

The Church of
St. Bernard of Clairvaux
&
St. Stanislaus Kostka

November 24, 2024

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E-mail: office@bestchurch.net

Website: www.bestchurch.net

The people of St. Bernard of Clairvaux and St. Stanislaus Kostka are a "Living Mosaic of God's People," who seek salvation through worship, education, stewardship and service, proclaiming our faith in God and in our heritages.

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Marcin Fuks
Pastor

pastor@bestchurch.net
908-756-3393 Ext - 101

Rev. Bernardo Garcia
Parochial Vicar

vicar@bestchurch.net
908-756-3393 Ext - 102

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Iveth Parada
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bestreligioused@gmail.com
908-756-3393 Ext - 103

CHURCH ADDRESS

1235 George Street
Plainfield, NJ 07062

OFFICES & MAILING ADDRESS

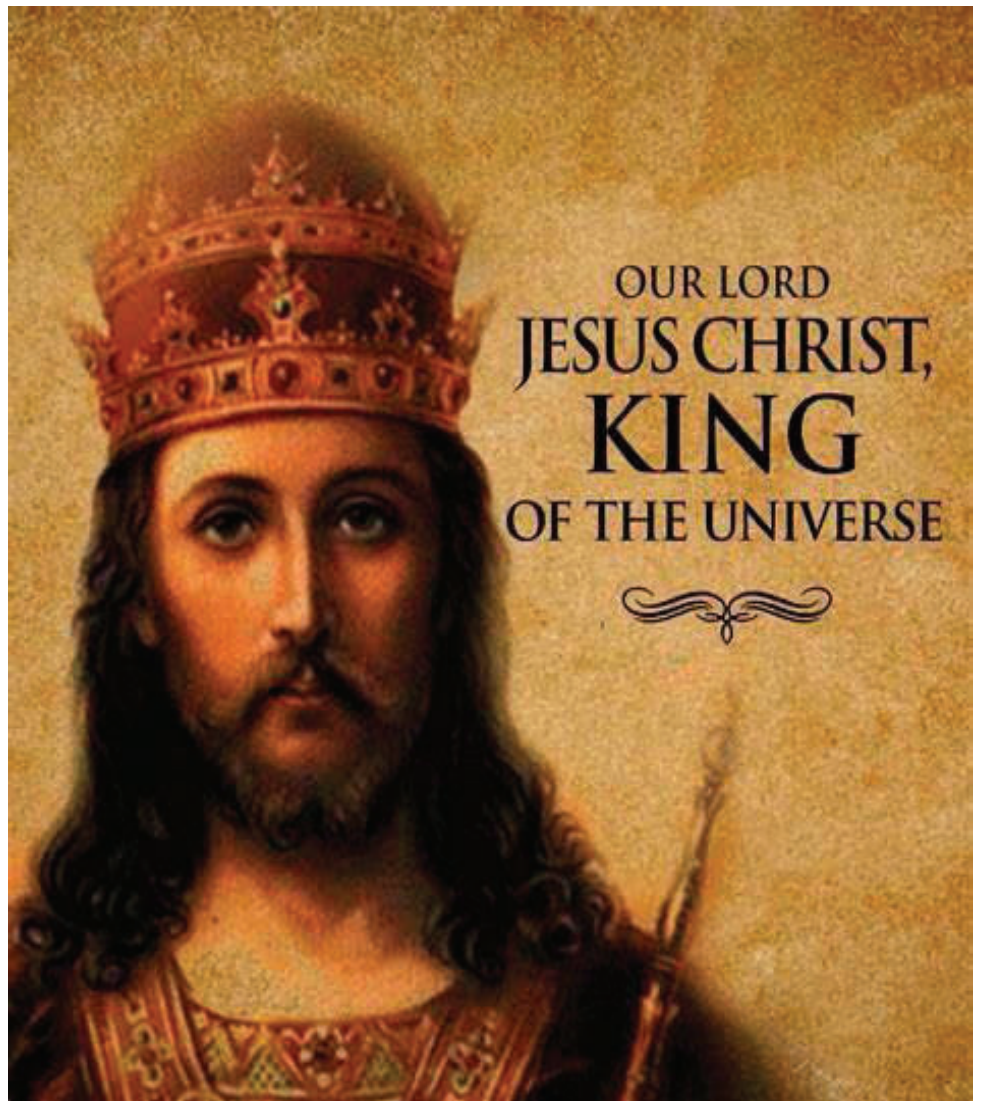
1232 George Street
Plainfield, NJ 07062

OFFICE HOURS

Sunday: Closed or by appointment

Monday - Friday: 10:00 am-2:00 pm

Saturday: Closed or by appointment



BAPTISM: Celebrated throughout the year in accordance with the policy of the Archdiocese and to accommodate the needs of our Parish Family. Attendance at a preparation session may be required. You must be a registered and active family for at least 90 days before a date for Baptism will be scheduled. Please call the Parish Office for an appointment.

