

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

January 11, 2026

Phone: 908-756-3393

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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

NEW MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY MASS OF ANTICIPATION

5:00PM- English

SUNDAY

9:00AM - English

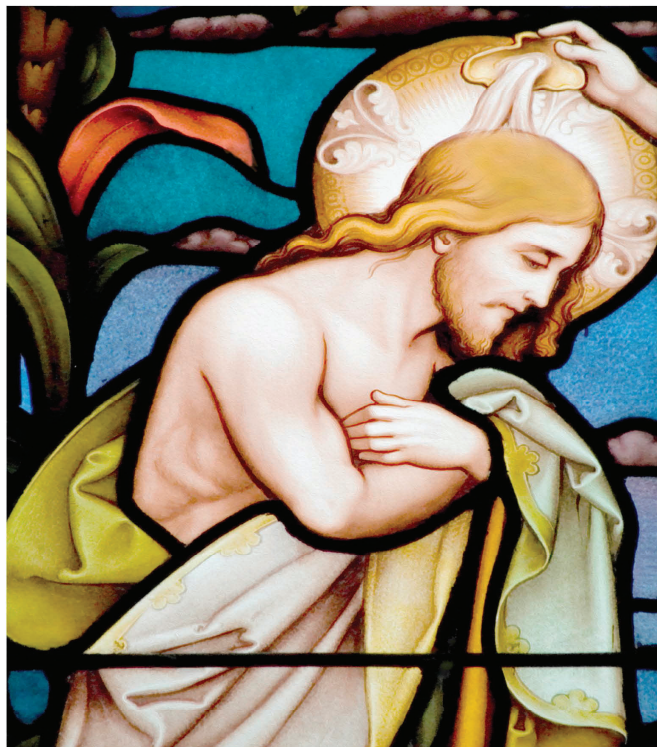
10:30AM - Polish

12:00PM - English

1:30PM - Spanish

**AND A VOICE CAME FROM HEAVEN:
"You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."**

MATTHEW 3:17



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 10... Christmas Weekday

9:00AM...+ Ana Hajdar

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...+ Ana Hajdar

1:30 PM ...+ Paula Deleon, req. Family

Monday – January 12...First Week in Ordinary Time

9:00AM...+ Ana Hajdar

Tuesday – January 13... St. Hilary

9:00AM...+ Stefano Ragozzino, req. Antonia Riello

Wednesday – January 14...Weekday in Ordinary time

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

Thursday – January 15... Weekday in Ordinary time

9:00AM ... + Frank and Theresa Addario, req. Family

Friday – January 16... Weekday in Ordinary time

9:00AM...+ ... Frank and Mary Wood,
req. Johanna Merkle

Saturday – January 17... St. Anthony

9:00AM...+ Ana Hajdar

5:00PM... + Giovanna Mone, req. Angela Negri, Sister

Sunday – January 18...Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00AM...+ Robert DeMair, req. Wife Marietta

10:30AM...+ Diana Krynski, req. Class-Next Door Gang

12:00 Noon...John and Pat Zimmerman 60th Wedding

Anniversary, req. Daughter and Family

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

STEWARDSHIP

The Baptism of Our Lord

"John tried to prevent him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, yet you are coming to me?'" MATTHEW 3:14

The Catholic Catechism states that *"Jesus' immersion in the water is a sign for all human beings of the need to die to themselves to do God's will."* In other words, as baptized Catholics there is only one gift that we need to give to Jesus – the gift of ourselves. Surrender yourself to God, place your trust in Him and allow the Holy Spirit to work through you for the greater glory of God.

The Tabernacle Candle will burn this week for **Our Parish Families.**

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 Faithful Departed especially Marie Casserly.

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

This reading is a brief passage from the Songs of the Suffering Servant. The Servant will establish justice on the earth and open the eyes of those who live in darkness.

Second Reading: Acts 10:34-38

In this reading, Peter gives his first sermon to pagans. Asked by a Roman centurian to preach the Gospel to his household, Peter is initially astounded by the request, but after a dream, Peter preaches and baptizes the entire household.

Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

After initially protesting his unworthiness, John baptizes Jesus. After the baptism, the Spirit of God descended upon Jesus and a voice said, "This is my beloved Son. My favor rests on him."

El Bautismo de Nuestro Señor

"Juan les respondió, 'Yo bautizo con agua; pero ya viene el que es más poderoso ...él los bautizará con el Espíritu Santo...' (Lucas 3:16)

El Catecismo Católico establece que "la inmersión de Jesús en el agua es una señal para todos los seres humanos de la necesidad de morir para cumplir la voluntad de Dios". En otras palabras, como Católicos bautizados solo necesitamos darle un don a Jesús - el don de nosotros mismos. Ríndete ante Dios, coloca tu confianza en Él y permite al Espíritu Santo trabajar a través de ti para la mayor gloria de Dios.

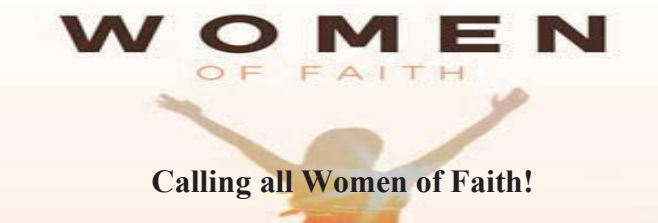
en la tierra y a establecer un camino al Cielo para cada uno de nosotros.

Religious Classes

Classes will resume this **Wednesday January 14th 6:30pm – 7:45pm.**

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



Our next Meeting will be this Thursday **January 15th** in the Parish Center 5:30-7:00PM.

The 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.

Protecting God's Children Training There will be a training for the volunteers from our Parish on Saturday, **January 17th** time at **10:00AM** in the Parish Office.

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 Mass concluding with Benediction at 10:45AM.

Next Rosary Meeting is Sunday March 1st, 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.

ANNUAL²⁰²⁶ APPEAL

The 2026 Annual Appeal has officially begun, and many of you should have received or will be receiving a letter in the mail from Cardinal Tobin inviting you to consider making a financial sacrifice in support of this year's Appeal. The 2025 Annual Appeal raised over \$11 million, which is the most successful Appeal since 2007!

You can see a kick-off video featuring our Regional Bishops on our **website/social media/RCAN website**. In the video, the bishops reflect on the importance of the Annual Appeal and how, together, our generosity supports vital ministries across our four counties.

At the same time, our Archdiocese is moving forward with *We Are His Witnesses*, a pastoral initiative that invites us to walk together on a path of pastoral conversion. This initiative calls the entire Church to reimagine parish life, mission, and ministry in response to a changing world.

Through the Annual Appeal, we come together to support the essential ministries that give life to our Catholic faith. The objective of *We Are His Witnesses* is to make a stronger, universal church in the Archdiocese of Newark and one of the most important ways we can reach this objective is by supporting the Annual Appeal and its ministries. Our parish goal this year is **\$29,654.60**.

Please make a gift online today by visiting rcan.org/sharing, scanning the QR code, or join us for In-Pew Weekend on March 7 and 8.



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.**



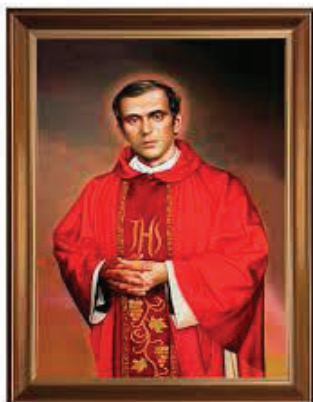


Polskie Duszpasterstwo w Parafii św. Bernarda i św. Stanisława Kostki Chrzest Pański

Kościół katolicki obchodzi w pierwszą niedzielę po uroczystości Objawienia Pańskiego święto Chrztu Pańskiego. Kończy ono okres Bożego Narodzenia, choć w polskiej tradycji jeszcze do 2 lutego śpiewa się kolędy i nie rozbiera się szopki.

