



OLC

1911 – 2016

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

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 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.

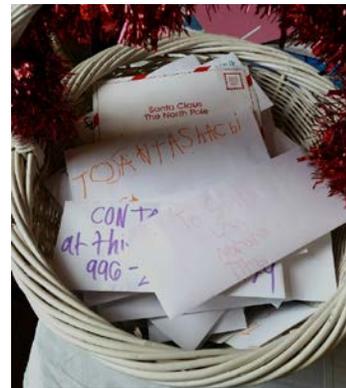
Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 18, 2016

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA AT THE OLC SCHOOL



The Middle School elves assist with crafts

On December 3, Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus took time off from their busy schedules to visit the OLC School. As the excited children awaited the entrance of the famous duo, they decorated stockings and cookies, wrote letters to Santa and made Christmas tree ornaments.



Letters to Santa



"Dear Santa, I can explain..."



OLC CHURCH ADVENT GIVING TREE



Our parish participated in the annual Advent Giving Tree Program. The gifts were delivered earlier this week. Thank you for making the holidays brighter for people in need. Special thanks to Pat Duemig and Maggie Englese for coordinating this worthy activity.

have a new e-mail address, etc., please come to the rectory in person or call 201-434-0798 to update your contact and other information.

All Catholics should be registered with a parish. Proof of parish registration is, among other things, necessary should you require a "sponsor certificate" to be a Godparent. Thank you for taking part in the drive.

We thank all those who registered in the parish. Because our registration drive was so successful, our secretary is still working on our "welcome" letters.

OLC'S FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS SONG

Please join us for our 21st Annual Festival of Christmas Song, Sunday, December 18, 3:30 pm. For more information, please contact Ben Rauch at: Directorof-music@olcj.org.



FALL PARISH REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION DRIVE

Our Fall parish registration and information update has ended but it's not too late to register! Please come to the rectory Monday-Friday between the hours of 9:30 am and 5:00 pm to fill out a registration form. The entire process takes only a few minutes.



If you have moved,

CHRISTMAS MASSES AT OLC

Tuesday, December 20, 2016

7:30 pm to 9 pm, The Sacrament of Reconciliation,
Parish Penance Service

Saturday, December 24, 2016 (Christmas Eve)

5:00 PM Vigil

11:30 PM Christmas Caroling

12:00 AM Midnight Mass

Sunday, December 25, 2016 (Christmas Day)

10:00 AM Christmas Day Mass

12:30 PM Christmas Day Mass

No 7:00 PM Mass

Thursday, December 31, 2016 (New Year's Eve)

5:00 PM Vigil

Friday, January 1, 2017 (New Year's Day)

10:00 AM New Year's Day Mass

12:30 PM New Year's Day Mass

No 7:00 PM Mass

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.

2016 EVENTS AT OLC

Sacrament of Reconciliation: We will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (confessions) Tuesday, December 20, 7:30 pm—9:00 pm. Please take this opportunity to receive this Sacrament before Christmas.

The OLC Adult Choir: The choir rehearsal takes place on Sundays, 11:15 am and then sing at the 12:30 pm Mass. 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.

Lecture Series: Will resume in January 2017. The sixth topic will be "A Body Both Suffering and Glorious, The Mystical Union of Christ and the Church."

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

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

Sunday, December 18, 2016

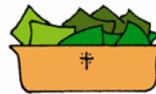
Is. 7:10-14; Rom. 1:1-7; Mt. 1:18-24

Sunday, December 25, 2016

Vigil: Is. 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt. 1:1-25

Day: Is. 52:7-10; Heb. 1:1-6; Jn. 1:1-18

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 facing a financial crisis. This past year many families have relocated out of Jersey City. This has adversely affected our Sunday collections. Collections are down and ParishPay contributions have dropped by 30% to an average of less than \$1,900 per week. A very important way in which you can support your parish is to enroll in ParishPay and by being more generous in the Sunday collection. To sign up, go to www.parishpay.com and follow the prompts.

For the weekend of December 10/11, 445 people attended Mass. The collection in church amounted to \$4,185. ParishPay donations for the past week were \$2,073, contributing to a weekend collection of \$6,258. This is \$258 above our weekly goal of \$6,000. Thank you!

If you have been away from church traveling for any reason, we encourage you to "make up" your contributions. Remember that although it is important to support your parish financially, your donation is ultimately a gift back to God for his blessings.

LECTURE SERIES

Our ten-part lecture/study group will continue in January 2017. 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. Please check future bulletins for information on when the meetings will resume next month.

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.

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.

2017 MASS BOOK

The 2017 Mass Book is open for mass intentions. Please call 201-434-0798 or stop by the rectory Monday-Friday from 9:30 am-5:00 pm to arrange a mass intention.



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday 5:00 pm	December 17, 2016 Bruno and Frances Ruskowski From <i>Bruno Ruskowski</i>
Sunday 10:00 am	December 18, 2016 John Griffin From <i>Diane Cimine</i>
12:30 pm	Gloria Ciba (1 st Ann.) From <i>Family</i>
7:00 pm	People of the Parish
Monday 12:30 pm	December 19, 2016 Paul Cerwinka From <i>Nancy Bennett</i>
Tuesday 12:30 pm	December 20, 2016 Intentions of Mark and Shanon Buechel & Family From <i>Michael Burke</i>
Wednesday 12:30 pm	December 21, 2016 Communion Service
Thursday 12:30 pm	December 22, 2016 Paul Cerwinka From <i>Peggy Bennett</i>
Friday 12:30 pm	December 23, 2016 Edward, Wanda, Bill, Barbara and Edward John Bromirski From <i>Melanie and Bill</i>
Saturday 5:00 pm	December 24, 2016 Dennis Piatkowski From <i>Richard Piatkowski</i>
Sunday 12:00 am	December 25, 2016 People of the Parish
10:00 am	Bartoszek Korzeniowski and Liszewski Families From <i>Family</i>
12:30 pm	Edward Warlikowski From <i>Claire Warlikowski</i>

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

STEWARDSHIP



"When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home."

