

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

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.

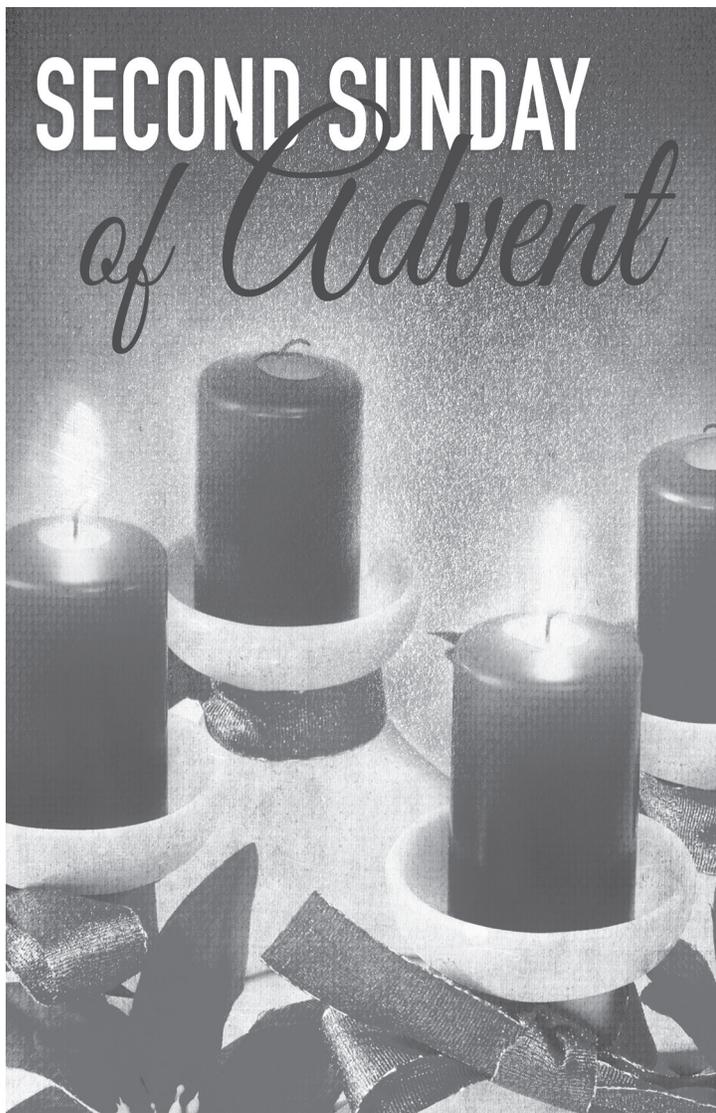
Parish Council: Meets on the Monday evening after the third Sunday of the month.

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



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.

Spiritual Heart Transplant



Medical science has made daring and marvelous progress over the years, some of them bordering on miraculous. I have always marveled at the fact that they could take out someone's organ, like the eye, kidney, or liver, work on it and put it back or even replace it. The one that leaves me speechless is how they are able to replace a heart. This week, I went to our beloved Google for a little layman's knowledge of this topic. I thought I should share it with you. We're often surrounded by miracles and yet we don't stop to soak it in and give God the ultimate glory.

A heart transplant is surgery to remove a **damaged or diseased** heart and replace it with a **healthy** donor heart. Finding a donor heart can be difficult. The heart must be donated by someone who is brain-dead but is still on life support. The donor heart must be matched as closely as possible to your tissue type to reduce the chance that your body will reject it. You are put into a deep sleep with general anesthesia, and a cut is made through the breastbone. (This answers my question last week – what they use to put you to sleep and to numb you so they can perform this surgery).

Your blood flows through a heart-lung bypass machine while the surgeon works on your heart. This machine does the work of your heart and lungs while they are stopped, and supplies your body with blood and oxygen.

Your **diseased heart** is removed and the donor heart is stitched in place. The heart-lung machine is then disconnected. Blood flows through the transplanted heart, which takes over supplying your body with blood and oxygen. Tubes are inserted to drain air, fluid, and blood out of the chest for several days, and to allow the lungs to fully re-expand.

Why is the Procedure Performed?

A heart transplant may be done to treat:

- Severe heart damage after a heart attack
- Severe heart failure, when medicines, other treatments, and surgery no longer help
- Severe heart defects that were present at birth and can't be fixed with surgery
- Life-threatening abnormal heartbeats or rhythms that do not respond to other treatments

(from medlineplus.gov)

I hope you're as awestruck as I was after reading this. Now, enough about the medical heart transplant.

