



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 – 2017

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

Rev. Gerard J. Sudol
In Residence

Rev. Anthony Azzarto, 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.

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time – February 19, 2017

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

This week's Gospel reading is one that everyone has heard but find difficult to understand. During Jesus' sermon on the Mount, he admonishes His listeners against retaliation and to love their enemies. Does Jesus really expect us to "turn the other cheek" even in an unprovoked confrontation?

So often when attacked there are two natural response; one is to fight back and retaliate. The other is to flee. However, Jesus' instruction to turn the other cheek speaks about a third type of response, namely to stand your ground. To illustrate this, there is a story about Nelson Mandela who was walking on a sidewalk in Johannesburg. As a white racist approached he said to Mandela, "I do not make way for gorillas, stand aside." As Mandela stepped aside he is quoted as saying to the man, "Yes, but I do." Mandela stood his ground and reflected back upon this person his own ignorance.

In Calcutta Mother Teresa entered a bakery with a small child and requested bread for the child. The owner spat in her face. Her comment to him was, "Thank you for that gift for me; now, can I have a gift of bread for the child." She reflected back upon the shopkeeper his own ignorance and selfishness.

In both examples, Mandela and Mother Teresa stood their ground; they were not intimidated. They did not fight back nor did they walk away. These examples exemplify Jesus' teaching on non-violence. Obviously, there are times when we need to fight violence with violence, however, the non-violent approach has been more effective in creating social change than violence. Don't be afraid to "turn the other cheek."

With love,

Fr. Tom



CARDINAL'S VISIT TO OLC



In a letter dated February 6, 2017, Cardinal Tobin expressed his personal gratitude for his warm welcome to the Archdiocese of Newark. This has been "a period of incredible change and transition" in his life... "The kindness and support of the priests and people of the Archdiocese is most welcome."

Cardinal Tobin also expressed his desire to meet us and to hear about our concerns, if any. To this end, he will visit our church on Wednesday, March 8, 2017. He will celebrate a 7:30 pm Mass for all who wish to attend. Following Mass, there will be a reception with light refreshments for all and an informal dialogue, perhaps akin to a "town hall meeting" or a "Meet-and-Greet" after Mass. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

SHARING GOD'S BLESSINGS ANNUAL APPEAL

Next weekend, our parish will kick off the 2017 Sharing God's Blessings Annual Appeal. This year's Appeal, *Sharing God's Blessings* is a perfect opportunity for us to reflect on God's generosity to us and to share the blessings we have been given with those around us.

This year's Appeal will continue to support the many good works of the ministries throughout the Archdiocese. We are often reminded by our Holy Father Pope Francis and sacred scripture that in order to love one another we must share the blessings which God has provided to us. In Acts 4:32-33, we learn that the early church shared all possessions with one another



so that the Apostles and early Christian communities could fully proclaim "the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great favor was accorded them all. There was no needy person among them."

We are called to similarly share what is granted to us by God and return it to Him so that not one of our brothers and sisters goes without; without the gift of faith, without the essential human needs, and without a personal relationship with Our Lord.

The Annual Appeal makes religious education, spiritual guidance and CYO programs available for our youth; insures the future leadership of the Church with seminarian education and training; and most important, brings Christ's Good News to the people of the Archdiocese. **Our parish also benefits by receiving a rebate from the appeal if it exceeds its goal.**

Please come prepared to make as generous of a pledge as you are able. Thank you in advance for your support of the Sharing God's Blessings Annual Appeal.

To learn more about the ministries of the Archdiocese of Newark, please visit www.rcan.org/sharing or like them on face book at 'Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Newark' or tweet them at @NwkArchdiocese!

FAITH WORKS

Please remember to make a donation of non-perishable food items next weekend to support our "Faith Works Program." This is a very important work of charity that has benefited many in our community. We accept all canned and jarred non-perishable foods (vegetables, soups, tuna, canned meats, gravies, etc.). We also accept toiletries. Thank you for your contributions! **However, we must ask that only food be left on the back table as we cannot accept clothing at this time.**



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.

2017 EVENTS AT OLC

OLC Seniors: The next meeting will be on March 8. For more information, please contact Dorothy Bromirski at 201-333-4888.

