

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

December 21, 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

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Religious Education

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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



And now these three remain:
faith, hope and *love*. But the
greatest of these is **LOVE**.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:13

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

FOR THE WEEK

Saturday – December 20... Late Advent Weekday

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

5:00PM...+ Zigmund and Lena Gabruk, req. Family

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

+ Maria Carmen Gonzalez, req. Degrado Family

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

1:30PM... + Maria Carmen Gonzalez, req. Degrado Family

Monday – December 22...Late Advent Weekday

9:00AM...

Tuesday – December 23... St. John of Canty

9:00AM... + Giovanna Mone, req. Pat and Rosa Negri

Wednesday – December 24... Late Advent Weekday

9:00AM...+ Maria Fuks, req. Fr Marcin

5:00PM... Children's Mass

10:00PM ...+ Ann and Jerry Signorelli,
req. Beverly and Peter Cirino

12:00AM...(Pol.)...Blessings for Błażejowicz Rodzina
+ Edward Stalenyj 2. Anniversary, od Rodzina
Józef i Jadwiga Czajka 2. Anniversary

Thursday – December 25... Nativity of the Lord

9:00AM...+ Jerry J. Signorelli, req. Beverly and Peter Cirino

10:30AM...+Józef Olechowski, od Syn i Rodziną dusza sp.

12:00 Noon...(Sp.) People of the Parish

Friday – December 26... St. Stephen

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

7:00PM...(Pol.)

Saturday – December 27... St. John

9:00AM...God's Blessing for our Senior Group

5:00PM...Gerald Pellago, 15th Birthday Blessings

Sunday – December 28...Holy Family, of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

9:00AM... + Sandra Allyson Evanson,
req. Liz Smith and Trevor Forbes

10:30AM...People of the Parish

12:00 Noon...

1:30PM... + People of the Parish

STEWARDSHIP

4th Sunday of Advent

"When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home." MATTHEW 1:24

Putting our complete trust in the Lord without expecting anything in return. Striving to put God first in all things and follow Him wherever He may lead us. Joseph was a model of these pillars of our faith. As we prepare for the birth of our Lord, pray for the strength and courage to be a model of discipleship, just as Joseph was.

The Tabernacle Candle will burn this week for
The soul of Karol Wojewódka.

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 our Parish
Faithful Departed.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

Ahaz receives from Isaiah a prophecy that he will be successful in war and is urged to ask for a sign that the prophecy is true. The sign is "The virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel."

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Paul greets the Romans by pointing out that Jesus is the Christ who was promised to them in Scripture. He, Paul, is the apostle favored with the task of spreading the name of Christ to all.

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

In a brief, straightforward, simple narrative, Matthew recounts the events leading to Jesus' birth. He details the appearance of the angel in a dream to Joseph and stresses that "All this happened to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophets."

Domingo 4^o de Adviento

"Cuando José despertó del sueño, hizo como el ángel del Señor le había mandado, y recibió a María como su esposa." MATEO 1:24

Debemos poner nuestra completa confianza en el Señor sin esperar nada a cambio.

Esforzarnos por poner a Dios primero en todo y seguirlo adondequiera que nos guíe. José es un modelo de estos pilares de nuestra fe.

Mientras nos preparamos para el nacimiento de nuestro Señor, recemos para que nos de la fuerza y el coraje para ser un ejemplo de discipulado, así como lo fue José.

Religious Classes

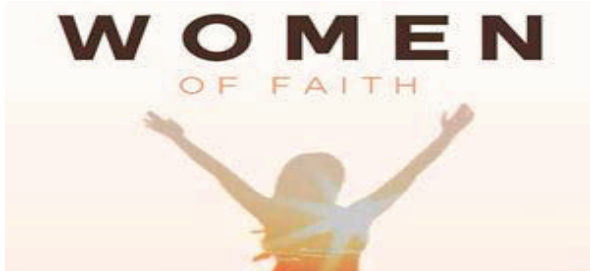
Wednesday 6:30pm – 7:45pm

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.

There is no Class this week. Classes resume on January 14, 2026.



Calling all Women of Faith!

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 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.



Merry Christmas

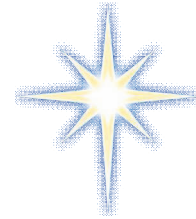
Office will be closed Wednesday, December 24, Thursday, December 25 & Friday, December 26. May your world be filled with God's Blessings this Holy Season and all your days be Merry and Bright.

