

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

April 13, 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**

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908-756-3393 Ext - 103

## **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



**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 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 on the website [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](http://www.STBACADEMY)



### **Saturday – April 12... Lenten Weekday**

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

5:00PM... + Bob Chanda, req. Mary Ellen

### **Sunday – April 13...Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**

9:00AM...+ Frank Kazmierski, req. Wife Zena and Children

11:00AM.. Przemysław Błażowicz Boże błogosławieństwo na urodziny , req. Matka

1:00PM ... People of the Parish

### **Monday – April 14... Monday of Holy Week**

9:00AM...+ Michele Mastroianni, req. Armond and Anna Apisa

### **Tuesday – April 15... Tuesday of Holy Week**

9:00AM...+ Pastora Cuartas (6th Anniv.), req. Alba Ledy Cuartas

### **Wednesday – April 16... Wednesday of Holy Week**

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

### **Thursday – April 17...Holy Thursday**

9:00AM... Morning Prayer

9:30AM... Pastor's Coffee

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

11:00PM.. Night Prayer

### **Friday – April 18... Good Friday (Passion of the Lord)**

9:00AM...Morning Prayer

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

3:00PM...Passion in English

7:00PM....Passion in Polish

### **Saturday – April 19... Holy Saturday**

9:00AM...Morning Prayer

2:00PM...Blessing of food

8:00PM...Easter Vigil - bilingual

### **Sunday – April 20...Resurrection of the Lord**

6:00AM...+ Maria Sipos (2<sup>nd</sup> Anniv.), req. Ciórka i rodzina

... W podzięk Kowaniu za otrzymane łaski

dla rodziny Radecki, i Lukas Radecki, 1st Birthday

9:00AM...+ Frank Kazmierski, req. Ann Garner

11:00AM. + Anna i Marian Nawrocki, req. Córka i rodzina

1:00PM....+ Peter Weachock, req. Thomas Strowe, Sr.

The Tabernacle Candle will burn this week in **Memory of Maria Sipos at the request of the Family.**

The Bread and Wine for the Month of April is in **Memory of Lucia Simeone at the request of Daughter, Maria Fame and Family.**

**YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED** for those whose health is challenged in any way especially **Cathy and Jack Rooney, Marian Parcinski, Olivia Schiffer, Al Caraldo, Margaret Macknowsky, and Barbara Bylecki.**

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

### **PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION**

#### **First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7**

Isaiah describes an individual who had been taught by God to reach out to others. He also describes this individual's willingness to be beaten and spit upon, secure that with God's help, he will not be disgraced.

#### **Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11**

Paul discusses how Jesus did not declare equality with God, but took on human form. He humbled himself enough to accept dying on the cross. God in turn exalted him and wants us to respect Jesus' name and worship him.

#### **Gospel: Luke 22:14—23:56**

Luke gives a detailed account of Jesus' last supper with the apostles, where Jesus tells them he will soon suffer in fulfillment of God's will. Then Jesus prayed that he might be spared if it suited God's will. After Judas betrayed Jesus, he was arrested. Although Pilate did not think Jesus was guilty of a crime, he gave in to the will of the people, and sentenced Jesus to death on a cross. Then Jesus was crucified and his body laid in a new tomb.

### **Holy Week Schedule**

#### **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**... Bilingual 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

**8:00PM** ...Easter Vigil - Bilingual

#### **Easter Sunday**

**6:00AM**... (Pol.) Sunrise Mass with Procession

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

**11:00AM**... Mass in Polish



**No Religious Education classes this week. Classes will resume on April 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM**



### **ROSARY SOCIETY**

The Rosary is prayed every morning during the week before the 9AM Mass. This week we will be praying the rosary only on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. The Triduum begins on Thursday with Morning Prayer at 9AM. Next Business Meeting is May 4<sup>th</sup> in the Parish Center on George Street.

### **Starting on April 27th, 2025**



#### **New Mass Schedule:**

**9:00 AM – English**

**10:30 AM – Polish**  
*(after Mass Swieconka in the gym)*

**12:00 PM – English**

**1:30 PM - Spanish**

*After the Spanish Mass*  
**2:30PM - Exposition and Confessions**

**3PM – Chaplet of the Divine Mercy in English, Polish & Spanish**

### **BestChurch Seniors**

**Wednesday**

**April 16<sup>th</sup> at 12:30PM**

Parish Center on George Street  
*Program will be the Passion of the Lord with Easter Blessings*



### **Liturgy of the Word for young children**

It is celebrated at the 9AM Mass on every other Sunday of the month for grades K-2, in the Church Chapel.

