



**OLC**

**1911 – 2014**

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

**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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**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,  
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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 2 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 7, 2014**

## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

During this Advent season, John the Baptist leads us to our Lord, whose birth we await and whose reign in eternity will never end. This week's gospel focuses on the beginning of the delivery of the good news about Jesus the Messiah to the people. According to Isaiah the prophet, "...I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way – a voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" Mark 1:1-3. This messenger was John the Baptist. It was John's task to awaken in them the faith to recognize and receive Christ when he came. John "...preached a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him, and after confessing their sins, they were baptized by John in the Jordan River." Mark 1:4-5



This week's other readings are cautionary but they offer comfort as well; "...the Lord does not want anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. Grace and eternal life await those who ...make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him." 2 Peter 3:9, 14. He clearly wants everyone to share in His heavenly kingdom and doesn't want to leave anyone out.

During the holiday season, we are oft reminded to "be grateful for what we have." Sometimes, it is difficult to remember to be thankful or even feel grateful when things don't seem to be going the way you want. Let us be thankful for family, stability and health, but especially, the Lord, who has not only given us so much, but loves us even more.

With love,

### LECTURE SERIES



Our ten-part lecture/study group will continue after the New Year. Please, follow the bulletin and announcements in church for the exact date of our next meeting.

### Our sixth topic will be "A BODY BOTH SUFFERING AND GLORIOUS THE MYSTI- CAL 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.

For anyone who missed the previous four presentations, they will be offered on selected Mondays for repeat viewings.

### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

We will celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on Monday, December 8. The Feast is a Holy Day of Obligation, and as such, there is the obligation to attend Mass on the Holy Day. Our Masses will be 12:30 and 7:00 p.m.



The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception finds its origins in early Christian writings, reflecting popular piety of the early Church. Early Church Fathers affirmed Mary's purity

and her exemption from sin. They would go on to affirm an exemption from "original sin" and, in fact, said that Mary was "immaculately conceived" and, therefore, never sinned in life.

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is a feast of redemption, a festival of Christian predestination in God's plan of salvation. It is a celebration of Mary as both the image of the Church and the model of the perfect disciple of Christ. But, like all other teachings about Mary and all other feasts that honor her, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is related to her principal title and feast, the Mother of God (January 1), because she would be the Mother of the Redeemer, she would be preserved from sin. As theologians, bishops and popes have taught for centuries, Mary, because she would be the Mother of the Lord, had more need than anyone else for preservation from sin.

### BAPTISM AT OLC

We are very happy to announce that on Sunday, November 23, our faith community welcomed another member to our faith community. We congratulate our proud parents.



Gavin Gerard Snook

the son of

Peter and Sarah,

Pictured with his

sister Clare

## MASS INTENTIONS



Remembering someone in our prayers (whether alive or deceased) is always important. Because the celebration of the Mass is the highest form of worship the Church celebrates, 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.

If you wish to have a Mass celebrated, simply stop by the rectory, call us at **201-434-0798** or send an e-mail to: [secretary@olcjc.org](mailto:secretary@olcjc.org).

## 2014 EVENTS AT OLC

**The Big Small Show 2014:** The Victory Hall Drawing Rooms will host a fundraiser and gala event on Saturday, December 13, 6 pm – 9 pm. Preview sales evening on December 12, 4 pm – 8 pm. Please join us at the Drawing Rooms, OLC Convent, 180 Grand Street. The galleries are open Thursday – Friday, 4-7 pm, and Saturday – Sunday, 2-6 pm. Call **(201) 823-9393** or email: [victoryhall1@msn.com](mailto:victoryhall1@msn.com) for more information.

**December Seniors Meeting:** The OLC Seniors meeting and Christmas party will be held on December 9 at Casino in the Park, Jersey City. The Bus pickup will begin 11:30 am from 221 Warren Street, 72 & 100 Montgomery Street, and 500 Manila Avenue. A full course meal will be served. Cost is \$35. For more info call (201) 333-4888.

**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. If there are any parishioners at OLC who play a musical instrument, we are in need of your musical abilities. 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.

## SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Reflect on today's readings. Prepare for next Sunday

**Sunday, December 7, 2014**

Is. 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Pt. 3:8-14; Mk. 1:1-8

**Sunday, December 14, 2014**

Is. 61:1-2, 10-11; 1 Thes. 5:16-24; Jn. 1:6-8, 19-28

## 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 are especially generous and who wish to remain anonymous. **We need your support for us to** achieve our weekly collection goal of \$6,000 per Sunday which is essential to the financial health of your parish. For the weekend of November 22/23, 405 people attended Mass. The collection amounted to \$6,238 of which \$2,277 was contributed by those using ParishPay. This is \$237 above our weekly goal.

For the weekend of November 29/30, 380 people attended Mass. The collection amounted to \$5,642 of which \$2,277 was contributed by those using ParishPay. This is \$358 below our weekly goal. We again thank all of those who generously support us with special appreciation to those who are very generous! Always remember that your gift is a gift given to the Lord.

If you have been away from church traveling, please help make up our revenue by being extra generous in the collection when you return. 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 [olcjc.org](http://olcjc.org) and reference "Formation and Sacraments." Follow the link to "Baptism of Children," or call the rectory. Upcoming dates are:

**January 4, 2015, March 1, 2015**

**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 1, 2015, April 5, 2015**

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.

## SANTA'S ELF FACTORY

Santa's Elf Factory will be open on December 13, 14, 20 and 21 from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm at Tommy 2 Scoops on 117 York Street. Half of the proceeds will benefit KFM Making a Difference in the Community, a local autism advocacy group. Discount admission available with an offering of a new, unwrapped toy to be donated to Toys for Tots. There will be holiday activities, sweet treats available and shopping. For more information and to register, visit [www.jcfunraisers.com](http://www.jcfunraisers.com), [jcfunraisers@gmail.com](mailto:jcfunraisers@gmail.com) or call 201.579.3030.

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

<b>Saturday</b> 5:00 pm	<b>December 6, 2014</b> Dennis Piatkowski From <i>Tina Del Giodice</i>
<b>Sunday</b> 10:00 am	<b>December 7, 2014</b> Mark Bryn From <i>Mary Ann MacPherson</i>
12:30 pm	People of the Parish
7:00 pm	Gerry Cano From <i>Mr. and Mrs. Felipe Rey</i>
<b>Monday</b> 12:30 pm	<b>December 8, 2014</b> Mary Ann Calabrese From <i>Jessica and Sean Hablitz</i>
7:00 pm	People of the Parish
<b>Tuesday</b> 12:30 pm	<b>December 9, 2014</b> Dennis Piatkowski From <i>Martin and Charlotte Kennedy</i>
<b>Wednesday</b> 12:30 pm	<b>December 10, 2014</b> Communion Service
<b>Thursday</b> 12:30 pm	<b>December 11, 2014</b> Aniela Ciba, 30 <sup>th</sup> Ann. From <i>Family</i>
<b>Friday</b> 12:30 pm	<b>December 12, 2014</b> Dennis Piatkowski From <i>OLC Seniors</i>
<b>Saturday</b> 5:00 pm	<b>December 13, 2014</b> Bruno and Frances Ruskowski From <i>Bruno Ruskowski</i>
<b>Sunday</b> 10:00 am	<b>December 14, 2014</b> Genevieve Bryn From <i>Mary Ann MacPherson</i>
12:30 pm	Henry Rokosz From <i>Tina Dzubina</i>
7:00 pm	People of the Parish

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

## STEWARSHIP



**"Prepare the way of the Lord..."**  
**- Mark 1:3**

We are all called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, does just that – it puts us on the path to holiness and it invites others to be holy, too.

## OLC'S FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS SONG



Our annual Festival of Christmas Song is this **Sunday, December 7, 4:00 pm**. Under the direction of Ben Rauch, we have planned the best production ever. The theme for this year's concert is "Holly Jolly Christmas," and it will be an extra special holly jolly one! Audience members are encouraged to

sing-a-long with Christmas favorites like "Let It Snow," "White Christmas," "Holly Jolly Christmas," "Winter Wonderland," "The Twelve Days Of Christmas," and "Sleigh Ride." The OLC Kid's Choir will be singing two special songs, and there will be some amazing solos from the OLC Cantors, as well as other fabulous adult choir members! There will be a live drummer and bass player performing. Santa is even scheduled to show up at this year's festival, so you don't want to miss this! The concert is free for all and we encourage you to invite all your friends and family!