- Matthew 1:24

Putting our complete trust in the Lord without expecting anything in return... Striving to put God first in all things and follow Him wherever He may lead us...

As we prepare for the birth of our Lord, pray for the strength and courage to be a model of discipleship, just as Joseph was.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER INTENTIONS



Gloria and Bernardino Guerrero, Shirley and Robert Gernsheimer, Mercedes Peregrino, Paciencia Guerrero and Dominador Peregrino; Margarita Amare; William and Edward J. Bromirski, Hyjek and Ostrowski Families; Dennis J. Piatkowski; Mimi Elbarody; Alfred and Lillian Julewicz; Weronika Sowul and Eugeniusz Sowul; Joseph Przyblinski, Chester Sr., Chester Jr., Sophie and Noreen Brozowski; Rzaski Family; John and Veronica Tuzinkiewicz; William and Maria del Carmen Martinez; Deceased Members of the Brozowski Family; Joseph, Mary, Annama, Hormis, Mathew and Abraham; Geneva Whittaker; Strasz Family, Ross Family, Jones and Williams Families; Nora and Felix Feehan, Andy Ciba and Catherine Miller; Frank Michael Flannery; The Departed from the Huynh, Chau, Mom and Tran Families; Barbara Rubino and Richie Rubino; Sam Singer, Eleanor Kelly, Thomas Kelly, Habert and Elizabeth Halstead; Maria Zandalasini; Kamil and Caroline Dsouza, Michael Rodrigues, Dominic and Flory Franco; Charles and Mary Czysz & Families & Friends; Michael and Rose Piccante; Wanda and Barbara Bromirski, Alexandra Sarno, Richard Heins and John, Theresa and Cathy Zazula.

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 warm coats. Please leave winter coats (men's, women's or children's) in the rear of the church. We have local charities that can dispense them to those in need.



Oplatek ~ Christmas Wafer

The tradition of Oplatek or Christmas Wafer originated in Poland during Early Christian times. The entire family gathers with the Oplatek and shares it with one another. The tradition is one that is easy, fun, and deeply meaningful to introduce to the family anytime during the Christmas season. If you would like to obtain some Oplatek, it is available at the Rectory.

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

January 8, 2017; March 6, 2017

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 5, 2017; April 2, 2017

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. The application is free and only takes a few minutes.

USE GOODSEARCH AND GOODSHOP TO HELP OLC CHURCH

Holiday gift shopping and online surfing can raise funds for OLC Church at no cost to you! Download the "Goodsearch" search engine at: <http://www.goodsearch.com> and set it as your browser's home page. Select "Our Lady of Czestochowa Church and School - OLC". Each search raises a penny for OLC. What's more, if you shop online and use "Goodshop", a percentage of your online purchases will be donated to OLC.



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 2017 is open. LHA teachers facilitate all programs. Please contact Mrs. Murduca at: MommyandMe@olcschool.org for more information.



CHRISTMAS GIFT APPEAL

A few weekends ago, a member of our Parish Finance Committee spoke at Mass about Our Annual Christmas Gift Appeal. This is a parish tradition dating back 20 years.



For those of you who may not know about this, we make a special appeal at Christmas to raise additional money for physical improvements to our church. Today, we take for granted many of these improvements that generous parishioners made possible through their donations. The handicap ramp is new, as is

the bathroom in the church narthex. Thanks to your generosity in the Christmas Appeal, we were able to purchase a new organ and a piano, made repairs to the stained glass windows and the list goes on.

This year the Gift Appeal takes on greater significance. Over the last fiscal year, many very supportive parishioners have relocated out of the parish. Consequently, our Sunday revenues dropped \$54,000 this past year. If you have followed the bulletin, you have read each week how our Sunday collections have not reached our weekly goal of \$6,000.

This year's annual Christmas Gift is a very important part of our commitment to the financial well-being of our parish. Without it, we will struggle to make improvements to the church.

We have two goals this year. The first is to make up the \$54,000 revenue shortfall from last year. The second is to raise additional moneys for a reserve to make other necessary improvements to the church. Therefore, we need to raise more than \$80,000 this Christmas.

This is ambitious but very possible. We can do it if **everyone** contributes and we are asking, please, for **everyone** to participate. Our practice has been to ask every family to donate \$400 to the Christmas Gift. For those parishioners who earn six figures or more, or even in the high 5-figure range, please consider making a more generous contribution. For those who may be on a fixed income, we simply ask that you give what you can afford. You may also contribute using Parish Pay. Simply go online and adjust your contribution accordingly.

We appreciate your past generosity and ask that **everyone** contribute generously to our Christmas Gift Appeal this year. Through your stewardship, OLC will remain a vibrant Waterfront parish and continue to be a Paulus Hook community icon. Thank you.

With my gratitude and love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom".