



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 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.

The Epiphany of the Lord – January 7, 2018

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, usually celebrated on January 6. This day is also known as the Feast of the Three Kings in some parts of the world. This celebration remembers when the Three Kings, or Wise Men as they are also called, came from distant lands to see the infant Jesus. They worshipped the child and presented Him with gifts worthy of a King: gold, frankincense and myrrh.

In Webster's II New College Dictionary, there are several definitions for the word "epiphany." One is the Christian feast day. Another definition is "a sudden and profound understanding of something." Epiphany also means "a revelatory manifestation of a divine being."

The Wise Men experienced their epiphany in two ways. Firstly, through their encounter with the divine, the Son of God. Secondly, the kings receive faith as a result of this encounter. The journey of the Wise Men represents their search for answers. They gain knowledge, understanding and faith through the realization that the remarkable event foretold through the heavens was the birth of the King of Kings, the birth of the Savior of us all. John says in Mark 1:7-11, "...After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Wishing you a blessed New Year,



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 Research 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.

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 7, 21; February 4

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.

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!

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: The next meeting will be on January 10, 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 7, 2018

Is. 60:1-6; Eph. 3:2-3, 5-6; Mt. 2:1-12

Sunday, January 14, 2018

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

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.

When WeShare Service transitioned from Parish-Pay, the parish lost many contributors. Our donations for electronic giving through WeShare Service have fallen off dramatically. If you used ParishPay, please check your contributions by contacting WeShare Service or review your checking or credit card statements. We have many notifications that contributor donations have "Failed."

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 December 23/24, 281 people attended Mass. The collection in church amounted to \$2,886. WeShare Service donations were \$1,966 contributing to a weekend collection of \$4,852 This is **\$1,148 below** our weekly goal of \$6,000.

Mass attendance for December 25 was 573. The Christmas collection in church amounted to \$27,868. **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.

For the weekend of December 30/31, 270 people attended Mass. The collection in church amounted to \$2,495. WeShare donations for that week were \$1,848 contributing to a weekend collection of \$4,303. This is **\$1,697 below** our weekly goal of \$6,000.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday 5:00 pm	January 6, 2018 Edward Bauch From <i>Julia Nowatkowski and Family</i>
Sunday 10:00 am	January 7, 2018 Herena Hernandez From <i>Melanie Zazula and Dorothy Bromirski</i>
12:30 pm	Winifred Spiller From <i>Laura Czysz and Ken Heiser</i>
7:00 pm	People of the Parish
Monday 12:30 pm	January 8, 2018 Dominador Padua From <i>The Ignacio Family</i>
Tuesday 12:30 pm	January 9, 2018 Herena Hernandez From <i>Anna Mae Stefanelli</i>
Wednesday 12:30 pm	January 10, 2018 Communion Service
Thursday 12:30 pm	January 11, 2018 Bobby Englese From <i>Tess and Michael Englese</i>
Friday 12:30 pm	January 12, 2018 Reverend Victor Mazza From <i>Michael Burke</i>
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

Attend daily Mass.

It will make a difference in your life!

STEWARDSHIP



"..they fell down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh..."

- Matthew 2:11

Notice the order of events in the Magi's visit. First, they knelt before Jesus and prayed to Him. Then they presented Him with their gifts. We, too, must take time

to pray before we present our gifts to the Lord. We never know what God may be asking us to share!

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



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.

Thank you for your support of the 2017 Winter Coat Drive!



LECTURE SERIES



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

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@olcjc.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.

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:



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,

