

# 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.

**Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – January 21, 2018**

## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

*“After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ‘The time has come,’ he said. ‘The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!’ As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ‘Come, follow me,’ Jesus said, ‘and I will send you out to fish for people.’ At once they left their nets and followed him. When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.” Mark 1:14-20*



*We can only imagine how Jesus felt on hearing the news of John. We only know that Jesus continued his ministry, creating disciples and converts wherever he went. The fishermen were so inspired by the Lord, that they left behind their families and livelihoods to follow Jesus. His disciples in turn, created converts and miracles in Jesus’ name. The imprisonment and subsequent execution of Jesus’ kinsman John did not stop Jesus from continuing his work on earth. The silencing of His ministers does not suppress Jesus’ gospel.*

*Jesus handpicked His early followers. They were ordinary people, much like you and me. We often speak of “God’s call” too narrowly, as if God “calls” people only into ordained ministry. That is true: God calls people to be pastors and church workers. But God’s call is not limited to clergy. God calls every single one of us.*

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

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 28 (*First Penance – February 3 at 9:00 am*)

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

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

### ARCHDIOCESAN PRIESTS RETIREMENT COLLECTION

The Retired Priests’ Collection for the priests of the Archdiocese of Newark will be on Ash Wednesday, February 14.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 21, 2018**

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

**Sunday, January 28, 2018**

Dt. 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 7:32-35; Mk. 1:21-28

## 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 13/14, 348 people attended Mass. The collection in church amounted to \$5,103. WeShare donations for the past week were \$1,895 contributing to a weekend collection of \$6,998. This is \$998 above our weekly goal of \$6,000. Thank you.

Additional donations to our Christmas Gift Appeal bring collection \$52,272. WeShare Service Christmas electronic donations this year appear to be \$6,495. If you give electronically, please visit the WeShare Service website and make certain you made a Christmas donation. This year's Christmas collection is approximately \$62,767.

Remember that you can still make a gift to our Christmas Gift Appeal. It is never too late. If you have been away from church traveling for any reason, we encourage you to "make up" your contributions. Remember to support your parish financially

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

<b>Saturday</b> 5:00 pm	<b>January 20, 2018</b> Edward Bauch From <i>Terri Gradowski</i>
<b>Sunday</b> 10:00 am	<b>January 21, 2018</b> Robert Englese From <i>Laura Czysz and Ken Heiser</i>
12:30 pm	People of the Parish
7:00 pm	Protection of Babies in the Womb and their Families From <i>Lifenet</i>
<b>Monday</b> 12:30 pm	<b>January 22, 2018</b> Arlene Gaslow From <i>Peggy Bennett</i>
<b>Tuesday</b> 12:30 pm	<b>January 23, 2018</b> Intentions of Tom Consentino and Members of the Holy Name Society From <i>Michael Burke</i>
<b>Wednesday</b> 12:30 pm	<b>January 24, 2018</b> Communion Service
<b>Thursday</b> 12:30 pm	<b>January 25, 2018</b> Arlene Gaslow From <i>Nancy Bennett</i>
<b>Friday</b> 12:30 pm	<b>January 26, 2018</b> Intentions of Mike and Corinne Reed & Family From <i>Michael Burke</i>
<b>Saturday</b> 5:00 pm	<b>January 27, 2018</b> Chester J. Sienkiewicz From <i>Melanie and Bill Zazula</i>
<b>Sunday</b> 10:00 am	<b>January 28, 2018</b> People of the Parish
12:30 pm	Alfreda Portalain From <i>Mercedes A. McCormick</i>
7:00 pm	Protection of Babies in the Womb and their Families From <i>Lifenet</i>

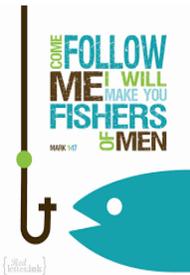
**Attend daily Mass.**

***It will make a difference in your life!***

## STEWARDSHIP

*"Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." - Mark 1:17*

Jesus' call to "Follow me" is a call to all Christians! The call is in the here and now, in our present circumstances, not when we think we are "ready" or have everything in order. Good stewardship of our God-given gifts means that things aren't always going to go according to our schedule and that God has a much better plan in store for each of us.



## 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](http://www.capemaymarianists.org). The Retreat Center is located at 417 Yale Avenue in Cape May Point, NJ.

## CATHOLIC WOMEN'S COMMISSION DAY OF REFLECTION

The Annual Catholic Women's Commission Day of Reflection is on March 3, 2018 and will be held at Seton Hall University. Come hear well-known inspirational Catholic speakers, learn about and how to grow in your faith, and experience fellowship with other women. Prayer and worship are also an integral part of the day, which includes Holy Mass, a Holy Hour of prayer, the Divine Mercy Chaplet in song, the opportunity to go to confession and an adoration chapel for quiet prayer. The event runs from 8:00 am-4:00 pm and has an English and Spanish track. The main celebrant will be Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin. Cost is \$25 per person (continental breakfast and lunch included); Clergy/Religious Free. For more information email: [CatholicWomen@rcan.org](mailto:CatholicWomen@rcan.org) or call 1-973-497-4545.

## LECTURE SERIES

Father Tom is moderating an RCIA lecture/study group. The next meeting will be this 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.

## GRACE IN THE LGBT COMMUNITY

Our Lady of Grace/St. Joseph Church, Hoboken, invites members of the Hoboken, Jersey City and North Hudson LGBT community to a meeting on Wednesday, February 7, 2018 at 7:30 pm. The topic will be "Homophobia." Please forward any specific questions, ideas, or format suggestions as to how we should frame the discussion, i.e. "What forms do you recognize homophobia to take?" "How have you responded when you have experienced homophobia in the past?" "How do you address, or not address, instances when you, a friend or family member are confronted with homophobia in or outside the Church?" There is limited parking in the Willow Avenue parking lot. Parents and family of the LGBT community are invited. Please spread the word. Registration is not required but you may send an e-mail to Fr. Alex Santora: [padrealex@yahoo.com](mailto:padrealex@yahoo.com) with comments or indication of attendance. Address is 400 Willow Ave., Hoboken. For more information, call 201-659-0369.

## 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](mailto:victoryhall1@msn.com) or [info@drawingrooms.org](mailto: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.olcj.org](http://www.olcj.org) and reference "Formation and Sacraments." Follow the link to "Baptism of Children," or call the rectory. Upcoming 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

*The Annual Christmas Gift Appeal is a parish tradition that dates back more than 20 years. 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. **Parishioners are still fulfilling pledges – it's not too late to send in your gift!***

*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](http://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,*

