

January 12, 2025

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

**Phone:** 908-756-3393  
**Fax:** 908-756-3059  
**E-mail:** [office@bestchurch.net](mailto:office@bestchurch.net)  
**Website:** [www.bestchurch.net](http://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](mailto:pastor@bestchurch.net)  
908-756-3393 Ext - 101

**Rev. Bernardo Garcia**  
*Parochial Vicar*  
[vicar@bestchurch.net](mailto:vicar@bestchurch.net)  
908-756-3393 Ext - 102

**Karole Lechowski**  
*Secretary*  
[office@bestchurch.net](mailto:office@bestchurch.net)  
908-756-3393  
General Mailbox ext. 100

**Iveth Parada**  
*Religious Education*  
[bestreligioused@gmail.com](mailto:bestreligioused@gmail.com)  
908-756-3393 Ext - 103

## **CHURCH ADDRESS**

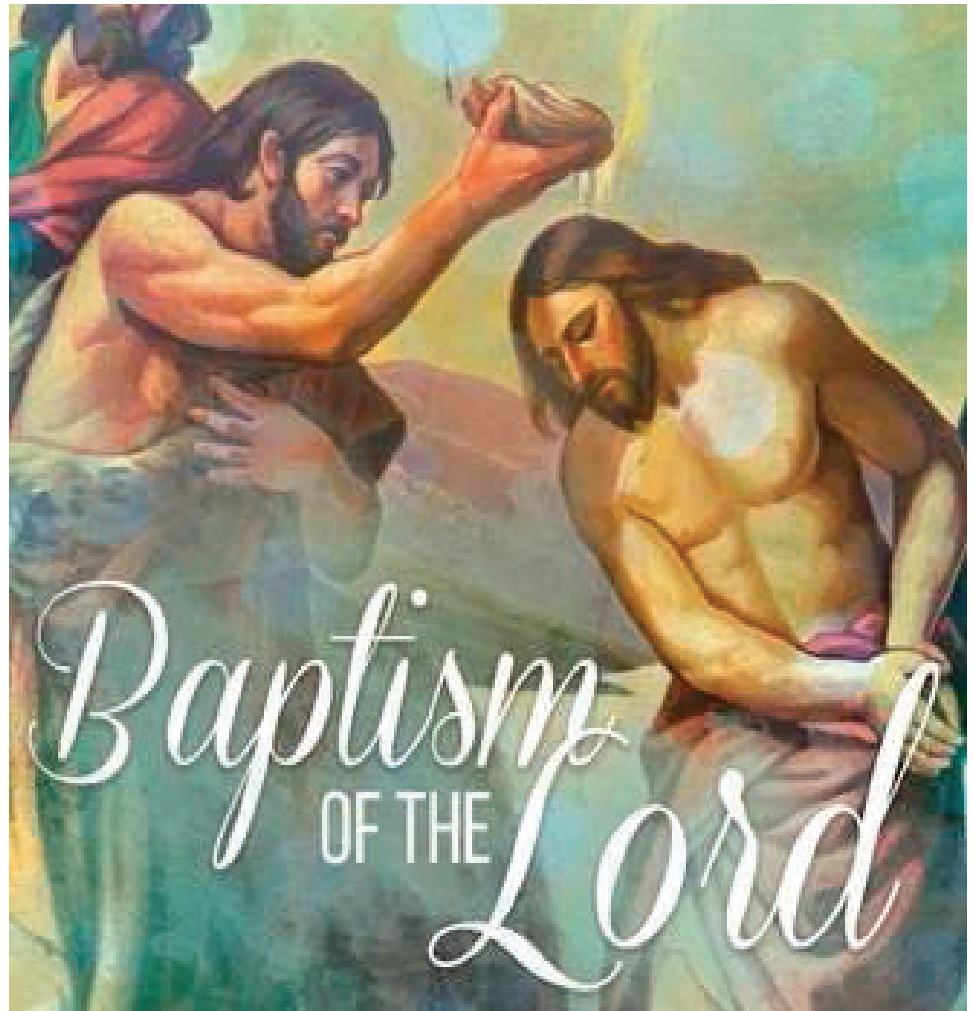
1235 George Street  
Plainfield, NJ 07062

## **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](http://www.rcan.org/vocation/index.htm)

## **ST. BARTHOLOMEW ACADEMY**

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



### **Saturday – January 11... Christmas Weekday**

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

### **Sunday – January 12 ...Baptism of the Lord**

9:00AM...+ Leonard Pacio, req. Parish Family  
11:00AM...+ Janina i Piotr Błażejowicz,  
req. Teresa Błażejowicz  
1:00PM... People of the Parish

