



OLC

1911 – 2014

Very Rev. Thomas J. Ciba, V.F.
Pastor

Rev. Anthony Azzarto, S.J.
Weekend Assistant

Rev. Michael Braden, S.J.
Weekend Assistant

Rev. David Stump, S.J.
Weekend Assistant

Mrs. Anna Mae Stefanelli
Principal

Mr. Jonathan Blevis
Pastoral Associate

Mr. Ben Rauch
Director of Music

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www.olcjc.org
www.olcschool.org

The OLC School
201-434-2405

Little Harbor Academy
201-434-6708

Counseling, Ann Tedeschi,
LCSW,*
(201) 339-3372, (201) 725-8154

Counseling, Relief & Solutions
Counseling,* (201) 666-2400

*Not affiliated with OLC

Our Lady of Czestochowa Catholic Church

120 Sussex Street, Jersey City, NJ 07302

Our Mission

The mission of our Parish is to reach out to all people and encourage them to join us in joyfully giving praise and glory to God; to build a Christian community that, with trust in God, embraces the future, and in doing so, is a beacon of faith, hope and love on the Jersey City waterfront.

Our History

Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, or OLC, was founded in 1911 to serve Polish immigrants in Jersey City. Today, OLC is growing and changing as it seeks to serve all those who now live in our neighborhood. The Church takes its name from a city in Poland that houses a cherished icon of the Blessed Virgin Mary. A copy of that icon is centrally located in our historic Church.

Mass Schedule

Monday – Friday: 12:30 pm (Church open from 12:00 noon to 1:15 pm)

Saturday: 5:00 pm, Sunday Vigil Mass

Sunday: 10:00 am, 12:30 pm and 7:00 pm

Note: St. Anthony of Padua, 330 Sixth Street, Jersey City, the Center for Polish Ministry in Jersey City, offers a Polish Language Mass at OLC, Sundays at 8:00 am.

Faith Formation during 10:00 am Mass

We provide a Faith Formation program called “Children’s Liturgy of the Word” for children 2½ years of age and up during the Sunday Mass. We dismiss the children from Mass after the Opening Prayer to the church hall, returning before the Offertory. Parents are welcome to accompany their child if they wish.

Confessions/Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 4:00 pm to 4:30 pm in the church and at other times by appointment with the pastor.

Weddings

Those interested in celebrating the Sacrament of Marriage should contact the parish office **one year** in advance of their proposed date of marriage.

Infant Baptisms

Preparation for Baptism should ideally begin before the birth of the child. Expectant parents should visit the parish website for more information.

The OLC School – Quality Education on the Waterfront

248 Luis Marin Blvd., Jersey City, NJ 07302

Grades 1 - 8

Accredited by the Middle States Co

mmission on Elementary and Secondary Schools

The Little Harbor Academy – The Early Childhood Division of the OLC School

186 Grand Street, Jersey City, NJ 07302

Programs: Kindergarten; Pre-Kindergarten Program for 3- & 4-year-olds; Montessori

Toddler Program for 2-year-olds

To Register and Be Part of OLC

We welcome you to register and to be part of our parish family. Please contact the parish office to arrange an informal appointment with the pastor.

Saints Peter and Paul Church, Hoboken and OLC Church, Jersey City

We work together to proclaim and live the Gospel on the Hudson River Waterfront by sharing our time, energy, and resources, and in doing so, we more powerfully witness the presence of Christ.

Fourth Sunday of Easter – April 26, 2015

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

The joyful tone of the first three Sundays of Easter is a little darker today. All three readings remind us of suffering, death and sin. In Acts 4:8-12, Peter reminds the people that Jesus, whom they had crucified, was responsible for many wondrous acts of healing and mercy. Jesus is compared to the stone rejected by builders that eventually became a cornerstone. The one in whom "...there is salvation and in no one else...." What must we do to be saved and be spared the misery of eternal damnation? As Peter says in his first Letter: we have strayed like sheep and must return to the shepherd.

