

# 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 – 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

## 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.

**First Sunday of Lent – February 14, 2016**

## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

Our Lenten journey began this week with Ash Wednesday. It is a time for a new beginning. It is the time to grow closer to Jesus.

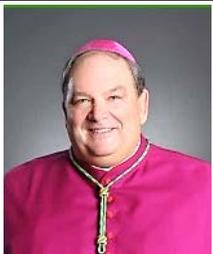
The purpose of Lent is to seek penance for sins of the past and to renew our relationship with God through the three pillars of the Lenten season: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Prayer is to allow people to focus or meditate on many aspects of their personal lives and to also pray for others. Fasting is to assist in developing self-control. It is often an aid to prayer, as the pangs of hunger remind us of our hunger for God. Almsgiving is a continuation of prayer and fasting. It is a time to be thankful for all that God has given us. It is also a time to care for others as God cares for us. ([www.catholicaction.org](http://www.catholicaction.org), March 13, 2011)

In this week's gospel reading, Jesus, weakened after spending forty days in the wilderness without food, is tempted by the devil to turn away from God. Jesus had chosen to fast and pray during this time in order to prepare Himself for the mission His Father was entrusting to Him. Jesus, "...full of the Holy Spirit and led by the Spirit..." rebuffs the devil. (Luke 4:1-13) Luke is reminding us of our own frailty. Even Jesus did not rely on his own human strength and will-power for overcoming temptation. We too, need the strength and guidance of the Holy Spirit to help us in our weakness and to be our guide and strength in times of tribulation. Take time during the Lenten season to strengthen your relationship with Jesus: pray, fast and perform random acts of kindness.

With love,



### SPECIAL VISITOR



Coadjutor Bernard A. Hebda will grace Our Lady of Czestochowa parish as the principal celebrant of next Saturday, February 20, Vigil Mass.

Bishop Bernard Hebda, the former bishop of Gaylord, Michigan, was appointed to assist Archbishop John Myers in running New Jersey's largest diocese, which has more than 1.3 million Roman Catholics in Essex, Union, Hudson and Bergen counties.

### LECTURE SERIES

Our ten-part lecture/study group will conclude on Monday, February 22.

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 be informal. We will view a video, discuss it, learn from it and also socialize. All are welcome to attend.

Our tenth and final topic will be, "World Without End – The Last Things." We will explore the Church's conviction that life here and now is preparation for an extraordinary world that is yet to come: a supernatural destiny. We will explore the Catholic vision of death, judgment, heaven, hell and purgatory as our video takes us to Florence, Ireland and Rome.

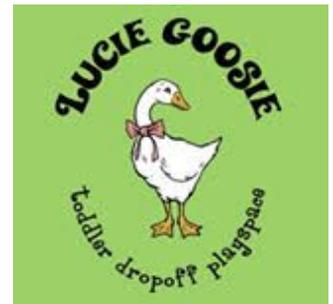
The vision of the Church sees beyond this world and invites us to consider a world without end. Our presentation shows how this vision is supported by the mystery and truth of the Resurrection of Jesus.

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.

### LUCIE GOOSIE TODDLER ENRICHMENT

Lucie Goose Toddler Enrichment is now at OLC Church! Lucie Goose is a toddler drop-off for children 18 months to 3 ½ years old. Drop off your little ones in a safe and nurturing environment Monday to Friday from 9:00 am to 12 noon. They offer play-based learning, featuring creative movement, music, and literacy development in a social environment.

Please check us out on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/luciegoosieplayspace>. To register, please email us at: [info@luciegoosie.com](mailto:info@luciegoosie.com).



### LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)

Have you and your family been impacted by tough economic times? The LIHEAP may be able to help you pay your winter heating bills. Applications will be accepted until April 30, 2016. For those falling behind on their electric and gas bill who are not eligible for low income programs, moderate income programs, such as the TRUE Grant, PAGE Grant and/or New Jersey SHARES programs, may provide the help you need. For more information, or to find out how to apply, call 1-800-510-3102, visit [pseg.com/help](http://pseg.com/help) or [pseg.com/ayuda](http://pseg.com/ayuda) (Spanish).

## 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).

## 2016 EVENTS AT OLC

**Drawing Rooms:** New "Project Rooms" exhibit will open on February 19. Free artist reception will be held on February 21 from 3:00-7:00 pm. The Drawing Rooms are located at 180 Grand Street, Jersey City NJ. For more information, go to [www.thedrawingrooms.com](http://www.thedrawingrooms.com).

