



OLC

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

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201-985-0918

Email

pastor@olcjc.org

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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.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe – November 20, 2016

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

Much of our lives seem to revolve around food. Every birthday, milestone, major holiday or even just a casual get-together involves cooking at home or gathering at a favorite restaurant. So-called "comfort food" has become a popular choice in both homecooking and dining out. According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, "comfort food" provides consolation or a feeling of well-being. It is...prepared in a simple or traditional way and reminds you of home, family or friends." While the food is important, sharing a meal with family and friends is the perfect setting for celebrating love and oneness. The upcoming Thanksgiving holiday will provide yet another opportunity for us to feast with family and friends.



Today is also a feast, that of Jesus Christ, the King of the Universe. We celebrate our belief that Christ, who suffered, died, and rose from the dead, now reigns as king. The night before He died, Jesus shared a simple, traditional and meaningful meal with his closest friends. Christ gives us His own body and blood in the Holy Eucharist: first, to be offered as a sacrifice commemorating and renewing for all time the sacrifice of the cross; second, to be received by the faithful in Holy Communion; third, to remain ever on our altars as the proof of His love for us, and to be worshipped by us. The bread and the wine presented during the Liturgy of the Eucharist are much more than food to be consumed. In the Holy Eucharist, under the appearances of bread and wine, the Lord Christ is contained, offered, and received. As we share the body and blood of Jesus around the table of the Lord, we also celebrate family and community united by the love of God. There is no greater joy or comfort than to be loved by God. He has laid out a heavenly banquet and is eager to welcome us into His kingdom. Fittingly, the word "Eucharist" means "thanksgiving" or praise for the wonderful works of God. Never forget the peace and joy that only real "comfort food" can give you.

Wishing you and your families a blessed Thanksgiving.

With love,

CHRISTMAS FLOWER COLLECTION



Our special collection for Christmas flowers and holiday decorations is December 3/4. Your generosity helps us pay for our many poinsettias, wreaths, the Christmas tree and other miscellaneous supplies. You can also make a special donation in memory of a loved one.

FAITH WORKS

Food for Those in Need Winter Coat Drive

"Food for Those in Need." 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 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.



OLC will also have a "Winter Coat Drive." There are many in Jersey City who need warm coats. Please leave winter coats (men's, women's or children's) in the rear of the church. We have local charities that can dispense them to those in need.

FALL PARISH REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION DRIVE

Our Fall parish registration and registration 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 an application. 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 to the parishioners who took part in the drive.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

What are YOU Thankful For?



On Thursday, November 24, the Thanksgiving Day Mass will be 9:30 am. Take time on this day to give thanks to the Lord for your blessings.

Gratitude is the inward feeling of kindness received. Thankfulness is the natural impulse to express that feeling. Thanksgiving is the following of that impulse. – Henry Van Dyke

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.

2016 EVENTS AT OLC

Thanksgiving: Thursday, November 24, Thanksgiving Day Mass will be 9:30 am. Take time on this day to give thanks to the Lord for your blessings.

OLC Seniors: Christmas Party and Meeting on December 14 at the Manor in West Orange, NJ. Call Dorothy Bromirski, 201-333-4888 for more information.

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: Monday, November 28, 7:00 pm, in the rectory. The fourth topic is "Our Tainted Nature's Solitary Boast – Mary, the Mother of God."

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

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

Sunday, November 20, 2016

2 Sm. 5:1-3; Col. 1:12-20; Lk. 23:35-43

Sunday, November 27, 2016

Is. 2:1-5; Rom. 13:11-14; Mt. 24:37-44

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 November 12/13, 427 people attended Mass; the collection in church amounted to \$3,189. The average ParishPay donations for the past 30 days averaged \$2,038 per week. Last week's Sunday collection amounts to \$5,227. This is \$773 below the collection goal of \$6000 we have each week. Please be extra generous. 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

Pledges for the *We Are Living Stones* capital campaign have continued to come in. **Pledges have reached 130%+ of our Works of Mercy goal!** Congratulations and thanks to all who have participated.



Because pledges exceed our Works of Mercy goal, we the parish, will receive a rebate of 50% of the money that exceeds our goal. We are half-way there and as the pledges are actually fulfilled, funds *will* flow to OLC, in addition to supporting worthy diocesan ministries.

There is still time to participate and we still need your help and donations. Pledge envelopes are available on the credenzas at the rear of the church. If perhaps you did not pledge because you had concerns that OLC might not benefit from your participation; you can now put those concerns aside as we have reached our Works of Mercy goal.

Individual pledges have reflected the diversity of financial means within our parish. Some pledges have been especially generous. But no pledge is too small.

Have questions? Contact Jack Starr by e-mail, jjstarr@starrpatent.com, or by phone, 646-591-1918.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday 5:00 pm	November 19, 2016 Dennis Piatkowski From <i>Maggie and Lenny Englese</i>
Sunday 10:00 am	November 20, 2016 Rosette Vaz From <i>Dsouza Family</i>
12:30 pm	Walter Rzaski, Jr. From <i>Barbara Rzaski</i>
7:00 pm	People of the Parish
Monday 12:30 pm	November 21, 2016 Vladimir Zvarych From <i>Steven and Donna</i>
Tuesday 12:30 pm	November 22, 2016 Intentions of Annie, Cabrini, and Dana (nee Lepis) From <i>Michael Burke</i>
Wednesday 12:30 pm	November 23, 2016 Communion Service
Thursday 9:30 am	November 24, 2016 Thomas Eckert From <i>Kathy Eckert</i>
Friday 12:30 pm	November 25, 2016 Intention of Barbara Lepis Burke From <i>Michael Burke</i>
Saturday 5:00 pm	November 26, 2016 John (33 rd Ann.), Frank and Ted Gradowski From <i>Gradowski Family</i>
Sunday 10:00 am	November 27, 2016 Rosette Vaz From <i>Dsouza Family</i>
12:30 pm	Fe Anover From <i>Family</i>
7:00 pm	People of the Parish

