



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.

1911 – 2015

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

Pastor

Rev. Gerard J. Sudol

In Residence

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

Parish Office

201-434-0798

Fax

201-985-0918

Email

pastor@olcjc.org

bulletin@olcjc.org

Websites

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

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 on 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 Commission 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.

Third Sunday of Advent – December 13, 2015

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

After a few weeks of dark and dire readings, this week's gospel has a joyous, more hopeful tone. The seasonal purple vestments can yield to dusty pink, underscoring the lessening of the somber tone of the season and providing a prelude to the coming season and of joy and celebration.

In this week's gospel, John the Baptist's preaching has moved many of his listeners to repent. They ask for specific concrete advice: "What then should we do?" Luke 3:10-18 He speaks of social inequality and the need to make things right. John tells his listeners, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise. Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' To the soldiers, John said, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.'" Luke 3:11-14 "Repentance that remains purely on the level of thoughts and good intentions is not what Christianity demands. This focus on repentance-expressed-through-actions is thoroughly Jewish, summed up in the concept of tzedakah (literally, "righteousness"), by which true religiosity must be demonstrated in concrete deeds, especially toward the poor and needy." ("Life on Aloisiane Blog", Paragraph 11, page 2; www.jezuiti.sk/blog).

John seems to say that there can be no true conversion without a change in one's way of life. The fact that John's followers included generally-hated tax collectors and soldiers amongst the more humble villagers means that everyone is capable of repentance regardless of their circumstances. When we share what we have, God is honored and needs are met.

With love,



OLC'S FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS SONG



OLC is hosting its 20th Annual Festival of Christmas Song this Sunday, December 13 at 4:00 pm. Don't miss the debut of OLC's first-ever Junior Choir! The Junior Choir will have a party immediately following the festival. For more information, please contact Ben Rauch at: Directorofmusic@olcjc.org

LECTURE SERIES

Our ten-part lecture/study group will continue on Monday, December 14 at 7:00 pm. We will meet in the rectory. The subject will be "Catholicism." It will be based upon a video presentation with speaker Fr. Robert Barron. This presentation promises to be informative, inspirational and spiritual. The group setting will also be informal. We will view a video, discuss it, learn from it and also socialize. All are welcome to attend.



Our sixth topic will be "A Body Both Suffering and Glorious, The Mystical Union of Christ and the Church." Our presentation also explores the Catholic conviction that the life and presence of Christ continues to embrace humanity in all its joys and sorrows through the presence of the Church.

We anticipate that our seventh meeting will be on Monday, December 28. We will announce any changes in scheduling.

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.

THE BIG SMALL SHOW 2015 FUNDRAISER GALA

The Drawing Rooms' fundraiser gala will be this Saturday, December 12 from 6:00-9:00 pm. Live music and dance performances. Tickets are \$25 each. For more information, call 201-823-9393 or email: victoryhall1@msn.com. We hope you will join us! The Drawing Rooms are located at the OLC Convent on 180 Grand Street.



OLC CHURCH ADVENT GIVING TREE

Our parish is once again participating in its annual Advent Giving Tree Program. A Christmas tree has been set up and decorated with "ornaments," each of which will list the name of an organization or individual, and specific item(s) that you are asked to purchase for a person in need.

If you are participating in the Giving Tree Program, take one or more ornaments from the tree, purchase the item(s) listed, and attach the "ornament" to the UNWRAPPED package. Bring the gift(s) to church and place them under the Giving Tree **no later than Sunday, December 13**. All gifts will be delivered during the week of December 14.

For further information, you may call Pat Duemig (201-955-1495) or Maggie Englese (201-963-8761). Thank you in advance for your generosity!



MASS INTENTIONS

whoever
eats this
bread
will live
forever



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@olcj.org.

2015 EVENTS AT OLC

OLC Seniors: Trip to Radio City Music Hall to see the Christmas show is on December 16

Drawing Rooms: "The Big Small Show" Fundraiser Gala will be on December 12. Please see page 2 for more information.

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. Please contact our music director Ben Rauch at: Directorofmusic@olcj.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.

Lecture Series: Part Six will be covered on December 14. See page 2 for details.

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Reflect on today's readings. Prepare for next Sunday.

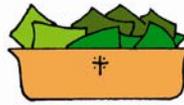
Sunday, December 13, 2015

Zep. 3:14-18; Phil. 4:4-7; Lk. 3:10-18

Sunday, December 20, 2015

Mi. 5:1-4; Heb. 10:5-10; Lk. 1:39-45

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.

