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

Phone: 908-756-3393 **Fax:** 908-756-3059

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

Karole Lechowski Secretary

office@bestchurch.net 908-756-3393

908-756-3393 General Mailbox ext. 100

Iveth Parada
Religious Education
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

THE EIGHT BEATITUDES OF JESUS

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

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 tithe. 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, deaconate, 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



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 Syne Marka z Rodzina

+ Regina i Stanisław Pieczur,

reg. od córka Agnieszki z Rodzina

+ Dla Syna w rocznicę jego śmierci, req. ojca

1:00PM... + Gabrielle Hamilton.

req. Sister-in law, Freya Hamilton

Monday – February 17...The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order

9:00AM ... People of the Parish

Tuesday - February 18...Weekday

9:00AM ... + John Skolka, req. Johanna Merkle

Wednesday - February 19... Weekday

9:00AM... + Gill Sepperagozzino, req. Antonia Riello

Thursday - February 20...Weekday

9:00AM... + JoAnn Jennings. req. Parish Family

Friday - February 21... St. Peter Damian

9:00AM...+ Frank Wood, req. Family

Saturday - February 22...Chair of St. Peter

9:00AM...+ Janet Garbarini, req. Parish Family

5:00PM...+ Robert F. Brady, req. Daughter Mary Ellen Chanda

Sunday - February 23...Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00AM... + Confesora Esteves, req. Liz Smith and Family

11:00AM. + Pan i Pani Stanley Gabrukiewicz,

reg. Wnuczka Karole

1:00PM... + Jackie Moore, Family

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 for Luz Franco**.

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Jeremiah 17:5-8

Jeremiah compares a man who seeks strength in flesh but abandons God to a bush in the desert, bereft of nourishment and unable to grow. Yet a man who trusts in God is like a tree beside a river, fed & strengthened by it even during times of drought.

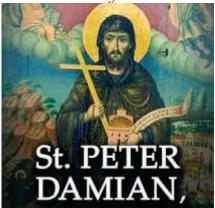
Second Reading: I Corinthians 15:12, 16-20

Paul addresses those who believe in Christ's teachings, but are not convinced that he rose from the dead. He calls their faith worthless, because they have not been freed from their sins. Paul then emphatically declares that Jesus did rise up again, as will all those who truly believe in him.

Gospel: Luke 6:17, 20-26

Jesus tells his followers that those who are insulted in this life because of him will be rewarded richly in heaven. Yet those well received by all will despair in heaven, since people had often respected false prophets and mistreated true prophets. Those who hunger, perhaps for spiritual knowledge, shall be filled. Yet those who are full in this life will be hungry.

The Saint of the Week



(February 21)

Born in Ravenna in 1007, he was the last of seven children. His mother felt she couldn't cope with yet another child and refused to breastfeed him, effectively condemning him to certain death. A friend intervened, taking the child in her arms and scolding the mother who repented of her rash behavior and took care of him like the others. When she died, Peter was raised first by his sister Rodelinda and then by a brother who mistreated him and forced him to do the most menial tasks. Finally, he was entrusted to his eldest brother, Damiano, who was Archpriest in a parish near Ravenna and who took care of young Peter and his education. As a sign of gratitude, Peter added the name Damian to his own.

One day the young Peter found a coin: delighted, he thought he would buy a cake or a toy. Then, suddenly, he realized that anything he bought would give him only momentary joy, so he decided to take the money to a priest and have a Mass said for his deceased parents. On another occasion, when he was having lunch with a poor blind man, he chose the better quality white bread for himself, and offered the guest the darker bread. At that moment he felt like a bone had stuck in his throat. He repented of his selfishness and the moment he exchanged his own bread with that of the blind man, the bone disappeared. It was this episode that convinced him to consecrate himself to God alone, and to embrace the monastic life.

Driven by a need for solitude, meditation and prayer, Peter Damian retired to the Camaldolese monastery of Fonte Avellana, in the year 1035. He quickly became the spiritual guide of the monks and his fame spread so rapidly that he was invited to teach in other monasteries as well. Returning to Fonte Avellana, he was elected Prior. He reorganized the hermitage and inspired the

establishment of new houses in neighboring regions. His fervent activity was noticed by the Bishop of Ravenna who asked for his assistance, obliging him to leave the quiet and recollection of his monastery.

