

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

January 4, 2026

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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.

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JOURNEY OF THE MAGI

THEY CAME BEARING GIFTS OF
GOLD, FRANKINCENSE AND MYRRH.



NEW MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY MASS OF ANTICIPATION

5:00PM- English

SUNDAY

9:00AM – English

10:30AM – Polish

12:00PM – English

1:30PM – Spanish

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 – January 3...The Most Holy Name of Jesus

9:00AM...+ Frank and Mary Wood, req. Parish Family
5:00PM...Alex Jurevich, req. Mary Ellen Chanda

Sunday – January 4...The Epiphany of the Lord

9:00AM... + Margaret Todd, req. Johanna Merkle
10:30AM...+ Jańina i Piotr Błażejowicz,
od Teresa Błażejowicz
12:00 Noon... Blessings for Noah Milani,
req. Gammy and Pa
1:30PM... + Paula Deleon, req. Family

Monday – St. John Neumann

9:00AM... People of the Parish

Tuesday – January 6... St. André Bessette

9:00AM...+ Giovanna Mone,
req. Armond and Anna Maria Apisa

Wednesday – January 7... St. Raymond of Penyafort

9:00AM...+ Evelyn Carella, req. Daughter Kathy

Thursday – January 8... Christmas Weekday

10:30AM...+ Antonio and Lucia Simeone, req. Family

Friday – January 9... Christmas Weekday

9:00AM...+ Rose and Onofino Lella,
req. Johanna Merkle

Saturday – January 10... Christmas Weekday

9:00AM...+ Parish Family
5:00PM... + Mary Mosley (10th Anniv), Req. Family

Sunday – January 11...The Baptism of the Lord

9:00AM...+ Carlo Riello, req. Antonia Riello
10:30AM...+ Stanley i Josephine Gabrukiewicz ,
req. wnuczka Karole Lechowski
12:00 Noon...+ People pf the Parish
1:30 PM ...+ Paula Deleon, req. Family

STEWARDSHIP

Epiphany of the Lord

"Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." MATTHEW 2:11

The image of the Magi kneeling before the infant Jesus and opening their treasure chests for Him is an image that we should all try to follow each day. In gratitude for all that we have been given, we are called to generously share all our gifts, not just the ones we pick and choose. God wants us to be generous with everything, but especially that one thing that means the most to you.

The Tabernacle Candle will burn this week for **Janette "Cricket" Cardoza at the request of the Parish Family.**

The Bread and Wine for the Month of January is in Memory of **The Parish Deceased Members.**

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, Mike Parise and Greg Myers.**

OUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED for all our Parish **Faithful Departed especially Janette "Cricket" Cardoza.**

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Jerusalem is extolled as a place of glory and splendor because the Lord has come to His own city.

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Paul tells the Ephesians that his special mission is to make the Gentiles co-heirs with the Jews in Christ — "members of the same body and sharers of the promise."

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Herod learns that Wise Men from the East are searching for the newly born Christ Child. He instructs them to find the Child and to report His whereabouts to him. The Wise Men follow a star to the place where Mary and Jesus are and offer the Child gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They do not return to Herod but follow another route to their own country.

Epifanía del Señor

"Entonces abrieron sus cofres y le ofrecieron sus regalos de oro, incienso y mirra" MATEO 2:11

La imagen de los Magos arrodillados ante el niño Jesús, abriendo los cofres y los tesoros que tenían para Él, es una imagen que todos debemos tratar de seguir cada día. En agradecimiento por todo lo que hemos recibido, somos llamados a compartir con generosidad todos nuestros dones, no solo aquellos que escogemos. Dios quiere que seamos generosos con todos ellos, pero especialmente con aquel que tiene más significado para nosotros. en la tierra y a establecer un camino al Cielo para cada uno de nosotros.

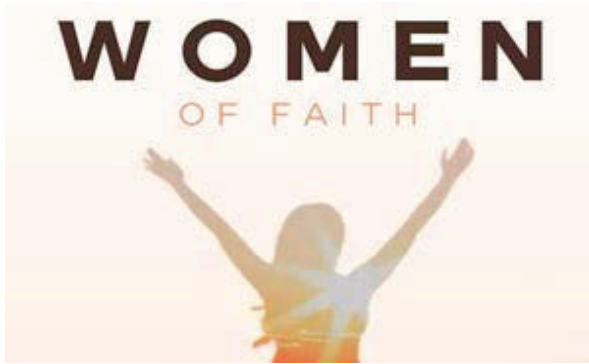
Religious Classes

Wednesdays 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.

