



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

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201-985-0918

Email

pastor@olcjc.org

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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.

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God – January 1, 2017

THE 21ST ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS SONG



SOLEMNITY OF MARY



Sunday, January 1st is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. In 2017, it is a holy day of obligation. Masses will be at 10:00 am and 12:30 pm on that day. The feast is a celebration of Mary's motherhood of Jesus. The title "Mother of God" is a western derivation from the Greek Theotokos, which means "God-bearer". On this day, we are reminded of the role that the Blessed Virgin played in the plan of our salvation. Through the Holy Spirit, God the Father prepared Mary to be the dwelling place where His Son and His Spirit could dwell among men. Christ's birth was made possible by Mary's fiat, or sanctioning of God's plan with her words, "Be it done to me according to thy word". Calling Mary "Mother of God" is the highest honor we can give to her. Just as Christmas honors Jesus as the "Prince of Peace", the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God honors Mary as the "Queen of Peace". New Year's Day is also designated as the "World Day of Peace", further acknowledging the role of Mary in our hearts and in our world.

BAPTISM AT OLC

We congratulate the parents who celebrated the baptism of their children on Sunday, December 18, 2016. May the Lord watch over these children always.



Abid Pereira
the son of
Elton and Kathlyn



David Raymond Correa
the son of
Reinaldo and Anna

NEW YEAR MASSES AT OLC

Saturday, December 31, 2016 (New Year's Eve)
5:00 PM Vigil

Sunday, January 1, 2017 (New Year's Day)
10:00 AM New Year's Day Mass
12:30 PM New Year's Day Mass
No 7:00 PM Mass

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

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: Will resume on January 16, 2017. The sixth topic will be "A Body Both Suffering and Glorious, The Mystical Union of Christ and the Church."

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

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

Sunday, January 1, 2017

Nm. 6:22-27; Gal. 4:4-7;
Lk. 2:16-21

Sunday, January 8, 2017

Is. 60:1-6; Eph. 3:2-6;
Mt. 2:1-12

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 December 17/18, 370 people attended Mass. The collection in church amounted to \$4,019. ParishPay donations for the past week were \$1,836, contributing to a weekend collection of \$5,855. This is \$145 below our weekly goal of \$6,000.

Collection information for the weekend of December 24/25 is unavailable due to the early bulletin publication date.

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.

WE ARE LIVING STONES

Pledges for the *We Are Living Stones* capital campaign have continued to come in. Pledges have reached 130%+ of our Works of Mercy goal! Congratulations and thanks to all who have participated.

Because pledges exceed our Works of Mercy Goal, we the parish will receive a rebate of 50% of the money that exceeds our goal. We are *already* almost half-way there – half of all actual contributions over our goal will help us with capital improvements.

There is still time to participate and we still need your help and donations. Pledge envelopes are available on the credenzas at the rear of the church. If perhaps you did not pledge because you had concerns that OLC might not benefit from your participation; you can now put those concerns aside. As pledges are fulfilled and we exceed our Works of Mercy Goal in amounts contributed, funds *will* flow to OLC, in addition to supporting worthy diocesan ministries.

Individual pledges have reflected the diversity of financial means within our parish. Some pledges have been especially generous. But no pledge is too small.

Have questions? Contact Jack Starr by e-mail, jstarr@starrpatent.com, or by phone, 646-591-1918.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday 5:00 pm	December 31, 2016 John Plewan From <i>Bruno Ruskowski</i>
Sunday 10:00 am 12:30 pm 7:00 pm	January 1, 2017 People of the Parish Olan Gallagher From <i>sister, Caroline Kornutik</i> NO MASS
Monday 12:30 pm	January 2, 2017 Joanna Moraes From <i>D'Souza Family</i>
Tuesday 12:30 pm	January 3, 2017 Intentions of Anne, Cabrini, and Dana (nee Lepis) From <i>Michael Burke</i>
Wednesday 12:30 pm	January 4, 2017 Communion Service
Thursday 12:30 pm	January 5, 2017 Barbara Bromirski From <i>Doris and Wolfgang Emden</i>
Friday 12:30 pm	January 6, 2017 Michael Antice From <i>Matty and Eddie</i>
Saturday 5:00 pm	January 7, 2017 Barbara Bromirski From <i>Julia Nowatkowski</i>
Sunday 10:00 am 12:30 pm 7:00 pm	January 8, 2017 Oliver D'Lima From <i>D'Souza Family</i> Mary Ann Dalton From <i>Denise and Anthony Spinella</i> People of the Parish

***The Bread and Wine are Offered in Memory of
Veronica J. Grutkowski
from Melanie and Bill Zazula***

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

STEWARDSHIP



“The Shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger.” - Luke 2:16

What will you seek out in the new year?

