

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 – A Blue Ribbon School

Shaping Young Minds for a Brighter Future

248 Luis Marin Blvd., Jersey City, NJ 07302

Grades K - 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: Tiny Tikes Program for 2-year-olds; Pre-Kindergarten Programs for 3- & 4-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 Advent – December 24, 2017

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

This week's gospel reading deals with the story of the Annunciation, one of the most familiar passages in the Bible. "God sends the angel Gabriel to see a young betrothed woman named Mary in Nazareth. The angel greets Mary, calling her God's 'favored one.' After describing God's divine plan for a miraculous conception, Mary expresses doubt. After Gabriel explains God's plan in greater detail, Mary consents, and the angel departs." (Luke 1:26-38)

This incredibly brief narrative leaves out so much information. We know that Mary was "much perplexed" by the angel's words... And we may be equally perplexed by her willingness to agree to such a plan. What would make her risk her reputation, her upcoming marriage, and possibly her very life (out-of-wed? Mary's "yes" demanded an extraordinary leap of faith as well as an inordinate amount of courage. Mary agreed to God's plan because she is completely devoted and faithful to the word of God.

Mary bears witness to God's promise fulfilled to her as well as to His people. Her conduct is a shining example of what is proper behavior for all Christians: unequivocal faith, humility at being so blessed by God, and above all, profound joy at knowing His promise to all mankind is kept: the birth of our Savior. "...He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Luke 1:32-33

I pray that you receive Christ's peace and joy into your heart during this special time of year. May you always feel the Lord's presence in your life and allow Him to be your strength in your life.

The OLC Church Staff join me in wishing you and yours a very happy Christmas!

With my love,



LECTURE SERIES

Father Tom is moderating an RCIA lecture/study group. The next meeting will be on Monday, January 8, 2018 at 7:30 pm, in the rectory. The subjects of our series will be theological topics relating to our Catholic beliefs. Our presentations are based upon a video program with speaker Bishop Robert Barron. We presented this popular lecture series in past years, but this year we will expand upon it.

Our next topic is entitled "A Body Both Suffering and Glorious - The Mystical Union of Christ and The Church" Follow the bulletin for more details.

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 7, 2018; March 4, 2018

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, pre-registration is extremely helpful**). Upcoming dates are:

February 4, 2018; April 1, 2018



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.

OPLATEK ~ CHRISTMAS WAFERS



The tradition of Oplatek or Christmas Wafers originated in Poland during Early Christian times. The entire family gathers with the Oplatek and shares it with one another. The tradition is one that is easy, fun, and deeply meaningful to introduce to the family anytime during the Christmas season. If you would like to obtain some Oplatek, it is available at the Rectory.

CHRISTMAS MASSES AT OLC

Sunday, December 24, 2017 (Christmas Eve)

7:00 PM Vigil

11:30 PM Christmas Caroling

12:00 AM Midnight Mass

Monday, December 25, 2017 (Christmas Day)

10:00 AM Christmas Day Mass

12:30 PM Christmas Day Mass

No Evening Mass

Sunday, December 31, 2017 (New Year's Eve)

5:00 PM Vigil

Monday, January 1, 2018 (New Year's Day)

10:00 AM New Year's Day Mass

12:30 PM New Year's Day Mass

No Evening Mass

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.

The OLC Adult Choir: The choir rehearsal takes place Sundays, 11:15 am and then sing at the 12:30 pm Mass. For additional information 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!

Juice & Donuts: Every Sunday after the 10:00 am Mass. This event is usually outside church, but may be held in the church hall depending on weather. Please call the rectory if you wish to volunteer to bring donuts.

RCIA Lecture Series: The next meeting will be on Monday, January 8, 2018, 7:30 pm, in the rectory. The topic will be entitled "A Body Both Suffering and Glorious - The Mystical Union of Christ and The Church"

OLC Seniors: Meetings resume in January 2018. For more information, please call Dorothy Bromirsk, 201-333-4888

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

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

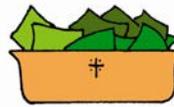
Sunday, December 24, 2017

2 Sm. 7:1-5, 8-12-16; Rom. 16:25-27; Lk. 1:26-38

Sunday, December 31, 2017

Gn. 15:1-6, 21:1-3; Col. 3:12-21; Lk. 2:22-40

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.

Recently ParishPay has Transitioned to LPI's WeShare Service. If you use ParishPay, you may experience and see a difference in the services they provide. If you have not updated your information, please update or renew your information by going to: <https://olcjc.churchgiving.com/>. If difficult to log on, or you are having problems with your account, please call Kathy Minihan, our customer service representative: 732-421-2174.

We continue to face a financial crisis. Our collections keep dropping 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 an electronic payment service if you cannot attend Mass each weekend. This is possible through LPI's WeShare Services or you may have your bank or financial institution send us a check on a regular basis..
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. To sign up for ParishPay, go to www.parishpay.com and follow the prompts.

Collection information for the weekend of December 16/17 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.

