

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

March 9, 2025

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
General Mailbox ext. 100

Iveth Parada
Religious Education

bestreligiousused@gmail.com
908-756-3393 Ext - 103

CHURCH ADDRESS

1235 George Street
Plainfield, NJ 07062

OFFICES & MAILING ADDRESS

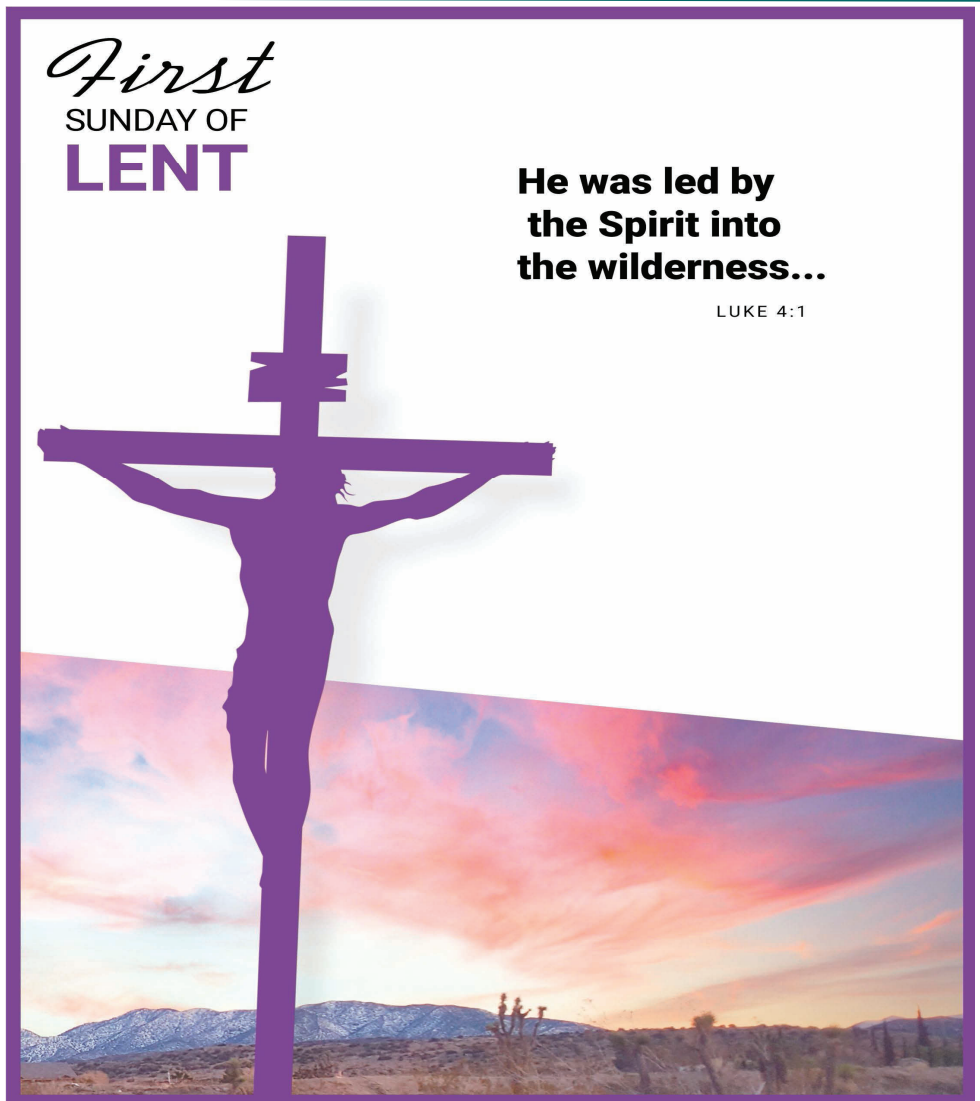
1232 George Street
Plainfield, NJ 07062

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



Saturday – March 8... St. John of God

9:00AM...Special Intention of a Parishioner
5:00PM...+ James DeCicco, req. Wife
+ Bergio Martinez (4 Month Anniv.), req. Family

Sunday – March 9...First Sunday of Lent

9:00AM... + Andrea and Rosa Negri, req. Angela Negri
11:00AM.+ Jan i Anna Radecki, req. Radecki Rodzina
... Boże błogosławieństwo pierwsze urodziny
Lukas Radecki, req. Dziadkowie
... Teresa Błażejowicz 65 urodziny, od Dzieci
1:00PM...+ Thomas McDonnell III, req. Mary Ohnmeiss

