

# 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](mailto:pastor@olcjc.org)

[bulletin@olcjc.org](mailto:bulletin@olcjc.org)

### Websites

[www.olcjc.org](http://www.olcjc.org)

[www.olcschool.org](http://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.

**The Epiphany of the Lord – January 8, 2017**

## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

Many people make resolutions on how they hope to achieve a “happy new year”. “To make “Happy New Year” a reality instead of just a pleasantry, there is scientific research that can point anyone in the direction of a happier life.”

“Some of the tips are common sense – getting enough sleep, exercise and outdoor time, and making time to help others. But psychology professor, Tim Bono, at Washington University in St. Louis says people who take just a few minutes a week to acknowledge the good in their lives and the things they’re grateful for, tend to see significant increases in their happiness. ‘It’s also one of the easiest behaviors for us to incorporate into our daily lives,’ he points out. ‘And it really doesn’t even involve changing anything about our lives – rather, it’s taking just a few minutes to shift the focus of our attention to those things that are going well for us.’ Bono studies happiness and teaches about the science behind it. He says New Year’s resolutions work best when they are aimed at incorporating healthy, long-term habits into your life – and research shows that adding gratitude is one of the most effective... Everyone has the ability to change their thinking, but it takes some willpower...which can be learned by practicing on little things. For instance, he says, try not to check your phone or email constantly. ‘If you can exercise strong willpower in those small behaviors, eventually that will accumulate to giving you the willpower to carry out the larger goals you have,’ Bono explains. People who blame their upbringing for being pessimists aren’t seeing the whole picture. ‘About half of the variance in our overall psychological health and happiness is due to genetics...,’ he states. ‘But there’s also a significant part that is due to things like our circumstances, and the intentional behaviors that we incorporate into our lives on a regular basis.’ One of the major barriers to happiness is the tendency to size up how your life measures up to others. Bono suggests limiting time on social media and connecting more often with good, face-to-face conversation.”

*(January 4, 2016; Bono, Tim. Resolve to Have a Happier New Year, [www.publicnewsservice.org/2016-01-04/health-issues/resolve-to-have-a-happier-new-year/a49619-1](http://www.publicnewsservice.org/2016-01-04/health-issues/resolve-to-have-a-happier-new-year/a49619-1))*

We need to recognize that there is also a spiritual demention in achieving happiness in the coming year. A person of faith recognizes that all good things in life find their origins in a loving God. Yes, it is important to recognize them as God’s gift, not necessarily because we think we worked for them, but because God bestowed them upon us. There is a path to holiness here that often eludes us, because we frequently find ourselves fixated on our possessions, even if we appreciate them. If we were to take Bono’s suggestions one step deeper, true happiness is found in doing the will of the Father. We are challenged to give up the many distractions and possessions we have that distract us from God’s Will..

The Staff at Our Lady of Czestochowa Church joins me in wishing you and your families a blessed, happy and healthy New Year 2017!

With love,

### 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!

### LECTURE SERIES

Our ten-part lecture/study group will continue in January. Our tentative date is next 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.

## 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](mailto:secretary@olcjc.org).

## 2016 EVENTS AT OLC

**OLC Seniors:** Meetings will resume shortly. 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](mailto: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.

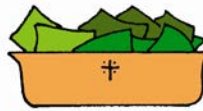
**Sunday, January 8, 2017**

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

**Sunday, January 15, 2017**

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

## 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.paritypay.com](http://www.paritypay.com) and follow the prompts.

For the weekend of December 24/25, 526 people attended Mass. The Christmas collection in church amounted to \$38,256. The ParishPay donations were \$5,011, contributing to a Christmas collection of \$43,267.

For the weekend of December 31/January 1, 326 people attended Mass. The collection in church amounted to \$4,414. ParishPay donations for the past week were \$2,439, contributing to a weekend collection of \$6,853. This is \$853 above our weekly goal of \$6,000.

Additional Christmas donations this past week amounted to \$7,050, bringing our total Christmas collection thus far to 50,317.

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, [jjstarr@starrpatent.com](mailto:jjstarr@starrpatent.com), or by phone, 646-591-1918.

## 2016 PARISHIONER CONTRIBUTION SUMMARY STATEMENTS



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



## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

<b>Saturday</b> 5:00 pm	<b>January 7, 2017</b> Barbara Bromirski From <i>Julia Nowatkowski</i>
<b>Sunday</b> 10:00 am	<b>January 8, 2017</b> Oliver D'Lima From <i>D'Souza Family</i>
12:30 pm	Mary Ann Dalton From <i>Denise and Anthony Spinella</i>
7:00 pm	People of the Parish
<b>Monday</b> 12:30 pm	<b>January 9, 2017</b> Joanna Moraes From <i>D'Souza Family</i>
<b>Tuesday</b> 12:30 pm	<b>January 10, 2017</b> Edward Jasionowski From <i>Mary McGreal</i>
<b>Wednesday</b> 12:30 pm	<b>January 11, 2017</b> Communion Service
<b>Thursday</b> 12:30 pm	<b>January 12, 2017</b> Julia Kyc (31 <sup>st</sup> Ann.) From <i>Family</i>
<b>Friday</b> 12:30 pm	<b>January 13, 2017</b> Charles Walewski From <i>Nieces and Nephews</i>
<b>Saturday</b> 5:00 pm	<b>January 14, 2017</b> Barbara Bromirski From <i>Steven Nowatkowski</i>
<b>Sunday</b> 10:00 am	<b>January 15, 2017</b> 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

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

## STEWARDSHIP



"Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." - Matthew 2:11

The image of the Magi kneeling before the infant Jesus and opening their treasure chests for Him is an image that we should all try to follow all year long. In gratitude for all that we have been given, we are called to generously share all of our gifts, not just the ones we pick and choose. God wants us to be the most generous with that one thing that means the most to us.

## PARISH REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION DRIVE

Our 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. If you cannot come during these hours, call ahead to set up an evening or weekend appointment. 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



Thank you for your support during the holiday food drive and winter coat collection. Your donations benefited many needy families in our community.



## 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](mailto:victoryhall1@msn.com) or [info@drawingrooms.org](mailto:info@drawingrooms.org). We hope you will join us! The Drawing Rooms are located at the OLC Convent on 180 Grand Street.

## PROGRAM 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.

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](http://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](http://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.

## CHURCH DECORATOR VOLUNTEERS

Our church is beautifully decorated for the holidays because of some wonderful volunteers! A number of parishioners came to church on Wednesday, December 23, to decorate the church for Christmas. Others helped carry in and set up the tree, then hang the lights and put the angel topper on the tree. Everyone did a marvelous job. Thank you so very much for helping.



## 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](mailto:Directorofmusic@olcjc.org).

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

**Serve Donuts After 10:00 am Mass** – call OLC rectory, 201-434-0798.

## 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. To date about 17% of our registered parishioners donated to the Christmas Gift Appeal. Their donations amounted to \$50,00. That is very impressive and 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.

We appreciate your past generosity and urge you to donate if you haven't. Thank you.

With my gratitude and love,

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