



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 – 2018

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 Offering. 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.

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – January 14, 2018

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

One would expect a dramatic story with regards to how Jesus met His first disciples but it was pretty simple. Jesus' cousin John the Baptist, standing with two of his followers, spots Him walking by and "...exclaims, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!' Immediately, the two men with John began to follow Jesus. When the Lord noticed them following, he asked, 'What are you looking for?' His new disciples' answered with a question, 'Where are You staying?' To which Jesus replied, 'Come and see.' The two men, one of whom was named Andrew, went with Him..." (John 1:36-39)

Two questions are asked in this passage "What are you looking for?" and "Where are you staying?" Jesus knew that people come to Him for many reasons. He wanted these new disciples to figure out exactly what it was they were looking for from Him. The men wanted to know where Jesus was staying because they not only wanted to meet Him but they wanted to spend time with Jesus. Addressing Him as "Rabbi" (teacher) indicates that Andrew and his co-follower were eager to learn from the Lord.

A third question arises: What does Andrew do after what must have been an extraordinary meeting with the Lord? He shares what he learned with his brother, Simon Peter, and brings him to Jesus. Simon also becomes a disciple.

What could we all take away from this? Could it really be that easy? Search your own heart, what do you seek from the Lord? Pray to Him. Ask yourself how you may share what you glean from your soul-searching.

With my love,



FAREWELL



As many of you know, Father Tom is retiring effective February 1, 2018. He will celebrate his last Sunday Mass January 28, 12:30 pm. There will be an informal reception in the church hall immediately following this mass. All are invited to attend. In lieu of gifts, you may make a donation to St. Jude's Children's Re-

search Hospital if you desire.

As he enters a new stage of his life, Father Tom will explore new opportunities to assist in a parish in Pennsylvania near where he intends to live. Over his many years as a priest, he has ministered in many parishes. Consequently, he has had many rewarding experiences and has made many wonderful friends.

OLC has also given Father Tom many rewarding experiences. He has delighted in the parish's young families, its many baptisms, the children at mass and the wonderful musical programs of the parish. In no other parish has he experienced such an inspiring and uplifting musical ministry during mass with the adult choir and the children's choir. As he moves on from OLC, Father Tom will cherish his friendships from OLC and the diversity of OLC's community.

2017 PARISHIONER CONTRIBUTION SUMMARY STATEMENTS



Be on the lookout for parishioner contribution summary statements for 2017. They will be mailed out later this month, in time for tax season.

WELCOME

Many are probably wondering who will replace Father Tom, and how will he minister in the parish. Who is he? Where will his priorities lead the parish? Father Tom's successor is Father Bryan Page. He was ordained in 2006 and his most recent assignment has been Parochial Vicar at St. Leo Parish in Elmwood Park, NJ.



Father Tom has met with Father Bryan, and they are working on a smooth transition. This involves an understanding of our parish ministries, our liturgical ministries, property development, the school, etc.

According to archdiocesan policy, initially he will be appointed as administrator. Appointment as pastor will occur at a later date.

Father Tom is urging all parishioners to embrace Father Bryan and work with him to continue to grow the OLC community.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION CLASS SCHEDULES FOR 2018

Reconciliation/Communion, 9:00 am: January 14, 28 (*First Penance – February 3 at 9:00 am*)

Confirmation, 11:00 am: January 14, 28; February 11, 25

RCIA, 11:00 am: January 21; February 4

CHRISTMAS FLOWER INTENTIONS

Willis Family, Butler Family,
Markowski Family and Kukowski Family



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 22, 2018, 7:30 pm, in the rectory. The topic will be entitled "Word Made Flesh, True Bread of Heaven - The Mystery of The Church's Sacrament and Worship."

OLC Seniors: The next meeting will be on February 14, 2018. For more information, please call Dorothy Bromirski, 201-333-4888.

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

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

Sunday, January 14, 2018

1 Sm. 3:3-10,19; 1 Cor. 6:13-15, 17-20; Jn. 1:35-42

Sunday, January 21, 2018

Jon. 3:1-5, 10; 1 Cor. 7:29-31; Mk. 1:14-20

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.

ParishPay has transitioned to WeShare Service. If you use ParishPay, you may experience and see a difference in the services they provide. For some, this new company may have dropped you.