Święto Chrztu Pańskiego obchodzone jest w pierwszą niedzielę przypadającą po uroczystości Objawienia Pańskiego. Najstarszej tradycji tego święta należy szukać w liturgii Kościoła wschodniego, ponieważ pomimo wyraźnego udokumentowania w Ewangeliach **chrzest** Jezusa nie posiadał w liturgii rzymskiej oddzielnego święta.

Teksty modlitw związane ze świętem Chrztu Pańskiego odzwierciedlają bardzo dokładnie i szczegółowo przekazy Ewangelii. Podkreślają przy tym związek tego święta z uroczystością Objawienia Pańskiego. **Chrystus** już jako dorosły, 30-letni mężczyzna, przychodzi nad brzeg Jordanu, by z rąk Jana Chrzciciela, swojego poprzednika, przyjąć chrzest. Chociaż sam nie miał grzechu, nie odsunął się od grzesznych ludzi: wraz z nimi wstąpił w wody Jordanu, by dostąpić oczyszczenia. W ten sposób uświęcił wodę. Najszczególniej to wydarzenie zrelacjonował św. Mateusz, choć opis chrztu Jezusa zostawili wszyscy trzej synoptycy. W dniu chrztu Jezus został przedstawiony przez swojego Ojca jako Syn posłany dla dokonania dzieła zbawienia. Misję Chrystusa potwierdza swym świadectwem Bóg Ojciec. Zamknięte przez grzech Adama niebiosy otwierają się, na Jezusa zstępuje Duch Święty. Z nieba daje się słyszeć jednoznaczny głos: „Tyś jest mój Syn umiłowany, w Tobie mam upodobanie”.



ZAPRASZAMY NA

Bal Karnawałowy

Sobota, 31-go stycznia 2026
19:00 – 1:00

DJ Grzegorz

The Westwood
438 North Ave
Garwood, NJ 07027

\$135
od osoby

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Prosimy o potwierdzenie przybycia
i zakup biletów do 15-go stycznia

Agnieszka Zielonka 908- 418-3643
Karolina Kierzkowski 908-494-1289

Serdecznie zapraszamy 19 stycznia 2026 roku na spotkanie z przedstawicielami grupy “Młodzi księża Jerzego”.

“Młodzi księża Jerzego” to ogólnopolska grupa młodzieży licealnej i studenckiej, która poznaje życie ks. Jerzego i stara się go naśladować. Jedną z misji grupy jest opowiadanie o księdzu Jerzym i jego historii swoim rówieśnikom.

W poniedziałek 19 stycznia o godz. 5.30pm w Polskiej Szkole Doksztalającej im. Juliana Ursyna Niemcewicza działającej przy naszej parafii odbędzie się spotkanie dla młodzieży i dorosłych. Podczas spotkania “Młodzi księża Jerzego” opowiedzą o Polsce lat 80, Solidarności, stanie wojennym a przede wszystkim o porywającej historii księdza Jerzego Popiełuszki, który bez przemocy prowadził walkę o najwyższe polskie wartości. Uczniowie poznają nauczanie księdza Jerzego oraz usłyszą żywe świadectwo polskiej młodzieży.

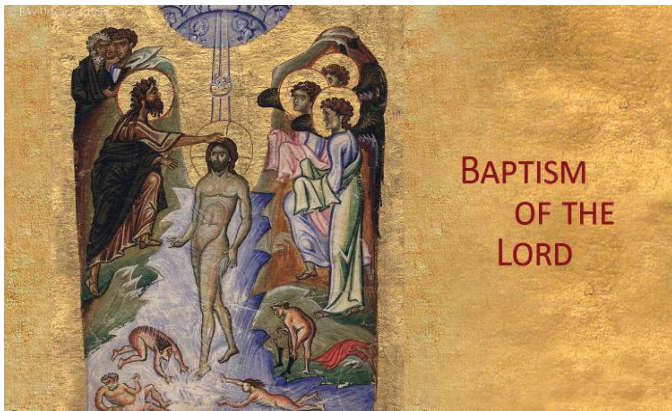
Następnie podczas Mszy Świętej o godz. 7.00pm zostaną wniesione do naszego kościoła relikwie bł. Ks.

