

# First Eucharist

I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE. WHOEVER COMES TO ME WILL NEVER GO HUNGRY, AND WHOEVER BELIEVES IN ME WILL NEVER BE THIRSTY.

—JOHN 6:35



*Benjamin Adamczyk*  
*Sebastian Bienias*  
*Edward Cichon*  
*Mia Costanzo*  
*Natalia Costanzo*  
*Easton Jones*  
*Isabell Juras*  
*Jacob Peralta*  
*Jayden Peralta*  
*Sara Piorek*  
*Eleise Robbins*  
*Piotr Szewc*  
*Azrael Veras*  
*Milan Wasilewski*

*Church of St. Bernard of Clairvaux  
and St. Stanislaus Kostka*

*1235 George Street, Plainfield, New Jersey 07062  
(908) 756-3393*

*email: [office@bestchurch.net](mailto:office@bestchurch.net) ~ fax: (908) 756-3059  
May 5, 2024*

## CHOIR

We are fortunate enough to have a Parish Choir that has a full multi-lingual repertoire; English, Polish and Spanish. The Choir rehearses on Thursday at 7:00 PM. Instrumentalists are welcomed, either to play solo or with our choir. A parish orchestra made up of children and adults rehearses and performs several times during the year. If you are interested in joining or for more information or just to volunteer, contact the office at (908) 756-3393.

## PARISH REGISTRATION

New parishioners are most welcome and are encouraged to call the parish office and make an appointment to register. When you are moving from the parish, please notify the parish office.

## SPONSOR CERTIFICATES

Call the Office during regular hours.

## STEWARDSHIP AND TITHING

Stewardship calls us to freely give of our time, talent, and treasure for the good of our parish family and community. God gives us everything! I give Him back my tithes. Tithing is God's plan to support His Church. Full tithing means 10% of gross income to God – 5% for your parish church and 5 % for other charities.

## VOCATIONS

Those who are recognizing the call to the priesthood, diaconate, or the religious life are invited to speak to a priest or contact the Archdiocesan Vocations Office at 973-497-4365, or mail at [www.rcan.org/vocation/index.htm](http://www.rcan.org/vocation/index.htm)

## ST. BARTHOLOMEW ACADEMY

2032 Westfield Ave., Scotch Plains NJ  
908-322-4265 OR [www.STBACADE](http://www.STBACADE)



### **Saturday – May 4... Easter Weekday**

9:00AM...+ People of the Parish  
5:00PM...+ William Kruse, req. Mary Ellen Chanda

### **Sunday – May 5... Sixth Sunday of Easter**

9:00AM...+ Mary and April Mosley, req. Mosley Family  
**11:00AM...First Holy Communion - Polish**  
**1:00PM.....First Holy Communion - English**

### **Monday – May 6... Easter Weekday**

9:00AM... + Lucia Simeone, req. Angela DeCicco

### **Tuesday – May 7...Easter Weekday**

9:00AM...+ Flora Santoro,  
req. Pat, John and Erica Zimmerman

### **Wednesday – May 8... Easter Weekday**

9:00AM...+ People of the Parish

### **Thursday – May 9... Easter Weekday**

9:00AM.... Luigi and Angela Ragozzino, req. Antonia Riello

### **Friday – May 10...St. John of Avlia and St. Damian de Veuster**

9:00AM...+ Eulalia Duque Garcia, req. Alba Ledy Cuartas

### **Saturday – May 11... Easter Weekday**

9:00AM... People of the Parish  
5:00PM...+ Lucy Brady (16<sup>th</sup> Anniversary),  
req. Mary Ellen Chanda

### **Sunday – May 12... Ascension of the Lord, Mother's Day Seventh Sunday of Easter**

9:00AM.....+ Antonnio Simeone, req. Lucia Simeone  
11:00AM...+Józef Błażejowicz, req. Krusinowski Family  
....+ Eugeniusza May, req. Agnieszki May z Rodzina  
1:00PM.....+Yolanda Cecilia de Saavedra

**The Tabernacle Candle** will burn this week for Maria Simeone at the request of our **Parish Family**.

The Bread and Wine used at Mass for the month of **May is for Rosita Imperial at the request of the Wong Family**.

**YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED** for those whose health is challenged in any way especially **Kate Rooney, Marian Parcinski, Dennis Powers and Lucille Thurston**.

**OUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED** for all the **Faithful Departed especially Lucia Simeone and Blanca Rosales**.

## **SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

### **First Reading: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48**

Peter preaches to the Gentiles for the first time in the house of Cornelius. Peter realized that God would accept any person who acted uprightly, regardless of his or her heritage. Then the Holy Spirit descended on the Gentiles and Peter allowed them to be baptized in the name of Jesus.

### **Second Reading: I John 4:7-10**

John advises all believers to love one another, for love is a gift from God. The person without love does not know God, whose love for us is so great he sent his only son so that we might have life through him.

### **Gospel: John 15:9-17**

Jesus asks his disciples to live on in his love and to "Love one another as I have loved you." He explains that he chose them to follow him, and promises if they keep his commandments, they will have anything that they ask for in his name.

**Please Pray for our Parishioners in the Military**  
**SSG Katarzyna Czajka, US Army**  
**Ryan Percy, USN**  
**Declan Cassidy, US Army**

**The Saint of the Week**

## Saint John of Ávila

(May 10)

John of Ávila was born in the town of Almodóvar del Campo, Spain, less than a decade after Spain was liberated from almost 800 years of Muslim rule. He was an only child born later in life to his parents who had struggled to conceive.

At the age of fourteen, John was sent to study law at the renowned University of Salamanca, but he never completed his law degree. After four years of study, John had a profound conversion experience, after which he returned to his parents' home for a three-year period of prayer and discernment. In 1520 he began his theological studies. and in 1526, he was ordained a priest.

He decided to become a missionary to the West Indies. While waiting for a ship in Seville, he began to engage in public ministry in Seville, quickly drawing admiration for his devout celebration of the Mass, his preaching, and his catechetical approach. The Archbishop of Seville, convinced Father John to remain in Spain to help revive the faith that had been so severely damaged by centuries of Muslim rule, as well as the confusion that was emerging from the Protestant Reformation.

In 1529, at the age of thirty, just three years a priest, Father John of Ávila began his ministry in the town of Andalusia. He would later be known affectionately as “the apostle of Andalusia.”

Throughout his ministry, Father John became a saint among other saints, offering spiritual direction and counsel to many. He became a mentor to Saint Ignatius of Loyola and inspired many young men to join Ignatius' newly founded Society of Jesus. He advised the great Saint Teresa of Ávila, who sought his counsel on her writings. Saint John of God was converted by John of Ávila's preaching and then founded the Brothers Hospitallers, a religious congregation devoted to the poor, sick, and mentally ill. He counseled Saint Francis Borgia, the third General Superior of the Jesuits, the Franciscan friar Saint Peter of Alcántara, the bishop Saint Thomas of Villanova, as well as other bishops, religious, civil rulers, and numerous spiritual directees. Not only did he leave behind a legacy by affecting so many people during his lifetime, he also left behind his many spiritual writings.

Father John lived a life of radical poverty and regularly preached about the dangers of excessive wealth, and because of that he was arrested, and imprisoned. During his yearlong imprisonment he devoted himself to prayer, study, and writing. After a year, the Inquisition found him not guilty of any crime, and he was released in 1533. For the next eighteen years, Father John engaged in active ministry in Andalusia and the surrounding towns where he gained quite a following. In 1551 he began to experience ill health and lived a semi-retired life until his death in 1569.

## The Visit of Cardinal Joseph Tobin 04.28.2024





**Polskie Duszpasterstwo**  
w Parafii św. Bernarda i św. Stanisława Kostki



## 6 NIEDZIELA WIELKANOCNA



### **Z komentarza św. Cyryla Aleksandryjskiego, biskupa, do Drugiego Listu do Koryntian**

Ci, którzy mają zadatek Ducha i nadzieję zmartwychwstania, uważają za rzecz już obecną to, czego oczekują, mówiąc, że odtąd już nie znają nikogo wedle ciała, gdyż wszyscy jesteście duchowi i dalecy od wszelkiego zepsucia cielesnego. Skoro bowiem jaśnieje nam Syn Jednorodzony, przemieniamy się wszyscy w Słowo, które wszystko ożywia. Jak wtedy bowiem, gdy rządził grzech, byliśmy skrępowani więzami śmierci, tak gdy nadeszła sprawiedliwość Chrystusa, odrzuciliśmy wszelkie zepsucie.

