

I AM THE
VINE
YOU ARE THE
BRANCHES.
THOSE WHO
ABIDE IN ME
AND I IN THEM
BEAR MUCH
FRUIT
- JESUS



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
April 28, 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 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 mail at www.rcan.org/vocation/index.htm

ST. BARTHOLOMEW ACADEMY

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



Saturday – April 27... Easter Weekday

9:00AM... + Adelfio Dilorio, req. Armond and Anna Apisa
5:00PM... + Janice Turczyn, req. Al and Barbara St. Louis

Sunday – April 28... Fifth Sunday of Easter

10:00AM...+ Robert DeMair, req. K of C Council 552
+ Bronislawa i Stanislaw Lukanus,
req. Radecki Family
1:00PM...+ Robert Chanda, req. Ann Garner

Monday – April 29... St Catherine of Siena

9:00AM... People of the Parish

Tuesday – April 30... St. Pius V, Pope

9:00AM...+ William E. Kruse (3rd Anniversary), req. Family

Wednesday – May 1... St. Joseph, the Worker

9:00AM... People of the Parish

Thursday – May 2... St. Athanasius

9:00AM.... Lucia Simeone. req. Parish Family and Friends

Friday – May 3... St. Phillip and St. James

9:00AM...+ Julio Cesar Cuartas, req. Alba Ledy Cuartas
7:00PM...(Pol.) Maria Sipos, req. Jadwiga Zarzecki Family

Saturday – May 4... Easter Weekday

9:00AM...+ People of the Parish
5:00PM...+ William Kruse, req. Mary Ellen Chanda

Sunday – May 5... Sixth Sunday of Easter

9:00AM...+ Mary and April Mosley, req. Mosley Family
11:00AM...First Holy Communion - Polish
1:00PM.....First Holy Communion - English

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

The Bread and Wine used at Mass for the month of **May is for Rosita Imperial at the request of the Wong Family.**

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED for those whose health is challenged in any way especially **Kate Rooney, Marian Parcinski, Dennis Powers, Lucille Thurston and Lucia Simeone.**

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 9:26-31

Paul the Apostle came to Jerusalem, where the other disciples were afraid of him. Then they learned that the Lord had spoken to Paul and he had preached openly in Damascus. When they learned that someone wanted to kill him, they protected him because they fully believed he had converted.

Second Reading: I John 3:18-24

John clearly states that we must love one another. All people who believe in Jesus Christ can show their faith only through their actions. If people believe in Jesus and love one another as he commanded us, they prove that they are true believers in Christ.

Gospel: John 15:1-8

Jesus compares himself to a vine, and compares his father to the vine-grower. He explains how God prunes the barren branches so that the rest might yield more fruit. He reminds them that apart from himself, his followers could not bear fruit.

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

The Saint of the Week

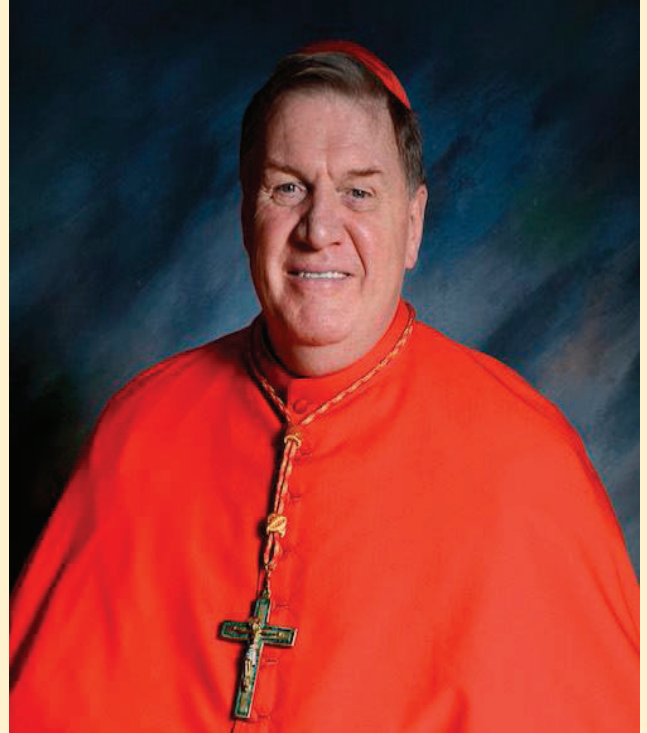
St. James

(May 3)

