

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

December 7, 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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## **NEW MASS SCHEDULE**

### **SATURDAY MASS OF ANTICIPATION**

5:00PM- English

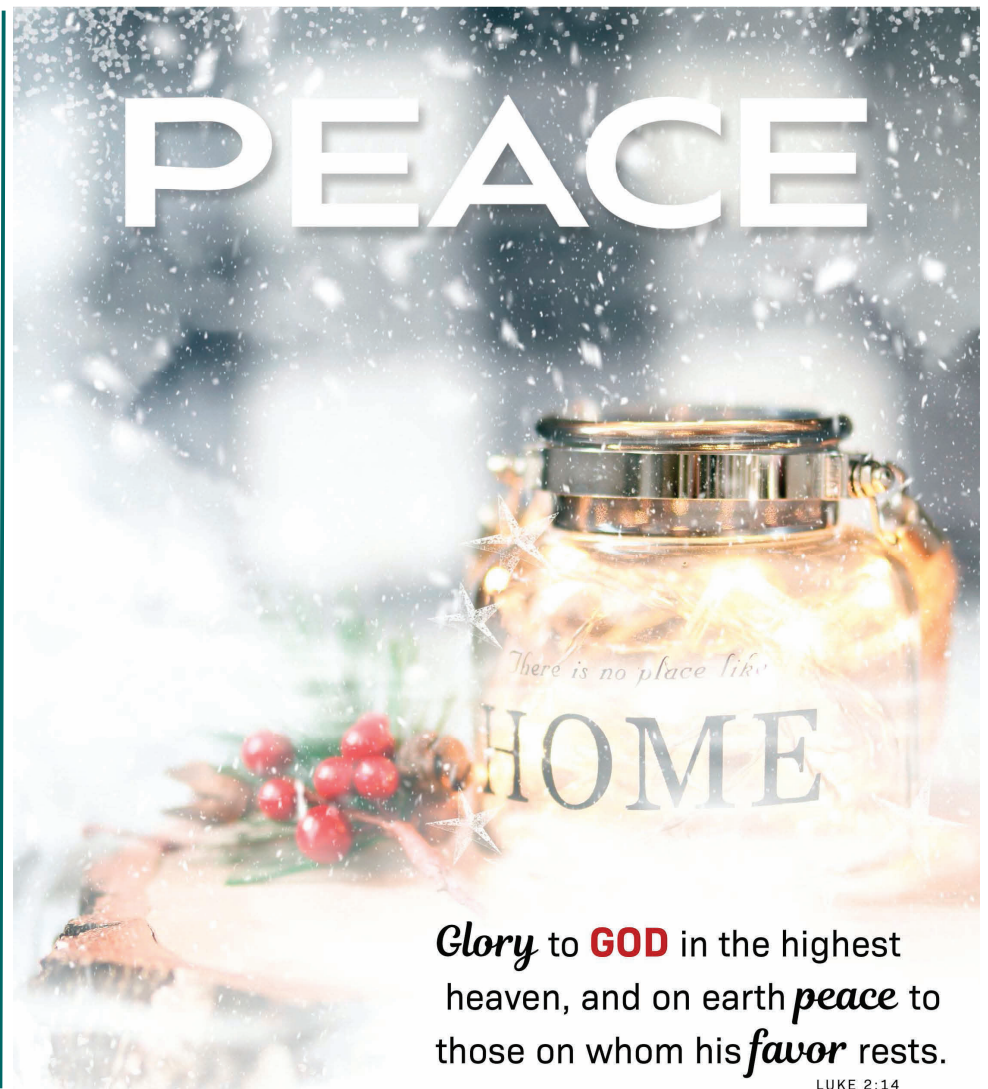
### **SUNDAY**

9:00AM – English

10:30AM – Polish

12:00PM – English

1:30PM – Spanish



*Glory* to **GOD** in the highest  
heaven, and on earth *peace* to  
those on whom his *favor* rests.

