

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

September 13, 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.

PARISH STAFF

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Religious Education

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SUMMER MASS SCHEDULE

June—July—August

SATURDAY MASS OF ANTICIPATION

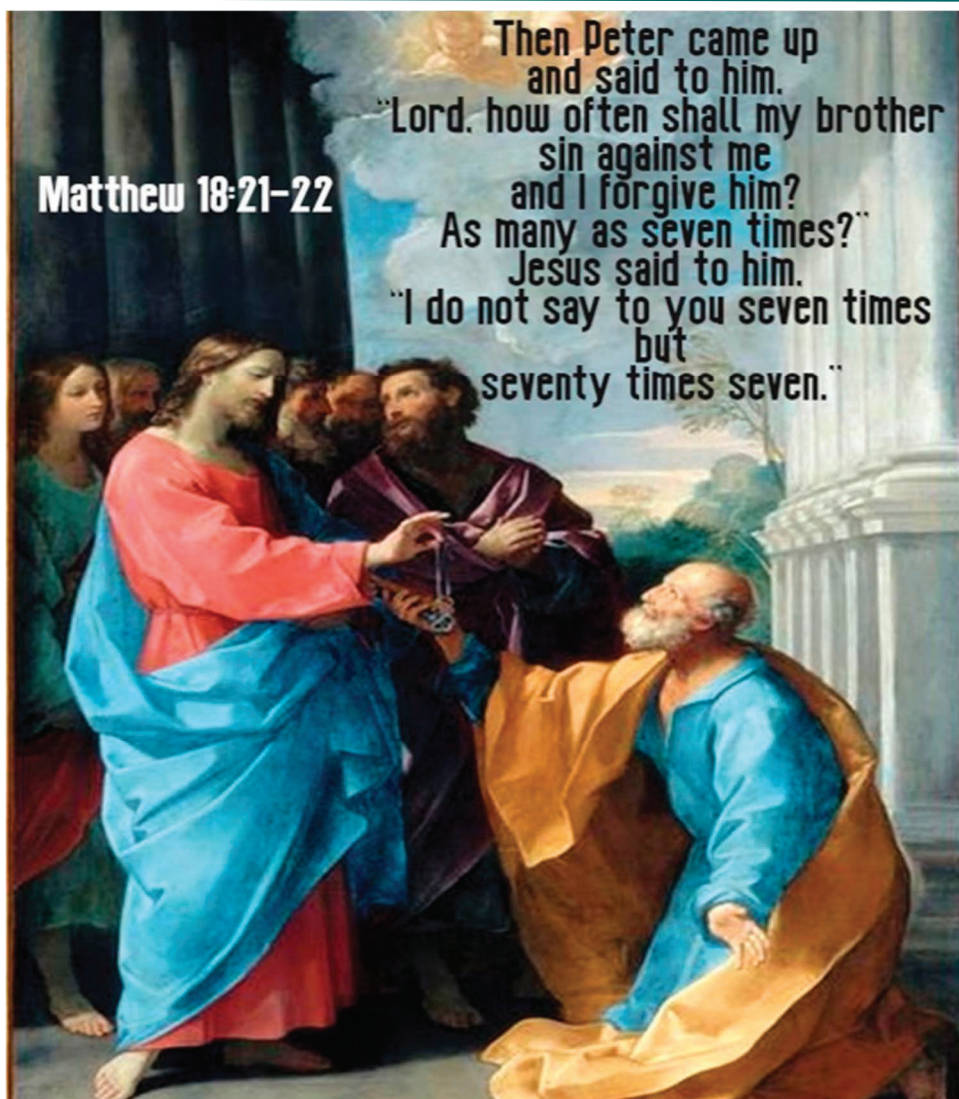
5:00PM- English

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

Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK

Saturday – September 12... Most Holy Name of Mary

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

5:00PM... For the Health of Mike Parise,
req. Parish Family

Sunday – September 13...24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00AM...+Margaret Merkle, req. Johanna Merkle

10:30AM...Parents, Teachers and Children
of the Polish School

12:30PM...+Louis Enrico Cuartas Duque,
req. Alba Ledy Cuartas

Monday – September 14... The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