**No Liturgy of the word on Easter Sunday.**

**Next Chapel Liturgy is April 27<sup>th</sup>.**





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



### Kazanie św. Grzegorza z Nazjanzu, biskupa

Będziemy uczestnikami Paschy, teraz wprawdzie jeszcze w sposób typyczny, o wiele jednak wyraźniej niż w starodawnym Prawie (śmiem bowiem twierdzić, że Pascha starotestamentalna jako figura figury była mniej zrozumiała). Niedługo już natomiast zaczniemy ją obchodzić w sposób doskonalszy i prawdziwszy, wtedy mianowicie, gdy Słowo będzie ją spożywało w nowej postaci razem z nami w królestwie Ojca odsłaniając i ukazując wszystko, czego dotychczas nie wyjaśniło w pełni. To bowiem, co dziś poznajemy, zostanie zawsze nowe.

Naszą rzeczą jest zrozumieć naturę tej nowej uczy paschalnej, do Niego zaś należy pouczać i udzielać swoim uczniom wyczerpującej nauki. Nauka bowiem, o której mowa, jest również pokarmem Tego, który karmi.

Bądźmy więc i my uczestnikami Prawa, ale w sposób ewangeliczny, a nie według litery, doskonale, nie zaś niedoskonale, wiecznie, a nie tylko w doczesności. Zbudujmy sobie stolicę, ale nie ziemskie Jeruzalem, lecz metropolię niebieską. Nie tę, powiadam, którą teraz depcą buty żołnierzy, lecz tę, którą wysławiają zastępy aniołów. Ofiarujmy nie młode cielce i jagnięta mające rogi i racice, elementy martwe i nieczułe, lecz wraz z chórami niebieskimi złożmy Bogu ofiarę uwielbienia na ołtarzu w niebie. Wejdźmy za pierwszą zasłonę, zbliźmy się do drugiej i zaglądnijmy do miejsca Świętego Świętych. A nawet powiem coś więcej: Złożmy w ofierze Bogu siebie samych. Owszem, w każdy dzień ofiarujmy siebie i wszystkie nasze poruszenia.

Przyjmijmy wszystko dla Słowa i przez cierpienie naśladowujmy Jego mękę, krwią uczcijmy Krew, ochoczo wstąpmy na krzyż.

Jeśli jesteś Szymonem Cyrenejczykiem, weź krzyż i idź za Chrystusem. Jeśli byłbyś jak łotr razem z Nim przybity do krzyża, uznaj w Nim Boga jako człowieka prawy. Jeżeli Chrystus z powodu ciebie i twoich grzechów został policzony między złoczyńców, ty stań się dla Niego sprawiedliwy. Uwielbij Tego, który z twojej przyczyny został zawieszony na krzyżu, i sam wisząc usiłuj wyciągnąć jakąś korzyść ze swojej niegodziwości. Śmiercią kup sobie zbawienie. Wejdź z Jezusem do raj, żebyś zrozumiał, jakich dóbr się pozbawiłeś. Kontempluj jego piękno, a temu, co szemra, pozwól umrzeć na zewnątrz z jego bluźnierstwami.

Jeśli jesteś Józefem z Arymatei, proś o ciało Jezusa tego, który kazał Go ukrzyżować. Niech stanie się ono twoją ofiarą przebłagalną za zbawienie świata.

Jeśli jesteś Nikodemem, owym nocnym czcicielem Boga, namaść Go pogrzebowymi olejkami.

Jeśli jesteś Marią albo drugą Marią, czy Salome lub Joanną, wylewaj swoje łzy już u brzasku dnia. Postaraj się, byś tak jak pierwsza z nich, zobaczył odwalony kamień, a może też i aniołów, a nawet samego Jezusa.