LUKE 2:14

### **CHURCH ADDRESS**

1235 George Street  
Plainfield, NJ 07062

### **OFFICES & MAILING ADDRESS**

1232 George Street  
Plainfield, NJ 07062

**Saturday and Sunday:** Closed  
or by appointment

**Monday - Friday:** 10:00 am-2:00 pm

### **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATIONS**

**Saturday:** 4:15 pm

By request: After Mass

**Sunday - Saturday:** Mornings

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday – December 6... St. Nicholas

9:00AM...+ Lawrence O'Brien and Kate, req. Kruse Family  
5:00PM...+ Patricia Jurevich, req. Mary Ellen Chanda, Sister

### Sunday – December 7... Second Sunday of Advent

9:00AM... + Steven Williams, req. Dad  
10:30AM...+Horst Steinkamp, 2. Anniversary,  
od Rodzina  
12:00 Noon... Nicholas Seaver, Birthday Blessings,  
req. Bonnie Mahala  
1:30PM... People of the Parish

### Monday – December 8...The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9:00AM...+ Luis Enrique and Rigoberto Cuartas Duque,  
req. Alba Ledy Cuartas  
6:00PM...(Eng./Sp.) ..+ Mary O'Brien and John Byrne,  
req. Kruse Family  
7:30PM...(Pol.)

### Tuesday – December 9... St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin

9:00AM... + Karol Wojewódka

### Wednesday – December 10...Our Lady of Loreto

9:00AM...+ Antonio and Lucia Simeone, req. Family

### Thursday – December 11... St. Damasus I

9:00AM...+ Luis Enrique and Eulalia Cuartas Garcia,  
req. Alba Ledy Cuartas

### Friday – December 12... Our Lady of Guadalupe

9:00AM...+ Carmela and Luigi Parillo, req. Antonia Riello  
7:00PM...(Pol.)

### Saturday – December 13... St. Lucy

9:00AM...+ Evelyn Carella, req. Daughter Kathy  
5:00PM...+ Mr. and Mrs. Louis A. Tierno Sr.,  
req. Mr. and Mrs. Michael Barrow

### Sunday – December 14... Third Sunday of Advent Gaudete Sunday

9:00AM... Very Rev. Frank Rose, Continued Health and  
Thanksgiving, req. Johanna Merkle  
10:30AM...+Renata Grzelak, req. Szwagierka  
Kazimierz Keder, 85th Birthday,  
od Radecki Rodziną  
12:00 Noon... Rev. Jan K. Lebdowicz, Continued Health and  
Thanksgiving, req. Johanna Merkle  
1:30PM... People of the Parish

## STEWARDSHIP

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

*"Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."* MATTHEW 3:10

Do you bear good fruit for Jesus? Do you spend time in prayer or do you waste it with mindless activity? Do you use your talent to help others or are you too busy? Do you use your treasure to support the Church or do you buy more things that go unused? Our time, talent, and treasure are gifts from God. What we do with these gifts is our gift back to Him? What gifts are you planning to give to the Lord during this upcoming Christmas season?

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

The Bread and Wine for the Month of December is in Memory of All the Faithful Departed.

**YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED** for those whose health is challenged in any way especially for **Marian Parcinski, Olivia Schiffer, Al Caraldo, Margaret Macknowsky, Jim Rushforth and Mike Parise.**

**OUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED** for all the **Faithful Departed Especially Clemens(Clay) Maria Gunther.**

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

In this beautiful passage, a messianic prophecy, Isaiah exults in the coming of the Lord, who will bring justice and peace for all.

### Second Reading: Romans 15:4-9

Paul reveals to us the necessity of living in peace and harmony. His words "Accept one another, then, as Christ accepted you, for the Glory of God" are as needed today as they were in Paul's own time.

### Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

John the Baptizer prepares the way for Jesus. Clothed in a garment of camel's hair, he baptizes the people in the Jordan River, but warns the Pharisees in ringing tones that they must give evidence that they mean to reform.

