



OLC

1911 – 2014

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

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 2 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

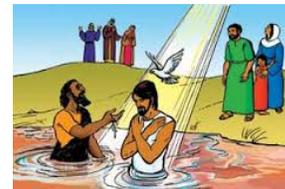
We work together to proclaim and live the Gospel on the Hudson River Waterfront by sharing our time, energy, and resources, and in doing so, we more powerfully witness the presence of Christ.

The Baptism of the Lord – January 11, 2015

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

After living in obscurity for most of his life, Jesus makes his first public appearance. "...He came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as he was coming up out of the water, Jesus saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.'" Mark 1:9-11



We are not told why Jesus made an appearance at this time, only that John the Baptist foretold the event. To John's surprise, Jesus asked that he be baptized by him. We do not know why. What we do know is that baptism infused Jesus with special powers. After his baptism, once "...God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him." Acts 10:38. In humbly submitting himself to be baptized, Jesus shows us how to completely give himself to God. After washing away his symbolic sins, Jesus emerges from the river and looking up, can see the glory of heaven. The heavens that are open to all, where the everlasting life that Jesus will give his earthly life for, awaits the righteous.

Baptism also infuses us with the power of the Holy Spirit. It is an act that is a powerful, wondrous and renewing gift of everlasting life. Every time a baptism is celebrated here at our church, we are reminded of the wonder and joy of new life, joy, love and hope reborn.

Wishing you a blessed New Year,

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 olcjc.org and reference "Formation and Sacraments." Follow the link to "Baptism of Children," or call the rectory. Upcoming dates are:

March 1, 2015, May 3, 2015

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 1, 2015, April 5, 2015

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.

LECTURE SERIES



Our ten-part lecture/study group continues Monday, January 12, 7:30 pm, in the rectory.

Our sixth topic will be "**A Body Both Suffering and Glorious, The Mystical Union Of Christ And The Church.**" This topic clearly

answering the question, "What is the Church?" Our video presents the reality of the Church as one, holy, catholic and apostolic. The Body of Christ can be seen on earth from the Church's center in Rome to the cities of New York, Sao Paulo, Manila, Namugongo and

Uganda, while still escaping total understanding as the mystical union between Christ and his Church. We will also explore 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.

BAPTISM AT OLC

We are very happy to announce that on Sunday, December 28, our faith community welcomed two new members. We congratulate our proud parents.



Cassia Sofia Mendoza
the daughter of
Rocky and Clara
with older brother
Rocky, Jr.

Alexander Joseph Shoback
the son of
Michelle and Joseph
with older sister
Audrey



MASS INTENTIONS



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@olcj.org.

2015 EVENTS AT OLC

The Big Small Show 2015: The Drawing Rooms continues to host this exhibit in January. Over 100 talented painters, collage artists, print makers and sculptors from New Jersey and New York City are presented. Call **(201) 823-9393** or email: victoryhall1@msn.com for more information.

OLC Seniors: The OLC Seniors meetings will resume January 14, 2015. For more information, call Dorothy Bromirski, (201) 333-4888.

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. If you have musical ability, please contact our music director Ben Rauch at: Directorofmusic@olcj.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, January 11, 2015

Is. 42, 1-4, 6-7; Acts 10:34-38; Mk. 1:7-11

Sunday, January 18, 2015

1 Sm. 3:3b-10, 19; 1 Cor. 6:13c-15, 17-20; Jn. 1:35-42

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.

Mass attendance for Christmas was 701 congregants. The collection on Christmas Day was \$30,347. We collected an addition \$14,785 for Christmas the weekends of December 28 and January 4. So far our Christmas collection is about \$1,500 less this year than the same time last year. Some families have been away on vacation and others have not contributed as yet. We pray that everyone will be a good steward and step forward to support the parish responsibly.

For the weekend of December 28, 335 people attended Mass. The collection amounted to \$5,290 of which \$2,400 was contributed by those using Parish-Pay. This is \$710 below our weekly goal.

For the weekend of January 4, 343 people attended Mass. The collection amounted to \$5,425 of which \$2,400 was contributed by those using Parish-Pay. This is \$575 below our weekly goal. Please be generous supporting the parish's Annual Christmas Appeal. If you have been away from church traveling, please help make up our revenue by being extra generous in the collection when you return. Thank you.

