

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

February 9, 2025

**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 – February 8...St. Jerome Emiliani and St. Josephine Bakhita**

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

### **Sunday – February 9...Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

9:00AM... + Carlo Riello, req. Antonia Riello  
11:00AM... + Leszek Rutkowski  
1:00PM... Health of Janet Berry,  
req. Beverly and Peter Cirino

### **Monday – February 10...St. Scholastica**

9:00AM...+ Antonio and Lucia Simeone, req. Family

### **Tuesday – February 11...Our Lady of Lourdes**

9:00AM ... + Ricardo and Maddalena Negri,  
req. Angela Negri

### **Wednesday – February 12... Weekday**

9:00AM... Lee Toresco, req. Johanna Merkle

### **Thursday – February 13...Weekday**

9:00AM... + Rosalba Salgado (10 Anniv.),  
req. Alba Ledy Cuartas

### **Friday – February 14... Sts. Cyril and Methodius**

9:00AM...+ Carlo Riello, req. Antonia Riello

### **Saturday – February 15...Weekday**

9:00AM...+ Mario and Angela Negri,  
req. Sister and Family  
5:00PM... Mark Amadin, Birthday Blessings,  
req. Mom Esther

### **Sunday – February 16...Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

9:00AM... + Laura Vicari, req. Aunt Marietta  
11:00AM.. + Helena Aleksander Grabowski,  
req. od Syn Marka z Rodziną  
+ Regina i Stanisław Pieczur,  
req. od córka Agnieszki z Rodziną  
1:00PM... + Gabrielle Hamilton,  
req. Sister-in law, Fay Hamilton

The Tabernacle Candle will burn this week in **Memory of our Parish Deceased.**

The Bread and Wine for the Month of February is in **Memory of Cecilia Torres at the request of Marta Guardado.**

**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 Gabrielle Hamilton.**

### **FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

#### **First Reading: Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8**

Isaiah recounts the awe he felt the first time he saw the Lord, who was surrounded by angels. He began to feel despair because he was a man of unclean lips, until an angel touched an ember to his lips and pronounced them clean. The Lord asked who he should send forth, to which Isaiah replied, "Here I am, send me!"

#### **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

Paul reminds the Corinthians that Christ died for us to free us from our sins. He encourages them to remember the importance of Jesus' death and resurrection. He admits that he initially failed to believe, and therefore was very grateful to be called an apostle and preach in the name of Christ.

#### **Gospel: Luke 5:1-11**

Luke tells of Jesus preaching to a crowd, then joining Peter who was about to end a fruitless day of fishing. He told Peter to lower his net back in, and a great number of fish were caught. Upon seeing this, Peter and his companions, James and John, immediately abandoned their nets to follow Jesus.



## The Saint of the Week



### Saints Cyril and Methodius

*(February 14)*

Because their father was an officer in a part of Greece inhabited by many Slavs, these two Greek brothers ultimately became missionaries, teachers, and patrons of the Slavic peoples.

After a brilliant course of studies, Cyril (called Constantine until he became a monk shortly before his death) refused the governorship of a district such as his brother had accepted among the Slavic-speaking population. Cyril withdrew to a monastery where his brother Methodius had become a monk after some years in a governmental post.

A decisive change in their lives occurred when the Duke of Moravia asked the Eastern Emperor Michael for political independence from German rule and ecclesiastical autonomy (having their own clergy and liturgy). Cyril and Methodius undertook the missionary task.

Cyril's first work was to invent an alphabet, still used in some Eastern liturgies. His followers probably formed the Cyrillic alphabet. Together they translated the Gospels, the psalter, Paul's letters and the liturgical books into Slavonic, and composed a Slavonic liturgy, highly irregular then.

That and their free use of the vernacular in preaching led to opposition from the German clergy. The bishop refused to consecrate Slavic bishops and priests, and Cyril was forced to appeal to Rome. On the visit to Rome, he and Methodius had the joy of seeing their new liturgy approved by Pope Adrian II. Cyril, long an invalid, died in Rome 50 days after taking the monastic habit.

Methodius continued mission work for 16 more years. He was papal legate for all the Slavic peoples, consecrated a bishop and then given an ancient see (now in the Czech Republic). When much of their former territory was removed from their jurisdiction, the Bavarian bishops retaliated with a violent storm of accusation against Methodius. As a result, Emperor Louis the German exiled Methodius for three years. Pope John VIII secured his release.

