

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

March 30, 2025

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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

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CHURCH ADDRESS

1235 George Street
Plainfield, NJ 07062

OFFICES & MAILING ADDRESS

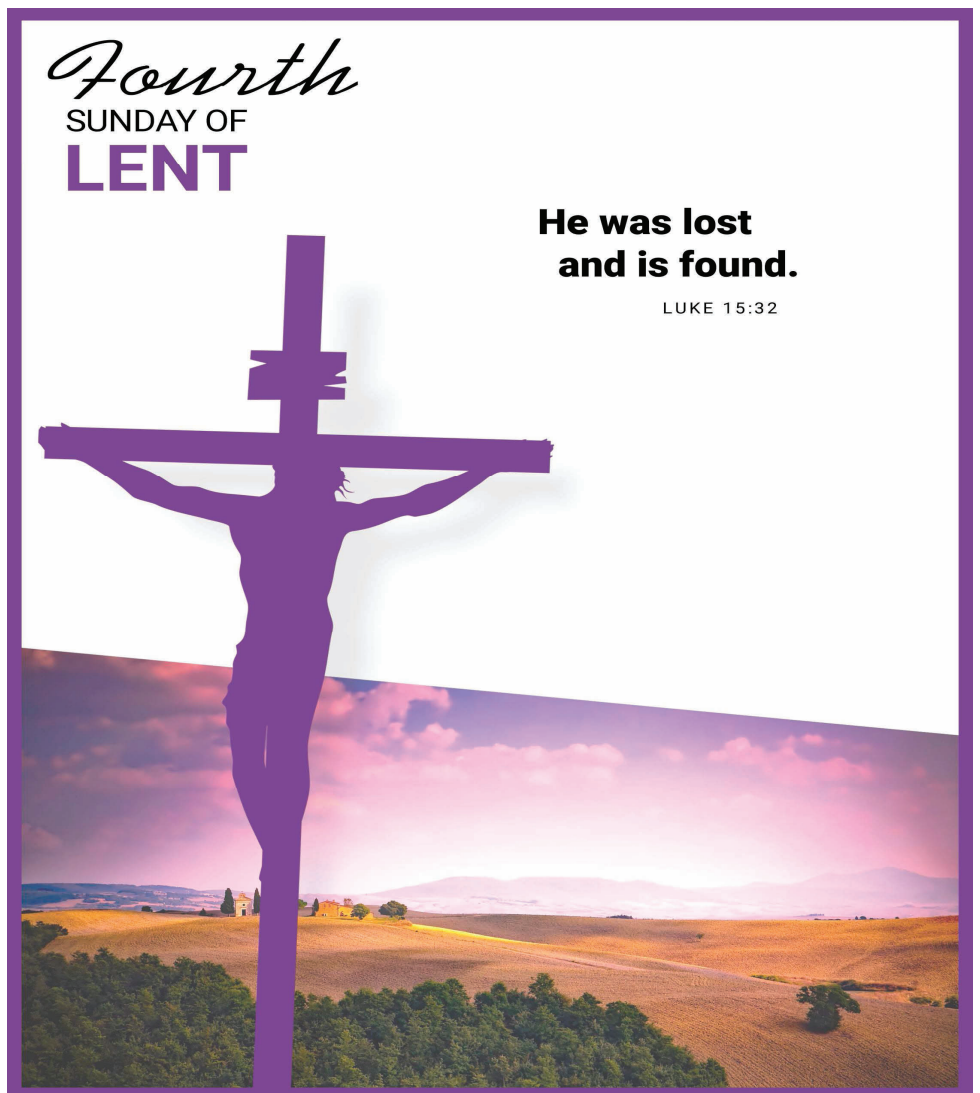
1232 George Street
Plainfield, NJ 07062

OFFICE HOURS

Sunday: Closed or by appointment

Monday - Friday: 10:00 am-2:00 pm

Saturday: Closed or by appointment



Fourth
SUNDAY OF
LENT

**He was lost
and is found.**

LUKE 15:32

BAPTISM: Celebrated throughout the year in accordance with the policy of the Archdiocese and to accommodate the needs of our Parish Family. Attendance at a preparation session may be required. You must be a registered and active family for at least 90 days before a date for Baptism will be scheduled. Please call the Parish Office for an appointment.

