



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 – 2015

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 29, 2015

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

The weekend after Thanksgiving Day kicks off the beginning of the Christmas season. For many, preparations for the holiday season begin in earnest. Decorating, shopping and readying one's home for guests keep us busy. We make lists to ensure that everything that needs to get done is accomplished. It wouldn't do to get caught unawares and ill-prepared.



This Sunday also marks the beginning of a new liturgical year. It is a time of new beginnings. Luke's gospel also speaks of a new beginning: the Coming of the Son of Man. We are exhorted to be prepared. We are warned to be ready. "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise you heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Luke 21:25-28

Such a sobering scripture is unappealing and threatening. But within it there is promise. We are to live in the light with nothing to hide. We are to be ready for Christ's arrival. John Tillotson, Archbishop of Canterbury, said it best, "This life is the time of our preparation for our future state. Our souls will continue forever what we make them in this world."

With love,

LECTURE SERIES

Our ten-part lecture/study group continues tomorrow, Monday, November 30 at 7:00 pm. We will meet in the rectory. 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 fifth topic is "The Indispensable Men, Peter and Paul and Their Missionary Adventure". This session calls Peter and Paul two indispensable men, the ones without whom the church never would have emerged and survived. In telling each man's story, our presentation shows how the Holy Spirit worked through all the apostles and disciples to build the Church. Following the road of these apostles as they took the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we see the foundations of the apostolic faith, particularly the revelation of Christ's resurrection from the dead.

We anticipate that our sixth meeting will be on Monday, December 14. We will announce any changes in scheduling.

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.

FIRST FRIDAY DEVOTIONS & HOLY HOUR

We will celebrate our next *First Friday Devotions*, on Friday, December 4, 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm. This hour will afford you a perfect opportunity for prayerful reflection and a time for peaceful spiritual sustenance. Take a little time for yourself for peaceful reflection and meditation. It is only one hour, but it can take you away from your personal cares.



CHRISTMAS FLOWER COLLECTION



Our special collection for Christmas flowers and holiday decorations is December 5 and 6. Your generosity helps us pay for our many poinsettias, wreaths, our 12 foot plus Christmas tree and other miscellaneous supplies. You can also make a special donation in memory of a loved-one. Please, be generous when we take up this very special collection. Thank you!

OLC'S FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS SONG

Fa la la la la! OLC is looking for enthusiastic singers for its 20th Annual Festival of Christmas Song scheduled for Sunday, December 13, 4:00 pm. Beginners and non-parishioners are welcome! If interested, please contact Ben Rauch at: Directorofmusic@olcj.org



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@olcj.org.

2015 EVENTS AT OLC

OLC Seniors: Christmas Party at Jacques Reception Center in Middletown, NJ on December 9. Cost is \$35. Trip to Radio City Music Hall to see the Christmas show is on December 16

Drawing Rooms: "The Big Small Show" Fundraiser Gala will be on December 12. Please see page 5 for more information.

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@olcj.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: Part Five will be covered on November 30. See page 2 for details.

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

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

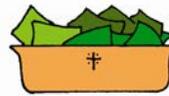
Sunday, November 29, 2015

Jer. 33:14-16; 1 Thes. 3:12-4:2; Lk. 21:25-28, 34-36

Sunday, December 6, 2015

Bar. 5:1-9; Phil. 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk. 3:1-6

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.

Collection information for the weekend of November 22 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. A very important way in which you can support your parish is to enroll in ParishPay. To sign up, go to www.parishpay.com and follow the prompts. Thank you.

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 13. For more information, please go to: <http://www.retiredreligious.org>.

GIVING TUESDAY

#GIVINGTUESDAY

We have a day for giving thanks; we have two for getting deals. Now, we have "GivingTuesday," a global day dedicated to giving back. On Tuesday, December 1, 2015, charities, families, businesses, community centers, and students around the world will come together for one common purpose: to celebrate generosity and to give. Just find a way for your family, your community, your company or your organization to come together to give something more. Then tell everyone you can about how you are giving. The Archdiocese of Newark will once again participate in this wonderful event!

TALENTED MUSICIANS!

Can you play a musical instrument or are blessed with a wonderful singing voice? If so, we are in need of your musical ability here at our parish. Please contact Ben Rauch, the OLC Music Director, at: Directorofmusic@olcj.org.



