

# 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.

Third Sunday of Lent – February 28, 2016

## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

The origin of the phrase “living on borrowed time” is uncertain. The term was known in the U.S.A. by the 1880s. The phrase appears in an article published in The Indiana Progress in September, 1886: “We may be careworn and aged, forsaken of the world, living on borrowed time, useless so far as any activity is concerned, dependent on children, or friends, yet Jesus has loving acquaintance with us.” Its meaning however, is clear – this is time “borrowed” from Death, that is, after when one might have expected to have died. (The Phrase Finder Online)

Like the barren fig tree in this week’s gospel reading, we too, are living on borrowed time. Jesus told this parable: “A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’ The gardener asked the vineyard owner to leave the tree alone for another year. He promised to tend to the tree and if it fails to bear fruit, to cut it down then.” (Luke 13:6-8)

The figures in this parable have clear symbolic significance. God is the vineyard owner, understandably impatient with the barren fig tree and wanting to cut it down. His people are the fig tree, unrepentant and unable to bear spiritual “fruit.” Jesus is the gardener, interceding for more time to better properly care for the tree and bring it to fruitfulness.

In the parable, the vineyard owner grants another year of life to the tree. In the same way, God in His mercy grants us more time. Jesus is the caring gardener who bought the fig tree more time. It is because of Christ’s sacrifice that we have all been given the opportunity to earn God’s grace. However, borrowed time is not permanent and we must not take God’s mercy for granted. Jesus is waiting patiently for us to let Him into our hearts; it’s time to let Him in.

With love,

### 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. Thank you for your contributions!

### 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).

### OLC CHURCH’S 7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

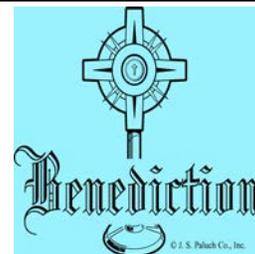
We will have our Easter Egg Hunt on Holy Saturday morning, March 26, 10:00 am. The location is on the parish field at the end of Sussex Street. Children from the earliest ages to age 10 are invited. Bring your Easter baskets or bags. Raindate is Saturday, April 2. Bring your cameras and make certain that you



arrive ahead of time. Even though we put out about a thousand eggs, the stampede of children usually collects all of them within about five minutes. We will need some volunteers to help the Easter Bunny put out the eggs on the field.

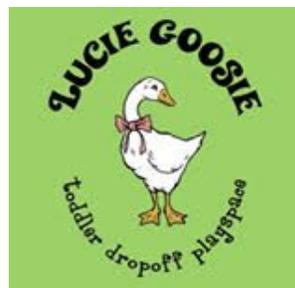
### FIRST FRIDAY DEVOTIONS & HOLY HOUR

We will celebrate our next *First Friday Devotions*, on Friday, March 4, 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm. This hour will afford you a perfect opportunity for prayerful reflection and a time for spiritual sustenance. Take a little time for yourself for peaceful reflection and meditation. It is only one hour, but it can take you away from your personal cares.



### LUCIE GOOSIE TODDLER ENRICHMENT

Lucie Goosie Toddler Enrichment is now at OLC Church! Lucie Goosie is a toddler drop-off for children 18 months to 3½ 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).



## 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 is open through March 27. 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.

## SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

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

**Sunday, February 28, 2016**

Ex. 3:1-8, 13-15; 1 Cor. 10:1-6, 10-12; Lk. 13:1-9

**Sunday, March 6, 2016**

Jos. 5:9-12; 2 Cor. 5:17-21; Lk. 15:1-3, 11-32

## 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 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.

For the weekend of February 21, 384 people attended Mass. The collection in church amounted to \$3,850. ParishPay donations for the past week were \$1,904, contributing to a weekend collection of \$5,754. This is \$256 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.

## 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.

## EASTER FLOWER COLLECTION

We will conduct our Easter Flower Collection the weekend of March 12-13. Your generosity will enable us to decorate the church in a manner worthy of its beauty for our Easter Celebration. Please be generous when we take up this collection.

