

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

February 2, 2025

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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

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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

PRESENTATION OF THE LORD



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 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 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 – February 1...Weekday

9:00AM... + People of the Parish
5:00PM... + Anthony Tierno,
req. Mr. and Mrs. Michael Barrow

Sunday – February 2...The Presentation of the Lord

9:00AM...+ George Polizzano, req. Parish Family
11:00AM...+ Józef Olechowski, req. Syn z Rodziną
+ Piotr Falkowski, req. Marek z Rodziną
1:00PM... + Stan and Marie Stanley, req Family

Monday – February 3...St. Blaise and St. Ansgar

9:00AM...+ Luis Enrique Cuartas Gonzalez,
req. Alba Ledy Cuartas

Tuesday – February 4...Weekday

9:00AM ... + Stephen Sopko, req.
Daughter Karole and Family

Wednesday – February 5... St. Agatha

9:00AM... Health of Albert Caraldo, req. Sister Dawn

Thursday – February 6...St. Paul Miki

9:00AM... + Trudy Fritzie, req. Sister Helga Gilligan

Friday – February 7... Weekday

9:00AM...+ James DeCicco, req. Wife
7:00PM... (Pol.)

Saturday – February 8...St. Jerome Emiliani and St. Josephine Bakhita

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

Sunday – February 9...Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00AM... + Carlo Riello, req. Antonia Riello
11:00AM.. + Leszek Rutkowski
1:00PM... Health of Janet Berry,
req. Beverly and Peter Cirino

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

The Bread and Wine for the Month of February is in **Memory of Cecilia Torres at the request of Marta Guardado.**

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

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

PRESENTATION OF JESUS THE LORD

First Reading: Malachi 3: 1-4

The prophet Malachi speaks to us about God sending a messenger "to prepare the way" and that God will suddenly come and appear at the temple. Malachi continues by telling us the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to God.

Second Reading: Hebrews 2: 14-18

Jesus became like us. He shared fully in our humanity. By his death he freed us from the fear of death. Because Jesus was tested by suffering, he is able to help those who are also tempted.

Gospel: Luke 2: 22-40

According to the law of Moses, Joseph and Mary brought Jesus to the temple to be consecrated. They offered a sacrifice according to the law, "a pair of turtle doves or two young pigeons."

Simeon, a holy and righteous man, took the child into his arms and praised God. Simeon then spoke to Mary. He told Mary that Jesus "is destined to be the downfall and the rise of many in Israel." Anna, a prophet of great age, praised God and spoke of the child who came for the redemption of Jerusalem.

The Saint of the Week

St. Blaise

(February 3)

Saint Blaise was the bishop of Sebastea and a doctor. The first known record of the saint's life comes from the medical writings of Aëtius Amidenus, where he is recorded as helping with patients suffering from objects stuck in their throat. Many of the miraculous aspects of St. Blaise's life are written 400 years after his martyrdom in the "Acts of St. Blaise."

It is believed that Saint Blaise began as a healer and eventually, became a "physician of souls." He then retired to a cave, where he remained in prayer. People often turned to Saint Blaise for healing miracles.

In 316, Agricola, the governor of Cappadocia and of Lesser Armenia, arrested Bishop Blaise for being a Christian. On their way to jail, a woman set her only son, who was choking to death on a fish bone, at his feet. Blaise cured the child, and though Agricola was amazed, he could not get Blaise to renounce his faith.

Therefore, Agricola beat Blaise with a stick and tore at his flesh with iron combs before beheading him.

In another tale, Blaise was being led to the prison in Sebastea, and on the way came across a poor old woman whose pig had been stolen by a wolf. Blaise commanded the wolf return the pig, which it did -alive and uninjured - to the amazement of all. When he reached Sebastea, the woman came to him and brought two fine wax candles in an attempt to dispel the gloom of his darkened cell.

In the Middle Ages, Blaise became quite popular, and his legend as a beast tamer spread. He was then referred to as the "saint of the wild beast."

