the life of Jesus Christ.



Please pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed, especially Ronald P. Casali, Jr. and Rosalie Botcheller.

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 this Sunday, March 16th. 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.

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

	3/10/13	3/9/14	Difference
Adults	\$5,445.65	\$6,120.15	+\$ 674.50
Children	\$ 150.95	\$ 133.45	-\$ 17.50
Total	\$5,596.60	\$6,253.60	+\$ 657.00

The Ash Wednesday Collection totaled \$2,095.70.



Please pray for all the sick & the homebound members of our Parish, especially Ethel Thomas, Aldina Pereira, Rebecca Conroy, Andy DeFabritis, Maria Marte, Jule Yaskovic, Rosalie Heit, Florence B. Swetz, Clare Yaskovic, Neil Caruso, 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 Swiatkiewicz, Jimmy Maimone, Robert Mirsky, 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, Peggy Clevenberg, Gerald Mazzerese, Jr., Patricia Keane, Carol Stola, Amada Ortiz, Karen Aprea, Stephen Sarich, Neil Cawley, Barbara McCormack, Josephine Lehotyak, Lawrence Girsch, Fran Romano, Gail Villafana, Joe Forlini, Gertrude Woska, Michael Treacy, and Rosemarie Petti.

THE CARDINAL'S APPEAL—SHARING GOD'S GIFTS

Did you know, in the Archdiocese of NY ...

- ◆ Over 1,700 Masses are held each Sunday
- ◆ There were 24,921 Baptisms last year
- ◆ 94,949 children are currently enrolled in Religious Education programs
- ◆ There are 1,556 active and retired priests, 290 permanent deacons, and 370 parishes?

Your gift to the 2014 Appeal ensures we are in a position to continue providing support to those most in need throughout the Archdiocese. May God bless you for your generosity.

A RETREAT FOR YOUNG MARRIED COUPLES

April 4 - 6

Marianist Family Retreat Center, Cape May Point, NJ

For couples who are +/- 40 years old. Time includes small group sharing, Eucharist, special liturgies, beach walks, socials and fun! Cost is \$250 per couple. Sign up online at www.capemaymarianists.org or call 609 884-3829 for more info.

March 16, 2014

Mass  for the
Intentions Week

Second Sunday of Lent

Saturday, March 15 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Vincent J. Campisi +

Sunday, March 16

8:30 AM Michael Castagnozzi +

10:00 AM Donald Swetz +

11:30 AM Jane D'Angelo +

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

Monday, March 17

Lenten Weekday - Saint Patrick, Bishop

7:00 AM Kathleen Carmody +

9:00 AM Mary & John Esposito +

Tuesday, March 18

Lenten Weekday

7:00 AM Patricia Galik +

9:00 AM Stanis Buoninfante +

Wednesday, March 19

Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:00 AM John Downing +

9:00 AM Patricia Roth +

Thursday, March 20

Lenten Weekday

7:00 AM Nicola Lalli +

9:00 AM Margaret Riggs +

Friday, March 21

Lenten Weekday

7:00 AM Deceased Members of Bolduc & Savard Families

9:00 AM Darlene Levorsen Leone +

Saturday, March 22

Lenten Weekday

9:00 AM Donato Sacchetta +

Third Sunday of Lent

Saturday, March 22 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Frank & Carmela Legio +

Sunday, March 23

8:30 AM Leonore Erb +

10:00 AM For All the People of Our Parish

11:30 AM George Abraham, Jr. +

5:00 PM Juan Rosa & Magdaleno Vazquez +

March 16, 2014

**SAINT PATRICK,
BISHOP (415? ~ 493?)
MARCH 17**

Legends about Patrick abound; but truth is best served by our seeing two solid qualities in him: He was humble and he was courageous. The determination to accept suffering and success with equal indifference guided the life of God's instrument for winning most of Ireland for Christ.

Details of his life are uncertain. Current research places his dates of birth and death a little later than earlier accounts. Patrick may have been born in Dunbarton, Scotland, Cumberland, England, or in northern Wales. He called himself both a Roman and a Briton. At 16, he and a large number of his father's slaves and vassals were captured by Irish raiders and sold as slaves in Ireland. Forced to work as a shepherd, he suffered greatly from hunger and cold.

After six years, Patrick escaped, probably to France, and later returned to Britain at the age of twenty-two. His captivity had meant spiritual conversion. He may have studied at Lerins, off the French coast; he spent years at Auxerre, France, and was consecrated bishop at the age of forty-three. His great desire was to proclaim the Good News to the Irish.

In a dream vision it seemed "all the children of Ireland from their mothers' wombs were stretching out their hands" to him. He understood the vision to be a call to do mission work in pagan Ireland. Despite opposition from those who felt his education had been defective, he was sent to carry out the task. He went to the west and north, where the faith had never been preached, obtained the protection of local kings and made numerous converts.

Because of the island's pagan background, Patrick was emphatic in encouraging widows to remain chaste and young women to consecrate their virginity to Christ. He ordained many priests, divided the country into dioceses, held church councils, founded several monasteries and continually urged his people to greater holiness in Christ.

He suffered much opposition from pagan druids, and was criticized in both England and Ireland for the way he conducted his mission.

In a relatively short time the island had experienced deeply the Christian spirit, and was prepared to send out missionaries whose efforts were greatly responsible for Christianizing Europe.

Patrick was a man of action, with little inclination toward learning. He had a rocklike belief in his vocation, in the cause he had espoused.

One of the few certainly authentic writings is his *Confessio*, above all an act of homage to God for having called Patrick, unworthy sinner, to the apostolate.

There is hope rather than irony in the fact that his burial place is said to be in strife-torn Ulster, in County Down.

COMMENT: What distinguishes Patrick is the durability of his efforts. When one considers the state of Ireland when he began his mission work, the vast extent of his labors (all of Ireland) and how the seeds he planted continued to grow and flourish, one can only admire the kind of man Patrick must have been. The holiness of a person is known only by the fruits of his or her work.

From *Saint of the Day*, edited by Leonard Foley, O.F.M., & Pat McCloskey, O.F.M.