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

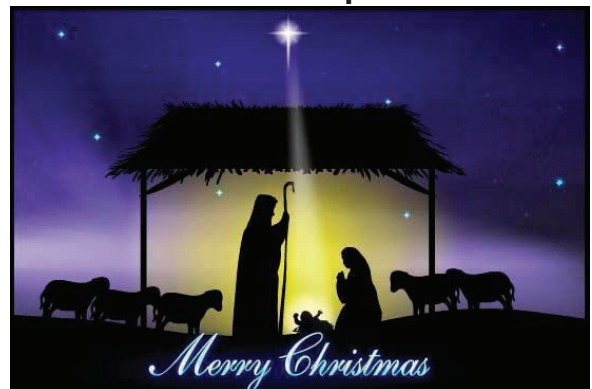
Christmas Day

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 4 Niedziela Adwentu

Z komentarza św. Ambrożego, biskupa, do Ewangelii św. Łukasza

Anioł zwiastuje Dziewicy Maryi tajemnice Boże; aby zaś uwierzyła jego słowom, na ich poparcie oznajmia Jej, że także starsza już i bezpłodna dotąd kobieta poczęła dziecko. Tym samym anioł stwierdza, że Bóg może wszystko, cokolwiek zamyśli.

Skoro Maryja usłyszała tę wieść, natychmiast wyruszyła w kierunku gór. Udała się do Elżbiety nie dlatego, że nie dowierzała zapowiedzi proroczej, czy też żywiła wątpliwości lub była niepewna tego, o czym się dowiedziała. Wprost przeciwnie, poszła pełna radości z wielkim pragnieniem oddania pobożnej przysługi.

Dokąd miała śpieszyć Maryja, mająca w sobie Boga, jeśli nie na wyżyny? Łasce Ducha Świętego obca jest ociężałość i zwlekanie. Zaraz też okazują się dobroczynne skutki przybycia Maryi i obecności Pana. Albowiem gdy tylko "Elżbieta usłyszała pozdrowienie Maryi, poruszyło się dzieciątko w jej łonie, a Duch Święty ją nappełnił".

Rozważmy dobór słów oraz ich dokładność. Elżbieta pierwsza usłyszała głos Maryi, lecz Jan pierwszy odczuł łaskę. Matka posłyszała, bo taki jest naturalny porządek rzeczy, a syn poruszył się w jej łonie w zetknięciu z tajemnicą. Elżbieta rozpoznała Maryję, a Jan zbliżającego się Pana. Kobieta przeżywa odwiedzin kobiety, a jej dziecię spotkanie z Dzieciątkiem. Matki mówią o danej im łasce, Synowie odczuwają w sobie jej rzeczywistość, a w niezgłębionej tajemnicy Bożego daru biorą udział one same. Obie bowiem, natchnione potomstwem noszonym w łonie, doznają cudu i zostają owładnięte duchem proroczym.

Poruszyło się dziecię w jej łonie, a matkę nappełnił Duch Święty. Nie nappełnił jej wpierw niż syna, lecz to syn, nappełniony Duchem, nappełnił Nim matkę. Zadrżał z radości Jan, rozradowała się i Maryja w duchu. Elżbieta została nappełniona Duchem Świętym, gdy poruszył się Jan w jej łonie. Wszakże Maryję, jak się dowiadujemy, nie nappełnił wtedy Duch Święty, lecz tylko się rozradowała w duchu. Albowiem Ten, który jest Niepojęty, i w Matce swojej działał w sposób niepojęty. Duch Święty nappełnił Elżbietę, gdy już poczęła Jana, ale Maryję jeszcze przed poczęciem Jezusa.

"Błogosławiona jesteś, któraś uwierzyła", mówi do Niej Elżbieta.

Ale i wy jesteście błogosławieni, którzyście usłyszeli i uwierzyli. Albowiem każda dusza, która wierzy, poczyną w sobie i rodzi Słowo Boga i rozpoznaje Jego dzieła.

Niech więc każda dusza będzie duszą Maryi, aby uwielbiała Pana. Niech w każdej duszy będzie duch Maryi, aby radowała się w Bogu. Jest tylko jedna Matka Chrystusa, Ta, która Go zrodziła, ale przez wiarę każda dusza rodzi Chrystusa. Każda bowiem przyjmuje Słowo Boga, jeśli tylko nieskalana i wolna od występków zachowuje czystość nienaganną i bez skazy.