Nie żyjemy już więc według ciała, to jest w słabości cielesnej, przez co należy rozumieć zepsucie płynące z grzechu. "A jeśli nawet według ciała poznaliśmy Chrystusa - pisze święty Paweł - to już więcej nie znamy Go w ten sposób". Jakby chciał powiedzieć: "Słowo ciałem się stało i zamieszkało wśród nas" i poniosło śmierć w ciele, abyśmy wszyscy mieli życie; i tak Go poznaliśmy, lecz odtąd już nie znamy. Choć bowiem Chrystus nadal jest w ciele, bo zmartwychwstał trzeciego dnia i przebywa w chwale Ojca w niebie, wiemy jednak, że jest On ponad ciałem. "Raz umarł za grzechy, ale już więcej nie umiera, śmierć nad

Nim nie ma już władzy. Bo to, że umarł, umarł dla grzechu tylko raz, a to, że żyje, żyje dla Boga".

Gdy więc takim jest Ten, który stał się wzorem naszego życia, trzeba i nam podążać Jego śladami, nie ulegając ciału, lecz wznosząc się ponad cielesność. Dlatego bardzo słusznie mówi święty Paweł: "Jeżeli ktoś pozostaje w Chrystusie, jest nowym stworzeniem. To, co dawne, minęło, a oto wszystko stało się nowe". Przez wiarę zostaliśmy usprawiedliwieni w Chrystusie, a moc przekleństwa ustała. Chrystus dla nas zmartwychwstał, zdeptał potęgę śmierci. Poznaliśmy też prawdziwie Boga, którego czcimy w duchu i w prawdzie za pośrednictwem Syna, który obdarza świat łaskami płynącymi od Ojca.

Dlatego mądrze pisze o tym święty Paweł: "Wszystko zaś to pochodzi od Boga, który pojednał nas z sobą przez Chrystusa". Albowiem z woli Ojca dokonana się tajemnica Wcielenia i wynikające z niej odrodzenie. Przez Chrystusa mamy dostęp do Ojca, bo nikt nie przyjdzie do Ojca jak tylko przez Niego. Tak więc, "wszystko pochodzi od Boga, który pojednał nas z sobą przez Chrystusa i powierzył posługę jednania".

LG tom II: VI Niedziela Wielkanocna, str. 682-684

### **Szkoła Polska Doksztalająca**

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*Kontakt:*

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*Dyrektorka Szkoły: Beata Benewiat*

*Tel. 732-266-4310*

Gratucje dla naszych dzieci pierwszokomunijnych i ich rodzin:

*Gorąco życzymy: aby błogostawieństwo,  
radość i łaska tego szczególnego dnia, na  
zawsze pozostały w Waszych sercach.*

## Word

### STEWARDSHIP

*"This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." - JOHN 15:12-13*

Do you love Jesus? Do you consider Him your friend? Jesus says that if we love Him we would be willing to offer whatever we have to Him, not because we want praise and glory, but simply because we love Him. Does your giving seem mechanical out of obligation or do you share freely out of love?

### DEVOTION



The Rosary is prayed before the 9AM Mass during the week. Monday – Saturday. On Thursdays after 9AM Mass the Blessed Sacrament is exposed, closing with Benediction at 11:00AM.



### ROSARY SOCIETY NEWS

The Rosary Mass is celebrated at the 9:00AM Mass on the First Sunday of the month followed by a short meeting after Mass in the Parish Commons. Next Rosary Mass and meeting, **Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>**.



### WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASSES

The Archdiocese of Newark has been preparing the annual tradition of honoring those couples in our Archdiocese who will be celebrating five, twenty-five and fifty years of valid marriage for 2024. These anniversary liturgies will be held in the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark. The 5<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> was celebrated by Bishop Gregory Studerus on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

**The 50<sup>th</sup> will be celebrated by Cardinal Joseph Tobin on June 2, 12:00PM**

The presence of these couples will be a tender witness to the strength and stability of Christian Marriage in today's society. If you have families that are still playing 'catch-up' with their celebrations, any couple who would have celebrated their Silver or Gold Anniversary in those years stunted by covid restrictions may still join us as well.