The Gospel (Matthew 3:1-12) tells us that all Jerusalem, all of Judea and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to see John the Baptist. Many went out of curiosity and because they were bored at home and needed to get out of the house. Some of them heard him, repented and allowed God to heal and renew their hearts. Others, including the religious leaders, scribes and Pharisees, heard him but to them it made no difference, because they had hardened their hearts even before they left their homes. To them, they were saints walking among sinners. John's message must have hit them like a sack of stones. He told them that their case was more serious because their hearts were actually diseased. They'd need serious heart transplants. It wasn't because they were spiritually sick or because they had weaknesses (like everyone) but because they believed they were saints, contrary to the reality.

What about us? Do you need healing of heart or a spiritual heart transplant? No matter which one, if we commit ourselves and allow Doctor Jesus to work on us, we might wake up one day with a new heart and a new or renewed spirit. The Second week of Advent might be a good opportunity to say Yes to John the Baptist, to Peter and to Jesus.

Blessings and Peace.

-Fr. Raphael Ezeh. MSP

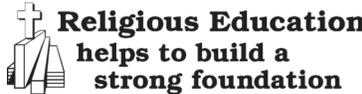
PARISH NEWS

Rest in Peace Please pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed, especially Kevin Waszicko, Esther Batista., Richard Gilbert and Francis Cassidy

The ALTAR BREAD & WINE for this week have been donated in loving memory of Reverend Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP by Theresa Di Rodio.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

It is not too late to register. Classes are available for children in 1st grade through High School senior year, including those with Special Education needs. Classes are available to prepare children of all ages for the sacraments of Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation, regardless of any lack of previous instruction. **All Catholic children attending public schools should enroll in a religious education program.** Please call (914 476-6676) for more information.



HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION: This Thursday, December 8th, we will celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is a Holy Day of Obligation for all Catholics. The Masses for the Holy Day are: December 7th Vigil Mass at 7:30 p.m., and Thursday, December 8th at 7 a.m., 9 a.m., 12 noon, and 7:00 p.m. **The Parish Office will be closed in observance of the Holy Day.**



OUR PARISH GIVING TREE

In keeping with the true spirit of Christmas, we have the opportunity to share our resources with several charities who serve the disadvantaged, both adults and children (Immaculate Conception's Needy Families, Richmond Hill, Westchester Living Center, and the Central Committee of Veterans Org.). Please take an ornament(s) from the tree in the back of the church. It is important that this ornament, indicating gender and gift specific information, be securely attached to your wrapped package. Please return all packages to the church by **Wednesday, December 14th**. Thank you for your continued support in this very special season of giving.



RE: 2016 CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

I sincerely thank you for your generous donations toward past Christmas wish lists. Our traditional Christmas wreaths and arrangements can be donated in memory of loved ones, **1 Christmas wreath left at \$115 and 7 Christmas arrangements at \$60 each.**

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Christmas Fundraiser/Fair at St. Bart's

Next Saturday, December 10th, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Toys, Jewelry, Shoes, Clothing, Home Furnishings, Electronics,
Custom Items and More

Coffee and Lunch will be available to purchase

VENDORS WELCOME

Call the Parish Office or register on line at
www.2016Christmasfair.eventbrite.com

Annual Christmas Luncheon

Saturday, December 17th McManus Parish Center
1 to 4 p.m.

All are welcome

Join us as we celebrate this holy season together.

The **Rosary Altar Society** will be selling "Keep Christ in Christmas" car magnets for \$5.00 over the next few weeks. Look for them and please support their efforts.

The **Knights of Columbus** will be selling "Keep Christ in Christmas" Lawn Signs" next weekend, December 10th and 11th. The cost of the signs are \$6.00. Please support their efforts.



We wish to thank all 74 donors that came to our Blood Drive on Friday, November 25th. We collected 75 units, 45 Regular and 15 Double Red Cell (ALYX). There were 4 deferrals and 9 new donors. 11 students and 6 parishioners helped as volunteers during the day.

To those who were not able to make it or unable to sign up, we wish you well and hope that if you are interested and able, to donate blood to Hudson Valley Blood Services at your convenience by calling 800-933-2566. If you wish, you may credit your donation to St. Bartholomew's Church by specifying Group #7747. St Bart's parishioners and friends do a great service for the community by donating at three critical times during the year, a day the week after Easter, a day near the 4th of July and the Friday after Thanksgiving. In 85 drives since 1981, St Bart's has collected 6,460 units of blood, which, on average, has saved over 19,000 lives! So, we look forward to our next drive, in April 2017, and hope that many of you are able to sign up. Ask your family and friends to sign up to.



LOCAL EVENTS

Xavier Society for the Blind

Mass in honor of St. Lucy at St. Patrick's Cathedral

Tuesday, December 13th at 6:30 p.m.