MARRIAGE: Arrangements should be made with a priest as soon as possible. One year prior to marriage or as soon as engagement is announced is recommended.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Levels 1 - 8: Wednesday,
6:30 - 7:45 pm

MINISTRY TO THE SICK: In the event of serious illness or when someone is hospitalized, the parish office should be notified. The Eucharist and the Sacrament of the Sick will be celebrated with anyone requesting them. Remember, the Hospital cannot notify us on their own.

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 adults 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 tithes. 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 on the website www.rcan.org/vocation/index.htm

ST. BARTHOLOMEW ACADEMY

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



Saturday – March 29... Lenten Weekday

9:00AM.....+ People of the Parish
5:00PM... + Stefano and Grovanna Apisa,
req. Angela and Lisa

Sunday – March 30...4th Sunday of Lent - Laetare Sunday

9:00AM.... + Matteo Riello, req. Antonia Riello
11:00AM...+ Bogdan Dziuba i Józef Błażejowicz,
req. Błażejowicz z rodziną
...+ Zofia Ponichtera, req. Agnieszka i Marek
... Barbara i Henryk Staniewscy, 55 rocznica ślubu
1:00PM ... People of the Parish

Monday – March 31... Lenten Weekday

9:00AM...+ Michele Mastroianni, req. Angela Negri and Family

Tuesday – April 1... Lenten Weekday

9:00AM...+ Stefano and Grovanna Apisa, req. Son and Family

Wednesday – April 2... St. Francis of Paola

9:00AM...+ Michele Mastroianni req. Lisa and Angela Apisa

Thursday – April 3...Lenten Weekday

9:00AM... + Frank Kazmierski, req. Antonia Riello

Friday – April 4... St. Isidore

9:00AM...+ Eulalia Duque Garcia (5th Anniv.)
req. Alba Ledy Cuartas
7:00PM...+ (Pol.) Edward Dec, req. Siostra

Saturday – April 5... St. Vincent Ferrer

9:00AM.....+ People of the Parish
5:00PM... Health of Janet Berry, req. Family

Sunday – April 6...5th Sunday of Lent

9:00AM....+ Frank Kazmierski, req. Armond and Anna Apisa
11:00AM...+ Eugeniusz Samul, req. Syn i Rodzina
...+ Frank Kazmierski, req. Olga Skolka
1:00PM ... People of the Parish

The Tabernacle Candle will burn this week in **Memory of Franciszek Kapolka, at the request of the Family.**

The Bread and Wine for the Month of March is in **Memory of Meagan Renee Canavesio, req. Karole Lechowski, Mother.**

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED for those whose health is challenged in any way especially **Cathy and Jack Rooney, Marian Parcinski, Olivia Schiffer, Al Caraldo, Jackie Powers, Margaret Macknowsky and Barbara Byleckie.**

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: Joshua 5:9a, 10-12

Joshua and the Israelites celebrated Passover in Jericho. This was the first time they had eaten the produce of the promised land. After this, there was no more bread sent from heaven because they were able to eat the yield of the land.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Paul tells us that anyone living in Jesus is a new creation because God has reconciled with us through Christ. As an ambassador for Jesus, Paul implores that the Corinthians be reconciled to God through Jesus.

Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

The Pharisees grew disgusted with Jesus because of his compassion toward sinners. So Jesus told them a story of a son who squandered his inheritance. When a famine broke out, he returned home and asked his father to become a hired hand. His father instead welcomed him with a joyful celebration, just as God is overjoyed when a sinner returns to him.

Lenten Scripture Sharing

The Scripture readings for Lent are particularly rich and a major source of help in living a good Lent. Everyone is welcome to join us on Monday evenings to meditate together on the readings for the upcoming Sunday with Fr. Marcin.

Experience the power of the Word of God!!!

Mondays of Lent at 6:00PM

in the Community room.

Continuing Monday! March 31st

**Stations of the Cross
Fridays during Lent**

6:00PM - English

7:00PM – Polish



Religious Education Classes are on

Wednesdays at 6:30PM.

All Religious Education children are required to attend Sunday Mass every weekend and have their Mass Attendance Books signed.



PRAYER SHAWL

We continue to make baby blankets for our Baptisms and lap covers for those in hospitals.