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.

Protecting God's Children Training

There will be a training for the volunteers from our Parish on Saturday, January 17th time TBD.

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 Mass concluding with Benediction at 10:45AM.
Next Rosary Meeting is Sunday March 1st, after the 9AM

Mass in the Parish Office.

FLOWER DONATIONS

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



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 services to offer, and being a member is very rewarding.

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. **Many thanks to our new and returning members.**





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

Objawienie Pańskie - Trzej Królowie

Pokłon Mędrców ze Wschodu złożony Dzieciątku Jezus, opisywany w Ewangelii przez św. Mateusza, symbolizuje pokłon świata pogan, wszystkich ludzi, którzy klękają przed Bogiem Wcielonym. To jedno z najstarszych świąt w Kościele.

Trzej królowie być może byli astrologami, którzy ujrzeli gwiazdę - znak narodzin Króla. Herod, podejmując ich, dowiaduje się o celu podróży. Podejrzewa, że narodził się rywal. Na podstawie proroctwa w księdze Micheasza kapłani jako miejsce narodzenia Mesjasza wymieniają Betlejem. Tam wyruszają Mędrcy. Odnajdując Dziecię Jezus, ofiarowują Mu swe dary. Otrzymałszy we śnie wskazówkę, aby nie wracali do Heroda, udają się do swoich krajów inną drogą.

Uroczystość Objawienia Pańskiego należy do pierwszych, które uświęcił Kościół. Na Wschodzie pierwsze jej ślady spotykamy już w III w. Tego właśnie dnia obchodził Kościół grecki święto Bożego Narodzenia, ale w treści znacznie poszerzonej: jako uroczystość Epifanii, czyli zjawienia się Boga na ziemi w tajemnicy wcielenia. Na Zachodzie uroczystość Objawienia Pańskiego datuje się od końca IV w.

W Trzech Magach pierwotny Kościół widzi siebie, świat pogański, całą rodzinę ludzką, wśród której zjawił się Chrystus, a która w swoich przedstawicielach przychodzi z krańców światałożyć Mu pokłon. Uniwersalność zbawienia akcentują także: sama nazwa święta, jego wysoka ranga i wszystkie teksty liturgii dzisiejszego dnia.

Św. Mateusz krainę Magów nazywa ogólnym mianem Wschód. Za czasów Chrystusa Pana przez Wschód rozumiano cały obszar na wschód od rzeki Jordanu - a więc Arabię, Babilonię, Persję. Legenda, że jeden z Magów pochodził z Afryki.

Dopiero od wieku VIII pojawiają się imiona Trzech Magów: Kacper, Melchior i Baltazar. Są one zupełnie dowolne, nie potwierdzone niczym.

Żydzi przebywali na Wschodzie, w Babilonii i Persji, przez wiele lat w niewoli (606-538 przed Chr.). Znałe więc mogło być Magom proroctwo Balaama: "Wschodzi gwiazda z Jakuba, a z Izraela podnosi się berło" (Lb 24, 17). U ludów Wschodu panowało wówczas powszechne przekonanie, że każdy człowiek ma swoją gwiazdę.

Kiedy Magowie przybyli do Syna Bożego? Z całą pewnością po ofiarowaniu Go w świątyni. Według relacji Ewangelisty, że Herod kazał wymordować dzieci do dwóch lat, wynika, iż Magowie przybyli do Betlejem, kiedy Chrystus miał co najmniej kilka miesięcy, a może nawet ponad rok. Mędrcy "upadli przed Nim na twarz i oddali Mu pokłon". Padano na twarz w owych czasach tylko przed władcami albo w świątyni przed bóstwami.



Magowie byli przekonani, że Dziecię jest przyszłym królem Izraela.