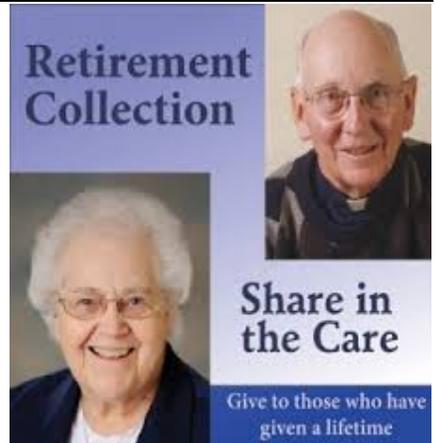
OLC is starting to **face a financial crisis**. This past year many families have relocated out of Jersey City. This has adversely effected our Sunday collections. Collections are down and Parishpay contributions have dropped by 30% to less than \$1,900 per week. A very important way in which you can support your parish is to enroll in ParishPay. Please be more generous in the Sunday collection and please help by using Parishpay. To sign up, go to www.parishpay.com and follow the prompts. Thank you.

For the weekend of December 6, 360 people attended Mass. The collection in church amounted to \$3,153. ParishPay donations for the past week were \$1,836 contributing to a weekend collection of \$4,989. This is \$1,011 below our weekly goal of \$6,000.

If you have been away from church traveling for any reason, we encourage you to "make up" your contributions.

THE RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Please give to those who have given a lifetime. Elder sisters, brothers, and religious order priests dedicated their lives to service and prayer. Many worked for years for small stipends. As a result, their religious communities now lack ad-



equate retirement savings. You can help by giving during the annual collection at your local Catholic parish. Our parish will take up the annual collection this weekend. For more information, please go to: <http://www.retiredreligious.org>.

TALENTED MUSICIANS!

Can you play a musical instrument or are blessed with a wonderful singing voice? If so, we are in need of your musical ability here at our parish. Please contact Ben Rauch, the OLC Music Director, at: Directorofmusic@olcj.org.

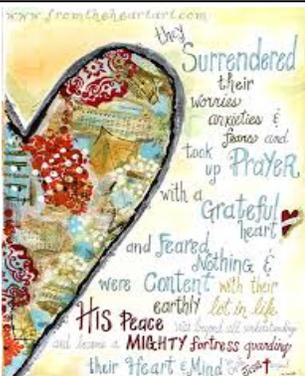


MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday 5:00 pm	December 12, 2015 William Bromirski From <i>Constance Piatkowski</i>
Sunday 10:00 am	December 13, 2015 Frank, Helen and Buddy Dwulet From <i>Family</i>
12:30 pm	Bishop Thomas A. Donato From <i>Barbara Rzaski</i>
7:00 pm	People of the Parish
Monday 12:30 pm	December 14, 2015 Deceased Members and Friends of the Mom Family From <i>Kim Mom</i>
Tuesday 12:30 pm	December 15, 2015 John A. Brosnan, George J. Burke and William G. Waters Burke From <i>Michael Burke</i>
Wednesday 12:30 pm	December 16, 2015 Communion Service
Thursday 12:30 pm	December 17, 2015 Deceased Members and Friends of the Tan Family From <i>Kim Mom</i>
Friday 12:30 pm	December 18, 2015 Deceased members and Friends of the Tran Family From <i>Kim Mom</i>
Saturday 5:00 pm	December 19, 2015 Bruno and Frances Ruskowski From <i>Bruno Ruskowski</i>
Sunday 10:00 am	December 20, 2015 Catherine Rowan From <i>Peters Family</i>
12:30 pm	Anna Kleczkowski From <i>Barbara and Dorothy Bromirski & Melanie Zazula</i>
7:00 pm	People of the Parish

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

STEWARDSHIP



"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God."
- *Philippians 4:6-7*

St. Paul reminds us that our God is an abundant God, the ultimate giver of gifts. He promises to give us all that we need. When

we trust that God will take care of us, it is easier for us to share what we have been given.

PROGRAMS AT THE MARIANIST FAMILY RETREAT CENTER



Advent Family Retreat Weekend (December 18-20, 2015). Come prepare for the Liturgical Season! Special Advent Weekend theme focus on family activities and preparations related to the season, emphasizing the significance of bringing Jesus to others. Cost is \$120 (8 years to adult)/\$85 (2-7 years). Under 2 are free.

College-Age Retreat Weekend (January 8-10, 2016). This retreat is designed to bring together young people of college age to renew their spiritual life, deepen their relationship with God and to enrich their associations with their peers. Special liturgies, prayer services, Eucharist, and peer group discussions are all part of this retreat. College-Age is 18-22 (open to Seniors in high school). Cost is \$125 per person.

Accommodations, meals and all activities are included. Financial aid is available for these programs. For more information on these retreats, please call 609-884-3829 or visit their website at: www.capemary-marianists.org.