9:00AM...+Teresa Mastroianni, req. Pina and John

Tuesday – September 15... Our Lady of Sorrows

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

Wednesday – September 16...St. Cornelius and St. Cyprian

9:00AM...+Zachariah G. Butler, req. Laura Cosmas

Thursday – September 17...St. Robert Bellamine and St. Hildegard

9:00AM...+Giovanna Mone, req. Angela Negri
and Children

Friday – September 18... Weekday

9:00AM... People of the Parish

Saturday – September 19... St. Januarius

9:00AM... People of the Parish

5:00PM...+Patricia Frank, req. Barbara and Al St. Louis

Sunday – September 20...25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00AM...+Frank Apisa, req. Mike and Beth Venezia

10:30AM...+Maria Keder, 5th Anniversary,
od Radecki Rodzina

12:30PM...+Luis Enrico Cuartas Gonzalez
req. Alba Ledy Cuartas

THE TABERNACLE CANDLE will burn this week
for our Parish Family.

**THE BREAD AND WINE FOR THE MONTH OF
SEPTEMBER** is in memory of our Deceased Family
Members.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

For those whose health is challenged in any way
especially for **Marian Parcinski, Mike Parise,
Giovani Todaro, Pat Cook, Margaret Honora,**
**Olga Skolka, Zena Kazmierski, Sherif R. and
Eric Johansen.**

OUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED for all the
Faithful Departed.

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA)

For those Catholics who did not complete their full initiation (Catholics who may have been baptized but who were never confirmed or received First Communion), or are non-Catholics who are considering becoming Catholic, we offer the time of preparation on Mondays at **7:00pm in the parish office.** If you are interested in learning more about the Christian faith, the Catholic Church, or about becoming Catholic, please contact:

Fr. Bernardo, at vicar@bestchurch.net.

STEWARDSHIP

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's."

— ROMANS 14:8

This is the essence of stewardship – everything we have and everything we are is a gift from God. We aren't "owners" of anything, we are merely "stewards" of the gifts that God has given us, especially our very own lives. Pray to God, daily, and ask Him how He is calling you to live the life that He intended for you.

Domingo 24^o del Tiempo Ordinario

"Si vivimos, para el Señor vivimos; y si morimos, para el Señor morimos. De manera que, tanto en la vida como en la muerte, pertenecemos al Señor." - Romanos 14:8

Esa es la esencia de la corresponsabilidad - todo lo que tenemos y todo lo que somos es un don de Dios. No somos los "dueños" de nada, somos simplemente "administradores" de los dones que Dios nos ha dado, especialmente en nuestras propias vidas. Ore al Señor, diariamente, y pregúntele como lo llama a vivir la vida que Él ha destinado para usted.

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Sirach 27:30—28:9

Sirach advises all to forgive the faults of their neighbor. Only by forgiving the sins of others, can a person expect to be forgiven his sins.

Second Reading: Romans 14:7-9

Paul stresses that no one is his own master; we are responsible to the Lord, and we belong to him in both life and death.

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

This narrative points out the difference between mercy and justice. When Peter asks how often he should forgive someone who wrongs him, Jesus answers, "...not seven times: I say seventy times seven times." Jesus then narrates the story of the king who was merciful to his official by forgiving him all his debts, but this same official showed no mercy to his own servant.

Religious Education Registration 2026-2027



Parish office- 1232 George St.

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

Classes begin Wednesday, September 30th

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



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 offer a course of Pre-Cana on **Friday nights at 8:00PM.**

Place: Office building *If you are interested, please talk to Fr. Marcin or Fr. Bernardo.*

ANNUAL ²⁰²⁶ APPEAL

The Appeal is continuing. 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 **\$26,230.00!** Please make a gift online today:



BEST CHURCH Seniors are back on **Thursday, September, 17th at 12 Noon.** We will have a light lunch and a presentation on the Icons of the church by Sr. Antonnia Cooper from

Mt. St Mary House of Prayer. You are welcome to bring your own Icon picture for an explanation of its meaning. And...as always bring a friend,

All Seniors and almost Seniors are welcome!

Calling All Women of Faith!

Parish Women's Faith and Fellowship Group.

