



Palm SUNDAY



HOSANNA IN
THE HIGHEST.

- MATTHEW 21:9

*Church of St. Bernard of Clairvaux and St. Stanislaus Kostka
1235 George Street, Plainfield, New Jersey 07062
(908) 756-3393 ~ email: office@bestchurch.net ~ fax: (908) 756-3059
March 24, 2024*

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 children and adults rehearses and 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, diaconate, or the religious life are invited to speak to a priest or contact the Archdiocesan Vocations Office at 973-497-4365, or mail at www.rcan.org/vocation/index.htm

ST. BARTHOLOMEW ACADEMY

2032 Westfield Ave., Scotch Plains NJ
908-322-4265 OR www.STBACADEMY



Saturday – March 23... St. Turibius

9:00AM...+ Eloise Dias, req. Linda Scheideman
5:00PM...+ Edward and Mary Chanda, req. Mary Ellen Chanda

Sunday – March 24...Palm Sunday

9:00AM...+ Stefano and Giovanna Apisa, req. Son and Family
11:00AM...+ Eugeniusz Samul req. Son and Family
1:00PM...+ Msgr. Fimiani, req. Johanna Merkle

Monday – March 25... Monday of Holy Week

9:00AM...+ Andrew and Rosa Negri, req. Angela Negri

Tuesday – March 26... Tuesday of Holy Week

9:00AM...+ Maria Sipos, req. Święcki Family

Wednesday – March 27... Wednesday of Holy Week

9:00AM...+ Maria Cleotilde Molina, req. Juan Benitez

Thursday – March 28 ... Holy Thursday

9:00AM...Morning Prayer and Pastor's Coffee
7:00PM...Mass of the Lord's Supper
+ Catherine Onuska, req. Cosmas Family
+ Zofia Ponichtera, req. Friends
11:00PM...Night Prayer

Friday – March 29...Good Friday

9:00AM...Morning Prayer
2:00PM...Stations of the Cross in English
3:00PM...Passion of the Lord in English
7:00PM...Passion of the Lord in Polish

Saturday – March 30...Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil)

9:00AM...Morning Prayer
2:00PM...Blessing of Food
7:30PM...Easter Vigil (bilingual)
+ Matteo Riello, req. Antonia Riello

Sunday – March 31...Easter Sunday

6:00AM...+ Gabrukiewicz Family, req. Granddaughter Karole
9:00AM...+ Stefano and Giovanna, req. Apisa Family
11:00AM...+ Bogdan Dziubai i Józef Błażejowicz,
req. Błażejowicz Family
1:00PM...+ Robert DeMair, req. K of C Council 552

The Tabernacle Candle will burn this week for the
All our Parish Faithful Departed.

The Bread and Wine used at Mass for the month of
April is for all the deceased members of the Grzelak Family at the request of Daughter and Family.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED for those whose health is challenged in any way especially **Lisa Motos, Ray Van Haute, Gloria DeMatteo, Kate Rooney, Olivia Schiffer, Marian Parcinski and Dennis Powers.**

OUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED for all the **Faithful Departed especially for Zofia Ponichtera.**

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

Isaiah describes the pain and insults of the Servant of God. Yet he sounds hopeful when describing God as his help, knowing he will not be disgraced.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

Paul exults Christ's great sacrifice of humbling himself to become human and die on the cross. He explains that this is why we should now realize the importance of honoring both his name and memory.

Gospel: Mark 14:1—15:47

Mark describes the events leading up to Christ's crucifixion. The Last Supper is described, explaining where the Eucharist began. Judas betrays Jesus, and his suffering at the hands of the Sanhedrin (Council) is detailed.

The Saint of the Week

St. Katharine Drexel

(March 3)

St. Katharine Drexel is the second American-born saint to be canonized by the Catholic Church. She was born in Philadelphia on November 26, 1858.

In 1887, while touring Europe, the Drexel sisters were given a private audience with Pope Leo XIII. They were seeking missionaries to help with the Indian missions they were financing. The Pope looked to Katharine and suggested she, herself, become a missionary. Katharine decided she would give herself and her inheritance to God through service to both Native Americans and African Americans. Katharine began her six-month postulancy at the Sisters of Mercy Convent in Pittsburgh in 1889.

