

St. Bartholomew's Church



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15 Palmer Road
Yonkers • New York 10701

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.

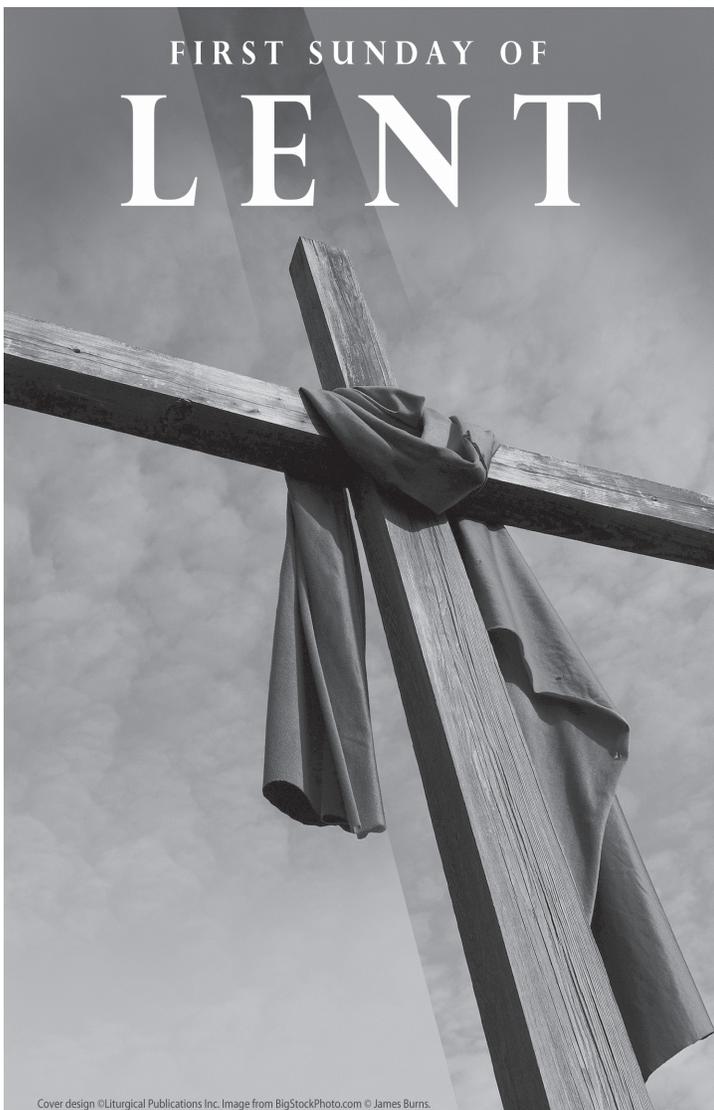
Parish Council: Meets on the Monday evening after the third Sunday of the month.

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.

SO, YOU THINK YOU'RE SPECIAL?



Number *Fours* think they're special! If that sounds familiar, then you know where it came from. If not, then welcome to Enneagram. Check it out and find out your own personality type. It's cute but take it with a grain of salt. Anyhow, we all feel special in certain ways. But then we also, most often, feel that there's nothing special about us. So, on the whole, not many of us think we're that special, let alone believe it. Right away I know this sounds unnecessarily twisted, ambiguous or ironical. I believe that shows how complicated we humans are. Luckily, there are a good number of our species who think and believe they are special. We should imitate them a lot – in a healthy way.

The good news is that we're actually special – each one of us. I mentioned last Sunday that God treasures you as though you're the only one He ever created; the same with me and with everyone else. Enter the Devil, the Father of all Lies. He tries to muddy the waters and convince us that there's nothing special about you and me. The same goes with God's love for you and me. Ever wonder why it's so difficult for us humans to really really convince ourselves and faithfully believe that God loves us? Again and again we hear people voice their doubt that God loves them. Even when we don't hear it from certain people, their actions and choices say it loud and clear.

I chose to point these realities out as we begin our Lenten journey because of many reasons. The first is because the Devil did the same to Jesus!

"Then he led Him to Jerusalem, made Him stand on the parapet of the temple, and said to Him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written'" (Luke 4:9-11).

That was the Devil himself tempting or taunting Jesus then. Three years later, he returned and tempted Jesus once more.

"The people stood by and watched; the rulers, meanwhile, sneered at Him and said, 'He saved others, let Him save himself if He is the chosen one, the Messiah of God.' Even the soldiers jeered at Him. As they approached to offer Him wine they called out, 'If you are King of the Jews, save Yourself.'" (Luke 23: 35-37).

A closer look at both readings shows how the Devil, directly and indirectly, tried to undermine Jesus' staunch belief in the fact that He is special and loved by the Father. Remember that the temptations of Jesus took place about 40 days after His baptism in the Jordan, right after the Father proudly announced to anyone who cared to listen, saying: *"You are my beloved Son; with Whom I am well pleased"* (Luke 3:9).

Now, does the Devil's antics sound familiar? Like Jesus, each of us is special to the Father and He does love each of us in very unique ways. Only God can do that with so much ease.

So, back to my question: Do you think you're special? And do you think you're loved? As Christians the answer should be in the affirmative without any iota of doubt. Sadly, the Devil still manages with extraordinary ease to convince us, or at least to sow reasonable or unreasonable degree of doubt in our minds and hearts. So, we end up looking for reasons to convince ourselves that the Father indeed loves us, or that we're indeed special.

As we begin our Lenten journey, may we know how special and loved we are, and may this knowledge help us to navigate the numerous temptations the Devil will place on our path during this holy season of grace and blessings. Amen.

~ Reverend Raphael Ezech, MSP



President's Day: This Monday, February 15th, is Presidents' Day, a legal holiday. The Rectory Office will be closed and there will be only one Mass at 9 a.m.

MEETING: This Monday, February 15th the Holy Name Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the school building. All men of the Parish are welcome.



The **ALTAR BREAD & WINE**, for this week has been donated in loving memory of Carmine Nicholas Maccia by Margaret Maccia and Karen Maccia McKenna

CHILDREN'S MASS: Please make it a point to bring your child to our Children's Mass for the month of February. 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 together 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. It is open to adults who: have never been baptized and would prepare for all three sacraments; were baptized in a non-Catholic Christian denomination and are interested in becoming Catholic and would prepare for Confirmation and First Communion; or were baptized Catholic but never received Confirmation and/or Communion and would prepare for the sacraments they have not yet received.



Please contact Cheryl Duda at 914-476-6676 if you or somebody you know might be interested in the program.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Every Friday evening during Lent, we have the devotion of the Stations of the Cross in the Church at 7 p.m. (On Good Friday, Stations will be at 2 p.m. just prior to the 3 p.m. Good Friday Service). It is a Lenten tradition. Families are encouraged to participate together in preparation for Easter.

Chrism Mass

The Chrism Mass will be on March 22nd at St. Patrick's Cathedral at 4 p.m. Please contact the rectory office if you are interested in attending this beautiful Mass. Details on transportation etc. will follow in the upcoming weeks.

OPENING OF THE 2017 MASS BOOK



The Mass Book for 2017 opened on Ash Wednesday, February 10th. There are also some 2016 Masses still available. You may come to the Rectory Office during the week from 8:30 to 4:30 to have Masses offered for yourself and for your loved ones, whether living or deceased.

The YOUTH GROUP meets on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month immediately following the 5 p.m. Mass in the school building. 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.

ST. BART'S UPCOMING EVENTS

Youth Week

This Sunday to Saturday, February 14th-20th

Parish Mission

Monday March 7th—Wednesday March 9th

Holy Name Pasta Night in memory of Vincent J. Campisi Saturday, March 12th

SWEEPSTAKES SOCIAL—SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2016

There will be a meeting at McManus Parish Center on Wednesday, February 17th for those who wish to be volunteers and offer assistance prior to and on the day of the social.

St. John the Baptist Card Party

St. John the Baptist Rosary Altar Society presents a "Night on Broadway" Card Party on Saturday, February 27th, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 per person. For more information, please call Robyne Liberatore at 914 325-6373.



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

Table with 4 columns: Category, 2/8/15, 2/7/16, Difference. Rows include Adults, Children, and Total.

The collection for buildings and grounds totaled \$790.10

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.



Please pray for all the sick & the homebound members of our Parish, especially Marian Fletcher, Ann Lackner, Clare Yaskovic, 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, and Florence McCormack.

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

CATHOLIC WIDOWS & WIDOWERS OF YONKERS will hold a meeting at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 18th in Father Anthony Hall, next to St. Ann's Big Church, 31 College Place, Yonkers. New Members are welcome. For more information, please call (914) 423-5331.

ADOPTION: Children in China need homes. More boys are available than girls from ages two & up. Older parents & single women are welcome. For more information, call Barbara Salvesen at 845 623-5277.

LIFE LINE SCREENING

will be here again this year at our McManus Parish Center on Friday, March 11th. They will be providing ultrasound screenings for stroke, vascular diseases, heart rhythm abnormalities, and osteoporosis risk. They have partnered with over 150 hospitals across the country and have screened over 7 million participants. Look for the insert in next week's bulletin.

FEBRUARY 14, 2016

Mass  *for the*
Intentions *Week*

First Sunday of Lent

Saturday, February 13 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

Sunday, February 14

8:30 AM Carmine Nicholas Maccia +

10:00 AM Frank & Carmela Legio +

11:30 AM Anna & Anthony Faracco +

5:00 PM Felix Vazquez & Jose Romero +

Monday, February 15

Lenten Weekday

9:00 AM Angela & Amedeo Lepore +

Tuesday, February 16

Lenten Weekday

7:00 AM Luigi Lucchetti +

9:00 AM Maria Luong +

Wednesday, February 17

Lenten Weekday

7:00 AM Carrie D'Angelo +

9:00 AM Bernard Mistal+

Thursday, February 18

Lenten Weekday

7:00 AM Carrie D'Angelo +

9:00 AM Deceased Members of DePole & Faranda families

Friday, February 19

Lenten Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention +

9:00 AM Quang Nguyen +

Saturday, February 20

Lenten Weekday

9:00 AM Mikhail Podolyak +

Second Sunday of Lent

Saturday, February 20 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Ralph Verderosa +

Sunday, February 21

8:30 AM Michael Castagnozzi & Mary Ann Karpinski +

10:00 AM Alice Jacob +

11:30 AM Andrea Henna +

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

FEBRUARY 14, 2016



CATHOLIC LENT PRAYER

*Almighty and Everlasting God, You have given the human race
Jesus Christ our Savior as a model of humility.
He fulfilled Your Will by becoming Man and giving His life on the Cross.
Help us to bear witness to You by following His example of suffering
And make us worthy to share in His Resurrection.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son. Amen.*

PARENTS' VALENTINE'S DAY BLESSING



*God of all love, You brought us together as man and woman
So that we might love each other
And show Your love to the world through the gift of the
child(ren) You have given us.*

*Help us to be loving and kind to one another each day of our lives.
Bless our child(ren) with Your love in our home and in every other place.
May Your love be shown to others, in our family and beyond the walls of
our home.*

*May all of us know the depth of Your enduring love and be strengthened
to share that same love
That comes from You and is spread throughout the world. Amen.*

A Special Thank You to St. Bart's from Richmond Center

January 25, 2016

St. Bartholomew's Church
15 Palmer Road
Yonkers, NY 10701

Dear St. Bartholomew's Church

I am writing this letter with great gratitude on behalf of Richmond of New York, for all of the contributions, hard work and planning made by the members of St. Bartholomew's Catholic Church, to the individuals receiving Medicaid Service Coordination from Richmond of New York.

The MSC's families are grateful for your parishioners generous donations to have a festive and enjoyable Christmas.

Thank you and many blessings,

Sincerely,

Elena Genao, Richmond of New York