The Church at this time was afflicted by two evils: Simony, the buying and selling of ecclesiastical offices; and Nicolaism, or the nonfulfillment of celibacy. Pope Stephen IX called Peter Damian to Rome in 1057 to help him reform the clergy. The Pope quickly made him a Cardinal and Bishop of Ostia. Over the next six years he was sent on missions to Milan to quell an uprising, and later to Cluny, to defend the rights of the Benedictine abbots against the Archbishop of Macon. He worked with Pope Gregory VII in fighting against investiture, after the Emperor, Henry IV, abrogated the right to appoint bishops and abbots, incurring excommunication by the Pope. A few years after the death of Peter Damian, the Emperor begged for pardon and, dressed as a penitent, threw himself at the feet of the Pope at the Castle of Canossa, in 1077.

Returning to his monastery from a peace mission in his hometown of Ravenna, Peter Damian was overtaken by death while visiting the Benedictine monastery in Faenza. He was immediately acclaimed as a saint by the people, and Pope Leo XII proclaimed him a Doctor of the Church in 1828.



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 6 NIEDZIELA ZWYKLA ROK C

Z komentarza św. Efrema, diakona, do czterech Ewangelii

Któż zdoła pojąć dogłębnie jedno Twe słowo, Panie? Daleko więcej pomijamy zeń, niż pojmujemy, tak jak spragniony człowiek, który pije wodę ze źródła. Boże słowo ukazuje różnorodną postać, zależnie od umiejętności poznających. Pan bowiem przyozdobił swe słowo różnobarwnym pięknem, aby każdy, kto je zgłębia, mógł zobaczyć to, co go zachwyca. W swym słowie Pan zamknął różnorodne bogactwo, aby każdy z nas mógł w tym, co rozważa, znaleźć dla siebie pożytek. Słowo Boga jest drzewem życia, które z każdej strony podaje ci błogosławiony owoc; jest jak owa otwarta na pustyni skała, która wszystkim dostarczała duchowego napoju. "Spożywali powiada Apostoł - duchowy pokarm i pili duchowy napój".

Jeśli zatem ktokolwiek potrafił pojąć cząstkę owych bogactw, niechaj nie sądzi, iż w Bożym słowie znajduje się tylko to, co sam znalazł, ale niech wie, iż spośród wielu skarbów, to jedynie udało mu się zobaczyć. Niechaj nie mówi, iż słowo jest słabe i liche, i niech nim nie pogardza na tej podstawie, że drobna zaledwie część przypadła mu w udziale, ale raczej, niezdolny do pełnego zrozumienia, niechaj uwielbia Boga za Jego niezmierzoność. Raduj się przeto nasyceniem, a nie smuć się, iż obfitość słowa przerasta twe pragnienie. Kto pragnie, ten pije z radością i nie smuci się, że nie potrafi wypić źródła. Niechaj raczej źródło przewyższa twoje pragnienie, niżby pragnienie miało wyczerpać źródło. Jeśli ugasisz pragnienie nie wyczerpując źródła, możesz zeń pić ponownie, gdy tylko zapragniesz. Gdyby zaś z ustaniem pragnienia ustało także i źródło, to takie nad nim zwycięstwo stałoby się dla ciebie nieszczęściem.

Dziękuj więc za to, co otrzymałeś, i nie smuć się z powodu obfitości tego, co pozostało. To, co osiągnąłeś i zabrałeś, jest już twoją własnością, a to, co zostało, również czeka na ciebie. To, czego nie mogłeś z powodu słabości otrzymać natychmiast, otrzymasz później, jeżeli wytrwasz. Nie chciej nierozważnie od razu zrozumieć to, czego w ten sposób pojąć się nie da, ani też nie odstępuj w swoim lenistwie od tego, co jedynie pomału można osiągnąć.

LG tom III: VI Niedziela Zwykła C, str. 163-164

Szkoła Polska Dokształcająca

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





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.



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 usually on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month for grades K-2, in the Church Chapel.

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



This is open for the Confirmation students to assist and earn service hours.



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

ALTAR SERVERS

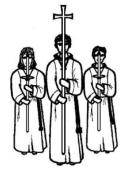
Be joyful to serve at the altar, to be closer to Jesus!



Thank you to our Altar Servers

You 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– please contact Fr. Bernardo./



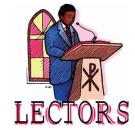


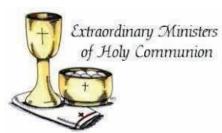
Why not become a member? *It's never too late to join...*

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?





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



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.

BestChurch SENIORS



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

Thursday, March 20th 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.

CHAIR YOGA

Chair yoga is a **gentle practice in which postures are performed while seated and/or with the <u>aid of a chair</u>. Chair yoga classes typically target those with physical disabilities or aging men and women who find a typical yoga session too challenging.**

We have the opportunity to offer Chair Yoga once again. Patty Casterline has offered to orchestrate the classes weekly for about 4 weeks as she has in the past. In order to make this happen once again, we need know how many would be interested in joining. Please call the office for information.