Please call 212 473-7800 for more information.

Help Needed

Volunteers are needed at Cabrini of Westchester in Dobbs Ferry. If you have a few hours to give to this rewarding experience, please contact Simone Smith (Director of Human Resources and Volunteers) at 914 693-6800, or Yvonne at extension 592.



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

	11/29/15	11/27/16	Difference
Adults	\$5,237.85	\$5,028.40	- \$ 209.45
,Children	\$ 180.65	\$ 118.00	- \$ 62.65
Total	\$5,418.50	\$5,146.40	- \$ 272.10

The Thanksgiving collection totaled \$1,838.00

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 contact the Parish Office. So far, we have 8 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 Jim Byrne, Gregory Clemens, Florence McCormack, Mary Bryce, Anna Bonacci, William Flower, Efrain Arzola, Henry Joseph, Deacon Bob Clemens, Carolyn Cesta, William Bodack, Joseph Mahoney, Mary De Santis, Leticia Agosto, Manuel Obalde, Jr., Rosalia Guzman, Ann McGarry, Florence B. Swetz, and Daniel Pezzola.

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

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.

Our **YOUTH GROUP** meets on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month immediately following the 5 p.m. Mass, in the school building. Their next meeting is this Sunday, December 4th. All youths age 13 and up are invited.

Follow our Youth Group on Twitter @ St_Barts_youth.

DECEMBER 4, 2016

Mass  *for the*
Intentions *Week*

Second Sunday of Advent
Saturday, December 3 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

Sunday, December 4

8:30 AM Elizabeth & Carl Laredo +
10:00 AM Joseph Prior +
11:30 AM Josephine Giuriceo +
5:00 PM Chris Amendola +

Monday, December 5

Advent Weekday

7:00 AM For All Souls +
9:00 AM Harold W. Smith, Jr. +

Tuesday, December 6

Advent Weekday

7:00 AM Harry Brewus +
9:00 AM Audrey Falcone (Living)

Wednesday, December 7

Saint Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

7:00 AM No Intention
9:00 AM Antonio Marchetti +
7:30 PM Otello & Emma Pozzi +

Thursday, December 8

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:00 AM Deceased Mem. of the Lucchetti & Capuano families
9:00 AM Raymond Shannon, Jr. +
12 Noon Tom & Kathleen Kearney +
7:00 PM Raffaella (Lina) De Feo +

Friday, December 9

Advent Weekday

7:00 AM Rita Bolduc +
9:00 AM Michael, Theresa & Ralph Ragusa +

Saturday, December 10

Advent Weekday

9:00 AM Benjamin & Corazon Sotto+

Third Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 10 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Lourdes Torres +

Sunday, December 11

8:30 AM Oscar Starkenberg +
10:00 AM Helen & Pete Pietrowski +
11:30 AM For All the People of Our Parish +
5:00 PM Helen Wirth +



ADVENT: A TIME OF PREPARATION

It can be difficult to prepare our lives for Christ
Amidst the busy preparations
Of a material Christmas.
The four weeks before Christmas
Are a time to prepare our families
To celebrate Christ' birth:
To prepare our minds to accept
That God's Son became a baby
And lived and died for us;
To prepare our hearts to accept God's forgiveness,
And to change our ways;
To prepare our souls to receive
God's healing grace through the celebration of Mass;
To take part in not only the work of preparation
But also the hope and joy in the midst of our work.

PRAYER FOR ADVENT

Dear God,
As an Advent candle is lit
In joyous anticipation of Your Son's nativity,
Remind us always of the reason for our joy.
As the purple of the candles stands for both penance
And atonement for sin,
Give us the grace to do penance for our wrongs,
And to love Christ,
Whose sacrifice atoned for the sins of the whole world.
But just as the rose candle stands
For joy in the midst of suffering and expectation,
Give us the joy of Your Son, Jesus Christ,
Who came into a world that had so longed for its Savior,
And made the angels themselves sing with joy at His birth.
Amen.

Prayer to the Immaculate Conception



Oh God who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed
Virgin Mary did prepare a worthy dwelling place
for your son, we beseech You that, as by the
forseen death of this, Your son, You did preserve
Her from all stain, so too You would permit us,
purified through Her intercession to come unto
You. Through the same Lord Jesus Christ, Your
Son who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy
Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen

A Prayer for the Help of the Blessed Virgin Mary

May we be assisted, we beseech Thee, O Lord, by the
worshipful intercession of Thy glorious Mother, the ever-Virgin
Mary; that we, who have been enriched by her perpetual
blessings, may be delivered from all dangers, and through her
loving kindness made to be one heart and mind: who lives and
reigns world without end. Amen.