OLC JUNIOR CHOIR

Here is another wonderful music education opportunity for children ages 7-14! If you have kids in this age range or if you know people who do, they can just show up at rehearsals. Rehearsals are Sundays from 1:30-2:00 pm in the church. Please contact Ben Rauch, the OLC Music Director, at: Directorofmusic@olcjc.org for more information.



MOMMY & ME CLASSES AT OLC SCHOOL

Fun for you and your little ones! Mommy & Me classes are available at Little Harbor Academy at OLC School. Classes are for children 18 - 30 months. The 10-week sessions run from 2:00 pm – 2:45 pm, and cost \$250 (plus a one-time \$25 registration fee). "Cooking" is on Tuesdays, "Storytelling & Creative Arts" are on Wednesdays, and "Montessori Time" will be held on Thursdays. Registration for Session 2 beginning January 2016 is open. LHA teachers facilitate all programs. Please contact Mrs. Murduca at MommyandMe@olcschool.org for more information.



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 www.olcj.org and reference "Formation and Sacraments." Follow the link to "Baptism of Children," or call the rectory. Upcoming dates are:

January 3, 2016; March 6, 2016

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:

February 7, 2016; April 10, 2016

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.

JOIN A PARISH MINISTRY

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**:

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**.

REGISTER WITH YOUR PARISH/ REQUEST FOR PARISHIONER INFORMATION UPDATE

All Catholics should register with a parish. If you have been attending OLC, come to the OLC Rectory any time between the hours of 9:30 am – 5:00 pm, Monday – Friday, and fill out a registration card. If you are currently a parishioner and have changed your address or name within the past year, please notify the office by calling 201-434-0798 or email: bulletin@olcj.org.

Proof of parish registration is necessary should you require a "sponsor certificate" to be a godparent.

MUSICAL EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN

If you are seeking an experienced piano and/or voice teacher, OLC Director of Music, Ben Rauch, currently has some availability for music lessons for your children. They will have the opportunity to play on a professional



Yamaha baby grand piano and sometimes the organ at the church. Recital performance opportunities will happen on a yearly basis. Lesson availability is for children ages five and up, and the lessons are 30 minutes each. Please contact Ben to inquire about rates at: directorofmusic@olcj.org.

FAITH WORKS

Food for Those in Need Winter Coat Drive



"Food for Those in Need." We are asking all parishioners to be especially generous this time of the year by making donations of non-perishable food items. Leave your donations on the table in the rear of the church. Suggested donations include: canned coffee, tea, jelly, peanut butter, canned vegetables, canned and dried soups, cereals, pastas and noodles, brown gravies, Italian gravies, toiletries (soaps, shampoos, body washes, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc.), canned meats and tuna fish, and condiments (mayo, mustard, ketchup, salt, pepper, sugar, etc.). Thanks again for your generosity to the neediest of our community.

OLC will also have a **"Winter Coat Drive."** There are many in Jersey City who need winter coats to stay warm. If you have an extra winter coat (men's, women's or children's) please leave them in the rear of the church. We have local charities that can dispense them to those in need.



CHRISTMAS FLOWER INTENTIONS



Edward W. and Wanda Bromirski, Edward J. Bromirski, William L. Bromirski, John and Teresa Zazula & Alexandra Camille Sarno; Mario Campomanes, Antonia Penaga, Carlos Penaga & David Penaga; Andy Ciba & Catherine Riller; Charles and Mary Cysz & Families & Friends; Mimi Elbarody, Nieves Arboleda & Eugenio Arboleda; Englese & Koch Families; Letizia and John Gardullo & Catherine and James Uffer; Bernardino and Gloria Guerrero & Robert and Shirley Gernsheimer; Gazdowicz Family; Juana Hernandez, Ramon Lopez & Hank and Rosemarie Peters; Helen and John Hyjek; Karczewski & Grego Families; Anne and Jack Kelly, Winnie Kelly, Mary Kelly, Wendy Salb & Lynwood Bell; Stanley and Anna Kuklasinski; Dennis Piatkowski; Rose and Michael Piccarillo; Joseph Przyblinski & Deceased Members of the Brozowski Family; Ricky Ramos & Petra, Victoria and Pablo Rivera, Ramona Rosado, Gregoria Custodio & Victor, Maria, Luz and Norberto Galarza; Vitus Rodricks, Hector Dsouza, Denis Dsouza & Alice and Ida; Weronika and Eugeniusz Sowul; John and Veronica Tuzinkiewicz & John and Anna Kleczkowski; Geneva Whitaker; Maria Zandalasini, Anton Leahy & Steven Reinemann.