

# *Fifth* SUNDAY OF **LENT**

**It is when a person  
walks at night that they  
stumble, for they have  
no light.**

JOHN 11:10

*Church of St. Bernard of Clairvaux  
and St. Stanislaus Kostka  
1235 George Street, Plainfield, New Jersey 07062  
(908) 756-3393 ~ email: [office@bestchurch.net](mailto:office@bestchurch.net)  
March 26, 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](http://www.rcan.org/vocation/index.htm)

## **ST. BARTHOLOMEW ACADEMY**

2032 Westfield Ave., Scotch Plains NJ  
908-322-4265 OR [WWW.STBACADEMY.ORG](http://WWW.STBACADEMY.ORG)

## **Mass Intentions**

### ***Saturday – March 25... The Annunciation of the Lord***

9:00AM...+ Gennaro Cirillo, req. Mr. and Mrs. Armond Apisa  
5:00PM...+ Edward and Mary Chanda ,  
req. Mary Ellen and Bob Chanda

### ***Sunday – March 26...Fifth Sunday of Lent***

9:00AM...+ Stefano and Giovanna Apisa, req. Son and Family  
11:00AM...+ Tadeusz Deręowski, req. Wife and Children  
1:00PM...+ Joseph Byrne, req. Kruse Family

### ***Monday – March 27... Lenten Weekday***

9:00AM...+ Edmund Coohill, req. Family

### ***Tuesday – March 28... Lenten Weekday***

9:00AM...+ People of the Parish

### ***Wednesday – March 29... Lenten Weekday***

9:00AM...+ Agueda Lezcane,, req. Norma Rios

### ***Thursday –March 30... Lenten Weekday***

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

### ***Friday – March 31... Lenten Weekday***

9:00AM... In Thanksgiving, req. Karole Lechowski

### ***Saturday – April 1... Lenten Weekday***

9:00AM...+ Gennaro Cirillo, req. Angela and Maria Negri  
5:00PM...+ William E. Kruse, req. Family

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

9:00AM...+ Mary Rotan, req. Armond and Anna Apisa  
11:00AM...+ Eugeniusz Samul, req. Son and Family  
1:00PM...+ Rev. Al Carney, req. Johanna Merkle

### **Please Pray for our Parishioners in the Military**

SSG Katarzyna Czajka, US Army  
Ryan Percy, USN  
Declan Cassidy, US Army

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 **James (Jimmy) Ziomek.**

### **FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

#### **First Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14**

This reading is a loving promise that the Lord will put His spirit into his people and will let them live.

#### **Second Reading: Romans 8:8-11**

Paul reminds the Romans that they are not people of the flesh but people of the Spirit because the Spirit of God dwells in them.

#### **Gospel: John 11:1-45**

In great detail, John tells the story of the raising of Lazarus to life. Upon learning of the death of Lazarus, his dear friend, Jesus goes to comfort Martha and Mary. After proclaiming, "I am the Resurrection and the Life," Jesus goes to the tomb of Lazarus and restores him to life.

OUR PARISH STAFF:

**REV. MARCIN FUKS**  
ADMINISTRATOR  
[PASTOR@BESTCHURCH.NET](mailto:PASTOR@BESTCHURCH.NET)  
908-756-3393 EXT. 33

**KAROLE LECHOWSKI**  
SECRETARY  
[OFFICE@BESTCHURCH.NET](mailto: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 **\$17,415** already pledged. This  
is approximately **57%** 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](http://www.rcan.org/sharing).

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



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**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



### 5 Niedziela Wielkiego Postu

Ewangelia dzisiejszej Piątej Niedzieli Wielkiego Postu opowiada nam o wskrzeszeniu Łazarza. Jest to punkt kulminacyjny cudownych „znaków” dokonanych przez Jezusa: czyn zbyt wielki, w sposób zbyt widoczny boski, aby mógł być tolerowany przez arcykapłanów, którzy gdy dowiedzieli się o tym fakcie, powzięli decyzję o zabiciu Jezusa (por. J 11,53).

Łazarz był już od trzech dni martwy, kiedy przyszedł Jezus i do sióstr Marty i Marii powiedział słowa, które wryły się na zawsze w pamięć wspólnoty chrześcijańskiej. Jezus powiada: „Ja jestem zmartwychwstaniem i życiem. Kto we Mnie wierzy, choćby i umarł, żyć będzie. Każdy, kto żyje i wierzy we Mnie, nie umrze na wieki”. Na słowo Pana wierzymy, że życie tego, kto wierzy w Jezusa i wypełnia jego przykazania, po śmierci zostanie przemienione w nowe życie, pełne i nieśmiertelne. Tak jak Jezus zmartwychwstał wraz ze swym ciałem, ale nie powrócił do życia ziemskiego, także my zmartwychwstaniemy z naszymi ciałami, które zostaną przemienione w ciała chwalebne. On czeka na nas u Ojca, a moc Ducha Świętego, która wskrzesiła Jego, wskrzesi także tych, którzy są z Nim zjednoczeni.

Przed zapieczętowanym grobem przyjaciela „zawołał donośnym głosem: Łazarzu, wyjdź na zewnątrz! I wyszedł zmarły, mając nogi i ręce powiązane opaskami, a twarz jego była zawinięta chustą”. To stanowcze wołanie skierowane jest do każdego człowieka, ponieważ wszyscy jesteśmy naznaczeni śmiercią. Jest to głos Tego, który jest Panem życia i pragnie, aby wszyscy „mieli je w obfitości”. Chrystus nie godzi się z grobami, jakie sobie wybudowaliśmy poprzez nasze wybory zła i śmierci, błędami i grzechami. On się z tym nie godzi. Wzywa nas, niemal nam nakazuje, byśmy wyszli z grobu, do którego strąciły nas nasze grzechy. Nieustannie nas wzywa, byśmy wyszli z ciemności więzienia,

w którym się zamknęliśmy, zadowolając się życiem fałszywym, egoistycznym, przeciętnym. Mówi nam: „Wyjdź na zewnątrz!”, „Wyjdź na zewnątrz!”. To piękne zaproszenie do autentycznej wolności, byśmy dali się porwać tymi słowami, które Jezus powtarza każdemu z nas. Jest to zachęta, byśmy dali się wyzwolić z więzów pychy, ponieważ pycha czyni nas niewolnikami nas samych, wielu bożków, tylu rzeczy. Tu zaczyna się nasze zmartwychwstanie: kiedy postanawiamy być posłusznymi temu przykazaniu Jezusa, wychodząc ku światłu, do życia; kiedy z naszych twarzy spadają maski. Tyle razy naszą maską staje się grzech. Maski muszą opaść a my musimy odnaleźć odwagę naszego pierwotnego oblicza, stworzonego na obraz i podobieństwo Boga.

Gest Jezusa wskrzeszającego Łazarza pokazuje, jak daleko może dojść moc Bożej łaski, i jak daleko może dojść nasze nawrócenie, nasza przemiana. Dobrze słuchajcie: dla miłosierdzia Bożego oferowanego wszystkim nie ma żadnych ograniczeń! Dobrze zapamiętajcie to zdanie i możemy je wypowiedzieć wszyscy razem: dla miłosierdzia Bożego oferowanego wszystkim nie ma żadnych ograniczeń! Pan jest zawsze gotów do podniesienia kamienia nagrobnego naszych grzechów, który nas oddziela od Niego, światła żyjących.

*Papież Franciszek, Anioł Pański 6 kwietnia 2014 r.*

### DROGA KRZYŻOWA – Piąteki o 7 PM

**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

### Gorzkie Żale – Niedziela po Mszy

## **WORD**

**STEWARDSHIP** “Jesus said to her, ‘Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the Glory of God?’” (JOHN 11:40)

Cardinal Joseph Tobin, CSs. R.

Many of us say that we believe in God. We attend Sunday Mass and participate in parish events. But when life gets hard and the pressure is on, when things aren't going our way, do we really believe? Do we really put our trust in the Lord? When we live a life of gratitude, recognizing all that we have been given, we really do see that God is providing for our needs. Living a grateful and generous life allows us to see God's active presence in our daily lives and we become “partakers of the divine nature.”

## **WORSHIP**

### **THE ENGLISH STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Thursday, March 30 at 6:00PM

Presider: The Knights of Columbus

### **THE POLISH STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Fridays, March 31

Time: 7:00PM

### **ANNIVERSARIES TO BE HONORED AT CATHEDRAL**

Once again, the celebration



of 5, 25 and of anniversaries  
50 years of marriage will  
be celebrated at the  
Cathedral Basilica.

*Those celebrating 50 years of marriage will be recognized at Mass on April 16<sup>th</sup> 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.**



## **Holy Week Schedule**

### **Palm Sunday of the Lord 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

### **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... Station 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

8:15PM ...Easter Vigil

### **Easter Sunday**

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

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

11:00AM... Mass in Polish

### **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available on a regular basis on Saturdays at 4:30PM and on Sunday mornings after Masses as well as after weekday Masses simply by requesting a celebration of the sacrament.

**There will be a Parish Penance Service on Monday, March 27th at 7:00 PM to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.**

### **ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK**

### **BASILICA OF THE SACRED HEART**

The Chrism Mass will be celebrated on Monday, April 3, 2023, at 8:00PM in the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark. Everyone is invited to attend.

## **RENEW INTERNATIONAL**

**Gatherings conclude on Thursday, at 6:30pm in the Office Commons on March 30th.**

Fellow parishioners have been gathering in small faith-sharing groups each week to explore, pray and reflect on who we are called to be in our families, our parish, our neighborhood, our nation, and our world today

### **What, Me Holy?**

When we think about the question "What message to the world is your life?" How can we create that message, one step at a time, day by day? Think of your strengths. What unique paths to holiness might your particular strengths and gifts be indicating for you?

"The important thing is that each believer discern his or her own path, that they bring out the very best of themselves, the most personal gifts that God has placed in their hearts, rather than hopelessly trying to imitate something not meant for them." -Pope Francis *Rejoice and Be Glad*, 11

You are all invited and encouraged to attend even if you have missed the previous sessions.

## **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 [wqshlala@gmail.com](mailto:wqshlala@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](mailto: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 weekend of 25th, 26th or in the Parish Office daily from 10am – 2pm. The evening will also include a "Silent Auction".



## **YOUTH**

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Wednesday, March 29th is the last class for Religious Education. First Communion will be Sunday, April 30th at the 9AM Mass in English and 11AM Mass in Polish.

## **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](mailto: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 19**

**Online ..... \$1,158.00**

**In Pew..... \$3,507.00**

**Total for March 19....\$4,665.00**

## Calendar of Events

### SUNDAYS:

#### **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 – of the Lord's Passion Distribution of Palms at all Masses**

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

11:00AM...Mass in Polish

#### **April 9...Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord**

6:00AM Sunrise Mass in Polish with Procession

9:00AM, 1:00PM Mass in English

11:00AM...Mass in Polish

### MONDAYS:

#### **March 27; April 17, 24**

5:30PM...Polish School

### TUESDAYS:

### WEDNESDAYS:

#### **March 29 (Last Class)**

6:30PM... Religious Education Class

### THURSDAYS:

#### **April 6...Holy Thursday**

9:00AM...Morning Prayer

followed by Pastor's Coffee

7:00PM...Bi-Lingual Mass of the Lord's Supper

Procession to Altar of Repose

with visits for adoration

11:00PM...Night Prayer

#### **March 30**

6:00PM...Stations of the Cross in English – K of C

6:30PM...Renew International "What, Me Holy?"

7:30PM...Choir Rehearsal

### FRIDAYS:

#### **March 31**

6:00PM...Fish Fry

7:00PM...Stations of the cross in Polish

#### **April 7....Good Friday**

9:00AM...Morning Prayer

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

led by Fr. Marcin

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

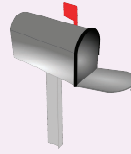
7:00PM...Passion of the Lord in Polish

### SATURDAYS:

#### **April 1,**

9:00AM. Morning Prayer

2:00PM...Blessing of Food



## *From the Pastor's Desk*

### *Dear Parishioners,*

My brothers and sisters, today we hear the story of rising Lazarus. This account prefigures Christ's resurrection and introduces us to the mysteries that we are about to celebrate! This is our hope, this is our faith that we too will be raised from the dead!

In the first reading, prophet Ezekiel delivers God's words to his people. The graves of the dead will be open and the dead will rise up. All those in exile will be brought back safely home.

John's story of the raising of Lazarus offers hope and consolation in the face of death. The grief of Jesus, Martha and Mary shows us that the Lord understands and shares in our human grief at the death of our loved ones. At the same time, Christ wants to enter into dialogue with us. The dialogue teaches us that, through the power of God, Christ has power over death. Ultimately, he will show us through his own death and resurrection that we can trust in the promise of eternal life.

We are continuing a faith-sharing group: "What, Me Holy?" on Thursdays at 6:30 pm 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](mailto:pastor@bestchurch.net)



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**If the lights are flashing, no passing.**

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

**Thomas E. Sheenan, CFSP**  
OWNER/MANAGER  
NJ Lic. 2592

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