On February 12, 1891, Katharine made her first vows as a religious and dedicated herself to working for the American Indians and African-Americans in the Western United States.

Taking the name Mother Katharine, she established a religious congregation called the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored, whose members would work for the betterment of those they were called to serve.

From the age of 33 until her death in 1955, she dedicated her life and her fortune to this work. She took part in opening a mission school in Santa Fe, New Mexico, another one west of the Mississippi River, and one for the blacks in the southern part of the United States. In 1915, Katherine founded Xavier University in New Orleans, the first Catholic University in the United States for African-Americans.

By the time of her death, she had more than 500 Sisters teaching in 63 schools throughout the country and she established 50 missions for Native Americans in 16 different states.

Mother Katharine died on March 3, 1955 at the age of 96. She is buried at her order's motherhouse. Neither of Katharine's sisters had any children, so after her death, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament lost the Drexel fortune that supported their ministries. However, the order continues to pursue Katharine's mission with the African-Americans and Native Americans in 21 states and in Haiti.

St. Katharine was beatified on November 20, 1988 and canonized on October 1, 2000 by Pope John Paul II. Relics of St. Katharine can be found at St. Raphael the Archangel Catholic Church in Raleigh, North Carolina, and in the Day Chapel of Saint Katharine Drexel Parish in Sugar Grove, Illinois.

Easter Vigil

March 30th at 7:30PM

BESTCHURCH SENIORS

The Senior Meeting is open to all **seniors** and

almost seniors on the third Thursday of the month at 12:30PM with programs, fun, socialization, as well as reminiscing.

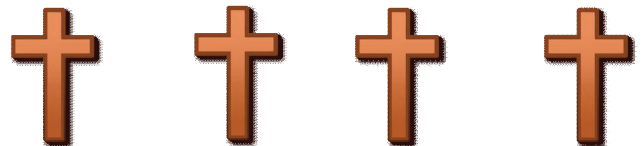
Our next meeting is April 18th. We will have a lesson in gardening with Lowes and for May we will be drumming

in prayer. Looking forward to seeing everyone and do bring a friend. All Seniors are welcome to share with us.



NON-PERISHABLE FOOD COLLECTION

We are continuing to collect food in the open area of the church for Starfish to be distributed throughout the Union County area by Starfish. Dates should be current and food non-perishable. Thank you for all your support throughout the year.



PENANCE SERVICE

Tuesday March 26th 6:00 – 8:00PM



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

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



Kazanie św. Andrzeja z Krety, biskupa

Chodźcie, wstąpmy i my na Górę Oliwną! Biegnijmy naprzeciw Chrystusa, który powraca dzisiaj z Betanii i spieszy dobrowolnie na tę swoją świętą i czcigodną mękę, aby wypełnić do końca tajemnicę naszego zbawienia.

Przychodzi więc i z własnej woli odbywa drogę w stronę Jerozolimy Ten, który dla nas zstąpił z nieba, aby wspólnie z sobą wywyższyć tych, co leżą w prochu ziemi, i posadzić ich, jak mówi Pismo, "ponad wszelką Zwierzchność i Władzę, i Mocą, i Panowaniem, i ponad wszelkim innym imieniem wzywany".

Przychodzi zaś nie z dumą i przepychem jak ten, co chciwie szuka sławy. On "nie będzie się spierał ani krzyczał i nikt nie usłyszy Jego głosu". Będzie natomiast cichy i łagodny, lichego odzienia i skromny w urządzaniu wystawności swojego wejścia.

Nuże więc, biegnijmyż i my razem z Chrystusem, któremu spieszo na mękę. Naśladujmy tych, co wyszli Mu na spotkanie, ale nie w ten sposób, by słać na drodze gałązki palm i oliwek oraz kłaść kosztowne szaty, lecz my sami, jak tylko możemy, rozścielmy się na ziemi w pokorze ducha i prostocie serca, abyśmy przyjęli nadchodzące Słowo i pochwycili Boga, który nigdzie nie daje się ująć.

On bowiem cieszy się z tego, że może nam się okazać łagodnym, On, który naprawdę jest łagodny i "wstępuje na zachód" naszej mizernej słabości, aby przyjść do nas, obcować z nami i przyciągnąć nas do siebie przez pokrewieństwo z nami.