*LG tom II: Sobota V WP, str. 312-314*

### 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

**19 kwietnia, Wielka Sobota – Świąconka/Blessing of Food** w kosciele o godzinie 2PM

**27 kwietnia - ŚWIĘCONKA PARAFIALNA**, wienconkę rozpoczniemy Mszą Świętą o **10:30am**. Po mszy zapraszamy wszystkich na poczęstunek do kafeterii szkolnej. W czasie Świąconki wystawione zostaną prace uczniów przygotowane w ramach projektu szkolnego „PIĘKNA NASZA POLSKA CAŁA – OD MORZA AŻ DO TATR”.

## 2025 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, March 9 to The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, June 15, 2025.**

*\*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.*



### OPERATION RICE BOWL

Your Lenten almsgiving through CRS Rice Bowl make a global difference for millions of our sisters and brothers experiencing the greatest need.

**Rice Bowl boxes are located at all the entrances of the church. Your help is greatly appreciated. You may return them to the office or in the collection basket at Mass.**



**Saint Peter's Prep**  
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St. Peter's Prep is a New Jersey Jesuit High School for boys in Jersey City. There will be a Spring Open House Sunday May, 4<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 PM. For more information please contact John Irvine, Director of Admissions at [IrvineJ@spprep.org](mailto:IrvineJ@spprep.org) or call 201-547-6389.

## STEWARDSHIP

### Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

*"...I tell you, Peter, before the cock crows this day, you will deny three times that you know me."*

(LUKE 22:34) Cardinal Joseph Tobin C.Ss.R. – How many times have you heard someone make a disparaging comment about God or our Catholic faith? How did you react? Do you remain quiet so not to cause a disturbance? Or, because you don't want people to think negatively about you? Or, because you don't think you know enough about the Catholic faith? Pray for the courage to speak up and enter into a respectful conversation when the opportunity to talk about our faith arises. Joyfully share your faith with others.



### WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

The Archdiocese has announced that they are once again preparing for the annual tradition of honoring couples in our Archdiocese who will be celebrating five, twenty-five and fifty years of Catholic marriage in the Jubilee Year 2025! This year there will be ONE anniversary liturgy for all couples from all counties celebrated by Cardinal Joseph Tobin on **Sunday, June 1st at 3p.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark. Contact the office to register.**



### CHOIR

**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 on a Thursday in the church at 7PM.

### CHAIR EXERCISE for Seniors

A gentle practice in which postures are performed while seated with the aid of a chair. Classes will start on **Tuesday, April 29, 1:30PM.** Please call the office, there is still time if you are interested in joining.

### Starfish Food Pantry

**We continue to collect current dated and non-perishable food for Starfish.** At this time we have been asked to include donations of large toothpaste as well as empty egg cartons. **Thank you so much for your generous support.**

## *Guide to Holy Week*

**Palm Sunday** takes place one week before Easter and commemorates Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Catholics carry blessed palm branches into church, symbolizing the crowd's welcoming gesture as Jesus rode into the city on a donkey. The Gospel readings recount the story of Jesus' death and Passion, inviting us to reflect on his sacrificial love and the profound significance of Holy Week.

### **Holy Monday – Chrism Mass.**

All of the oils used in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Orders and Anointing of the Sick are blessed and distributed at the Chrism Mass.

Large vessels of oils are carried to the altar for the blessings and consecration of Chrism, which is a mixture of oil and balsam. After Mass the oils are distributed to representatives of each parish. The oils are taken back to the parishes and used for the Sacraments throughout the year.

But that's not all. Another important moment of the Chrism Mass is that every priest within the diocese renews his priestly promise. We're also invited to pray for all priests and their ministry.

**Holy Thursday** is the first day of the Easter Triduum, the most sacred days of the Catholic faith. It begins with the Mass of the Lord's Supper, commemorating the Last Supper celebrated by Jesus and his disciples on the Jewish holiday of Passover. During this Mass, the priest washes the feet of some members of the parish in memory of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples.

But perhaps the most significant thing that happened on Holy Thursday was that Jesus instituted the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

Jesus was clear. "This is my Body. Eat it." And "This is my Blood. Drink it." "Do this in remembrance of me." It's not a symbol or a metaphor. It's a clear and direct command. Jesus impresses upon his disciples that this is a sacred meal of his Body and Blood and that they should continue this practice after he is gone.

**Good Friday** is the day Jesus was tortured, mocked, crucified, and died. It was a day of incredible suffering and hatred—so why do we call it Good Friday?

