

February 15, 2026

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

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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.

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Religious Education

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NEW MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY MASS OF ANTICIPATION

5:00PM- English

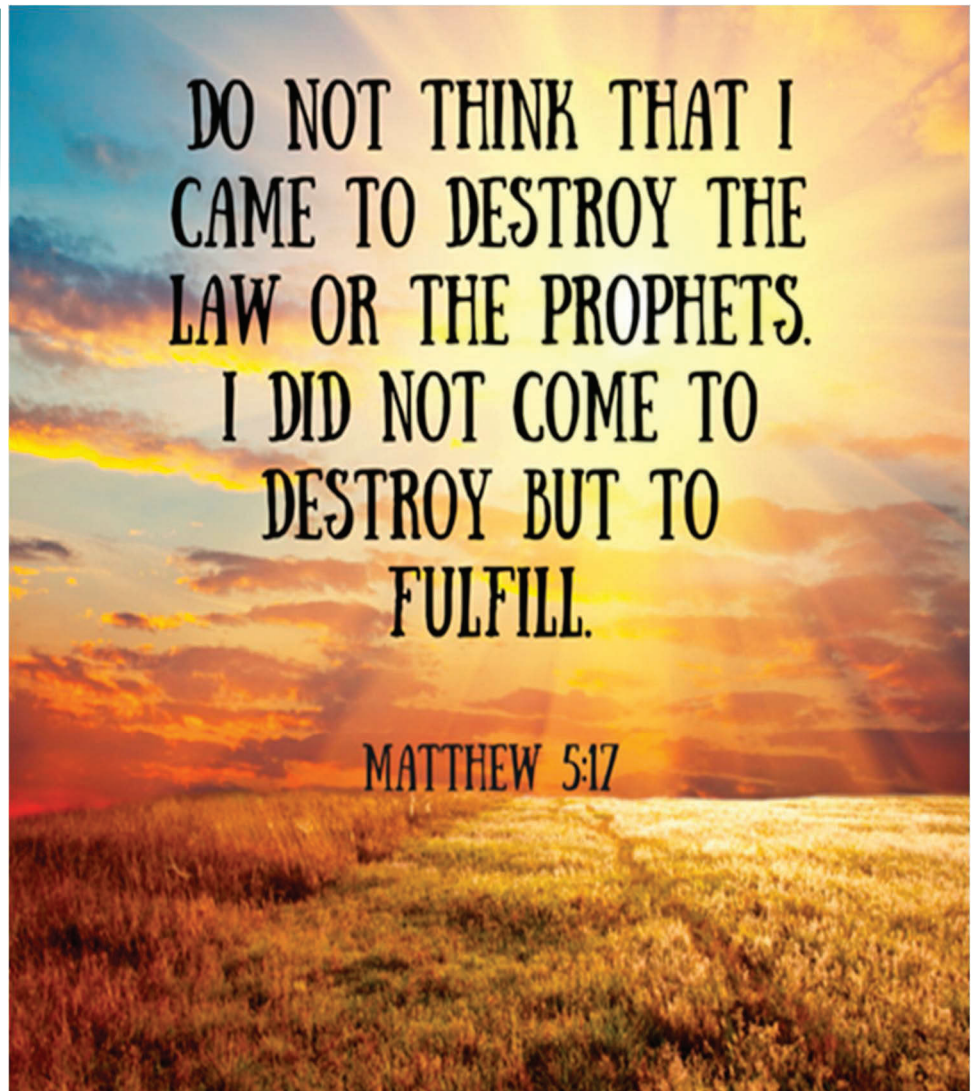
SUNDAY

9:00AM – English

10:30AM – Polish

12:00PM – English

1:30PM – Spanish



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1235 George Street
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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 – February 14...Sts. Cyril, Monk and Methodius

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

5:00PM...+ Terry Chanda, req. Mary Ellen Chanda

Sunday – February 15...Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00AM...+ Thomas Plick, req. Daughter and Family

10:30AM... (Polish) + Anna Nawrocka, od Corka Marta

12:00 Noon... People of the Parish

1:30 PM ...(Spanish) Health of Salvador Delgado,
req. Jacqueline Delgado

Monday – February 16... Weekday

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

Tuesday – February 17... The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order