MARRIAGE: Arrangements should be made with a priest as soon as possible. One year prior to marriage or as soon as engagement is announced is recommended.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Levels 1 - 8: Wednesday,
6:30 - 7:45 pm

MINISTRY TO THE SICK: In the event of serious illness or when someone is hospitalized, the parish office should be notified. The Eucharist and the Sacrament of the Sick will be celebrated with anyone requesting them. Remember, the Hospital cannot notify us on their own.

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 adults 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 on the website www.rcan.org/vocation/index.htm

ST. BARTHOLOMEW ACADEMY

2032 Westfield Ave., Scotch Plains NJ
908-322-4265 OR www.STBACADEMY

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

Saturday – November 23... Sts. Clement, Columbian, and Blessed Miguel Agustin Pro

9:00AM...+ Cecilia Maximin, Birthday in Heaven,
req. Auntie Mary

5:00PM...+ All Souls in Purgatory, req. Benitez
and Cuartas Family

Sunday – November 24...Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

9:00AM...+ Robert DeMair, req. Wife Marietta

11:00AM...+ Edmund Grzymała(1st. Anniv.) req. Córka i Rodzina
...+ All Souls

1:00PM.... Esther Amadin, Birthday Blessings

Monday – November 25...Weekday (Last Week in Ordinary Time)

9:00AM...+ Santos Justa Granada,(10th Anniversary)
req. Jaun Benitez

Tuesday – November 26... Weekday

9:00AM... + Jean Ciampa, req. Armond and Anna Maria Apisa

Wednesday – November 27... Weekday

9:00AM ... + All the Parish Faithful Departed

Thursday – November 28 ... Thanksgiving Day

9:00AM ... Blessings for The People of the Parish

Friday – November 29 ... Weekday

9:00AM... + Innocent Onyeahialam and Jovita Abaga,
req. Njoku Family

Saturday – November 30... St. Andrew

9:00AM...+ Adelfio Di Iorio, req. Armond and Anna Maria Apisa

5:00PM...+ Luis Enrique Cuartas Gonzalez,
req. Alba Ledy Cuartas

Sunday – December 1...First Sunday of Advent

9:00AM...+ Amerigo Negri, req. Sister and Family

11:00AM.+ Włodzimierz Wyszowski (4th Anniversary)
Req. Stalenyj i Rodzina

1:00PM...+ Ed and Alice McGrath, req. Parish Family

The Tabernacle Candle will burn this week for Jerry Signorelli **at the request of Family and Friends.**

The Bread and Wine used at Mass for the month of November is in **Memory of Jerry Signorelli, requested by Kathy Merklinger.**

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED for those whose health is challenged in any way especially **Cathy and Jack Rooney, Marian Parcinski, Frank Kazmierski, Olivia Schiffer, and Al Caraldo.**

OUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED for all the **Faithful Departed especially Jerry Signorelli.**

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THE KING

First Reading: Daniel 7:13-14

Daniel describes the one who will appear on the clouds of heaven and receive glory. People of every language will serve this one, and his leadership and community will be his forever.

Second Reading: Revelation 1:5-8

Jesus is so powerful; he is the ruler of kings. He loved us enough to free us from sin, and so he will be glorified forever. He will appear again and be seen by all the people of the earth. God calls himself the first and last, "the One who is and who was and who is to come," reminding all people that God will remain with us always.

Gospel: John 18:33b-37

Pilate asks Jesus if he is a king. Jesus explains that his kingdom is not of this world. Pilate asks again if Jesus is a king, to which he replies, "I came into the world to testify to the truth. Anyone committed to the truth hears my voice."

The Saint of the Week
St. Andrew the Apostle
(November 30)

According to the New Testament, Andrew was born in the village of Bethsaida on the Sea of Galilee during the early first century. Much like his younger brother, Simon Peter, Andrew was also a fisherman. Andrew's very name means strong, and he was known for having good social skills.

In the Gospel of Matthew, it is said Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee and saw Andrew and Simon Peter fishing. It is then he asked the two to become disciples and "fishers of men."

However, the Gospel of John tells a separate story, stating Andrew was a disciple of John the Baptist. When Jesus walked by one day, John the Baptist stated, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" It is then that Andrew and another made the decision to follow Jesus.