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.

Lecture Series: Continues on March 5, 2017. Our ninth topic will be "The Fire of His Love - Prayer and the Life of the Spirit."

First Holy Communion: Sunday after Mother's Day (May 21).

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

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

Sunday, February 19, 2017

Lv. 19:1-2, 17-18; 1 Cor. 3:16-23; Mt. 5:38-48

Sunday, February 26, 2017

Is. 49:14-15; 1 Cor. 4:1-5; Mt. 6:24-34

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.

OLC is facing a financial crisis. Even though Sunday collections were up during the holiday season, because of bad weather this past weekend and the end of the holiday season, our collections have dropped again below our \$6,000 weekly goal. Therefore, we still expect financial difficulties as we go forward. We ask a few things of you:

1. Use Parishpay if you cannot attend Mass each weekend.
2. Increase your weekly donation. We really need people to be as generous as possible each week to support the parish.
3. If you do not use Parishpay, please "make up" your regular donation the next time you attend Mass.

For the weekend of February 11/12, 346 people attended Mass. The collection in church amounted to \$2,835. ParishPay donations for the past week were \$2,523, contributing to a weekend collection of \$5,358. This is \$642 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.

PARISH REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION UPDATE

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, a sponsor for Confirmation, etc.

We conducted a parish registration and information update drive in the Fall. The drive is over but you can register anytime! Please come to the rectory Monday-Friday between 9:30 am and 5:00 pm to register. 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 information.

ANNUAL ARCHDIOCESAN CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE

The Catholic Men's Conference will be held on Saturday, March 4 from 8:00 am-4:30 pm at Seton Hall University in South Orange, NJ. This year's theme is "Be Not Afraid: Becoming Missionary Disciples." Speakers will be Cardinal Sean Patrick O'Malley, Archbishop of Boston, and Joe Lombardi Jr., quarterback coach for the New Orleans Saints. His Eminence Joseph W. Cardinal Tobin will be celebrating the Mass. Registration fee is \$25 and includes continental breakfast and lunch. Register at: www.NJCatholicMen.org.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday 5:00 pm	February 18, 2017 Barbara Bromirski From <i>Dorothy Bromirski and Family</i>
Sunday 10:00 am	February 19, 2017 Vitus Rodricks From <i>D'Souza Family</i>
12:30 pm	Rev. Walter Niedzwiecki (23 rd Ann.) - 6 th Pastor From <i>OLC Parish</i>
7:00 pm	People of the Parish
Monday 12:30 pm	February 20, 2017 Manuel and Victoria Lago From <i>Maria</i>
Tuesday 12:30 pm	February 21, 2017 Joseph Ciba (7 th Ann.) From <i>Family</i>
Wednesday 12:30 pm	February 22, 2017 Communion Service
Thursday 12:30 pm	February 23, 2017 Joanna Dranikoff From <i>Anna Mae Stefanelli</i>
Friday 12:30 pm	February 24, 2017 Walter Chowanec From <i>Romanski Family</i>
Saturday 5:00 pm	February 25, 2017 Josephine Kuklasinski From <i>Dorothy Bromirski</i>
Sunday 10:00 am	February 26, 2017 Samuel Singer From <i>Laura Halstead</i>
12:30 pm	Walter Chowanec From <i>Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Englese</i>
7:00 pm	People of the Parish

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

STEWARDSHIP



"But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you..."

- Matthew 5:44

Love your enemies, easier said than done, no

doubt. But, remember, the foundation of stewardship is prayer. When we are in close communication with God, it opens our heart and it turns our attention away from "me" and moves it towards God and others. It allows us to have a little more empathy for "our enemy". When we pray for others, even "our enemies", maybe it softens their hearts as well.

SCALABRINI CENTER NYC SERVICES FOR ALL MIGRANTS

The Scalabrini Center in Greenwich Village in nearby New York City provides low-cost services for all migrants. The non-profit organization provides Immigration Status consultations, forms and filing, language translations, social agency referrals, ESOL instruction, citizenship classes, and immigration advocacy. They are located at 25 Carmine Street in Manhattan. For more information, please call 646-678-4097, email info@scalabrinicenternyc.org or go to their website: www.scalabrinicenternyc.org.