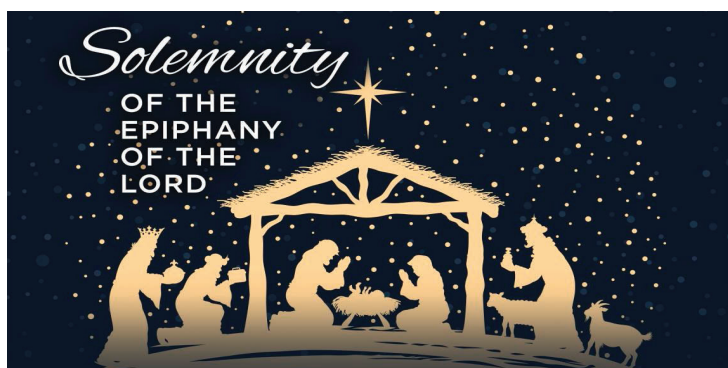
Według podania, które jednak trudno potwierdzić historycznie, Magowie mieli powrócić do swojej krainy, a kiedy jeden z Apostołów głosił tam Ewangelię, mieli przyjąć chrzest. Legenda głosi, że nawet zostali wyświęceni na biskupów i mieli ponieść śmierć męczeńską. Pobożność średniowieczna, głosi, że ciała Trzech Magów miały znajdować się w mieście Savah (Seuva). Marco Polo w podróży na Daleki Wschód (wiek XIII) pisze w swym pamiętniku: "Jest w Persji miasto Savah, z którego wyszli trzej Magowie, kiedy udali się, aby pokłonłożyć Jezusowi Chrystusowi. W mieście tym znajdują się trzy wspaniałe i potężne grobowce, w których zostali złożeni Trzej Magowie. Ciała ich są aż dotąd pięknie zachowane cało tak, że nawet można oglądać ich włosy i brody".

Od XV/XVI w. w kościołach poświęca się dziś kadzidło i kredę. Kredą oznaczamy drzwi na znak, że w naszym mieszkaniu przyjęliśmy Wcielonego Syna Bożego. Piszemy na drzwiach litery K+M+B, które mają oznaczać imiona Mędrców lub też mogą być pierwszymi literami łacińskiego zdania: **(Niech) Chrystus mieszkanie błogosławi** - po łacinie:

Christus mansionem benedicat

Zwykle dodajemy jeszcze aktualny rok.





The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord commemorates the visit of the Magi to worship the baby Jesus as told in the Gospel of Matthew:

“Behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, ‘Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.’”

The word “epiphany” comes from the Greek *epiphainen*, which means “to manifest,” “appear,” or “make known.” The Feast of the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus, the Son of God, to the world. The magi, or kings, or astrologers, or seekers from the East, stand in for all the peoples of the earth, for Jesus comes not just for one group of people but for all.

“The Epiphany is the manifestation of Jesus as Messiah of Israel, Son of God and Savior of the world. The great feast of Epiphany celebrates the adoration of Jesus by the wise men (magi) from the East, together with his baptism in the Jordan and the wedding feast at Cana in Galilee. In the Magi, representatives of the neighboring pagan religions, the Gospel sees the first-fruits of the nations, who welcome the good news of salvation through the Incarnation.”

Although the Magi have been given names, Caspar, Balthazar and Melchior, the Gospel doesn’t actually include their names or even that they are kings. Other than the fact that they are from the East, even their countries of origin aren’t known.

Origins of the Church's Celebration

The celebration of the Epiphany dates back to the early centuries of the Church. Originally, it included the celebration of Christ’s birth. It wasn’t until 336, under the reign of Emperor Constantine, that the Church began celebrating Christmas separately, on December 25, creating the 12 Days of Christmas which continued through the Feast of the Epiphany. While the actual date of the Feast of the Epiphany is January 6, in the United States, the celebration of the feast is transferred to the weekend closest to that date. This Christmas season, it will be on January 4, 2026.

The Gifts of the Magi

In many European cultures, the Feast of the Epiphany is celebrated as richly as Christmas, with gifts exchanged, since it is the day when the Magi presented their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to Jesus. These gifts can be seen as representing this threefold mission of Christ and the Christian:

Frankincense

“Frankincense was often used in divine worship. It becomes, then, an apt symbol of Christ as priest. It is also a symbol of Christ’s divinity. Note that the Magi prostrate themselves before the child Jesus and do him homage. In Matthew’s Gospel, such words are only used for God or Jesus. No one else. This is divine worship.

Myrrh

“Myrrh was often used in burials, especially of prominent people who could afford it. Because of this, Christians often interpreted this gift as referring to the coming suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus. In this sense, myrrh can be seen as representing Christ as prophet. We think of the Suffering Servant prophecies of Isaiah that pointed to this. We also recall the words of Simeon to Mary at the circumcision of Jesus in the Temple.