We have plenty of yarn for you.

If you are able to crochet or knit and would like to help, please call Karole in the office.



- Visit: www.formed.org/signup
- Find **St. Bernard and St. Stanislaus** by parish name, address, or zip code
- Enter your email – and you are in.

BestChurch Seniors

celebrated St. Joseph and St. Patrick last Thursday.

Because of Holy

Thursday next month,

Seniors meet **Wednesday**

April 16th at 12:30

in the Parish Center on George Street.



ROSARY SOCIETY

The Rosary is prayed every day before the 9AM Mass, including praying the Divine Mercy.

On Thursdays the *Blessed Sacrament* is exposed after 9AM Mass with Benediction at 10:45AM. Next Rosary Meeting is April 6th.



CHOIR

Why not become a member?

Rehearsals are at 7:00PM on Thursdays.

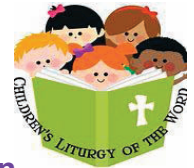
If you are interested in joining the choir, please contact the office, or simply just come to one of our rehearsals in the church at 7PM.

Liturgy of the Word

April 6th. Liturgy of the Word is about breaking open the

Word of God for young children

that is more appropriate for their level of understanding. It is celebrated at the 9AM Mass on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month for grades K-2, in the Church Chapel.



We would like to continue the liturgy for children every Sunday. We need more help only once a month. Contact Karole in the office or at Mass for more information. .

CHAIR EXERCISE for Seniors

A gentle practice in which postures are performed while seated and/or with the aid of a chair. Patty Casterline has offered to orchestrate the classes weekly for about 4 weeks as she has in the past. In order to make this happen, we need know how many would be interested in joining. We have already started a signup sheet, so if you are interested call the office for more information and proposed dates and times for classes.



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

IV Niedziela Wielkiego Postu

Niedziela Laetare

Z komentarza św. Augustyna, biskupa, do Ewangelii św. Jana

Pan powiedział krótko: "Ja jestem światłością świata. Kto idzie za Mną, nie będzie chodził w ciemnościach, lecz będzie miał światło życia". W słowach tych kryje się równocześnie nakaz i obietnica. Wykonajmy to, co nam nakazał, żebyśmy nie pragnęli z bezwstydnym czołem tego, co obiecał, i żeby nam nie powiedział na swoim sądzie: "Czy zrobiłeś to, co nakazałem, by domagać się tego, co przyobiecałem?" Cóż takiego nakazałeś, Panie Boże nasz? Powie ci: "Abyś szedł za Mną". Prosiłeś o radę dla życia. Jakiego życia, jeśli nie tego, o którym powiedziano: "W Tobie jest źródło życia".

A więc róbmy, co trzeba, i idźmy za Panem. Rozerwijmy kajdany, które nam nie pozwalają kroczyć za Nim. Ale któż jest zdolny rozwiązać takie więzy, jeśli nam nie pomoże Ten, do którego powiedziano: "Ty rozerwałeś moje kajdany", o którym inny psalm mówi: "Pan rozwiązuje spętanych, Pan podnosi upadłych".

Za czymże idą ci, którzy są już wolni i podźwignięci, jeśli nie za Światłem, od którego słyszą słowa: "Ja jestem światłem świata; kto idzie za Mną, nie będzie chodził w ciemnościach", "ponieważ Pan oświeca ślepych". Pozwólmy się tylko oświecić, bracia, mając wiarę jako lekarstwo na ból oczu. Najpierw bowiem była Jego ślina zmieszana z ziemią, czym pomazany został ślepy od urodzenia. Myśmy się również narodzili z Adama ślepi, i dlatego potrzebujemy, aby Chrystus nas oświecił. Zmieszał ślinę z ziemią: "Słowo stało się ciałem i zamieszkało wśród nas". Zmieszał ślinę z ziemią; dlatego oznajmiono: "Prawda wyszła z ziemi". On zaś sam powiedział: "Ja jestem drogą, prawdą i życiem". Prawdą będziemy się wiecznie nasycać, gdy zobaczymy Ją twarzą w twarz, ponieważ i to mamy obiecane. Któż bowiem odważyłby się spodziewać tego, czego Bóg nie byłby łaskaw obiecać lub dać?