Because the Frankish clergy, still smarting, continued their accusations, Methodius had to go to Rome to defend himself against charges of heresy and uphold his use of the Slavonic liturgy. He was again vindicated.

Legend has it that in a feverish period of activity, Methodius translated the whole Bible into Slavonic in eight months. He died on Tuesday of Holy Week, surrounded by his disciples, in his cathedral church.

Opposition continued after his death, and the work of the brothers in Moravia was brought to an end and their disciples scattered. But the expulsions had the beneficial effect of spreading the spiritual, liturgical, and cultural work of the brothers to Bulgaria, Bohemia and southern Poland. Patrons of Moravia, and specially venerated by Catholic Czechs, Slovaks, Croatians, Orthodox Serbians and Bulgarians, Cyril and Methodius are eminently fitted to guard the long-desired unity of East and West. In 1980, Pope John Paul II named them additional co-patrons of Europe.



**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.***



## Polskie Duszpasterstwo w Parafii św. Bernarda i św. Stanisława Kostki 5 NIEDZIELA ZWYKŁA ROK C

### Z komentarza św. Augustyna, biskupa, do Listu do Galatów

Apostoł napisał List do Galatów, aby pouczyć, iż Boża łaska uczyniła ich wolnymi od Prawa. Kiedy bowiem Ewangelia została już im oznajmiona, pojawili się jacyś ludzie, z pochodzenia Żydzi, którzy wprawdzie nazywali się chrześcijanami, ale nie rozumieli jeszcze dobrodziejstwa łaski Ewangelii. Otóż ci ludzie pragnęli nadal podlegać Prawu, które Bóg nadał niegdyś sługom grzechu, nie zaś sprawiedliwości; ludziom grzesznym dał święte Prawo, aby ukazać ich grzechy, nie zaś aby je usunąć, ponieważ jedynie łaska wiary działająca przez miłość usuwa grzechy. Tak więc ludzie ci pragnęli dostępujących łaski Galatów poddać przepisom Prawa. Utrzymywali zatem, iż na nic zda się Ewangelia, jeżeli nie przyjmą obrzezania i nie poddadzą się pozostałym przepisom judaizmu.

Z tego powodu Galaci zaczęli podejrzewać apostoła Pawła, który oznajmił im Ewangelię, iż zaniedbuje wskazania pozostałych Apostołów, zobowiązujące pogan do życia według zasad judaizmu. Wobec niebezpieczeństwa zgorszenia ustąpił święty Piotr i został wmieszany w udawanie, jakoby i on sam uważał, iż Ewangelia jest bezowocna, jeżeli nie spełnia się przepisów Prawa. Od tego udawania odwiódł go święty Paweł, jak to sam w omawianym liście stwierdza. To samo zresztą zagadnienie przedstawia List do Rzymian. Wydaje się jednak, że pomiędzy obydwoma listami zaistniało coś, co zakończyło niezgodę i uporządkowało spór pomiędzy chrześcijanami pochodzącymi z judaizmu a tymi, którzy przedtem byli poganami.

W Liście do Galatów Apostoł pisze do tych, którzy zachwiali się pod wpływem autorytetu ludzi wywodzących się z judaizmu i nakłaniających do zachowania Prawa. Zaczęli

im bowiem wierzyć, jakoby Paweł błędnie uczył przeciwstawiając się ich obrzezaniu. Toteż Apostoł rozpoczyna w ten sposób: "Nadziwić się nie mogę, że tak szybko chcecie przejść od Tego, który was łaską Chrystusa powołał, do innej Ewangelii".

We wstępie zaznacza zatem krótko istotę sporu. Już w samym pozdrowieniu, nazywając się apostołem posłanym "nie przez ludzi ani za pośrednictwem człowieka", co nie znajduje się w żadnym innym liście, dostatecznie ukazuje, iż ci, którzy rozgłaszali owe błędne nauki, nie pochodzą od Boga, lecz od ludzi. Wykazuje też, iż nie należy uważać go za mniejszego od innych Apostołów w tym, co dotyczy powagi świadectwa apostołskiego. Wie bowiem, że jest apostołem, posłanym nie od ludzi bądź za pośrednictwem człowieka, lecz od Boga Ojca przez Jezusa Chrystusa.

