

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

February 22, 2026

Phone: 908-756-3393

Fax: 908-756-3059

E-mail: office@bestchurch.net

Website: www.bestchurch.net

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
Pastor

pastor@bestchurch.net
908-756-3393 Ext - 101

Rev. Bernardo Garcia
Parochial Vicar

vicar@bestchurch.net
908-756-3393 Ext - 102

Karole Lechowski
Secretary

office@bestchurch.net
908-756-3393

General Mailbox ext. 100

Iveth Parada
Religious Education

bestreligioused@gmail.com
908-756-3393 Ext - 103

NEW MASS SCHEDULE

**SATURDAY MASS OF
ANTICIPATION**

5:00PM- English

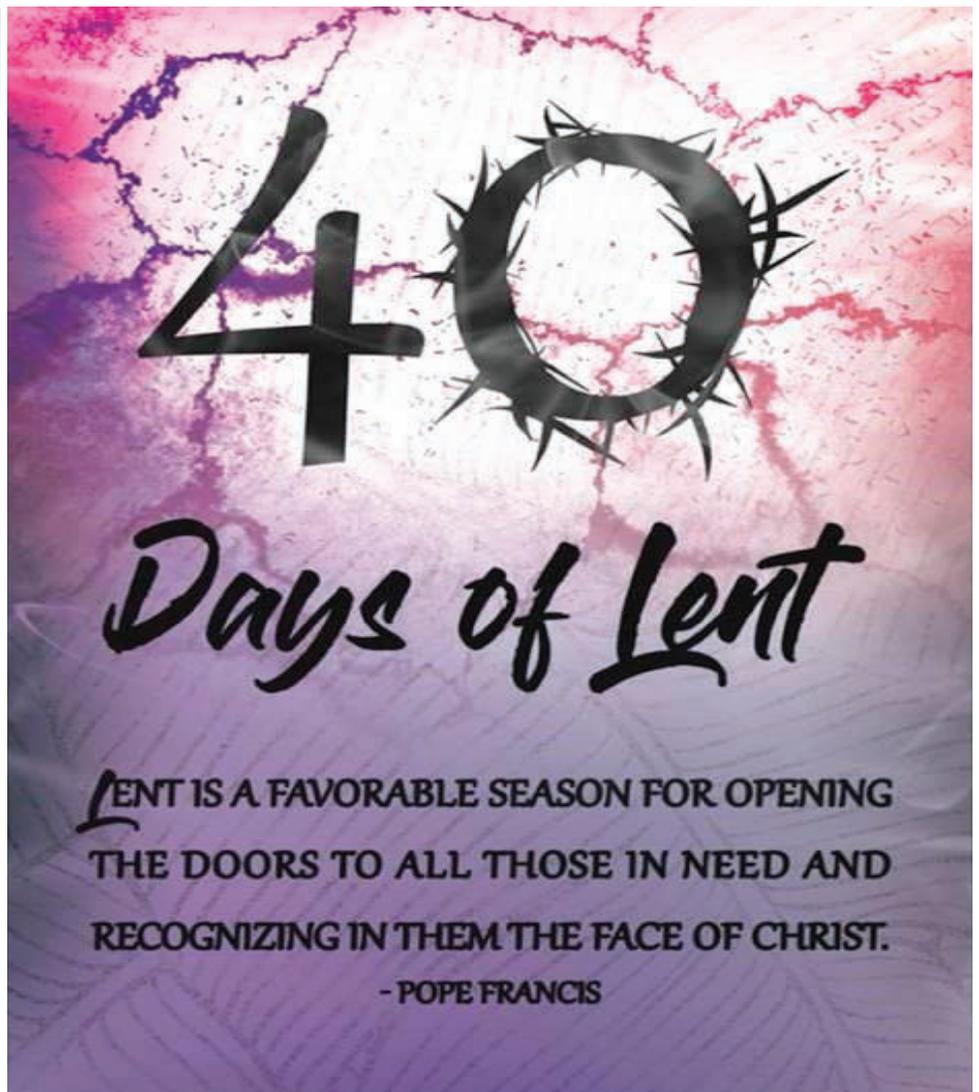
SUNDAY

9:00AM - English

10:30AM - Polish

12:00PM - English

1:30PM - Spanish



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 – February 21...St. Peter Damian

