

Third SUNDAY OF **LENT**

**God is Spirit, and
those who worship
Him must worship in
spirit and in truth.**

JOHN 4:24

*Church of St. Bernard of Clairvaux
and St. Stanislaus Kostka*

*1235 George Street, Plainfield, New Jersey 07062
(908) 756-3393 ~ email: office@bestchurch.net
March 12, 2023*



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 7:30 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 at www.rcan.org/vocation/index.htm

ST. BARTHOLOMEW ACADEMY

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



Saturday – March 11... Lenten Weekday

9:00AM...+ John and Jane Nero, req. Family
5:00PM...+ Zilma Rusnak, req. Mary Ellen and Bob Chanda

Sunday – March 12...Third Sunday of Lent

9:00AM...+ Antonio Simeone, req. Lucia Simeone
11:00AM...+ Genowefa i Józef Grzelak,
req. Daughter and Family
1:00PM....+ Bill Kruse, req. Kruse Family

Monday – March 13... Lenten Weekday

9:00AM...+ Steve McCoy, req. Kruse Family

Tuesday – March 14... Lenten Weekday

9:00AM...+ Dolores Sally Young, req. Johanna Merkle

Wednesday – March 15...Lenten Weekday

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

Thursday –March 16... Lenten Weekday

9:00AM...+ Liam Connor Noonan, req. Kruse Family

Friday – March 17... St. Patrick

9:00AM...+Monsgr. Fimiani , req. Johanna Merkle

Saturday – March 18... St. Cyril

9:00AM...+ Dolores and Robert Renz, req. Johanna Merkle
5:00PM...+ John Gordon, req. Mary Ellen and Bob Chanda

Sunday – March 19...Fourth Sunday of Lent

9:00AM...+ Andrea and Rosa Negri, req. Sister and Family
11:00AM...+ Jozef Blazejowicz, req. Wife and Children
1:00PM....+ People of the parish

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

The Bread and Wine used at Mass for the month of
March is in memory of all our Parish Faithful Departed.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED for those whose health is challenged in any way especially **Carter Razz, Dennis Knapp, Theresa Salerno, Percy Ramsammy, Ray Van Haute, Lisa Motos, Nancy Toth and Yvonne Thomas.**

OUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED for all the **Faithful Departed especially Józef Makowski.**

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

First Reading: Exodus 17:3-7

This story from Exodus reveals that the Israelites, after their escape from Egypt, cast all blame for their sufferings on Moses. In this instance, they were dying of thirst. When Moses appealed to the Lord, the Lord directed Moses to strike a rock and water would gush forth.

Second Reading: Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

Paul reminds the Romans that because Christ died for all people, they are acceptable in God's sight.

Gospel: John 4:5-42

Jesus converses with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's Well. When Jesus indicates that whoever drinks from the water He gives will never be thirsty again, the woman immediately answers, "Give me this water, sir..."

Jesus then reveals that she has had five husbands and tells her that He is the Messiah. The woman believes Jesus and proclaims this news to all the townspeople, who believe her and come to see Jesus.

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

OUR PARISH STAFF:

REV. MARCIN FUKS
ADMINISTRATOR
PASTOR@BESTCHURCH.NET
908-756-3393 EXT. 33

KAROLE LECHOWSKI
SECRETARY
OFFICE@BESTCHURCH.NET

JEFFERY PERSHAY
MAINTENANCE

THE TRUSTEES OF THE PARISH:

MARY ELLEN CHANDA
JOHNNY SKALSKI

SACRAMENTS

Baptism

Contact Rectory for appointment.

Reconciliation

After all daily Masses and Saturday,
4:30m to 5:00pm, or by appointment.

Marriage

Arrangements should be made one year in
advance. Contact Office for
appointment.

Anointing of the Sick

Contact Office for appointment for
home bound or infirmed.

The 2023 Annual Appeal is underway!

We have **\$15,115** already pledged. This
is approximately almost **50%** of our goal
of **\$30,242**.