Little else is said about Andrew in the Gospels, but it is believed Andrew was one of the closer disciples to Jesus. It was he who told Jesus about the boy with the loaves and fishes, according to John 6:8. When Philip wanted to speak to Jesus about Greeks seeking him, he spoke to Andrew first. Andrew was also present at the last supper.

Per Christian tradition, Andrew went on to preach the Good News around the shores of the Black Sea and throughout what is now Greece and Turkey. Andrew was martyred by crucifixion in Patras. He was bound, rather than nailed, to a cross, as is described in the Acts of Andrew. He was crucified on a cross form known as "crux decussata," which is an X-shaped cross or a "saltire." Today this is commonly referred to as "St. Andrew's Cross." It is believed Andrew requested to be crucified this way, because he deemed himself "unworthy to be crucified on the same type of cross as Jesus."

St. Andrew is venerated in Georgia as the first preacher of Christianity in that territory and in Cyprus for having struck the rocks creating a gush of healing waters upon landing on the shore.

His saltire cross is featured on the flag of Scotland and is represented in much of his iconography. He is commonly portrayed as an old man with long white hair and a beard, often holding the Gospel book or a scroll.

St. Andrew is the patron saint of fishermen and singers. He is also the patron saint to several countries and cities including: Scotland, Romania, Russia, Ukraine and Patras and his feast day is celebrated November 30.

 **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION** 

Attention:
NO CLASS

this Wednesday, November 27th

All Religious Education children **are required** to attend Sunday Mass every weekend and have their Mass Attendance Books signed.

ALTAR SERVERS

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



Altar Servers make a difference! If you are interested in participating at Mass as an Altar Server, boys as well as girls – please contact Fr. Bernardo.

There will be an Altar Server Meeting Saturday, December 7th

at 10:30 AM.

Liturgy of the Word

Next Liturgy of the Word is December 8th

Liturgy of the Word is at the 9AM Mass on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the Month for grades K-2, in the Church Chapel.



We need assistants to help with our Liturgy. **This is**

also open for our Confirmation students to assist. If you are interested or can give a little help with the Liturgy at Mass one Sunday a month, please contact Fr. Marcin for more information.



- Visit: www.formed.org/signup
- Find St. Bernard and Stanislaus by parish name, address, or zip code
- Enter your email – and you are in

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



UROCZYSTOŚĆ JEZUSA CHRYSTUSA, KRÓLA WSZECHŚWIATA

Z dzieła Orygenes, kapłana, O modlitwie

"Jeśli według słów Pana i Zbawiciela naszego "królestwo Boże nie przychodzi dostrzegalnie i nie powiedzą: oto tu jest albo tam; ale królestwo Boże jest w nas, bo bliskie jest słowo, na naszych ustach i w naszym sercu", to niewątpliwie ten, kto się modli o jego przyście, prosi tym samym, aby królestwo, które jest w nim, rozwijało się, owocowało i dopełniało. Bóg bowiem króluje w każdym spośród świętych i każdy z nich posłuszny jest duchowym przykazaniom Boga. W takim człowieku Bóg mieszka jakby w mieście dobrze uporządkowanym. Ojciec jest w nim obecny, a wraz z Ojcem króluje w duszy doskonałej Chrystus, zgodnie ze słowami: "Do niego przyjdziemy i mieszkanie u niego uczynimy".

To zaś królestwo Boże, które jest w nas, w miarę naszego ustawicznego postępu osiągnie doskonałość, gdy się wypełnią słowa Apostoła, że Chrystus, pokonawszy wszystkich swoich nieprzyjaciół, przekaże "królowanie Bogu i Ojcu, aby Bóg był wszystkim we wszystkich". Dlatego modląc się nieustannie z przebóstwionym dzięki Słowu sercem, mówmy do Ojca naszego, który jest w niebie: "Święć się imię Twoje, przyjdź królestwo Twoje".

Co zaś dotyczy samego królestwa Bożego, należy pamiętać, że jak "sprawiedliwość nie ma nic wspólnego z niesprawiedliwością" ani też jak "nic wspólnego nie ma światło z ciemnością", ani wreszcie jak nie ma "wspólnoty Chrystusa z Belialem", tak też królestwo Boże jest nie do pogodzenia z królestwem grzechu.

Jeśli zatem chcemy, aby Bóg w nas królował, "niechaj grzech nie króluje w naszym śmiertelnym ciele", ale raczej zadajmy śmierć "temu, co jest przyziemne w naszych członkach", by wydać owoce Ducha. Wtedy Pan przechadzać się będzie w nas, jakby w

duchowym raju, królując nad nami wraz ze swym Chrystusem. On to zasiądzie w nas po prawicy mocy duchowej, której pragniemy dostąpić; On pozostanie, dopóki wszyscy Jego nieprzyjaciele w nas nie staną się "podnóżkiem Jego stóp", dopóki nie usunie spośród nas wszelkich Władz, Panowań i Zwierzchności.