To continue to contribute electronically to support OLC, please go to: <https://olcjc.churchgiving.com/>. Once the screen opens, click on "Regular", "Make a Donation." From there you can register your information and determine what you wish to contribute for Sunday and any other individual collection. I ask that, if you were not transitioned to the new company, please register again using the above process. If 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 Electronic giving, please "make up" your regular donation the next time you attend Mass. To sign up for We Share Service, go to <https://olcjc.churchgiving.com/> and follow the prompts.

For the weekend of January 6/7, 305 people attended Mass. The collection in church amounted to \$3,669. WeShare donations for the past week were \$1,862 contributing to a weekend collection of \$5,531. This is \$469 below our weekly goal of \$6,000.

The Christmas collection is now at \$46,037. **We did not receive any WeShare Service Christmas electronic donations this year.** If you give electronically, please visit the **WeShare Service website and make a Christmas donation.** Last year's Christmas collection in church amounted to \$38,256.

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.

*When things go wrong,
don't go with them.*

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday 5:00 pm	January 13, 2018 Chester J. Sienkiewicz From <i>Salvatore and Valerie Piccarillo</i>
Sunday 10:00 am	January 14, 2018 Bobby Englese From <i>Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Englese</i>
12:30 pm	Carol Marinelli From <i>Laura Czysz and Ken Heiser</i>
7:00 pm	People of the Parish
Monday 12:30 pm	January 15, 2018 Gerard Cuicci From <i>Mr. and Mrs. Sean Hablitz</i>
Tuesday 12:30 pm	January 16, 2018 Paula Mendoza From <i>April Langer</i>
Wednesday 12:30 pm	January 17, 2018 Communion Service
Thursday 12:30 pm	January 18, 2018 Intention of Anthony Lipari From <i>Michael Burke</i>
Friday 12:30 pm	January 19, 2018 Bart Rubino From <i>Traffice Family</i>
Saturday 5:00 pm	January 20, 2018 Edward Bauch From <i>Terri Gradowski</i>
Sunday 10:00 am	January 21, 2018 Robert Englese From <i>Laura Czysz and Ken Heiser</i>
12:30 pm	People of the Parish From <i>Laura Czysz and Ken Heiser</i>
7:00 pm	Protection of Babies in the Womb and their Families From <i>Lifenet</i>

Attend daily Mass.

It will make a difference in your life!

STEWARDSHIP



*“Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, ‘What are you looking for?’”
- John 1:38*

What are you looking for? Are you wasting your time looking for the material comforts of the world? Or, is your heart longing for something deeper that can only be found by spending time with God? Take time, each day, in silence and ask the Lord what it is that He wants you to do.

BLESSING OF HOMES



If you would like to have your home/apartment blessed for the New Year, please call the parish office 201-434-0798 to leave your name, address, and phone number. Also, please mention a convenient time for Father Gerry to return your call so a mutually convenient date and time can be arranged for this blessing. Ideally, all members of your family presently living at home should be present at the time of the blessing, but we know this may not be possible due to each family's work and school schedules. Please call by Wednesday, January 31. We look forward to hearing from you!

PROGRAM AT THE MARIANIST FAMILY RETREAT CENTER



A Retreat for Teachers (February 16-18, 2018).

This retreat, intended for educators of all levels, will provide time to recharge through prayer, reflection and sharing. This weekend will be led by educators and will offer opportunities to be spiritually renewed for the road ahead. Our time will include daily Eucharist, prayer services, individual and group reflection time, and free time to experience the wonders of the beach in winter! Cost is \$135 per person, double occupancy.

Accommodations, meals and all activities are included. Financial aid is available for these programs. For more information on these retreats, please call Anthony Fucci at 609-884-3829 or visit their website at: www.capemaymarianists.org. The Retreat Center is located at 417 Yale Avenue in Cape May Point, NJ.

LECTURE SERIES

Father Tom is moderating an RCIA lecture/study group. The next meeting will be Monday, January 22, 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 “Word Made Flesh, True Bread of Heaven - The Mystery of The Church’s Sacrament and Worship” Follow the bulletin for more details.



2018 MASS BOOK



The 2018 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.

THE FIFTH ANNUAL BIG SMALL SHOW

The biggest small works show in Jersey City is back! Featuring over 100 artists from New Jersey, New York and Connecticut, the exhibit re-opens this weekend through February 17. Affordable artist works range from paintings and framed drawings to three-dimensional works available for purchase. 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. Gallery hours are Fridays 4:00-7:00 pm, Saturdays and Sundays 12:00-6:00 pm.



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. Up-

coming dates are:

March 4, 2018; May 6, 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.

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,