9:00AM...+ Giovanna Mone, req. Antonia Riello

Wednesday – February 18... Ash Wednesday

9:00AM...+ John Skolka, req. Johanna Merkle

12 Noon... Service and Ashes Distribution

6:00PM ...(Pol.) People of the Parish

7:00PM...(Eng.) People of the Parish

Thursday – February 19...Thursday after Ash Wednesday

9:00AM...+ Giuseppe Ragozzino, req. Antonia Riello

Friday – February 20... Friday after Ash Wednesday

9:00AM...+ Greg Myers, req. Parish Family

Saturday – February 21...St. Peter Damian

9:00AM... People of the Parish

5:00PM...+ Robert F. Brady (30th Anniv.),
req. Mary Ellen Chanda

Sunday – February 22...First Sunday of Lent

9:00AM...+ Frank Kazmierski (1st Anniv.),
req. Wife and Family

10:30AM... (Polish) + Anna Radecka,
od Radecki Rodzina

12:00 Noon... Health of Paul Signorelli,
req. Beverly and Peter Cirino

1:30 PM ...(Spanish) + People of the Parish

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

The Bread and Wine for the Month of February
is in Memory of **Frank Kazmierski**.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED for those
whose health is challenged in any way especially for
Marian Parcinski, Olivia Schiffer, Al Caraldo,
Margaret Macknowsky, Jim Rushforth,
Mike Parise, and Brian Biddulph.

OUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED for all the
Departed **especially Greg Myers.**

STEWARDSHIP

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." MATTHEW 5:20

The Pharisees lived according to the letter of the law, and they used this to elevate themselves above the other people. Jesus is clear – it's the love that you have in your heart, for God and others, that will get you to heaven. Simply following church rules to the letter and not out of love, does not necessarily put you on the path to heaven. Attending Sunday Mass and then gossiping about a fellow parishioner in the parking lot is an example of being a modern-day Pharisee.

6^o Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

"Porque les digo a ustedes, no entrarán en el reino de Dios a menos que practiquen la justicia mejor que los escribas y los fariseos" MATEO 5:20

Los fariseos vivían de acuerdo con la letra de la ley y la usaban para elevarse a sí mismos por encima de los demás. Jesús es claro - es el amor que tienes en tu corazón, por Dios y por los demás, el que te llevará al cielo. Seguir simplemente las reglas de la Iglesia y no hacerlo por amor, no lo pone necesariamente en el camino al cielo. Atender a la Misa Dominical y luego criticar a un compañero de parroquia en el estacionamiento es un ejemplo de lo que es ser un fariseo moderno.

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Sirach 15:15-20

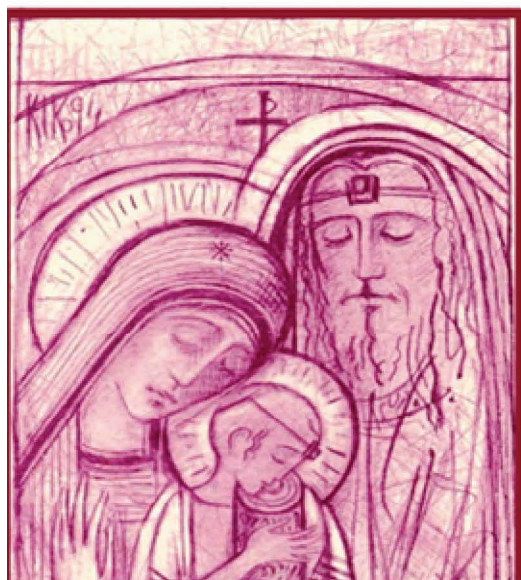
This passage from Sirach gives strong, unequivocal emphasis to free will in every person. Before each of us is set, sin or virtue, life or death, and each of us is free to choose the one or the other.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

Paul explains to the Corinthians that there are two different kinds of wisdom — the wisdom of God and the wisdom of the world. The wisdom of God is mysterious, but this wisdom has been revealed "to those who love him" through the Spirit.