OPERATION PLAYGROUND UPDATE



The playground is nearly complete! Just a few more finishing touches are needed before it will be officially opened. You will be able to become a permanent part of the new space by purchasing personalized paver stones to be used in the courtyard. Pricing information will be available soon.

REGISTER WITH YOUR PARISH!

All Catholics should register with a parish. If you have been attending OLC it is fairly simple to make it official. Come to the OLC Rectory any time between the hours of 9:30 am – 5:00 pm, Monday – Friday, and fill out a registration card. If you have any questions do not hesitate to call, **201-434-0798**.



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday 5:00 pm	January 10, 2015 Richard Rubino From <i>Annette Owens</i>
Sunday 10:00 am	January 11, 2015 Christine Zawadski From <i>Ann Tedeschi</i>
12:30 pm	Julia Kyc, 29 th Ann. From <i>Family</i>
7:00 pm	People of the Parish
Monday 12:30 pm	January 12, 2015 James Guckian From <i>Family</i>
Tuesday 12:30 pm	January 13, 2015 Intention of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Burke From <i>Michael Burke</i>
Wednesday 12:30 pm	January 14, 2015 Communion Service
Thursday 12:30 pm	January 15, 2015 Romeo Mesina From <i>Lulu Santa Rosa</i>
Friday 12:30 pm	January 16, 2015 Maria and Armando Rodriguez From <i>Daughter and Family</i>
Saturday 5:00 pm	January 17, 2015 Dennis Piatkowski From <i>Maureen Dillon</i>
Sunday 10:00 am	January 18, 2015 Rev. Al Kowalski From <i>Friend</i>
12:30 pm	Steven Zaleskie From <i>Family</i>
7:00 pm	People of the Parish

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

STEWARDSHIP



“John answered them all, ‘I baptize you with water; but he who is mightier than I is coming...he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit...’” - Luke 3:16

The United States Catholic Catechism for Adults states that “Jesus’ immersion in the water is a sign for all human beings of the need to die to themselves to do God’s will.” In other words, as baptized Catholics there is only one simple gift that we need to give to Jesus. The only gift God wants is a complete offering of ourselves. Once we surrender ourselves to God in this way, we will know in our hearts what else God might call us to do.

St. Paul tells us that God has blessed each of us for a reason. How has God blessed you? Are you using your gifts according to God’s plan, helping to do His work here on earth? Remember that if you don’t do the work God planned for you, no one else can do it.

ENRICHMENT DAY:

THEOLOGY OF THE BODY FOR TEENS

A presentation on the “Theology of the Body” followed by an opportunity for questions and discussion will be offered on February 26, 2015 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon at the Archdiocesan Center in Newark. Topic will be facilitated by David Hajduk, Director of Campus Ministry at Delbarton High School, and author of “Theology of the Body for Teens.” Please call Cheryl Riley at 973-497-4350 for more information. Admission is free.

RCIA



RCIA is the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. It is a program for you if you are an adult or teenager who is not baptized (or was baptized in another Christian community) and you are interested in becoming a member of the Catholic Church. **RCIA** is a program baptized Catholics, adults or teens, needing to receive First Holy Communion and/or Confirmation. We invite you to become part of a process of spiritual growth and development known as **RCIA** (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults). If you are interested, please contact the rectory, **201-434-0798**, or send an email to the rectory, olc@olcjc.org, or feel free to speak Fr. Tom after Mass.

MOMMY & ME CLASSES AT OLC SCHOOL

Fun for you and your little ones! Mommy & Me classes are available at Little Harbor Academy at OLC School. Classes are for children 18 - 30 months. The 10-week sessions run from 2:00 pm – 2:45 pm, and cost \$250 (plus a one-time \$25 registration fee). “Creative Arts & Cooking” are on Tuesdays, “Storytelling & Music/Movement” are on Wednesdays, and “Montessori Time” will be held on Thursdays. LHA teachers facilitate all programs. Please contact Mrs. Murduca: MommyandMe@olcschool.org for more information.



