

Fourth SUNDAY OF **LENT**

**One thing I do
know. I was blind
but now I see!**

JOHN 9:25

*Church of St. Bernard of Clairvaux
and St. Stanislaus Kostka
1235 George Street, Plainfield, New Jersey 07062
(908) 756-3393 ~ email: office@bestchurch.net
March 19, 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 7:30 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

ST. BARTHOLOMEW ACADEMY

2032 Westfield Ave., Scotch Plains NJ
908-322-4265 OR www.STBACADEMY.ORG



Saturday – March 18... St. Cyril

9:00AM...+ Dolores and Robert Renz, req. Johanna Merkle
5:00PM...+ John Gordon, req. Mary Ellen and Bob Chanda

Sunday – March 19...Fourth Sunday of Lent Laetare Sunday

9:00AM...+ Andrea and Rosa Negri, req. Sister and Family
11:00AM...+ Józef Blazejowicz, req. Wife and Children
1:00PM..... Health of Yvonne Thomas, req. Friends

Monday – March 20... St. Joseph

9:00AM...+ Andrea and Rosa Negri, req. Angela Negri

Tuesday – March 21... Lenten Weekday

9:00AM...+ Modesta Estevez,
req. Bob and Mary Ellen Chanda

Wednesday – March 22... Lenten Weekday

9:00AM...+ Valentina and Stanley Buchala, req. Family

Thursday – March 23... St. Turibius of Mogrovejo

9:00AM...+ Rosalba Salgado Cuartas, req. Alba Ledy Cuartas

Friday – March 24... Lenten Weekday

9:00AM...+ Michael Nebzydoski, req. Linda Scheidermann

Saturday – March 25... The Annunciation of the Lord

9:00AM...+ Gennaro Cirillo, req. Mr. and Mrs. Armond Apisa
5:00PM...+ Edward and Mary Canda,
req. Mary Ellen and Bob Chanda

Sunday – March 26...Fifth Sunday of Lent

9:00AM...+ Stefano and Giovanna Apisa, req. Son and Family
11:00AM...+ Tadeusz Deręgowski, req. Wife and Children
1:00PM....+ Joseph Byrne, req. Kruse Family

The Tabernacle Candle will burn this week for
The Health and Recovery of a Friend at the request of Donna Donnelly.

The Bread and Wine used at Mass for the month of
March is in memory of all our Parish Faithful Departed.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED for those whose health is challenged in any way especially **Carter Razz, Dennis Knapp, Theresa Salerno, Percy Ramsammy, Ray Van Haute, Lisa Motos, Nancy Toth and Yvonne Thomas.**

OUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED for all the **Faithful Departed.**

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

In seeking a King for the Israelites, Samuel traveled to Jesse of Bethlehem, who had seven sons. Commanded by God to ignore the elder sons, Samuel anointed the youngest, David.

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

Paul exhorts the Ephesians to live as "children of light" in goodness and truth and to avoid evil deeds "done in darkness."

Gospel: John 9:1-41

Jesus performs the miracle of giving sight to the man born blind. Because Jesus performed this miracle on the Sabbath, the Pharisees called him a "sinner," but the blind man said, "He is a prophet." Jesus later reveals to the blind man that He is the Son of Man.

OUR PARISH STAFF:

REV. MARCIN FUKS
ADMINISTRATOR
PASTOR@BESTCHURCH.NET
908-756-3393 EXT. 33

KAROLE LECHOWSKI
SECRETARY
OFFICE@BESTCHURCH.NET

JEFFERY PERSHAY
MAINTENANCE

THE TRUSTEES OF THE PARISH:

MARY ELLEN CHANDA
JOHNNY SKALSKI

SACRAMENTS

Baptism

Contact Rectory for appointment.

Reconciliation

After all daily Masses and Saturday,
4:30m to 5:00pm, or by appointment.

Marriage

Arrangements should be made one year in
advance. Contact Office for
appointment.

Anointing of the Sick

Contact Office for appointment for
homebound or infirmed.

The 2023 Annual Appeal is underway!

We have **\$15,465** already pledged. This
is approximately almost **51%** of our goal
of **\$30,242**.

The outpouring of support from many
parishioners like you helps sustain the
important ministries across the
Archdiocese of Newark. These programs
help to make our own parish a more
vibrant place of worship.

If you have yet to give, please pick up a
pledge envelope at the back of the
church or visit www.rcan.org/sharing.