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

STEWARDSHIP



*"...giving thanks to the Father, who has made you fit to share in the inheritance of the holy ones in light."
- Colossians 1:12*

God wants us to be happy! Instead of looking at the Ten Commandments as being restrictive and telling us what we can't do, look at them as guides for living a joy-filled and peaceful life. Most of our problems arise when we put our own needs first or spend most of our time trying to acquire "things". Try putting God first in all things instead.

*Don't tell God how big your problems are—
Tell your problems how big your God is.*

2016 BLACK AND INDIAN MISSION COLLECTION

This weekend, our parish will take up the 130th annual National Black and Indian Mission Collection. Our support of



SUPPORT THE BLACK AND INDIAN MISSION COLLECTION

this collection helps build the Church in African American, Native

American, and Alaska Native communities from coast to coast. Schools, parish religious education programs, and diocesan ministries depend on your generosity to help them spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

PROGRAMS AT THE MARIANIST FAMILY RETREAT CENTER

Family Advent Weekends (December 2-4, 9-11 and 16-18, 2016). Come prepare for the liturgical season. Special weekend themes focus on family activities and preparations related to the season, emphasizing the significance of bringing Jesus to others. Cost is \$125 per person (8 years-adult)/\$85 per person (2-7 years)/Free Under 2.

Accommodations, meals and all activities are included. Financial aid is available for these programs. For more information on this retreat, please call 609-884-3829 or visit their website at: www.capemaymarianists.org.

OLC CHURCH ADVENT GIVING TREE



Our parish will participate in its annual Advent Giving Tree Program. A Christmas tree will be set up next week and decorated with "ornaments," each of which will list the name of an organization or individual, and specific item(s) that you are asked to purchase for a person in need.

To participate in the Giving Tree Program, take one or more ornaments from the tree, purchase the item(s) listed, and attach the "ornament" to the UNWRAPPED package. Bring the gift(s) to church and place them under the Giving Tree no later than Sunday, December 11. All gifts will be delivered during the week of December 12.

For further information, you may call Pat Duemig (201-955-1495) or Maggie Englese (201-963-8761). Thank you in advance for your generosity!

OLC'S FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS SONG

Fa la la la! OLC is looking for enthusiastic singers for its 21st Annual Festival of Christmas Song on December 18, 3:30 pm. Beginners and non-parishioners are welcome! If interested, please contact Ben Rauch at: Directorofmusic@olcjc.org.



FINAL WEEKEND FOR "STATE OF THE UNION" EXHIBIT



The Drawing Rooms proudly presents "State of the Union!" The exhibit features drawing, painting, print, sculpture and installation by eight artists living in the NJ/NY Metropolitan area. Alvin Petitt, Director of Jersey City's Bethune Center,

will have a Project Room in the ninth gallery room. All of the artwork will deal with current social, political and environmental issues that weigh heavily during this most important election season. Their creative investigations and unique takes on the world we share are surprising, engaging and often beautiful. For more information, go to: www.drawingrooms.org.

THE DRAWING ROOMS FOURTH ANNUAL HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER

The Drawing Rooms will host a Fundraiser at the Gallery at 109 Columbus in Jersey City on December 8 from 7:00-9:00. More than fifty artists generously donated original drawings, paintings and sculpture in support of this event. Evening includes wine, appetizers, music, and a raffle of donated artworks. **Your ticket ensures you a work of art of your choice!** For more information, call 201-208-8032 or email: victoryhall1@msn.com. We hope you will join us to celebrate our fourth year of exhibitions and community programming!



THE FOURTH ANNUAL BIG SMALL SHOW 2016

The Drawing Rooms will host their biggest exhibit of the year on Friday, December 16 from 6:00-9:00 pm and Saturday, December 17 from 2:00-6:00 pm. More than 100 affordable artist works ranging from paintings and framed drawings to three-dimensional works available for purchase. There will be free receptions on both days. 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.

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:

January 8, 2017; March 6, 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:

December 4, 2016; February 5, 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.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Registration is still open for Confirmation. You must register your 7th grader for our two-year program in order to receive Confirmation in the 8th grade. When you register, we require a copy of your child's baptismal certificate. **The offering for Confirmation is \$60. There is no fee for confirmation students returning from last year. The next class is on November 20 at 11:00 am. Any questions please call the rectory at 201-434-0798.**



LECTURE SERIES

Our ten-part lecture/study group will meet on Monday, November 28, 7:00 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 pre-sentation 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.

Our fourth topic is "Our Tainted Nature's Solitary Boast – Mary, the Mother of God." In this episode, our video will present a masterful correlation of our Catholic Faith's testimony to the revelation of God in Christ with the vivid practices of reverence offered to His Mother. Mary is explained as an on-going presence, an actor in the life of the Church.

In our video we will journey to the humble remains of Mary's house in Nazareth, to the ruins of the ancient city of Ephesus and to the great Marian shrines of Lourdes and Guadalupe to explain the Church's teachings about Mary as the Mother of God, the Immaculate Conception and the dogma of the Assumption.

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.