

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

July 19, 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

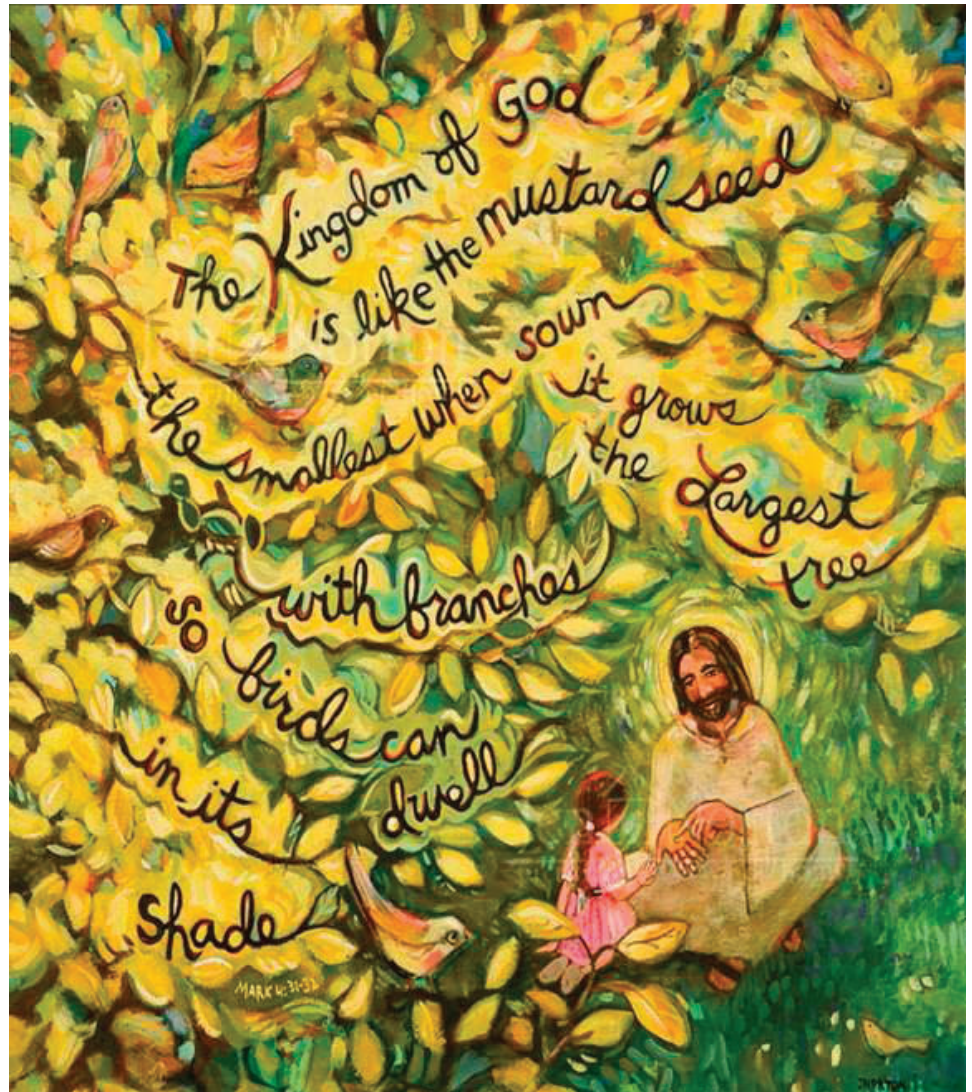
General Mailbox ext. 100

Iveth Parada
Religious Education
bestreligioused@gmail.com
908-756-3393 Ext - 103

SUMMER MASS SCHEDULE June—July—August

**SATURDAY MASS OF
ANTICIPATION**
5:00PM- English

SUNDAY
9:00AM – English
10:30AM – Polish
12:30PM – 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

**Saturday – July 18... St. Camillus de Leis**

5:00PM... + Marie and Stan Stanley,
req. Johanna Merkle

Sunday – July 19...16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00AM...+ Frank Apisa, req. Morano Family
10:30AM...+ 1. Rocznicę Karol Wojewódka, z rodziną
+ Amelia, Marianna, Vincenty Łupinsky
+ Bogdan Dziuba, od siostry
12:30...(Sp.) + All Souls in Purgatory,
req. Alba Ledy Cuartas