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday 5:00 pm	November 28, 2015 William Bromirski From <i>Mr. and Mrs. Omaro Andara</i>
Sunday 10:00 am	November 29, 2015 Carlos Diaz From <i>Friends and Family</i>
12:30 pm	Mychno Family From <i>Janina Lazarz</i>
7:00 pm	People of the Parish
Monday 12:30 pm	November 30, 2015 Intentions of Princessita and Pyke Roman From <i>Kim Mom</i>
Tuesday 12:30 pm	December 1, 2015 Intention of Don Rogers From <i>Michael Burke</i>
Wednesday 12:30 pm	December 2, 2015 Communion Service
Thursday 12:30 pm	December 3, 2015 Intentions of Marlene and Jason Sequiera From <i>Kim Mom</i>
Friday 12:30 pm	December 4, 2015 Intentions of Chantal and J. Marc Berthier From <i>Kim Mom</i>
Saturday 5:00 pm	December 5, 2015 Dennis Piatkowski From <i>Valerie and Sal Piccarillo</i>
Sunday 10:00 am	December 6, 2015 Pablo Ramon Perdomo Alfonso From <i>Perdomo and Curiel Families</i>
12:30 pm	Nancy and Sam Singer (50 th Wedding Ann.) From <i>Laura Halstead</i>
7:00 pm	People of the Parish

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

STEWARDSHIP



“But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.” - Luke 21:28

We celebrate Advent each year in preparation of the birth of Jesus, His first coming, as we await his second coming. In this Advent season, use the sacrament of Reconciliation to strengthen your relationship with Jesus. It's never too late.

OLC CHURCH ADVENT GIVING TREE



Our parish will soon be participating in its annual Advent Giving Tree Program. A Christmas tree will be 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 13**. All gifts will be delivered during the week of December 14.

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

PROGRAMS AT THE MARIANIST FAMILY RETREAT CENTER



Advent Family Retreat Weekends (December 4-6, 11-13 and 18-20, 2015). Come prepare for the Liturgical Season! Special Advent Weekend themes focus on family activities and preparations related to the season, emphasizing the significance of bringing Jesus to others. Cost is \$120 (8 years to adult)/\$85 (2-7 years). Under 2 are free.

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

OLC JUNIOR CHOIR

Here is another wonderful music education opportunity for children ages 7-14! If you have kids in this age range or if you know people who do, they can just show up at rehearsals. Rehearsals are Sundays from 1:30-2:00 pm in the church. The choir will perform on December 13 at 4:00 pm at the Festival of Christmas Song. Party immediately following. Please contact Ben Rauch, the OLC Music Director, at: Directorofmusic@olcj.org for more information.



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 3, 2016; March 6, 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:

December 6, 2015; February 7, 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.

THE BIG SMALL SHOW 2015 FUNDRAISER GALA

On Saturday, December 12, the Drawing Rooms will host a fundraiser gala from 6:00-9:00 pm. Preview sales evening on Friday, December 11 from 4:00-8:00 pm. For more information, call 201-823-9393 or email: victoryhall1@msn.com. We hope you will join us! The Drawing Rooms are located at the OLC Convent on 180 Grand Street.



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.

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

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

45th ANNUAL CANDLELIGHT CAROL SING

The 45th Annual Candlelight Carol Sing will be held at the Cathedral Basilica in Newark on Wednesday,

December 16 and Thursday, December 17, 2015 at 8:00 pm. The same performance will be presented on both nights. Doors open at 7:00 pm. Christmas music will be performed by the Cathedral Choir with the assembly to the accompaniment of the great Cathedral organs and brass ensemble. Pay what you wish. For more info, please call 1-973-484-2400 or visit: www-cathedralbasilica.org.

MUSICAL EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN

If you are seeking an experienced piano and/or voice teacher, OLC Director of Music, Ben Rauch, currently has some availability for music lessons for your children. They will have the opportunity to play on a professional Yamaha baby grand piano and sometimes the organ at the church. Recital performance opportunities will happen on a yearly basis. Lesson availability is for children ages five and up, and the lessons are 30 minutes each. Please contact Ben to inquire about rates at: directorofmusic@olcjc.org.



REGISTER WITH YOUR PARISH/ REQUEST FOR PARISHIONER INFORMATION UPDATE

All Catholics should register with a parish. If you have been attending OLC, come to the OLC Rectory any time between the hours of 9:30 am – 5:00 pm, Monday – Friday, and fill out a registration card. If you are currently a parishioner and have changed your address or name within the past year, please notify the office by calling 201-434-0798 or email: bulletin@olcjc.org.

Proof of parish registration is necessary should you require a "sponsor certificate" to be a godparent.

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 winter coats to stay warm. If you have an extra winter coat (men's, women's or children's) please leave them in the rear of the church. We have local charities that can dispense them to those in need.

