

# PEACE



*Glory* to **GOD** in the highest  
heaven, and on earth *peace* to  
those on whom his *favor* rests.

LUKE 2:14

*Church of St. Bernard of Clairvaux and St. Stanislaus Kostka*  
*1235 George Street, Plainfield, New Jersey 07062*  
*(908) 756-3393 ~ email: [office@bestchurch.net](mailto:office@bestchurch.net) ~ fax: (908) 756-3059*  
*December 10, 2023*

## **CHOIR**

We are fortunate enough to have a Parish Choir that has a full multi-lingual repertoire; English, Polish and Spanish. The Choir rehearses on Thursday at 7:00 PM. Instrumentalists are welcomed, either to play solo or with our choir. A parish orchestra made up of children and adults rehearses and performs several times during the year. If you are interested in joining or for more information or just to volunteer, contact the office at (908) 756-3393.

## **PARISH REGISTRATION**

New parishioners are most welcome and are encouraged to call the parish office and make an appointment to register. When you are moving from the parish, please notify the parish office.

## **SPONSOR CERTIFICATES**

Call the Office during regular hours.

## **STEWARDSHIP AND TITHING**

Stewardship calls us to freely give of our time, talent, and treasure for the good of our parish family and community. God gives us everything! I give Him back my tithe. Tithing is God's plan to support His Church. Full tithing means 10% of gross income to God – 5% for your parish church and 5 % for other charities.

## **VOCATIONS**

Those who are recognizing the call to the priesthood, diaconate, or the religious life are invited to speak to a priest or contact the Archdiocesan Vocations Office at 973-497-4365, or at [www.rcan.org/vocation/index.htm](http://www.rcan.org/vocation/index.htm)

## **ST. BARTHOLOMEW ACADEMY**

2032 Westfield Ave., Scotch Plains NJ  
908-322-4265 OR [www.STBACADEMY](http://www.STBACADEMY)



**Saturday – December 9... St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin**  
9:00AM...+ Clara Perrucci, req. Family  
5:00PM...+ Patricia Jurevich. req Mary Ellen and Bob Chanda

**Sunday – December 10 ...Second Sunday of Advent**  
9:00AM...+ Antonio Simeone, req. Lucia Simeone  
11:00AM...+ Jacek Pieczur, req. Sister Agnes and Family  
1:00PM...+ Martha Sue Turnbull,  
req. Mary Ellen and Bob Chanda

**Monday – December 11... St. Damasus**  
9:00AM... + John Gibriano, req. Patty Casterline

**Tuesday – December 12... Our Lady of Guadalupe**  
9:00AM... + Carmela and Luigi Parillo, req. Antonia Riello

**Wednesday – December 13... St. Lucy**  
9:00AM... + Tommy Alexander, req. Barbara and Larry Lane

**Thursday – December 14... St. John of the Cross**  
9:00AM... The Health and Wellbeing of  
the Benetiz-Cuertas Family

**Friday – December 15... Advent Weekday**  
9:00AM... Health of Robert Chanda, req. Karole and Eddie  
7:00PM... (Pol.) God's Blessing for Karolina i Andrzej Szkoda  
req. Mom

**Saturday – December 16... Advent Weekday**  
9:00AM...+ Maria Riello, req. Antonia Riello  
5:00PM...+ Eddie Shewmaker req Mary Ellen and Bob Chanda

**Sunday – December 17 ...Third Sunday of Advent**  
**Gaudete Sunday**  
9:00AM... + Ricardo and Maddalena Negri,  
req. Daughter and Family  
11:00AM...+ Renata Grzelak, req. Sister-in-Law  
1:00PM...+ People of the Parish

The Tabernacle Candle will burn this week for  
**All Our Parish Faithful Departed.**

The Bread and Wine used at Mass for the month of  
**December is in memory Mr. & Mrs. Stanislaw Gabrukiewicz at the request of Granddaughter Karole and Family.**

**YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED** for those whose health is challenged in any way especially **Lisa Motos, Ray Van Haute, Gloria DeMatteo, Kate Rooney, Olivia Schiffer and Bob Chanda.**

**OUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED** for all the **Faithful Departed** especially **Loreli Canavesio-Konsko.**

### **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

#### **First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11**

Isaiah emphasizes that from the desert to the mountains, all people must prepare for "the glory of the Lord to be revealed." Rather than looking only at God's power, Isaiah focuses on God's kindness, comparing it to a shepherd who feeds and cares for his flock.

