

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 December 3, 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.

Sports on Commerce

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, deaconate, 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



Saturday – December 2... Weekday in Ordinary Time 9:00AM...+ Anna R. Vincenzo Rotondo, req. Antonia Riello 5:00PM...+ People of the Parish

Sunday – December 3...First Sunday of Advent 9:00AM... + Evelyn Carella, req. Daughter Kathy 11:00AM..+ Regina i Stanislaw Pieczur, req. Daughter Agnes and Family 1:00PM...+ Bob DeMair, req. Fran Morano

Monday – December 4... St. John Damascene 9:00AM... + Amerigo Negri, reg. Wife and Children

Tuesday – December 5... Advent Weekday 9:00AM... + Tommy Alexander, reg. Louise Sbordone

Wednesday – December 6... St. Nicholas 9:00AM... + Florence Crook, req. Johanna Merkle

Thursday – December 7... St. Ambrose 9:00AM... + People of the Parish 7:00PM... + Mary Casendino, Family

Friday – December 8... Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9:00AM... + Eulalia Duque, req. Alba Ledy Cuartas 7:00PM... People of the Parish

Saturday – December 9... St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin 9:00AM...+ Clara Perrucci, 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...+ 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 November is in memory of Clara Melnik Vermillian at the request of Olga Skolka.

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

OUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED for all the Faithful Departed.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Isaiah 63:16-17, 19b; 64:2b-7 In this straightforward psalm, the people acknowledge their sinful ways, yet plead that their Creator might reveal himself to them. They ask God to remember, not their sins, but that "We are all the work of your hands."

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Paul explains to the Corinthians that they are specially favored by God who has sent his only Son to them. He reminds us all that it was through God's grace that we have been called to kinship with Christ.

Gospel: Mark 13:33-37

Just as a servant watching over the master's house does not know when he will return, we do not know the hour of the Second Coming. Mark reminds us of the warning from Jesus to always be on guard, for we know not the day nor the hour.

REV. MARCIN FUKS

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

REV. BERNARDO GARCIA

PAROCHIAL VICAR VICAR@BESTCHURCH.NET 908-756-3393 EXT - 110

KAROLE LECHOWSKI

<u>SECRETARY</u> <u>OFFICE@BESTCHURCH.NET</u>

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. NICHOLAS BISHOP OF MYRA

(December 6))

Nicholas was born at Patara, in southern Turkey, in the third century. He came from a good family that raised him as a Christian. His life, from his earliest days, was marked by obedience. When he was orphaned at a young age, Nicholas, remembering the rich young man in the Gospel, used his inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the poor. He was elected Bishop of Myra, and under the emperor Diocletian was exiled and imprisoned. After being freed, he attended the Council of Nicea in 325. He died in Myra on 6 December 343.

One of the most ancient stories about Saint Nicholas involves a man with three daughters of marriageable age. The family was poor, and the young girls were in danger of being forced into prostitution, because their father could not afford to offer a suitable dowry. One night, Nicholas went to the family's home, and threw a bag of coins through the open window -- then fled before he could be identified. With the money, the father was able to procure a marriage for his eldest daughter. Nicholas returned twice more, always at night so that he could not be identified. But the third time, the father rushed out of the house to identify his mysterious benefactor. Nicholas begged him not to tell anyone what he had done.

In the Low Countries, and throughout Germanic lands generally, the winter feast of Saint Nicholas (in Dutch, "Sint Nikolaas" and later "Sinteklaas"), and his patronage of the young, gave rise to the tradition of giving gifts on his feast day: on the Eve of his feast, children would leave socks or shoes on a chair, or next to the fireplace, and go to sleep trusting that the following morning they would be filled with gifts.

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. 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



1 Niedziela Adwentu Rok B

Przyjdź Panie Jezu, potrzebujemy Ciebie. Przyjdź blisko nas. Ty jesteś światłem: przebudź nas ze snu miernoty, zbudź nas z mroku obojętności. Dwoma kluczowymi słowami okresu Adwentu są: bliskość i czuwanie. Bóg jest blisko nas, a Jezus w Ewangelii wzywa do czuwania w oczekiwaniu na jego przyjście.

Pierwszym krokiem wiary jest powiedzenie Panu, że Go potrzebujemy, że potrzebujemy jego obecności. On wychodzi do nas z propozycją, nie narzuca się siłą. Od nas zależy, czy będziemy niestrudzenie mówili Mu: "Przyjdź!". Odpowiedzia na bliskość Boga jest czuwanie, ponieważ grozi nam zatracenie się w wielu drobnych rzeczach i rozminięcie się z Nim. Wtedy możemy utracić sens tego, co istotne. Czuwać to nie dać opanować się zniechęceniu, to żyć w nadziei. Jesteśmy oczekiwani w niebie przez Uosobioną Miłość. Skoro jesteśmy oczekiwani w niebie, to dlaczego mielibyśmy poddać się doczesnym dążeniom uganiając się za odrobiną pieniędzy, sławy, sukcesu oraz tych wszystkich rzeczy, które przemijają? Istnieją rozmaite rodzaje snu będące zaprzeczeniem postawy czuwania. Jednym z nich jest sen mierności.