Monday – July 20... St. Apollinaris

9:00AM...+ Patricia Sullivan Amato, req. Sister Gayle

Tuesday – July 21... St. Lawrence of Brindisi

9:00AM... + Gelsomina and Nicola Carusone,
req.. Antonia Riello

Wednesday – July 22... St. Mary Magdalene

9:00AM...Health of Olga Skolka, req. Johanna Merkle

Thursday – July 23... St. Bridget

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

Friday – July 24... St. Sharbel Makhlof

9:00AM...+ Paula Maricela DeLeon Solicitado,
por la hija Lizandra Cabrera

Saturday – July 25... St. James

5:00PM... Evelyn Cioffi 96th Birthday,
req. Karole and Eddie Lechowski

Sunday – July 26...17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00AM...+ Robert Merkle, req. Wife Johanna
10:30AM...+ 38. rocznica Antoni Kapolka,
od Syna z rodziną
+ Peter Falkowski, z żoną
12:30...(Sp.) People of the Parish

THE TABERNACLE CANDLE will burn this week
for Joanne Lacon at the request of Mother.

THE BREAD AND WINE FOR THE MONTH OF JULY
is in memory of our Parish Family.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED for those whose
health is challenged in any way especially for
Jim Rushforth, Marian Parcinski, Mike Parise,
Brian Biddulph, Giovanni Todaro, Pat Cook,
Mary Barrow, Margaret Honora, George Gray,
Thomas O'Rourke and Olga Skolka.

OUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED for all the
Faithful Departed.

STEWARDSHIP**16th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

"The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field...He who sows good seed is the Son of Man, the field is the world, the good seed the children of the kingdom." - MATTHEW 13:24, 37-38

As children of God, we are all "good seeds". We are blessed by God with the potential to accomplish much good in the world. We fulfill God's plan when we spend time in prayer every day, use our skills to help others and share our financial gifts to help build God's kingdom on earth. Through our example of gratitude and generosity we sow "good seeds" on earth and ultimately help each other get to Heaven!

Domingo 16^o del Tiempo Ordinario

"El reino de los cielos es semejante a un hombre que sembró buena semilla en su campo...El que siembra la buena semilla es el Hijo del Hombre, y el campo es el mundo; y la buena semilla son los hijos del reino." - MATEO 13:24, 37-38

Como hijos de Dios, todos nosotros somos "buenas semillas". Fuimos bendecidos por Dios con el potencial para hacer mucho bien en el mundo. Cumplimos el plan de Dios cuando pasamos tiempo en oración cada día, cuando utilizamos nuestras habilidades para ayudar a los demás y compartimos nuestros dones financieros para ayudar a construir el reino de Dios en la tierra. ¡A través de nuestro ejemplo de gratitud y generosidad "sembramos" las buenas semillas en la tierra y finalmente ayudamos a otros a llegar al Cielo!

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**First Reading: Wisdom 12:13, 16-19**

This passage from the Book of Wisdom addresses itself to God, giving praise and thanksgiving for his mercy.

Second Reading: Romans 8:26-27

Paul indicates that since people are, in general, unaccustomed to the manner of praying, of speaking directly to God, the Holy Spirit will intercede for them.

Gospel: Matthew 13:24-43

According to Matthew, Jesus speaks of the "reign of God" in three parables: the man who soweth good seed, the mustard seed, and the yeast. In each parable, Jesus demonstrates that once the "reign of God" had been established, it grew and spread.

Religious Education Registration 2026-2027



Online Registration:

Now through August 1st

www.bestchurch.net

In-person Registration:

August 31st & September 8th
from 9am-3pm.

Parish office- 1232 George St.

**Registrations received after September 8th
will incur a late fee of \$50.**

Registration Fees:

One Child: \$90.00

Two Children: \$150.00

Three Children: \$190.00

Sacramental Fees:

First Communion: \$35.00

Confirmation: \$45.00

Online payment:



ZAPISY DO PONIEDZIAŁKOWEJ POLSKIEJ SZKOŁY

im. J.U. Niemcewicza
PLAINFIELD, NJ

Zajęcia w PONIEDZIAŁKI
Wygodny termin dla całej rodziny.