#### **Second Reading: II Peter 3:8-14**

For those who are impatient for the Second Coming, Peter explains that time is different to God than to people. He reminds them that they should be grateful for the extra time to prepare, and concentrate on striving to become all that God would want them to be.

#### **Gospel: Mark 1:1-8**

In this passage, John the Baptist stressed the importance of the coming of the Messiah. He acknowledged that he was only the messenger, and unfit to "stoop and untie his sandal straps." John urged them to prepare for one far holier than he, who would walk among them.

**REV. MARCIN FUKS**

**PASTOR**  
**PASTOR@BESTCHURCH.NET**  
**908-756-3393 EXT - 103**

**REV. BERNARDO GARCIA**

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**JEFFERY PERSHAY**

**MAINTENANCE**

**IVETH PARADA**

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**  
**BESTRELIGIOUSED@GMAIL.COM**

**THE TRUSTEES OF THE PARISH:**

**MARY ELLEN CHANDA**  
**JOHNNY SKALSKI**

**OFFICE ADDRESS**

**368 SUMNER ANENUE, PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY 07062**

**The Saint of the Week**

**St. Lucy**

*(December 13)*

St. Lucy is a virgin and martyr of Syracuse in Sicily, whose feast is celebrated on December 13th. According to tradition, Saint Lucy was born to rich and noble parents in the year 283. Her father was of Roman origin, but his early death left her dependent upon her mother, whose name was Eutychia.

Lucy had consecrated her virginity to God, and she hoped to devote all her worldly goods to the service of the poor. Her mother, Eutychia, arranged a marriage for her, but for three years she managed to postpone the marriage. Lucy prayed at the tomb of Saint Agatha to change her mother's mind about her faith. As a result, her mother's long haemorrhagic illness was cured, and she consented to Lucy's desire to live for God.

Saint Lucy's rejected bridegroom, Paschasius, denounced Lucy as a Christian. The governor planned to force her into prostitution, but when guards went to fetch her, they could not move her even when they hitched her to a team of oxen. The governor ordered her to be killed instead.

After a gruesome torture which included having her eyes torn out, she was surrounded by bundles of wood which were set afire, but the fire quickly died out. She prophesied against her persecutors, and was then executed by being stabbed to death with a dagger. The meaning of her name is "light" or "lucid" which led to her patronage with eyes.

**SACRAMENTS**

**Baptism**

Baptisms are celebrated throughout the month on Saturdays and Sundays, except during Lent. First-time parents are required to complete Baptismal Preparation. Call the office at (908) 756-3393.

**Marriage**

Arrangements should be made one year in advance to begin your preparation process. Please reach out to us as soon as engagement is announced, and we will help make the arrangements. Visit our website or call the office at (908) 756-3393 for an appointment.

**Eucharist for Homebound**

If you or someone you know is homebound or unable to attend Mass in person and would like to have a Eucharistic Minister bring Communion at home, please reach out to Fr. Marcin Fuks at: [Pastor@bestchurch.net](mailto:Pastor@bestchurch.net). We will make arrangements for Communion visits on a weekly basis.

**Anointing of the Sick**

Contact office for appointment for homebound or infirmed.

**RCIA**

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) introduces adults to the Catholic faith and tradition. The RCIA Process is for adults who seek full initiation in the Catholic Church, including those who have never been baptized, Christians desiring to convert from other denominations, and baptized Catholics desiring to receive Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation. Please contact the office for an appointment.

**Mass Schedule:**  
**Monday - Saturday**  
**9:00 AM**  
**Saturday: 5:00 PM Mass**  
**In English**  
**Sunday: 9:00 AM Mass**  
**In English**  
**11:00 AM Mass in Polish**  
**1:00 PM in English**

**Office Hours:**  
**Monday – Friday**  
**10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**



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



### 2 Niedziela Adwentu Rok B

Niekiedy zbyt słaby jest bodziec popychający nas ku Bogu i zdaje się niemal, że Bóg milczy... dlatego nawrócenie jest przede wszystkim łaską, o którą trzeba Go prosić. Istotnym elementem nawrócenia jest pragnienie poszukiwania Boga, które ostatecznie, dzięki Jego łasce, prowadzi nas do komunii z Nim.