Będziemy oglądać twarzą w twarz. Apostoł mówi: "Teraz poznaję po części, jakby w zwierciadle, niejasno, wtedy zaś poznam twarzą w twarz". A Jan Apostoł pisze w swoim Liście: "Umiłowani, obecnie jesteśmy dziećmi Bożymi, ale jeszcze się nie ujawniło, czym będziemy. Wiemy, że gdy się objawi, będziemy do

Niego podobni, bo ujrzymy Go takim, jakim jest". Wielka to jest obietnica!

Jeżeli kochasz, idź! Kocham, mówisz, ale dokąd mam iść? Jeśli Pan, twój Bóg, powiedziałby do ciebie: "Ja jestem prawdą i życiem", to tęskniąc za prawdą i pożądam życia szukałbyś z pewnością drogi, którą byś mógł tam dojść, i mówiłbyś sobie: "Wielką rzeczą jest prawda, wielką rzeczą jest życie, gdyby tylko był sposób, aby mogła do nich dotrzeć moja dusza".

Szukasz drogi? Posłuchaj Chrystusa, który ci najpierw mówi: "Ja jestem drogą". Zanim oznajmił ci dokąd, przedtem zapowiedział, którędy masz iść. "Ja jestem, rzekł, drogą". Drogą dokąd? "I prawdą, i życiem". Najpierw powiedział, którędy masz iść, a potem oznajmił dokąd. "Ja jestem drogą, Ja jestem prawdą, Ja jestem życiem". Pozostając u Ojca jest Chrystus prawdą i życiem; oblekając się w ciało, stał się drogą.

Nie powiedziano ci: "Pracuj i szukaj drogi, abyś doszedł do prawdy i życia". Nie to ci powiedziano. Wstań, leniwcze, droga sama do ciebie przyszła i śpiącego obudziła cię ze snu, oby cię rzeczywiście obudziła! Wstań i chodź!

Może usiłujesz naprawdę chodzić, ale nie możesz, bo cię bolą nogi? Skąd ten ból w nogach? Czy gnane chciwością biegle może po wyboistej drodze? Lecz Słowo Boże uzdrawiało przecież i kulawych! Oto, powiadasz, nogi mam zdrowe, ale samej drogi nie widzę. On oświecił także ślepych!

LG tom II: IV Niedziela Wielkiego Postu, str. 220-222

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

Rekolekcje Parafialne.

- rozpoczną się mszą o godz. 11
- po mszy - poczystunek i konferencja w kafeterii szkolnej
- spowiedz od 2PM w kosciele
- Gozkie Zale – 3PM

4 kwietnia – Droga Krzyzowa o 7PM oraz msza sw

2025 LENTEN REGULATIONS

1. The days of both Fast and Abstinence during Lent are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the “Paschal Fast” to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily His Resurrection. The other Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence.

On a day of Fast, only one (1) full meal is permitted, and two (2) **smaller meals, which, if added together, would not exceed the main meal in quantity.**

Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast.

On a day of Abstinence, no meat may be eaten. Those who have reached the age of 14 are obliged by the law of abstinence.

2. The obligation to observe the laws of Fast and Abstinence “substantially”, or as a whole, is a serious obligation.

3. The Fridays of the year, outside of Lent, are designated as days of penance, but each individual may substitute for the traditional abstinence from meat some other practice of voluntary self-denial as penance.

4. The time for fulfilling the Paschal Precept (Easter Duty*) extends from the **First Sunday of Lent, March 9 to The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, June 15, 2025.**

**Canon 920, §1. All the faithful, after they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, are bound by the obligation of receiving Communion at least once a year.*

STEWARDSHIP

4th Sunday of Lent

“No longer was there manna for the Israelites, who that year ate of the yield of the land of Canaan.” - JOSHUA 5:12

CARDINAL JOSEPH TOBIN, C.Ss.R.

Over the forty years that the Israelites journeyed through the desert, God provided them with manna to eat. As soon as they were able to enjoy the fruits of the Promised Land the manna ceased. Likewise, God’s blessings to us may change over the years but it is important to trust that God will always provide us with all that we need.

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.