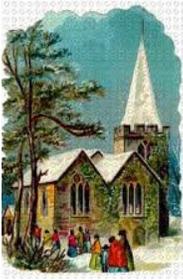
MANGER PURCHASE



As you may have noticed, we replaced our manger scene. The new set is undoubtedly beautiful and well made. It will last us for years to come. It is made in Italy by a very reputable company.

Be one of those individuals who will “memorialize” one or more figures in the manger scene. If you wish to memorialize a statue, the offering is as low as \$165.00. If you wish to contribute, please call the rectory to obtain more information.

CHRISTMAS GIFT APPEAL



Members of our Parish Finance Committee spoke to you about our "Christmas Gift Appeal" at different masses before Christmas. Over the years, the Christmas Gift has allowed the parish to make significant improvement to the church along with making necessary repairs to an aging building.

We do not constantly ask for money, but in the spirit of Christmas giving, we ask our parishioners to make a special "Christmas Gift" to their parish. Your Christmas Gift will allow us to make more improvements.

Our goal this year is \$75,000. While \$75,000 may seem to be high, it is not unreasonable based on previous Gifts and we feel that if each family would strive to give at least \$400 we could move forward with our plans. As always, \$400 is not a minimum gift, nor is it a maximum, particularly for those who can give more. Keep in mind, you can give your gift in installments.

People of great spiritual insight have consistently discovered that sacrificial giving brings joy to one's heart. It contributes to fulfillment in life, personal pride and satisfaction. It also contributes to a sense of peace and security before God.

OLC's Tradition of the "Christmas Gift" is longstanding. It gives us an opportunity to support Christ's Church by making your "Christmas Gift" to OLC. Much of what you see here in the church was made possible by the generosity of parishioners in previous years. We have the stained glass windows, the organ, the bathroom in the narthex, the church ramp, the sanctuary flooring, and the list goes on.

This year's Christmas Gift is even more important since our regular weekly collections are trending downward while the cost of maintaining the parish is trending upward. As of mid-summer, our collections have fallen about \$11,000 compared to the same time last year and there is no evidence that we will make up the difference before the end of the fiscal year. This is due to the fact that several generous families, some of whom used the Parish Pay system, have moved from Jersey City and out of the parish. A number of new parishioners have been generous, but we still have not recovered this lost revenue.

Therefore we hope that this year, we will see new families use this opportunity to register with the parish and start giving generously in the weekly envelopes, and some of you who are already regular contributors will support OLC by joining Parish Pay (www.parihpay.com).



Our Gift this year will be used to replace the church doors. We are presently receiving proposals and estimates for replacing the church front doors. We also wish to renovate the church hall kitchen, which will be a costly project, but it is necessary. It is estimated that the church doors will cost as much as \$40,000. Kitchen renovations will cost more than twice that of the church doors.

We appreciate your generosity in the past and anticipate your generous response to our "Christmas Gift" appeal this year. May God bless you always.

Sincerely,
The Parish Finance Committee

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Now that the kids are back in school and your calendar is full of their activities, where have you put time for your spouse and your Marriage Relationship? How about making time to enrich your Marriage by attending a Marriage Encounter? It's a great time to rekindle communication and enjoy a weekend away. For more information call Mike and Eileen Morgan at **973-827-9606** or email njwwme@peoplepc.com.



JOIN A PARISH MINISTRY IN 2015!



Please consider joining one of our parish ministries, which are always in need of new members. Schedules for Masses are flexible and take your preferences and availability into account. For information, call the rectory, speak to Fr. Tom after Mass, or contact one of the

following persons:

Altar Servers or Eucharistic Ministers – Fr. Tom, OLC rectory, **201-434-0798**
Choir – Ben Rauch, email: Directorofmusic@olcjc.org.
Lectors – Pat Duemig, **201-955-1495**
Serve Donuts After 10:00 am Mass – call OLC rectory

THE BIG SMALL SHOW 2015 AT THE DRAWING ROOMS

The Victory Drawing Rooms is hosting the Big Small Show at the Drawing Rooms in January. The exhibit will feature over 90 talented painters, collage artists, print makers and 3D constructors from New Jersey and New York City. The galleries are open Thursday – Friday, 4-7 pm, and Saturday – Sunday, 2-6 pm. Call **(201) 823-9393** or email: victoryhall1@msn.com for more information. Please join us at the Drawing Rooms, OLC Convent, 180 Grand Street.

