

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

December 14, 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



Do not be afraid. I bring you
GOOD NEWS that will cause
great joy for all the people.

LUKE 2:10

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 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 Rodzina

12:00 Noon... Rev. Jan K. Lebdowicz, Continued Health and
Thanksgiving, req. Johanna Merkle

1:30PM... People of the Parish

Monday – December 15...Advent Weekday

9:00AM...+ Mary Barnett, req. Johanna Merkl,

Tuesday – December 16... Advent Weekday

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

Wednesday – December 17... Late Advent Weekday

9:00AM...+ Giovanna Mone, req. Elisa and Angela

Thursday – December 18... Late Advent Weekday

9:00AM...Florence Crooke, req. Johanna Merkle

Friday – December 19... Late Advent Weekday

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

7:00PM...(Pol.)

Saturday – December 20... Late Advent Weekday

9:00AM...+

5:00PM...+

Sunday – December 21... Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:00AM... + Ricardo and Maddalena Negri,
req. Daughter and Family

10:30AM...+ 2. rocznica śmierci Stefan Watroba
od Rodzina Zelonków

12:00 Noon... + Barbara Brady, req. Pat and Mark Whipkey

1:30PM... People of the Parish

STEWARDSHIP

3rd Sunday of Advent

"You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand." JAMES 5:8

Patience is another one of those things many of us struggle with. We want things to go according to our plan and our schedule; we like things to be convenient. Any change brings anxiety and fear. Through daily prayer God reveals to us what He wants us to do with the gifts He has given us. We are able to better align ourselves with God's will and His plan, which is far better than anything we can come up with on our own.

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.**

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

Isaiah tells us that when Christ comes, the weak will be made strong, the deaf will hear, the blind will see, and, above all, "sorrow and mourning will flee."

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

As the farmer waits patiently through winter and spring for the "yield of the soil" so, too, must we wait patiently for the coming of the Messiah.

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

While in prison, John sends a messenger to Jesus to ask, "Are you He who is to come or do we look for another?"

Jesus replies by citing the miracles he has performed for the blind, the deaf, and the crippled. He concludes by identifying John as the messenger He has sent to prepare the way.

Domingo 3^o de Adviento

"Sean también pacientes. Fortalezcan sus corazones, porque la venida del Señor está cerca. Fortalezcan sus corazones, porque la venida del Señor está cerca." SANTIAGO 5:8

La paciencia es otra de esas cosas con las que muchos de nosotros tenemos dificultades. Queremos que las cosas vayan de acuerdo con nuestros planes y nuestros horarios; nos gustan las cosas que son convenientes. Cualquier cambio nos causa ansiedad y temor. A través de la oración diaria, Dios nos revela lo que Él quiere que hagamos con los dones que nos ha dado. Podemos alinearnos mejor con la voluntad de Dios y Su plan que es mucho mejor que cualquier cosa que podamos idear por nuestra cuenta.

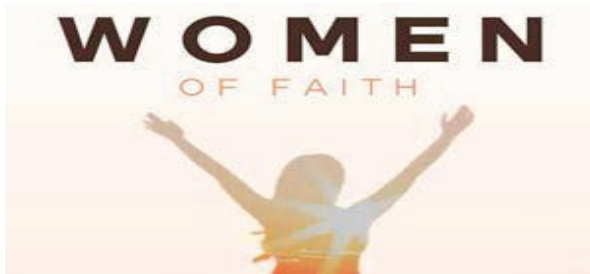
Religious Classes

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 Meeting will be January 15th 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

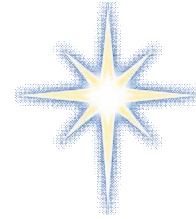
continue this year to share Christ's love with our Plainfield neighbors this season. Gift cards in any amount are welcome. Suggestions are: Shop-Rite, Wal-Mart, Aldi, Target, Dollar Tree, Five Below, Family Dollar or any other of your choosing. We will be collecting Gift Cards until December 21st. You may place them in the collection basket or bring them into the office.

St. Bernard and St. Stanislaus Christmas Schedule

Parish Penance Service

Tuesday, December 23rd

6:00PM – 8:00PM



Christmas Vigil

Wednesday, December 24th

5:00PM Children's Mass – English

10:00PM – English

12:00AM – Polish

Christmas Day

Thursday, December 25th

9:00 AM – English

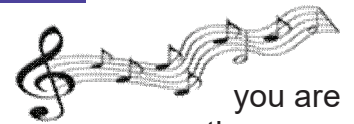
10:30AM – Polish

12:00PM – Spanish

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.





Polskie Duszpasterstwo w Parafii św. Bernarda i św. Stanisława Kostki 3 Niedziela Adwentu

Kazanie św. Augustyna, biskupa

Jan jest głosem, ale "na początku było Słowo", czyli Pan. Jan był głosem tylko do czasu, Chrystus jest Słowem odwiecznym.

Czym jest głos bez słowa? Jest pustym dźwiękiem, który niczego nie oznacza. Głos bez słowa dźwięczy w uchu, ale sercu nie przynosi pożytku.