***Please Note: Their Certificates will reflect the past year they missed as the 25<sup>th</sup> or 50<sup>th</sup>.***

**Please contact the office if you plan to attend for more information.**

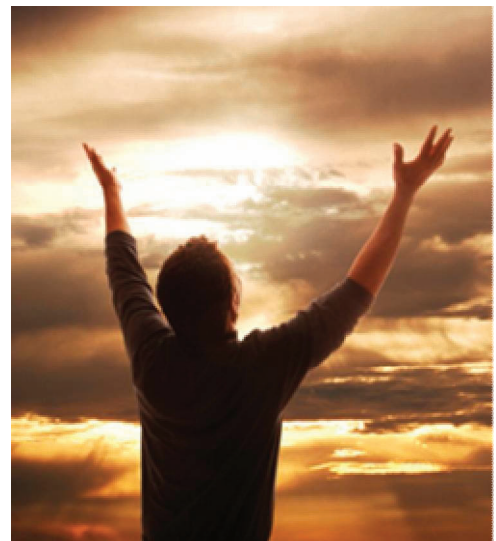
## MOUNT ST. MARY HOUSE OF PRAYER

Mt. St. Mary House of Prayer offers many programs that invite us to be stretched and grow in relationship with ourselves, others and God. For more information see the website: [www.msmhope.org](http://www.msmhope.org) or email [msmhope@msmhope.org](mailto:msmhope@msmhope.org)

## YOUTH

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education Classes for this season have ended. Please be sure the children attend Mass regularly during the summer months.



**Confirmation Retreat**  
**Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup> 10:00AM**  
**Confirmation Sunday, June 2**  
**1:00PM Mass**

### ALTAR SERVERS

***Be joyful to serve at the altar, to be closer to Jesus!***

Serving God as an Altar Server is a wonderful way to grow in faith as well as in responsibility, friendship, and other virtues. This ministry is open to all youths: boys as well as girls. If interested, please see Fr. Bernardo.



## ST. BARTHOLOMEW ACADEMY

The Academy is a perfect place for a Catholic Education founded on learning a true Catholic way of life on achieving excellence in academics. The students are nurtured and cared for. For information contact Maureen Doherty at 908 322-4265 or [www.stbacademy.org](http://www.stbacademy.org)

## SAINT PETER'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL

There will be a Spring Open House on Sunday, May 5th 1:00 – 3:00 PM.

Saint Peter's Prep is an independent, college preparatory school for boys, and it remains New Jersey's only Jesuit high school. For more information on the Spring Open House, please call 201-547-6465.

## COMMUNITY BUILDING



### BESTCHURCH SENIORS

The Senior Meeting is open to all **seniors** and **almost seniors** on the third Thursday of the month at 12:30PM. Our next meeting will be the last

meeting for the season on May 16<sup>th</sup> with a light luncheon and end with prayer through drumming, by Barbara Woodzell. If you know of anyone who might be interested in joining, please invite them to come even if it's our last meeting.

**All seniors are welcome.**

### DIAPER COLLECTION

Through the efforts of our members of the St. Anne Society, the Rosary Society and our parish community we will be collecting diapers, pull-ups and wipes to be donated to United Families in Plainfield. Our parish has always generously supported this ministry, and the families in Plainfield are very appreciative of our caring donations. Diapers and Pull-ups should be in sizes of 3 or larger and can be left in the open area of the church or dropped off at the office. We will deliver them to United Families in early May. For more Information, please call the parish office.



## NON-PERISHABLE FOOD COLLECTION

We are continuing to collect food in the open area of the church for Starfish to be distributed throughout the Union County area by Starfish. Dates should be current and food non-perishable. Thank you for all your support throughout the years.

