



# 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.

**Christmas – December 25, 2016**

## FROM THE PASTOR



Dear Parishioners,

The Advent season is not specifically a season of penance, such as Lent, but rather a season of joyful expectation, hope and preparation. This season reminds us that we are a people who joyfully await the coming of our savior. Advent reminds us of the optimistic and joyful message of hope. Christmas is the realization and fulfillment of our expectations.

As we celebrate the birth of our Savior, the message of Emmanuel, God is with us, should take on significant personal meaning. This is not only the celebration of our Savior's birth, it is also the celebration of our Lord's presence in our lives today.

For the faithful, this holy season should re-focus us upon Jesus' presence in our lives as the source of our joy and happiness, security and safety, and unconditional love which is only found in God. The realization of God's presence in our lives should be the source of our hope and strength in all of life's circumstances.

The Christmas Story is timeless, bringing joy and inspiration because it speaks so powerfully of God's immense involvement in our lives. When the infant was born, the angels heralded his birth by singing "Peace on earth to men of good will." This peace is "a peace that the world cannot give," and it is expressed in the loving God who is ever committed to us, ever understanding and supportive.

We pray that, the God who became one like us "in all things, but sin," might bestow his peace upon you at this very wonderful time of the year. May you receive His peace into your heart and your home so you have a transforming experience that the Lord is ever close to you in every way.

With love,

### 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.

### LECTURE SERIES

Our ten-part lecture/study group will continue in January. Our tentative date is Monday, January 9 at 7:30 pm in the rectory. Meetings will be every other Monday. 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. We will announce any changes in scheduling.



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.

### CHRISTMAS MASSES AT OLC

**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**

**Saturday, December 31, 2016 (New Year's Eve)**

5:00 PM Vigil

**Sunday, 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**

*If you see only shadows,  
that means a light is shining nearby.*

## MASS INTENTIONS

WHOEVER  
EATS THIS  
BREAD  
WILL LIVE  
FOREVER



they walked this earth.

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

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).

## 2016 EVENTS AT OLC

**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](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:** 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 25, 2016

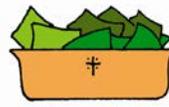
Vigil: Is. 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25;  
Mt. 1:1-25

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

### Sunday, January 1, 2017

Nm. 6:22-27; Gal. 4:4-7;  
Lk. 2:16-21

## 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](http://www.parishpay.com) and follow the prompts.

Collection information for the weekend of December 17/18 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. Remember that although it is important to support your parish financially, your donation is ultimately a gift back to God for his blessings.

## WE ARE LIVING STONES

Pledges for the *We Are Living Stones* capital campaign have continued to come in. Pledges have reached 130%+ of our Works of Mercy goal! Congratulations and thanks to all who have participated.

Because pledges exceed our Works of Mercy Goal, we the parish will receive a rebate of 50% of the money that exceeds our goal. We are *already* almost half-way there – half of all actual contributions over our goal will help us with capital improvements.



WE ARE  
LIVING  
STONES

There is still time to participate and we still need your help and donations. Pledge envelopes are available on the credenzas at the rear of the church. If perhaps you did not pledge because you had concerns that OLC might not benefit from your participation; you can now put those concerns aside. As pledges are fulfilled and we exceed our Works of Mercy Goal in amounts contributed, funds *will* flow to OLC, in addition to supporting worthy diocesan ministries.

Individual pledges have reflected the diversity of financial means within our parish. Some pledges have been especially generous. But no pledge is too small.

Have questions? Contact Jack Starr by e-mail, [jstarr@starrpatent.com](mailto:jstarr@starrpatent.com), or by phone, 646-591-1918.

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

<b>Saturday</b> 5:00 pm	<b>December 24, 2016</b> Dennis Piatkowski From <i>Richard Piatkowski</i>
<b>Sunday</b> 12:00 am 10:00 am	<b>December 25, 2016</b> People of the Parish Bartoszek Korzeniowski and Liszewski Families From <i>Family</i>
12:30 pm	Edward Warlikowski From <i>Claire Warlikowski</i>
7:00 pm	<b>NO MASS</b>
<b>Monday</b> 12:30 pm	<b>December 26, 2016</b> Thomas Eckert From <i>Kathy Eckert</i>
<b>Tuesday</b> 12:30 pm	<b>December 27, 2016</b> Bromirski and Hyjek Families From <i>Melanie and Bill</i>
<b>Wednesday</b> 12:30 pm	<b>December 28, 2016</b> Communion Service
<b>Thursday</b> 12:30 pm	<b>December 29, 2016</b> Wynne Family From <i>Nicola Wynne-Jankola</i>
<b>Friday</b> 12:30 pm	<b>December 30, 2016</b> Victor L. Figueroa From <i>Joan Darcy Mara</i>
<b>Saturday</b> 5:00 pm	<b>December 31, 2016</b> John Plewan From <i>Bruno Ruskowski</i>
<b>Sunday</b> 10:00 am 12:30 pm	<b>January 1, 2017</b> People of the Parish Olan Gallagher From <i>sister, Caroline Kornutik</i>
7:00 pm	<b>NO MASS</b>

***The Bread and Wine & Tabernacle Candle  
are Offered in Memory of Thomas Eckert  
from Kathy Eckert***

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

## STEWARDSHIP



***"And the Word became flesh." - John 1:14***

Jesus is God's ultimate gift of love to us. The countless other blessings that God showers upon us are nothing compared to the gift of His only Son. The

only appropriate way for us to respond to such generous love is with our own generous love. When we dedicate our lives to sharing all the gifts God has placed in our hands, the peace of Christ truly will control our hearts and we will know Christmas joy every day.

## CHRISTMAS FLOWER INTENTIONS



Penaga and Campomanes Families; Zygmund and Brian Wondowlowski & Gladys and Elmer Duemig; Juan and Juana Hernandez, Ramon Lopez & Rosemarie and Hank Peters; Olan Gallagher and Attracta Gallagher; Vincent, Carrie and Evelyn Gallagher; Evelyn and Leo Cafferty, Joseph Cafferty & John and Mary Kornutik.

## 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 is having 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. We already made one delivery. Thank you.



## 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, 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.

## 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 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.

## THE FOURTH ANNUAL BIG SMALL SHOW 2016

The Drawing Rooms will re-open on January 20, 2017. The Big Small Show will be open for visitors on that day through February 6, 2017. More than 100 artist works ranging from paintings and framed drawings to three-dimensional. For more information, call 201-208-8032 or email: [victoryhall1@msn.com](mailto:victoryhall1@msn.com) or [info@drawingrooms.org](mailto:info@drawingrooms.org). We hope you will join us! The Drawing Rooms are located at the OLC Convent on 180 Grand Street.

## 2017 OLC WALL CALENDARS

Don't forget to pick up your free 2017 OLC Calendar after you leave Mass! They are on the tables in the back of the church. Many thanks to the Bromirski Funeral Home for donating them.

## 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](mailto: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 "Fr. Tom".