Many German churches are dedicated to Saint Blaise, sometimes called Saint Blasius.

In Great Britain, the village of St. Blazey got its name from Saint Blaise, and a church dedicated to the saint can be found in Decon hamlet of Haccombe, near Newton Abbot. There is a Saint Blaise's Well in Kent, and the water is believed to have medicinal properties.

A Catholic middle school was named after Saint Blaise in Bradford, West Yorkshire. The name was decided upon when the link between Bradford and the woolen industry was connected to the way St. Blaise was martyred: with woolcomb.

Saint Blaise is often depicted holding two crossed candles in his hand, or in a cave with wild

animals. He is also often shown with steel combs. The similarity of the steel combs and the wool combs made a large contribution to Saint Blaise's leadership as the patron saint of wool combers and the wool trade.



MONDAY IS THE FEAST OF ST. BLAISE

In recognition of St. Blaise, we will offer the opportunity to have your throat blessed on Monday after the 9AM Mass or any time during the day. The Blessing incorporates a prayer that through the intercession of St. Blaise we will be protected from every disease of the throat and every other illness. It is a blessing of wellness.



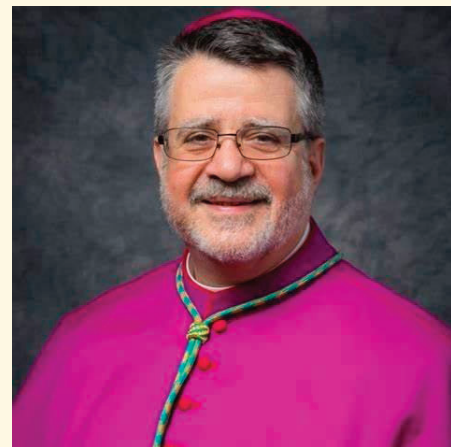
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



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.

Welcome Bishop Elias Lorenzo



This Sunday, our parish community will be visited by our regional Bishop. Bishop Lorenzo will be present at the 9AM and 11AM Masses.



Polskie Duszpasterstwo w Parafii św. Bernarda i św. Stanisława Kostki Homilia Ojca Świętego Benedykta XVI wygłoszona w Święto Ofiarowania Pańskiego

Jest rzeczą interesującą zaobserwować z bliska to wejście Dzieciątka Jezus w uroczystym dniu świątyni, w wielkim zgłętku tak wielu osób, zajętych swoimi sprawami: kapłanów, lewitów z ich kolejami posługi, licznie zebranych pobożnych wiernych i pielgrzymów, pragnących spotkać się z Bogiem, świętym Izraela. Nikt z nich jednak nie zdaje sobie sprawy z tego co się dzieje. Jezus jest dzieckiem jak wiele innych dzieci, pierworodnym synem dwojga bardzo zwyczajnych rodziców. Także kapłani okazują się niezdolni odczytania znaków nowej i zupełnie szczególnej obecności Mesjasza i Zbawiciela. Tylko dwoje staruszków, Symeon i Anna, odkrywa wielką nowość. Przywiedzeni przez Ducha Świętego, odnajdują w tym Dziecięciu spełnienie ich długich oczekiwań i czuwań. Oboje kontemplują Boskie światło, które przychodzi, by oświecić świat, a ich profetyczne spojrzenie otwiera się na przyszłość, jako zwiastowanie Mesjasza. W profetycznej postawie obojga starców zawarte jest całe Stare Przymierze, które wyraża radość z powodu spotkania z Odkupicielem. Ujrzawszy Dziecię, Symeon i Anna czują, że to właśnie ono jest tym Oczekiwany.

Przedstawienie Jezusa w świątyni stanowi wymowną ikonę całkowitego oddania swojego życia dla tych wszystkich mężczyzn i kobiet, którzy zostali powołani, aby odtwarzać w Kościele i świecie, za pomocą rad ewangelicznych, "charakterystyczne rysy Jezusa dziewiczego, ubogiego i posłusznego". Dlatego też dzisiejsze Święto zostało wybrane, by świętować doroczny Dzień Życia Konsekwowanego.