This revitalized ministry invites women of all ages and backgrounds to deepen their relationship with Christ, build meaningful connections with one another, and live out their faith through prayer, reflection, service, and fellowship.

Whether you are a mother, grandmother, student, professional, retiree, or simply seeking a place to belong, this group is for you. We welcome women wherever they are on their faith journey and believe that every woman has a unique gift to share in the life of the Church.

Why Are Women's Faith Groups So Important? Women's faith groups provide sacred spaces where women can grow spiritually, share their joys and challenges, and find strength in community. In today's busy and often isolating world, women need places where they are seen, heard, and valued, not only for what they do, but for who they are as beloved daughters of God.

Faith groups offer encouragement, deepen understanding of our Catholic faith, and foster lasting friendships rooted in Christ's love. They help women discover new ways to pray, serve, and lead within their families, parish, and community. Together, we learn that we are not alone and that God works powerfully through the support, wisdom, and witness of others.

Women's groups are places of healing, purpose, and mission, where we listen to God and to one another as we discern how the Holy Spirit is calling us to grow and serve.

Join Us!

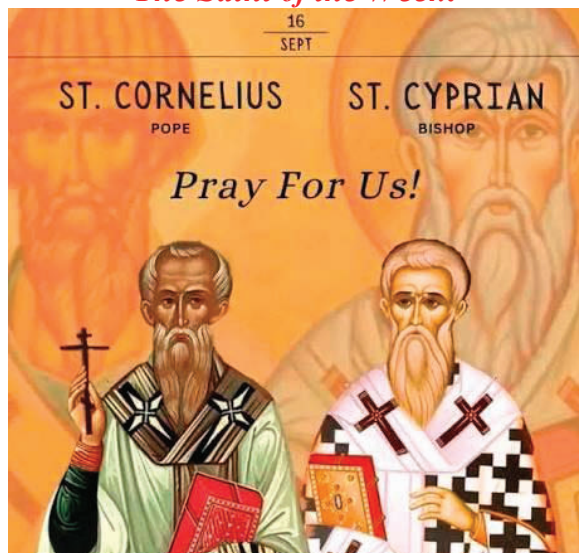
Fall 2026 Meeting

Tuesday, September 29, 2026 , 5:00 PM - 7:00PM

In the Parish Center

Bring a friend and join us for an evening of prayer, conversation, encouragement, and fellowship.
please contact:

Mary Landriau at mlandriau703@verizon.net.

The Saint of the Week:

Today, we honor Saints Cornelius and Cyprian. Nothing is known about Cornelius's upbringing and early life. In 251, he was elected as the twenty-first pope, a position he held until his death two years later. Cyprian, born Thascius Caecilius Cyprianus, was the son of wealthy pagan parents in North Africa. Well educated in Greco-Roman literature and rhetoric, he had a successful career as a lawyer and teacher. Around the age of forty-six, he converted to Christianity and gave much of his wealth away, devoting himself to prayer and asceticism. Within three years, he was ordained a deacon, a priest, and finally, the Bishop of Carthage, in modern-day Tunisia, North Africa, around the year 249.

In 250, Roman Emperor Decius implemented the first empire-wide, systematic persecution of Christians. During the Decian persecutions, Pope Fabian had refused to offer sacrifices to the Roman gods and was martyred. Afterward, ongoing and fierce persecutions made it impossible to elect a successor to the Chair of Saint Peter. During that time, various priests in Rome, including a priest named Novatian, helped govern the Church. After fourteen months, once Emperor Decius died and the persecutions ended, a group of bishops gathered in Rome and elected Cornelius as the new pope. Novatian was displeased with this development and had himself ordained as a second bishop of Rome, positioning himself as the first antipope.

By 251, the Church faced internal conflict regarding what should be done with those who had complied with the sacrifices. These individuals were referred to as lapsi for lapsing in their faith. Some bishops supported reconciliation of the lapsi, while others did not. Among the supporters of mercy were Pope Cornelius and Bishop Cyprian.

The rival Bishop of Rome, Novatian, believed that the Church did not have the authority to forgive those who had offered sacrilegious sacrifices to the Roman gods. As a result, he believed that the lapsi could not be restored to full communion with the Church and readmitted to the sacraments. Pope Cornelius firmly disagreed, maintaining that after repentance and a

period of public penance, the lapsi could be welcomed back into communion with the Church.