YORK STREET PROJECT FUNDRAISER

The York Street Project (YSP) will host a Lasagna Dinner fundraiser Friday, March 31. Located in Paulus Hook, YSP provides schooling, child daycare and support for young women seeking to complete their secondary education. YSP seeks raffle "theme" baskets to sell at their fundraiser. Possible donations include, but are not limited to, cooking, beauty, sports, event tickets, jewelry and technology. Items must be received before March 22. For more information, please call Kyle O'Neill, Development Associate at the York Street Project at 201-451-8225. You can purchase tickets through their website: www.yorkstreetproject.org/events/lasagna.

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.



SEPARATED/DIVORCED SUPPORT GROUPS

It's true...there's no such thing as "Catholic Divorce"...but millions of Catholics DO get civilly divorced. And it affects and hurts us all. Maybe you or someone you know has suffered the breakdown of the marriage and family, or maybe they are going through it right now. No matter how long it's been, the Church is HERE to help. There are several parishes in the Archdiocese of Newark who offer a support group for the divorced and/or separated. Contact Lauren Egan at 1-973-497-4327 for more information.



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:

March 6, 2017; May 7, 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:

April 2, 2017; June 4, 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.

2017 LENTEN REGULATIONS

1. The days of both Fast and Abstinence during Lent are Ash Wednesday (March 1, 2017) and Good Friday. If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the "paschal fast" to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily His Resurrection. The other Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence.

On a day of Fast, only one (1) full meal is permitted, and two (2) smaller meals, which, if added together, would not exceed the main meal in quantity.

Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast.

On a day of Abstinence, no meat may be eaten. Those who have reached the age of 14 are obliged by the law of abstinence.

2. The obligation to observe the laws of Fast and Abstinence "substantially", or as a whole, is a serious obligation.
3. The Fridays of the year, outside of Lent, are designated as days of penance, but each individual may substitute for the traditional abstinence from meat some other practice of voluntary self-denial as penance.
4. The time for fulfilling the Paschal Precept (Easter Duty*) extends from the First Sunday of Lent, March 5, 2017 to The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, June 11, 2017.

*Canon 920, §1. *All the faithful, after they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, are*

bound by the obligation of receiving Communion at least once a year.

ARCHDIOCESAN PRIESTS RETIREMENT COLLECTION

The Retired Priests' Collection for the priests of the Archdiocese of Newark will be on Ash Wednesday, March 1. There is currently a shortfall in funding for priests' retirement, and the



Archdiocese is working diligently to address this shortfall through such efforts as this special collection. Priests do contribute to their own retirement through 403 B and Social Security, but please keep in mind that their salaries are modest. Our archdiocesan priests have been there for you and your families, please be there for them to assist in the dignity of their retirement and to honor their lives of service. This Collection is not to be confused with December's collection for Retired Religious.

ANNUAL MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARY RECOGNITION BY ARCHDIOCESE

The Archdiocese will celebrate the annual tradition of honoring couples in our Archdiocese who will be celebrating five, twenty-five and fifty years of Christian marriage in the year 2017. These anniversary liturgies will be celebrated by Cardinal Joseph Tobin in the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark as follows:



April 30, 2017 3:00 pm 5 & 25 years, (All counties)
May 7, 2017 3:00 pm 50 years, (All counties)

If you wish to participate in these liturgies, please contact the rectory to register.

LECTURE SERIES



Our ten-part lecture/study group continues on Monday, March 6, 7:30 pm in the rectory.

Our ninth topic will be "The Fire of His Love - Prayer and the Life of the Spirit." In this lesson, the presentation will explore Catholic spirituality, which is centered on prayer. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states: "Prayer is the lifting up of the mind and the heart to God."

On pilgrimage to the places where the great saints and spiritual masters lived, this presentation explores the different types of prayer: contemplation; adoration; petition; and intercession. In telling the stories of Catholics like Thomas Merton, St. Theresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross, it is demonstrated how the human person can be transformed through prayer that manifests a deep, spiritual commitment centered in Christ.

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.