

# 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 – 2016

**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

## 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 of Lent – March 6, 2016**

## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

The parable of the prodigal son is perhaps one of the best known stories in the Bible. A young man asks his father to be given his inheritance early. After spending all his money living a dissolute life in a distant land, the repentant son returns to his family and is accepted back by his forgiving father with open arms. A celebratory feast is ordered and everyone shares the father's joy with the exception of the older brother. He is upset at both his younger brother for leaving and their father for not only welcoming the repentant brother back and but throwing a party. The older brother reminds the father that he worked tirelessly for his father and never disobeyed him "...yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when your younger son came, back, who has squandered your property, you killed the fatted calf for him!" (Luke 15:29-30) The lesson of the prodigal son and the need for repentance is clear. However, the older brother's reaction and the father's response merit some discussion.

The father's response shows us God's reaction when we return from being lost in sin. He doesn't hold our mistakes against us or take us back reluctantly, He takes us back eagerly and joyously. A lesson to the confused and angry older son and all of us. We can sympathize with the older brother's position. Hadn't he done everything right? Hadn't he behaved as a proper son should? Yet he had never received acknowledgement let alone given a celebration. The father assures his older son that he has not lost his place in his heart or in the family and that the older son's inheritance is still intact and will go to him when the time comes. "Son, you are always with me and all that is mine is yours." (Luke 15:31) More importantly, the father explains the reason for celebrating the younger son's return: "It was fitting to make merry for your brother was lost and is now found." (Luke 15:31-32) We should not resent people who have lost their way and then come back. We should celebrate the return of any of God's lost people. The prodigal son's journey was one of self-discovery; it took much suffering for him to realize that he had lost his way in more than one sense. It is wonderful to know that we can always return to the Father and be accepted by Him no matter what we've done. "You are kind and forgiving, O Lord, overflowing in love and kindness to all who call you." (Psalms 86:5)

With love,



### 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!

### OLC CHURCH'S 7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

We will have our Easter Egg Hunt on Holy Saturday morning, March 26, 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 2. 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.

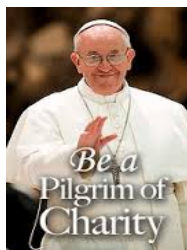


### LUCIE GOOSIE TODDLER ENRICHMENT

Lucie Goosie Toddler Enrichment is now at OLC Church! Lucie Goosie is a toddler drop-off for children 18 months to 3½ years old. Drop off your little ones in a safe and nurturing environment Monday to Friday from 9:00 am to 12 noon. They offer play-based learning, featuring creative movement, music, and literacy development in a social environment. Please check us out on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/luciegoosieplayspace>. To register, please email us at: [info@luciegoosie.com](mailto:info@luciegoosie.com).



### PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION



OLC's Peter's Pence Collection is being taken up this weekend, March 5 and 6. Peter's Pence unites us in solidarity to the Holy See and its works of charity to those in need. Its purpose is to provide the Holy Father with the financial means to respond to those who are suffering as a result of war, oppression, natural disaster, and disease. Please contribute to this worthy endeavor.

## 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

**Drawing Rooms:** New "Project Rooms" exhibit is open through March 27. The Drawing Rooms are located at 180 Grand Street, Jersey City NJ. For more information, go to [www.thedrawingrooms.com](http://www.thedrawingrooms.com).

**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. 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.

## SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

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

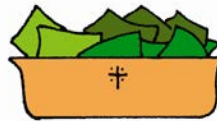
**Sunday, March 6, 2016**

Jos. 5:9-12; 2 Cor. 5:17-21; Lk. 15:1-3, 11-32

**Sunday, March 13, 2016**

Is. 43:16-21; Phil. 3:8-14; Jn. 8:1-11

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

Collection information for the weekend of February 28 is unavailable.

If you have been away from church traveling for any reason, we encourage you to "make up" your contributions.

## 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:

**May 1, 2016; July 3, 2016**

**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 10, 2016; June 5, 2016**

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.