Gospel: Matthew 5:17-37

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus tells the people he has come to fulfill the law. He speaks strongly against murder and anger, against adultery and lust, and against false oaths and lies. He warns the people that unless their virtue exceeds that of the Pharisees, they "will not enter the kingdom of God."



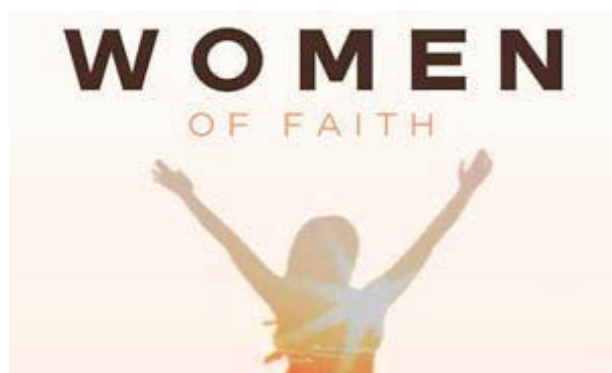
THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS HERE COME AND LISTEN

MONDAYS AND THURSDAYS
AT 8:00PM
STARTING JANUARY 26TH 2026

ST. BERNARD & ST. STANISLAUS
THE GYM

365 EMERSON AVE PLAINFIELD

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30



The Women of Faith Ministry at St. Bernard of Clairvaux and St. Stanislaus Kostka warmly invites all women of the parish to gather with us this Lent for reflection, prayer, and spiritual renewal.

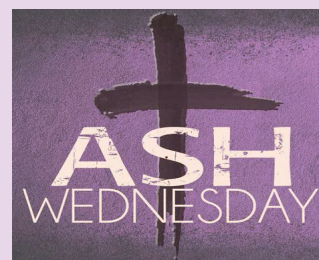
Whether you're new to the parish, returning to your faith, or simply seeking fellowship, you are welcome. Mothers, grandmothers, students, professionals—there is a place here for you.

Why Join a Women's Lenten Reflection Group?

Lent invites us to slow down, turn our hearts toward God, and prepare for the joy of Easter. A women's Lenten group helps us enter this sacred season with intention. Together, we reflect on Scripture, walk with Christ toward the Cross, and support one another in our Lenten practices.

In the company of other women, we find clarity, encouragement, and a sense of shared purpose. This is a space to pause, pray, and listen for God's voice, so our hearts may be renewed and strengthened for the journey ahead. Bring a friend! Join us on the Fridays during Lent after the Stations of the Cross: **February 20th, March 6th, and March 27th.** For more information or to help with planning, please contact:

Mary Landriau - mlandriau703@verizon.net



9:00AM... Mass in English

12:00 Noon ..Service with

Distribution of Ashes

6:00PM...Polish Mass

7:00PM...English Mass

Stations of the Cross Fridays of 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.*

**No Religious Education Class this week
Ash Wednesday**

2026 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, February 22 to The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, May 31, 2026.

**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.*



Ash Wednesday is one of the most popular and important holy days in the liturgical calendar. Ash Wednesday opens Lent, a season of fasting and prayer. Ash Wednesday takes place 46 days before Easter Sunday.

Ash Wednesday comes from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting. The practice includes the wearing of ashes on the head. The ashes symbolize the dust from which God made us. As the priest applies the ashes to a person's forehead, he speaks the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Alternatively, the priest may speak the words, "Repent and believe in the Gospel."

Ashes also symbolize grief, in this case, grief that we have sinned and caused division from God. Writings from the Second-century Church refer to the wearing of ashes as a sign of penance.

Priests administer ashes during Mass and all are invited to accept the ashes as a visible symbol of penance. The ashes are made from blessed palm branches, taken from the previous year's Palm Sunday Mass.

It is important to remember that Ash Wednesday is a day of penitential prayer and fasting. Some faithful take the rest of the day off work and remain home. It is generally inappropriate to dine out, to shop, or to go about in public after receiving the ashes. Feasting is highly inappropriate. Small children, the elderly and sick are exempt from this observance.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. It is a season of penance, reflection, and fasting which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday, through which we attain redemption.