25 LAT DOŚWIADCZENIA
Tradycja, sukces i zaufanie.

PRZEDSZKOLE – LICEUM
Pełny cykl edukacyjny dla młodzieży.

PSL DLA DZIECI I DOROSŁYCH
Język Polski od podstaw dla wszystkich.

NAUCZYCIELE Z PASJĄ I SERCEM
Wykwalifikowana kadra pedagogiczna.

TELEFON
732 261 4276

E-MAIL
polskaszkolaplainfield@outlook.com

ZAPISZ SIĘ TERAZ!

DIREKTOR
MARIA MARCHWIŃSKI

Summer Schedule!!!

Saturdays:

5:00PM English

Sundays:

9:00 AM English

10:30 AM Polish

12:30 PM Spanish

Monday - Friday:

9:00 AM English

Summer Office Hours:

Monday – Friday 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM

After hours by appointment



ST. JAMES

July 25th

James the Greater, whom we honor today, was the brother of John, the Gospel writer. Their mother is traditionally believed to be Salome, who is identified as the sister to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Hence, if Salome and Mary were siblings, then James and John were Jesus' cousins.

In John's Gospel, two of John the Baptist's disciples were with John when he saw Jesus walking by. The Baptist said of Jesus, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples then left the Baptist and followed Jesus. One of the disciples was Andrew, and the other is traditionally believed to be James. The Gospels of Matthew and Mark record James' calling a bit differently. "[Jesus] walked along a little farther and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They too were in a boat mending their nets. Then he called them. So they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed him." James and John most likely came from a family of means. Their father, Zebedee, most likely employed other fishermen alongside his sons. Their mother, Salome, is said to have been one of the women who supported Jesus and the disciples out of her own means. And John was entrusted with the care of Jesus' mother, partly implying that he had the means to do so.

Among the Twelve Apostles, Peter, James, and John are recorded in the Gospels as being present at three special events that the others were not. First, when Jesus cured Jairus' daughter, Jesus brought these three into the house with Him. Second, it was only these three whom Jesus took with Him when He was transfigured in glory on top of a high mountain. Finally, these three alone accompanied Jesus after the Last Supper during Jesus' Agony in the Garden. Though they fell asleep three times during our Lord's agony, they were, nonetheless, privileged to be there with Him.

James and his brother John are also known for boldly asking Jesus that they sit at His left and right when He entered His Kingdom. In Matthew's Gospel, the request is made on behalf of the brothers by their mother, Salome, and in Mark's Gospel it is the brothers themselves who make the request.

In Luke, we read that Jesus "resolutely determined to journey to Jerusalem" where He knew He would suffer death. On His journey toward Jerusalem, Jesus sent disciples ahead of Him to a Samaritan town to prepare for His arrival. However, the Samaritans would not welcome Jesus and His disciples. As a result, James and John ask Jesus, "Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to consume them?" Jesus rebuked them for this thought and they traveled on. It was on

account of this excessive zeal and perhaps the quick tempers and boldness of James and John that they are referred to as the "Sons of Thunder."

One last mention of James is found in Acts 12:1–3. Herod Agrippa, who ruled Judea from 41–44, martyred James the Greater as a way of appeasing the Pharisaic Jews who were opposed to Jesus and His followers. According to an account by Eusebius, a fourth-century Bishop of Caesarea Maritima, James' zeal for the faith led to his arrest, but the one who turned James in as his accuser ended up converting to the faith. As a result, his accuser was also martyred with James.

One later tradition states that James traveled to Spain to preach the Gospel before returning to Jerusalem to endure martyrdom. That same tradition states that after his martyrdom, his body was either miraculously transported to Spain, eventually arriving in Compostela where many believe he is buried, or that his body was taken to Spain by his followers. The exact site of his burial was lost for centuries. In the ninth century, a hermit named Pelagius observed a star or a cluster of stars that led him to Saint James' burial site in Compostela. After the discovery, King Alfonso II ordered the construction of a church over his grave; the site is now referred to as Santiago (Saint James) of Compostela (field of stars). Since that time, the site has been a major pilgrimage site. The Camino de Santiago (Way of Saint James) is a route traveled on foot from various starting points in France, Spain, and Portugal that all lead to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela where Saint James is believed to have been buried.