Rozważmy, w jakim porządku dochodzi do wzbogacenia serca. Gdy myślę o tym, co mam powiedzieć, wtedy słowo rodzi się w moim sercu; a jeśli chcę ci coś powiedzieć, staram się wzbudzić w twoim sercu to, co już istnieje w moim.

W tym celu posługuję się głosem i mówię do ciebie, aby słowo, które jest we mnie, mogło dotrzeć do ciebie i przeniknąć do twojego serca. Dźwięk głosu pozwala ci zrozumieć słowo. Ten dźwięk mija, ale słowo przezeń niesione dotarło do twojego serca, a równocześnie pozostaje i w moim sercu.

Czyż ten dźwięk niosący słowo nie przypomina ci sam przez się, że "trzeba, by On wzrastał, a ja żebym się umniejszała"? Dźwięk głosu spełnił swoje zadanie i przebrzmiał, jakby mówiąc w ten sposób: "Ta moja radość doszła do szczytu". Trzymajmy się słowa, nie dajmy, aby się ono zagubiło, gdy już poczęło się w tajnikach naszego serca.

Czy chcesz stwierdzić, że głos przechodzi, a Słowo Boga trwa? Gdzież jest teraz chrzest Jana? Jan go udzielał i przeminął, teraz zaś przyjmuje się chrzest Chrystusa. My wszyscy wierzymy w Chrystusa, wyczekujemy zbawienia w Chrystusie, a o tym powiedział nam głos.

Trudno jest odróżnić głos od słowa, toteż Jana uważano za Chrystusa. Głos utożsamiano ze słowem. Ale Jan wyznał, że jest tylko głosem, i nie chciał uchodzić za tego, którym nie był. Rzekł więc: "Nie jestem Mesjaszem ani Eliaszem, ani prorokiem". Wtedy zapytano go: "Kim więc jesteś?" I odpowiedział: "Jam głos wołającego pustyń:"

Prostujcie drogę dla Pana". Głos wołającego na pustyni, głos przerywający milczenie, by prostować drogę Panu. To znaczy: mój głos rozlega się po to, aby wprowadzić Pana do waszych serc; lecz jeśli nie naprostujecie drogi dla Niego, to nie przyjdzie On tam, dokąd chcę Go wprowadzić.

Cóż jednak oznacza prostować drogę? Modlić się gorąco. Co oznacza prostować drogę? Uniżyć się. Patrzcie na przykład dany wam przez Jana Chrzciciela. Ludzie uważają go za Mesjasza, ale on nie ukrywa, że Nim nie jest, i nie karmi swojej próżności błędnym mniemaniem ludzi.

Gdyby powiedział: Jestem Mesjaszem, jakże łatwo by mu uwierzono, skoro brano go za Mesjasza, zanim jeszcze wypowiedział się na ten temat. Ale on się tego wystrzega, mówi, kim jest, uniża się i nie równa z Chrystusem. Wie, skąd płynie dla niego zbawienie; rozumie, że jest tylko lampą, która płonie i świeci, i lęka się, aby nie zgasił jej podmuch pychy.

19 grudnia – Msza Roratnia o 7PM

23 grudnia – Spowiedz Parafialna od 6PM do 8PM

Polskie Spowiedzi w okolicznych kościołach:

św. Jadwiga, Elizabeth
Patek 19 Grudnia o 6PM

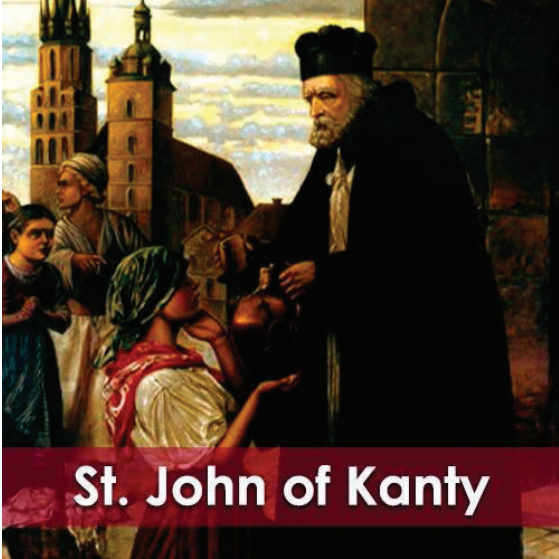
św. Wojciech, Elizabeth
Sobota 20 Grudnia
od 9:00AM do 11:30AM

Holy Family in Linden
Niedziela 21 Grudnia o 5:00PM

św. Teresa in Linden
Poniedziałek 22 Grudnia od 6PM

W naszej Parafii
Wtorek 23 Grudnia od 6PM do 8:00PM

The Saint of the Week



St. John of Kanty

The people of Olkusz in Bohemia in 1431 had every reason to be suspicious of their new pastor. They knew what a Krakow professor would think of their small rural town. But even more insulting, their town was once again being used as a dumping ground for a priest who was "in disgrace."

John had indeed been kicked out of his university position -- unjustly. Rivals who resented John's popularity with the students had cooked up a false charge against him. John was not even allowed to appear at his own hearing or testify in his own defense. So at age 41, he was shipped off to be an apprentice pastor.

