



OLC

1911 – 2017

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

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.

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time – February 5, 2017

FROM THE PASTOR

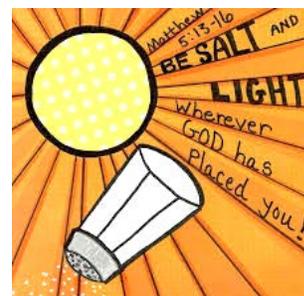
Dear Parishioners,

"He/She is "the salt of the earth"! We've all heard or even used that expression at least once in our lives. According to www.dictionary.com, the phrase means, "an individual or group considered as representative of the best or noblest elements of society." What may surprise you is that the sentence comes from this week's Gospel reading, Matthew 5:13-16.

In it, Jesus tells his listeners that they are both the "salt of the earth" (Matthew 5:13) and "the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14). Salt was a valuable commodity in Jesus' day. It was used for giving flavor to food. More importantly, it was used to preserve food for future use in the winter months when game was scarce. Emerson Powery points out that "...salt is not an element useful to itself. Its value comes in application on other things. So, likewise the followers of Jesus are called to exist for others." (www.workingpreacher.org) Light allows humans to see. In our contemporary world, it is hard to imagine a world without light. When night fell in the ancient world, it was dark. In darkness, "...we grope like the blind along a wall, groping like those who have no eyes." (Isaiah 59:10). Light enables people to witness acts of justice and mercy from Jesus' followers. Light has another important meaning. By emulating Jesus in acts of charity, kindness and mercy, we too, can become a beacon of hope to others.

As God's people, we are called upon to live our faith. As Jesus' faithful followers in the world, we are called upon to help preserve and guide others. Be the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

God bless you,



BAPTISM AT OLC CHURCH



*Oliver Leo Kurgansky
the son of
Alexander and Mary
was baptized
Sunday, January 29.
May God bless him
always.
Congratulations to
Oliver and his family.*

company of witnesses who are called by Christ to be a Communion of Saints.

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.

2017 and 2018 MASS BOOKS

The 2017 Mass Book is currently open for mass intentions. The 2018 Mass Book will be available in the spring. Please call 201-434-0798 or stop by the rectory Monday-Friday from 9:30 am-5:00 pm to arrange a mass intention.



LECTURE SERIES

Our ten-part lecture/study group continues Monday, February 13 at 7:30 pm in the rectory.

Our eighth topic will be "A Vast Company of Witnesses, the Communion of Saints." The story of the Church is told in the examples of those men and



women who dedicated their lives to knowing and serving Jesus Christ. The Catholic Faith is made visible in real human lives. Our presentation gives consideration to some of the Church's greatest heroes, and demonstrates how their extraordinary examples display both the passion and creative potential of the Catholic Church.

Highlighting Katharine Drexel, Therese of Lisieux, Edith Stein, and Mother Teresa of Calcutta, this presentation tells the story of the Church as a vast

ANNUAL MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARY RECOGNITION BY ARCHDIOCESE



The Archdiocese is preparing for 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 and 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.

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.

2016 EVENTS AT OLC

OLC Seniors: The next meeting will be on February 8. Lunch will be served. 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 February 13, 2017. Our eighth topic will be "A Vast Company of Witnesses, the Communion of Saints."

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

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

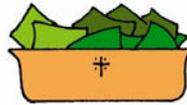
Sunday, February 5, 2017

Is. 58:7-10; 1 Cor. 2:1-5; Mt. 5:13-16

Sunday, February 12, 2017

Sir. 15:201; Cor. 2:6-10; Mt. 5:17-37

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 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 January 28/29, 373 people attended Mass. The collection in church amounted to \$3,736. ParishPay donations for the past week were \$2,516, contributing to a weekend collection of \$6,252. This is \$252 above 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.



If you have recently moved to our area or have been attending OLC but have not officially registered, 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.

