

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 Epiphany of the Lord – January 4, 2015

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,



"I experienced an epiphany!" How many times have we heard that word? How many times have we used it? First and foremost for Christians, the word "epiphany" refers to the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, usually celebrated on January 6. This day is also known as the Feast of the Three Kings in some parts of the world. This celebration remembers when the Three Kings, or Wise Men as they are also called, first saw the infant Jesus. These kings came from distant lands. They worshipped the child and presented him with gifts worthy of a King: gold, frankincense and myrrh.

In Webster's II New College Dictionary, there are several definitions for the word "epiphany." One is the Christian feast day. Another definition is "a sudden and profound understanding of something." Epiphany also means "a revelatory manifestation of a divine being."

The journey of the three Wise Men represents their search for answers. Guided by their knowledge of astronomy and astrology, as well as the light of one special star. They seek the meaning of the unusual sign in the heavens: the announcement of an extraordinary birth on earth. The birth of the Savior of us all.

The kings experienced their own epiphany in two ways: firstly, through their encounter with the divine, the Son of God. Secondly, the kings receive faith as a result of this encounter. They gain knowledge, understanding and faith through the realization that the remarkable event foretold through the heavens was the birth of the King of Kings. John says in Mark 1:7-11, "...After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Wishing you a blessed New Year,

BAPTISM



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.

CHURCH DECORATOR VOLUNTEERS

Our church is beautifully decorated for the holidays because of some wonderful volunteers! A number of men and women came out to church on Saturday, December 20, to decorate the church for Christmas. The men put all the lights on the tree, over 1,000. They also hung the wreaths. The ladies decorated the sanctuary

with the poinsettias. They did a marvelous job. Thank you so very much for helping. Fr. Tom is so grateful for your help.

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.

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**.



**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

MASS INTENTIONS

The Mass book for 2015 is available.

WHOEVER
EATS THIS
BREAD
WILL LIVE
FOREVER



Remembering someone in our prayers (whether alive or deceased) is always important. Because the celebration of the Mass is the highest form of worship the Church celebrates, 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.

If you wish to have a Mass celebrated, simply stop by the rectory, call us at **201-434-0798** or send an e-mail to: secretary@olcj.org.

2015 EVENTS AT OLC

Painting Classes at the Drawing Rooms: Learn to paint in oils with artist Robert Preston on Thursday evenings 7 pm – 9 pm. Your introductory class is free! You may drop by on any Thursday evening, email: victoryhall1msn.com, or call 201-823-9393 for more information.

OLC Seniors: The OLC Seniors meetings will resume in January 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 4, 2015

Is. 60:1-6, Eph. 3:2-3, 5-6; Mt. 2:1-12

Sunday, January 11, 2015

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

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 are 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.

For the weekend of December 21, 342 people attended Mass. The collection amounted to \$5,890 of which \$2,400 was contributed by those using Parish-Pay. This is \$110 below our weekly goal.

We do not have collection and attendance figures for the weekend of December 28, because the bulletin was sent to the publisher on Monday, December 21. 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.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERING: INTENTIONS

Christmas flower donations were made in memory of: Sebastian Aclo, Esperanza Aclo, Harriet Atkins, Teofilo Aclo, Baratta Family, Bartosiewicz & Warlikowski Families, Edward John Bromirski, Edward & Wanda Bromirski, Chester Sr. & Sophie Brozowski, Chester Brozowski Jr., Butler & Willis Family, Evelyn & Leo Caferty, Gerry Cano, Louise Colamedici, Charles & Mary Czysz and Families, Loita S. Cotaco, Denis D’Souza, Hector D’Souza, Sharon DeSouza, Henry L. Dwulet, Sr. and departed members of the Dwulet & Sekovich Families, Renata P. Enriquez, Nora & Felix Feehan, Mike Fyke, Victor Galarza, Attracta Gallagher, Carrie & Vincent Gallagher, Evelyn Gallagher, Olan Gallagher, John & Letizia Gardullo, the loved ones of the Guerrero-Gernsheimer Family, deceased members of the Gradowski & Stafinski Families, Richard Heins, Julewicz/Dzieglewicz/Samson/Wysowaty Families, Karczowski & Grego Family, John & Mary Kornutik, Anna & Stanley Kuklasinski, Kukowski Family, Ramon Lopez, Markowski Family, Donald J. Monahan, Sr., Margaret Murtha, Anne Niemira, Nowatowski & Matulewry Families, Helen & John Nyjek, departed souls in Ken T. Mom’s Family & Friends, Penaga & Campomanes Families, Florence Perino, Rosemarie & Henry D. Peters, Dennis Piatkowski, Joseph Przyblinski, Donald Puckey, Martin Quigley, Petra Rivera, Victoria Rivera, Ricky Ramos, Vitus, Rodricks, Ross Family, Sofia Rzczkowski, Stanley Rzczkowski, Jamil Sakr, Alexandra Sarno, Mario Scipione/Aunt Dena/Uncle Jerry/Aunt Jennie/Mary & John Langue, Larry Serronico, Andre Sisine, Adam Sokolowski, Alan Sokolowski, Julia Sokolowski, Weronika & Eugeniusz Sowul, Joseph Spino, Strasz Family, Joan Thrush, Nena Toro, John & Veronica Tuzinkiewicz, Catherine & James Uffer, Cynthia Judowski Weaver, Geneva Whitaker, Maria Zandalasini, John & Teresa Zazula, World Peace

