

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 – 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

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.

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

First Sunday of Advent – November 27, 2016

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

Today marks the beginning of the Advent season. Many Christians will honor the day with an Advent wreath. The origins of the lighted wreath are uncertain but by the Middle Ages, Christians adapted this custom as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas. Its rich symbolism is worth noting.

The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life found in Christ. Any pine cones, nuts, or seedpods used to decorate the wreath also symbolize life and resurrection. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. Three candles are purple and one is rose. The purple candles symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, and they are close to Christmas. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of His second coming to judge the living and the dead. The light also signifies Christ, the Light of the world.

As Blessed John Henry Newman reminded us in a homily for the Advent Season: "Advent is a time of waiting, it is a time of joy because the coming of Christ is not only a gift of grace and salvation but it is also a time of commitment because it motivates us to live the present as a time of responsibility and vigilance. This 'vigilance' means the necessity, the urgency of an industrious, living 'wait'. To make all this happen, then we need to wake up, as we are warned by the apostle to the Gentiles, in today's reading to the Romans: 'Besides this you know what hour it is, how it is full time now for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.'" (Romans 13:11).

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.

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!

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.



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.

2016 EVENTS AT OLC

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 27, 2016

Is. 2:1-5; Rom. 13:11-14;

Mt. 24:37-44

Sunday, December 4, 2016

Is. 11:1-10; Rom. 15:4-9;

Mt. 3:1-12

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.

Collection information for the weekend of November 19/20 is unavailable due to the early bulletin publication date.

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 *already* almost half-way there – half of all actual contributions over our goal will help us with capital improvements.



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 pledges are fulfilled and we exceed our Works of Mercy Goal in amounts contributed, funds *will* flow to OLC, in addition to supporting worthy diocesan ministries.

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.

2017 MASS BOOK

The 2017 Mass Book is 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

Saturday	November 26, 2016
5:00 pm	John (33 rd Ann.), Frank and Ted Gradowski From <i>Gradowski Family</i>
Sunday	November 27, 2016
10:00 am	Rosette Vaz From <i>Dsouza Family</i>
12:30 pm	Fe Anover From <i>Family</i>
7:00 pm	People of the Parish
Monday	November 28, 2016
12:30 pm	For the healing of Anne Lepis Arena and Family From <i>Michael Burke</i>
Tuesday	November 29, 2016
12:30 pm	Intentions of Jackie and Bradley Wilson & Family From <i>Michael Burke</i>
Wednesday	November 30, 2016
12:30 pm	Communion Service
Thursday	December 1, 2016
12:30 pm	Gloria Colella From <i>Son Steven</i>
Friday	December 2, 2016
12:30 pm	Barbara Bromirski From <i>Pat and Tom Duemig</i>
Saturday	December 3, 2016
5:00 pm	Dennis Piatkowski From <i>Blanche and Barbara Przyblinski</i>
Sunday	December 4, 2016
10:00 am	Deceased Siwik Family (Grandparents Katherine and Alexander & Aunt Helen and Uncle Charlie) From <i>Donna Simon</i>
12:30 pm	Anne Bruggis From <i>Hennessey Family</i>
7:00 pm	People of the Parish

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

STEWARDSHIP



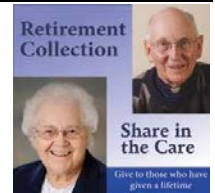
*"For you do not know on which day your Lord will come."
- Matthew 24:42*

People who have had health issues or near-death experiences generally have a greater appreciation for each day being a gift from God. The rest of us usually take for granted that we will be around tomorrow. But when you start to look at each day as a gift, you realize all the little miracles

that happen daily and grow in gratitude for all that we have been given.

THE RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Please give to those who have given a lifetime. Elder sisters, brothers, and religious order priests dedicated their lives to service and prayer. Many worked for years for small stipends. As a result, their religious communities now lack adequate retirement savings. You can help by giving during the annual collection at your local Catholic parish. Our parish will take up the annual collection on December 3/4. For more information, please go to: <http://www.retiredreligious.org>.



ALZHEIMER'S NEW JERSEY PRESENTS "ALZHEIMER'S 101"

This program provides a comprehensive overview for anyone who wants to learn about memory loss, Alzheimer's disease, and other forms of dementia. Information about risk factors and warning signs, steps to obtaining a diagnosis, and treatment options are discussed. Planning for the future, coping with behavioral and other changes, and accessing community resources are also reviewed. Program will be held on Thursday, December 1 from 7:00-8:00 pm at the Bayonne Free Public Library, 697 Avenue C, 2nd floor, Bayonne. **Program is free but pre-registration is required.** For more information or to register, please call 888-858-6970 or visit their website at: www.alznj.org.

OLC CHURCH ADVENT GIVING TREE



Our parish will participate in its annual Advent Giving Tree Program. A Christmas tree has been set up 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.



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.

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.

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 December 4 at 11:00 am. Any questions please call the rectory at 201-434-0798.



LECTURE SERIES

Our ten-part lecture/study group will meet tomorrow 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 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.

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.

MOMMY & ME CLASSES AT OLC SCHOOL



Fun for you and your little ones! Mommy & Me classes are available at Little Harbor Academy at

OLC School. 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). "Cooking" is on Tuesdays, "Storytelling & Creative Arts" are on Wednesdays, and "Montessori Time" will be held on Thursdays. Registration for Session 2 beginning January 2017 is open. LHA teachers facilitate all programs. Please contact Mrs. Murduca at MommyandMe@olcschool.org for more information.