Wszystko to dokonać się może w każdym z nas, a w końcu "jako ostatni wróg" ma być pokonana śmierć, aby i w nas rzekł Chrystus: "Gdzie jest, o śmierci, twój oścień, gdzie twe zwycięstwo, otchłani?" Odtąd to, co zniszczalne w nas, przyodzieje się w świętość i "niezniszczalność", i to, co "śmiertelne", po usunięciu śmierci przyodzieje się w "nieśmiertelność" Ojca. W ten sposób Bóg będzie królował nad nami, my zaś będziemy się radować dobrodziejstwami odrodzenia i zmartwychwstania.



Kiermasz Świąteczny

8 i 9 Grudnia

Zapraszamy na świąteczne zakupy w niedzielę od 8:30 do 14:30 w kościele, przed i po Mszach Świętych, oraz w poniedziałek w kafeterii szkolnej od 17:00 do 20:00. Jest to świetna okazja do zakupienia prezentów dla rodziny, przyjaciół i znajomych oraz wsparcia studentów Polskiej Szkoły.

- ✦ tradycyjne ciasteczka pierniczki i miód
- ✦ ręcznie robione stroiki, świeczniki i inne ozdoby
- ✦ wykonane szydełkiem i drewniane ozdoby choinkowe
- ✦ ręcznie malowane polskie bombki
- ✦ serwetki i małe obrusy na stół, oraz wiele innych, pięknych ozdób świątecznych

Dodatkową atrakcją będzie możliwość zrobienia sobie zdjęć na świątecznym tle w kafeterii szkolnej w niedzielę o 12:00 oraz w poniedziałek w czasie zajęć.



Szkoła Polska Doksztalająca

Zajęcia w Polskiej Szkole działającej przy naszej Parafii odbywają się w każdy poniedziałek w okresie roku szkolnego od godz. 5:30 do 8:00PM.

Kontakt: polskaszkolainfield@outlook.com

Dyrektorka Szkoły: Beata Benewiat

Tel. 732-266-4310

Finance Council

According to The Code of Canon Law: "In each parish, there is to be a Finance Council to help the parish priest in the administration of the goods of the parish. It is ruled by Universal Law and by the norms laid down by the diocesan Bishop, and it is comprised of members of the faithful selected according to these norms" (Canon 537).

"The Finance Council is a consultative body which provides the pastor with advice concerning the stewardship of parish fiscal resources. It is to serve the goals and priorities set by the Pastoral Council. It assists the pastor by:

- Conducting long range financial planning with regard to funding operational and capital needs in the parish;
- Developing and overseeing a parish budget process which results in an annual parish budget. This process should involve the participation of those responsible for parish programs. It should be designed in such a way as to address the parish priorities and goals determined by the pastor and parish Pastoral Council;
- Providing financial analysis of current fiscal status reports;
- Providing the parish with periodic (no less than annually) reports on the financial position of the Parish." (cf. Canon 1287, 2).

"The purpose of the Finance Council is to provide the pastor, the Parish Pastoral Council, and other leadership bodies with professional financial analysis. For this reason, it is important that the Finance Council be composed of individuals who have had experience in the areas of business, finance and accounting.

The Financial Council of St. Bernard & Stanislaus:
John Beckman – Chair person
Mary Ellen Chanda – Trustee
Johnny Skalski – Trustee
Francine Morano – Secretary
Camille Mathias
Richard Williams
Fr. Marcin Fuks – Pastor

NON-PERISHABLE FOOD COLLECTION

We are continuing to collect food for Starfish to be distributed throughout the Union County area. Food can be left in the open area of the church. Dates should be current and food non-perishable. The staff at Starfish would like to thank you all for your continued support.

ROSARY SOCIETY NEWS

The Rosary is prayed every day before the 9AM Mass, including praying the Divine Mercy.



On Thursdays the *Blessed*

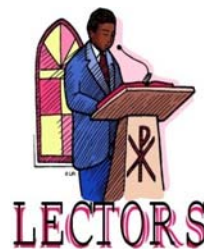
Sacrament is exposed after 9am Mass concluding with Benediction at 10:45 am.

Have you thought about becoming a Rosarian?

The Rosarians meet the first Sunday of the Month in the Parish Commons. If you would like more information about becoming a Rosarian, please contact Liz Smith, or call the Parish Office.