Thank you for your prayers and support.
Please make a gift online today by



visiting rcan.org/sharing.

How to Report Abuse

Archdiocese takes very seriously any and all allegations
of sexual misconduct by members of the clergy,
Religious and lay staff of the Archdiocese. We
encourage anyone with knowledge of an act of sexual
misconduct to inform us so that we may take appropriate
action to protect others and provide support to victims of
sexual abuse. Call the Archdiocesan Office of Youth
Protection at 201-407-3256.

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



4 Niedziela Wielkiego Postu

Uzdrowienie jest nowym stworzeniem

W niedzielę Wielkiego Postu liturgia — posługując się fragmentami z Ewangelii św. Jana — prowadzi nas prawdziwym szlakiem chrzcielnym. W zeszłą niedzielę Jezus obiecał Samarytance dar «wody żywej»; dziś, uzdrawiając niewidomego od urodzenia, objawia się jako «światłość świata»; w przyszłą niedzielę, gdy wskrzesi swojego przyjaciela Łazarza, objawi się jako «zmartwychwstanie i życie». Woda, światło, życie to symbole chrztu, sakramentu, który «zanurza» wierzących w tajemnicy śmierci i zmartwychwstania Chrystusa, wyzwalając ich z niewoli grzechu i dając im życie wieczne.

Rozważmy krótko opowiadanie o niewidomym od urodzenia (J 9, 1-41). Zgodnie z rozpowszechnioną w tamtej epoce mentalnością, uczniowie są przekonani, że ślepotą jest następstwem grzechu popełnionego przez niego bądź przez jego rodziców. Jezus obala ten przesąd i mówi: «Ani on nie zgrzeszył, ani rodzice jego, ale [stało się tak], aby się na nim objawiły sprawy Boże». Ile pociechy dają nam te słowa! Słyszymy w nich autentyczny głos Boga, który jest przezorną i mądrą Miłością! Patrząc na człowieka dotkniętego ułomnością i cierpieniem, Jezus nie myśli o ewentualnych winach, ale o woli Boga, który stworzył człowieka, aby żył. Dlatego oświadcza z powagą: «Trzeba nam pełnić dzieła Tego, który Mnie posłał (...). Jak długo jestem na świecie, jestem światłością świata». I natychmiast przystępuje do dzieła: robi błoto z garstki ziemi i śliny i smaruje nim oczy niewidomego. Ta czynność nawiązuje do stworzenia człowieka. Zostało ono przedstawione w Biblii za pomocą symbolicznego obrazu ziemi, której Bóg nadał kształt i którą ożywił swoim tchnieniem. «Adam» znaczy bowiem «ziemia», i rzeczywiście ludzkie ciało jest złożone z pierwiastków zawartych w ziemi. Uzdrawiając człowieka, Jezus dokonuje nowego stworzenia. Uzdrowienie wywołuje jednak gorącą dyskusję, bo Jezus czyni to w szabat, co zdaniem faryzeuszy oznacza złamanie nakazu świętowania. I tak na końcu opowiadania Jezus i niewidomy zostają

«wypędzeni precz» przez faryzeuszy: pierwszy za złamanie prawa, a drugi dlatego, że choć odzyskał zdrowie, ciąży na nim piętno grzechu od urodzenia.

Niewidomemu, którego uzdrowił, Jezus objawia, że przyszedł na świat, aby przeprowadzić sąd, aby oddzielić niewidomych, którzy mogą przejrzeć, od tych, którzy nie dają się uzdrowić, bo myślą, że są zdrowi. Rzeczywiście pokusa, by zbudować sobie ideologiczny system bezpieczeństwa, jest w człowieku silna: nawet religia może stać się elementem tego systemu, podobnie jak ateizm czy laicyzm, a to powoduje, że zaślepia nas własny egoizm. Drodzy bracia, pozwólm Jezusowi, by nas uzdrowił, bo On może i chce dać nam światło Boga! Wyznajmy, że jesteśmy ślepi, że jesteśmy krótkowzroczni, a zwłaszcza przyznajmy się do «wielkiego występku», jak określa to Biblia, do pychy. Niech nam w tym pomoże Najświętsza Maryja Panna, która rodząc Chrystusa w ciele, wydała na świat prawdziwą światłość.