Każda więc dusza, która byłaby taka, wielbi Pana tak, jak wielbiła Go dusza Maryi i jak Jej duch radował się w Bogu Zbawicielu.

W ten sposób Pan jest uwielbiony, tak jak powiedziano: "Uwielbiajcie ze mną Pana". Nie znaczy to, by ludzkie słowo mogło dodać cokolwiek Panu, ale że Pan doznaje w nas uwielbienia. Albowiem Chrystus jest obrazem Boga. A więc dusza trwająca w prawości i oddana Bogu tym samym wielbi w sobie ten obraz, na którego podobieństwo została stworzona. Wielbiąc zaś, uczestniczy w pewien sposób w Jego wielkości i sama przez to zostaje wywyższona.

23 grudnia – Spowiedz Parafialna od 6PM do 8PM

24 grudnia – Pasterka po Polsku 12:00AM

25 grudnia – Boże Narodzenie

po Polsku 10:30AM

26 grudnia – Msza o godz. 7:00PM

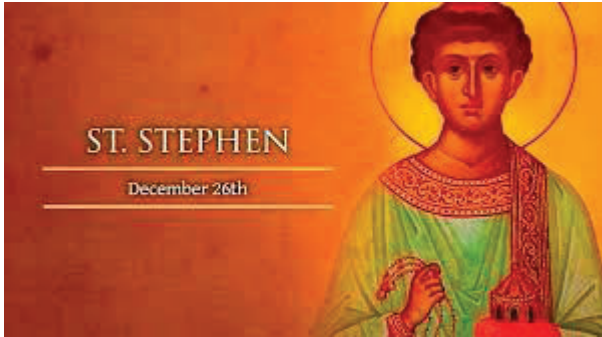
**Polskie Spowiedzi w okolicznych
kościółkach:**

**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



Saint Stephen was one of the first ordained deacons of the Church. He was also the first Christian martyr. Stephen was so conformed to Jesus in his holy life that his martyrdom was both a natural and supernatural sign of his love for the Lord. It also inspired the early believers as they faced the first round of brutal persecution.

His behavior, even forgiving those who were taking his life while he was being stoned to death, was a beautiful reflection of how conformed he truly was to the Lord Jesus Christ. It is recorded in Chapter 7 of the Acts of the Apostles.

The 6th chapter of the Acts of the Apostles contains an account of the choice of the first seven deacons of the Church. As the Apostles worked to continue the ministry of Jesus Christ as his elders, some of the Greek-speaking widows were being neglected in their practical needs. The Twelve decided to ordain seven deacons to oversee their care. In doing so, the deacons extended the pastoral care of the Apostles, the first Bishops of the early Church, enabling them to attend more to teaching.

Of the seven ordained, Stephen was the oldest and given the title of "archdeacon," the chief among them. Little is known about him before this account. Like most of the early Christian leaders, he was Jewish, but may have come from among the Greek speaking or Hellenistic believers, the ones feeling slighted in the distribution of alms.

Great preaching and miracles were attributed to Stephen. The Bible records that Stephen "full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people." Stephen's popularity created enemies among some Jews, members of the Synagogue of Roman Freedmen. They debated with him, to generate evidence against him in furtherance of their persecution of the early Church.

They accused him of blasphemy, of speaking against God and Moses. The charges inflamed the local populace which demanded he be tried and punished. When Stephen was put on trial,

several false witnesses were brought forward by the Sanhedrin to testify that he was guilty of blasphemy. He was charged with predicting that Jesus would destroy the Temple and for preaching against Mosaic law.

Stephen was filled with wisdom from heaven. He responded by detailing the history of Israel and outlining the blessings God had bestowed upon his chosen people. He also explained how disobedient Israel had become, despite the goodness and mercy of the Lord. Stephen explained that Jesus had come to fulfil the law of Moses, not destroy it. He quoted extensively from the Hebrew scriptures to prove his case.

Finally, he admonished the Sanhedrin, saying, "You stubborn people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears. You are always resisting the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do. Can you name a single prophet your ancestors never persecuted? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Upright One, and now you have become his betrayers, his murderers. In spite of being given the Law through angels, you have not kept it."