Przychodzi, gdy zapominamy o naszej pierwszej miłości i bezwładnie idziemy naprzód, dbając tylko o spokojne życie. Ale bez porywów umiłowania Boga, bez oczekiwania na Jego niespodzianki, stajemy się miernymi, letnimi, światowymi. To niszczy wiarę, bo wiara jest przeciwieństwem przeciętności: jest żarliwym pragnieniem Boga, nieustanną śmiałością nawracania się, odwagą miłowania, jest zawsze pójściem do przodu. Wiara to nie woda, która gasi, to płonący ogień; to nie środek uspokajający dla zestresowanych, ale historia miłosna dla zakochanych! Dlatego też Jezus nie znosi letniości bardziej niż czegokolwiek innego. Widać niechęć Boga w stosunku do letnich."

Ojciec Święty zwrócił uwagę, że ze snu miernoty można przebudzić się dzięki czuwaniu modlitwy. Modlić się to zapalić światło w nocy. Modlitwa wyrywa nas ze zobojętnienia, podnosi nasze spojrzenie ku górze i dostraja je do Pana. Modlitwa pozwala Panu, aby był blisko nas,

wyzwala nas z samotności i daje nadzieję. Modlitwa daje życiu tlen: tak jak nie można żyć bez oddychania, tak też nie można być chrześcijaninem bez modlitwy. Istnieje także drugi rodzaj snu wewnętrznego: sen obojętności. Ludzie obojętni nie zwracają uwagi na potrzeby innych. W ich sercach panuje noc. Szybko zaczynają narzekać na wszystko, czują się ofiarami wszystkich, szukają wokoło spisków. Wymagają dla siebie, ale nie interesują się innymi. Jak przebudzić się ze snu obojętności?

Z czujnością miłości. Aby wnieść światło w ten sen przeciętności, letniości potrzebne jest czuwanie na modlitwie, czuwanie w miłości. Miłość jest siła napędową chrześcijanina: tak jak nie można żyć bez bicia serca, tak też nie można być chrześcijaninem bez miłości. Niektórym ludziom wydaje się, że okazywanie współczucia, pomoc i służba, to coś dla frajerów! W gruncie rzeczy to jedyne, co zwycięża, ponieważ jest już skierowane ku przyszłości, na dzień Pana, kiedy wszystko przeminie, a tylko miłość pozostanie. To właśnie poprzez uczynki miłosierdzia zbliżamy się do Pana. Prosiliśmy o to dzisiaj w modlitwie kolekty: «spraw, abyśmy przez dobre uczynki przygotowali się na spotkanie przychodzącego Pana». Wola wyjścia na spotkanie Chrystusa z dobrymi uczynkami. Jezus przychodzi a droga, by wyjść Mu na spotkanie jest wyznaczona: są to uczynki miłosierdzia."

Papiez Franciszek, 29 listopada 2020 r.



Szkoła Polska Dokształcająca

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

8 grudnia godz. 19:00

Msza Sw. Po Polsku z okazji Swieta Niepokalanego Poczęcie Najświętszej Maryi Panny, o godzinnie 18:30 wspolna modlitwa

godzinnie 18:30 wspoina modiitwa godzinkami

Word

STEWARDSHIP "Be watchful be alert! You do not know when the time will come." MARK 13:33 We all take things for granted. In particular, we take time for granted. We make our lives too busy. We plan our days, weeks, months, even years in advance. Remember, our time on earth is a gift. None of us knows how long we will be here. Start today and begin thanking God for each and every day, take time in silence, every day, and listen to how God is calling you right now to help build His Kingdom on earth.

Worship



Holy Day of Obligation Friday, December 8th Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Masses are:

Thursday December 7th
7PM (English) - Mass of Anticipation
Friday December 8th

9AM- English, 12Noon – Healing Mass and 7PM- Polish

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 our rehearsals.

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS AND LECTORS

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

WORKBOOK MANUALS

Lector Manuals for 2024, starting with Advent 2023 are now available in the Sacristy. Please be sure to get your copy so you will be able to adequately proclaim the Word of God.

ALTAR SERVERS

We have new Altar Servers, however we are in need of a few more. If you are interested in becoming an Altar Server, please contact Fr. Bernardo or Fr. Marcin.