**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 Ten will be covered on February 22. See page 2 for details.

## SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

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

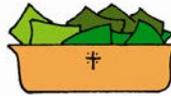
**Sunday, February 14, 2016**

Dt. 26:4-10; Rom. 10:8-13; Lk. 4:1-13

**Sunday, February 21, 2016**

Gn. 15:5-12, 17-18; Phil. 3:17-4:1; Lk. 9:28-36

## 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.

For the weekend of February 7, 360 people attended Mass. The collection in church amounted to \$3,117. ParishPay donations for the past week were \$1,600, contributing to a weekend collection of \$4,717. This is \$1,283 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.

OLC is facing 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 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. 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:

**March 6, 2016; May 1, 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:

**April 10, 2016; June 5, 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.

## 2016 and 2017 MASS BOOKS

The 2016 Mass Book is currently open for mass intentions. The 2017 Mass Book will be available in a few weeks. 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

<b>Saturday</b> 5:00 pm	<b>February 13, 2016</b> Rozalia (43 <sup>rd</sup> Ann.) and Ignatius Gradowski From <i>Terri</i>
<b>Sunday</b> 10:00 am	<b>February 14, 2016</b> Pablo Ramon Perdomo Alfonso From <i>Perdomo and Curiel Families</i>
12:30 pm	Tanios Kerbaj From <i>Kerbaj Family</i>
7:00 pm	People of the Parish
<b>Monday</b> 12:30 pm	<b>February 15, 2016</b> Flaviano Maglasang From <i>Daughter Mila</i>
<b>Tuesday</b> 12:30 pm	<b>February 16, 2016</b> Intentions of John Mairs and Family From <i>Michael Burke</i>
<b>Wednesday</b> 12:30 pm	<b>February 17, 2016</b> Communion Service
<b>Thursday</b> 12:30 pm	<b>February 18, 2016</b> Thomas Lange and Leanna Kozak From <i>Anna Mae Stefanelli</i>
<b>Friday</b> 12:30 pm	<b>February 19, 2016</b> Rev. Walter Niedzwiecki (22 <sup>nd</sup> Ann.) – 5 <sup>th</sup> Pastor From <i>Parish</i>
<b>Saturday</b> 5:00 pm	<b>February 20, 2016</b> Dennis Piatkowski From <i>Ostrowski Family</i>
<b>Sunday</b> 10:00 am	<b>February 21, 2016</b> Joseph Ciba (6 <sup>th</sup> Ann.) From <i>Family</i>
12:30 pm	Barbara and Nick Sorrentino From <i>Mary Minkowski</i>
7:00 pm	People of the Parish

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

## STEWARDSHIP



*"I have now brought you the first fruits of the products of the soil which you, O Lord, have given to me."  
- Deuteronomy 26:10*

This line from the Old Testament offers two challenges. First, do you give to God from your "first fruits", the best that you have to offer, or do you give from what is leftover? Second, do you remember that everything you have has been given to you by God? Ask God for a grateful and generous heart, every day.

## CATHOLIC FUNERAL RITES

The Archdiocese of Newark has introduced a short video highlighting the significance of the Church's meaningful funeral rituals to guide our Catholic community. The six-minute video, titled "Many Travelers, One Journey," weaves together the stories of multiple individuals describing how family, friends and Church community come together to pray and comfort each other, celebrate the faith and life of their loved one, and share in the three principal parts of the Catholic funeral liturgy - the Vigil, Funeral Mass and Committal Service - known as the Order of Christian Funerals.

Produced by Catholic Cemeteries, a ministry of the Archdiocese of Newark, the video accompanies a comprehensive planning guide, titled *Continuing the Journey, Preparing a Catholic Funeral*, to assist Catholics during their time of loss or when pre-planning. It includes information on coping with the death of a loved one, ministry resources at a time of loss, Scripture Readings for Funerals, practical preparations, and more.

The video and booklet are available online at: [www.rcancem.org/ocf](http://www.rcancem.org/ocf).

## 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@olcjc.org](mailto:Directorofmusic@olcjc.org) for more information.

## PROGRAMS AT THE MARIANIST FAMILY RETREAT CENTER

**Latino Family Retreat Weekend (March 4-6, 2016).** This retreat is open to families who wish to experience a family retreat in the Latino Community and culture. Along with traditional Marianist Family Retreat elements (Communication, Affirmation, Forgiveness & Commitment), Spanish language and Latino cultural foods will be part of this experience. Cost is \$120 per adult; \$85 per child.