Przykład Jana Chrzciciela, wskazującego swoim współczesnym drogę do nawrócenia. Jest to analogiczna droga, jaką proponuje nam obecnie Adwent. Nawrócenie to przede wszystkim proces, co wiąże się ze „zmianą kierunku i orientacji. Chodzi zatem o zmianę mentalności.

Z nawróceniem wiąże się żal z powodu popełnionych grzechów, pragnienie uwolnienia się od nich, postanowienie wyrugowania ich z życia na zawsze. Aby wykluczyć grzech, trzeba także odrzucić wszystko, co się z nim wiąże: mentalność światową, przesadne cenieńie wygody, przyjemności, dobrego samopoczucia, bogactwa. Przykład tego oderwania przedstawia nam po raz kolejny dzisiejsza Ewangelia w postaci Jana Chrzciciela: człowieka surowego, który wyrzeka się rzeczy zbędnych i szuka tego, co istotne. Oto pierwszy aspekt nawrócenia: oderwanie od grzechu i światowości.”

Inny istotny element nawrócenia, wiąże się z pragnieniem „poszukiwania Boga i Jego królestwa”. Dlatego nie jest celem samym w sobie rezygnacja z wygod i mentalności świata, lecz ma to nas prowadzić do osiągnięcia komunii z Bogiem.

Proces „zmiany mentalności” to trudna droga:

„Istnieje bardzo wiele więzów, które trzymają nas blisko grzechu: niestałość, zniechęcenie, niegodziwość, szkodliwe środowisko, złe przykłady. Niekiedy zbyt słaby jest bodziec popychający nas ku Bogu i zdaje się niemal, że Bóg milczy. Jego obietnice pocieszenia wydają się nam odległe i nierealne, podobnie jak obraz opiekuńczego i troskliwego pasterza, który rozbrzmiewa dziś w czytaniu z proroka Izajasza (por. Iz 40, 1, 11). Wówczas mamy pokusę, by powiedzieć, że prawdziwe nawrócenie jest niemożliwe, i zamiast nawrócić się od świata do Boga, grozi nam trwanie w „ruchomym piasku” kiepskiego życia.”

Nawiązując to tych trudności, że nawrócenie jest przede wszystkim łaską, o którą należy „zdecydowanie prosić Boga”. Otwierając się na Jego dobroć i czułość, jesteśmy w stanie porzucić to, co „fałszywe i ulotne, dla tego, co jest prawdziwe, piękne i trwa wiecznie”.

*Papież Franciszek, 6 grudnia 2020 r.*



#### **Szkoła Polska Doksztalająca**

Zajęcia w Polskiej Szkole działającej przy naszej Parafii odbywają się w każdy poniedziałek w okresie roku szkolnego od godz. 5:30 do 8:00PM.

*Kontakt:* [polskaszkolaplainfield@outlook.com](mailto:polskaszkolaplainfield@outlook.com)  
Dyrektorka Szkoły: Beata Benewiat  
Tel. 732-266-4310

#### **15 grudnia godz. 19:00**

Msza Sw. Po Polsku z roratami  
o godzinie 18:30 wspólna modlitwa  
godzinkami

## Word

**STEWARDSHIP** "Prepare the way of the Lord..."  
MARK 1:3

We are all called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, puts us on the path to holiness and is an example for others to be holy also. We are responsible not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well. How are you helping others to go to heaven?

## Worship



### Sunday Mass December 24<sup>th</sup>

9:00AM and 1:00PM... Mass in English  
11AM... Mass in Polish

### Masses for Christmas

#### December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve

6:00PM... Mass in English  
10:00PM... Mass in English  
12:00 Midnight... Mass in Polish

#### December 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day

9:00AM... Mass in English  
11:00AM... Mass in Polish

#### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available on a regular basis on Saturdays at 4:15PM and on Sunday mornings after Masses as well as after weekday Masses simply by requesting a celebration of the sacrament.

#### THE CHOIR

Rehearsals are on Thursdays in the church at 7:00 PM. If you are interested in joining our Choir, please contact the office, or simply just come on a Thursday evening to one of the rehearsals.