Mt. St. MARY HOUSE OF PRAYER...



The House of Prayer of St. Mary's 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 or email msmhope.org

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

6th Sunday of Ordinary Time

"Blessed are you when people hate you...exclude and insult you, and denounce your name...on account of the Son of Man." - LUKE 6:22 Cardinal Joseph Tobin, C.Ss.R. –

All of us have been in situations when someone has made a negative comment or joke about God or our Catholic faith. How did you respond? Did you stay silent or pretend to go along with the crowd because you didn't want to cause waves and then, later, you felt bad? Know that God is with you all the time; the Holy Spirit will put the right words in your mouth. Pray for the strength and courage to proclaim our faith to others, especially during uncomfortable situations.



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.



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.





IT IS POSSIBLE TO AUTOMATE YOUR FAITH GIVING TO

"Parish Giving." Simply go to our parish website for further information.

COLLECTION FOR FEBRUARY 9TH

ON LINE \$1,463 IN PEW \$2,406

TOTAL \$3,869

CHRISTMAS 2024

\$18,044.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS

ANNUAL 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,

Today's Gospel presents us Saint Luke's passage on the Beatitudes. The text is arranged into four beatitudes and four admonitions denoted by the expression, "woe to you." With these assertive and sharp words, Jesus opens our eyes and lets us look with his gaze, beyond appearances, beyond the surface and teaches us to discern situations with faith.

We are called to happiness, to be blessed, and we become so as of now, to the measure in which we place ourselves on the side of God, of his Kingdom, that endures for eternal life. We are happy if we acknowledge we are needy before God. Although we possess worldly goods, we experience joy when we do not idolize or sell our souls out to them, but are able to share them with our brothers and sisters. Today the liturgy invites us once again to question ourselves about this and to be truthful in our heart.

On the note of the "joys and woes,"
Cardinal Tobin has granted us permission to
begin a Spanish Mass. As a parish, in order to
accommodate the new mass, we will need to
make some adjustment to our Sunday Mass
schedule. In preparation for that new ministry,
today at the masses we want to do a survey. This
survey is to get a feeling of how to accommodate
the needs of this new ministry as well as the
needs of all parishioners.

In the survey I am asking you to choose one of the options that would be acceptable for you and your family. Based on that, we would see how to adjust our schedule accordingly in future time.

Thank you, and if you have any questions do not hesitate to ask!

In the Love of God,

Fr. Marcin Fuks

Pastor@bestchurch.net



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 South Avenue & Fanwood, NI 07023 908 322-4350

www.fanwoodmemorial.com



FAMILY OF FUNERAL HOMES INDEPENDENT & LOCAL

2425 Plainfield Ave, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 908-561-8000

James A. Gustafson NJ License #4205

Richard W. McCriskin II Vice President NJ License #4564

Scan to

Watchung Dental Care PC

COSMETIC • IMPLANT • FAMILY DENTISTRY



Sang H. Moon D.D.S., F.I.C.O.I. Caroline Hanna, D.M.D.

1801 East 2nd Street Scotch Plains, NJ 07076

908-322-6090 • www.watchungdentalcare.com



ROOFING • CHIMNEYS **MASONRY • GUTTERS**



CONSTRUCTION

\$1100 OFF Any New Roof Replacement

20% OFF Any Roof, Chimney, Gutter, Masonry Repair & SENIORS

Family Owned/Operated • Lic. #13VH0934200, Bonded & Insured • 20+ Yrs. 732-589-9967 Serving All of New Jersey

Don't be afraid...Be Ready



If the lights are flashing, no passing.

It's Not a Suggestion, It's the Law.





In the United States, one in nine people face hunger.

feedingamerica.org









WREATHS **AMERICA**

Sponsor a veterans' wreath at a cemetery near you.

To sponsor, volunteer or donate, visit

wreathsacrossamerica.org



live in harmony with nature.





HEAT UP YOUR BUSINESS!

Join the family of sponsors who help support our weekly parish bulletin.

ADVERTISING HEIPS TO BUILD AWARENESS!

CALL TODAY FOR OUR SPECIAL HOLIDAY DISCOUNTS!



For More Information

JOHN SLOOTMAKER





MARC J. BRENNER ESQ.



973-326-8902

Personal Injury

 Workers' Compensation Social Security Disability

lawmarcbrenner.com omarc@lawmarcbrenner.com 222 RIDGEDALE AVENUE · CEDAR KNOLLS, NJ 07927

Help build a future where people www.worldwildlife.org

established 1868

Stephen D. Szczubelek

Manager Watchung Lic. #4446

908-756-0017

www.higginsfuneralhome.com 752 Mountain Boulevard · Watchung, NJ 07069