Saint James is one of the Twelve. The traditional view, from as early as the second century, is that there are only two disciples of Christ in the New Testament with the name James. Some modern scholars identify three or more. If we stick with the traditional view, which was also held by Saint Jerome in the fourth century, then the two Jameses are James the Son of Zebedee and James the Less (also referred to as James the brother of the Lord, and James the Son of Alphaeus). Later authors call him James the Just. If James the Less is also the James who is the Lord's brother, then James' father was Alphaeus and his mother was Mary of Clopas, the sister of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This would make James the nephew of the Blessed Virgin and a first cousin to Jesus. He is referred to as Jesus' "brother" because it was common at that time to refer to cousins and other relatives as brothers and sisters. In Mark's Gospel, Levi (better known as Matthew) is also referred to as the son of Alphaeus (Mark 2:14) which could make James and Matthew brothers.

In his letter to the Corinthians, Saint Paul relates that the Lord appeared to James after His Resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:7). After Pentecost, James became the first bishop of the Church in Jerusalem. The Acts of the Apostles relates that it was James, as the head of the Jerusalem Church, who oversaw the First Council of Jerusalem and declared the final judgment on behalf of Peter (see Acts 15). Eusebius, a fourth-century bishop, writes that James spent long hours in the Temple of Jerusalem: "...he was in the habit of entering alone into the temple, and was frequently found upon his knees begging forgiveness for the people, so that his knees became hard like those of a camel." Eusebius also wrote about James' martyrdom, "...he was thrown from the pinnacle of the temple, and was beaten to death with a club." Traditionally, the New Testament letter of James is believed to have been written by James the Less. That letter was a general letter, most likely sent to all of the Jewish Christian communities. It begins, "James, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes in the dispersion, greetings" (James 1:1). The letter then goes on to give encouragement in trials and persecutions, exhortations and warnings, and concludes by speaking of the power of prayer.

***This Sunday we welcome
Cardinal Joseph Tobin,
Archbishop of Newark***



***A bilingual Mass at 10:00AM will
be celebrated followed by brunch
in the school gym.***

***First Communion Retreat
Saturday, May 4th 10:00AM***

**First Holy
Communion
Sunday, May 5th
11:00AM - Polish
1:00PM - English.**



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



5 NIEDZIELA WIELKANOCNA



Kazanie św. Maksyma, biskupa Turynu

Przez zmartwychwstanie Chrystusa rozwierają się bramy Otchłani, ziemia się odradza przez nowe dzieci Kościoła, Duch Święty otwiera niebo; rozwarła Otchłań zwraca umarłych, odrodzona ziemia rodzi zmartwychwstałych, a do nieba wstępują zbawieni. Także i dobry łotr wchodzi do raju, ciała świętych wchodzi do Miasta świętego; umarli powracają do życia, przez zmartwychwstanie Chrystusa wszystkie elementy zmierzają ku rzeczom wyższym. Otchłań oddaje niebiosom swą własność, ziemia zwraca niebu swą własność, ziemia zwraca niebu tych, których pogrzebała, a niebo ich przyjmuje i stawia przed Panem. To wszystko sprawia jedna i ta sama męka Zbawiciela: dźwiga z głębin, unosi z ziemi i umieszcza na wyżynach nieba.

Albowiem zmartwychwstanie Chrystusa daje życie zmarłym, przebaczenie grzesznikom, a chwałę świętym. I święty prorok zaprasza całe stworzenie do udziału w radości zmartwychwstania Chrystusa, mówi bowiem, że trzeba się radować i weselić w tym dniu, który Pan uczynił.