## Calendar of Events

### SUNDAYS:

#### **May 5...Sixth Sunday of Easter**

9:00AM ...Mass in English

11:00AM...Mass in Polish (**First Communion**)

1:00PM.....Mass in English (**First Communion**)

#### **May 12...Seventh Sunday of Easter**

**Ascension of the Lord**

**Mother's Day**

9:00AM ...Mass in English

11:00AM...Mass in Polish

1:00PM.....Mass in English

### MONDAYS:

#### **May 6,13,20**

5:30PM...Polish School

### THURSDAYS:

#### **May 9, 16, 23, and 30**

7:00PM...Choir Practice

### SATURDAYS:

#### **May 4, 11, 18, 25**

4:15...Confession

#### **May 11**

10:00AM...Confirmation Retreat

### • Our Mass Schedule:

• **Monday – Saturday: 9:00 AM**

• **Saturday: 5:00 PM - English**

• **Sunday: 9:00AM & 1PM - English**

• **11:00 AM Mass - Polish**

• **First Fridays: 7:00PM Mass - Polish**

### • Office Hours:

• **Monday – Friday: 10:00AM - 2:00PM**

• **Website and Live Mass:**

• [www.bestchurch.net](http://www.bestchurch.net)

• **Confessions also by requests**



## FINANCE



### ONLINE GIVING

#### Collection for April 28

Online.....\$ 1,228

In Pew..... \$ 3,326

Total Collection for April 28.....\$ 4,554

Thank you for all your donations!!!

## ANNUAL<sup>2024</sup> APPEAL

The 2024 Annual Appeal has begun!

Each year we are invited to participate in the Annual Appeal, which is an opportunity to support essential ministries and programs of our Archdiocese.

Your sacrificial support makes it possible for us to carry out the important work that we are called to do as missionary disciples of Jesus.

Please consider participating in this year's Appeal to help make a significant difference in many lives.

We already collected **\$21,362.00**

**73%** of our goal for the AA 2024

Thank you for all your donations.

#### Rice Bowl

Donations amounted to \$521.50 Thank you everyone for your generosity in supporting this effort.

### Contact us:

#### Office Address

368 Sumner Avenue, Plainfield, New Jersey 07062

#### Rev. Marcin Fuks - PASTOR

908-756-3393 EXT – 103

#### Rev. Bernardo Garcia - Parochial Vicar

[vicar@bestchurch.net](mailto:vicar@bestchurch.net) 908-756-3393 EXT – 110

#### Karole Lechowski – Secretary

[office@bestchurch.net](mailto:office@bestchurch.net)

#### Iveth Parada - Religious Education

[bestreligioused@gmail.com](mailto:bestreligioused@gmail.com)

## From Fr. Marcin's Desk

### 6th Sunday of Easter

Last Sunday we had the privilege and joy to welcome in our community Cardinal Joseph Tobin, the Archbishop of Newark. I want to express my gratitude and thanks to all those who were involved in that beautiful celebration, in decorating the church and the gym, servers, music ministry, those who brought food, and all those who came to share this moment together.

Today we continue the celebration of this joyous season of Christ's Resurrection with another celebration – the 1<sup>st</sup> Communion. I want to congratulate our Communicants and their families, and to wish that the graces of this sacrament that they are receiving today may give an abundant fruit of love in their lives, in their families and in our parish community.

Today's Gospel presents us with Jesus' instructions: "abide in my love." To live in the flow of God's love, to take up permanent residence there, is the condition to ensure that our love does not lose its ardor and boldness along the way. Like Jesus and in Him, we too must welcome with gratitude the love that comes from the Father and abide in this love, trying to avoid being separated from it by egoism and sin. It is a demanding project, but it is not impossible.

Christ's love is not a superficial feeling. It is a fundamental attitude of the heart which is manifested in living as He wishes. In fact, Jesus states: "If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in His love." Love is fulfilled in everyday life, in attitudes and in deeds. Jesus asks us to follow His commandments, which are summarized in the following: "that you love one another as I have loved you."

We are loved by God in Jesus Christ who asks us to love one another as He loves us. But we cannot do this if we do not have His same Heart within us. The Eucharist, in which we are called to participate every Sunday, has the aim of forming the Heart of Christ within us, so that our entire life may be guided by His generous attitudes.

*Fr. Marcin Fuks*

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available on a regular basis on Saturdays at 4:15PM and after weekday Masses simply by requesting a celebration of the sacrament.

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