Certainly no one would have blamed John if he was furious at such injustice. However, he was determined that his new parishioners would not suffer because of what he happened to him.

But there was no overnight miracle waiting for him in Olkusz. He was nervous and afraid of his new responsibilities. And, despite the energy he put into his new job, the parishioners remained hostile. But John's plan was very simple, and came not from the mind but from the heart. He let his genuine interest and concern for these people show in everything he did. Despite working for years without any sign of success, he was very careful not to

demonstrate impatience or anger. He knew that people could never be bullied into love, so he gave them what he hoped they would find in themselves.

After eight years, he was exonerated and transferred back to Krakow. He had been so successful that these once-hostile people followed him several miles down the road, begging him to stay.

For the rest of his life, he was professor of Sacred Scripture at the university. He was so well-liked that he was often invited to dinner with nobility. Once, he was turned away at the door by a servant who thought John's cassock was too frayed. John didn't argue but went home, changed into a new cassock, and returned. During the meal, a servant spilled a dish on John's new clothes. "No matter," he joked. "My clothes deserve some dinner, too. If it hadn't been for them I wouldn't be here at all."

Once, John was sitting down to dinner when he saw a beggar walk by outside. He jumped up immediately, ran out, and gave the beggar the food in his bowl. He asked no questions, made no demands. He just saw someone in need and helped with what he had.

John taught his students this philosophy again and again, "Fight all error, but do it with good humor, patience, kindness, and love. Harshness will damage your own soul and spoil the best cause."

John put all his effort into a new and frightening job, that others might have considered beneath him. Today do something you have never done before or do something in a new way, perhaps something that has frightened you or you felt was beneath you. This can be something as simple as trying a different type of prayer or as complex as serving others in a new way.

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 7TH

ONLINE...\$ 2,878

IN PEW...\$ 3,033

TOTAL.....\$ 5,911

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION

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 "PARISH GIVING." SIMPLY GO TO OUR PARISH WEBSITE FOR FURTHER
 INFORMATION.

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PENANCE SERVICE

TUESDAY DECEMBER 23RD

6:00 – 8:00PM

ENGLISH - POLISH - SPANISH

FLOWER DONATIONS



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

From Fr. Marcin's Desk

On this third Sunday of Advent, called the Sunday of "joy", the Word of God invites us on the one hand to joy, and on the other to the awareness that existence also includes moments of doubt, in which it is difficult to believe. Joy and doubt are both experiences that are part of our lives.

To the prophet Isaiah's explicit invitation to joy: "The desert and the parched land will exult, the steppe will rejoice and bloom," the Gospel contrasts with doubt of John the Baptist: "Are you the one who is to come or should we wait for another?" Indeed, the prophet sees beyond the situation: he has discouraged people before him: those with weak hands, faltering knees and lost hearts. It is the same reality that in every age tests faith. But the man of God looks beyond, because the Holy Spirit makes his heart feel the power of his promise, and he announces salvation: "Courage, do not fear! Here is your God, [...] He comes to save you." Then everything is transformed: the desert blooms; consolation and joy take hold of the lost heart; the lame, the blind, those who can't speak are healed. This is what is accomplished with Jesus: "the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are purified, the deaf hear, the dead rise, the poor have the Gospel proclaimed to them."

This description shows us that salvation envelops the whole person and regenerates him. This new birth, with the joy that accompanies it, always presupposes a death to ourselves and to the sin that is in us. Hence the call to conversion, which is the basis of the preaching of both the Baptist and Jesus; in particular, it's about converting the idea we have of God. The time of Advent stimulates us to this precisely with the question that John the Baptist asks Jesus: "Are you the one who must come or do we have to wait for another one?" We think: all his life John has waited for the Messiah; his way of life, his own body is shaped by this expectation. For this reason, too Jesus praises him with those words: no one is greater than him among those born of a woman. And yet, he too had to convert to Jesus. Like John, we too are called to recognize the face that God has chosen to take in Jesus Christ, humble and merciful.

Advent is a time of grace. It tells us that it is not enough to believe in God: it is necessary every day to purify our faith. It is a question of preparing to welcome not a fairy-tale character, but the God who challenges us, involves us and before whom a choice is imposed.

Fr. Marcin

Best Church Seniors**Seniors will be taking a winter break .**

Our next meeting for 2025 is

December 18th at

12:30PM, celebrating

Christmas and the New Year. 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 as we end 2025 with a bang, and as always...feel free to bring a friend.

This will be our last Sr. Meeting until March 2026!!!

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 1, 2026 after the 9AM Mass in the Parish Office.

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.

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

Koleda 2026

The blessing of the homes during the Christmas Season

Imie i Nazwisko /Name.....

Adres/Address.....

.....

.....

Telefon/Phone.....

Kiedy/ When Rano/ Morning

Poludnie/Noon time.....


Wieczorem/Evening

You can leave this form during the Sundays liturgies in the collection basket or in the office during the office hours.

You can also call the office 908-756-3393 or send an email pastor@bestchurch.net

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