



# 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](mailto:pastor@olcjc.org)

[bulletin@olcjc.org](mailto:bulletin@olcjc.org)

### Websites

[www.olcjc.org](http://www.olcjc.org)

[www.olcschool.org](http://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.

**Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 20, 2015**

## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

This week's gospel describes "The Visitation", Mary's encounter with her cousin, Elizabeth. After the angel Gabriel's visit, Mary had immediately sought out Elizabeth for fellowship and support. It is a study in contrasts between the two women: one young, one not; one unmarried, one married; one of modest means, one of a more privileged class. However, they are both expecting children at the same time: very special boys conceived miraculously as the angel told them would happen. It is also the meeting of the Old Testament or Old Covenant with the New Covenant. "...God's redemptive plan is revealed in a marvelous way in this passage where we have come to the intersecting point of the old covenant and the new covenant... In Elizabeth's house the old covenant meets the new covenant. In the old covenant, the Messiah is prophesied. Every old covenant prophet essentially has this message: God will send His Son into this world to bear the penalty for the forgiving of your sin...and John was going to be the very last prophet who would ever speak that message. And here in Elizabeth's house, the last prophet of the old covenant with that message will meet the one about whom that message had been given, the Messiah...." (Dr. J. Ligon Duncan III, December 28, 2008, "Communion in God's Providence.")

The kinswomen bear witness to God's promise fulfilled to them as well as to His people. Their conduct is a shining example of what is proper behavior for all Christians: unequivocal faith, humility at being so blessed by God, and above all, profound joy at knowing His promise to all mankind is kept: the birth of our Savior. "...He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Luke 1:32-33

Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year,

*Th. Tom*



### LECTURE SERIES



Our ten-part lecture/study group will continue after Christmas. We anticipate that our eighth meeting will be on Monday, January 11. We will announce any changes in scheduling.

The subject of our lecture series is "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 seventh topic will be "Word Made Flesh, True Bread of Heaven: The Mystery of The Church's Sacrament and Worship". This presentation explores the ancient practices of the Church's worship that endure to this very day, and the notion that all value is summed up in the liturgy, the supreme act by which we commune with God.

Considered by the Catholic Faith to be the source and summit of its identity and mission, the Eucharist is the central practice of the Church's culture. Father Barron describes all the parts of the Mass, and shows how the Sacred Liturgy embodies the whole of the Faith in such diverse places as Jerusalem, Rome, Chicago, Orvieto and Mexico City.

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.

### OLC CHURCH ADVENT GIVING TREE



Our parish participated in the annual Advent Giving Tree Program. The gifts were delivered last 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.

### CHRISTMAS MASSES AT OLC

**Tuesday, December 22, 2015**

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

**Thursday, December 24, 2015 (Christmas Eve)**

5:00 PM Vigil

11:30 PM Christmas Caroling

12:00 AM Midnight Mass

**Friday, December 25, 2015 (Christmas Day)**

10:00 AM Christmas Day Mass

12:30 PM Christmas Day Mass

**No 7:00 PM Mass**

**Thursday, December 31, 2015 (New Year's Eve)**

5:00 PM Vigil

**Friday, January 1, 2016 (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

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@olcjc.org](mailto:secretary@olcjc.org).

## 2015 EVENTS AT OLC

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** We will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (confessions) Tuesday, December 22, 7:30 pm until 9 pm. Please, take this opportunity to receive this Sacrament before Christmas.

**OLC Seniors:** Meetings will resume in January, 2016.

**Drawing Rooms:** "The Big Small Show" exhibit is open through February 6, 2016.

**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@olcjc.org](mailto: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:** Part Seven will be covered on December 28. See page 2 for details.

## SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

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

**Sunday, December 20, 2015**

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

**Sunday, December 27, 2015**

Sir. 3:2-6, 12-14; Col. 3:12-21; Lk. 2:41-52

## 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.

Collection information for the weekend of December 13 is unavailable due to the early bulletin publication date.

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

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 and by being more generous in the Sunday collection. To sign up, go to [www.parishpay.com](http://www.parishpay.com) and follow the prompts. Thank you.

## 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](http://www.olcjc.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.