Gold

“Gold has long been seen, in many cultures, as a gift for kings, or denoting kingship. It is easy to see how this gift points to the kingship of Christ. In many places in Scripture, from Old Testament references like Psalm 72 to descriptions of the New Jerusalem in the Book of Revelation, we see references to gold and other precious materials being offered to God or to the Messiah. It’s interesting to see how Psalm 72 connects the offering of gold to the king’s mission to bring about justice for his people. The gift of mercy and justice is inseparable from Christ’s role as king and from our role as kings in service to the kingship of Christ.”

A fourth gift?

Some say the Magi actually give us a fourth gift as well, the witness of their actions. They say that they show us that we will often find God in places and in people where we are not expecting Him, that we must have a willingness to change and to open ourselves up to God, and that faith requires a commitment and should be shaped by the Scriptures as interpreted by the living tradition of our church.

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!!!

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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 in the Archdiocesan Department for the protection of the faithful **201-407-3256**

Collection for December 21

Online...\$ 1,153

in Pew... \$ 4,462

Total.... \$ 5,615

Collection for Christmas will be posted soon

From Fr. Marcin's Desk




In the Gospel, we heard the Magi begin by stating the reason why they have come: "We have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him." Worship is the end and goal of their journey. Indeed, when they arrived in Bethlehem, "they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him." Once we lose the sense of worship, we lose our direction in the Christian life, which is a journey towards the Lord, not towards ourselves. The Gospel warns us about this risk, for alongside the Magi it presents others who are incapable of worship.

As we begin the New Year, may we discover anew that faith demands worship. If we can fall on our knees before Jesus, we will overcome the temptation to set off on our own path. For worship involves making an exodus from the greatest form of bondage: slavery to oneself. Worship means putting the Lord at the center of our lives. It means giving things their rightful place, and giving the first place to God. Worship means making God's plan more important than our personal time, our entitlements and our spaces. It is to accept the teaching of Scripture: "You shall worship the Lord your God."

Worship means going to Jesus without a list of petitions, but with one request alone: to abide with Him. It is about discovering that joy and peace increase with praise and thanksgiving. In worship, we allow Jesus to heal and change us. In worship, we make it possible for the Lord to transform us by His love, to kindle light amid our darkness, to grant us strength in weakness and courage amid trials. Worship means concentrating on what is essential: ridding ourselves of useless things and addictions. In worship, we learn to reject what should not be worshiped: money, consumerism, pleasure, success, and myself. Worship means bending low before the Most High and discovering in his presence that life's greatness does not consist in having, but in loving.


Worship is an act of love that changes our lives. It is to do what the Magi did. To bring gold to the Lord and to tell him that nothing is more precious than He is. To offer Him incense and to tell Him that only in union with Him can our lives rise up to heaven. To present Him with myrrh, balm for the bruised and wounded, and to promise Him that we will aid our marginalized and suffering neighbors, in whom He Himself is present. We usually know how to pray – we ask the Lord; we thank Him – but the Church must move forward in her prayer of worship; we must grow in worshipping. This is wisdom that we must learn each day.

Update Corner



WE ARE HIS WITNESSES
<https://rcan.org/we-are-his-witnesses/>

Timeline Review



Preparation, Development, & Data Collection
June 2024 - June 2025

Model Feedback, Consultation, Discernment, & Decision Making
June 2025 - June 2026

Local-level Discernment, Planning, Development, & Implementation
Multi-Year Implementation

Now is a moment for prayer, discernment, and preparation. From October through December, more than 420 listening sessions were held across the 212 parishes of the Archdiocese of Newark. The *Modeling Team* is prayerfully reviewing all the feedback received. At the same time, the *Implementation Task Force* is preparing Priests and Archdiocesan staff with the skills and resources needed to envision and embrace these new models. We ask for your prayers for all involved in these workstreams, as well as for all parishioners, priests, and parishes. May we remain open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and willing to step beyond our comfort zones to ensure the continuation of Christ's mission to proclaim the Good News!

Kołeda 2026

The blessing of the homes during the Christmas Season

Imię i Nazwisko /Name.....

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.....

.....

Telefon/Phone.....

Kiedy/ When Rano/ Morning

Poludnie/Noon time.....

Wieczorem/Evening

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