### Domingo 2º de Adviento

*"Por lo tanto, cada árbol que no da buenos frutos será cortado y arrojado al fuego."* MATEO 3:10

¿Da buenos frutos para Jesús? ¿Pasa tiempo en oración o lo despilfarra en actividades sin importancia? ¿Utiliza su talento para ayudar a otros o está demasiado ocupado? ¿Usa sus tesoros para apoyar a la Iglesia o compra demasiadas cosas que luego no usa? Nuestro tiempo, talento y tesoros son regalos de Dios. Lo que hacemos con estos dones es nuestro regalo para Él. ¿Qué regalo planifica darle al Señor durante esta venidera temporada Navideña?

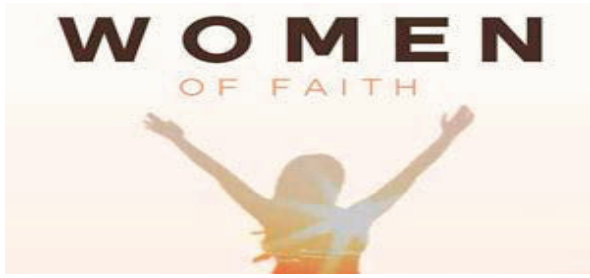
## Religious Classes

**Wednesday 6:30pm – 7:45pm**

Classes are in the school building.

Parents are required to pick up their children from the cafeteria at 7:45PM.

All Religious Education children are required to attend Sunday Mass every weekend and have their booklet signed.



### Calling all Women of Faith!

We are excited to share the Fall meeting schedule for the re-launch of the Parish Women's Faith and Fellowship Group at

St. Bernard of Clairvaux and St. Stanislaus Kostka.

**Our next Meetings will be Thursday, December 11th and January 15<sup>th</sup> in the Parish Center 5:30-7:00PM.**

Each meeting will include prayer, Scripture reflection, faith-sharing, and fellowship, with a light dinner served. All women are warmly invited to join us as we grow together in faith, friendship, and service.



## ANNUAL GIFT CARD

## COLLECTION

**As we have in the past we will**

**continue this year to share Christ's love with our Plainfield neighbors this season. Our Annual Gift Card collection will begin this week-end through December 21<sup>st</sup>. Gift cards in any amount are welcome.**

**Suggestions are: Shop-Rite, Target, Wal-Mart, Aldi, Dollar Tree, Five Below, Family Dollar or any other of your choosing.**

## St. Bernard and St. Stanislaus Christmas Schedule

### Immaculate Conception

*Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup>*

**9:00AM – English**

**6:00PM – Bilingual (English-Spanish)**

**7:30PM – Polish**

### Parish Penance Service

*Tuesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>*

**6:00PM – 8:00PM**

### Christmas Vigil

*Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>*

**5:00PM Children's Mass – English**

**10:00PM – English**

**12:00AM – Polish**

### Christmas Day

*Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup>*

**9:00 AM – English**

**10:30AM – Polish**

**12:00PM – Spanish**

## Baptismal Preparation

For all new parents who want to baptize their children, please contact the office.

This year we have begun a new pastoral for the baptism of children. The baptismal talks will be given at the homes of the parents. One of the priests accompanied by a family will give a preparation at the homes. The aim of the catechesis is to illuminate the Christian faith in the lives of the parents and to invite them to live the sacrament seriously, so that they will be able to fulfil their mission in transmitting the faith and to live the sacrament that they are asking for their children.





## Polskie Duszpasterstwo w Parafii św. Bernarda i św. Stanisława Kostki 2 Niedziela Adwentu

Jan Chrzciciel – główna postać całego trzeciego rozdziału Mateusza – jest oddany bez reszty głoszeniu nadchodzącego Chrystusa: słowami dawnych proroków wzywa do wyjścia z niewoli grzechu, udziela chrztu nawrócenia, będącego jedynie zapowiedzią chrztu w Duchu Świętym, który przyniesie Mesjasz, a gdy w wodach Jordanu zstępuje na Jezusa Duch Święty – ustępuje Mu miejsca. Dopelnieniem misji Jana będzie już tylko więzienie i męczeńska śmierć. „Głos” milknie, gdy objawia się Słowo. Jan jest heroldem nadchodzącego Mesjasza, wzorem chrześcijańskiego misjonarza.