Benedykt XVI, «Anioł Pański», 2 marca 2008

DROGA KRZYŻOWA – Piąteki o 7 PM

Gorzkie Żale – Niedziela po Mszy

Rekolekcje Parafialne po polsku:

Niedziela, 26 marca 2023

Zaczynamy Msza Św. o 11 AM, a zakończymy Gorzkimi Żalami o 3PM

Prosimi zgłaszać się i zapisywać na rekolekcje. Lista będzie dostępna po Mszy św. albo podczas trwania Polskiej Szkoły.

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

Dyrektorka Szkoły: Beata Benewiat

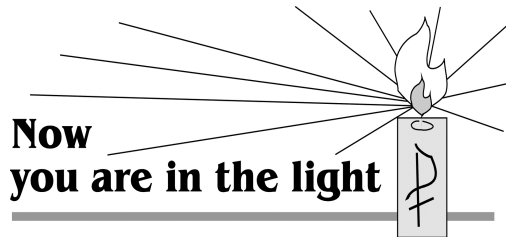
Tel. 732-266-4310

WORD

STEWARDSHIP ***"Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart."*** (1 SAMUEL 16:7)

Cardinal Joseph Tobin, C.Ss. R.

How often do we invest our time, talent and treasure in creating an appearance that does not matter at all to God? We strive to impress with our clothing, home, career, possessions, car and other marks of distinction. But none of these illusions of greatness will impress God. Instead, He will look into our hearts to see how much we love Him, how much we loved others and how we showed that love by the way we used our time, talent and treasure here on earth.



WORSHIP

THE ENGLISH STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Thursday, March 23 at 6:00PM

Presider: The Choir

Thursday, March 30 at 6:00PM

Presider: The Knights of Columbus

THE POLISH STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays, March 24, 31

Time: 7:00PM

ANNIVERSARIES TO BE HONORED AT CATHEDRAL

Once again the celebration of anniversaries of 5, 25 and 50 years of marriage will be celebrated at the Cathedral Basilica. *Those celebrating 50 years of marriage will be recognized at Mass on April 16th at 3:00PM celebrated by Cardinal Joseph Tobin, and those celebrating 5 and 25 years of marriage will be recognized at Mass on May 7, at 3:00PM celebrated by Bishop Gregory Studerus.* If you plan on attending, please call Karole in the parish office to register so we can keep the Archdiocese informed.

ROSARY DEVOTION

The Rosary is prayed on a regular basis every day before the 9:00AM Mass.

The Blessed Sacrament is exposed after the Mass on Thursdays with Benediction at 11:00AM.



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available on a regular basis on Saturdays at 4:30PM and on Sunday mornings after Masses as well as after weekday Masses simply by requesting a celebration of the sacrament.

There will be a Parish Penance Service on Monday, March 27th at 7:00PM to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

RENEW INTERNATIONAL

Gatherings continue on Thursdays, at 6:30pm in the Office Commons on March 23rd and March 30th.

Fellow parishioners have been gathering in small faith-sharing groups each week to explore, pray and reflect on who we are called to be in our families, our parish, our neighborhood, our nation, and our world today

What, Me Holy?

When we think about the question "What message to the world is your life?" How can we create that message, one step at a time, day by day? Think of your strengths. What unique paths to holiness might your particular strengths and gifts be indicating for you?

"The important thing is that each believer discern his or her own path, that they bring out the very best of themselves, the most personal gifts that God has placed in their hearts, rather than hopelessly trying to imitate something not meant for them." -Pope Francis *Rejoice and Be Glad*, 11

You are all invited and encouraged to attend even if you have missed the previous sessions.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

We are in need of a few more Eucharistic Ministers (EM's) for the 5:00PM Saturday and 1:00PM Sunday Masses. If you are an EM and would be able to help out occasionally at these Masses, please contact Bill Shlala at wqshlala@gmail.com or call (908) 755-8560.

COMMUNITY BUILDING

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



The Knights of Columbus is open to all men of the parish. If you would like more information about the Knights of Columbus, please contact John Beckman at jabeckman111@gmail.com

FISH FRY

The Rosary Society together with the Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a **Fish Dinner on Friday March 31st. at 6:00PM.**



Tickets are \$20.00 pp and will be sold after Masses on the weekends of March 18th, 19th and 25th, 26th or in the Parish Office daily from 10am – 2pm. The evening will also include a “Silent Auction”.