### **Monday – January 13...St. Hilary**

9:00AM...+ Stefana Ragozzino, req. Antonia Riello

### **Tuesday – January 14...Weekday**

9:00AM ... Mary Amadin, Birthday Blessings, req. Mom

### **Wednesday – January 15... Weekday**

9:00AM... + Louis and Dorothy Giannotti, Parish Family

### **Thursday – January 16 ...Weekday**

9:00AM...+ Frank Wood, req. Johanna Merkle

### **Friday – January 17... St. Anthony, Abbot**

9:00AM...+ Veronica Merklinger, req. Kathy

### **Saturday – January 18... Weekday**

9:00AM... Gods Blessings for Dominik and Czesław,  
req. Jolanta  
5:00PM...+ Alex Jurevich, req. Mary Ellen Chanda

### **Sunday – January 19...Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

9:00AM...+ Eloise Dias, req. Parish Family  
11:00AM...+ Leszek Rutkowski, req Parish Family  
1:00PM...+ James and Larine Colucci,  
req. Parish Family

The Tabernacle Candle will burn this week in **Memory of Cecilia Torres at the request of Sister.**

The Bread and Wine for the Month of January is in **Memory of Ann Marie LaPatta at the request of Mr. & Mrs. Michael Barrow.**

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

**OUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED** for all the **Faithful Departed especially Salvatore Carfaro.**

### **BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

#### **First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-4. 6-7**

Isaiah tells of the Lord's Servant, who will be inconspicuous, but will not rest until justice is established. The Lord then tells his servant that he was formed to be "a light for the nations."

#### **Second Reading: Acts 10:34-38**

Peter speaks to a group of pagans for the first time. He explains to them that any person who follows God's will is acceptable to God, regardless of nationality.

#### **Gospel: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22**

John the Baptist had claimed one would come far more powerful than himself, one who would baptize with the Holy Spirit rather than water. When Jesus came to John and was baptized, the Spirit descended on him and a voice said, "You are my beloved Son. On you my favor rests."

*The Saint of the Week*

**St. Hilary of Poitiers,  
Bishop and Doctor**  
(January 13)

Born into a wealthy pagan family in Poitiers, France, Hilary was well educated in the classics. As he looked into his own soul, however, he knew that he did not exist for the sole purpose of seeking pleasure, enjoying leisure, obtaining wealth, or merely satisfying his fleshly desires. Hilary reasoned that the human soul did not exist simply to die. Instead, it must exist for something more, something eternal, something glorious. When his pagan culture did not suffice, and philosophy fell short, Hilary finally found what he was searching for when he stumbled upon the Scriptures.

Hilary was first struck by the mysterious name of God in the Old Testament: "I AM WHO I AM." God had revealed Himself as eternal, without beginning or end—Existence itself. Then Hilary discovered the Son of God in the Gospel of John 1:1–14. Of this discovery, Hilary said, "My soul measured the mighty workings of God, wrought on the scale of His eternal omnipotence... by a boundless faith . . . that God was in the beginning with God, and that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us . . ."

Hilary had the will to believe, and in the years that followed he was given the power and gift to understand the beauty, mystery, omnipotence, and nature of the Most Holy Trinity. Shortly after these discoveries of faith, Hilary was baptized a Christian and went on to defend the doctrine of the Trinity against the "insanity and ignorance of men." He so impressed the faithful that they chose him to be their bishop, a dignity to which he reluctantly agreed.

Among those who shared in the "insanity and ignorance" of that time were a group of bishops and laity who followed the heresy of Arianism, which denied the divinity of Christ, instead holding that the Son was inferior to the Father. This heresy was especially strong in the Eastern Church but was starting to spread throughout France. After Hilary was a bishop for only about five years, the emperor, an Arian himself, ordered every bishop to pledge their support for this heresy. Hilary refused. Instead, he vigorously defended the truth, and for his brave stance was exiled to Phrygia, in modern-day Turkey. In His love and providence, God used Hilary's time of exile in powerful ways.

While in Phrygia, Bishop Hilary spent much time studying and writing. He had already composed a marvelous commentary on the Gospel of Matthew while in Poitiers, and now he set his mind to his greatest work, *De Trinitate* (On the Trinity). Drawing from his classical education, his knowledge of Greek, his love of the Scriptures, and from the "insanity" and "ignorance" of Arianism itself, Bishop Hilary composed a comprehensive defense of the doctrine of the Trinity as it was taught in the Nicene Creed. Bishop Hilary caused so much trouble for the Arians in Phrygia that the Arian bishops pleaded with the emperor to send him back home, a request the emperor honored.