## OLC CHURCH ADVENT GIVING TREE

Our parish is once again participating in its annual Advent Giving Tree Program. Our Christmas tree is decorated with "ornaments" showing 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 14**. All gifts will be delivered during the week of December 15.

For further information, you may call Pat Duemig at 201-955-1495 or Maggie Englese at 201-963-8761.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

## FREE INTRODUCTORY PAINTING CLASSES AT THE DRAWING ROOMS

Want to try painting? This is your chance! Beginning this month, learn to paint with artist Robert Preston on Thursday evenings 7 pm – 9 pm. Robert will show you how to use water-based oil paints that give the look and feel of an oil painting but with greater ease. Your first class is free! Class is currently forming. You may drop by on any Thursday evening, email: [victoryhall1msn.com](mailto:victoryhall1msn.com), or call 201-823-9393 for more information.



## THE BIG SMALL SHOW 2014 AT THE DRAWING ROOMS

The Victory Drawing Rooms will host a fundraiser exhibition and gala event on Saturday, December 13, 6 pm – 9 pm. The preview sales evening is Friday, December 12, 4 pm – 8 pm. The exhibit will feature over 100 talented painters, collage artists, print makers and sculptors from New Jersey and New York City. The evening begins with the exhibition viewing and then moves to Victory Hall for light food, wine, live music and dancing from Marc Sloan and Forever Moonlight. Tickets may be ordered at <http://drawingrooms.org/events.html>; tickets are \$25 each or two for \$45. Your donation contributes to the maintenance and upkeep of the historic OLC Convent building, as well as continues to bring art, music and classes to our community all year long. Please join us at the Drawing Rooms, OLC Convent, 180 Grand Street.

## JOIN A PARISH MINISTRY IN 2014!

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

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

**Serve Donuts After 10:00 am Mass** –  
call OLC rectory

## RCIA



**RCIA** is the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. It is a program for you if you are an adult or teenager who is not baptized (or was baptized in another Christian community) and you are interested in becoming a member of the Catholic Church. **RCIA** is a program for baptized Catholics, adults or teens, needing to receive First Holy Communion and/or Confirmation. We invite you to become part of a process of spiritual growth and development known as **RCIA** (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults). If you are interested, please contact the rectory, **201-434-0798**, or send an email to the rectory, [olc@olcjc.org](mailto:olc@olcjc.org), or feel free to speak Fr. Tom after Mass.

## 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.

## 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 adequate retirement savings. You can help by giving during the annual collection at your local Catholic parish. Our parish will take up the annual collection on **December 14**. For more information, please go to: <http://www.retiredreligious.org>.

## CHRISTMAS FLOWER COLLECTION



During the holiday season, we attempt to decorate the church as beautifully as possible. Thanks to our parishioners, we will have a wonderful Christmas tree and floral decorations for Christmas.

This year, we are once again appealing to your generosity as we have our special collection for Christmas flowers and holiday decorations this weekend. Your generosity will help us pay for our many poinsettias, wreaths, the Christmas tree and miscellaneous supplies. You can also make a special donation in memory of a loved one.

This year we need to replace our manger scene. We explored the possibility of repairing and restoring our present set, but we discovered that purchasing a new set is only a few thousand dollars more than repairing our old one. If anyone would like to help by “memorializing” one or more figures in the manger scene, please call the rectory to obtain more information.



## FAITH WORKS

### Food Drive

### Winter Coat Drive



Even though we focus on the first weekend of the month for collecting non-perishable foods, with the coming of Christmas we are making a very special appeal for 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 may 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.).

Our winter coat drive has been a resounding success! Due to overwhelming response, we will not be collecting any more coats. We wish to thank our parishioners for their generosity to the neediest of our community.

## OPERATION PLAYGROUND



Construction is nearing completion on OLC School’s new playground! You will be able to help by purchasing paver stones to be used in the new courtyard. More information is coming soon!