Monday – March 10... Lenten Weekday

9:00AM... Health of Tom Smith, req. John and Theresa

Tuesday March 11... Lenten Weekday

9:00AM ... + Rose and Onofino Lella, req. Johanna Merkle

Wednesday – March 12... Lenten Weekday

9:00AM...+ Dolores and Robert Renz, req. Johanna Merkle

Thursday – March 13...Lenten Weekday

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

Friday – March 14...Lenten Weekday

9:00AM...+ Thomas McDonnell III, Rick Negri

Saturday – March 15... Lenten Weekday

9:00AM...+ Carlo Riello, req. Antonia Riello
5:00PM...+ Lily Nelson, req. Mr. and Mrs. Michael Barrow

Sunday – March 16...Second Sunday of Lent

9:00AM... + Megan Renee Canavesio,
req. Mom, Karole, Brother and Sister
11:00AM.+ Genowefa i Józef Grzelak, req. Córka i rodzina
...+ Józef Błażejowicz, req. Żona i dzieci
... Agnieszka i Marek, req. rocznica ślubu
1:00PM...+ Liam Connor Noonan, req. Kruse Family

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

The Bread and Wine for the Month of March is in **Memory of Meagan Renee Canavesio, req. Karole Lechowski, Mother.**

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

OUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED for all the **Faithful Departed.**

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: Deuteronomy 26:4-10

Moses discusses the power God has displayed in freeing his people from oppression and leading them to a rich land. He tells the people that they should make offerings to God to show their gratitude, then celebrate over the great things he has given them.

Second Reading: Romans 10:8-13

Paul tells us that if we proclaim, "Jesus is Lord" and truly believe that God raised him from the dead, we will be saved. For God shows his mercy toward everyone who calls upon his name.

Gospel: Luke 4:1- 13

Jesus fasted in the desert for forty days, then Satan appeared to him and tempted him to turn stone into bread. After Jesus refused, Satan promised him great powers if Jesus would worship him. Jesus replied that he would worship God and no one else. Then Satan tried to persuade Jesus to put God to the test, but again Jesus resisted his temptation.

The Saint of the Week



School builder and founder of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament serving Black and Indigenous Americans

When she asked Pope Leo XIII to send more missionaries to Wyoming, he asked her, "Why don't you become a missionary?" As a young, wealthy, educated girl from Philadelphia, this was hardly the expected lifestyle for young Katharine Drexel. But raised in a devout family with a deep sympathy for the poor, Katharine gave up everything to become a missionary to the Indians and African Americans. She founded schools in thirteen states for African Americans, forty mission centers and twenty-three rural schools. She also established fifty missions for Indians in sixteen different states. She died at the age of ninety-six and was canonized in the year 2000.



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.

New Mass Schedule:

After Easter 2025 we will add a Spanish Mass to our Sunday Mass schedule. The new schedule will be:

9:00 AM - English

10:30 AM - Polish

12:00 PM - English

1:30 PM – Spanish

This new mass schedule will start on 2nd Sunday of Easter, April 27th

Lenten Scripture Sharing

The Scripture readings for Lent are particularly rich and a major source of help in living a good Lent. Everyone is welcome to join us on Monday evenings to meditate together on the readings for the upcoming Sunday with Fr. Marcin.

Experience the power of the Word of God!!!

Mondays of Lent at 6:00PM

in the Community room.

Starting this Monday! March 10th

Stations of the Cross

Fridays during Lent

6:00PM - English

7:00PM – Polish



Daylight Savings time begins this weekend. We now have one extra hour of daylight.



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



Z komentarza św. Augustyna, biskupa, do Psalmsów

"Wysłuchaj, Boże, mojego wołania, wejrzyj na modlitwę moją". Kto to mówi? Jakby jeden. Zobacz jednak czy jeden: "Od krańców ziemi wołałem do Ciebie, gdy było zatrwożone moje serce". A więc już nie jeden. Dlatego wszakże jeden, że jeden jest Chrystus, którego wszyscy jesteśmy członkami. Jakiż to bowiem "jeden" człowiek woła od krańców ziemi? Woła od tych krańców nie kto inny, lecz owo dziedzictwo, o którym powiedziano samemu Synowi: "Żądaj ode Mnie, a dam Ci narody w twe dziedzictwo i w posiadanie twoje krańce ziemi".

