



OLC

1911 – 2018

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.

Rev. Bryan E. Page
Parish Administrator

Rev. Gerard J. Sudol
In Residence

Rev. Anthony Azzarto, S.J.
Weekend Assistant

Rev. David Stump, S.J.
Weekend Assistant

Rev. Thomas J. Ciba
Pastor Emeritus

Mrs. Anna Mae Stefanelli
Principal

Mr. Jonathan Blevis
Pastoral Associate

Mr. Ben Rauch
Director of Music

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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: 8:00 am (Polish), 10:00 am, 12:30 pm and 7:00 pm

Note: St. Anthony of Padua, 330 Sixth Street, Jersey City, is the Center for Polish Ministry in Jersey City.

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.

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord – March 25, 2018

FROM FATHER GERRY

Dear Parish Family,

As I write this, the snow from our fourth nor'easter in three weeks is just beginning to fall, and the snowflakes are not pretty; rather, they are big, and heavy, and wet. Yuck! I must confess that I feel a little annoyed at the Almighty. I've already told Him that this is NOT the way to begin spring in our section of the country, and this is CERTAINLY not the way to begin Holy Week. However, the Lord God does not seem to be listening to my complaining. At least I haven't gotten an answer yet – unless the sloshing sound of cars passing by the rectory this morning is God's chosen way of communicating with me today, with the slightest hint of laughter on His part. Most probably though, I'm really not as annoyed with God's handling of this particular portion of 2018 as I am with my own sorry state: I can't do anything to control the situation, or to change what is happening right now to make it "better." A sense of frustration is pushing in, and it seems to be winning. To make matters worse, this has not exactly been the most spiritually fruitful Lent for me. Sure, I started the season with good intentions – but you know what is said about good intentions! I kept myself busy with tasks related to our parish's transition from one pastor to another, tasks around which I could easily wrap my mind as well as my hands without being too spiritually challenged.

So the beginnings of spring and Holy Week just aren't beginning the way they should (at least not according to the Book of Gerry); the beautiful way I remember they used to begin (selective memory, maybe?), the way I wish things would be right now (I'm not very good at being patient with God's timing). And Lent hasn't gone the way I would have liked, either. I know I'm being cranky. I guess I'm feeling powerless. Weak. Wholly weak.

Wholly weak? Wait. Can a pun I use to characterize my scattered self at the "eleventh hour" of Lent be the key I can use to open the REAL spiritual joy still to be found in observing this most sacred week of the year?

What you and I are called to this Holy Week and every Holy Week is humble acknowledgement before God and each other that we ARE wholly weak, and not really in control of much of anything. This is especially true in the face of a God who so loved the world (that's us, folks!) that He gave us His Only Son (John 3:16) to willingly be sacrificed so we could have eternal life with Him. We can't explain that love logically, we can't earn that love, we can't match it or control it, and we can't add to it. We can only ACCEPT the mystery of it, while not allowing our inability to understand its immensity get in the way. WE NEED TO STAND IN AWE of the fact that God values us so highly and loves us so much. Jesus' commitment to follow the Father's plan for our salvation required Jesus to trust totally falling into the Father's hands. For Him, that meant consenting to suffer and die. So it is not enough for us to observe Holy Week as a historical commemoration of events called the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus. If we observe the holy days beginning with Palm Sunday in this fashion, we simply control a choreography and satisfy a ritual, only to put it back on the shelf until we "use" it again next year. No, the self-sacrifice and the total trust of Jesus in the Father that we hear and think about, meditate on, and pray about all through Holy Week actually opens for you and me the way to consciously cooperate with that same loving plan of the Father, formed so long ago, faithfully discerned and followed by our Lord and Savior, and still on its way to fulfillment. This is what our earthly lives are really all about! We need to do our part to be in touch, in communion, with the God who loves us beyond anything we could ever imagine; how else can we hope to discern what God wants or expects of each of us according to His wonderful yet mysterious "Master Plan"? Then, while we are growing and nurturing that ongoing conversation with God, we can count on God to continue to build our trust in following where Jesus leads us by His gift of self. At no other time and in no other place is that self-gift more manifested than when God's People (again, that's us!) gather to celebrate the days of Holy Week and allow ourselves to be challenged and moved by the prayers we pray and the words of sacred Scripture that are proclaimed in our hearing.

Come and see. Bring with you all the cares, memories and problems that bedevil your mind and your spirit. Gently push from your mind thoughts that tempt you to believe you are unlovable in God's eyes.

Come wholly weak for Holy Week.

With my love and my prayers for you,
Fr. Gerry

FAST AND ABSTINENCE: A REMINDER

Good Friday is a day of fast and abstinence. If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil as the "paschal fast" to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily His Resurrection.