Jesus describes himself as a shepherd in today's Gospel, and we know it was one of the earliest images of Christ in the apostolic church. Today's passage has a darker tone. The sheep are in peril and are in need of protection. They may be lost, stolen or even killed. In art, Christ is portrayed surrounded by sheep, usually either carrying a lamb in his arms or has one draped around his neck. He tenderly and carefully tends to his flock, keeping them safe from harm. Jesus "...is the good shepherd...who will lay down his life for the sheep because he cares about them. A hireling would flee from the wolf endangered flock because he cares nothing for the sheep. Christ the shepherd will not rest until all his sheep are safe and all stray sheep are found and brought back safely into the fold." John 10:11-18. Turn to Jesus; only in Jesus will we be safe. Only in Him will we have eternal life.



With love,

Th. Tom

BAPTISM



GATHERING TO REJOICE is the first component of our Baptism Program for those preparing for the birth of their child. You must **pre-register** for this program. Register online at olcjc.org and reference "Formation and Sacraments." Follow the link to "Baptism of Children," or call the rectory. Upcoming dates are:

May 3, 2015, July 5, 2015

GATHERING TO UNDERSTAND is the second part of our Baptism program. If you are preparing for the baptism of your child, this program is **required**. It addresses theology, the responsibilities and requirements of parents and Godparents, etc.

You can register online, by phone, or you can just walk in (**however, preregistration is extremely helpful**). Upcoming dates are:

June 7, 2015, August 2

Please register as parishioners before attending the baptism classes. You can register in the rectory Monday through Friday from 9:30 am until 5:00 pm.

LECTURE SERIES

Our ten-part lecture/study group program came to an end Monday, March 23. However, there is a second component to this program which is offered. The second component is entitled "50 Theological and Spiritual Questions about the Catholic Faith." We covered two topics last Monday evening, "God" and "The Trinity."

At our next meeting on Monday, April 27, 7:30 pm in the rectory, the topic will be about Jesus: Who is Jesus? Why did Jesus have to die the way he did? What is so significant about the resurrection of Jesus? How do we know that Jesus rose from the dead? What

is the central message of Jesus Christ? How do we come to know Jesus personally? Is the Bible the only way to know Jesus? If we follow Jesus, are we giving up our freedom? Do sinners have a way of getting to Heaven? Why is the Eucharist so important for our salvation? What might prevent reception of the Eucharist? What is the Eucharist?

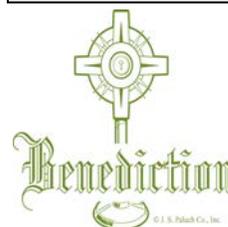


The next topic will be about the Spiritual Life. What does it mean to be saved? What is required of us to be saved? What is Grace? What is Spirituality? What is essential to Christian Spirituality? Are there false spirits in the world? Is there a spiritual realm of existence? Do evil spirits attempt to stop us from following Jesus Christ? Why is Mary known as the Seat of Wisdom? What are the various forms of Christian discipleship? What gifts does God give the Catholic Church? What is the mission of the Catholic Church? What is evangelization?

This program is designed for both Catholics and non-Catholics wishing to learn more about Catholicism. This program will offer new insights into our faith and a deeper understanding about theology and spirituality.

FIRST FRIDAY DEVOTIONS & HOLY HOUR

We will celebrate our next *First Friday Devotions*, on Friday, May 1 from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm. This hour will afford you a perfect opportunity for prayerful reflection and a time for peaceful spiritual sustenance. Take a little time for yourself for peaceful reflection and meditation. It is only one hour, but it can take you away from your personal cares.



MASS INTENTIONS



It is a long standing tradition in many different faiths and cultures to remember, and even venerate, someone's deceased relatives and friends. We keep alive the memory of our deceased relatives and friends by remembering them in our prayers. Through our prayers, we can also continue that spiritual and loving connection we had when they walked this earth.

