

January 19, 2025

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

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**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

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

## **CHURCH ADDRESS**

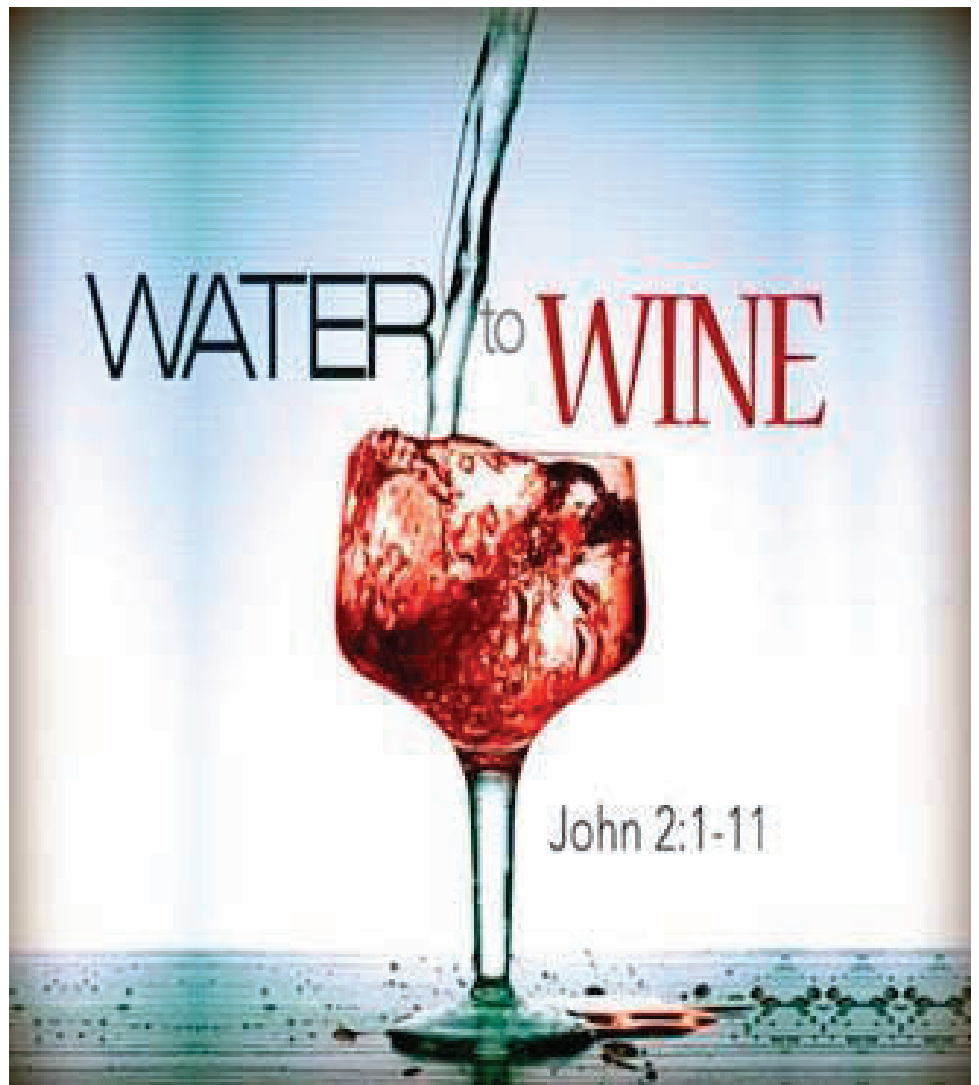
1235 George Street  
Plainfield, NJ 07062

## **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 18... Weekday**

9:00AM... God's 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 Laraine Colucci,  
req. Parish Family

### **Monday – January 20...Sts. Fabian and Sebastian**

9:00AM... God's Blessings and Thanksgiving for 38<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary of Jolanta and Andy Soljan

### **Tuesday – January 21...St. Agnes**

9:00AM ... + For the Souls in Purgatory,  
req. Alba Ledy Cuartas

### **Wednesday – January 22... Legal Protection of Unborn Children**

9:00AM... Health of Barbara Bylecki, req. Wong Family

### **Thursday – January 23...St. Vincent and St. Marianne Cope**

9:00AM...Health of Janet Berry,  
req. Beverly and Peter Cirino

### **Friday – January 24... St Frances DeSales**

9:00AM...+ Frank and Anita Meeks, req. Parish Family

### **Saturday – January 25...Conversion of St. Paul**

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

5:00PM...+ Sr. Margaret Murphy,  
req. Mary Ellen Chanda

### **Sunday – January 16...Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

9:00AM...+ Bill Sullivan, req. Daughter Gayle

11:00AM...+ Stefania i Józef Stachowicz, req. Córka

1:00PM...+ Joanne Vogt, 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.**

### **SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

#### **First Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5**

Isaiah prophesizes that Jerusalem will again be held in high esteem by God. He states that all nations will witness its glory. He compares a groom's joy toward his bride to the joy that God will feel toward Jerusalem.