BESTCHURCH SENIORS **We are back!!**



We are returning after what seems to have been a long break and are all looking forward to our return. Best Church Seniors will meet this month **Thursday, March 23rd at 1:00PM**. The March meeting will center around Easter and discussing the upcoming programs. All Seniors and “almost seniors” are welcome to attend. Everyone is looking forward to reuniting with fellowship and discussion along with some tasty treats.

WOMAN'S GROUP VALENTINE'S PARTY

The residents of the Plainfield Park Hotel would like to thank the Woman's Group and the Parishioners who donated items for their very special Valentines. Each resident who attended the party received a bag with socks, personal care items, and clothing. The candy was a special surprise treat. You have all demonstrated so much love to these residents.

ST. ANNE SOCIETY

United Family is so grateful for the baby shower held here for the mothers in our area. The bags looked so pretty packed with diapers, wipes, blankets and other items for babies. And the moms bags... **WOW** with socks, hats and gloves. A warm thank you to Linda Mayers for organizing this event.

YOUTH

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We are coming to the end of our Religious Education Classes for this season. The last class is March 29th. All classes are having the opportunity to walk the Stations of the Cross on assigned Wednesdays. First Communion is on Sunday, April 30th at the 9:00AM Mass in English and the 11:00AM Mass in Polish. If your child is going to be absent for Religious Education Class, please contact the office to let us know.

FINANCE



TAX STATEMENT FOR ONLINE DONORS

2022 Tax statements for Parishioners who donate through Parish Giving have been mailed directly to their

home. You may also go online to your account to view or print.

TAX STATEMENTS FOR DONORS AT MASS

If you donate directly at church and would like the 2022 Tax Statement, please call the office or e-mail office@bestchurch.net



ONLINE GIVING

It is possible to automate your Faith Giving to our Parish Giving, simply go to our parish website. You will see an icon just like the one above on the left or open the scan code above on your phone, and it will take you directly to the site.

Faith Giving for St. Bernard and St. Stanislaus

Collection for March 12

Online \$ 1,038.00

In Pew..... \$ 3,301.00

Total for March 12.... \$ 4,339.00

Calendar of Events

SUNDAYS:

March 19...Fourth Sunday of Lent Laetare Sunday

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

March 26...Fifth Sunday of Lent

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

April 2...Palm Sunday – Passion of the Lord

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

MONDAYS:

March 20, 27

5:30PM...Polish School

March 27

7:00PM...Penance Service

TUESDAYS:

WEDNESDAYS:

March 22, 29 (Last Class)

6:30PM... Religious Education Class

THURSDAYS:

March 23, 30

10:00 AM –11:00 AM...Exposition of the
Blessed Sacrament

11:00AM.. Benediction

1:00PM....Best Church Senior Meeting

6:00PM....Stations of the Cross (English)

6:30PM....Renew International ***“What, Me Holy?”***

7:30PM....Choir practice in the Church

FRIDAYS:

March, 24, 31

7:00PM..Stations of the Cross (Polish)

March 31

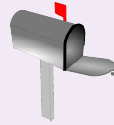
6:30...Fish Fry in the Cafeteria

SATURDAYS:

March 18, 25

4:30PM... Confession

5:00PM... Mass in English



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

The Fourth Sunday of Lent, also called “Laetare Sunday”, is inviting us to rejoice in the salvation that the Lord is giving us as we continue into the discipline of Lent. Today, we are invited to rejoice together with the whole Jerusalem, because our salvation is close at hand!

In today's first reading, we hear how God is choosing David, who is unfitting by the standards of the world to be a king. David, was elected not because of human standards, but because of his heart according to the heart of God. His heart was guiding him to be a shepherd to the people of Israel. Psalm 23, recalls a good shepherd, who is tending to us and gives us what we need.

At times, it is difficult to see the presence of the Lord as the Good shepherd guiding us through life. That's why in the Gospel we hear the story of the man born blind. Jesus Christ came to open the eyes of this poor man. Our blindness, is that we do not see the love of God in our lives, and that we constantly beg for this love in affections, pleasure, money and other things.

We are continuing a faith-sharing group: “What, Me Holy?” on Thursdays at 6:30pm in the Commons. It's a great opportunity to enter into this Lenten Season! Monday, March 27th we will have a Penance Service at 7PM, where we will have the chance to see the love of God in the sacramental forgiveness. On March 31st, there will be a fish fry Friday!

In the Love of God,

Fr. Marcin Fuks

Phone: 908 756 3393 ext. 33

E-mail: pastor@bestchurch.net

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