Bo chociaż przez ofiarę z naszej ludzkiej natury "wstąpił na niebiosy, na wschód słońca", czyli na wyżyny własnej chwały i Bóstwa, to jednak nie wyrzeknie się nigdy przywiązania do rodzaju ludzkiego, lecz będzie dźwigał naturę człowieka z prochu ziemi do

coraz wyższej chwały, aż wreszcie jednocząc się z nią, udzieli jej swej nieskończonej godności.

A zatem siebie samych ścielmy przed Chrystusem, a nie tuniki, martwe gałęzie i łodygi krzewów tracących zieleń, gdy staną się pokarmem, i przez krótki tylko czas radujących oczy. Oblecmy się natomiast w Jego łaskę, czyli w Niego samego. Pismo św. bowiem mówi: "Wy wszyscy, którzy zostaliście ochrzczeni w Chrystusie, przyoblekliście się w Chrystusa". Kładźmy się pod Jego nogi jak rozścielone tuniki.

Nasze grzechy były czerwone jak szkarłat, teraz obmyci w zbawczych wodach chrztu osiągnęliśmy lśniąca biel wełny, ofiarujemy Zwycięzcy śmierci już nie gałązki palmowe, ale wieńce naszego zwycięstwa. Wystawiajmy Go w każdy dzień świętą pieśnią razem z izraelskimi dziećmi, potrząsając duchowymi gałązkami i mówiąc: "Błogosławiony, który przychodzi w imię Pańskie".

LG tom II (Pallottinum 1984), s. 325

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

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

28 marca – Msza Wieczerzy Paskiej – 7PM

29 marca – Wielki Piątek Mekki Paskiej w języku polskim o godzinie 7PM

30 marca – Święconka/Blessing of Food w kościele o godzinie 2PM

7 kwietnia 2024 - ŚWIĘCONKA PARAFIALNA, wieczonek rozpoczniemy Mszą Świętą o 11:00am. Po mszy zapraszamy wszystkich na poczęstunek do kafeterii szkolnej. W czasie Święconki wystawione zostaną prace uczniów przygotowane w ramach projektu szkolnego „PIĘKNA NASZA POLSKA CAŁA – POLSKIE CUDU UNESCO”.

Word

STEWARDSHIP *"Pilate again said to them, 'Then what shall I do with this man whom you call the King of the Jews?' And they cried out again, 'Crucify him'" (MARK 15:12-13)*

Jesus told us "Whatever you do for the least of my brothers, you do for me." Every day we are presented opportunities to help someone. Every day we have the opportunity see the face of Jesus in others and be the face of Jesus to others. Every day we pass by someone in need. Pray for the strength and courage to be the answer to someone's prayer.

DEVOTION

The Rosary is prayed daily before the 9AM Mass during the week.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is on Thursdays after 9AM Mass closing with Benediction at 11:00AM.



ROSARY SOCIETY NEWS

The Rosary Mass is celebrated at the 9:00AM Mass on the First Sunday of the month followed by a short meeting after Mass in the Parish Commons. The next Rosary Mass and meeting is April 7th.

MOUNT ST. MARY HOUSE OF PRAYER

Mt. St. Mary House of Prayer 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@msmhope.org

YOUTH

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education students must attend Sunday Mass every weekend.

There is no class on March 27 and April 3rd.

ALTAR SERVERS

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

Serving God as an Altar Server is a wonderful way to grow in faith as well as in responsibility, friendship, and other virtues.

Thank you to our new Altar Servers, you really make a difference!



Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

9:00AM & 1:00PM... Mass in English with distribution of Palms

11:00AM... Mass in Polish with distribution of Palms

Monday - Chrism Mass

8:00PM ...Mass - Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark

Tuesday – Parish Reconciliation Service at 6PM

Holy Thursday

9:00AM... Morning Prayer followed by Pastor's coffee

7:00PM... Bi-lingual celebration of The Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by Eucharistic Procession with Adoration

11:00PM... Night Prayer

Good Friday

9:00AM... Morning Prayer

2:00PM... Stations of the Cross in English

3:00PM... Passion of the Lord in English

7:00PM ...Passion of the Lord in Polish

Holy Saturday

9:00AM... Morning Prayer

2:00PM... Blessing of Food

7:30PM ...Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday

6:00AM... Sunrise Mass with Procession in Polish

9:00AM & 1:00PM... Mass in English

11:00AM... Mass in Polish



Please Pray for our Parishioners in the Military
SSG Katarzyna Czajka, US Army
Ryan Percy, USN
Declan Cassidy, US Army

2024 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, February 18 to The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, May 26, 2024.