9:00AM...+ People of the Parish
5:00PM...+ Robert F. Brady (30th Anniv.),
req. Mary Ellen Chanda

Sunday – February 22...First Sunday of Lent

9:00AM...+ Frank Kazmierski (1st Anniv.),
req. Wife and Family
10:30AM... (Polish) + Anna Radecka (1st Anniv.),
od Radecki Rodzina
12:00 Noon... Health of Paul Signorelli,
req. Beverly and Peter Cirino
1:30 PM ...(Spanish) + Aurielio de Jesus,
req. Maria Jaquez

Monday – February 23... St. Polycarp

9:00AM...+Frank and Anita Meeks, req. Johanna Merkle

Tuesday – February 24... Lenten Weekday

9:00AM... Angelina Salvemini 90th Birthday,
req. Johanna Merkle

Wednesday – February 25... Lenten Weekday

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

Thursday – February 26... Lenten Weekday

9:00AM...+All Souls in Purgatory,
req. Alba Ledy Cuartas

Friday – February 27...St. Gregory of Narek

9:00AM...People of the Parish

Saturday – February 28...Lenten Weekday

9:00AM...+ Emilinne Alexandre
5:00PM...+Janette "Cricket" Cardoza,
req. Mary Ellen Chanda

Sunday – March 1...Second Sunday of Lent

9:00AM...+Carlo Riello, req. Antonia Riello
10:30AM...
12:00 Noon...+Nicholas Merkle, req Johanna Merkle
1:30 PM ...+Carmen Rosa Gonzalez,
req. Alba Ledy Cuartas

The **Tabernacle Candle** will burn this week for
Gregory Myers at the request of
Beverly and Peter Cirino.

The **Bread and Wine for the Month of February**
is in Memory of **Frank Kazmierski**.

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 Brian Biddulph.

OUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED for all the Departed
Especially **Gregory Myers and Emilinne Alexandre.**

STEWARDSHIP

1st Sunday of Lent

"It is written: 'The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.'" MATTHEW 4:10

Tempted between the riches and power of this world and service to God, Jesus chose service to His Father. If we wish to truly follow Jesus, we, too, must decide to turn away from worldly power and riches and put God at the center of our lives. Lent is our time to prune ourselves of earthly things and develop and nurture heavenly things. Lent is time to repent and let go of the other "gods" we have put before God.

1^{er} Domingo de Cuaresma

"Está escrito: 'Adora al Señor tu Dios y sírvele solamente a él'" MATEO 4:10

Tentado a elegir entre las riquezas y el poder de este mundo y el servicio a Dios, Jesús eligió servir a Su Padre. Si queremos realmente seguir a Jesús, nosotros también debemos decidir alejarnos del poder y las riquezas mundanas y poner a Dios en el centro de nuestras vidas. La cuaresma es nuestro tiempo para reducir nuestras cosas terrenales, y desarrollar y cultivar las cosas celestiales. La cuaresma es el tiempo para arrepentirse y dejar ir a los otros "dioses" que hemos puesto delante de Dios.

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

First Reading: Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7

This passage from Genesis narrates the creation of man, the temptation by the serpent, and the fall of Adam and Eve.

Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19

Paul tells the Romans that Adam's disobedience brought sin and death to the world, but Christ's dying on the cross for us will bring us salvation and life.

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

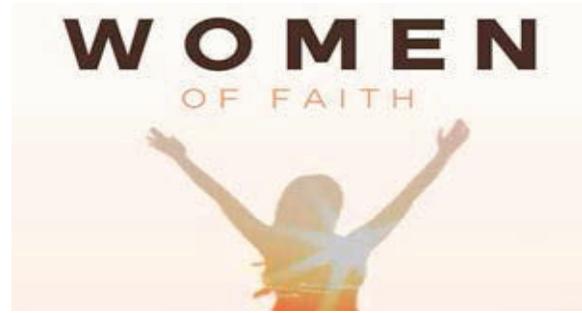
In preparation for His ministry, Jesus goes into the desert to fast and pray for 40 days. There He is tempted by the devil to give evidence of His miraculous powers, but Jesus resists the devil saying, "Away with you Satan! You shall do homage to the Lord your God; Him alone shall you adore."