Following the example of the Ninevites, who did penance in sackcloth and ashes, our foreheads are marked with ashes to humble our hearts and reminds us that life passes away on Earth. Ashes are a symbol of penance made sacramental by the blessing of the Church, and they help us develop a spirit of humility and sacrifice.

The distribution of ashes comes from a ceremony of ages past. Christians who had committed grave faults performed public penance. On Ash Wednesday, the Bishop blessed the hair shirts which they were to wear during the forty days of penance, and sprinkled over them ashes made from the palms from the previous year. Then, while the faithful recited the Seven Penitential Psalms, the penitents were turned out of the church because of their sins -- just as Adam, the first man, was turned out of Paradise because of his disobedience. The penitents did not enter the church again until Maundy Thursday after having won reconciliation by the toil of forty days' penance and sacramental absolution. Later, all Christians, whether public or secret penitents, came to receive ashes out of devotion. In earlier times, the distribution of ashes was followed by a penitential procession.

Polska Szkoła im. Juliana Ursyna Niemcewicza
w Plainfield NJ
Serdecznie zaprasza na

**IV MALOWANIE PRZY
LAMPCE WINA**

6 Marca 2026
Godzina 7:00 pm
365 Emerson AVE.
Plainfield NJ

Cena 45\$

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Ps. Zaprosz koleżanki, nie
zapomnij swojego ulubionego
wina a mała przekąska lub
deser będzie mile widziana :)

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ANNUAL ²⁰²⁶ APPEAL

The 2026 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 within our Archdiocese. Our parish goal this year is **\$29,654.60**. Please make a gift online today by visiting rcan.org/sharing, scanning the QR code, or join us for In-Pew Weekend on March 7 and 8.



PARISH GIVING



ON LINE GIVING

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

Collection for February 8, 2026

Online...\$ 1,630
in Pew... \$ 5,580
Total.....\$ 7,210

ROOF DONATION

Dear Brothers and Sisters, as I mentioned during the Parish Financial Report, we need to fix the roof of the school building. The work would have to happen sometime during the summer, but we need to begin to collect money for that project. If you want to help, you can write on your check's memo line: Restricted – Roof. Thank you for your generosity!!!

From Fr. Marcin's Desk

Today's Gospel reading is on the "Sermon on the Mount" and deals with the subject of the fulfillment of the Law: how should I fulfill the Law? Jesus wants to help His listeners take the right approach to the prescriptions of the Commandments given to Moses, urging them to be open to God who teaches us true freedom and responsibility through the Law. It is a matter of living it as an instrument of freedom. Let us not forget this: to live the Law as an instrument of freedom, which helps me to be freer, which helps me not to be a slave to passion and sin. When one gives in to temptation and passion, one is not the master and agent of one's own life, but rather one becomes incapable of managing it with willingness and responsibility.

Jesus' discourse is divided into four antitheses, each one expressed by the formula: "You have heard that it was said... But I say to you." These antitheses refer to as many situations in daily life: murder, adultery, divorce and swearing. Jesus does not abolish the prescriptions concerning these issues, but He explains their full meaning and indicates the spirit in which they must be observed. He encourages us to move away from the formal observance of the Law to substantive observance, accepting the Law in our hearts, which is the center of the intentions, decisions, words and gestures of each of us. From the heart come good and bad deeds.

By accepting the Law of God in our heart, one understands that, when one does not love one's neighbor, to some extent one kills oneself and others, because hatred, rivalry and division kill the fraternal charity that is the basis of interpersonal relationships. By accepting the Law of God in our heart one understands that desires must be guided, because one cannot obtain everything one desires, and it is not good to give in to selfish and possessive feelings.

Jesus is aware that it is not easy to live the Commandments in such an all-encompassing way. That is why He offers us the help of His love: He came to give us His grace, so that we can do God's will, loving Him and our brothers and sisters. We can do everything, with the grace of God! Indeed, holiness is none other than guarding God's freely given grace. It is a matter of trusting and entrusting ourselves to Him, to His Grace, to that freedom that He has given us, and welcoming the hand He constantly extends to us, so that our efforts and our necessary commitment can be sustained by His help, overflowing with goodness and mercy.

Fr. Marcin

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