## 2016 AND 2017 MASS BOOKS

Both the 2016 and 2017 Mass Books are currently open for mass intentions. 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 FOR THE WEEK

<b>Saturday</b> 5:00 pm	<b>March 5, 2016</b> Mary (40 <sup>th</sup> Ann.) and Charles Czysz From <i>Laura Czysz; Cathy, Fred and Allie Savage</i>
<b>Sunday</b> 10:00 am	<b>March 6, 2016</b> Pablo Ramon Perdomo Alfonso From <i>Perdomo and Curiel Families</i>
12:30 pm	Theodore Gradowski From <i>William Stapinski</i>
7:00 pm	People of the Parish
<b>Monday</b> 12:30 pm	<b>March 7, 2016</b> Russell Governale From <i>Agresta Family</i>
<b>Tuesday</b> 12:30 pm	<b>March 8, 2016</b> Diane Maraut From <i>Michael Burke</i>
<b>Wednesday</b> 12:30 pm	<b>March 9, 2016</b> Communion Service
<b>Thursday</b> 12:30 pm	<b>March 10, 2016</b> Timothy Buckley From <i>Peggy Bennett</i>
<b>Friday</b> 12:30 pm	<b>March 11, 2016</b> Blanche Slomkowski From <i>Mary Minkowski</i>
<b>Saturday</b> 5:00 pm	<b>March 12, 2016</b> Joseph Stapinski (10 <sup>th</sup> Ann.) From <i>sister Terri and brother-in-law Ted</i>
<b>Sunday</b> 10:00 am	<b>March 13, 2016</b> Theodore Gradowski From <i>Betty Judowski and Family</i>
12:30 pm	Christine Jaworowski From <i>Mary Minkowski</i>
7:00 pm	People of the Parish

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

## STEWARDSHIP

*"No longer was there manna for the Israelites, who that year ate of the yield of the land of Canaan."*



*- Joshua 5:12*

Over the forty years that the Israelites journeyed through the desert, God provided them with manna to eat. As soon as they were able to enjoy the fruits of the Promised

Land the manna ceased. Likewise, God's blessings to us may change over the years but it is important to trust that God will always provide us with all that we need.

## CATHOLIC FUNERAL RITES

The Archdiocese of Newark has introduced a short video highlighting the significance of the Church's meaningful funeral rituals to guide our Catholic community. The six-minute video, titled "Many Travelers, One Journey," weaves together the stories of multiple individuals describing how family, friends and Church community come together to pray and comfort each other, celebrate the faith and life of their loved one, and share in the three principal parts of the Catholic funeral liturgy - the Vigil, Funeral Mass and Committal Service - known as the Order of Christian Funerals.

Produced by Catholic Cemeteries, a ministry of the Archdiocese of Newark, the video accompanies a comprehensive planning guide, titled *Continuing the Journey, Preparing a Catholic Funeral*, to assist Catholics during their time of loss or when pre-planning. It includes information on coping with the death of a loved one, ministry resources at a time of loss, Scripture Readings for Funerals, practical preparations, and more. The video and booklet are available online at: [www.rcancem.org/ocf](http://www.rcancem.org/ocf).

## 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](mailto:downtownharvest@yahoo.com)

## RAINBOW THURSDAYS ARTISTS

An exhibition of artwork from Windmill Center's Art Program is available for viewing at Bayonne Public Library now through March 15. The program is provided by Victory Hall Inc. The Windmill Alliance has been serving developmentally disabled adults and providing much needed social services to those on the margins of society for more than 30 years. The library is at 697 Avenue C (at 31<sup>st</sup> Street). For more information, go to: [windmillalliance.org](http://windmillalliance.org) and [rainbowthursdays.org](http://rainbowthursdays.org).

## SHRINES OF THE HOLY LAND COLLECTION

The Collection for the benefit of the Holy Shrines is scheduled for Good Friday, March 25, 2016. This collection helps support the people and places of the Holy Land. The Franciscans of the Custody of the Holy Land have the unique responsibility of caring for the Holy Places as well as caring for the Christians living in the Holy Land. The Collection offers all Catholics an opportunity to express their solidarity with Christians in the Holy Land. Your gift will make a difference in the lives of those caught up in war, violence and instability in this region.

## CHURCH HEATING PROBLEMS

It was Friday, January 22, the day after I returned from my day off, that I discovered the church was cold. It appeared that the heat went off sometime Wednesday. My first response was to check the boiler to determine why it shut down. Seeing that I could not restart the boiler, I called our plumber to inspect the boiler to resolve the problem.