*LG tom III: V Niedziela Zwykła C, str. 137-139*

#### 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



## ARCHDIOCESE of NEWARK

### We Are His Witnesses: A Pastoral Letter from Cardinal Tobin

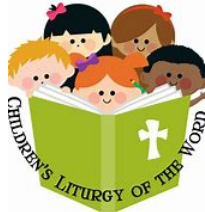
Cardinal Tobin invites all Catholics in the Archdiocese of Newark to read ***We Are His Witnesses***, his pastoral letter outlining new pathways for the future of the Archdiocese. Rooted in Pope Francis' call for pastoral conversion, missionary discipleship, and synodality, the letter reflects on our shared journey of faith and calls us to embrace renewal, collaboration and missionary outreach. This multi-year initiative will guide us in shaping a vibrant, hopeful future for our Church community. Read [We Are His Witnesses](#) on our website.



## Liturgy of the Word

February 23

Liturgy of the Word is about breaking open the **Word of God** for young children

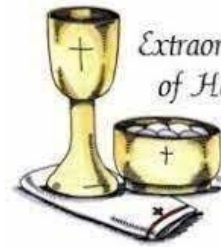


that is more appropriate for their level of understanding. It is celebrated at the 9AM Mass on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month for grades K-2, in the Church Chapel.

## SERVING GOD



LECTORS



If you would like to assist with Serving God at Mass as a Eucharistic Minister or Lector, contact Bill Shlala [wgshlala@gmail.com](mailto:wgshlala@gmail.com) or call (908) 755-8560

## BestChurch SENIORS



The BestChurch Seniors will be on a Winter Break through February. We will return when the snow melts on

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

**Celebrating .....**

**St. Joseph's Day!**

Meeting will be 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 in fellowship, entertainment, or just ordinary fun, let us know you are coming and... you are welcome to invite a friend.*

## 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 could use a little more help as an assistant with our Children's Liturgy during Mass one Sunday a month. If you are interested in helping, please contact Karole in the office.**



## 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 with Benediction at 10:45AM.



## ALTAR SERVERS

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



**Thank you to our new Altar Servers**  
**You make a difference**



Last Sunday we welcomed our  
Community Regional Bishop -  
Bishop Elías Lorenzo  
at the 9 and 11AM Masses.



## **PRAYER SHAWL**

We are continuing 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.

## **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 in need of empty egg cartons.

## **STEWARDSHIP**

### **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time**

*"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?' 'Here I am,' I said, 'send me!'" - ISAIAH 6:8*

Cardinal Joseph Tobin C.Ss.R –

Every day, in little ways and in big ways, God asks, *"Whom shall I send?"* Whether it is someone to take on a new ministry, to give a friendly smile to a stranger or to say a word of encouragement to a friend, God constantly provides opportunities to help someone in need. God is always talking to us; we just need to pay more attention. When you hear God calling have the courage to walk through the door and say, "Here I am, Lord."



## **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 FEBRUARY 2ND**

ON LINE	\$ 2,298
IN PEW	\$ 3,499
TOTAL	\$ 5,797



*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.*

**ANNUAL <sup>2025</sup> APPEAL**

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. Our new goal for the AA 2025 is \$30,181.02

**From Fr. Marcin's Desk**

**Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

The Gospel of today tells us how Jesus surprised Simon by climbing in his boat, and going out a little bit from the shore to teach the people. Then Jesus made another surprising move by asking Simon to put out into the deep and lower his nets for a catch.

Simon (to whom Jesus would later give the name Peter) at first responds with some objection. Then inspired by the presence of Jesus, and illuminated by His Word, Simon does as he is asked. It is the response of faith, the response that we too are called to give: the attitude of openness that the Lord asks of all His disciples, especially insofar as they have duties of responsibility in the Church.

It is Simon's trusting obedience that prompts the miraculous catch of fish. When we come with generosity to His service, Jesus accomplishes great things in us.

