



Church of St. Bernard of Clairvaux and St. Stanislaus Kostka

1235 George Street, Plainfield, New Jersey 07062

(908) 756-3393 ~ email: office@bestchurch.net ~ fax: (908) 756-3059

April 21, 2024

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 tithing. 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 mail at www.rcan.org/vocation/index.htm

ST. BARTHOLOMEW ACADEMY

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

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

Saturday – April 20... Easter Weekday

9:00AM... + Mary Casendino, req. Mary Ellen Chanda
5:00PM... + Bob Chanda, req. Ann Garner

Sunday – April 21... Fourth Sunday of Easter

9:00AM... +Lena Ciallella, req Pat, John and Erica Zimmerman
11:00AM.. Adam i Dorota Paszczyk, 20th Wedding Anniv. and
+Taraszkwskich i Paszczyk Family,
req. Children
God's Blessings for Prezemyslaw Blazejowicz
40th Birthday, req. Mother and Family

1:00PM...+ Eloise Dias, req. Ann Garner

Monday – April 22... Easter Weekday

9:00AM...People of the Parish

Tuesday – April 23... St. George and St. Adalbert

9:00AM...+ Emilia Carlson, req. Mary Ellen Chanda

Wednesday – April 24... St. Fidelis

9:00AM... + Bill and Ruth Sullivan, req Daughter

Thursday – April 25... St. Mark

9:00AM...+ Luz Mila Duque Garcia, req. Alba Ledy Cuartas

Friday – April 26...Easter Weekday

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

Saturday – April 27... Easter Weekday

9:00AM... + Adelfio Dilorio, req. Armond and Anna Apisa
5:00PM... + Janice Turczyn, req. Al and Barbara St. Louis

Sunday – April 28... Fifth Sunday of Easter

10:00AM...+ Robert DeMair, req. K of C Council 552
+ Bronislawa i Stanislaw Lukanus,
req. Radecki Family
1:00PM...+ Robert Chanda, req. Ann Garner

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

The Tabernacle Candle will burn this week for all our **Parish Faithful Departed.**

The Bread and Wine used at Mass for the month of **April is for all the deceased members of the Parish.**

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED for those whose health is challenged in any way especially **Ray Van Haute, Gloria DeMatteo, Kate Rooney, Marian Parcinski, Dennis Powers and Lucille Thurston.**

OUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED for all the **Faithful Departed** especially for **Emilia Carlson and Daniel Cash.**

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 4:8-12

Peter explains to the elders that his healing of a cripple was done in the name of Jesus Christ. He reminds the elders that they crucified Jesus, but God rose him up so that all people could be saved in his name.

Second Reading: I John 3:1-2

John expresses amazement at the fact that God allowed us to be called his children. Although we are unsure exactly what we will be after this life, we do know that we will see God as he is and be like him.

Gospel: John 10:11-18

Jesus speaks of a shepherd working only for pay, with no real concern for the sheep being well cared for. But Jesus is our shepherd and would lay down his own life for all those in his flock. God loves him for his willingness to sacrifice himself for the sake of all God's children

The Saint of the Week

St. George

(April 23)

It is uncertain when Saint George was born and historians continue to debate to this day. However, his death date is estimated to be April 23, 303 A.D.

George was born to Gerontios and Polychronia, a Roman officer and a Greek native of Lydda. Both were Christians. When George was old enough, he was welcomed into Diocletian's army. By his late 20's, George became a Tribunus and served as an imperial guard for the Emperor at Nicomedia.

On February 24, 303 A.D., Diocletian, who hated Christians, announced that every Christian the army passed would be arrested and every other soldier should offer a sacrifice to the Roman gods.

George refused to abide by the order and told Diocletian, who was angry but greatly valued his friendship with George's father. When George announced his beliefs, Diocletian was unable to keep the news to himself.

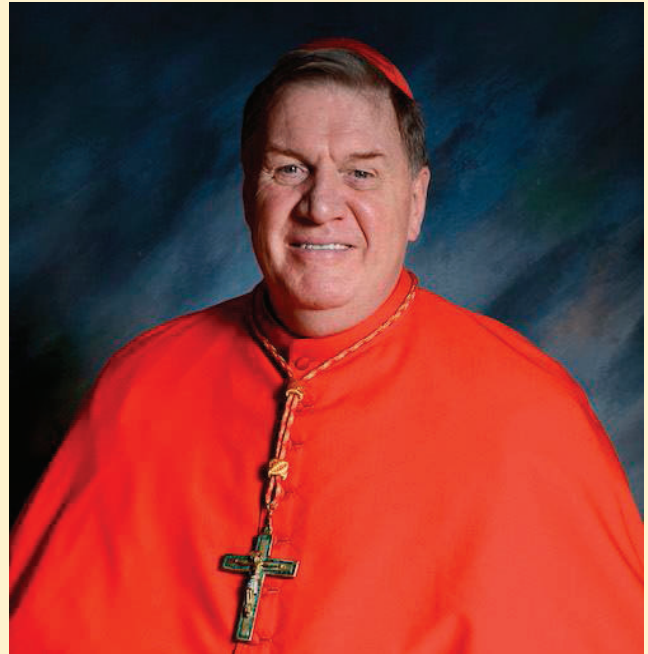
In an effort to save George, Diocletian attempted to convert him to believe in the Roman gods, offered him land, money and slaves in exchange for offering a sacrifice to the Roman gods, and made several other offers that George refused.

Finally, Diocletian ordered George's execution. In preparation for his death, George gave his money to the poor and was sent for several torture sessions. He was lacerated on a wheel of swords and required resuscitation three times, but still George did not turn from God. On April 23, 303 A.D., George was decapitated before Nicomedia's outer wall.

There are several stories about George fighting dragons. One story was about a dragon or crocodile that made its nest at a spring which provided water in Libya. The people were unable to collect water and so attempted to remove the dragon from its nest on several occasions. It would temporarily leave its nest when they offered it a sheep each day, until the sheep disappeared and the people were distraught. This was when they decided that a maiden would be just as effective as sending a sheep. The townspeople chose the victim by drawing straws. This continued until one day when the princess' straw was drawn.

The monarch begged for her to be spared, but the people would not have it. She was offered to the dragon, but before she could be devoured, George appeared. He faced the dragon, protected himself with the sign of the Cross, and slayed the dragon.

Visit of Cardinal Tobin



*Sunday, April 28th
at 10AM*

*We will celebrate a bilingual
Mass at 10AM*

(the Mass at 9 & 11AM will be combined for his visit)

*A Brunch will follow
after the 10AM Mass*

**First Communion
Retreat Saturday,
May 4th 10:00AM**

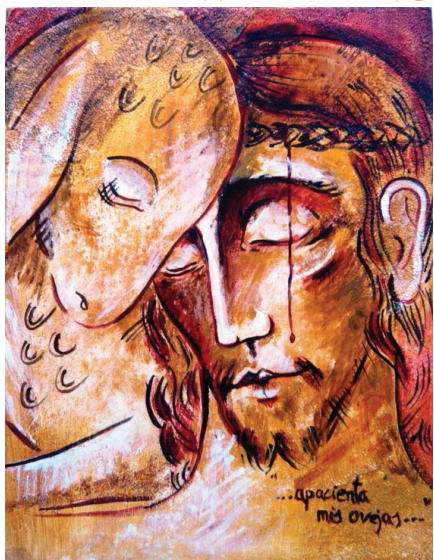
**First Holy Communion
Sunday, May 5th
11:00AM in Polish
1:00PM in English.**



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



4 NIEDZIELA WIELKANOCNA



Homilia św. Grzegorza Wielkiego, papieża

"Ja jestem dobrym pasterzem i znam owce moje - to znaczy miłuję je - a moje mnie znają". Jakby chciał otwarcie powiedzieć: miłujący są posłuszni. Ten bowiem, kto nie miłuje prawdy, wciąż jeszcze jej nie zna.

Ponieważ słyszeliście już, bracia najmilsi, o naszej odpowiedzialności, pomyślcie i wy, na podstawie słów Pana, również o waszej odpowiedzialności. Rozważcie, czy jesteście Jego owcami, rozważcie, czy poznaliście Go, rozważcie, czy znacie światło prawdy. Poznacie zaś to nie przez wiarę, lecz przez miłość. Poznacie to nie przez wierzenie, ale przez czyny.

Świadczy o tym sam Jan Ewangelista, gdy pisze: "Kto mówi, że zna Boga, a nie zachowuje Jego przykazań, ten jest kłamcą".

Dlatego też Pan mówi dalej: "Podobnie jak Mnie zna Ojciec i Ja znam Ojca, i życie moje oddaję za moje owce". To tak jakby powiedział: Dowodem tego, że znam Ojca i że On Mnie zna, jest to, iż oddaję moje życie za owce; to znaczy: jak bardzo miłuję Ojca, pokazuję przez to, że umieram za owce.

O tych owcach Pan znowu mówi: "Moje owce słuchają mego głosu, a Ja je znam, idą za Mną i Ja im daję życie wieczne". Mówi także

o nich nieco wyżej: "Jeżeli ktoś wejdzie przeze Mnie, będzie zbawiony, wejdzie i wyjdzie, i znajdzie pastwiska". Wejście - to znaczy osiągnięcie wiary; wyjście - od wiary do oglądania Boga; od wierzenia do kontemplacji, bo znajdzie pastwiska wielkiego nasycenia.

Tak więc owce znajdują pastwiska, bo ktokolwiek z szczerym sercem idzie za Nim, żywi się pokarmem trwającym wiecznie. Tymi pastwiskami owiec są radości wewnętrzne wiecznie kwitnącego raj. Pokarmem wybranych jest obecność oblicza Bożego. Gdy się weń wpatrują, dusza syci się bez końca pokarmem życia.

Podążajmy, bracia najmilsi, do tych pastwisk, na których będziemy się radować spotkaniem z ich znakomitymi mieszkańcami. Niech zaprasza nas do tego radość tych, którzy tam żyją szczęśliwie. Rozpalmy więc, bracia, nasze serca, niech wiara zapala się do tego, co jest jej przedmiotem, niech nasze pragnienia kierują się ku dobrom niebieskim; taka miłość jest już dążeniem do nich.

Niech żadne przeciwności nie odwracają nas od duchowego wesela tego święta, bo jeśli tylko ktoś mocno pragnie podążać do ukazanego mu celu, to temu pragnieniu nie przeciwstawią się żadne trudy wiodącej tam drogi. A więc niech nas nie skusi ułuda zwodniczego szczęścia, bo zaiste, niemądry to wędrowiec, który pociągnięty urokiem ukwieconych łąk zapomina, dokąd miał zamiar skierować swe kroki.

LG tom II: IV Niedziela Wielkanocna, str. 593-594

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*

Word

STEWARDSHIP *"I am the good shepherd...and I lay down my life for the sheep...and they will heed my voice."* - JOHN 10:14-16

When you pray, do you only ask Jesus for the things that you want? Do you ever ask Jesus what He wants from you? How do you listen for His response? Many times, Jesus responds in "quiet whispers" that are not so obvious. So, take time every day, in silence, to actively listen for His voice.



DEVOTION

The Rosary is prayed daily before the 9AM Mass during the week.

On Thursdays after 9AM Mass the

Blessed Sacrament is exposed, closing with Benediction at 11:00AM.



ROSARY SOCIETY NEWS

The Rosary Mass is celebrated at the 9:00AM Mass on the First Sunday of the month followed by a short meeting after Mass in the Parish Commons. Next Rosary Mass and meeting, **Sunday, May 5th**.



WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASSES

The Archdiocese of Newark is once again preparing the annual tradition of honoring those couples in our Archdiocese who will be celebrating five, twenty-five and fifty years of valid marriage for 2024. These anniversary liturgies will be held in the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark. The 50th celebrated by Cardinal Joseph Tobin; the 5th and 25th celebrated by Bishop Gregory Studerus.

May 5, 12:00PM - 5 years & 25 years

June 2, 12:00PM - 50 years

The presence of these couples will be a tender witness to the strength and stability of Christian Marriage in today's society. If you have families that are still playing 'catch-up' with their celebrations, any couple who would have celebrated their Silver or Gold Anniversary in those years stunted by covid restrictions may still join us as well.

Please Note: Their Certificates will reflect the past year they missed as the 25th or 50th.

Please contact the office if you plan to attend.

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: www.msmhope.org or email msmhope@msmhope.org

Mass Schedule:

- **Monday – Saturday: 9:00 AM**
- **Saturday: 5:00 PM Mass - English**
- **Sunday: 9:00AM & 1PM Mass - English**
- **11:00 AM Mass - Polish**
- **First Fridays: 7:00PM Mass - Polish**
- **Office Hours:**
- **Monday – Friday: 10:00AM - 2:00PM**
- **Website and Live Mass:**
- www.bestchurch.net

YOUTH

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education students must attend Sunday Mass every weekend, and remember to have their booklets signed. Mass Booklets are due back April 24th – last class.

Confirmation Retreat

Saturday May 11th 10:00AM

Confirmation Sunday, June 2

1:00PM Mass

ALTAR SERVERS

Be joyful to serve at the altar, to be closer to Jesus!

Serving God as an Altar Server is a wonderful way to grow in faith as well as in responsibility, friendship, and other virtues. This ministry is open to all youths: boys as well as girls.



MOTHER SETON REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL SPRING OPEN HOUSE

Meet students and teachers to learn what a Catholic school education for girls can do for your daughter. You are invited Wednesday, April 24th at 7:00PM to an evening of conversation and tours. Register online at www.motherseton.org

SAINT PETER'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL

There will be a Spring Open House on Sunday, May 5th 1:00 – 3:00 PM.

Saint Peter's Prep is an independent, college preparatory school for boys, and it remains New Jersey's only Jesuit high school. For more information on the Spring Open House, please call 201-547-6465.

COMMUNITY BUILDING

BESTCHURCH SENIORS



The Senior Meeting is open to all **seniors** and **almost seniors** on the third Thursday of the month at 12:30PM. Our next meeting will be the last meeting for the season on May 17th with a light luncheon and end with

prayer through drumming, by Barbara Woodzell. If you know of anyone who might be interested in joining, please invite them to come even if it's our last meeting all seniors are welcome.

DIAPER COLLECTION

Through the efforts of our members of the St. Anne Society, the Rosary Society and our parish community we will be collecting diapers, pull-ups and wipes to be donated to United Families in Plainfield. Our parish has always generously supported this ministry, and the families in Plainfield are very appreciative of our caring donations. Diapers and Pull-ups should be in sizes of 3 or larger and can be left in the open area of the church or dropped off at the office. We will deliver them to United Families in early May. For more Information, please call the parish office.



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 by Starfish. Dates should be current and food non-perishable. Thank you for all your support throughout the years.

SEASON 4 of THE CHOSEN

Hosted by Holy Trinity Church



Previous seasons' viewing is not necessary to join us!

Four Consecutive Mondays:

April 15th to May 6th

Holy Trinity Parish Center

512 Westfield Ave, Westfield, NJ

7:30 -10:00 pm

All Are Welcome

Appropriate for ages 10 and up

Snacks, wine, coffee, & soft drinks served

Questions - Contact - Lauren Youssef - laurenyousséf@gmail.com

FINANCE



ONLINE GIVING

Collection for April 14

Online.....\$ 978.00

In Pew..... \$ 2906.00

Total Collection for April 14.....\$ 3884.00

Total for Easter 2024....\$19,810.00

Thank you for all your donations!!!

ANNUAL²⁰²⁴ APPEAL

The 2024 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.

We already collected **\$18,217.00**

63% of our goal for the AA 2024

Thank you for all your donations.

Calendar of Events

SUNDAYS:

April 21...Fourth Sunday of Easter

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

April 28...Fifth Sunday of Easter

10:00AM...Bilingual Mass - **Cardinal Tobin Visit**
Followed by a Brunch
1:00PM... Mass in English

May 5...Sixth Sunday of Easter

9:00AM ...Mass in English
11:00AM...Mass in Polish (**First Communion**)
1:00PM.....Mass in English (**First Communion**)

MONDAYS:

April 22, 29

5:30PM...Polish School

TUESDAY:

WEDNESDAYS:

April 24 (last Class)

Mass Booklets are due in class

6:30PM.....Religious Education Class

THURSDAYS:

April 25: May 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30

7:00PM...Choir Practice

FRIDAY:

SATURDAYS:

April 20, 27, May 4, 11, 18, 25

4:15...Confession

May 4

10:00AM...First Communion Retreat

Contact us:

Office Address

368 Sumner Avenue, Plainfield, New Jersey 07062

Rev. Marcin Fuks - PASTOR

908-756-3393 EXT – 103

Rev. Bernardo Garcia - Parochial Vicar

vicar@bestchurch.net 908-756-3393 EXT – 110

Karole Lechowski – Secretary

office@bestchurch.net

Iveth Parada - Religious Education

bestreligioused@gmail.com

From Fr. Marcin's Desk

4th Sunday of Easter

The Fourth Sunday of Easter, called "Good Shepherd Sunday", invites us each year to rediscover, with ever new astonishment, how Jesus defined himself, by reading it again in the light of his passion, death and resurrection. "The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep". These words are wholly fulfilled when Christ, freely obeying the will of the Father, is immolated on the Cross. He is "the Good Shepherd", because He offered His life in sacrifice for us all.

Christ is the true shepherd, who fulfils the loftiest model of love for the flock: He freely lays down His own life, no one takes it from Him, but He gives it for the sheep. In open opposition to false shepherds, Jesus presents Himself as the one true shepherd of the people. A bad shepherd thinks of himself and exploits the sheep; a good shepherd thinks of the sheep and gives himself. Unlike the mercenary, Christ the pastor is a careful guide who participates in the life of his flock, does not seek other interests, has no ambition other than guiding, feeding and protecting his sheep. All of this was at the highest price, that of sacrificing his own life.

In the figure of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, we contemplate the Providence of God, His paternal solicitude for each one of us. He does not leave us on our own!

It is necessary to follow the Good Shepherd. We priests are especially called to take on not the mentality of manager but that of servant, in imitation of Jesus who, in emptying Himself, saved us with His mercy. Next Sunday we will be visited by our Cardinal who will come to celebrate the bilingual Mass at 10AM. Hopefully you will be able to attend that celebration. As the people of God, let us pray for our shepherds that they may become the example of Christ - The Good Shepherd.

Christ is Risen!!!

Fr. Marcin Fuks

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.

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