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.





The Women of Faith Ministry at St. Bernard of Clairvaux and St. Stanislaus Kostka warmly invites all women of the parish to gather with us this Lent for reflection, prayer, and spiritual renewal. Whether you're new to the parish, returning to your faith, or simply seeking fellowship, you are welcome. Mothers, grandmothers, students, professionals—there is a place here for you.

Why Join a Women's Lenten Reflection Group?

Lenten invites us to slow down, turn our hearts toward God, and prepare for the joy of Easter. A women's Lenten group helps us enter this sacred season with intention. Together, we reflect on Scripture, walk with Christ toward the Cross, and support one another in our Lenten practices.

In the company of other women, we find clarity, encouragement, and a sense of shared purpose. This is a space to pause, pray, and listen for God's voice, so our hearts may be renewed and strengthened for the journey ahead. Bring a friend! Join us on the Fridays during Lent after the Stations of the Cross: **March 6th, and March 27th.** For more information or to help with planning, please contact: **Mary Landriau - mlandriau703@verizon.net**

 **Station of the Cross
Fridays of Lent**
**6:00PM - English
7:00PM - Polish**

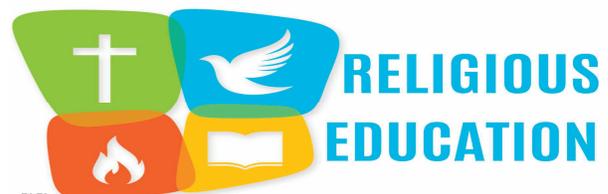
2026 LENTEN REGULATIONS

1. The days of both Fast and Abstinence during Lent are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the "paschal fast" to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily His Resurrection. The other Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence. On a day of Fast, only one (1) full meal is permitted, and two (2) smaller meals, which, if added together, would not exceed the main meal in quantity. Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast. On a day of Abstinence, no meat may be eaten. Those who have reached the age of 14 are obliged by the law of abstinence.
2. The obligation to observe the laws of Fast and Abstinence "substantially", or as a whole, is a serious obligation.
3. The Fridays of the year, outside of Lent, are designated as days of penance, but each individual may substitute for the traditional abstinence from meat some other practice of voluntary self-denial as penance.
4. The time for fulfilling the Paschal Precept (Easter Duty*) extends from the First Sunday of Lent, February 22 to The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, May 31, 2026.

**Canon 920, §1. All the faithful, after they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, are bound by the obligation of receiving Communion at least once a year.*

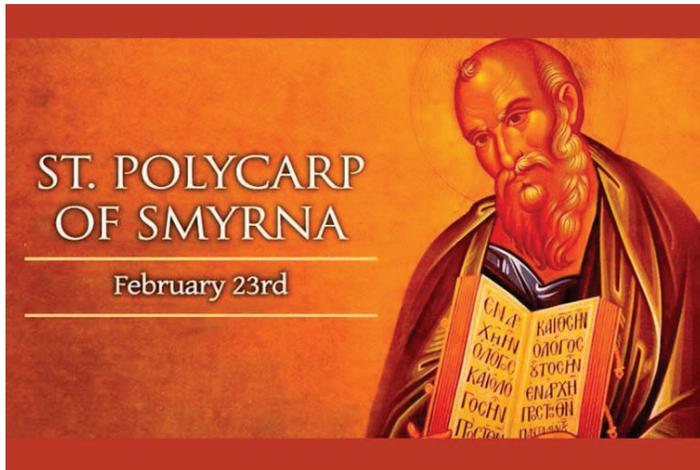
 **CHOIR**
Practice is in
the church on
Thursday evenings
7:00PM.

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.**



Religious Education Classes are on Wednesdays at 6:30PM.