Jerzego Popiełuszki.

W spotkaniach wezmą udział:

- członkowie grupy: Eliza Pardyka lat 19, Mateusz Śmidoda lat 20, Piotr Osowiec lat 18,
- Marek Popiełuszko, bratanek księdza Jerzego popiełuszki

- oraz Paweł Kęska, teolog, historyk, dziennikarz, manager Muzeum ks. Jerzego Popiełuszki w Warszawie, organizator projektów edukacyjnych dla młodzieży, badacz historii ks. Popiełuszki i autor książek na jego temat.



Already in 300 AD, the Eastern Church celebrated the Epiphany and the Baptism of Jesus on 6 January. In the Western Church, this feast was mentioned in the Liturgy of the Hours. With the reform of the liturgy in 1969, the date for this Feast was set on the Sunday after the Epiphany. When the Feast of the Epiphany is not celebrated on 6 January, it is celebrated on the Sunday between 2 and 8 January, and the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is celebrated on the Monday following the Epiphany. The Christmas Season concludes with the celebration of this Feast, even though a “window” is left open until 2 February, the day on which the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple is celebrated. The latter feast is also known as Candlemas since Christ is proclaimed as the “light for the gentiles.”

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. John tried to prevent him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?” Jesus said to him in reply, “Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he allowed him. After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove [and] coming upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased” (Mt. 3:13-17).

The Gospel passage begins with a geographical annotation: Jesus goes from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John the Baptist. On His arrival, Jesus does not declare Himself to be the Messiah, He does not preach. Instead, He stands with everyone else there, wanting to be baptized, thus manifesting his solidarity with the sinful people. Jesus does not isolate Himself, but He goes out among the people, even those marked by the wounds of sin. He puts Himself at risk by being with them, just as He put Himself at risk by becoming Man in the womb of Mary. There is, therefore, a consistent design in how Jesus “moves about” along His “itinerary of salvation.”

“I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?” the Baptist says on seeing Jesus. We witness the prophet’s bewilderment who just a few verses earlier expressed himself thus: “The one who is

coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals ...” (Mt 3:11). It seems to be the same bewilderment Peter experienced in Caesarea when, having reproved Jesus after the revelation of the Passion, death and resurrection that awaited Him, saying, “God forbid, Lord!”, hears the Lord’s reply, “Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are not thinking as God does, but as human beings do” (Mt 16:22-23). Another time was in the Upper Room when Peter refused to allow Jesus to wash his feet (cf. Jn. 13:6-8). Reactions such as the Baptist’s and Peter’s reveal our discomfort at seeing Jesus so weak and yielding.

Jesus begins His ministry through an act of deep solidarity with the fallen human race. John the Baptist had been preaching in the desert and offering a baptism of repentance. John’s baptism was not the same as our baptism today. Instead, it was only a sign of one’s willingness to turn away from sin and turn toward God. Jesus, of course, had nothing to repent of. He was sinless in every way. But that didn’t stop Him from freely choosing to receive the baptism of repentance.

Jesus chose to unite Himself with fallen humanity, taking upon Himself our own sins and suffering their consequences. He humbly allowed Himself to be identified as a sinner in need of repentance. This was done out of love for us and out of His longing to become one with us so that we could become one with Him.

By bowing His sacred head to receive the baptism of repentance, Jesus united Himself and His divinity to everyone who had already chosen to repent. And He gave power to every forthcoming act of repentance others would make, even until today. When we repent today, we meet Jesus in that same water of repentance.

It was not only the Eternal Son Who was present at that baptism of repentance, but the Father and the Holy Spirit as well. The Spirit descended upon Jesus in the form of a dove, and the Father’s Voice spoke to acknowledge His oneness with His Son. Therefore, every time we make a humble act of repentance, such as when we combine the crucifixion, the Trinity, and holy water upon entering a church and blessing ourselves, we not only meet our Lord but also receive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and share more fully in our adoption as sons and daughters of the Father in Heaven.