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

<b>Saturday</b> 5:00 pm	<b>February 27, 2016</b> William Bromirski From <i>Christine Hyjek</i>
<b>Sunday</b> 10:00 am	<b>February 28, 2016</b> Helen McDermott From <i>Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Englese</i>
12:30 pm	Theodore Gradowski From <i>Stephen Nowatkowski and Family</i>
7:00 pm	People of the Parish
<b>Monday</b> 12:30 pm	<b>February 29, 2016</b> Lerma Maglasang From <i>sister Mila</i>
<b>Tuesday</b> 12:30 pm	<b>March 1, 2016</b> George and Marita Burke From <i>Michael Burke</i>
<b>Wednesday</b> 12:30 pm	<b>March 2, 2016</b> Communion Service
<b>Thursday</b> 12:30 pm	<b>March 3, 2016</b> Donald Parker From <i>Susan Paul</i>
<b>Friday</b> 12:30 pm	<b>March 4, 2016</b> Maria Russo From <i>Anna Mae Stefanelli</i>
<b>Saturday</b> 5:00 pm	<b>March 5, 2016</b> Mary (40 <sup>th</sup> Ann.) and Charles Czyst From <i>Laura Czyst; Cathy, Fred and Allie Savage</i>
<b>Sunday</b> 10:00 am	<b>March 6, 2016</b> Pablo Ramon Perdomo Alfonso From <i>Perdomo and Curiel Families</i>
12:30 pm	Theodore Gradowski From <i>William Stapinski</i>
7:00 pm	People of the Parish

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

## STEWARDSHIP



*"He said to the gardener, 'For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none.'" - Luke 13:7*

Are you like the barren fig tree? How will you respond when God asks you what you have done with all the gifts He has given you? Remember, not only are we called to be generous, we are called to develop and nurture our gifts and return with increase.

## 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).

## SUPPORT GROUP FOR GRIEVING FATHERS

The needs of fathers who have suffered the loss of a child are unique. The office of Family Life Ministries of the Archdiocese of Newark invites all grieving fathers to a morning of prayer, sharing and discussion, away from societal expectation, in the hope it will provide a special place of understanding and healing. The group will meet on Saturday, March 5, 2016 at the rectory of Notre Dame RC Church, 359 Central Avenue, North Caldwell NJ at 10:00 am. Pre-registration is requested. Please call the Office of Family Life Ministries at 973-497-4327 for more information, registration and directions.

## PROGRAM AT THE MARIANIST FAMILY RETREAT CENTER

**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. For more information on this retreat, please call 609-884-3829 or visit their website at: [www.capemaymarianists.org](http://www.capemaymarianists.org).

## SHRINES OF THE HOLY LAND COLLECTION

The Collection for the benefit of the Holy Shrines is scheduled for Good Friday, March 25, 2016. This collection helps support the people and places of the Holy Land. Many Christians now find themselves victims of war and persecution. The Franciscans of the Custody of the Holy Land have the unique responsibility of caring for the Holy Places as well as caring for the Christians living in the Holy Land. The Collection offers all Catholics an opportunity to express their solidarity with Christians in the Holy Land. Your gift will make a difference in the lives of those caught up in war, violence and instability in this region.

## 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 introduce 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.

## 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)

## 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.

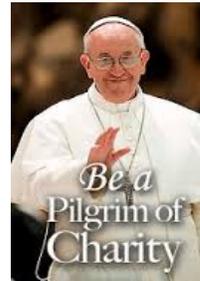
The location remains the same, St. Peter's Prep dining hall on the corner of Van Vorst and Grand.

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.

## VIRTUAL PILGRIMAGE OF LOURDES, FRANCE AT HOLY ROSARY CHURCH

The next best thing to visiting Lourdes itself is a Pilgrimage journey without the travel! North American Lourdes Volunteers will present a 90-minute prayerful virtual pilgrimage to Lourdes, France, at Holy Rosary Church on Tuesday, March 15 at 7:00 pm. You will immerse yourself in the Gospel Message of Lourdes as given by Our Lady to St. Bernadette. Touch the Grotto Rock and experience the healing grace of Lourdes Water. Participants will receive a Eucharistic blessing and pray the Rosary. A Plenary Indulgence is granted to all the faithful, under the usual conditions, who attend a Virtual Pilgrimage with North American Lourdes Volunteers. Come experience the healing grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ through His Immaculate Mother. Invite your family, children and friends. Holy Rosary Church is located at 344 6<sup>th</sup> Street in Jersey City. For more information, please contact the Parish office at 201-795-0120 or go to: [www.LourdesVolunteers.org](http://www.LourdesVolunteers.org).

## 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.

## JERSEY CITY MOMS MEETUP

Have kids? New in town? Want to meet other families? Check out Jersey City Moms Meetup at: [www.meetup.com/jersecitymoms](http://www.meetup.com/jersecitymoms). The group's overall goal is to foster friendships for moms and their families. They host a variety of family-friendly events that include husbands, partners and extended family members. They help many families connect to the greater JC community by providing opportunities to get together with other moms and families in the neighborhood by setting up play dates, exchanging information, sharing experiences and providing support, as well as connecting to other moms on their message boards.