Later that day when our plumber arrived, we discovered that the chimney was blocked, causing the boiler to become blocked with carbon build-up, shutting down the boiler. Immediately that afternoon I contacted a contractor to come to inspect the chimney and arrange for them to clear the chimney. I cajoled the chimney company to work on the chimney that Sunday, January 24. Additionally, our plumber needed to clean the carbon build-up from inside the boiler. All of this was a messy job. The chimney contractor indicated that the chimney was old and needed repair. They recommended that we install a stainless steel "chimney liner" to prevent a future blockage.

We had the boiler running again by the next weekend, Sunday, January 31. It was taking some time to get the church warm again, but the heating situation was looking good.

Unexpectedly, the heat went out again Thursday, February 11. The cause was the same as the last time, another blockage developed in the chimney. Luckily, I had a business referral for a company who would install a chimney liner to prevent further problems. I contracted them to start work on Monday, February 15, however, because of the President's Day holiday and rain on Tuesday, February 16, they didn't start their work until Wednesday, February 17. They finished the next day. Once they completed installation of the chimney liner, our plumber again needed to clean out all of the carbon build-up in the boiler. Again, it was an extremely dirty job.

Our plumber worked on the boiler Thursday, Friday and Saturday of that week, and when he attempted to start the boiler, it would not fire. How very frustrating was this. The church was cold again and I was extremely upset.

It was Monday afternoon, February 22 that a technician came to resolve the problem. He found and resolved the problems and had the furnace working that afternoon. So far the initial bill for the chimney work was \$8,790. This does not include the cost of parts, the plumber's bill or the technician's bill.

It appears that when I fix one thing in the parish, something else breaks. We are dealing with an old facility and you never know when something will happen. I appreciate the fact that so many people were so very understanding so I wrote this article to explain the situation as it unfolded. Thank you for your understanding. I really dread and regret having parishioners feel cold in church. Let's pray there is no sequel to this.

## ANNUAL FISH & CHIPS NIGHT



Lent will be coming early this year, and with the coming of Lent we will have our annual "Fish & Chips" night. Set the date now. We will have it Saturday, March 19, 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.

Ticket prices will remain the same as last year, \$13 each, 4/\$50. Our dinner will also include fries, coleslaw and a dessert. We feature an excellent deal for your money.

## VIRTUAL PILGRIMAGE OF LOURDES, FRANCE AT HOLY ROSARY CHURCH

The next best thing to visiting Lourdes itself is a Pilgrimage journey without the travel! North American Lourdes Volunteers will present a 90-minute prayerful virtual pilgrimage to Lourdes, France, at Holy Rosary Church on Tuesday, March 15 at 7:00 pm. You will immerse yourself in the Gospel Message of Lourdes as given by Our Lady to St. Bernadette. Touch the Grotto Rock and experience the healing grace of Lourdes Water. Participants will receive a Eucharistic blessing and pray the Rosary. A Plenary Indulgence is granted to all the faithful, under the usual conditions, who attend a Virtual Pilgrimage with North American Lourdes Volunteers. Come experience the healing grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ through His Immaculate Mother. Invite your family, children and friends. Holy Rosary Church is located at 344 6<sup>th</sup> Street in Jersey City. For more information, please contact the Parish office at 201-795-0120.

## LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)

Have you and your family been impacted by tough economic times? The LIHEAP may be able to help you pay your winter heating bills. Applications will be accepted until April 30, 2016. For those falling behind on their electric and gas bill who are not eligible for low income programs, moderate income programs, such as the TRUE Grant, PAGE Grant and/or New Jersey SHARES programs, may provide the help you need. For more information, or to find out how to apply, call 1-800-510-3102, visit [pseg.com/help](http://pseg.com/help) or [pseg.com/ayuda](http://pseg.com/ayuda) (Spanish).

## EASTER FLOWER COLLECTION

We will conduct our Easter Flower Collection the weekend of March 12-13. Your generosity will enable us to decorate the church in a manner worthy of its beauty for our Easter Celebration. Please be generous when we take up this collection.