#### **Second Reading: I Corinthians 12:4-11**

Paul discusses the different gifts and talents bestowed upon different individuals. He explains that each individual receives various talents so that everyone can contribute something to society.

#### **Gospel: John 2:1-11**

Jesus and Mary attended a wedding where Mary informed Jesus that there was no more wine. At first he said it did not concern him, but then he turned several jugs of water into wine. His disciples were also present, and believed in him more strongly after they witnessed the first sign of glory he revealed to them.

*The Saint of the Week*

## St. Agnes

(January 21)

St. Agnes of Rome was born in 291 AD and raised in a Christian family. Agnes was very beautiful and belonged to a wealthy family. Her hand in marriage was highly sought after, and she had many high ranking men chasing after her. However, Agnes made a promise to God never to stain her purity. Her love for the Lord was great and she hated sin even more than death!



Whenever a man wished to marry Agnes, she would always say, "Jesus Christ is my only Spouse."

According to legend, the young men she turned away became so angry and insulted by her devotion to God and purity that they began to submit her name to authorities as a Christian follower.

In one incident, Procop, the Governor's son, became very angry when she refused him. He tried to win her for his wife with rich gifts and promises, but the beautiful young girl kept saying, "I am already promised to the Lord of the Universe. He is more splendid than the sun and the stars, and He has said He will never leave me!"

In great anger, Procop accused her of being a Christian and brought her to his father, the Governor. The Governor promised Agnes wonderful gifts if she would only deny God, but Agnes refused. He tried to change her mind by putting her in chains, but her lovely face shone with joy.

Next he sent her to a place of sin, but an Angel protected her. At last, she was condemned to death. Even the pagans cried to see such a young and beautiful girl going to death. Yet, Agnes was as happy as a bride on her wedding day. She did not pay attention to those who begged her to save herself. "I would offend my Spouse," she said, "if I were to try to please you. He chose me first and He shall have me!" Then she prayed and bowed her head for the death-stroke of the sword. She died a virgin-martyr at the age of 12 or 13 on 21 January 304.

Agnes was buried beside the Via Nomentana in Rome. Her bones are currently conserved beneath the high altar in the church of Sant' Agnese fuori le mura in Rome, which was built over the catacomb that held her tomb. Her skull is preserved in the church of Sant' Agnese in Agone in Rome's Piazza Navona.

St. Agnes is widely known as the patron saint of young girls. She is also the patron saint of chastity, rape

survivors and the Children of Mary. She is often represented with a lamb, the symbol of her virgin innocence, and a palm branch, like other martyrs. She is shown as a young girl in robes holding a palm branch with the lamb either at her feet or in her arms.

Her feast day is celebrated on January 21. On her feast day, it is customary for two lambs to be brought in to be blessed by the pope. On Holy Thursday the lambs' wool is removed and woven into the pallium the pope gives to a newly consecrated archbishop as a sign of his power and union with the pope.

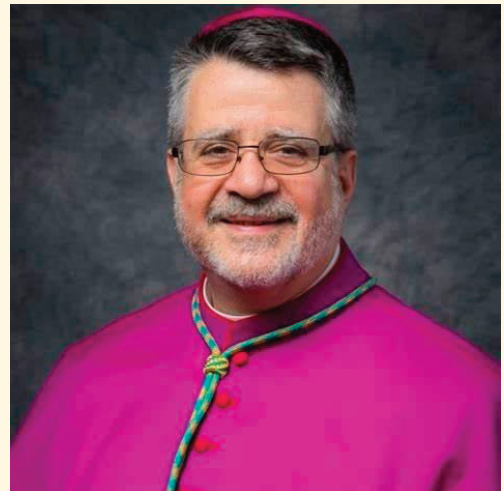
## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### Religious Education Classes are on Wednesdays at 6:30PM.