**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.*

Contact us:

Office Address

368 Sumner Avenue, Plainfield, New Jersey 07062

Rev. Marcin Fuks - PASTOR

pastor@bestchurch.net 908-756-3393 EXT - 103

Rev. Bernardo Garcia - Parochial Vicar

vicar@bestchurch.net 908-756-3393 EXT - 110

Karole Lechowski – Secretary

office@bestchurch.net

Iveth Parada - Religious Education-

bestreligious@gmail.com

Calendar of Events

SUNDAYS:

March 24...Palm Sunday

9:00AM and 1:00PM.... Mass in English

11:00AM...Mass in Polish

March 31...Easter Sunday

Resurrection of the Lord

9:00AM and 1:00PM.... Mass in English

6:00AM and 11:00AM...Mass in Polish

MONDAYS:

March 25; April 8, 15, 22

5:30PM...Polish School

TUESDAY

March 26

6:00PM – 8:00PM...Penance Service

WEDNESDAYS:

April 10, 17, 24 (last Class)

6:30PM.....Religious Education Class

THURSDAY:

March 28

9:00AM...Morning Prayer followed by
Pastor's Coffee

7:00PM...Mass of the Lord's Supper (bilingual)

11:00PM. Night Prayer

FRIDAY:

March 29

9:00AM...Morning Prayer

2:00PM...Stations of the Cross - English

3:00PM... Passion of the Lord in English

7:00PM...Passion of the Lord in Polish

SATURDAY:

March 30

9:00AM...Morning Prayer

2:00PM ..Blessing of Food

7:30PM.. Easter Vigil with Procession

Mass Schedule:

Monday – Saturday 9:00 AM

Saturday: 5:00 PM Mass - English

Sunday: 9:00 AM Mass - English

11:00 AM Mass - Polish

1:00 PM – English

Office Hours:

Monday – Friday 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Website and Live Mass:

www.bestchurch.net

FINANCE



ONLINE GIVING

TAX STATEMENTS

It's that time again to file your taxes and to report to the IRS before April 15th!!!

If you need a tax statement of giving for Income Tax Purposes, please let us know. If you donated electronically through the online "Parish Giving" they will send you a statement for whatever was processed through them, but it might not be your total giving. So don't hesitate to ask us to provide you with a statement of whatever was given before you signed up online.



Collection for March 17

Online..... \$ 1,078

In Pew..... \$ 3,173

Total Collection for March 17 \$ 4,251

Thank you for all your donation!!!

ANNUAL ²⁰²⁴ APPEAL

The 2024 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 already collected **\$13,731.00**

47% of our goal for the AA 2024

Thank you for all your donations.

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,

At the heart of the Palm Sunday celebration is Christ's humility. Humility is above all God's way: God humbles himself to walk with his people, to put up with their infidelity. This is clear when we read the story of the Exodus. How humiliating for the Lord to hear all that grumbling, all those complaints against Moses, but ultimately against Him, their Father, who brought them out of slavery and was leading them on the journey through the desert to the land of freedom.

This week, Holy Week, which leads us to Easter, we will take this path of Jesus' own humiliation. Only in this way will this week be "holy" for us too! We will feel the contempt of the leaders of his people and their attempts to trip him up. We will be there at the betrayal of Judas. We will see the Lord arrested and carried off like a criminal; abandoned by his disciples, dragged before the Sanhedrin, condemned to death, beaten and insulted. We will hear Peter, the "rock" among the disciples, deny him three times. We will hear the shouts of the crowd, egged on by their leaders, who demand that Barabbas be freed and Jesus crucified. We will see him mocked by the soldiers, robed in purple and crowned with thorns. And then, as he makes his sorrowful way beneath the cross, we will hear the jeering of the people and their leaders, who scoff at his being King and Son of God.

The way of humility is the only way. There can be no humility without humiliation. During this week, we are invited to set about with determination along this same path of humility, with immense love for Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Love will guide us and give us strength. For where he is, we too shall be!

In the Love of God,

Fr. Marcin Fuks

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