Światło Chrystusa jest dniem, który nie zna nocy, dniem bez końca. Chrystus jest owym dniem, według słów Apostoła: "Noc

minęła i przybliżył się dzień". "Noc minęła" - mówi - a nie następuje, abyśmy zrozumieli, że gdy pojawia się światło Chrystusa, znikają mroki szatana i nie nastają ciemności grzechu, bo przed blaskiem tego światła pierzcha dawny mrok i żadne przestępstwo nie może się tam wcisnąć ukradkiem.

Albowiem dniem jest Syn, któremu Ojciec będący sam dniem, przekazał tajemnice swej boskości. On jest dniem, który mówi przez usta Salomona: "To Ja sprawiłem, że wzeszło na niebiosach niegasnące światło". Jak więc za dniem niebiańskim nie następuje żadna noc, tak za sprawiedliwością Chrystusa nie postępują ciemności grzechów. Dzień niebios zawsze jest skąpany w niekończącym się blasku i nie mogą go przysłonić żadne ciemności; tak też i światło Chrystusa zawsze jaśnieje, promieniuje i żadna ciemność grzechów nie może go ogarnąć, i dlatego mówi Jan Ewangelista: "A światłość w ciemności świeci i ciemność jej nie ogarnęła". A więc, bracia, trzeba, abyśmy wszyscy radowali się w tym świętym dniu. Niech świadomość grzechów nikogo nie wyłącza od wspólnej radości, niech ciężar win nikogo nie odwołuje od publicznych modłów! Bo nawet i grzesznik nie powinien w takim dniu wątpić o przebaczeniu. Zaiste, jak wielkie to wyróżnienie! Jeśli bowiem łotr zasłużył na raj, to czyż chrześcijanin miałby nie otrzymać przebaczenia?.

LG tom II: V Niedziela Wielkanocna, str. 640-641

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

3 Maja – pierwszy Piątek Miesiąca
Msza po polsku o godzinie 7PM

Word

STEWARDSHIP

“Children, let us love not in word or speech but indeed and truth.” - 1JOHN 3:18

Regarding our Catholic faith, do you “walk the talk?” Do your actions reflect what it means to be a good disciple? Are you an active participant at Sunday Mass? Are you joyful when participating in parish ministry? Do you give gratefully and generously with your financial support to your parish and other Church needs? If not, it’s not too late to start!

DEVOTION



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

Monday – Saturday.

On Thursdays after 9AM Mass the Blessed Sacrament is

exposed, 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. Next Rosary Mass and meeting, **Sunday, May 5th**.



WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASSES

The Archdiocese of Newark is once again preparing the annual tradition of honoring those couples in our Archdiocese who will be celebrating five, twenty-five and fifty years of valid marriage for 2024. These anniversary liturgies will be held in the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark. The 50th celebrated by Cardinal Joseph Tobin; the 5th and 25th celebrated by Bishop Gregory Studerus.

May 5, 12:00PM - 5 years & 25 years

June 2, 12:00PM - 50 years

The presence of these couples will be a tender witness to the strength and stability of Christian Marriage in today’s society. If you have families that are still playing ‘catch-up’ with their celebrations, any couple who would have celebrated their Silver or Gold Anniversary in those years stunted by covid restrictions may still join us as well.

Please Note: Their Certificates will reflect the past year they missed as the 25th or 50th.

Please contact the office if you plan to attend.

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

Our Mass Schedule:

- **Monday – Saturday: 9:00 AM**
- **Saturday: 5:00 PM - English**
- **Sunday: 9:00AM & 1PM - English**
- **11:00 AM Mass - Polish**
- **First Fridays: 7:00PM Mass - Polish**
- **Office Hours:**
- **Monday – Friday: 10:00AM - 2:00PM**
- **Website and Live Mass:**
- www.bestchurch.net
- **Confessions also by requests**

YOUTH

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education Classes for this season have ended. Please be sure the children attend Mass regularly during the summer months.

Confirmation Retreat

Saturday May 11th 10:00AM

**Confirmation Sunday, June 2
1:00PM Mass**



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. This ministry is open to all youths: boys as well as girls. If interested, please see Fr. Bernardo.