Ministry of Liturgical Environment (Church Decorating)

Anyone who would like to give a helping hand with the church decorating for the upcoming holidays.... you are more than welcome to help - *there is plenty to do*, and any help we can get will be a blessing for us. Just let us know.



**Are you
interested in
serving God as
a Lector or
Eucharistic
Minister**



**Contact Bill Shlala
wgshlala@gmail.com
or call (908) 755-8560.**



CHOIR

Why not become a member?

It's never too late to join...Rehearsals are on Thursdays in the church at 7PM.

The choir is preparing for the upcoming holidays and would like your help to enhance our choir, especially men's voices. If you are interested, please contact the office, or simply just come on a Thursday evening to one of our rehearsals in the church at 7PM.

We would love to see you there!

BestChurch Seniors



Next Senior Meeting is December 19th Christmas Celebration

We will celebrate Christmas Pastimes and Holiday Traditions with a luncheon at 12:30PM. in the Parish Community Room on George Street, using the side entrance.

If you are planning to join in the Celebration please call Karole in the office. Since there is a luncheon, we need to know how many will be attending.

Christmas Bazaar

December 8th and 9th

We invite Everyone for Christmas shopping on Sunday, December 8th from 8:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. at the church, before and after Masses.

It's a great occasion to buy some gifts for your family and friends and to support the students of the Polish School.

- ✦ traditional gingerbread cookies and local honey
- ✦ handmade Christmas centerpieces and decorations
- ✦ crochet and wooden ornaments
- ✦ glass ornaments hand painted in Poland
- ✦ holiday themed table runners and more...

Also, an opportunity to take your own pictures using the holiday background in the school cafeteria on Sunday at 12 p.m. and before or after Polish School on Monday evening.



GIVING TREE – Gift Cards

Our parish community will be gathering gift cards of any amount to be distributed to various charities in the Plainfield area during the Christmas Season. Gift cards can be from Target, Shop-Rite, Walmart, Amazon. etc. Your gift cards will help families in need. Please leave them at church in the collection basket, or in the Sacristy or bring to the parish office by December 15th. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the office.



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

STEWARDSHIP

Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

“Jesus answered, ‘My kingdom does not belong to this world.’ (JOHN 18:36)

Life is short. How much time, energy and money do you put into building “your” kingdom here on earth? We all know we can’t take it with us. The real kingdom is in the next life. Yet, how much time, energy and money do you invest in working for that eternal kingdom? Ask God for His guidance. Detach from earthly possessions. Generously share your material goods with others for the greater glory of God.



ONLINE GIVING

**IT IS POSSIBLE TO AUTOMATE YOUR FAITH GIVING
TO OUR PARISH GIVING.**

SIMPLY GO TO OUR PARISH WEBSITE.

Collection for November 17

Online..... \$ 1,178

In Pew.....\$ 3,167

Total Collection November 17.. \$ 4,345

ANNUAL ²⁰²⁴ APPEAL

We made our goal for 2024

Thank you all so very much!!

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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

From Fr. Marcin's Desk

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Solemnity of Christ, King of the Universe is set at the conclusion of the liturgical year and recalls that the life of creation does not advance at random, but proceeds toward a final destination: the definitive manifestation of Christ, Lord of history and of all creation. The conclusion of history will be his eternal kingdom.

Today's Gospel passage speaks to us about this kingdom, the kingdom of Christ, the kingdom of Jesus, recounting the humiliating situation that Jesus is in after being arrested in Gethsemane: bound, insulted, accused and led before the authorities of Jerusalem. And then, He is presented to the Roman prosecutor as one who seeks to undermine political power, to become the king of the Jews. So, Pilate conducts his inquest and, in a dramatic interrogation, twice asks Jesus if He is a king.

Jesus wants to make it understood that above and beyond political power there is another even greater power, which is not obtained by human means. He has come to earth to exercise this power, which is love, by bearing witness to the truth, the divine truth which ultimately is the essential message of the Gospel: “God is love.” He wishes to establish in the world His kingdom of love, justice and peace. This is the kingdom of which Jesus is king, and which extends until the end of times. History teaches us that kingdoms founded on the force of arms and on the abuse of power are fragile and sooner or later collapse. But the Kingdom of God is founded on His love and is rooted in hearts — conferring peace, freedom and fullness of life upon those who embrace it.

Today, Jesus asks us to allow Him to become our king: a king who, with His word, His example and His life immolated on the cross saved us from death. This king indicates the path to those who are lost, gives new light to our existence marred by doubt, by fear and by everyday trials. But we must not forget that Jesus' kingdom is not of this world. He will give new meaning to our life!

In the Love of God,

Fr. Marcin Fuks

E-mail: pastor@bestchurch.net

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