*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 **2 NIEDZIELA ZWYKŁA**

### **Z listu św. Ignacego Antiocheńskiego, biskupa i męczennika, do Efezjan**

Wszelkimi sposobami trzeba wam wielbić Jezusa Chrystusa, który was uwielbił, abyście zjednoczeni w tym samym posłannictwie, to jest poddani biskupowi i prezbiterom, osiągnęli pełnię świętości.

Nie daję wam poleceń, jak gdybym był kimś znacznym. Bo chociaż dla imienia Chrystusa pozostaję w kajdanach, to jednak nie osiągnąłem jeszcze doskonałości w Jezusie Chrystusie. Teraz właśnie zaczynam być Jego uczniem i przemawiam do was jako do współuczniów. Wpadało, abym to ja był przez was przygotowanym do walki przez waszą wiarę, wasze zachęty, waszą cierpliwość i łaskawość. Ponieważ jednak, gdy o was idzie, miłość nie pozwala mi milczeć, dlatego uprzedziłem was i zachęcam, abyście jednoczyli się w spełnianiu woli Boga. Albowiem Jezus Chrystus, nieodłączne nasze życie, wyraża wolę Ojca, podobnie jak ustanowieni po całej ziemi biskupi wyrażają wolę Jezusa Chrystusa.

Dlatego trzeba, abyście pozostawali w jedności z waszym biskupem, co też zresztą czynicie. Wasze czcigodne prezbiterium, czcigodne wobec Boga, złączone jest tak z biskupem, jak struny cytry. W jednomyślności i zgodnej miłości wznosi się pieśń ku chwale Jezusa Chrystusa. Każdy z was niechaj stanie się członkiem takiego chóru, abyście jednomyślni zgodą, podejmując harmonijnie melodię Bożą jednym głosem, śpiewali Ojcu przez Jezusa Chrystusa. Wtedy wysłucha was i pozna po dobrych waszych czynach, że należycie do Jego Syna. Trwajcie przeto w nienaruszonej jedności, abyście mieli trwałe uczestnictwo w Bogu.

Jeśli ja sam w krótkim czasie zawarłem z waszym biskupem tak serdeczną znajomość, nie

według ciała, lecz duchową, o ileż bardziej was uznaję za szczęśliwych, którzy z nim tak ściśle złączeni jesteście jak Kościół z Jezusem Chrystusem, jak Jezus Chrystus z Ojcem w

#### **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:* [polskaszkolainplainfield@outlook.com](mailto:polskaszkolainplainfield@outlook.com)  
Dyrektorka Szkoły: Beata Benewiat  
Tel. 732-266-4310

doskonałej harmonii jedności. Niechaj nikt nie błądzi: jeśli ktoś znajduje się z dala od ołtarza, pozbawia się Bożego chleba. Jeżeli bowiem modlitwa wspólna dwóch wierzących ma tak wielką moc, o ileż bardziej modlitwa biskupa i całego Kościoła!

*LG tom I: Własne, str. 556-557*

**POLSKA SZKOŁA DOKSZTAŁAJĄCA**  
IM. JULIANA URSYNA NIEMCEWICZA  
ZAPRASZA NA

## *Bal Karnawałowy*

**SOBOTA 25-go STYCZNIA 2025 roku**

**19:00-1:00**

**bilety \$130 od osoby**

**przekąski, obiad i alkohol wliczony**

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**do 17-go stycznia 2025**

**Ewa Papelka (908)636-5057**

**Teresa Guzek (917)301-6557**





## ALTAR SERVERS

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

Thank you to our current Altar Servers, **you truly make a difference!**

Any youth who has received the Sacrament of Holy Communion and may be interested in participating at Mass as an Altar Server, boys as well as girls – please contact Fr. Bernardo.

## Liturgy of the Word

**January 26th**

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 could use a little help as an assistant with our Liturgy during Mass one Sunday a month.**



**This is also an opportunity for our Confirmation students to earn service hours**

If you can give a little help at Mass **one Sunday a month**, please contact Fr. Marcin for more information.