Remembering someone in our prayers (whether alive or deceased) is particularly important to us as Catholics. Because the celebration of the Mass is the highest form of worship, the practice of having a Mass "offered" for an individual, deceased or living, or for a particular intention, is an excellent way of bringing our intentions to God. This is a long standing tradition in the church. It is also a devotional practice whereby we keep alive the memory of our loved ones. Through this practice we can maintain that loving bond between ourselves and those whom we love. A Mass can be offered on the anniversary of death or on a person's birthday, or at any time. You may also have a Mass celebrated for someone who is ill, in thanksgiving and for special intentions for family and/or friends.

Take the time to have a Mass celebrated for your loved-ones. Simply stop by the rectory, call us at **201-434-0798** or send an e-mail to: secretary@olcjc.org.

2015 EVENTS AT OLC

The Drawing Rooms: Paper Constructions exhibit through May 3rd. Ten artists create abstract and narrative works out of paper in sculpture, installation, drawing and collage. Come visit us at 180 Grand Street, Thurs.-Fri. 4-7 pm and Sat.-Sun. 2-6 pm. Website: www.drawingrooms.org.

OLC Seniors: Memorial Day and Mother's Day celebration meeting will be held in the Church Hall at 1 pm on May 13. Lunch will be served; cost TBD. Nashville, Tennessee Trip on May 17-22. For more information, call Dorothy Bromirski, (201) 333-4888.

The OLC Adult Choir: The regular choir rehearsal will take place Sundays, 11:15 am. The choir will sing at the 12:30 pm Mass on Sundays. If you have musical ability, please contact our music director Ben Rauch at: Directorofmusic@olcjc.org.

Children's Liturgy: Every Sunday during 10:00 am Mass for 20 minutes. Ages 2 and older. Parents are welcome. No registration required – join in!

Coffee & Donuts: Every Sunday after the 10:00 am Mass. This event may be held in the church hall. Please call the rectory if you wish to volunteer.

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Reflect on today's readings. Prepare for next Sunday

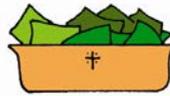
Sunday, April 26, 2015

Acts 4:8-12; 1 Jn. 3:1-2; Jn. 10:11-18

Sunday, May 3, 2015

Acts 9:26-31; 1 Jn. 3:18-24; Jn. 15:1-8

WEEKLY OFFERING



Weekly
OFFERING

Thank you so much for your financial support and for living your financial commitment to your parish. We are grateful for those who generously support the parish. **We need your support** to achieve our weekly collection goal of \$6,000 per Sunday which is essential to the financial health of your parish.

For the weekend of April 19, 364 people attended Mass. The collection in church amounted to \$3,099. ParishPay donations for the past week were \$2,507, contributing to a weekend collection of \$5,606. This is \$394 below our weekly goal of \$6,000.

Additional Easter Gifts were made bringing our total to \$ 32,987. Thank you for your generous response to the Gift Appeal.

If you have been away from church traveling for Easter, there is still time to make your Easter Gift. If you use ParishPay, you can still give through ParishPay, or make your contribution in church using an Easter Envelope. Thank you.

"SPRING BLOOMS" BREAKFAST BANTER



Let us extend a word of "thanks" to the members of the Pastoral Council who put together our "Spring Blooms" Breakfast Banter. We had a nice turn out but there was plenty of room for more guests!

We hope to see more parishioners attend our next Breakfast Banter. Please feel free to come downstairs to meet and get acquainted with other parishioners. We want everyone to feel they are welcome in this faith community.

SPRING FAMILY RETREATS AT THE MARIANIST FAMILY RETREAT CENTER

High School Teen Retreat – May 1-3. Join other high school students ages 14-18 interested in enhancing their human and spiritual development. Cost \$125 per person.

Mother/Adult Daughter Retreat – May 8-10. Celebrate and learn how to nurture this very special relationship. Cost \$130 per person.