Perykopa o wystąpieniu Jana dzieli się na dwa segmenty. W pierwszej mamy sumaryczny opis jego działalności: głoszenie pełnym mocy słowem i sposobem życia staje się niezwykle skuteczne - mieszkańcy Judei masowo przybywają, aby go słuchać i przyjąć chrzest na znak nawrócenia.

Segment drugi to streszczenie kazania skierowanego do żydowskich elit religijnych: faryzeuszów i saduceuszów. W pierwszej jego części Jan w sposób surowy, wręcz brutalny, diagnozuje kondycję duchową pobożnych żydów wskazując, że i oni potrzebują głębokiego nawrócenia, w drugiej zaś zapowiada bliskie nadejście Mocniejszego, który będzie zanurzał w Duchu Świętym i który dokona sądu nad Izraelem.

1. Kościół w adwencie stawia nam przed oczy postać Jana, jako światło na naszej własnej drodze nawrócenia. Jest lampą, co płonie i świeci, przynosząc radość i duchowe światło potrzebne, by wytrwać na drodze czuwania i nawrócenia.

2. Jan będąc prekursorem Jezusa, jest równocześnie Jego doskonałym uczniem, który łączy ściśle swój los z losem Mesjasza. Podobnie jak Jezus, głosi orędzie nawrócenia i otwarcia serca na królestwo niebieskie. Nie wahał się bronić Prawa Bożego nawet w obliczu ludzi mających władzę, którzy z tego powodu uznali go za osobistego wroga. W podobny sposób stał się ofiarą prześladowania, a w końcu został odrzucony i zgładzony śmiercią na pozór bezsensowną, jak igraszka pijanego króla i mściwej kobiety. Jan jest figurą Jezusa, podobny do Niego tak w narodzinach, jak i w śmierci. Nade wszystko jest Przyjacielem Mesjasza-Oblubieńca, który całym sobą wskazuje na Nadchodzącego i wsłuchany w jego głos oraz w natchnienia Ducha, doznaje najwyższej radości, gdy rozpoznaje Go w swoim młodszym o sześć miesięcy kuzynie. Jest wolny od szukania siebie i jakiegokolwiek zazdrości, zna dobrze swoją własną tożsamość w oczach Boga i to pozwala mu przezwyciężyć pokusę władzy, fałszywego autorytetu, czy przywiązywania ludzi do siebie. Pozwala odejść w ślad za Jezusem swoim najlepszym uczniom i nie lęka się samotności, więzienia, tragicznego końca. Umiał usunąć się w cień, by ustąpić miejsca Mesjaszowi. Do

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**14 grudnia 2025**

- Stroiki należy wcześniej zamówić, abyśmy wiedzieli ile sztuk wykonać.
- Prosimy o złożenie zamówień do dnia **10 grudnia 2025**  
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Agnieszka Staniszevska 732 318-9311

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Zamów stroik !!!**

ostatniej godziny jest jaśniejącą pochodnią, która budzi sumienia.

3. Jego wstrzemięźliwy sposób życia jest wzorem i wezwaniem dla chrześcijan, zwłaszcza na czas adwentu. Z przesłaniem tym korespondują słowa Pawła: Nie bądźcie przeto nierozsądni, lecz usiłujcie zrozumieć, co jest wolą Pana. A nie upijajcie się winem, bo to jest przyczyną rozwiązłości, ale napełniajcie się Duchem, przemawiając do siebie wzajemnie w psalmach i hymnach, i pieśniach pełnych ducha, śpiewając i wystawiając Pana w waszych sercach. Dziękujcie zawsze za wszystko Bogu Ojcu w imię Pana naszego Jezusa Chrystusa!.