Most Rev. Elias R. Lorenzo, O.S.B.
Regional Bishop for Union County
ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

St. Teresa of Avila Parish Office
306 Morris Ave., Summit, NJ 07901

During the season of Lent, our Jubilee Church in Westfield, St. Helen’s Parish, is hosting a series on the Eucharist, and all parishes are welcome to attend the series on five consecutive Thursday evenings. This five-part series is modeled after the evening sessions of the Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis last summer.

The first four sessions will start with music and prayer. One of the talks from the congress will be followed by a personal testimony and then Eucharistic Adoration with prayer and music. (Prayer, Speakers and Holy Hour)

The final session is a celebration with an introduction to the “walk with one” initiative from the Eucharistic Congress with tips on how to walk with one this Easter Season.

Each remaining session begins at 7 PM and the breakout is as follows:

- **April 3: Eucharistic Missions (Church)**
- **April 10: "Walk with One" Celebration (Gym)**

New Mass Schedule:

After Easter 2025 we will add a Spanish Mass to our Sunday Mass schedule. The new schedule will be:

9:00 AM - English

10:30 AM - Polish

12:00 PM - English

1:30 PM – Spanish

This new mass schedule will start on
2nd Sunday of Easter, April 27th



OPERATION RICE BOWL

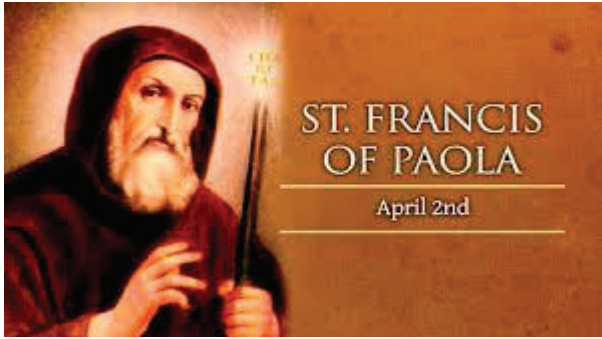
Your Lenten almsgiving through CRS Rice Bowl **make a global difference for millions of our sisters and**

brothers experiencing the greatest need.

Please take a rice bowl home, place it on your family’s dinner table for your Lenten Almsgiving and return it to church at the end of Lent.

Rice Bowl boxes are located at all the entrances of the church. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

The Saint of the Week



Francis was born in the Southern Italian region of Calabria during 1416. His parents, who maintained a strong devotion to St. Francis of Assisi, named their son after him. The boy's father and mother had little in the way of wealth, but they passed on a rich spiritual heritage to their son, with the hope that he would imitate his namesake.

The young Francis showed signs of a remarkable spiritual life, following his parents' lead in accepting poverty as a path to holiness. When his father placed him in the care of a group of Franciscan friars to be educated at the age of 13, Francis made a personal decision to live strictly according to the rule of their religious order.

After a year with the friars, Francis rejoined his parents as they made a pilgrimage to Assisi, Rome, and the historic Franciscan church known as the Portiuncula. When the family returned to their hometown of Paola, Francis – at the age of only 15 – asked his parents' permission to live as a hermit, in the manner of the earliest desert fathers such as St. Anthony of Egypt.

The young monk slept in a cave, and ate what he could gather in the wild, along with occasional offerings of food from his friends in the town. Within four years, two companions had joined him, and the townspeople assisted in building three individual cells for the hermits, as well as a chapel where a priest would offer Mass.

With approval from the local archbishop, this small group continued to grow into a larger religious order, without compromising the young founder's insistence on penitential and primitive living conditions. They were first known as the Hermits of St. Francis of Assisi, but later renamed the "Minimi" (or "Minims"), meaning "the least," and signifying their commitment to humility.

Francis and his monks were notable not only for their austere lifestyle, but also for their strict diet, which not only eliminated meat and fish, but also excluded eggs, dairy products, and other foods derived from animals.

Abstinence from meat and other animal products became a "fourth vow" of his religious order, along with the traditional vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. Francis instituted the continual, year-round observance of this diet in an effort to revive the tradition of fasting during Lent, which many Roman Catholics had ceased to practice by the 15th century.

Ironically, Francis' pursuit of solitary communion with God attracted attention from a range of important figures, including several European kings and other nobility along with Popes and bishops. Some of these men regarded Francis as a spiritual leader in a corrupt age, while others may have been more interested in his gifts of prophecy and miraculous healing.

