



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.

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – January 15, 2017

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

Because we hear the term “ordinary” we frequently believe something is not special. Many people think that the Ordinary Time of the Church year refers to parts of the calendar of the Catholic Church that are unimportant. Although the season of Ordinary Time makes up most of the liturgical year in the Catholic Church, the fact that Ordinary Time refers to those periods that fall outside of the major liturgical seasons reinforces this impression. Yet Ordinary Time is far from unimportant.

Ordinary Time is called “ordinary” not because it is common but simply because the weeks of Ordinary Time are numbered. The Latin word “ordinalis”, which refers to numbers in a series, stems from the Latin word “ordo”, from which we get the English word “order”. Thus, the numbered weeks of Ordinary Time in fact represent the ordered life of the Church — the period in which we live our lives neither in feasting (as in the Christmas and Easter seasons) or in more severe penance (as in Advent and Lent), but in watchfulness and expectation of the Second Coming of Christ. (Richert, Scott P.; What Does Ordinary Time Mean in the Catholic Church?, www.Catholicism.about.com; December 31, 2016).

Fittingly, we open Ordinary Time with John 1:29-34, John the Baptist’s acknowledgment of Christ as the Lamb of God. Although John and Jesus are related, John did not know it was the Son of God until the Spirit descended on Jesus like a dove. To John’s utter joy, here, walking towards him was the Savior of mankind! “...The one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.” After His own baptism, Jesus begins his ministry, healing, transforming lives and creating converts wherever he went.

Thus for Catholics, Ordinary Time is the part of the year in which Christ, the Lamb of God, walks among us and transforms our lives. There’s nothing “ordinary” about that!

With love,

LECTURE SERIES

The lecture series continues tomorrow 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.

NEW ARCHBISHOP OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK IS INSTALLED



This past November, His Holiness, Pope Francis, named His Eminence, Joseph Cardinal Tobin as the Sixth Archbishop of Newark. The Mass of Installation for the new archbishop was held at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark on January 6, 2017.

Cardinal Tobin was previously the Archbishop of Indianapolis for four years. He is described as a “man of simple lifestyle, committed to dialogue, encounter, and the poor.” A member of the Redemptorist Order, they are known for their focus on the poor. The Holy Father named him to the College of Cardinals last October.

BLESSING OF HOMES

If you would like to have your home/apartment blessed for the New Year, please call the parish office 201-434-0798 to leave your name, address, and phone number. Also, please mention a convenient time for Father Gerry to return your call so a mutually convenient date and time can be arranged for this blessing. Ideally, all members of your family presently living at home should be present at the time of the blessing, but we know this may not be possible due to each family’s work and school schedules. Please call by January 27. We look forward to hearing from you!



2016 PARISHIONER CONTRIBUTION SUMMARY STATEMENTS



Be on the lookout for parishioner contribution summary statements for 2016. They will be mailed out next week, in time for tax season.

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: Meetings resumed on January 11. 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: 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 15, 2017

Is. 49:3-6; 1 Cor. 1:1-3; Jn. 1:29-34

Sunday, January 22, 2017

Is. 8:23-9:3; 1 Cor. 1:10-13,17; Mt. 4:12-23

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.



Weekly
OFFERING

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 7/8, 398 people attended Mass. The collection in church amounted to \$3,768. ParishPay donations for the past week were \$2,439, contributing to a weekend collection of \$6,207. This is \$207 above our weekly goal of \$6,000.

Additional Christmas donations this past week amounted to \$4,080, bringing our total Christmas collection thus far to \$54,387. We received an additional donation of \$24,013 through ParishPay bringing our Christmas Collection to \$78,400.

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

The Living Stones Campaign continues. Pledge envelopes may be found in the rear of the church. Because pledges have exceeded our Works of Mercy Goal, the parish will start receiving a rebate of 50% once parishioners have fulfilled their pledges. We are *already* almost half-way there – half of all actual contributions over our goal will help us with capital improvements. Have questions? Contact Jack Starr by e-mail, jstarr@starrpatent.com, or by phone, 646-591-1918.

SUPPORT GROUPS FOR GRIEVING PARENTS

The Office of Family Life Ministries of the Archdiocese of Newark sponsors support groups for grieving parents. Meetings are free and pre-registration is not required. Groups are led by trained facilitators - parents who have personally experienced the death of a child. For more information, please call the Office of Family Life Ministries at 973-497-4327 or email egan-laur@rcan.org. Groups meet at: **St. Thomas the Apostle Church**, Parish Center, 60 Byrd Avenue, Bloomfield, NJ (First Wednesday of each month, 7:00 pm), and **St. Peter the Apostle Church**, Rectory Basement, 445 Fifth Avenue, River Edge, NJ (Third Monday of each month at 7:30 pm).

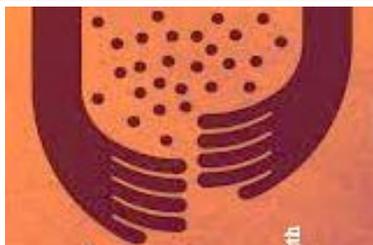
MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday 5:00 pm	January 14, 2017 Barbara Bromirski From <i>Steven Nowatkowski and Family</i>
Sunday 10:00 am	January 15, 2017 Vitus Rodricks From <i>D'Souza Family</i>
12:30 pm	Hermelina Enriquez From <i>Lourdes Santa Rosa</i>
7:00 pm	People of the Parish
Monday 12:30 pm	January 16, 2017 Joanna Moraes From <i>D'Souza Family</i>
Tuesday 12:30 pm	January 17, 2017 Edward Jasionowski From <i>Nick Agresta</i>
Wednesday 12:30 pm	January 18, 2017 Communion Service
Thursday 12:30 pm	January 19, 2017 Jorge Betancourt From <i>Nancy Bennett</i>
Friday 12:30 pm	January 20, 2017 Julio Cordero From <i>OLC Seniors Group</i>
Saturday 5:00 pm	January 21, 2017 Barbara Bromirski From <i>Rose Rokosz</i>
Sunday 10:00 am	January 22, 2017 Intention of the Lee Family From <i>Family</i>
12:30 pm	Deceased Members of the Polish Women's Alliance of America From <i>Polish Women's Alliance of America</i>
7:00 pm	People of the Parish

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

STEWARDSHIP

"Now the Lord has spoken who formed me as his servant from the womb..."
- Isaiah 49:5



You have to do what God is calling you to do and I have to do what God is calling me to do. Guess what, each of us has been given a different plan! So stop comparing yourself to others. Don't let envy and jealousy enter your life. Be thankful for the gifts God has given you and generously share them with others.

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 recently conducted a parish registration and information update drive. 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.

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.

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.

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:

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.

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.

JOIN A PARISH MINISTRY



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, **201-434-0798**.

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.

CHRISTMAS GIFT APPEAL



As we have previously noted, 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. To date about 17% of our registered parishioners donated to the Christmas Gift Appeal. So far, our donations amounted to \$54,387. That is very impressive considering only 17% of our registered parishioners contributed. I thank those who contributed so generously.

*In our Appeal, we urged **everyone** to contribute, donating what ever you could afford. 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, we asked that you 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.*

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.

*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. If you are among those who have not given to the Christmas Gift, please make your donation. Thank you.*

With my gratitude and love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. Tom".