THE FOURTH ANNUAL BIG SMALL SHOW

The Big Small Show is open through February 17, 2017. More than 100 artist works ranging from paintings and framed drawings to three-dimensional. 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.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday 5:00 pm	February 4, 2017 Helen and Bruno Ruskowski, Jr. From <i>Bruno Ruskowski</i>
Sunday 10:00 am	February 5, 2017 John Mascarenhas From <i>Mascarenhas Family</i>
12:30 pm	Edward Donovan From <i>Jeanne Bohlen Oppel</i>
7:00 pm	People of the Parish
Monday 12:30 pm	February 6, 2017 Walter Chowanec From <i>Mary Dombrowski</i>
Tuesday 12:30 pm	February 7, 2017 William Necina From <i>Flynn Family</i>
Wednesday 12:30 pm	February 8, 2017 Communion Service
Thursday 12:30 pm	February 9, 2017 Maria Wachong From <i>Maria</i>
Friday 12:30 pm	February 10, 2017 Walter F. Sudol (36 th Ann.) From <i>Son</i>
Saturday 5:00 pm	February 11, 2017 Rozalia (44 th Ann.) and Ignatius Gradowski From <i>Terri Gradowski</i>
Sunday 10:00 am	February 12, 2017 Josephine Kuklasinski From <i>Margaret and Lenny Englese</i>
12:30 pm	Tanios Kerbaj From <i>Kerbaj Family</i>
7:00 pm	People of the Parish

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

STEWARDSHIP



“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”
- Matthew 5:16

The generosity of being a good steward of your gifts has a positive effect on people and it is contagious! Good works encourages more good works. Let your light shine! Be careful to recognize that God is working through you and don't put yourself above the people you have been called to help.

SHARING GOD'S BLESSINGS ANNUAL APPEAL

On the weekend of February 25 and 26, 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 and to share the blessings we have been given with those around us and with those in need.

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 provides the poor with food, shelter and clothing; 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 us at @NwkArchdiocese!



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.

PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT

It should come as no surprise that Catholic parishes have faced many hurdles over the last few decades, particularly in urban areas where the school populations have dwindled and the parishioner base has decreased. This decrease in parishioners has become ever more obvious in lower collections and rising expenses, increasing the financial burden on parishes. Parishes have frequently engaged in fund raising activities to make up the deficit. In some cases other income performing assets help the parish financially to maintain its current obligations.

Growing the parish to preach the Gospel is our ultimate mission and number one goal. Now we need to find a source of funds to achieve that Mission. After working with the Building and Grounds and Financial Council, we identified several underperforming parish assets that could better serve the parish financially. The most obvious is the "Z" shaped property (mainly vacant land) at the west end of Sussex Street extending to Grand Street. It also includes a significant portion of the property currently used by St. Peters Prep football field, which was coming up on the expiration of a long-term use agreement with the parish.

In January of 2014, and after extensive discussion and research by the above committees, we decided to pursue discussions with some city officials and qualified local and regional property development firms to study the feasibility of developing the property in a way that would allow us to continue our mission.

The committees contacted and interviewed three development groups. At the end of the process, we decided to explore a joint venture with Silverman and Fields Development Group as the best option. Together with their long-standing reputation in the community and their record of accomplishment in successfully developing projects in the area, we felt their plan would be the most beneficial to us.

Parish leadership, along with the guidance from our legal Counsel, began the planning process, which includes the construction of a new academic facility adjacent to the current school in the school parking lot at Grand and Marin, to create a long-term source of capital to the Parish.

Investing into the school is a strategic investment that will allow us to grow the parishioner base in the long-term because the new facility will make OLC school one of the best in the area. This long-term capital source will allow the parish to maintain its assets including the church, convent and assist in financing our parish. This plan allows for reoccurring income to the parish rather than a onetime infusion of capital.

After two years of planning, we have come to the point where we wanted to share this with the entire congregation. We hope all parishioners will see the positive impact this will have on the parish, the nearby community and Jersey City. Please feel free to contact me on this exciting chapter for our church.

PROGRAMS AT THE MARIANIST FAMILY RETREAT CENTER



Young Adults Retreat Weekend (February 10-12, 2017). This weekend is for young adults (age 22 - 35, married or single) who wish to examine their personal faith in relation to God, self, co-workers and others. There will be a time for Eucharist, prayer experiences, faith sharing and social interaction. This retreat tends to fill quickly so please send your application in as early as possible. Cost is \$120 per person.

A Retreat on Female Spirituality (March 10-12, 2017). Join other women in a creative exploration of your own story and stories of women in faith. A team of Marianist women has prepared this experience of rest and renewal. Come alone, with a relative or a friend. Our time together will include Eucharist, prayer experiences, quiet time, socials and fun! Cost is \$135 per person.

Accommodations, meals and all activities are included. Financial aid is available for these programs. For more information, please call 609-884-3829 or visit their website at: www.capemaymarianists.org.