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



Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, and one of the foremost leaders of the Church in the second century. Few details of his life are extant with any reliability beyond his famous martyrdom, which was recounted in the *Martyrium Polycarpi*. It is believed, however, that he was converted to the faith by St. John the Evangelist about 80 A.D. and became bishop of Smyrna about 96 A.D. He was, as was his friend St. Ignatius of Antioch, one of the most important intermediary links between the apostolic and the patristic eras in the Church, especially in Christian Asia Minor. A defender of orthodoxy, he opposed such heretical groups as the Marcionites and Valentinians. He also authored a surviving epistle to the Philippians, exhorting them to remain strong in the faith. The letter is of great interest to scholars because it demonstrates the existence of New Testament texts, with quotes from Matthew and Luke, the Acts of the Apostles, and the first letters of Peter and John. When Ignatius was being taken to Rome to be put to death, he wrote of Polycarp being clothed "with the garment of grace." Polycarp was himself arrested by Roman officials in Smyrna soon after returning from a trip to Rome to discuss the date for Easter. He refused to abjure the faith, telling his captain that he had served Christ for eighty-six years. The Romans burned him alive with twelve companions. The year of his death has been put at 155 or 156, although Eusebius of Caesarea places the year at 167 or 168, meaning it would have fallen in the reign of Marcus Aurelius. If so, changes in the year of his birth would be necessary. The most detailed account of his death was the *Martyrium Polycarpi*.

ANNUAL²⁰²⁶ APPEAL

The 2026 Annual Appeal has begun! Each year we are invited to participate in the Annual Appeal, which is an opportunity to support essential ministries and programs of our Archdiocese. Your sacrificial support makes it possible for us to carry out the important work that we are called to do as missionary disciples of Jesus.

Please consider participating in this year's Appeal to help make a significant difference in many lives within our Archdiocese. 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.



**We do not live
on bread
alone**



Polska Szkoła im. Juliana Ursyna Niemcewicza
w Plainfield NJ
Serdecznie zaprasza na

**IV MALOWANIE PRZY
LAMPCE WINA**

6 Marca 2026
Godzina 7:00 pm
365 Emerson AVE.
Plainfield NJ

Cena 45\$

Zapisy u Joanny Gadomskiej
908-451-0792 do 27 Lutego
** liczba miejsc ograniczona

Ps. Zaprosz koleżanki, nie zapomnij swojego ulubionego wina a mała przekąska lub deser będzie mile widziana :)

Made with PosterMyWall.com

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



ON LINE GIVING

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

Collection for February 15, 2026

Online...\$ 1,107
in Pew... \$ 4,544
Total.....\$ 5,651

Best Church Seniors ARE ON A WINTER BREAK

We are looking forward to the next meeting on **March 19th at 12:30PM,** for a program called...



"Tapping Away Stress" by Alicia Gray

You will find that by tapping on certain pressure points we can lower stress and relieve pain. So, come and experience tapping away together. Please let us know you will be there so we can prepare. And, as always...you are welcome to bring a friend!

From Fr. Marcin's Desk

Each year, the Gospel of the First Sunday of Lent sets before us the narrative of the temptation of Jesus, when the Holy Spirit, having descended upon Him after His Baptism in the Jordan, prompts Him to confront Satan openly in the desert for 40 days, before beginning His public ministry.

The tempter seeks to divert Jesus from the Father's plan, that is, from the way of sacrifice, of the love that offers itself in expiation, to make Him take an easier path, one of success and power. The duel between Jesus and Satan takes place through strong quotations from Sacred Scripture. The devil, in fact, to divert Jesus from the way of the cross, sets before Him false messianic hopes: economic well-being, indicated by the ability to turn stones into bread; a dramatic and miraculous style, with the idea of throwing Himself down from the highest point of the Temple in Jerusalem and being saved by angels; and lastly, a shortcut to power and dominion, in exchange for an act of adoration to Satan. These are the three groups of temptations: and we, too, know them well!

Jesus decisively rejects all these temptations and reiterates His firm resolve to follow the path set by the Father, without any kind of compromise with sin or worldly logic. Jesus does not dialogue with Satan, as Eve had done in the earthly paradise. Jesus is well aware that there can be no dialogue with Satan, for he is cunning. That is why Jesus, instead of engaging in dialogue as Eve had, chooses to take refuge in the Word of God and responds with the power of this Word. Let us remember this: at the moment of temptation, of our temptations, there is no arguing with Satan. Our defense must always be the Word of God! And this will save us. In His replies to Satan, the Lord, using the Word of God, reminds us above all that "man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." This gives us the strength, sustains us in the struggle against a worldly mind-set that would lower man to the level of his primitive needs, causing him to lose hunger for what is true, good and beautiful: the hunger for God and for His love. Furthermore, He recalls that "it is written, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God,'" for the way of faith passes also through darkness and doubt and is nourished by patience and persevering expectation. Lastly, Jesus recalls that "it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only you shall serve.'" We must rid ourselves of idols, of vain things, and build our lives on what is essential.

