



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.

1911 – 2017

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

Rev. Gerard J. Sudol
In Residence

Rev. Anthony Azzarto, 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

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.

Third Sunday of Lent – March 19, 2017

ARCHBISHOP OF NEWARK'S VISIT TO OLC

Cardinal Tobin's visit to our deanery this past Wednesday, March 8, was outstanding. Before the 7:30 pm Mass, the Cardinal met with the priests of the deanery. We spoke to him about our ministries, the challenges and frustrations we face, and we gave him an overview of our deanery. During this encounter, we did not experience some exalted cleric, but rather a down-to-earth man with understanding and openness.

We attempted to make our 7:30 pm Mass representative of the ethnic mix of our deanery. While Mass was celebrated in English, our first reading was Spanish. Our General Intercessions were voiced each in the different languages of our deanery. Following Mass, Cardinal Tobin mingled with the parishioners in church and also in the church hall. He also fielded questions after mass in a "town hall meeting."

Attached below are some photos of his visit.



Photos by Adam Ligeralde

OLC CHURCH'S 8TH ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

We will have our Easter Egg Hunt on Holy Saturday morning, April 15 at 10:00 am. The location is on the parish field at the end of Sussex Street. Children from the earliest ages to age 10 are invited. Bring your Easter baskets or bags. Raindate is Saturday, April 22. Bring your cameras and make certain that you arrive ahead of time. Even though we put out about a thousand eggs, the stampede of children usually collects all of them within about five minutes. We will need some volunteers to help the Easter Bunny put out the eggs on the field. If you are able to assist, please call the rectory at 201-434-0798.



LECTURE SERIES

Our ten-part lecture/study group concludes tomorrow on Monday, March 20, 7:30 pm in the rectory.

Our tenth and final topic will be, "World Without End – The Last Things." We will explore the Church's conviction that life here and now is preparation for an extraordinary world that is yet to come: a supernatural destiny. We will explore the Catholic vision of death, judgment, heaven, hell and purgatory as our video takes us to Florence, Ireland and Rome.

The vision of the Church sees beyond this world and invites us to consider a world without end. Our presentation shows how this vision is supported by the mystery and truth of the Resurrection of Jesus.

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

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.

2017 EVENTS AT OLC

OLC Seniors: The next meeting will be March 22. 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: Concludes March 20, 2017. Our tenth and final topic will be, "World Without End – The Last Things."

Fish & Chips Dinner: Saturday, April 8, 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm, St. Peter's Cafeteria, Van Vorst & Grand.

Easter Egg Hunt: Holy Saturday, April 15, 10:00 am, Sussex Street Field.

First Holy Communion: Sunday after Mother's Day (May 21).

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

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

Sunday, March 19, 2017

Ex. 17:3-7; Rom. 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn. 4:5-42

Sunday, March 26, 2017

1 Sm. 16:1-13; Eph. 5:8-14; Jn. 9:1-41

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.

OLC is facing a financial crisis. Even though Sunday collections were up during the holiday season, because of bad weather this past weekend and the end of the holiday season, our collections have dropped again below our \$6,000 weekly goal. Therefore, we still expect financial difficulties as we go forward. We ask a few things of you:

1. Use parishpay if you cannot attend Mass each weekend.
2. Increase your weekly donation. We really need people to be as generous as possible each week to support the parish.
3. If you do not use Parishpay, please "make up" your regular donation the next time you attend Mass.

For the weekend of March 11/12, 343 people attended Mass. The collection in church amounted to \$4,440. ParishPay donations for the past week were \$1,989, contributing to a weekend collection of \$6,429. This is \$429 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.

ANNUAL MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARY RECOGNITION BY ARCHDIOCESE



The Archdiocese will celebrate 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 & 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.

"BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL" - NEW EXHIBIT AT THE DRAWING ROOMS! FREE ARTIST RECEPTION!

Nine artists come together to be bold and beautiful in their work, ideas and outlook. This exhibit is their initial 2017 response to the current challenges we face in this country. Drawing, painting, sculpture and installation will be featured. The Drawing Rooms are located at 180 Grand Street. Gallery hours are Friday from 4:00-7:00 pm and Saturday/Sunday from 12:00-6:00 pm.

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:

May 7, 2017; July 2, 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:

April 2, 2017; June 4, 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.

ST. PETER'S PREP OPEN HOUSE

Saint Peter's Preparatory School will be holding its 2017 Spring Open House on Sunday, May 7, from 1:00 – 3:00 pm at the school's campus in historic downtown Jersey City. Faculty and staff as well as coaches, students and parents, will be present to answer questions about the school, and tours of the campus will be provided. Founded in 1872, Saint Peter's Prep is an independent, college preparatory school for boys and it remains New Jersey's only Jesuit high school. For more information on the Spring Open House, please call **201-547-6389**.



ST. DOMINIC ACADEMY (SDA) DROP-IN WEDNESDAYS

Come see St. Dominic Academy in action! Visit SDA every Wednesday between the hours of 10:00 am and 1:30 pm. Tours will take place while classes are being taught and visitors will have the chance to speak with faculty, staff, students and members of the administrative team. There is no appointment necessary; just stop by on any Wednesday that school is in session. SDA is an independent, Catholic college preparatory high school for girls. The school is located at 2572 Kennedy Boulevard in Jersey City. For more information, please call



201-434-5938 or visit their website: www.stdominicacad.com.

CATHOLIC SINGLE PARENT SUPPORT GROUPS

According to U.S. Census data, 30% of children living in New Jersey currently live in a single parent household. Single parenting is difficult, non-stop and often goes unappreciated. For many single parents, they are a provider, nurturer and disciplinarian. It can be overwhelming trying to carry out each of these roles. The Archdiocesan Family Life Office has created support groups in four parishes. Please call the respective number listed to register:

Notre Dame R.C. Church in North Caldwell (973-226-0979), St. Mary of the Assumption in Elizabeth – Spanish (908-352-5154), St. John the Baptist in Jersey City (201-653-8814), and St. Matthew in Ridgefield (201-945-3500).

CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS APPEAL



Launched in 1998, this Appeal strengthens the Catholic Church in the United States and its territories in 87 Latin and Eastern Catholic dioceses. The Subcommittee on the Catholic Home Missions funds a wide range of pastoral services, including evangelization, religious education, and the maintenance of mission parishes, the training of seminarians and lay ministers, and ministry with ethnic groups. OLC will take up this collection April 22/23.

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.

ANNUAL FISH & CHIPS NIGHT



With the coming of Lent we will have our annual "Fish & Chips" night. Set the date now. We will have it on Saturday, April 8, after the 5 pm Vigil Mass.

The location remains the same, St. Peter's Prep dining hall on the corner of Van Vorst and Grand.

Regretably, our ticket price went up this year because the caterer raised his price. Tickets are \$14 each or four for \$55. Our dinner will also include fries, coleslaw and a dessert. We still feature an excellent deal for your money.