The outpouring of support from many
parishioners like you helps sustain the
important ministries across the
Archdiocese of Newark. These programs
help to make our own parish a more
vibrant place of worship.

If you have yet to give, please pick up a
pledge envelope at the back of the
church or visit www.rcan.org/sharing.

Thank you for your prayers and support.
Please make a gift online today by



visiting rcan.org/sharing.

How to Report Abuse

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 Archdiocesan Office of Youth
Protection at 201-407-3256.

Mass Schedule:

Monday - Saturday

9:00 AM

Saturday: 5:00 PM Mass

In English

Sunday: 9:00 AM Mass

In English

11:00 AM Mass in Polish

1:00 PM in English

Office Hours:

Monday – Friday

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

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



3 Niedziela Wielkiego Postu

Franciszek: Jezus jedynym zbawicielem

„Niech Najświętsza Maryja Panna pomaga nam pielęgnować pragnienie Chrystusa, źródła wody żywej, jedynego, który może zaspokoić pragnienie życia i miłości, jakie nosimy w sercu”.

W centrum ich rozmowy Jezusa z Samarytanką znalazła się woda, która w tradycji biblijnej jest symbolem Bożej łaski, bo sam Bóg jest źródłem wody żywej. Św. Paweł doda, (1 Kor 10, 4) że to Chrystus jest skałą, z której wypływa ożywcza woda – Duch Święty.

Baranek zabity i zmartwychwstały źródłem, z którego wypływa Duch Święty

„Chrystus jest świątynią, z której zgodnie z wizją proroków wypływa Duch Święty, który oczyszcza i daje życie. Ten, kto pragnie zbawienia, może swobodnie czerpać z Jezusa, a Duch stanie się w nim czy w niej źródłem pełnego i wiecznego życia. Obietnica żywej wody, którą Jezus złożył Samarytance, stała się rzeczywistością w dniu Jego Paschy: «krew i woda» wypłynęły z Jego przebitego boku (J 19, 34). Chrystus, Baranek zabity i zmartwychwstały, jest źródłem, z którego wypływa Duch Święty, który odpuszcza grzechy i odradza do nowego życia.”

Tak jak Samarytanka, każdy, kto spotkał Jezusa czuje potrzebę, by mówić o Nim światu.

Zbawienie jest tylko w Jezusie, a nie w rzeczach świata

„Ten dar jest również źródłem świadectwa. Podobnie jak Samarytanka

każdy, kto osobiście spotyka żyjącego Jezusa, odczuwa potrzebę mówienia o Nim innym, aby wszyscy doszli do wyznania, że Jezus «prawdziwie jest Zbawicielem świata» (J 4, 42), jak powiedzieli wówczas rodacy owej. Także my, zrodzeni poprzez chrzest do nowego życia, jesteśmy wezwani do dawania świadectwa życia i nadziei, które są w nas. Jeśli nasze poszukiwania i pragnienie znajdą pełne zaspokojenie w Chrystusie, to ukażemy, że zbawienie nie jest w «rzeczach» tego świata, ale w Tym, który nas umiłował i zawsze nas kocha: Jezusie, naszym Zbawicielu.”

„Aniol Panski” Franciszek 15 marca 2020

DROGA KRZYŻOWA – Piąteki o 7 PM

Gorzkie Żale – Niedziela po Mszy

Rekolekcje Parafialne po polsku: Niedziela, 26 marca 2023

Zaczynamy Msza Św. o 11 AM, a zakończymy Gorzkimi Żałami o 3PM

Prosimi zgłaszać się i zapisywać na rekolekcje. Lista będzie dostępna po Mszy św. albo podczas trwania Polskiej Szkoły.

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

What, Me Holy? – w każdy Czwartek o godzinie 6:30PM w Oficynie, kontynuacja spotkań w małych grupach z możliwością refleksji na temat naszej parafii.

WORD

STEWARDSHIP “*Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again.*” (JOHN 4:13)

Cardinal Joseph Tobin, C.Ss. R.