This is how Jesus deals with each of us: He asks us to welcome Him into the boat of our life, to begin again with Him and set out on a new sea, that turns out to be full of surprises. Jesus' invitation gives new meaning to our existence. If we, like Peter, are sometimes surprised or hesitant at this call, Jesus encourages us. If we trust in Him, God will free us from our sins and open us up to new horizons, to collaborate in His mission.

The greatest miracle accomplished by Jesus for Simon and the other disappointed and tired fishermen, is not so much the nets filled with fish, but to have helped them to not fall victim to disappointment and discouragement in the face of setbacks. He opened the way for them to become heralds and witnesses of His Word and of the Kingdom of God.

**In the Love of God,**

*Fr. Marcin Fuks*

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



**MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME**  
Thoughtful care—Compassionate service  
Owned and managed by the Keiser family since 1928  
Thomas M. Keiser, Jr., Owner  
NJ License No. 3844  
Laura E. Mann, Executive Director  
NJ License No. 4947  
155 South Avenue • Fanwood, NJ 07023  
908 322-4350  
www.fanwoodmemorial.com

**McCriskin-Gustafson**  
FAMILY OF FUNERAL HOMES  
INDEPENDENT & LOCAL  
2425 Plainfield Ave, South Plainfield, NJ 07080  
908-561-8000  
James A. Gustafson  
President/Manager  
NJ License #4205  
Richard W. McCriskin II  
Vice President  
NJ License #4564  
Scan to visit our website  
www.mccriskinfuneralhome.com  
Pre-Arrangements • Cremation Services  
S/S Medicaid Protection

**SMOKEY**  
**ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDFIRES**

**Watchung Dental Care PC**  
COSMETIC • IMPLANT • FAMILY DENTISTRY  
Sang H. Moon D.D.S., F.I.C.O.I. 1801 East 2nd Street  
Caroline Hanna, D.M.D. Scotch Plains, NJ 07076  
908-322-6090 • www.watchungdentalcare.com

**GOD BLESS AMERICA**

**ROOFING • CHIMNEYS  
MASONRY • GUTTERS**

**We Find & Fix Leaks!**  
**ROYAL PRO CONSTRUCTION**  
Family Owned/Operated • Lic. #13VH0934200, Bonded & Insured • 20+ Yrs.  
732-589-9967 Serving All of New Jersey

**\$1100 OFF**  
Any New Roof Replacement  
**20% OFF**  
Any Roof, Chimney, Gutter,  
Masonry Repair & SENIORS

If the lights are flashing,  
**no passing.**  
It's Not a Suggestion, *It's the Law.*

SCHOOL BUS  
STOP STOP

**READY.GOV**  
Don't be afraid...Be Ready

Act now to help end hunger.  
In the United States, one in nine people face hunger.  
feedingamerica.org  
**FEEDING AMERICA**

no! Type donors needed now!  
American Red Cross

Always be alert for pedestrians.  
**Safe Drivers Save Lives**  
NHTSA

Help your community, the environment, & yourself  
Patronize your local businesses

**HEAT UP YOUR BUSINESS!**  
Join the family of sponsors who help support our weekly parish bulletin.  
**ADVERTISING HELPS TO BUILD AWARENESS!**  
CALL TODAY FOR OUR SPECIAL HOLIDAY DISCOUNTS!  
For More Information  
JOHN SLOOTMAKER  
732-735-9639  
Happy NEW YEAR 2025

REMEMBER HONOR TEACH  
**WREATHS across AMERICA**  
Sponsor a veterans' wreath at a cemetery near you.  
To sponsor, volunteer or donate, visit  
wreathscrossamerica.org

**WWF**  
Help build a future where people live in harmony with nature.  
www.worldwildlife.org

**Higgins**  
HOME FOR FUNERALS, INC. established 1868  
Stephen D. Szczubelek  
Manager Watchung Lic. #4446  
908-756-0017  
www.higginsfuneralhome.com  
752 Mountain Boulevard • Watchung, NJ 07069

**NEED A LAWYER? INJURED?**  
Call For A Free Legal Consultation  
**MARC J. BRENNER ESQ.**  
973-326-8902  
• Personal Injury  
• Workers' Compensation  
• Social Security Disability  
lawmarchbrenner.com • marc@lawmarchbrenner.com  
222 RIDGEDALE AVENUE • CEDAR KNOLLS, NJ 07927