## 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.



**The Office will be closed on Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup> in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr Day.**

## 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.

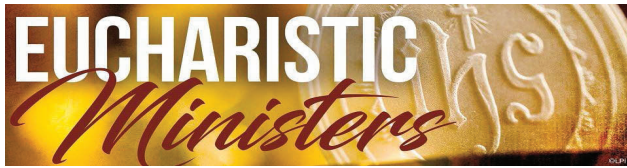
**If you are a Senior or almost a Senior Citizen and would like to join us in fellowship, entertainment, or just ordinary fun, all are welcome to attend. Let us know you are coming and invite a friend.**



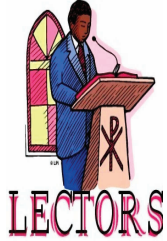
### **Safe Environment Corner How to Report Abuse**

The Archdiocese takes very seriously any and all allegations of sexual misconduct by members of the clergy, Religious and lay staff of the Archdiocese. We encourage anyone with knowledge of an act of sexual misconduct to inform us so that we may take appropriate action to protect others and provide support to victims of sexual abuse. Call the Coordinator for the Office of Accompaniment in the Archdiocesan Department for the Protection of the Faithful at

**201-407-3256**



Serve God as a Eucharistic Minister or Lector.  
Contact Bill Shlala [wgshlala@gmail.com](mailto:wgshlala@gmail.com) or call (908) 755-8560.



### 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 beautiful voices, so why not join us? We would love to enhance our Choir.

### FOOD COLLECTION

Our collection of food for Starfish continues. You are encouraged and welcome to drop off any non-perishable food with current dates in the open area of the church. The need, as you might expect, is great during these difficult times. There is nothing too small or too big; it's the thought that counts. So whatever you would like to provide, when added to everyone else's donations, becomes substantial to those in need. Starfish is once again requesting empty egg cartons.

**The staff at Starfish would like to thank everyone for your continued support**

### STEWARDSHIP

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

*"To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit." - 1 CORINTHIANS 12:7*  
CARDINAL JOSEPH TOBIN, C.S.S.R. –



St. Paul tells us that God has blessed each of us for a reason. How has God blessed you? Are you using your gifts according to God's plan? How are you helping to build God's kingdom here on earth? Remember that if you don't do the work God planned for you, no one else can do it. Live the life God has intended for you. Take time to discern your charisms (gifts from the Holy Spirit). Experience the supernatural Peace and Joy God desires for each of us.

### SERVICE

We will continue to make baby blankets for our Baptisms and lap covers for those in hospitals. We have plenty of yarn for you. If you are able to crochet or knit and would like to help, please call Karole in the office for more information.

### 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.



**ONLINE GIVING**

IT IS POSSIBLE TO AUTOMATE YOUR FAITH GIVING TO "PARISH GIVING." SIMPLY GO TO OUR PARISH WEBSITE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

**COLLECTION FOR CHRISTMAS DECEMBER 25TH  
WILL BE FORTHCOMING**

**COLLECTION FOR JANUARY 12TH**

ON LINE	\$ 1,193
IN PEW	\$ 45,34
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 5,727</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.*

The 2025 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 within our Archdiocese.

**From Fr. Marcin's Desk**

**Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

As we begin our journey into Ordinary time, we start with the Gospel reading presenting to us the wedding feast in Cana. The Mother of Jesus points out to her Son that the wine has run out, and, after responding that his hour had not yet come, Jesus nevertheless accepts her request and gives to the bride and groom the best wine of the entire feast. The Evangelist underlines that this was the first of the signs Jesus performed; it "manifested his glory; and his disciples believed in him".

Miracles, thus, are extraordinary signs that accompany the Good News and have the purpose of strengthening faith in Jesus. In the miracle performed at Cana, we are able to glimpse an act of benevolence on the part of Jesus toward the bride and groom, a sign of God's blessing on the marriage. The love between a man and a woman is therefore a good path through which to live the Gospel, that is, to set out with joy on the path of holiness.

Yet the miracle at Cana does not pertain only to spouses. Every human person is called to encounter the Lord in his or her life. Christian faith is a gift which we receive in Baptism and which allows us to encounter God. Faith intersects times of joy and pain, of light and darkness, as in every authentic experience of love. The narrative of the wedding at Cana invites us to rediscover that Jesus does not present himself to us as a judge ready to condemn our faults, nor as a commander who imposes upon us to blindly follow his orders. He is manifest as Savior of mankind, as our elder brother, who responds to the expectations and promises of joy that dwell in the heart of each one of us.

Thus, this Gospel shows us that it is about realizing that Jesus looks for us and invites us to make room in our heart. In this walk of faith with him we are not left alone: we have received the gift of the Blood of Christ. The large stone jars that Jesus had filled with water in order to transform it into wine are a sign of the passage from the old to the new covenant: in place of the water used for the rites of purification, we have received the Blood of Jesus, poured out in a sacramental way in the Eucharist and in the bloodstained way of the Passion and of the Cross. The Sacraments, which originate from the Pascal Mystery, instill in us supernatural strength and enable us to experience the infinite mercy of God.

**In the Love of God,**

**Fr. Marcin Fuks**

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

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