After Novatian became antipope, Pope Cornelius convened a synod of sixty bishops in Rome who supported him and jointly excommunicated Novatian. From there, bishops across the Roman Empire were invited to show their support for the legitimate pope and for the pastoral approach of reconciling the lapsi. One of the most fervent supporters of Pope Cornelius was Bishop Cyprian, who was among the sixty bishops who attended the synod in Rome.

After Emperor Decius died, Gallus became the Roman emperor. Within a year of becoming emperor, he had Pope Cornelius exiled to Centumcellae (modern-day Civitavecchia), a city just outside Rome, on the Mediterranean coast. A year later, due to harsh conditions, Pope Cornelius died in exile and is considered a martyr.

In 253, Valerian became Roman emperor. He initiated persecution of Christians. He first decreed that the clergy had to participate in Roman pagan rituals. A year later, he ordered the death of bishops, priests, and deacons who refused to renounce their faith. Laypeople were stripped of their titles, and their property was confiscated. Bishop Cyprian was among those arrested in 257. In 258, he was put on trial in Carthage, and when he refused to renounce his faith, he was beheaded. When the sentence was pronounced, he exclaimed, "Thanks be to God!" In gratitude, he even gave his executioner a gold coin.

Saints Cornelius and Cyprian lived and served Christ and His Church during a tumultuous time. They faced severe persecution from the state and led the people of God through that suffering by word and example. They also vigorously supported the unity of the Church, were merciful to sinners, and were true shepherds of their flocks.

MASS SCHEDULE**Saturdays:****5:00PM English Mass of Anticipation****Sundays:****9:00 AM English****10:30 AM Polish****12:30 PM Spanish****Monday - Saturday:****9:00 AM English****Office Hours:****Monday – Friday 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM****After hours by appointment**



Collection for September 6

On Line...\$ 3,016.00
In Pew.... \$ 4,928.00
Total..... \$ 7,944.00



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From Fr. Marcin

This Sunday's Gospel passage offers us a lesson on forgiveness which does not deny wrongdoing, but recognizes that human beings, created in God's image, are always greater than the evil they commit. Saint Peter asks Jesus: "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" To Peter, forgiving the same person seven times already seemed the maximum possible. Perhaps to us it may already seem too much to do so twice, but Jesus answers, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven," meaning always. You must always forgive. He confirms this by telling the parable of the merciful king and the wicked servant, in which He shows the inconsistency of the man who was first forgiven and then refused to forgive.

The king in the parable is a generous man who, spurred by compassion, forgives an enormous debt — "10,000 talents": enormous — to a servant who beseeches him. That same servant, however, as soon as he meets another servant like himself who owes him 100 denarii — which is much less — behaves in a ruthless way and has him thrown in prison. The servant's inconsistent conduct is the same as ours when we refuse to forgive our brothers and sisters. Whereas the king in the parable is the image of God who loves us with a love that is so rich in mercy as to welcome us, love us and forgive us continuously.

From the time of our Baptism, God has forgiven us, releasing us from an intractable debt: original sin. That is the first time. Then, with boundless mercy, He forgives us all our faults as soon as we show even the least sign of repentance. This is how God is: merciful. When we are tempted to close our hearts to those who have offended us and tell us they are sorry, let us remember our Heavenly Father's words to the wicked servant: "I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?" Anyone who has experienced the joy, peace and inner freedom which come from being forgiven should open him or herself up to the possibility of forgiving in turn.

Jesus wished to introduce the teaching of this parable into the Our Father. He linked the forgiveness which we ask from God with the forgiveness that we should accord our brothers and sisters: "And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors." God's forgiveness is the symbol of his "overflowing" love for each of us. It is the love that leaves us free to distance ourselves, like the prodigal son, but which awaits our return every day. It is the resourceful love of the shepherd for the lost sheep. It is the tenderness which welcomes each sinner who knocks at His door. The Heavenly Father — our Father — is filled, is full of love and He wants to offer it to us, but He cannot do so if we close our hearts to love towards others.

Fr. Marcin

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