**8 grudnia - uroczystość  
Niepokalanego Poczęcia  
Najświętszej Maryi Panny Msza po  
Polsku 7:30PM**

**12 grudnia – Msza Roratnia o 7PM , a  
po mszy- sprzątanie kościoła**

**19 grudnia – Msza Roratnia o 7PM**

**23 grudnia – Spowiedz Parafialna od  
6PM do 8PM**

## The Saint of the Week



Lucy's history has been lost, and all we really know for certain is that this brave woman who lived in Syracuse lost her life during the persecution of Christians in the early fourth century. Her veneration spread to Rome so that by the sixth century the whole Church recognized her courage in defense of the faith.

Because people wanted to shed light on Lucy's bravery, legends began to crop up. The one that has passed the test of time tells the story of a young Christian woman who vowed to live her life in service of Christ. Her mother tried to arrange a marriage for her with a pagan, and Lucy knew her mother could not be swayed by a young girl's vow, so she devised a plan to convince her mother that Christ was the better partner for life.

After several prayers at the tomb of Saint Agatha, Lucy saw the saint in a dream. St. Agatha told Lucy her mother's illness would be cured through faith, which Lucy used to persuade her mother to give the dowry money to the poor and allow her to commit her life to God.

While Lucy and her mother were grateful to God, the rejected bridegroom was deeply angered and betrayed Lucy's faith to the governor Paschasius. The governor attempted to force her into defilement at a brothel, but the guards who came to take her away were unable to move her, even after hitching her to a team of oxen.

The guards heaped bundles of wood around her, but it wouldn't burn so they finally

resorted to their swords, and Lucy met her death.

Though details of her life remain unknown, it is widely known that during her lifetime Christians were persecuted for their faith. They were forced to endure horrific torture and often met painful ends during Diocletian's reign. Though the details surrounding her death remain only as legends, it is all modern-day Christians can rely on.

Lucy's legend did not end with her death. According to later accounts, Lucy warned Paschasius he would be punished. When the governor heard this he ordered the guards to gouge out her eyes; however, in another telling, it was Lucy who removed her eyes in an attempt to discourage a persistent suitor who greatly admired them.

When her body was being prepared for burial, they discovered her eyes had been restored.

Sigebert (1030-1112), a monk of Gembloux, wrote *sermo de Sancta Lucia*, in which he described Lucy's body as remaining undisturbed in Sicily for 400 years until Faroald II, Duke of Spoleto, seized the island and transferred Lucy's remains to Abruzzo, Italy. It was later removed by Emperor Otho I in 972 to Metz and left in the church of St. Vincent. There is much confusion about what happened to her body after its stay at St. Vincent's, but it is believed that several pieces of her body can be found in Rome, Naples, Verona, Lisbon, Milan, Germany, France and Sweden.

In 1981, thieves stole all but her head but police were able to recover them on her feast day.

Lucy, whose name can mean "light" or "lucid," is the patron saint of the blind. She is often seen with the emblem of eyes on a cup or plate. In paintings, she is often depicted with a golden plate holding her eyes and often holds a palm branch, which is a symbol of victory over evil.



### 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

### Knights Of Columbus

Any man 18 years or older who wishes to be a Knight can go to **kofc.org** and click on **sign up**, or contact

[jabeckman111@gmail.com](mailto:jabeckman111@gmail.com).

The K of C has many services to offer, and being a member is very rewarding.



### ROSARY SOCIETY

The Rosary is prayed every day before the 9AM Mass followed by the Divine Mercy Prayers. The Blessed Sacrament is exposed on Thursdays after the Mass concluding with Benediction at 10:45AM.

Next Rosary Meeting is Sunday, March 2, 2026

after the 9AM Mass in the Parish Office.



### ASSISTANTS NEEDED

We offer Chapel on Sundays at the 9AM Mass. The children leave the congregation with a teacher and discuss the Gospel according to their level of understanding for about 10 minutes. We are thankful that we now have some volunteers, however we need a few more. We are in need of assistants for Chapel on Sundays at the 9AM Mass. This would only be **one Sunday a month during Mass**, and a lesson is planned for you to assist in this class. Please contact Karole or call the office for more information.