Though not much is known about the life of Saint James with certainty, we do know that he was privileged to witness Jesus' Transfiguration, His Agony in the Garden, and that Jesus prophesied that James would drink the cup that He drank, and be baptized with Jesus' baptism. This "cup" and "baptism" are clear references to Saint James' martyrdom by which he would imitate his Lord. There is little doubt that his witnessing of Jesus being transfigured in glory and his presence with Jesus in the garden infused his natural temperament with grace, giving him courage to be the first of the Apostles to be martyred.

As we honor this holy Apostle, ponder his willingness to stand strong in the face of persecution and death. That courage must inspire us to have hope and strength in the face of anything we endure in life. In the end, courage and fidelity to Christ will radiate from the life of Saint James in Heaven.

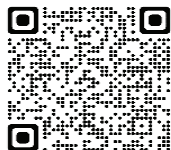
Help for Venezuela

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin has asked the parishes of the Archdiocese of Newark to prayerfully and generously support those affected by the recent earthquake in Venezuela. A second collection will be taken up the weekend of July 25–26. Parishioners also may make donations directly to Catholic Relief Services at www.crs.org.

ANNUAL ²⁰²⁶ 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**, and we already collected **\$25,170.00!** Please make a gift online today by visiting rcan.org/sharing, scanning the QR code:
Or use the envelopes available in the pews and entrances.



MARRIAGE PREPARATION



For all the engaged couples who are planning to get married or those who are married civilly and would like to receive the sacrament of matrimony, we will offer a course of Pre-Cana on Friday nights.

Starting: September 4th, Fridays at 8:00PM

Place: Office building

*If you are interested, please talk to
Fr. Marcin or Fr. Bernardo.*

Collection for July 12

On Line...\$ 1,192.00

In Pew ...\$ 4,011.00

Total.....\$ 5,203.00

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

ROOF DONATION

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This August we will fix the roof of the school building. The cost of the roof repair is \$73,000.00 plus additional cost to remove the gravel and old roof.

If you are able to help, you can write on your roof donation check's memo line: **Restricted – Roof**. Thank you for your generosity!!!

From Fr. Marcin

Today's reading offers three parables through which Jesus speaks to the crowds about the Kingdom of God. The first is that of the good wheat and the weeds, which illustrates the problem of evil in this world and highlights God's patience. The narrative takes place in a field with two rivals. On one side is the master of the field, who represents God and who sows good seed; on the other is the enemy, who represents Satan and scatters weeds.

As time passes, the weeds grow among the wheat, and the master and his servants express different opinions regarding this fact. The servants would like to intervene and uproot the weeds; but the master, who is concerned above all with saving the wheat, is against this, saying: "No; lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them." With this image, Jesus tells us that in this world good and evil are so intertwined that it is impossible to separate them and eradicate all evil. God alone can do this, and He will do so at the Last Judgment.

Today the Lord, who is Wisdom incarnate, helps us to understand that good and evil cannot be identified with neatly defined areas or specific human groups. He tells us that the boundary line between good and evil passes through the heart of each person; it passes through the heart of each of us, that is: we are all sinners. Jesus Christ, with His death on the Cross and His Resurrection, has freed us from the slavery of sin and given us the grace to journey in a new life. Along with Baptism He also gave us Confession, because we all need to be forgiven for our sins. Looking always and only at the evil that is outside of us means not wanting to recognize the sin that is also inside us.

Then Jesus teaches us a different way of looking at the field of the world, of observing reality. We are called to learn God's time — which is not our time — and also God's "gaze": thanks to the beneficial influence of uneasy anticipation, what were weeds or seemed to be weeds can become a good product. It is the reality of conversion. It is the prospect of hope!

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

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

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

POISON Help
1-800-222-1222
poison.org

CHIMNEY & ROOFING
MASONRY • GUTTERS • DECK REPAIR
We Find & Fix Leaks!
ROYAL PRO CONSTRUCTION
\$1500 OFF Any New Roof Replacement
20% OFF Any Roof, Chimney, Gutter, Masonry Repair & SENIORS
Family Owned/Operated • Lic. #13VH0934200
Bonded & Insured • 20+ Years
732-589-9967
Serving All of New Jersey

CHURCH BULLETIN ADVERTISING
A Simple Way To Support Your Parish & Promote Your Business!
SCAN QR TO E-MAIL ME TODAY!
Byron Polanco 908-872-8669

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

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

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

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