



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.

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time – January 29, 2017

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

On January 6, Cardinal Joseph Tobin was installed as archbishop of Newark. The following are excerpts from his homily during the Mass of Installation:

“At a dinner party recently, I was asked what is the greatest challenge the Church faces today. I thought a moment and replied: **the chasm between faith and life**. My questioner looked at me quizzically and remarked that she didn’t expect that answer. I imagine that she was ready for any one of the so-called “hot-button” issues that dominate the discourse, both inside and outside the Church. As noisy and divisive as those questions might be, they don’t worry me as a growing trend that seems to isolate us, convincing us to neatly compartmentalize our life, subtly seducing us to go to Mass on Sunday, and for the rest of the week, do whatever we think we need to do to get by.”

“...God makes every effort to convince us that faith has everything to do with life – **all of life**. The proclamation of the birth of Emmanuel announces God-with-us’. We do well to listen to that proclamation again and again; to hear over and over again that God is present in the midst of God’s people. This certainty...is the source of our joy and hope.”

“The gist of the proclamation of Emmanuel is that eternal life is given in Christ and nowhere else. More important, to possess the Son is not acceptance of a doctrine, a moral code, but of a person who lives now and is the source of life – and not just on Sunday morning!”

“If we permit the chasm between faith and life to continue to expand, we risk losing Christ, reducing Him to simply an interesting idea or a comforting, nostalgic memory. And, if we lose Christ, then the world has lost the salt, light and leaven that could have transformed it. If we lose Christ, how will anyone find eternal life that is not simply an empty wish that can be dismissed as ‘pie-in-the-sky,’ but the abundant, joyful life that God intends for us even now?”

“Jesus Christ lives today in His body, the Church, which is neither an elite club nor static container of truth. The Church is a set of interlocking and dynamic relationships among people and with the Triune God.”

“The Church is the place where believers speak and listen to each other, and it is the community of faith that speaks with and listens to the world. The Church senses a responsibility for the world, not simply as yet another institutional presence or a benevolent NGO, but as a movement of salt, light and leaven for the world’s transformation. For this reason, our kindness must be known to all – to the searching young and the forgotten elderly, to the stranger and the voiceless, to the powerful and the cynical.”

With love,



LECTURE SERIES



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

Our seventh topic will be “Word Made Flesh, True Bread of Heaven The Mystery of The Church’s Sacrament And Worship”. This presentation explores the ancient practices of the Church’s worship that endure to this very day, and the notion that all value is summed up in the liturgy, the supreme act by which we commune with God.

Considered by the Catholic Faith to be the source and summit of its identity and mission, the Eucharist is the central practice of the Church’s culture. Father Barron describes all the parts of the Mass, and shows how the Sacred Liturgy embodies the whole of the Faith in such diverse places as Jerusalem, Rome, Chicago, Orvieto and Mexico City.

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.

FAITH WORKS

Please remember to make a donation of non-perishable food items this 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! **However, we must ask that only food be left on the back table as we cannot accept clothing at this time. Our coat drive will return in the fall.**



2016 PARISHIONER CONTRIBUTION SUMMARY STATEMENTS

The parishioner contribution summary statements for 2016 have been mailed out. Please contact Barbara at the rectory at 201-434-0798 with any questions.

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.

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 January 30, 2017. Our seventh topic will be "Word Made Flesh, True Bread of Heaven The Mystery of The Church's Sacrament And Worship".

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

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

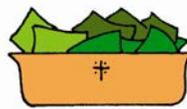
Sunday, January 29, 2017

Zep. 2:3, 3:12-13; 1 Cor. 1:26-31; Mt. 5:1-12

Sunday, February 5, 2017

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

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 21/22, 358??? people attended Mass. The collection in church amounted to \$3,429. ParishPay donations for the past week were \$3,068, contributing to a weekend collection of \$6,497. This is \$497 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.



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 IS BACK!

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	January 28, 2017 Josephine Kuklasinski From <i>Connie Piatkowski</i>
Sunday 10:00 am	January 29, 2017 Josephine Kuklasinski From <i>Edwina Karczewski</i>
12:30 pm	Mary Elizabeth Lerit From <i>Friends</i>
7:00 pm	People of the Parish
Monday 12:30 pm	January 30, 2017 Josephine Kuklasinski From <i>Terri Gradowski</i>
Tuesday 12:30 pm	January 31, 2017 Paul Tauzin From <i>Nancy Bennett</i>
Wednesday 12:30 pm	February 1, 2017 Communion Service
Thursday 12:30 pm	February 2, 2017 Walter Chowanec From <i>Sean Hablitz</i>
Friday 12:30 pm	February 3, 2017 Deceased Members of the Polish Women's Alliance of America From <i>Polish Women's Alliance of America</i>
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

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

STEWARDSHIP

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." - Matthew 5:3



This one confuses people. Replace the word "humble" for "poor" and it makes more sense. People that are humble recognize their dependence on God and trust that He will provide all that they need. Unfortunately, for many of us, pride and ego enters our lives and we think we can live without God. Remember – God first in all circumstances.

SHARING GOD'S BLESSINGS ANNUAL APPEAL

Soon, our parish is kicking 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 to us and to share the blessings we have been given with those around us.

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!



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.

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.

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.