#### MOUNT ST. MARY HOUSE OF PRAYER

Mt. St. Mary House of Prayer offers many programs that invite us to be stretched and grow in relationship with ourselves, others and God. For more information see the website:

or email [msmhope@msmhope.org](mailto:msmhope@msmhope.org)

#### DEVOTION

The Rosary is prayed daily before the 9AM Mass during the week. Exposition is on Thursdays after the 9AM Mass, closing with Benediction at Noon.

#### ROSARY SOCIETY NEWS

The Rosary Mass is celebrated on the First Sunday of the month. Next Rosary Mass is Sunday January 7th, with a business meeting in the Parish Commons.

#### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS AND LECTORS

Anyone who may be interested in serving as a Eucharistic Minister or Lector, please contact Bill Shlala at [wgshlala@gmail.com](mailto:wgshlala@gmail.com) or call (908) 755-8560.

#### ALTAR SERVERS

Many thanks to our Altar Servers. We could use a few more especially for the Christmas Season. If you are interested in helping as an Altar Server, please contact Fr. Bernardo or Fr. Marcin.

## YOUTH

#### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

All Religious Education children are required to attend Sunday Mass every weekend.

#### Sacrament of Reconciliation December 13 for levels 7 & 8

*Parents with their child go directly to the church; the Catechist will be there to take attendance.*



**At the time of the Pandemic, we needed to cancel our traditional Christmas Pageant at the Vigil Mass. This year, we will once again have the pageant on December 24<sup>th</sup> before**

**the 6:00pm Mass on Christmas Eve. Levels 1-3 will have character parts, levels 4-6 will have short reading parts, and levels 7 & 8 will assist with characters, readers, and stage functions. Sign up sheets are in the open area of the church for your participation.**

**For more information contact:**  
**Karole Lechowski in the office or email**  
**[office@bestchurch.net](mailto:office@bestchurch.net)**

### **ST. BARTHOLOMEW ACADEMY**

St. Bartholomew Academy in Scotch Plains is a perfect place for a Catholic Education founded on learning a true Catholic way of life and achieving excellence in academics. For information, please contact 908-322-4265

## **Community Building**



### **BAKE SALE FOR CHRISTMAS**

*The Polish School is continuing to have their traditional Christmas Bake*

*Sale this weekend. Please stop by and see what wonderful and delicious Holiday treats they made.*

### **BESTCHURCH SENIORS**



Next Senior Meeting is Thursday, December 21st at 12:30PM, with a Christmas Luncheon.

Please call the office to let us know if you will be attending. The luncheon will be catered and we need to have a head count in advance. The Bestchurch Seniors Meeting is open to all seniors and almost seniors on the third Thursday of the month for programs, socialization and tasty treats.

### **NON-PERISHABLE FOOD COLLECTION**

We are continuing to collect food in the open area of the church for Starfish to be distributed throughout the Union County area during the Christmas Season. Dates should be current and food non-perishable.

### **ST. HELEN'S CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP**

**A support group for those caring for elderly or chronically ill loved ones** meets on the first Wednesday of the month at the St. Helen's Parish Center in Westfield. The next meeting is Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30PM. For more information call Marilyn Ryan at 908-232-1214.

**Please Pray for our Parishioners in the Military**  
**SSG Katarzyna Czajka, US Army**  
**Ryan Percy, USN**  
**Declan Cassidy, US Army**

### **GIVING TREE – Gift Cards Drive**

Our parish community has been gathering gift cards of any amount to be given during the Christmas Season to the **Carmen Hernandez Center for Life** on Park Avenue in Plainfield.

The Carmen Hernandez Center is a non-profit community assisting the surrounding neighborhood. It provides medical care while working with the disadvantaged, underprivileged and troubled youth. They offer family and marriage counseling, all for the common good of the community.

The work at the center is inspired by the belief that families are the core of our society and within the family, the woman has a very special and integral role. With this experience, doctors, nurses, medical assistants, and many other volunteers collaborate to provide health care services to the women in the community of Plainfield and surrounding areas, making present the good news of God's love.