On his return to Poitiers, Bishop Hilary took the long way home through Greece and Italy, preaching all the way, weeding out the beginnings of Arianism in the Western Church. His effectiveness came not only from his clear teaching, but also from his conciliatory approach and resolute determination. Back in Poitiers, he continued to preach, write, attend councils, and even to compose hymns. The hymns were his way of introducing the doctrines of the faith to the people of God in song. He was a true pastor who burned with a desire that everyone come to a deeper knowledge of the One God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



**Religious Education classes are back  
this week - January 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.**

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

On Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup> there will be  
a retreat and Reconciliation for the **First  
Communion children** at 6:30pm.

**Visit of Bishop Elias Lorenzo**

On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, our parish community  
will be visited by our regional Bishop.  
Bishop Lorenzo will be present at the  
9AM and 11AM Masses.



## Polskie Duszpasterstwo w Parafii św. Bernarda i św. Stanisława Kostki **CHRZEST PAŃSKI**

### Z kazań św. Grzegorza z Nazjanzu, biskupa

Chrystus jest w światłości, bądźmy wraz z Nim oświeceni; Chrystus zanurzony jest w wodzie, z Nim razem zstąpmy do niej, abyśmy wraz z Nim wzwyż wstąpili.

Jan chrzci, Chrystus zbliża się do niego; być może, aby i tego uświęcić, który Go chrzci, z pewnością zaś dlatego, by pogrzebać w wodzie cały ród starego Adama; przedtem jednak, i to ze względu na nas, aby uświęcić Jordan. Bo Chrystus, duch i ciało, i wodzie dał moc tajemną przez Ducha.

Chrzciciel nie wyraża zgody, Jezus nastaje. "To ja potrzebuję chrztu od Ciebie", mówi wtedy pochodnia do Słońca, głos do Słowa, przyjaciel do Oblubieńca, największy spośród narodzonych z niewiast do Pierworodnego wszelkiego stworzenia; ten, który poruszył się w łonie matki, do Tego, który w łonie hołd odbierał; poprzednik i mający poprzedzać do Tego, który się ukazał i ma przyjść. "To ja potrzebuję chrztu od Ciebie": dodaj - i za Ciebie. Jasne bowiem dla niego było, że męczeństwem będzie ochrzczony; albo jak Piotr nie tylko nogi będzie miał umyte.

Ale Jezus wychodzi z wody i unosi ze sobą w górę cały świat; widzi rozwierające się i otwarte niebiosa, które Adam zamknął dla siebie i dla swych potomków, tak jak i raj został mu zamknięty mieczem płomienistym.

A Duch daje świadectwo Bóstwu, gdyż zstępuje na równego sobie. I daje się słyszeć głos z nieba, gdyż stamtąd był Ten, który otrzymał świadectwo. I jako gołębica zstępuje Duch, aby widzialnie uczcić ludzkie ciało Jezusa, ponieważ i ono jest przebóstwione i w nim Bóg staje się widzialny. Podobnie i w zamierzonych czasach gołębica zapowiedziała koniec potopu.

My zaś uczcijmy dzisiaj chrzest Chrystusa, obchodząc należycie to święto.

Przed wszystkim pozostaniecie czysti i oczyszczajcie się. Bóg przecież niczym bardziej się nie raduje niż nawróceniem i zbawieniem

człowieka, któremu została dana cała ta nauka i wszystkie tajemnice. I macie być jak źródła światła w świecie i siłą życiodajną dla ludzi. Macie być jak płonące światła przy owym wielkim świetle z nieba i napełnieni Jego promienistą jasnością, pełniej i wyraźniej jaśniejący blaskiem Trójcy Przenajświętszej. Bo przyjęliście teraz, choć jeszcze nie w pełni, jeden promień jedyne Boga, w Chrystusie Jezusie, Panu naszym, któremu chwała i panowanie przez wszystkie wieki. Amen.

LG tom I: Własne, str. 556-557

### 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: [polskaszkolaplainfield@outlook.com](mailto:polskaszkolaplainfield@outlook.com)

Dyrektorka Szkoły: Beata Benewiat  
Tel. 732-266-4310

**SZKOLENIE PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN** – SZKOLENIE W NASZEJ PARAFII ODBĘDZIE SIĘ W **PONIEDZIAŁEK, 13 STYCZNIA 2025** ROKU W CZASIE ZAJĘĆ W POLSKIEJ SZKOLE!