Families with Young Children Retreat – May 15-17. Families with children 7 years of age and younger are invited to join other parents for support and reflection while the children are cared for and involved in age-appropriate activities. Cost \$120 per person (8 years to adult), \$85 per person (2-7 years) and Under 2 are free.



Accommodations, meals, prayer services, group sharing and fun activities are included. For more information on any of these programs, please call 609-884-3829 or visit their website at: www.capemaymarianists.org.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday 5:00 pm	April 25, 2015 Richard Rubino From <i>Barbara Rzaski</i>
Sunday 10:00 am	April 26, 2015 Deceased Members of Siwik Family From <i>Donna and Mark Simon</i>
12:30 pm	William Bromirski From <i>Pat Rubino</i>
7:00 pm	People of the Parish
Monday 12:30 pm	April 27, 2015 William Bromirski From <i>Martha Michalik</i>
Tuesday 12:30 pm	April 28, 2015 Barbara Speck From <i>Mary Ann and Edward Bauch</i>
Wednesday 12:30 pm	April 29, 2015 Communion Service
Thursday 12:30 pm	April 30, 2015 William Bromirski From <i>Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Hablitz</i>
Friday 12:30 pm	May 1, 2015 William Bromirski From <i>Lottie Kwasniewski</i>
Saturday 5:00 pm	May 2, 2015 Frank (10 th Ann.) and John Gradowski From <i>Ted, Brother and Terri, Sister-in-law</i>
Sunday 10:00 am	May 3, 2015 Julie Niehoff From <i>David Cicirelli</i>
12:30 pm	Barbara Speck From <i>Julia Nowatkowski</i>
7:00 pm	People of the Parish

Attend daily Mass. It will make a difference in your life!

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 things that you want? Do you ever ask Jesus what He wants you to do? How do you listen for the response?

The answer is usually in "quiet whispers". Take time in silent, daily prayer to hear His answer.

EASTER FLOWER OFFERING: INTENTIONS

Easter flower donations were made in memory of: Pauline and Joseph Vena; Robert and Leonard Vena; John Stapinski.

JOIN A PARISH MINISTRY IN 2015!



Please consider joining one of our parish ministries, which are always in need of new members. Schedules for Masses are flexible and take your preferences and availability into account. For information, call the rectory, speak to Fr. Tom after Mass, or contact one of the following persons:

contact one of the following persons:

Altar Servers or Eucharistic Ministers – Fr.

Tom, OLC rectory, 201-434-0798

Choir – Ben Rauch, email:

Directorofmusic@olcj.org.

Lectors – Pat Duemig, 201-955-1495

Serve Donuts After 10:00 am Mass –

call OLC rectory, 201-434-0798.

NEW EXHIBIT AT THE DRAWING ROOMS

The new Paper Constructions exhibit is now open through May 3rd. Using handmade and recycled paper, ten artists create abstract and narrative works in sculpture, installation, drawing and collage. Come visit us at 180 Grand Street, Thurs.-Fri. 4-7 pm and Sat.-Sun. 2-6 pm at: www.drawingrooms.org.



NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH



April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. It is most appropriate that Child Abuse Prevention Month is held during the Easter season. There is no better time than Easter to celebrate the protection of our most valuable gift from God – our children. As part of the Archdiocese of Newark's continuing commitment to protect children

and young people, the Office of Child and Youth Protection conducted over 400 Protecting God's Children training programs this past year. Since 2003, over 52,000 employees, volunteers, and clergy have been trained to help prevent child abuse. In addition, all those who continue to work with children must recertify their training every three years.

FAITH WORKS



Please remember to make a donation of non-perishable food items next weekend to support our "Faith Works Program." This is a very important work of charity that has benefited many in our community. Thank you for your contributions!

ANNUAL EASTER GIFT APPEAL

As many parishioners know, the "Christmas Gift" and "Easter Gift" programs are longstanding traditions here at OLC. Moneys raised through the "Christmas Gift" are dedicated to a special capital project. Donations from the "Easter Gift" are dedicated to the operating budget.



