



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

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201-985-0918

Email

pastor@olcjc.org

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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.

Second Sunday of Advent – December 4, 2016

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,



The season of Advent is a time of waiting, but from the waiting, we have the promise of God's Covenant and the birth of Jesus. In this week's reading from the book of Isaiah (11:1-10), we hear of the Peaceful Kingdom of God. In a world of uncertainty and strife, it is a calming reassurance that God's Kingdom will be a safe place for all. Even when we feel that hope is in short supply or fear begins to make us question, the stories of Advent remind us of the journey that our ancestors made waiting for the fulfillment of God's Promise. Christ is the fulfillment of that promise and he is the shoot that grew from the stump of Jesse.

Hope is a strong companion as we wait during the Advent season. The approach of Jesus follows the stories of the Old Testament. In each story, the men and women who waited for the Messiah continue to build God's Kingdom on Earth. When Christ came into the world, we know and recognize him having the spirit of wisdom and understand-

ing, the spirit of counsel and might, and the spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord.

Take time this Advent to explore the stories of the Jesse tree found in the Old Testament, teaching your children, or revisiting the stories on your own. As any gardener can tell you, some trees need special care and time before they are ready. God took time to bring Jesus into the world, but Christ is with us, guiding us, our Emmanuel. We will live God's calling and continue sharing the love, peace, and hope of this season as we await our time to see Christ again.

With love,

BAPTISM AT OLC



Congratulations to Bo and Nicole Zhang on the baptism of their son, Oliver Yi Ding who was baptized last Sunday, November 27 during the 12:30 pm Mass. We offer our prayers and congratulations.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER COLLECTION



Our special collection for Christmas flowers and holiday decorations is this weekend, December 3/4. Your generosity helps us pay for our many poinsettias, wreaths, the Christmas tree and other miscellaneous supplies. You can also make a special donation in memory of a loved one.

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



The Feast of the Immaculate Conception celebrates the solemn belief in the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is universally celebrated on December 8, nine months before the feast of the Nativity of Mary, which is celebrated on September 8. It is a celebration of Mary as both the image of the Church and the model of the perfect disciple of Christ. In 2016, it is a holy day of obligation and the OLC masses will be 12:30 pm and 7:00 pm.

FALL PARISH REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION DRIVE



Our Fall parish registration and registration 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.

OLC'S FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS SONG



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

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

Feast of the Immaculate Conception: Masses will be on Thursday, December 8 at 12:30 pm and 7:00 pm.

OLC Seniors: Christmas Party and Meeting on December 14 at the Manor in West Orange, NJ. Call Dorothy Bromirski, 201-333-4888 for info.

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.

Special Collection: December 10-11 will have a collection for Retirement Fund for Religious.

Lecture Series: Monday, December 12, 7:00 pm, in the rectory. The fifth topic is "The Indispensable Men, Peter and Paul and Their Missionary Adventure."

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

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

Sunday, December 4, 2016

Is. 11:1-10; Rom. 15:4-9; Mt. 3:1-12

Sunday, December 11, 2016

Is. 35:1-10; Jas. 5:7-10; Mt. 11:2-11

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 November 19/20, 404 people attended Mass. The collection in church amounted to \$3,549. ParishPay donations for the past week were \$2,106, contributing to a weekend collection of \$5,655. This is \$345 below our weekly goal of \$6,000.

For the weekend of November 26/27, 361 people attended Mass. The collection in church amounted to \$3,287. ParishPay donations for the past week were \$2,106, contributing to a weekend collection of \$5,393. This is \$607 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. 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.

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, or by phone, 646-591-1918.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday 5:00 pm	December 3, 2016 Dennis Piatkowski From <i>Blanche and Barbara Przyblinski</i>
Sunday 10:00 am	December 4, 2016 Deceased Siwik Family (Grandparents Katherine and Alexander & Aunt Helen and Uncle Charlie) From <i>Donna Simon</i>
12:30 pm	Anne Bruggis From <i>Hennessey Family</i>
7:00 pm	People of the Parish
Monday 12:30 pm	December 5, 2016 William Belanich From <i>Rachel Lopez</i>
Tuesday 12:30 pm	December 6, 2016 For the Intentions of Delores Orsatti Burke & Family From <i>Michael Burke</i>
Wednesday 12:30 pm	December 7, 2016 Communion Service
Thursday 12:30 pm	December 8, 2016 Angelo DiGiovanni (1 st Ann.) From: <i>Hiott Family</i>
7:00 pm	People of the Parish
Friday 12:30 pm	December 9, 2016 Aida Martinez-Sanabria From <i>Gutierrez Family</i>
Saturday 5:00 pm	December 10, 2016 David Penaga From <i>Vange Campomanes</i>
Sunday 10:00 am	December 11, 2016 Aniela Ciba (33 rd Ann.) From <i>Family</i>
12:30 pm	Cait Hughes From <i>Barbara Rzaski</i>
7:00 pm	People of the Parish

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

STEWARDSHIP



"Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." - Matthew 3:10

Do you bear good fruit for Christ? Or, do you spend your time, talent and treasure constantly acquiring

more toys, clutter and junk? Our time, our talent and our treasure are gifts that God has given us. What we do with them is our gift back to God. What gifts are you planning to give to the Lord during this upcoming Christmas season?

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.

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.

OLC CHURCH ADVENT GIVING TREE



Our parish will participate 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.

To participate 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 11**. All gifts will be delivered during the week of December 12.

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

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.

THE FOURTH ANNUAL BIG SMALL SHOW 2016

The Drawing Rooms will host their biggest exhibit of the year on Friday, December 16 from 6:00-9:00 pm and Saturday, December 17 from 2:00-6:00 pm. More than 100 affordable artist works ranging from paintings and framed drawings to three-dimensional works available for purchase. There will be free receptions on both days. For more information, call 201-208-8032 or email: victoryhall1@msn.com or info@drawingrooms.org. We hope you will join us! The Drawing Rooms are located at the OLC Convent on 180 Grand Street.

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.

THE DRAWING ROOMS FOURTH ANNUAL HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER

The Drawing Rooms will host a Fundraiser at the Gallery at 109 Columbus in Jersey City on December 8 from 7:00-9:00. More than fifty artists generously donated original drawings, paintings and sculpture in support of this event. Evening includes wine, appetizers, music, and a raffle of donated artworks. **Your ticket ensures you a work of art of your choice!** For more information, call 201-208-8032 or email: victoryhall1@msn.com. We hope you will join us to celebrate our fourth year of exhibitions and community programming!



LECTURE SERIES



Our ten-part lecture/study group will meet Monday, December 12, 7:00 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 Bar-

ron. 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 fifth topic is "The Indispensable Men, Peter and Paul and Their Missionary Adventure". This session calls Peter and Paul two indispensable men, the ones without whom the church never would have emerged and survived. In telling each man's story, our presentation shows how the Holy Spirit worked through all the apostles and disciples to build the Church. Following the road of these apostles as they took the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we see the foundations of the apostolic faith, particularly the revelation of Christ's resurrection from the dead.

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.

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.