Francis traveled to France at the request of Pope Sixtus IV, taking with him his nephew Nicholas, whom he had raised from the dead. There, the notoriously power-hungry King Louis XI was approaching the point of death himself, and hoped that Francis would perform a miracle and restore his health.

Francis told the king bluntly that he should not fear the end of his earthly life, but the loss of eternal life. From that time, the hermit became a close spiritual adviser to the king. He discussed the reality of death and eternity with him, and urged him to surrender his heart and soul to God before it was too late. The king died in Francis' arms in 1483.

Louis XI's son and successor, Charles VIII, maintained the monk as a close adviser, in spiritual and even political affairs. Nonetheless, Francis persisted in following the monastic rule he had developed while living in his hermitage outside of Paola. He continued as superior general of the Minim order, and founded new monasteries in France.

Francis sensed that his death was approaching at the age of 91, and returned to living in complete solitude for three months to prepare himself. When he emerged, he gathered a group of the Minim brothers and gave them final instructions for the future of the order. He received Holy Communion for the last time and died on April 2, Good Friday of 1507.

Pope Leo X canonized St. Francis of Paola 12 years after his death, in 1519. Although the Minim order lost many of its monasteries in the 18th century during the French Revolution, it continues to exist, primarily in Italy.



ANNUAL ²⁰²⁵ APPEAL

The 2025 Annual Appeal has begun!

We are grateful to share that we have already received **\$14,473** in pledges—thank you to all who have given so generously! Your support of the 2025 Annual Appeal helps sustain the mission of Christ in our Archdiocese. Please help our parish reach our goal by June 30 and possibly receive financial incentives!

Our goal of **\$30,181.02** can only be reached through your generosity and sacrifice. If you have not yet made your gift, we invite you to prayerfully consider doing so. To make an online gift, please visit rcan.org/sharing.

Thank you for your prayers, your generosity, and your faithful support of our Catholic mission.
May God bless you abundantly!



ONLINE GIVING

IT IS POSSIBLE TO AUTOMATE YOUR FAITH GIVING TO "PARISH GIVING." SIMPLY GO TO OUR PARISH WEBSITE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

COLLECTION FOR MARCH 23RD

ONLINE	\$ 913
IN PEW	\$ 3,152
TOTAL	\$ 4,065



If you need a statement for taxes just let us know. If you give electronically through "Parish Giving" they will send you a statement for whatever was processed through them.

However, that may not be your total giving, so don't hesitate to contact us to provide a statement for whatever was given before you signed up online.

From Fr. Marcin's Desk

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In Chapter 15 of Luke's Gospel, we find three parables of mercy: that of the sheep found, that of the coin found, and the great parable of the prodigal son, or rather, of the merciful father. The Gospel presents to us this very parable of the merciful father, featuring a father with his two sons. The story highlights some features of this father who is a man always ready to forgive and to hope against hope. Especially striking is the father's tolerance before the younger son's decision to leave home: with his inheritance, as the father was still living. Instead, he allows the son to leave. God works with us like this: He allows us to be free, even to make mistakes, because in creating us, He has given us the great gift of freedom. It is for us to put it to good use.

The separation from his son is only physical, for the father always carries him in his heart. Trustingly, he awaits his son's return - the father watches the road in the hope of seeing him. One day he sees him appear in the distance. This means that this father, every day, would climb up to the terrace to see if his son was coming back!

The father treated the eldest son the same way, but as he had always stayed at home, the eldest is now indignant and complains because he does not understand and does not share all that kindness toward his brother who had wronged. The father also goes to meet this eldest son and reminds him that they were always together, that they share everything, that he must welcome with joy the brother who has finally returned home.

The figure of the father in the parable reveals the heart of God. He is the Merciful Father who, in Jesus, loves us beyond measure, always awaits our conversion every time we make mistakes. He awaits our return when we turn away from Him thinking we can do without Him. He is always ready to open His arms no matter what happens. As the father of the Gospel, God also continues to consider us His children, even when we get lost, and comes to us with tenderness when we return to Him. He addresses us so kindly when we believe we are right. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we can always start out anew.

In the Love of God,

Fr. Marcin Fuks

Pastor@bestchurch.ne

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