What blessings will you ask of God who has revealed the depth of His divine love for you in the birth of Jesus? Consider the blessings that you have already received, will you express your gratitude, not simply in words, but also by sharing your wealth and blessings with others?

FALL PARISH REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION DRIVE



Our Fall parish registration and information update has ended but it's not too late to register! Please come to the rectory Monday-Friday between the hours of 9:30 am and 5:00 pm to fill out a registration form. 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 contact and other information.

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. Thank you for taking part in the drive.

We thank all those who registered in the parish. Because our registration drive was so successful, our secretary is still working on our “welcome” letters.

FAITH WORKS

Food for Those in Need Winter Coat Drive



“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 include: canned coffee, tea, jelly, peanut butter, canned vegetables, canned and dried soups, cereals, pastas and noodles, brown gravies, Italian gravies, toiletries, canned meats and tuna fish, and condiments. Thanks again for your generosity to the neediest of our community.

OLC is having a **“Winter Coat Drive.”** There are many in Jersey City who need warm coats. Please leave winter coats in the rear of the church. We have local charities that can dispense them to those in need. We already made one delivery. Thank you.



THE FOURTH ANNUAL BIG SMALL SHOW 2016

The Drawing Rooms will re-open on January 20, 2017. The Big Small Show will be open for visitors on that day through February 6, 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.



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:

**January 8, 2017;
March 6, 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:

February 5, 2017; April 2, 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.

LECTURE SERIES

Our ten-part lecture/study group will continue in January. Our tentative date is Monday, January 16, 7:30 pm in the rectory. Meetings will be every other Monday. The subject will be "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 also be informal. We will view a video, discuss it, learn from it and also socialize. All are welcome to attend. We will announce any changes in scheduling.



Our sixth topic will be "A Body Both Suffering and Glorious, The Mystical 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.

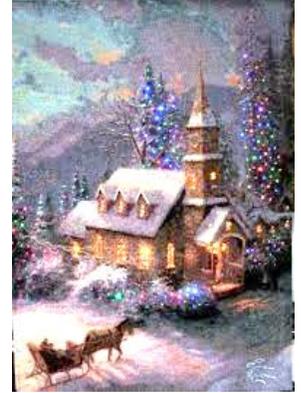
This program is designed for both Catholics and non-Catholics wishing to learn more about Catholicism. This program will offer new insights into our faith and a deeper understanding about theology and spirituality.

CHRISTMAS GIFT APPEAL

A few weekends ago, a member of our Parish Finance Committee spoke at Mass about Our Annual Christmas Gift Appeal. This is a parish tradition dating back 20 years.

For those of you who may not know about this, we make a special appeal at Christmas to raise additional money for physical improvements to our church.

Today, we take for granted many of these improvements that generous parishioners made possible through their donations. The handicap ramp is new, as is the bathroom in the church narthex. Thanks to your generosity in the Christmas Appeal, we were able to purchase a new organ and a piano, made repairs to the stained glass windows and the list goes on.



This year the Gift Appeal takes on greater significance. Over the last fiscal year, many very supportive parishioners have relocated out of the parish. Consequently, our Sunday revenues dropped \$54,000 this past year. If you have followed the bulletin, you have read each week how our Sunday collections have not reached our weekly goal of \$6,000.

This year's annual Christmas Gift is a very important part of our commitment to the financial well-being of our parish. Without it, we will struggle to make improvements to the church.

We have two goals this year. The first is to make up the \$54,000 revenue shortfall from last year. The second is to raise additional moneys for a reserve to make other necessary improvements to the church. Therefore, we need to raise more than \$80,000 this Christmas.

This is ambitious but very possible. We can do it if **everyone** contributes and we are asking, please, for **everyone** to participate. Our practice has been to ask every family to donate \$400 to the Christmas Gift. For those parishioners who earn six figures or more, or even in the high 5-figure range, please consider making a more generous contribution. For those who may be on a fixed income, we simply ask that you give what you can afford. You may also contribute using Parish Pay. Simply go online and adjust your contribution accordingly.

We appreciate your past generosity and ask that **everyone** contribute generously to our Christmas Gift Appeal this year. Through your stewardship, OLC will remain a vibrant Waterfront parish and continue to be a Paulus Hook community icon. Thank you.

With my gratitude and love,