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday 5:00 pm	January 3, 2015 Edward Jaworowski From <i>Christine Jaworowski</i>
Sunday 10:00 am	January 4, 2015 Sophie Stodolak Nentarz From <i>Cathy Sullivan</i>
12:30 pm	Edward Warlikowski From <i>Daughter Claire</i>
7:00 pm	People of the Parish
Monday 12:30 pm	January 5, 2015 Eugenia DeVito From <i>Nancy & Peggy Bennett</i>
Tuesday 12:30 pm	January 6, 2015 Romeo Mesina From <i>Lety Nery</i>
Wednesday 12:30 pm	January 7, 2015 Communion Service
Thursday 12:30 pm	January 8, 2015 Special Intention
Friday 12:30 pm	January 9, 2015 Orlando Tolentino From <i>Rachel Lopez</i>
Saturday 5:00 pm	January 10, 2015 Richard Rubino From <i>Annette Owens</i>
Sunday 10:00 am	January 11, 2015 Sophie Stodolak Nentarz From <i>Cathy Sullivan</i>
12:30 pm	Julia Kyc, 29 th Ann. From <i>Family</i>
7:00 pm	People of the Parish

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?

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.

LECTURE SERIES



Our ten-part lecture/study group will continue after the New Year. Please follow the bulletin and announcements in church for the exact date of our next meeting.

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.

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.

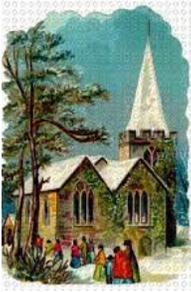
FAITH WORKS



Even though we focus on the first weekend of the month for collecting non-perishable foods, we are making a very special appeal for food for those in need during the holiday season.

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 may include: canned coffee, tea, jelly, peanut butter, canned vegetables, canned and dried soups, cereals, pastas and noodles, brown gravies, Italian gravies, toiletries (soaps, shampoos, body washes, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc.), canned meats and tuna fish, and condiments (mayo, mustard, ketchup, salt, pepper, sugar, etc.). Thanks again for your generosity to the neediest of our community.

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.parihsay.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

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@olcj.org.

Lectors – Pat Duemig, **201-955-1495**

Serve Donuts After 10:00 am Mass – call OLC rectory

FREE INTRODUCTORY PAINTING CLASS AT THE DRAWING ROOMS

Want to try painting? This is your chance! Learn to paint with artist Robert Preston on Thursday evenings 7 pm – 9 pm. Robert will show you how to use water-based oil paints that give the look and feel of an oil painting but with greater ease. Your first class is free! You may drop by on any Thursday evening, email: victoryhall1msn.com, or call 201-823-9393 for more information.



MOMMY & ME CLASSES AT OLC SCHOOL



Fun for you and your little ones! Mommy & Me will be back at Little Harbor Academy at OLC School beginning January 2015. 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" starts on Tuesday, January 6, "Storytelling & Music/Movement" begins on Wednesday, January 7, and "Montessori Time" will begin on Thursday, January 8. LHA teachers facilitate all programs. Please contact Mrs. Murduca: MommyandMe@olcschool.org for more information.