Jesus reminds us that material things, even something as basic water, can never satisfy us over the long run. When we build our lives around material possessions we will always want more and no amount will ever satisfy our desire. True joy and peace only comes when we follow Jesus – when we become more “God-centered” and less “self-centered”.



WORSHIP

THE ENGLISH STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Thursday, March 16 at 6:00PM

Presider: The Catechetical Ministers

Thursday, March 23 at 6:00PM

Presider: The Choir

Thursday, March 30 at 6:00PM

Presider: The Knights of Columbus

THE POLISH STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays, March 17, 24, 31

Time: 7:00PM

ANNIVERSARIES TO BE HONORED AT CATHEDRAL

Once again the celebration of anniversaries of 5, 25 and 50 years of marriage will be celebrated at the Cathedral Basilica. Those celebrating 50 years of marriage will be recognized at Mass on April 16th at 3:00PM celebrated by Cardinal Joseph Tobin, and those celebrating 5 and 25 years of marriage will be recognized at Mass on May 7, at 3:00PM celebrated by Bishop Gregory Studerus. If you plan on attending, please call Karole in the parish office to register so we can keep the Archdiocese informed.

ROSARY DEVOTION

The Rosary is prayed on a regular basis every day before the 9:00AM Mass.

The Blessed Sacrament is exposed after the Mass on Thursdays with *Benediction at 11:00AM*



LENTEN JOURNEY:

GRATITUDE FROM A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

Presented by Mary Landreau

Tuesday, March 14, 2023, 6:30 PM in the Community Room of the Parish Center, you are invited to join us on this Lenten Journey for a discussion of gratitude from a Christian perspective. Pope Francis in his **APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION, GAUDETE ET EXSULTATE, (Rejoice and Be Glad)**, states “God is the Father who gave us life and loves us greatly... This invites us to live in joyful gratitude for this completely unmerited gift” (Francis, Rejoice and Be Glad, #51, 54). This allows us to focus on God as the gracious giver and his unearned great love for us. It also allows us to trust in that love and to act that out by living Eucharistically, that is, receiving that love gratefully and in turn giving to others out of abundance, not begrudgingly. What is Christ asking of me or what opportunity is He giving me right now?

RENEW INTERNATIONAL

You are invited to participate in this journey, facilitated by staff at RENEW International, a Catholic nonprofit organization located right across the street from our parish.

What, Me Holy? In his exhortation *Rejoice and Be Glad* Pope Francis calls all Catholics to live a life of holiness. But, what does *holiness* really mean? How do we answer that call in today's world in our work and the day-to-day of our busy lives? Renowned author Chris Lowney helps unpack Pope Francis' words, inviting us to re-examine our ideas about holiness and how we answer the call to live a holy life. Through a series of faith-sharing sessions, with down to earth, concrete examples, he opens our eyes to the everyday things we already do and those we can begin to do to lead us on a journey to holiness.

Gatherings continue Thursday, March 16th 6:30PM in the office Community Room.

Join fellow parishioners to pray and reflect on who we are called to be in our families, our parish, our neighborhood, our nation and our world today.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

We are in need of a few more Eucharistic Ministers (EM's) for the 5:00PM Saturday and 1:00PM Sunday Masses. If you are an EM and would be able to help out occasionally at these Masses, please contact Bill Shlala at wgshlala@gmail.com or call (908) 755-8560.

COMMUNITY BUILDING

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



The Knights of Columbus is open to all men of the parish. If you would like more information about the Knights of Columbus, please contact John Beckman at jabeckman111@gmail.com

FISH FRY The Rosary Society together with the Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a Fish Dinner on **Friday March 31st. at 6:00PM.**

Tickets are \$20.00 pp and will be sold after Masses on the weekends of March 18th, 19th and 25th, 26th or in the Parish Office daily from 10am – 2PM. The evening will also include a "Silent Auction".



BESTCHURCH SENIORS We are back!!



We are returning after what seems to have been a long break and are all looking forward to our return. Best Church Seniors meet monthly on the Third Thursday of the month at 12:30PM in the Parish Center. However, this month it will need to be moved to the

Fourth Thursday, March 23rd.