On a day of Fast, only one full meal is permitted, and two smaller meals, which, if added together, would not exceed the main meal in quantity.

Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast.

On a day of Abstinence, no meat may be eaten. Those who have reached the age of 14 are obliged by the law of abstinence.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday 5:00 pm	March 24, 2018 Chester J. Sienkiewicz From <i>Connie Piatkowski</i>
Sunday 10:00 am	March 25, 2018 Theresa D. Sienkiewicz From <i>Maggie and Lenny Englese</i>
12:30 pm	Henry and Margaret Heiser From <i>Laura Czysz and Ken Heiser</i>
7:00 pm	People of the Parish
Monday 12:30 pm	March 26, 2018 Leopoldo Abis From <i>Anciano Family</i>
Tuesday 12:30 pm	March 27, 2018 Jerry and Kathy Lepis From <i>Michael Burke</i>
Wednesday 12:30 pm	March 28, 2018 Billy Salvador From <i>L. Nery</i>
Thursday 7:00 pm	March 29, 2018 Mass of the Lord's Supper
Friday 3:00 pm	March 30, 2018 Stations of the Cross
7:00 pm	Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
Saturday 1:00 pm	March 31, 2018 Blessing of Food
8:00 pm	Easter Vigil and Mass of the Resurrection
Sunday 10:00 am	April 1, 2018 Mary A. Dwulet From <i>her children</i>
12:30 pm	Dawn Valente From <i>John and Veronica</i>
7:00 pm	No Mass

Attend daily Mass.

It will make a difference in your life!

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION CLASS SCHEDULES FOR 2018



Reconciliation/Communion: March 25; April 15, 29; May 6, **9:00 am.**

Confirmation: March 25; April 15, 29; May 6, **11:00 am.**

RCIA: March 31 (Easter Vigil and Rite of the Elect)

*Hope is the ability to hear
the music of the future.
Faith is having the courage
to dance to it today.*

MASS INTENTIONS



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 continue that spiritual and loving connection we had

when they walked this earth.

Remembering someone in our prayers 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. 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.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday, March 25, 2018

Masses: 10:00 AM, 12:30 PM and 7:00 PM

Holy Thursday, March 29, 2018

Mass of the Lord's Supper: 7:00 PM

The church will be open for your personal prayer until 11:00 PM.

Good Friday, March 30, 2018

Stations of the Cross: 3:00 PM

Liturgy of the Lord's Passion: 7:00 PM

(Liturgy of the Word, Veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion).

The church will be open for your personal prayer until 11:00 PM.

Holy Saturday, March 31, 2018

Blessing of Food: 1:00 PM

Easter Vigil & Mass of the Resurrection:
8:00 PM

(Service of Light, Liturgy of the Word, Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation and the First Mass of Easter)

Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018

Masses: 10:00 AM and 12:30 PM

No 7:00 PM Mass

BAPTISM



GATHERING TO RE-JOICE 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:

May 6, 2018; July 1, 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:

April 8, 2018; June 3, 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.

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. Snacks are served either outside or in the church hall depending on weather. Please call the rectory if you wish to donate snacks.

The OLC Adult Choir: Choir rehearsals are held on Sundays, 11:15 am. Participants then sing at the 12:30 pm Mass. Please email Ben Rauch, the Director of Music, for more information at: directorofmusic@olcjc.org.

OLC Seniors: The next meeting is April 11. Lunch will be served. New members welcome (must be 55 and over). For more information, please call Dorothy Bromirski, 201-333-4888.

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

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

Sunday, March 25, 2018

Mk. 11:1-10; Is. 50:4-7; Phil. 2:6-11;

Mk. 14:1-15:47

Sunday, April 1, 2018

Acts 10:34, 37-43; Col. 3:1-4;

Jn. 20:1-9; Lk 24:13-35

CHOIR REHEARSAL SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK/EASTER VIGIL

Sunday, March 25th (Palm Sunday) at 11:15 am-12:15 pm – then we perform at 12:30 pm

Thursday, March 29th (Holy Thursday) at 6:00-6:45

pm – then we perform at 7:00 pm

Saturday, March 31st (Easter Vigil) at 6:30-7:45 pm

– then we perform at 8:00 pm

Sunday, April 1st (Easter Sunday) – perform at the 12:30 Mass

CHURCH DECORATING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



The Easter flowers will be delivered on Wednesday March 28. Volunteers will be needed to help decorate the church at 9:30 am on Holy Thursday March 29 and Holy Saturday March 31. Please call the rectory at **201-434-0798** if you wish to assist. Thank you!