As we commemorate Jesus’ baptism liturgically, we celebrate the fact that our Christian baptism was the beginning of this new unity with the Holy Trinity. But we also celebrate our oneness with God, which is renewed every time we make an interior act of repentance for our sins. If we fully understood what happens every time we acknowledge our sins and repent of them, we would never grow tired of repenting. Every time we acknowledge and repent of our sin, we meet Christ anew, receive a greater outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and affirm and deepen our adoption by the Father in Heaven.

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!!!

PARISH GIVING



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IT IS POSSIBLE TO AUTOMATE YOUR FAITH GIVING TO
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INFORMATION.

Collection for December 28

Total.... \$ 4,456

Collection for January 4, 2026

Online...\$ 2,583

in Pew... \$ 3,782

Total.... \$ 6,365

Christmas Collection will be posted soon



From Fr. Marcin's Desk

Today, the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus, the Gospel of Matthew describes the scene which occurred at the River Jordan: Jesus is in the midst of the penitent crowd which approaches John the Baptist to receive baptism. He stood in line. John would like to prevent him from [being baptized], saying: "I need to be baptized by you." The Baptist, indeed, is aware of the great distance there is between him and Jesus. But Jesus has come precisely to bridge the gap between man and God: if He is completely on God's side, He is also completely on mankind's side, and reunites what had been separated. For this reason, He asks John to baptize Him, so that all righteousness may be fulfilled, namely, that the plan of God may be fulfilled, the plan which passes by way of obedience and solidarity with fragile and sinful mankind, the way of humility and of God's full closeness to His children. Because God is very close to us!

At the moment in which Jesus, baptized by John, comes out of the waters of the River Jordan, the voice of God the Father is heard from on high: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." At the same time the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, alights upon Jesus, who publicly begins His mission of salvation. This mission was characterized by a manner: the way of a humble and gentle servant, armed only with the power of truth, as Isaiah had prophesied: "He will not cry or lift up his voice, ... a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice." A humble and gentle servant.

This is Jesus' way, as well as the manner of Christ's disciples' missionary work: to proclaim the Gospel with gentleness, but also firmness, without shouting, without reprimanding anyone, but gently and firmly, without arrogance or imposition. The true mission is never proselytism, but drawing people to Christ. We can do so with one's own witness, starting from the unwavering union with Him in prayer, in adoration and in concrete works of charity, which is service to Jesus present in the least of His brothers and sisters. In imitation of Jesus, the good and merciful Shepherd, and moved by his grace, we are called to make our life a joyous testimony that illuminates the way, that brings hope and love.

This feast makes us rediscover the gift and the beauty of being a community of baptized, that is, of sinners — we all are sinners — saved by the grace of Christ, truly integrated, by the work of the Holy Spirit, in the filial relationship of Jesus with the Father, welcomed into the bosom of Mother Church, making possible a brotherhood that knows no barriers and no borders.

Fr. Marcin

Update Corner





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

We Are His Witnesses

We know that our Archdiocese faces real challenges—including fewer people attending Mass, reduced participation in the Sacraments, and the critical need for more Pastors. To achieve renewal, we've set three strategic goals and identified three Mission Focus areas.

This effort applies to all of our communities. We are moving beyond just maintaining our parishes; we are transforming them into vibrant, thriving centers that are fully alive and ready to share Christ's mission and spread the Good News!

THREE GOALS

- Mission Renewal
- Deepen Parish Vitality
- Foster Shared Listening & Action

MISSION FOCUS

- Evangelization & Outreach
- Pastoral Care of the Faithful
- Long-Term Sustainability

Koleda 2026

The blessing of the homes during the Christmas Season

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.....

.....

Telefon/Phone.....

Kiedy/ When Rano/ Morning

Poludnie/Noon time.....

Wieczorem/Evening

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