Ewangeliczny obraz Przedstawienia w Świątyni zawiera fundamentalny symbol światła, które wychodząc od Chrystusa, promieniuje na Maryję i Józefa, na Symeona i Annę, a poprzez nich na wszystkich. Ojcowie Kościoła wiązali to promieniowanie z duchową wędrówką. Życie konsekrowane wyraża taką wędrówkę, w sposób szczególny, jako "filokalię", umiłowanie piękna Bożego, odbicie Boskiej dobroci. Na obliczu Chrystusa jaśnieje światło takiego piękna.

Z drugiej strony, ewangeliczny obraz zawiera prorocstwo, dar Ducha Świętego. Symeon i Anna, kontemplując Dzieciątka Jezus, przewidują Jego przeznaczenie śmierci i zmartwychwstania dla zbawienia wszystkich narodów i ogłaszają to misterium jako zbawienie powszechne. Życie konsekrowane jest powołaniem do takiego profetycznego świadectwa, związanego z jego podwójnym charyzmatem kontemplacyjnym i apostołskim. Osobom konsekrowanym, mężczyznom i kobietom, został udzielony bowiem dar zwiastowania prymatu Boga, pasja dla Ewangelii przepowiadanej jako forma życia i zwiastowanej ubogim i ostatnim na ziemi.

Po trzecie, ewangeliczna ikona Ofiarowania Pana Jezusa w świątyni ukazuje mądrość Symeona i Anny, mądrość życia oddanego zupełnie poszukiwaniu Bożego Oblicza, jego znaków, jego woli: życia oddanego zupełnie słuchaniu i głoszeniu Jego Słowa! Życie konsekrowane w świecie i w Kościele jest widzialnym znakiem tego poszukiwania oblicza Pana i dróg, które do Niego prowadzą. Osoba konsekrowana świadczy więc o zobowiązaniu, radosnym i jednocześnie pracowitym, ciągłego (wytrwałego, upartego) i mądrego poszukiwania Bożej woli.

Drodzy bracia i siostry, bądźcie wytrwałymi słuchaczami Słowa, ponieważ wszelka mądrość życiowa rodzi się z Bożego Słowa! Naśladując Chrystusa czystego, ubogiego i posłusznego staje się w ten sposób żywą „egzegezą” Bożego Słowa. Duch Święty, mocą którego zostało napisane Pismo Święte, jest tym samym, który rozświeca nowym światłem Bożego Słowa założycieli i założycielki. Z Niego wytrysnął każdy charyzmat, a każda reguła chce być jego wyrazem, dając początek drogom życia chrześcijańskiego znaczonego ewangelicznym radykalizmem.”

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

7 Lutego godz. 19:00 – Msza
pierwszo piatkowa



We Are His Witnesses: A Pastoral Letter from Cardinal Tobin

Cardinal Tobin invites all Catholics in the Archdiocese of Newark to read ***We Are His Witnesses***, his pastoral letter outlining new pathways for the future of the Archdiocese. Rooted in Pope Francis' call for pastoral conversion, missionary discipleship, and synodality, the letter reflects on our shared journey of faith and calls us to embrace renewal, collaboration and missionary outreach. This multi-year initiative will guide us in shaping a vibrant, hopeful future for our Church community. Read [*We Are His Witnesses*](#) and join this journey of faith as we respond to Christ's call to be His witnesses in the world.

Liturgy of the Word

February 9



Liturgy of the Word is at the 9AM Mass on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month for grades K-2, in the Church Chapel.

We could use a little more help as an assistant with our Liturgy during Mass one Sunday a month.



This is also an opportunity for our Confirmation students to earn service hours

If you can give a little help at Mass **one Sunday a month**, please contact Fr. Marcin for more information.