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Teresa Cuzek (917)301-6557



## Oplatek and Kolenda Celebrated Last Sunday



## 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 10:45AM.

## Liturgy of the Word January 12th

Liturgy of the Word is at the 9AM Mass on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

## 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.



## BestChurch Seniors



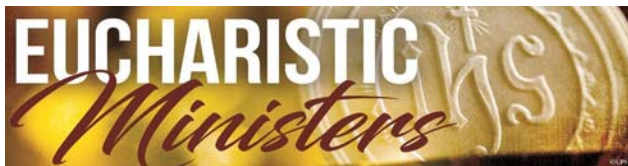
The BestChurch Seniors will be on a Winter Break in January and February and will return

**Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup>**

### **Celebrating ..... St. Joseph's Day!**

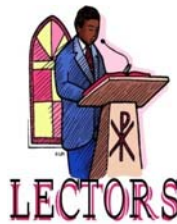
We will meet in the Parish Community Room on George Street, using the side entrance.

*If you are a Senior or almost a Senior Citizen and would like to join us in fellowship, entertainment, or just ordinary fun, all are welcome to attend. Let us know you are coming and invite a friend.*



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

Contact Bill Shlala  
[wgshlala@gmail.com](mailto:wgshlala@gmail.com) or call  
(908) 755-8560.



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

## CHOIR

**Why not become a member?  
It's never too late to join...**



Rehearsals are at 7:00PM on Thursdays.

If you are interested in joining the choir, please contact the office, or simply just come to one of our rehearsals in the church at 7PM. Our congregation has some beautiful voices, so why not join us? **We would love to enhance our Choir.**

## NON-PERISHABLE FOOD COLLECTION

We 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.

Starfish will now continue to collect egg cartons.

## STEWARDSHIP

### The Baptism of Our Lord

*“John answered them all, ‘I baptize you with water; but he who is mightier than I is coming...he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit...’” - Luke 3:16*  
Cardinal Joseph Tobim C.S.s.R. -

The Catholic Catechism states that *“Jesus’ immersion in the water is a sign for all human beings of the need to die to themselves to do God’s will.”* In other words, as baptized Catholics there is only one gift that we need to give to Jesus – the gift of ourselves. Surrender yourself to God, place your trust in Him and allow the Holy Spirit to work through you 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 DECEMBER 29TH

ON LINE	\$1,278
IN PEW	\$3,718
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,996</b>

### COLLECTION FOR JANUARY 5TH

ON LINE	\$3,103
IN PEW	\$4,145
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,248</b>



*If you need a statement for taxes just let us know. If you give electronically through "Parish Giving" they will send you a*

*statement for whatever was processed through them. However, that may not be your total giving, so don't hesitate to contact us to provide a statement for whatever was given before you signed up online.*

### **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,**

On this Sunday after the Epiphany, we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus, and we gratefully recall our Baptism. The Gospel presents Jesus, in the waters of the River Jordan, at the center of a wondrous divine revelation. St Luke writes: "when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form, as a dove, and a voice came from heaven, 'Thou art my beloved Son; with thee I am well pleased'." In this way Jesus is consecrated and manifested by the Father as the Savior Messiah and liberator.

In this event is the passing from the baptism of John the Baptist, symbolized by water, to the Baptism of Jesus "with the Holy Spirit and with fire." Indeed, the Holy Spirit is the principal artisan in Christian Baptism: it is He who burns and destroys original sin, restoring to the baptized the beauty of divine grace; it is He who frees us from the dominion of darkness, namely sin, and transfers us to the kingdom of light, namely love, truth and peace: this is the kingdom of light. Let us think about the dignity to which Baptism elevates us! "See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God, and so we are," the Apostle John exclaims. This splendid reality of being Children of God entails the responsibility of following Jesus, the obedient Servant, and reproduces in us: docility, humility, tenderness. This is not easy, especially when there is so much intolerance, arrogance, harshness around us; however, with the strength we receive from the Holy Spirit it is possible!

The Holy Spirit, received for the first time on the day of our Baptism, opens our heart to the Truth, to all Truth. The Spirit impels our life on the challenging but joyful path of charity and solidarity toward our brothers and sisters. The Spirit gives us the tenderness of divine forgiveness and permeates us with the invincible power of the Father's mercy. Let us not forget that the Holy Spirit is a living and vivifying presence in those who welcome Him; He prays in us and fills us with spiritual joy.

Today, let us ponder the day of our Baptism. All of us were baptized, let us give thanks for this gift. Celebrating that day means and reaffirms our adherence to Jesus, with the commitment to live as Christians, members of the Church and of a new humanity, in which all are brothers and sisters.

***In the Love of God,***

***Fr. Marcin Fuks***

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