We call it Good Friday because the suffering and sacrifice of Jesus saved us from our

sins. And even though it was an incredibly tragic day, it was one of the greatest days in history.

As it says in Isaiah, "He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed."

There is no path to happiness in this life unless you can make sense of suffering, and Christianity is the only place that understands the transformative value of suffering. While the whole world is doing everything it can to avoid and drown out their pain and suffering, we adore the cross of Jesus Christ, as the only way of our salvation.

Separated from Jesus, our pain and suffering become meaningless, and that is why life is so depressing for so many in a world that has rejected God and the idea that suffering has value. Willing sacrifice out of love is a path most people have never tried. And it is a path that is essential if we are going to find our way back to thriving in this world.

**Holy Saturday** is a day of preparation for Easter. For some families this might mean praying together, preparing their home for guests, and dying Easter Eggs. Although there is no Mass offered in the morning, many churches host a short prayer service. When night falls, the Church officially begins its first Easter Celebration at the Easter Vigil Mass!

**The Easter Vigil** is a Mass celebrated on Holy Saturday. It begins with a bonfire outside the church, where everyone lights a candle. Mass attendees then process inside the church, filling the dark church with light.

The Easter Vigil is sometimes multiple hours long because the Mass includes a number of special readings from the Old Testament that foreshadow Jesus' death and Resurrection. If the parish has any new catechumens (people who are entering the Catholic Church), oftentimes they will receive their Baptism, First Communion, or Confirmation at the Easter Vigil.

**Easter Sunday** is the day we celebrate Jesus' Resurrection. It is the most important day in history.

The whole world changed on Easter Sunday. It was an earth-shattering, life changing, historic event, and the ultimate proof that Jesus truly is God. Catholics have been celebrating Easter Sunday for over 2,000 years.

# ANNUAL <sup>2025</sup> APPEAL

The 2025 Annual Appeal has begun!

We are grateful to share that we have already received **\$18,348** in pledges—thank you to all who have given so generously! Your support of the 2025 Annual Appeal helps sustain the mission of Christ in our Archdiocese. Please help our parish reach our goal by June 30 and possibly receive financial incentives!

Our goal is **\$30,181.02**. If you have not yet made your gift, we invite you to prayerfully consider doing so. To make an online gift, please visit [rcan.org/sharing](http://rcan.org/sharing).

Thank you for your prayers, your generosity, and your faithful support of our Catholic mission.

May God bless you abundantly!



ONLINE GIVING

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

## COLLECTION FOR APRIL 6TH

ONLINE	\$ 2,748
IN PEW	\$ 3,086
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 5,834</b>

### 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,*

On Calvary, two ways of thinking collided. In the Gospel, the words of the crucified Jesus are in sharp contrast with the words of those who crucified him. The latter keep saying: "Save yourself." The leaders of the people said: "Let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One." The soldiers said the same thing: "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself." Finally, one of the criminals, echoing their words, said to Him: "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself." Save yourself. Take care of yourself. Think of yourself. Not of others, but only of your own well-being, your own success, your own interests, your possessions, your power, your image. Save yourself.

Instead, Christ offers Himself, and He prayed to the Father and offered mercy to the good thief. One of His prayers, in particular, marked the difference with regard to the mantra "save yourself." He said: "Father, forgive them."

Let us look to Jesus on the cross and realize that greater words were never spoken: "Father, forgive." Let us look to Jesus on the cross and realize that we have never been looked upon with a gentler and more compassionate gaze. Let us look to Jesus on the cross and understand that we have never received a more loving embrace.

There, as He was being crucified, at the height of His pain, Jesus Himself obeyed the most demanding of His commandments: that we love our enemies. Today, Jesus teaches us to break the vicious circle of evil and sorrow: to react to the nails in our lives with love, to the buffets of hatred with the embrace of forgiveness.

Father, forgive them for they know not what they do. Many people heard these extraordinary words, but only one person responded to them. He was a criminal, crucified next to Jesus. The good thief accepted God as his life was ending, and in this way, his life began anew. In the hell of this world, he saw heaven opening up: "Today you will be with me in Paradise." This is the marvel of God's forgiveness, which turned the last request of a man condemned to death into the first canonization of history. This means that there is hope for us!

*In the Love of God,*

*Fr. Marcin Fuks*

[Pastor@bestchurch.net](mailto:Pastor@bestchurch.net)

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