Dear brothers and sisters, the time of Lent is a new chance for us to make a journey of conversion, by sincerely allowing ourselves to be confronted with this passage of the Gospel. Let us renew the promises of our Baptism: let us renounce Satan and all his works and seductions — for he is a seducer — in order to follow the path of God and arrive at Easter in the joy of the Spirit.

Fr. Marcin

MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME
Thoughtful care—Compassionate service
Owned and managed by the Keiser family since 1928
Thomas M. Keiser, Jr., Owner
NJ License No. 3844
Laura E. Mann, Executive Director
NJ License No. 4947
155 South Avenue • Fanwood, NJ 07023
908 322-4350
www.fanwoodmemorial.com

McCriskin-Gustafson
FAMILY OF FUNERAL HOMES
INDEPENDENT & LOCAL
2425 Plainfield Ave, South Plainfield, NJ 07080
908-561-8000
James A. Gustafson
President/Manager
NJ License #4205
Richard W. McCriskin II
Vice President
NJ License #4564
Scan to visit our website
www.mccriskinfuneralhome.com
Pre-Arrangements • Cremation Services
S/S Medicaid Protection

BE A FRIEND. Give blood.
PEANUTS x American Red Cross

Watchung Dental Care PC
COSMETIC • IMPLANT • FAMILY DENTISTRY
Sang H. Moon D.D.S., F.I.C.O.I. 1801 East 2nd Street
Caroline Hanna, D.M.D. Scotch Plains, NJ 07076
908-322-6090 • www.watchungdentalcare.com

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS THEY SUPPORT OUR PARISH

ROOFING • CHIMNEYS MASONRY • GUTTERS
We Find & Fix Leaks!
ROYAL PRO CONSTRUCTION
Family Owned/Operated • Lic. #13VH0934200, Bonded & Insured • 20+ Yrs.
732-589-9967 Serving All of New Jersey

\$1100 OFF Any New Roof Replacement
20% OFF Any Roof, Chimney, Gutter, Masonry Repair & SENIORS

If the lights are flashing, **no passing.**
It's Not a Suggestion, It's the Law.

READY.GOV
Don't be afraid...Be Ready

Act now to help end hunger.
In the United States, one in nine people face hunger.
feedingamerica.org

ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDFIRES

Always be alert for pedestrians.
Safe Drivers Save Lives
NHTSA

Help your community, the environment, & yourself
Patronize your local businesses

Every Veteran has earned help and support.
Don't wait. Reach out. VA.GOV/REACH

CALL US TODAY!
YOUR AD HERE!
Reserve Your Space Today!
Connect with a Dedicated and Engaged Audience
Build Trust and Credibility • Showcase Your Business to Those Who Actively Support Local Businesses
Benefit From Our Online Presence and Extend Your Reach Beyond the Church Walls
Contact our advertising team at 800-883-4343.
Don't miss this opportunity to become a valued partner in our community.

ad COUNCIL VA U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Protect yourself and your community.
FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION CONSUMER ADVICE
Consumer Alerts
Learn more about the latest consumer advice and scams — and what you can do to protect yourself.
consumer.ftc.gov/consumer-alerts

WWF
Help build a future where people live in harmony with nature.
www.worldwildlife.org

Higgins HOME FOR FUNERALS, INC. established 1868
Stephen D. Szczubelek
Manager Watchung Lic. #4446
908-756-0017
www.higginsfuneralhome.com
752 Mountain Boulevard • Watchung, NJ 07069

NEED A LAWYER? INJURED?
★ Call For A Free Legal Consultation ★
MARC J. BRENNER ESQ.
973-326-8902
• Personal Injury
• Workers' Compensation
• Social Security Disability
lawmardbrenner.com • marc@lawmardbrenner.com
222 RIDGEDALE AVENUE • CEDAR KNOLLS, NJ 07927