CATHOLIC BIG SISTERS/BIG BROTHERS

Catholic Big Sisters/Big Brothers is a social services agency under the auspices of Catholic Charities which provides one-to-one mentoring services to at-risk youth of all faiths from primarily low-income, single-parent households. They are in serious need of volunteer mentors to serve the number of families approaching the organization for services. For more information, please go to their website: www.cbsbb.org or call Kathryn Harter in Community Engagement at 212-475-3291 Ext. 211



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday 5:00 pm	December 23, 2017 Eugenio Arboleda From <i>Virginia Elbarody</i>
Sunday 10:00 am	December 24, 2017 Olga Rodriguez From <i>Butler Family</i>
12:30 pm	Protection of Babies in the Womb and their Families From <i>Lifenet</i>
7:00 pm	Jane Glodek From <i>Daughter and Family</i>
Monday 12:00 am	December 25, 2017 People of the Parish
10:00 am	Frank Michael Flannery From <i>Reyes Family</i>
12:30 pm	Edward Warlikowski From Claire Warlikowski NO 7:00 PM MASS
Tuesday 12:30 pm	December 26, 2017 Thomas Eckert From <i>Kathy Eckert</i>
Wednesday 12:30 pm	December 27, 2017 Communion Service
Thursday 12:30 pm	December 28, 2017 Nancy Sanders From <i>Michael Burke</i>
Friday 12:30 pm	December 29, 2017 Carmen Martinez From <i>Margarita Ortiz</i>
Saturday 5:00 pm	December 30, 2017 John Plewan From <i>Bruno Ruskowski</i>
Sunday 10:00 am	December 31, 2017 Protection of Babies in the Womb and their Families From <i>Lifenet</i>
12:30 pm	Olan Gallagher and Deceased Members of the Gallagher Family From <i>Caroline Kornutik</i>
5:00 pm	Ann Jane Bongiovanni From <i>Monica Donnelly</i>

Attend daily Mass.

It will make a difference in your life!

STEWARDSHIP



"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" – Luke 1:28

Faith is a gift from God. Take time in silence and thank Him for all the gifts He has given you. Try to set aside any anger or resentment you have and really open your heart to receive

the gift of God's mercy and forgiveness. We can't

give what we don't have. We need to receive God's mercy and forgiveness first before we can give it to others.

LUCIE GOOSIE TODDLER ENRICHMENT

Lucie Goosie Toddler Enrichment is 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.



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.



WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKENDS

2018 is almost here and it's time to make your resolutions. Start the new year right by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. For more information contact Mike and Janet Turco at 973-427-7016 or 609-335-6880, or email njwwme@peoplepc.com. **Military families**, are you getting ready to deploy? Is your family trying to reconnect after deployment? Marriage Encounter offers tools of communication that have kept many military marriages strong and happy throughout the ups and downs of military service. Contact your local chaplain or call 973-427-7016 or 609-335-6880 for more information.

*Forgiveness does not erase the past,
but it sketches a brighter future.*

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:

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist. We welcome candidates to regularly attend the 12:30 and 7:00 pm Masses. Contact Fr. Tom

Altar Servers – Fr. Tom, OLC rectory, **201-434-0798**

Choir – Ben Rauch, email: Directorofmusic@olcj.org.

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

Serve Donuts After 10:00 am Mass – Sign up by going to the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/olcdonutsfall> or please text Francis Sacr, **201-281-4655** with any questions or issues with the link.

CHRISTMAS GIFT APPEAL

Recently, members of our Parish Finance Committee spoke at Mass about our Annual Christmas Gift Appeal. This parish tradition dates back more than 20 years.

For those who may not know about this, we make a special appeal at Christmas to raise additional money for physical improvements to our church that we often take for granted (the handicap ramp, the bathroom in the narthex, our organ and piano, additional air conditioning, etc.). It also allows us to maintain the church. All of this, and much more, was made possible thanks to the generosity of parishioners in the Christmas Appeal.

This Gift Appeal continues to take on greater significance. Over the previous fiscal years, our Sunday collections have declined. If you have followed the bulletin, you have read each week how our Sunday collections have not reached our weekly goal of \$6,000.

This year's annual Christmas Gift is a very important part of our commitment to the financial well-being of our parish. Without it, we will struggle to make improvements to the church. Our goal this year is to raise additional money to undertake several high-priced parish projects. We need to repair the church floor, renovate the kitchen in the church hall and improve the acoustics in the church hall. We cannot undertake these projects unless we are certain that we have sufficient funds to complete them. Last year's Gift Appeal helped to raise some money toward these projects, but it wasn't enough.



Therefore, our goal is to raise \$65,000 this Christmas. This may appear ambitious but it is very possible. We can do it if **everyone** contributes and we are asking, please, for **everyone** to participate. Our practice is to recommend every family to donate \$400 to the Gift Appeal. For those parishioners who earn six figures or more, or even in the high five-figure range, please consider making a more generous contribution. For those who may be on a fixed income, we simply ask that you give what you can afford. For your convenience, you may also contribute electronically.

Let us also remember that this is a perfect opportunity to give thanks for your blessings by making an end-of-the year gift to your parish while giving you the opportunity to enjoy tax savings. To help you with your year-end giving, we encourage you to work with your accountant, tax preparer or visit www.irs.gov for more information on tax savings. One suggestion to establish tax savings is by opening up a charitable gift annuity.

We appreciate your past generosity and ask that **everyone** contribute generously to our Christmas Gift Appeal this year. Through your stewardship, OLC will remain a vibrant Waterfront parish and continue to be a Paulus Hook community icon. Thank you.

With my gratitude and love,

CATHOLIC CHARITIES HURRICANE RELIEF

Catholic Charities is committed to providing Disaster Response and Disaster Recovery services to individuals and families dealing with the aftermath of natural disasters. They provide response coordination and short-term and long-term recovery services in collaboration with other area Disaster Relief agencies, and by working with the Mayor's office on their disaster recovery plan. This means first meeting emergency needs such as shelter, food, and medication assistance for those who have lost everything. To contribute or for more information, please go to: <https://www.catholiccharities.org>.



BENEDICTINE CENTER NEW YEAR'S EVE RETREAT FOR WOMEN

A woman-only retreat is offered at St. Walburga Monastery in Elizabeth NJ on New Year's Eve (December 31 –January 1). The retreat runs from 4:00 pm



Sunday until 1:00 pm, Monday. Join others to begin the New Year with prayer and reflection. \$60 per person. For information and registration, please contact

Sr. Marita, 908-353-3028 or maritaosb@aol.com.