As Stephen concluded his defense, he looked up and saw a vision of Jesus standing at the right hand of God. He said, "Look, I can see heaven thrown open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." That vision was taken as the final proof of blasphemy to the Jews who did not believe Jesus was the Messiah or Son of God. For them, Jesus could not possibly be beside the Father in Heaven. The crowd rushed upon Stephen and carried him outside of the city to stone him to death.

As Stephen was being brutally stoned, he spoke his last words, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. Lord, do not hold this sin against them." Words which echoed the very words of Jesus on the Cross. Following those words, Stephen died, in the Lord.

Watching the trial and execution was Saul of Tarsus, a persecutor of the early Church. Shortly thereafter, he would himself encounter the Lord Jesus on the road to Damascus and be dramatically converted. He took the name Paul as a sign of his new life in Jesus Christ and went on to become the great apostle to the Gentiles.

St. Stephen is often depicted with stones, a Gospel Book, a miniature church and a martyr's palm frond. He is the patron saint of Altar Servers, bricklayers, casket makers and deacons and his feast day is celebrated on December 26.

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.

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 14TH

ONLINE...\$ 976

IN PEW...\$ 3,629

TOTAL.....\$ 4,605

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 23RD
6:00 – 8:00PM
ENGLISH - POLISH - SPANISH

Safe Environment Corner How to Report Abuse

The Archdiocese takes very seriously any and all allegations of sexual misconduct by members of the clergy, Religious and Lay Staff of the Archdiocese. We encourage anyone with knowledge of an act of sexual misconduct to inform us so that we may take appropriate action to protect others and provide support to victims of sexual abuse. Call the coordinator for the church of accompaniment on the Archdiocesan Department for the protection of the faithful **201-407-3256**

From Fr. Marcin's Desk

On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, the Gospel tells us about the events preceding the birth of Jesus, and the Evangelist Matthew presents them from the point of view of St Joseph, the betrothed of the Virgin Mary.

Joseph and Mary were dwelling in Nazareth; they were not yet living together, because they were not yet married. In the meantime, Mary, after having welcomed the Angel's announcement, came to be with child by the power of the Holy Spirit. When Joseph realized this, he was bewildered; he sought to do the will of God and was ready for the most radical renunciation. Rather than defending himself and asserting his rights, Joseph chose what for him was an enormous sacrifice. The Gospel tells us: "Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to send her away quietly."

This brief sentence reveals a true inner drama if we think about the love that Joseph had for Mary! But even in these circumstances, Joseph intends to do the will of God and decides, surely with great sorrow, to send Mary away quietly. We need to meditate on these words in order to understand the great trial that Joseph had to endure in the days preceding Jesus' birth. It was a trial similar to the sacrifice of Abraham, when God asked him for his son Isaac: to give up what was most precious, the person most beloved.

This Gospel passage reveals to us the greatness of St. Joseph's heart and soul. He was following a good plan for his life, but God was reserving another plan for him, a greater mission. Joseph was a man who always listened to the voice of God; he was deeply sensitive to His secret will. He was a man attentive to the messages that came to him from the depths of his heart and from on high. He did not persist in following his own plan for his life. Rather, he was ready to make himself available to the news that, in a such a bewildering way, was being presented to him. Thus, he was a good man. He did not hate, and he did not allow bitterness to poison his soul. Joseph thereby became even freer and greater. By accepting himself according to God's design, Joseph fully finds himself, beyond himself. His freedom to renounce even what is his, the possession of his very life, and his full interior availability to the will of God challenge us and show us the way.

Fr. Marcin



Best Church Seniors

Seniors are on a winter break. Our next meeting is **March 19th at 12:30PM**, celebrating St. Patrick and St. Joseph. All seniors or almost seniors are welcome to attend.

So come join us as we begin our new year 2026, and as always...feel free to bring a friend.



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.



Update Corner



WE ARE HIS WITNESSES

<https://rcan.org/we-are-his-witnesses/>



Your Voice Matters! We have conducted more than 420 Listening Sessions throughout the Archdiocese. And we are still gathering insights. We want to ensure your input is included to help shape our future! Scan the QR-code and click **"Model Feedback Form."** Please share your comments by **Dec. 31st.**

A Few Feedback Snapshots

“ We are used to our intimate community. ”

“ How do we prevent “us verses them” mentality? ”

“ We should be willing to help/share with our neighbors. ”

FLOWER DONATIONS

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



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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