OLC CHURCH'S 9TH ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

We will have our Easter Egg Hunt on Holy Saturday morning, March 31st at 10:00 am. The location is on the parish field at the end of Sussex Street. Children from the earliest ages to age 10 are invited. Bring your Easter baskets or bags. Raindate is Saturday, April 7. Bring your cameras and arrive early! We will need some volunteers to help the Easter Bunny put out the eggs on the field. If you are able to assist, please call the rectory at 201-434-0798.



WEEKLY OFFERING



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Thank you for living your financial commitment to our parish. We are grateful for your generosity.

This past weekend, March 17 & 18, **388** people attended Mass. The collection in church amounted to \$4,035.71. WeShare donations for the past week were \$1,331 contributing to a weekend collection of **\$5,366.71**. Thank you.

STEWARDSHIP



"Pilate again said to them, 'Then what shall I do with the man whom you call the King of the Jews?' And they cried out again, 'Crucify him.'" – Mark 15:12-13

Jesus told us "whatever you do for the least of my brothers, you do for me." Every day we are presented opportunities to help someone. Every day we have the opportunity to see the face of Jesus in others and be the face of Jesus to others. Pray for the strength and courage to stand up for those in need of our help.

HOLY LAND COLLECTION

The collection for the Shrines of the Holy Land will be taken on Good Friday, March 30th. The Franciscans of the Custody of the Holy Land have the unique responsibility of caring for the Holy Places as well as caring for the Christians living in the Holy Land. Your gift will make a difference in the lives of those caught up in war, violence and instability in this region.



ATTENTION: PARISHPAY/WESHARE CUSTOMERS

If you have been having difficulties with ParishPay or WeShare, please be advised that WeShare passed on erroneous information to the parish. WeShare bought the ParishPay company. ParishPay account information was transferred to WeShare and ParishPay accounts were closed as of January of this year. Parishioners trying to access their account should go to the following website: <https://www.church-giving.com/?pc=wjrwen75>. The correct Customer Service Number is 1-800-950-9952, Option 1.

The ParishPay 2017 Tax Statements from January-September, and the WeShare 2017 Tax Statements from October-December have been mailed out. If you have any questions, please call Barbara at the rectory at 201-434-0798. We apologize for the inconvenience to our parishioners and thank you for your patience.

DOWNTOWN HARVEST COMMUNITY-SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE (CSA)



Our CSA, Downtown Harvest is now preparing for their upcoming season. Enjoy fresh, organic produce (eggs optional) while helping to support sustainable agriculture. During the 24-week season, the farmer brings the members' weekly share to the OLC Church garage. Members share in the risks and rewards of the farmer. For membership information, please go to their website: <http://www.downtownharvest.org> or email: downtownharvestcsajc@gmail.com.

12-DAY PILGRIMAGE TO POLAND

Last chance to participate in a European Pilgrimage that will visit sites around Poland, the Czech Republic, Austria, and Hungary from June 4 to June 15. The twelve-day tour departs from New York and goes to Warsaw. Additional information is available through Estela Austria, 32-11 55th Street, Apt 1, Woodside, NY 11377, or by calling 347-605-8625. **Our own Father Gerry Sudol will serve as chaplain for the tour!**

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKENDS

"Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do,..." Let the Lord into your marriage to do His works 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.

ANNUAL MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARY RECOGNITION BY ARCHDIOCESE

The Archdiocese will celebrate the annual tradition of honoring couples in our Archdiocese who will be celebrating five, twenty-five and fifty years of Christian marriage in the year 2018. These anniversary liturgies will be celebrated by Cardinal Joseph Tobin in the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark as follows:

April 29, 2018 3:00 pm 5 & 25 years (All counties)
May 6, 2018 3:00 pm 50 years (All counties)

If you wish to participate in these liturgies, please contact the rectory to register.

13th ANNUAL DIVINE MERCY CONFERENCE

This annual conference will be held on Saturday, April 28 from 9:00 am to 5:30 pm at Cardinal Spellman High School in the Bronx, New York. Featured speaker, Christopher West, is the world's most recognized teacher of St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body. Fee is \$60 per person; purchase your own breakfast/lunch from the cafeteria or bring your own food. You may register by phone by calling 1-800-462-7426 or online at www.thedivinemercy.org/bronx.

PROGRAM AT THE MARIANIST FAMILY RETREAT CENTER

Contemplative Prayer Retreat (April 6-8, 2018): If you wish to rekindle your contemplative prayer experience, there is no better place than at the retreat house and beach at Cape May point in early spring. There will be daily Eucharist, input, sharing and quiet personal time to pray and reflect. Cost: \$135 per person. 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.