## 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@olcjc.org](mailto:bulletin@olcjc.org).

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

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

<b>Saturday</b> 5:00 pm	<b>December 19, 2015</b> Bruno and Frances Ruskowski From <i>Bruno Ruskowski</i>
<b>Sunday</b> 10:00 am	<b>December 20, 2015</b> Catherine Rowan From <i>Peters Family</i>
12:30 pm	Anna Kleczkowski From <i>Barbara and Dorothy Bromirski &amp; Melanie Zazula</i>
7:00 pm	People of the Parish
<b>Monday</b> 12:30 pm	<b>December 21, 2015</b> Deceased Members and Friends of the Huynh Family From <i>Kim Mom</i>
<b>Tuesday</b> 12:30 pm	<b>December 22, 2015</b> Deceased Members of the Siwik Family From <i>Donna and Mark Simon</i>
<b>Wednesday</b> 12:30 pm	<b>December 23, 2015</b> Communion Service
<b>Thursday</b> 5:00 pm	<b>December 24, 2015</b> Henry Dwulet From <i>Wife and Children</i>
12:00 am	People of the Parish
<b>Friday</b> 10:00 am	<b>December 25, 2015</b> Thomas H. Eckert From <i>Kathy Eckert</i>
12:30 pm	Bartoszek, Korzeniowski and Liszewski Families From <i>Family</i>
<b>Saturday</b> 5:00 pm	<b>December 26, 2015</b> John Plewan From <i>Bruno Ruskowski</i>
<b>Sunday</b> 10:00 am	<b>December 27, 2015</b> Pablo Ramon Perdomo Alfonso From <i>Perdomo and Curiel Families</i>
12:30 pm	Anna Kleczkowski From <i>Dr. John and Eleanor Del Monte</i>
7:00 pm	People of the Parish

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

## STEWARDSHIP



*"For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy." - Luke 1:44*

When you hear the scripture readings and Gospel reading each Sunday, do you "leap for joy?" If not, don't blame the lecturer or priest, rather look inside yourself.

Do you prepare for Mass each week or do you just show up and expect to be entertained?

## PROGRAMS AT THE MARIANIST FAMILY RETREAT CENTER



**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.

**Young Adults Retreat Weekend (February 5-7, 2016).** This weekend is for young adults (age 22 -35, married or single) who wish to examine their personal faith in relation to God, self, co-workers and others. There will be a time for Eucharist, prayer experiences, faith sharing and social interaction. This retreat tends to fill quickly so please send your application in as early as possible. Cost is \$120 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](http://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@olcj.org](mailto:Directorofmusic@olcj.org) for more information.

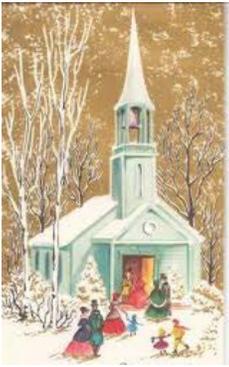


## MOMMY & ME CLASSES AT OLC SCHOOL

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](mailto:MommyandMe@olcschool.org) for more information.



## CHRISTMAS GIFT APPEAL



As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior, we, the Community of OLC, should take time to REMEMBER and REJOICE in our blessings and RENEW our faith of the Lord. We should relate these three “R’s” to our Christmas Gift Appeal.

We must REMEMBER the work and sacrifices of both past and present parishioners, steadfast in their commitment to

OLC, who made this parish what it is today. We REMEMBER the many improvements, repairs and ministerial programs made possible by their generosity and sacrifices. We need to REMEMBER our responsibility to support the work of Christ through His Church.

Because of you, we have many reasons to REJOICE! We have a beautiful historic church, faith formation and parish outreach programs, and a wonderful elementary and pre-school which has seen significant growth over the past several years and has become the choice of many of our community’s residents.

As we REMEMBER, we must not take for granted what was contributed by others. We must not take for granted our handicap ramp, improved air conditioning, a new church boiler, a restroom conveniently located in the church narthex, a modern organ and professional piano, as well as many other things. In the spirit of REMEMBER, REJOICE and RENEWAL, our Christmas Gift for OLC will be especially important as we serve the Lord and preach the Gospel message.

This year’s Christmas appeal gives us the opportunity to RENEW our commitment to our mission and your Christmas Gift will be used to help our Parish with several important projects.

We need to upgrade the kitchen in the church hall. It will be costly but will provide better facilities for parish events. Along with the kitchen upgrade, we will need to improve the acoustics in the church hall. The sound reverberates, making it difficult to hear and speak. The church floor is badly damaged and will need to be replaced. There are additional projects that will require attention in the near future.

To address these needs, the Finance Committee is asking you to make a gift of sacrifice that will help us with these programs of renewal. Our RENEW goal is to raise at least \$75,000 from our Christmas gift appeal. This represents an average gift of \$400 per family. If your financial situation permits, please offer more; otherwise give what you are able. You may make your Gift over a couple of payments from now into the new year. Using the ParishPay system ([www.parishpay.com](http://www.parishpay.com)) is another way to make your Gift. If you are an OLC School alumni, you may also restrict your gift for school

projects. Please know that your Christmas Gift will be used responsibly for important projects in the parish.

With my gratitude and love,

## 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](mailto:Directorofmusic@olcj.org).

**Lectors** – Pat Duemig, 201-955-1495

**Serve Donuts After 10:00 am Mass** – call OLC rectory, 201-434-0798.

## 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.



## 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](mailto:directorofmusic@olcj.org).