SAINT PETER’S PREPARATORY SCHOOL

There will be a Spring Open House on Sunday, May 5th 1:00 – 3:00 PM.

Saint Peter’s Prep is an independent, college preparatory school for boys, and it remains New Jersey’s only Jesuit high school. For more information on the Spring Open House, please call 201-547-6465.

COMMUNITY BUILDING

BESTCHURCH SENIORS



The Senior Meeting is open to all **seniors** and **almost seniors** on the third Thursday of the month at 12:30PM. Our next meeting will be the last meeting for the season on May 17th with a light luncheon and end with

prayer through drumming, by Barbara Woodzell. If you know of anyone who might be interested in joining, please invite them to come even if it's our last meeting. **All seniors are welcome.**



DIAPER COLLECTION

Through the efforts of our members of the St. Anne Society, the Rosary Society and our parish community we will be collecting diapers, pull-ups and wipes to be donated to United Families in Plainfield.



Our parish has always generously supported this ministry, and the families in Plainfield are very appreciative of our caring donations. Diapers and Pull-ups should be in sizes of 3 or larger and can be left in the open area of the church or dropped off at the office. We will deliver them to United Families in early May. For more Information, please call the parish office.

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 years.

SEASON 4 of THE CHOSEN

Hosted by Holy Trinity Church



Previous seasons' viewing is not necessary to join us!

Four Consecutive Mondays:

April 15th to May 6th

Holy Trinity Parish Center

512 Westfield Ave, Westfield, NJ

7:30 -10:00 pm

All Are Welcome

Appropriate for ages 10 and up

Snacks, wine, coffee, & soft drinks served

Questions - Contact - Lauren Youssef - laurenyousef@gmail.com

FINANCE



ONLINE GIVING

Collection for April 21

Online.....\$ 1,078.00

In Pew..... \$ 2,608.00

Total Collection for April 21.....\$ 3,686.00

Total for Easter 2024....\$19,810.00

Thank you for all your donations!!!

ANNUAL²⁰²⁴ 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 **\$19,867.00**

68% of our goal for the AA 2024

Thank you for all your donations.

Calendar of Events

SUNDAYS:

April 28...Fifth Sunday of Easter

10:00AM...Bilingual Mass - **Cardinal Tobin Visit**
Followed by a Brunch

1:00PM... Mass in English

May 5...Sixth Sunday of Easter

9:00AMMass in English

11:00AM...Mass in Polish (**First Communion**)

1:00PM.....Mass in English (**First Communion**)

MONDAYS:

April 29; May 6,13,20

5:30PM...Polish School

TUESDAY:

WEDNESDAY:

THURSDAYS:

May 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30

7:00PM...Choir Practice

FRIDAY:

SATURDAYS:

April 27, May 4, 11, 18, 25

4:15...Confession

May 4

10:00AM...**First Communion Retreat**

May 11

10:00AM...**Confirmation Retreat**

From Fr. Marcin's Desk

5th Sunday of Easter

The Word of God continues to indicate to us the way and the conditions to be a community of the Risen Lord. Last Sunday the relationship between the believer and Jesus the Good Shepherd was highlighted. Today the Gospel offers us the moment in which Jesus introduces himself as the true vine and invites us to abide in him so as to bear much fruit. The vine is a plant whose branches form the whole; and the branches are only fruitful insofar as they are joined with the vine. This relationship is the secret of Christian life: "Abide in me." says the Lord.

Abiding in the Lord means to find the courage to step outside of ourselves, from our comfort zone, from our limited and protected spaces, in order to cast ourselves into the open sea of the needs of others and to give a wide range to our Christian witness in the world. This courage to step outside ourselves and to advance the needs of others is born from faith in the Risen Lord and from the certainty that his Spirit accompanies us. One of the ripest fruits that springs from communion with Christ is the love for our neighbor. This love is born from the encounter with Jesus.

When we are intimate with the Lord, as the vine and branches are intimate and joined, we are able to bear the fruits of new life, of mercy, of justice and peace, derived from the Lord's Resurrection. It is what the Saints did, those who lived Christian life in fullness and lived the witness of charity, because they were true branches of the vine of the Lord. "We are all called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves," (Gaudete et Exsultate, 14). We are all called to be holy; we must be holy with this richness we have received from the Risen Lord.

On the way to our holiness, we are helped today by the presence of our Bishop, Cardinal Tobin, who is coming to give us a word and encourage our path to holiness as a community of St. Bernard and St. Stanislaus.

Fr. Marcin Fuks

Contact us:

Office Address

368 Sumner Avenue, Plainfield, New Jersey 07062

Rev. Marcin Fuks - PASTOR

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

bestreligioused@gmail.com

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available on a regular basis on Saturdays at 4:15PM and after weekday Masses simply by requesting a celebration of the sacrament.

MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME
Thoughtful care—Compassionate service
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
155 South Avenue • Fanwood, NJ 07023
908 322-4350
www.fanwoodmemorial.com

McCriskin-Gustafson
FAMILY OF FUNERAL HOMES
INDEPENDENT & LOCAL
2425 Plainfield Ave, South Plainfield, NJ 07080
908-561-8000
James A. Gustafson
President/Manager
NJ License #4205
Richard W. McCriskin II
Vice President
NJ License #4564
Scan to visit our website
www.mccriskinfuneralhome.com
Pre-Arrangements • Cremation Services
S/S Medicaid Protection

Help your community,
the environment,
& yourself

Patronize your local businesses

In Loving Memory
Place Your Tribute Here To A Loved One!
Call 800-883-4343
Ext. 106

**ROOFING • CHIMNEYS
MASONRY • GUTTERS**
We Find & Fix Leaks!
ROYAL PRO CONSTRUCTION
Family Owned/Operated • Lic. #13VH0934200, Bonded & Insured • 20+ Yrs.
732-589-9967 Serving All of New Jersey

\$800 OFF
Any New Roof Replacement
15% OFF
Any Roof, Chimney, Gutter,
Masonry Repair & SENIORS

Watchung Dental Care PC
COSMETIC • IMPLANT • FAMILY DENTISTRY
Sang H. Moon D.D.S., F.I.C.O.I. 1801 East 2nd Street
Caroline Hanna, D.M.D. Scotch Plains, NJ 07076
908-322-6090 • www.watchungdentalcare.com

ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDFIRES

¡Se necesitan anunciantes!
Enviar un correo electrónico a
Byron Polanco
bpolanco@bonventure.net

WE NEED A WAFFLE LOT OF BLOOD DONORS

American Red Cross

NATIONAL PROBLEM GAMBLING HELPLINE
1-800-522-4700
CALL • TEXT • CHAT
NCPGAMBLING.ORG/CHAT

National Council on Problem Gambling

GOD BLESS AMERICA

GOD BLESS AMERICA

In Loving Memory

HEAVENLY ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS TO OUR PARENTS
SEPTEMBER 12, 1964
We Love & Miss You Very Much,
Your Five Kids!!

Call me today for more information on how your business can benefit by joining the others who support this church bulletin program.
- John Sloatmaker
800-364-0684 / ext. 63

Act now to help end hunger.

In the United States, one in nine people face hunger.
feedingamerica.org **FEEDING AMERICA**

READY.GOV
Don't be afraid...Be Ready

Higgins HOME FOR FUNERALS, INC.
established 1868
Stephen D. Szczubelek
Manager Watchung Lic. #4446
908-756-0017
www.higginsfuneralhome.com
752 Mountain Boulevard • Watchung, NJ 07069

NEED A LAWYER? INJURED?
★ Call For A Free Legal Consultation ★
MARC J. BRENNER ESQ.
973-326-8902
• Personal Injury
• Workers' Compensation
• Social Security Disability
lawmarcbrenner.com • marc@lawmarcbrenner.com
222 RIDGEDALE AVENUE • CEDAR KNOLLS, NJ 07927