ALTAR SERVERS

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

Thank you to our new Altar Servers
You make a difference



Any youth who has received the Sacrament of Holy Communion and may be interested in participating at Mass as an Altar Server, boys as well as girls – please contact Fr. Marcin or Fr. Benardo.



ROSARY SOCIETY NEWS

The Rosary is prayed every day before the 9AM Mass, including praying the Divine Mercy.

Thursdays the *Blessed Sacrament* is exposed after 9AM Mass with Benediction at 10:45AM.



SERVING GOD



LECTORS



Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

If you would like to assist with Serving God at Mass as a Eucharistic Minister or Lector, contact Bill Shlala wgshlala@gmail.com or call (908) 755-8560.



Mt. St. MARY HOUSE OF PRAYER...



The House of Prayer at Mt. St. Mary's 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



BestChurch SENIORS

The BestChurch Seniors will be on a Winter Break through February. We will return when the snow melts on **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, let us know you are coming and... you are welcome to invite a friend.

CHOIR



Why not become a member?

It's never too late to join...

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. Our congregation has beautiful voices, so why not join us?

We would love to enhance our Choir.



SERVICE

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.

FOOD COLLECTION

Our collection of food for Starfish continues. You are encouraged and welcome to drop off any non-perishable food with current dates in the open area of the church. The need, as you might expect, is great during these difficult times. There is nothing too small or too big; it's the thought that counts. So, whatever you would like to provide, when added to everyone else's donations, becomes substantial to those in need. Starfish is once again in need of empty egg cartons.

The staff at Starfish would like to thank everyone for your continued support.

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.

STEWARDSHIP

The Presentation of the Lord

"Because he himself was tested through what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested." – Hebrews 2:18- Cardinal Joseph Tobin C.Ss.R.

When we join a support group, there is comfort in sharing our pain with people who have experienced the same thing; they understand what we are going through. The next time you experience suffering, talk to Jesus. He has experienced more suffering than most of us; He understands. Plus, Jesus knows us better than we know ourselves. Only He can fill the hole you feel in your heart.



ONLINE GIVING

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

COLLECTION FOR JANUARY 26TH

ON LINE	\$ 1,303
IN PEW	\$ 3,168
TOTAL	\$ 4,471



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.

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

Our new goal for the AA 2025 is \$30,181.02

From Fr. Marcin's Desk

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Feast of the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple is also known as the Feast of the Encounter. This is the encounter between Jesus and His people, when Mary and Joseph brought their child to the Temple in Jerusalem; there the first encounter between Jesus and His people, represented by Simeon and Anna, took place.

In the encounter between the Holy Family and the two representatives of the holy people of God, Jesus is at the center. It is He who moves everything, who draws all of them to the Temple, the house of his Father.

It is a meeting between the young, who are full of joy in observing the Law of the Lord, and the elderly who are full of joy in the action of the Holy Spirit. It is a unique encounter between observance and prophecy, where young people are the observers and the elderly are prophets! In fact, if we think carefully, observance of the Law is animated by the Spirit and the prophecy moves forward along the path traced by the Law. Who, more than Mary, is full of the Holy Spirit? Who more than she is docile to its action?

In the light of this Gospel scene, let us look at consecrated life as an encounter with Christ: it is He who comes to us, led by Mary and Joseph, and we go towards Him guided by the Holy Spirit. He is at the center. He moves everything, He draws us to the Temple, to the Church, where we can meet Him, recognize Him, welcome Him, embrace Him.

In the consecrated life we live the encounter between the young and the old, between observation and prophecy. Let's not see these as two opposing realities! Let us rather allow the Holy Spirit to animate both of them, and a sign of this is joy: the joy of observing, of walking within a rule of life; the joy of being led by the Spirit, never unyielding, never closed, always open to the voice of God that speaks, that opens, that leads us and invites us to go towards the horizon.

In the Love of God,

Fr. Marcin Fuks

Pastor@bestchurch.net

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