**Women's Spirituality Retreat Weekend (March 11-13, 2016).** Join with other women in a creative exploration of your own story and stories of women in faith. Come alone, or with a relative or friend. A team of Marianist women has prepared this weekend of rest and renewal. Eucharist, other prayer experiences, socials and fun are included. Cost is \$130 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.capemay-marianists.org](http://www.capemay-marianists.org).

## WE ARE LIVING STONES CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



The **We Are Living Stones Capital Campaign** has begun in the Archdiocese of Newark. Two thirds of the parishes in the Archdiocese have implemented the Appeal. We, Our Lady of Czestochowa parish, are in the third group to intro-

duce the Appeal this spring.

Financial resources are essential to enable our parishes, particularly Our Lady of Czestochowa, to continue supporting the journey of faith, spirituality and ministry of our expanding Catholic community. The Appeal's goal is to raise more than \$90 million in pledges to support six priorities: *A Parish Share, Tuition Assistance Endowment, Works of Mercy, Parish Renewal Fund, Seminarian Support Endowment, and Retired Priest Care and Medical Needs Endowment.*

**Parish Share:** The physical needs of Our Lady of Czestochowa, now and into the future, are of great concern. It is projected that the parishes of the Archdiocese will need almost \$125 million over the next ten years to ensure that the 1,100 church, school and rectory buildings, parish centers, ministry offices and other buildings within the Archdiocese where we engage in the work of the Church are kept in good condition. Once a parish reaches its "Parish Share" target, then 50% of all funds raised return back to the parish while simultaneously funding additional case elements that both directly and indirectly benefit our parishes.

Each year OLC conducts its Annual Christmas Gift Appeal. This money is targeted to parish projects and improvements. Parishioners have been very generous supporting the Christmas Appeal, however with the anticipated expenses of our up-coming projects, we will need to raise additional money. With your whole hearted support of the **We Are Living Stones Capital Campaign**, the parish can supplement our Christmas Gift Appeal to help with our projects.

## ANNUAL FISH & CHIPS NIGHT



Lent will be coming early this year, and with the coming of Lent we will have our annual "Fish & Chips" night. Set the date now. We will have it Saturday, March 19, after the 5 pm Vigil Mass.

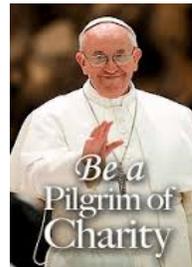
The location remains the same, St. Peter's Prep dining hall on the corner of Van Vorst and Grand.

Ticket prices will remain the same as last year, \$13 each, 4/\$50. Our dinner will also include fries, coleslaw and a dessert. We feature an excellent deal for your money.

## WOMEN'S COMMISSION DAY OF REFLECTION

All women are invited to the 2016 Day of Reflection, February 27 from 9:00 am – 1:30 pm, at Seton Hall University. Become "Alive in Christ" as we celebrate the Jubilee Year of Mercy. Leah Darrow and Sr. Miriam James Heidland are key note speakers. We are glad to share the stories of these women – stories of mercy, healing, freedom and Real Love. Registration begins at 8:00 am; \$20 admission, free to clergy and religious. Continental breakfast; English and Spanish track available. For more information, go to their website on [www.rcan.org/womcom](http://www.rcan.org/womcom), email CatholicWomen@rcan.org or call 973-497-4545.

## PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION



OLC's Peter's Pence Collection will be taken on March 5 and 6. Peter's Pence unites us in solidarity to the Holy See and its works of charity to those in need. Its purpose is to provide the Holy Father with the financial means to respond to those who are suffering as a result of war, oppression, natural disaster, and disease. Please contribute to this worthy endeavor.

## RELIEF FOR SOUTH AND MIDWEST FLOOD VICTIMS

Terrible floods have affected people in the South and Midwest regions of the country. As rivers continue to rise and temperatures get colder, conditions will worsen, making life even harder for everyone.



Catholic Charities USA is responding to the challenges with emergency food, shelter and clothing. Your financial support can help them meet this important need. Anyone interested in assisting in this effort to help our brothers and sisters in need may make a contribution directly to the organization via the agency's website: <https://support.catholiccharitiesusa.org>.

## DOWNTOWN HARVEST COMMUNITY-SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE (CSA)

Our CSA, Downtown Harvest is now preparing for their upcoming season. Enjoy fresh, organic produce while helping to support sustainable agriculture. During the 24-week season, the farmer brings the members' weekly share to the OLC Church garage. Members share in the risks and rewards of the farmer. For membership information, please go to their website <http://www.downtownharvest.org> or email: [downtownharvest@yahoo.com](mailto:downtownharvest@yahoo.com).