The March meeting will center around Easter and discussing the upcoming programs. All Seniors and "almost seniors" are welcome to attend. Everyone is looking forward to reuniting with fellowship and discussion along with some tasty treats.

YOUTH

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We have 3 weeks left in our Wednesday Religious Class. The last class is March 29th. If your child is going to be absent for Religious Education Class contact the office to let us know.

FINANCE



TAX STATEMENT FOR ONLINE DONORS

2022 Tax statements for Parishioners who donate through Parish Giving have been mailed directly to their

home. You may also go online to your account to view or print.

TAX STATEMENTS FOR DONORS AT MASS

If you donate directly at church and would like the 2022 Tax Statement, please call the office or e-mail office@bestchurch.net



ONLINE GIVING

It is possible to automate your Faith Giving to our Parish Giving, simply go to our parish website. You will see an icon just like the one above on the left or open the scan code above on your phone and it will take you directly to the site.

Faith Giving for St. Bernard and St. Stanislaus

Collection for March 5

Online \$3,013.00

In Pew.....\$4,646.00

Total for February 5.....\$7,659.00

Calendar of Events

SUNDAYS:

March 12...Third Sunday of Lent

9:00AM... Mass in English
11:00AM..Mass in Polish
1:00PM.....Mass in English

March 19...Fourth Sunday of Lent

9:00AM... Mass in English
11:00AM..Mass in Polish
1:00PM.....Mass in English

March 26...Fifth Sunday of Lent

9:00AM... Mass in English
11:00AM..Mass in Polish
1:00PM.....Mass in English

April 2...Palm Sunday – Passion of the Lord

9:00AM... Mass in English
11:00AM..Mass in Polish
1:00PM.....Mass in English

MONDAYS:

March 13, 20, 27

5:30PM...Polish School

TUESDAYS:

March 14

6:30PM...Lenten Journey

Gratitude from a Christian Perspective

WEDNESDAYS:

March 15, 22, 29 (Last Class)

6:30PM... Religious Education Class

THURSDAYS:

March 16, 23, 30

10:00 AM –11:00 AM...Exposition of the
Blessed Sacrament

11:00AM.. Benediction

6:00PM...Stations of the Cross (English)

7:30PM...Choir practice in the Church

March 16, 23, 30

6:30PM...Renew International *“What, Me Holy?”*

FRIDAYS:

March 17, 24, 31

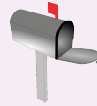
7:00PM..Stations of the Cross (Polish)

SATURDAYS:

March 11, 18, 25

4:30PM... Confession

5:00PM... Mass in English



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

Today we are meeting with a fascinating character of the Samaritan woman. This woman represents each one of us who is searching for someone to satisfy our thirst for love.

After deliverance by God from slavery, and being brought to safety by Moses, we could ask how could the people be so ungrateful as to grumble about their thirst? Hopefully, we can recognize that we are like these people who at the site of the first discomfort, grumble against God forgetting all the miracles that He has done.

Through the dialogue between Christ and Samaritan woman we can see that only God is able to fill the thirst in us. In their conversation Jesus uncovers the spiritual thirst of the woman for “living water”. Through the personal meeting with Christ, this woman is refreshed. In our Lenten journey, we seek the living water of Jesus present in the proclaiming word, in order to be refreshed over again in our hearts and our souls. This is the image of a catechumen on a journey to adult faith. Even if we were baptized as young children we need to enter into the same story, the story of our salvation!

We are continuing a faith-sharing group: “What, Me Holy?” on Thursdays at 6:30pm in the Community Room. It’s a great opportunity to enter into this Lenten season! Also, on March 31st, we will have a fish fry Friday!

In the Love of God,

Fr. Marcin Fuks

Phone: 908 756 3393 ext. 33

E-mail: pastor@bestchurch.net

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If the lights are flashing, no passing.

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Thomas E. Sheenan, CFSP
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