Our Christmas Gift appeal has allowed us to move forward to replace the front doors of the church which are in dreadful conditions. Additionally, we have rebuilt and pointed the masonry inside the west bell tower. The repair of the tower masonry goes un-noticed but is essential to the integrity of the tower.

This year's Easter gift appeal has helped us cover the cost to replace the church boiler that failed during some of the coldest days of the winter. I remember the date that the boiler failed, Friday, the 13th of February. Everyone was so good and understanding tolerating the cold church.

As mentioned above, the money raised from the Easter Gift Appeal goes to covering operating expenses during the year. This collection is especially important this year as a number of parishioners have moved out of Jersey City. The relocation of these parishioners have cost the parish several hundred dollars in each week's collection, resulting in the loss of about \$20,000 in this fiscal year. It is also important since the boiler replacement cost the parish \$26,000.

I thank all those who have contributed to this Gift Appeal. If you have not contributed, we still welcome your gift. Be as generous as you can and remember that no gift is too small. God bless you!

Additionally, we strongly suggest enrolling in Parish-Pay. This will help us immensely with parish finances. To enroll, go to www.paritypay.com.

DOWNTOWN HARVEST COMMUNITY MEET AND GREET ON MAY 9



Our CSA, Downtown Harvest group, will have a "meet and greet" on Saturday, May 9 after the 5 pm mass in the Church Hall. You'll have the opportunity to meet members and ask questions. They are now preparing for their upcoming season. The CSA is a not-for-profit group that provides fresh, organic produce for members. This program promotes relationships within our community, and promotes stewardship of our earth by fostering sustainable agriculture. During the harvest season, once a week, the farmer brings the members' weekly share for distribution at the parish garage. Members share in the risks and the rewards of the farmer. For membership information, please visit the website at <http://www.downtownharvest.org> or e-mail downtownharvest@yahoo.com.

PARISH PICNIC

Let's start to get ready and excited about our upcoming parish picnic! Set the date in your calendar right now for Sunday, June 14. As in the past, we will have it in the courtyard in front of the Prep gymnasium on Warren St between York and Grand.



As we approach the date, we will be looking for some volunteers to help with set-up, cooking, activities, clean-up, etc. As in the past, everyone is welcome to attend. This is a great for community building. Come! Socialize with other parishioners.



The parish will supply food and refreshments, but we welcome parishioners to contribute desserts and "ethnic" foods.

MEMORIAL DAY CEMETERY MASSES

Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Newark will once again join with approximately 1,000 other Catholic Cemeteries nation-wide to celebrate "Serving God and Country: A Memorial Day Salute to our Heroes." With that in mind, Memorial Day Mass celebrations will be held on Monday, May 25, 2015, 11:00 am in Holy Cross Cemetery, North Arlington; Gate of Heaven Cemetery, East Hanover; Maryrest Cemetery, Mahwah; Saint Gertrude Cemetery, Colonia; Holy Name Cemetery, Jersey City; Christ the King Cemetery, Franklin Lakes and Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, East Orange. Celebrants include:

Most Reverend John J. Myers will be the Main Celebrant at Holy Cross Cemetery, North Arlington, NJ.

Most Reverend Bernard A. Hebda will be the Main Celebrant at Gate of Heaven Cemetery, East Hanover, NJ.

Reverend Monsignor Thomas P. Nydegger will be the Main Celebrant at Maryrest Cemetery, Mahwah, NJ.

Most Reverend Manuel A. Cruz will be the Main Celebrant at Saint Gertrude Cemetery, Colonia, NJ.

Most Reverend Thomas A. Donato will be the Main Celebrant at Holy Name Cemetery, Jersey City, NJ.

Most Reverend John W. Flesey will be the Main Celebrant at Christ the King Cemetery, Franklin Lakes, NJ.

Reverend Philip J. Waters, O.S.B. will be the Main Celebrant at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, East Orange, NJ.