***This is also a great opportunity for our Confirmation Students to earn service hours.***

### Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA)

**Mondays at 7:00PM** in the parish office.

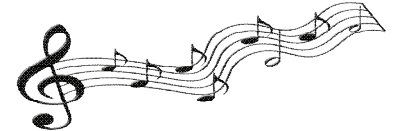
Please contact: **Fr. Bernardo**, at [vicar@bestchurch.net](mailto:vicar@bestchurch.net).

### 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. Altar Servers make a difference! If you are interested in participating at Mass as an Altar Server, please contact Fr. Bernardo.



### CHOIR

Practice is in the church on **Thursday evenings 7:00PM**. If you are interested, come to our practice or stop by after 9AM Sunday Mass to talk to our Cantor. We would love for you to join in to enhance our Choir.

### Best Church Seniors

**Next Seniors Meeting...**

**December 18<sup>th</sup> at 12:30PM**, celebrating



Christmas with a luncheon and a program. Since we are serving food please call and let us know you will be attending. All seniors or almost seniors are welcome to attend.

***So come join us, and as always...feel free to bring a friend. This will be our last Sr. Meeting until March 2026!!!***

### PRE-CANA Preparation

Thursday nights in the Office at 8:00PM



- Visit: [www.formed.org/signup](http://www.formed.org/signup)
- Find St. Bernard and St. Stanislaus by parish name, address, or zip code
- Enter your email – and you are in



## FLOWER DONATIONS

Thank you all for your ongoing generous flower donations. It makes our church look so lively and beautiful.

Thank you **very much!**

## Roof Donation

Dear Brothers and Sisters, as I mentioned during the Parish Financial Report, we need to fix the roof of the school building. The work would have to happen sometime during the summer, but we need to begin to collect money for that project. If you want to help, you can write on your check's memo line:

Restricted – Roof.

Thank you for your generosity!!!

## COLLECTION FOR DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>

ONLINE...\$1,498

IN PEW...\$ 4,116

TOTAL.....\$ 5,614

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION

## PARISH GIVING



## ON LINE GIVING

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

## PENANCE SERVICE

**TUESDAY DECEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup>**

**6:00 – 8:00PM**

**ENGLISH - POLISH - SPANISH**

## *From Fr. Marcin's Desk*

In this second Sunday of Advent, John the Baptist's invitation resounds: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" With these very words, Jesus begins his mission in Galilee, and such will also be the message that the disciples must bring on their first missionary experience. John is presented as the one who prepares the way of the coming Christ. The kingdom of God is at hand! It is near, and it is in us! These words are very important: "The kingdom of God is in our midst!" Jesus says, and John announces what Jesus will say later: "The kingdom of God is at hand, it has arrived, and is in your midst." This is the central message of every Christian. When a missionary goes, a Christian goes to proclaim Jesus, he goes simply to proclaim: "The kingdom of God is in our midst!" In this way, the disciple prepares the path for Jesus to encounter the people.

But what is this kingdom of God, this kingdom of heaven? They are synonymous. We think immediately of the afterlife: eternal life. Of course this is true, the kingdom of God will extend without limit beyond earthly life, but the good news that Jesus brings us — and that John predicts — is that we do not need to wait for the kingdom of God in the future: it is at hand. In some way it is already present, and we may experience spiritual power from now on. "The kingdom of God is in your midst!" Jesus will say. God comes to establish His lordship in our history today and every day, in our life, and where it is welcomed with faith and humility — love, joy and peace blossom.

The condition for entering and being a part of this kingdom is to implement a change in our life, which is to convert, to convert every day, to take a step forward each day. It is a question of leaving behind the comfortable but misleading ways of the idols of this world: success at all costs, power to the detriment of the weak, the desire for wealth, pleasure at any price. Instead, by preparing the way of the Lord, this does not take away our freedom, but gives us true happiness. With the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, it is God himself who abides among us to free us from sin and corruption.

Christmas is a day of great joy, even external, but above all, it is a religious event for which a spiritual preparation is necessary. In this season of Advent, let us be guided by the Baptist's exhortation: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight!"

*Fr. Marcin*



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