A zatem ta posiadłość Chrystusowa, to dziedzictwo Chrystusowe, to ciało Chrystusa, ten jeden Kościół Chrystusowy, ta jedność, którą my jesteśmy, woła od krańców ziemi. O co zaś woła? O to, o czym powiedziałem wyżej: "Wysłuchaj, Boże, mojego wołania, wejrzyj na modlitwę moją; od krańców ziemi wołałem do Ciebie". O to wołałem "od krańców ziemi", to znaczy zewsząd.

Ale dlaczego o to wołałem? Bo "zatrwożone było moje serce". Oznacza to, że ciało Chrystusa, które tworzą na ziemi wszyscy ludzie, nie doznaje chwały, lecz poddane jest wielkiej pokusie.

Życie bowiem nasze w tym pielgrzymowaniu nie może trwać bez pokusy, ponieważ właśnie postęp duchowy dokonuje się

przez pokusy. Ten, kto nie jest kuszony, nie może siebie poznać. Nikt też nie potrafi osiągnąć wieńca chwały bez uprzedniego zwycięstwa. Zwycięstwo zaś odnosi się poprzez walkę, a walczyć można jedynie wówczas, gdy się stanie w obliczu pokus i nieprzyjaciela.

Wołający z krańców ziemi jest wprawdzie strwożony, ale nie pozostawiony samemu sobie. Chrystus bowiem nas, którzy tworzymy Jego ciało na ziemi, zechciał przemienić na podobieństwo tego ciała, w którym umarł, zmartwychwstał i wstąpił do nieba, aby tam, dokąd podążyła Głowa, miała nadzieję dostać się i członki.

Chrystus przemienił nas w siebie wówczas, gdy pozwolił się kusić szatanowi. Czytaliśmy przed chwilą w Ewangelii, że Jezus Chrystus był kuszony na pustkowiu. Tak, Chrystus był kuszony przez diabła! W Chrystusie bowiem ty byłeś kuszony, ponieważ On wziął od ciebie ciało, a tobie dał od siebie swoje zbawienie; z ciebie wziął dla siebie śmierć, a tobie dał z siebie życie; od ciebie przejął na siebie zniewagi, a tobie dał zaszczyty; a więc od ciebie wziął pokusę, a tobie dał swoje zwycięstwo.

Jeśli w Nim jesteśmy kuszeni, to i w Nim przezwyciężamy diabła. Widzisz, że Chrystus był kuszony, a nie dostrzegasz, że odniósł zwycięstwo? Uznaj, że to ty jesteś w Nim kuszony i że w Nim odnosisz zwycięstwa. Chrystus mógł trzymać diabła z dala od siebie. Jeżeli by jednak nie był kuszony, nie nauczyłby

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

Dyrektorka Szkoły: Beata Benewiat

cię sztuki zwyciężania w pokusie.

LG tom II: I Niedziela Wielkiego Postu, str. 73-75

14 Marca – Stacje drogi krzyżowej w języku polskim o godzinnie 7PM

30 Marca – Rekolekcje Parafialne

2025 LENTEN REGULATIONS

1. The days of both Fast and Abstinence during Lent are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the "Paschal Fast" to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily His Resurrection. The other Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence.

On a day of Fast, only one (1) full meal is permitted, and two (2) **smaller meals, which, if added together, would not exceed the main meal in quantity.**

Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast.

On a day of Abstinence, no meat may be eaten. Those who have reached the age of 14 are obliged by the law of abstinence.

2. The obligation to observe the laws of Fast and Abstinence "substantially", or as a whole, is a serious obligation.

3. The Fridays of the year, outside of Lent, are designated as days of penance, but each individual may substitute for the traditional abstinence from meat some other practice of voluntary self-denial as penance.

4. The time for fulfilling the Paschal Precept (Easter Duty*) extends from the **First Sunday of Lent, March 9 to The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, June 15, 2025.**

**Canon 920, §1. All the faithful, after they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, are bound by the obligation of receiving Communion at least once a year.*

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.



Most Rev. Elias R. Lorenzo, O.S.B.
Regional Bishop for Union County
ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

St. Teresa of Avila Parish Office
306 Morris Ave., Summit, NJ 07901

During the season of Lent, our Jubilee Church in Westfield, St. Helen's Parish, is hosting a series on the Eucharist and all parishes are welcome to attend the series on five consecutive Thursday evenings. This five-part series is modeled after the evening sessions of the Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis last summer.