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 December 3rd, with a business meeting in the Parish Commons. Rosary Pot Luck Dinner is December 7th at 5:30PM in the Parish Commons.

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.org

YOUTH

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

All Religious Education children are required to attend Sunday Mass every weekend. Students preparing for First Holy Communion and Confirmation are required to be present in Religious Education class every week.

Sacrament of Reconciliation for Religious Education children are as follows:

December 6, 2023 Levels 5 & 6

December 13, 2023 Levels 7 & 8
At least one parent must attend with their child and if

possible, partake in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

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

Levels 3 & 4 Completed reconciliation last week.

If you were absent, please contact Iveth Parada for a resechedule.

If anything changes, an email will be sent.

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

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

NON-PERISHABLE FOOD COLLECTION

programs, socialization and tasty treats.

The food we collect in the open area of the church is ongoing and will be distributed in conjunction with STARFISH in Plainfield. You are welcome to bring any non-perishable foods whose dates are current to the open area of the church. Starfish is no longer in need of egg cartons at this time.

PRAYER SHAWL

Current members are busy making blankets for our newly baptized children and lap covers for the nursing homes and hospitals. **We have plenty of yarn!!!** Come pick it up. If you have this talent or would like to learn, call the office for more information. This ministry can easily be done from home at your leisure.



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, December 6th 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 will be 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. Any questions, contact

Theresa Cosmas at 908-889-1945 or email 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 November 19th Online \$ 1,038.909 In Pew...... \$ 2,933.00

Total Collection for November 19th ...\$3,971.00

Collection for November 26th Online......\$1,237.00 In Pew......\$ 2.832.00

Total Collection for November 26th....\$4,069.00

Calendar of Events

SUNDAYS:

December 3...First Sunday of Advent

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

December 10...Second Sunday of Advent

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

December 17... Third Sunday of Advent

Gaudete Sunday

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

MONDAYS:

December 4, 11, 18 5:30PM...Polish School

December 18

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

TUESDAYS:

WEDNESDAYS:

December 6, 13, 20

6:30PM...Religious Education

December 6

6:30PM... Reconciliation Service Levels 5 & 6

THURSDAYS:

December 7

5:30PM...Rosary Pot Luck Dinner 7:00PM...**Mass of Anticipation**

Immaculate Conception

December 14, 21

7:00PM...Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAYS:

December 8 Immaculate Conception

9:00AM...Mass in English

12 Noon Healing Mass

7:00PM...Mass Bi-lingual (English/Polish)

SATURDAYS:

December 2, 9, 16, 23

4:15PM...Confession

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

From Fr. Marcin's Desk

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

With this Sunday we are entering the liturgical season of Advent. The term Advent comes from Latin adventus that means "coming". This word can also mean "presence" or "arrival". In the language of the ancient world it was a technical term used to indicate the arrival of an official or the visit of the king or emperor to a province. However, it could also mean the coming of the divinity that emerges from concealment to manifest himself forcefully or that was celebrated as being present in worship. Christians used the word "advent" to express their relationship with Jesus Christ: Jesus is the King who entered this poor "province" called "earth" to pay everyone a visit; He makes all those who believe in Him participate in His Coming, all who believe in His presence in the liturgical assembly.

It means also "visit", a visit from God: He enters my life and wishes to speak to me. In our daily lives we all experience having little time for the Lord and also little time for ourselves. We end by being absorbed in "doing". Is it not true that activities often absorb us and that society with its multiple interests monopolizes our attention? Is it not true that we devote a lot of time to entertainment and to various kinds of amusement? At times we get carried away. Advent, this powerful liturgical season that we are beginning, invites us to pause in silence to understand a presence. It is an invitation to understand that the individual events of the day are hints that God is giving us, signs of the attention He has for each one of us. How often does God give us a glimpse of His love? To keep, as it were, an "interior iournal" of this love would be a beautiful and salutary task for our life! Advent invites and stimulates us to contemplate the Lord's presence.

Another fundamental element of Advent is expectation, an expectation which is at the same time hope. Advent impels us to understand the meaning of time and of history as a kairós, a favorable opportunity for our salvation. Hope marks humanity's journey, but for Christians it is enlivened by a certainty: the Lord is present in the passage of our lives; He accompanies us and will one day also dry our tears. One day, not far off, everything will find its fulfilment in the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom of justice and peace.

In the Love of God,

Fr. Marcin Fuks

<u>Phone:</u> 908 756 3393 ext. 103 **E-mail:** pastor@bestchurch.net



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We Love & Miss You Very Much, Your Five Kids!!

SEPTEMBER 12, 1964

Call me today for more information on how your business can benefit by joining the others who support this church bulletin program.

- John Slootmaker

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