The Center works with women to help with many medical issues that arise in a woman's life including pregnancy. They help the community *by offering counseling and support. Their aim is that through charity, within the medical vocation, others may experience the love of God in their lives.*

Gift cards can be from Target, Shop-Rite, Walmart, Amazon. etc. Your gift cards will help the Center and families in need. Please leave them in the collection basket, parish office, or the sacristy by December 15th when they will be distributed. Any questions, contact Theresa Cosmas at 908-889-1945 or email [theresa.cosmas@gmail.com](mailto:theresa.cosmas@gmail.com)

## **FINANCE**



### **ONLINE GIVING**

***IT IS POSSIBLE TO AUTOMATE YOUR FAITH GIVING TO OUR PARISH GIVING. SIMPLY GO TO OUR PARISH WEBSITE.***

### **Collection for December 3rd**

**Online.....\$ 3,063**

**In Pew.....\$ 4,848**

**Total Collection for December 3rd.....\$7,911.00**

## Calendar of Events

### SUNDAYS:

#### December 10...Second Sunday of Advent

9:00AM, 1:00PM...Mass in English  
11:00AM...Mass in Polish  
(Polish School Bake Sale)

#### December 17... Third Sunday of Advent

**Gaudete Sunday**

9:00AM, 1:00PM...Mass in English  
11:00AM...Mass in Polish

#### December 24...Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:00AM and 1:00PM...Mass in English  
11:00AM...Mass in Polish

#### Christmas Eve Masses

6:00PM, 10:00PM...Mass in English  
12:00 Midnight...Mass in Polish

### MONDAYS:

#### **December 11, 18**

5:30PM...Polish School

#### **December 18**

7:00PM...Choir (extra practice for Christmas)

#### December 25...Christmas Day

9:00AM...Mass in English  
11:00AM...Mass in Polish

**+++++NO 1:00PM Mass+++++**

### TUESDAYS:

#### **December 26**

7:00PM... (Pol.) Special Mass

### WEDNESDAYS:

#### **December 13, 20**

6:30PM...Religious Education

#### **December 13**

6:30PM... **Reconciliation Service Levels 7 & 8**

### THURSDAYS:

#### **December 14, 21**

7:00PM...Choir Rehearsal

### FRIDAYS:

### SATURDAYS:

#### **December 9, 16, 23, 30**

4:15PM...Confession

## *From Fr. Marcin's Desk*

### *Dear Brothers and Sisters,*

For a week we have been experiencing the liturgical Season of Advent: a season of openness to the preparation for Holy Christmas when the Lord came to dwell among this fallen humanity to renew it from within. A message full of hope resounds in the liturgy of Advent, inviting us to raise our gaze to the ultimate horizon, but at the same time to recognize the signs of the God-with-us in the present.

On this Second Sunday of Advent the Word of God announces to the Israelites liberation at last: "Comfort, comfort my people", the Prophet says in God's name. "Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended" (Is 40: 1-2). This is what the Lord wishes to do in Advent: to speak to the heart of his people and through it to the whole of humanity, to proclaim salvation. Today, too, the Church raises her voice: "Make straight in the desert a highway for our God" (Is 40: 3). For the peoples worn out by poverty and hunger, for the hosts of refugees and for all who are suffering grave and systematic violations of their rights, the Church stations herself as a sentinel on the lofty mountain of faith and proclaims: "Behold your God! Behold, the Lord God comes with might" (Is 40: 10).

This prophetic announcement is fulfilled in Jesus Christ, who with his preaching and, later, with his death and Resurrection, brought the ancient promises to fulfilment, revealing an even deeper and more universal perspective. He inaugurated an exodus that was no longer solely earthly, in history, hence temporary, but rather radical and definitive: the transition from the kingdom of evil to the Kingdom of God, from the dominion of sin and death to that of love and life. Therefore, human hope goes beyond the legitimate expectations of social and political liberation because what Jesus began is a new humanity that comes "from God," but, at the same time germinates on our earth, to the extent that it lets itself be fertilized by the Lord's Spirit. Thus, it is a question of fully entering the logic of faith: believing in God, in his plan of salvation, and at the same time, striving to build his Kingdom. Justice and peace are in fact gifts of God, but require men and women to be the "good ground" ready to receive the good seed of his Word.

*In the Love of God,*

*Fr. Marcin Fuks*

*Phone: 908 756 3393 ext. 103*

*E-mail: [pastor@bestchurch.net](mailto:pastor@bestchurch.net)*





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In Loving  Memory





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**SEPTEMBER 12, 1964**  
We Love & Miss You Very Much,  
Your Five Kids!!

  
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