The first four sessions will start with music and prayer. One of the talks from the congress will be followed by a personal testimony and then Eucharistic Adoration with prayer and music. (Prayer, Speakers and Holy Hour)

The final session is a celebration with an introduction to the "walk with one" initiative from the Eucharistic Congress with tips on how to walk with one this Easter Season.

Each session begins at 7 PM and the breakout is as follows:

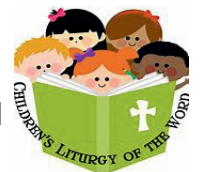
- **March 13: Eucharistic Encounter (Gym)**
- **March 20: Eucharistic Identity (Church)**
- **March 27: Eucharistic Life (Church)**
- **April 3: Eucharistic Mission (Church)**
- **April 10: "Walk with One" Celebration (Gym)**

Liturgy of the Word

March 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.



If a few more people are willing to assist with the children's liturgy, we will be able to expand the Chapel Liturgy to every Sunday. You would only need to assist once a month. If you are willing to help, please contact Karole in the office.



Why not become a member?

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.



ROSARY SOCIETY

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.



BestChurch Seniors

The BestChurch Seniors are Back **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, come to the meeting in the Parish Center on Thursday, March 20th and as always, 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 aid of a chair.** 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, we need know how many would be interested in joining.

Please call the office for more information.



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.

ANNUAL ²⁰²⁵ 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.

We are grateful to share that we have already received **\$8,720** in pledges—thank you to all who have given so generously! Your support of the 2025 Annual Appeal helps sustain the mission of Christ in our Archdiocese. Please help our parish reach our goal by June 30 and possibly receive financial incentives!

Our goal of **\$30,181.02** can only be reached through your generosity and sacrifice. If you have not yet made your gift, we invite you to prayerfully consider doing so. To make an online gift, please visit rcan.org/sharing.

Thank you for your prayers, your generosity, and your faithful support of our Catholic mission.

May God bless you abundantly!

STEWARDSHIP

1st Sunday of Lent

"I have now brought you the first fruits of the products of the soil which you, O Lord, have given to me." - DEUTERONOMY 26:10

Cardinal Joseph Tobin, C.Ss.R. –

This line from the Old Testament offers two challenges. First, do you give to God from your "first fruits" - the first and best that you have to offer? Or do you give from what you have leftover? Second, do you realize that everything you have and that everything you are has been given to you by God? We aren't owners of anything, we are merely stewards of God's gifts. Pray for a grateful and generous heart, every day, in all circumstances.



ONLINE GIVING

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

COLLECTION FOR MARCH 2ND

ON LINE	\$ 2,408.00
IN PEW	\$ 3,964.00
TOTAL	\$ 6,372.00



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.



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

From Fr. Marcin's Desk

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Last Wednesday we began the liturgical season of Lent, during which the Church invites us to prepare ourselves to celebrate the great feast of Easter. This is a special time for recalling the gift of our Baptism, when we became children of God. The Church invites us to renew the gift she has given us, not to let this gift lie dormant. Lent is a good time to recover the joy and hope that make us feel like beloved sons and daughters of the Father. The Father who waits for us in order to cast off our garments of exhaustion, of apathy, of mistrust, and so clothe us with the dignity which only a true father or mother knows how to give their children, with the garments born of tenderness and love.

Lent is a time for reconsidering our feelings, for letting our eyes be opened to the frequent injustices which stand in direct opposition to the dream and the plan of God. It is a time to unmask three great temptations that wear down and fracture the image which God wanted to form in us. There are three temptations of Christ: three temptations for the Christian, which seek to destroy what we have been called to be, three temptations which try to corrode us and tear us down.

First, wealth: seizing hold of goods destined for all, and using them only for "my own people." That is, taking "bread" based on the toil of others, or even at the expense of their very lives. That wealth which tastes of pain, bitterness and suffering is the bread that a corrupt family or society gives its own children.

The second temptation, vanity - the pursuit of prestige based on continuous, relentless exclusion of those who "are not like me." The futile chasing of those five minutes of fame which do not forgive the "reputation" of others. The third temptation is the worst – pride.

The three temptations of Christ - Three temptations which the Christian is faced with daily. Three temptations which seek to corrode, destroy and extinguish the joy and freshness of the Gospel. pThree temptations which lock us into a cycle of destruction and sin.

In this Eucharist, may the Holy Spirit renew in us the certainty that His name is Mercy, and may He let us experience each day that "the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus."

In the Love of God,

Fr. Marcin Fuks

Pastor@bestchurch.net

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