



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
frb@olcjc.org

Rev. Thomas J. Ciba
Pastor Emeritus

Rev. David Stump, S.J.
Weekend Assistant

Mrs. Anna Mae Stefanelli
Principal

Mr. Ben Rauch
Director of Music

Mrs. Matty Hiott
Business Manager
secretary@olcjc.org

Mrs. Barbara Peters
Bulletin Editor
bulletin@olcjc.org

Mr. Jerome Ransom
Custodian

Parish Office
201-434-0798

Fax
201-985-0918

Website
www.olcjc.org

Office Hours
Monday-Friday
9:30 am-5:00 pm

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.

10:00 am “Children’s Liturgy of the Word”

We provide a Faith Formation program called “Children’s Liturgy of the Word” for children 2½ years+ and their parents during the 10:00 am Sunday Mass.

Confessions/Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 4:00 pm to 4:30 pm in the church or 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.

Catholic School Education

The OLC School

Shaping Young Minds for a Brighter Future
248 Luis Marin Blvd., Jersey City, NJ 07302
Grades K – 8 | Blue Ribbon School
MSA-CESS Accredited
201-434-2405 | www.olcschool.org

The Little Harbor Academy

The Early Childhood Division of the OLC School
186 Grand Street, Jersey City, NJ 07302
Tiny Tikes Program for 2-year-olds;
Pre-K Programs for 3 & 4-year-olds
201-434-6708

First Sunday of Advent – December 2, 2018

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parish Family,

Today marks the beginning of the Advent season and many Christians will honor the day with an Advent wreath. The origins of the lighted wreath are uncertain but by the Middle Ages, Christians adapted this custom as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas. Its rich symbolism can help us engage in this season more fully.

The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life found in Christ. Any pine cones, nuts, or seedpods used to decorate the wreath also symbolize life and resurrection. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. Three candles are purple and one is rose. The purple candles symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have past the midpoint of Advent, and they are close to Christmas. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of His second coming to judge the living and the dead. The light also signifies Christ, the Light of the world.

As Blessed John Henry Newman reminded us in a homily for the Advent Season: "Advent is a time of waiting, it is a time of joy because the coming of Christ is not only a gift of grace and salvation but it is also a time of commitment; it motivates us to live the present as a time of responsibility and vigilance."

Our Gospel this weekend reminds us to "Be vigilant at all times and pray for strength". All of our prayer, penance and good works are spiritual exercises that enable to grow stronger through all of our struggles, so that, as Christmas approaches, our anxieties may fade, and we may be able to receive Jesus with JOY!

God bless you and please pray for me,

Father Bryan

"BE AN ELF" REMINDER

If you took a "Be An Elf" tag, kindly bring your purchases to any member of the Children's Liturgy group on December 2nd or 9th during (or after) the 10:00 am Sunday Mass. Gifts may also be dropped off at the rectory Monday to Friday between the hours of 9:30 am and 5:00 pm. Please make sure the gift is labeled with the recipient's name. Thank you for supporting this worthy endeavor!

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



The Feast of the Immaculate Conception celebrates the solemn belief in the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, that she was conceived in the womb free from all stain of sin. It is universally celebrated on December 8, nine months before the feast of the Nativity of Mary, which is celebrated on September 8. It is a celebration of Mary as both

the image of the Church and the model of the perfect disciple of Christ. **It is a holy day of obligation. There will be a Vigil mass on Friday evening, December 7 at 7:00 PM and a mass on Saturday, December 8 at 12:30 PM. The 5:00 PM mass remains an anticipated mass for Sunday.**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS SONG PARTY

Help is needed for the Christmas Song party on Sunday, December 16 from 5:00 pm-7:00 pm. Volunteers are needed to assist in set-up, serving and with food donations. If interested, please sign up at: <https://tinyurl.com/festivalofchristmassong>.



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday 5:00 pm	December 1, 2018 Walter Rzaski Jr. From <i>Barbara Rzaski</i>
Sunday 10:00 am	December 2, 2018 Deceased Members of the Siwik Family (grandparents Katherine and Alexander & Aunt Helen and Uncle Charlie) From <i>Donna Simon</i>
12:30 pm	Edwin Chociej & Michael and Sofia Chociej From <i>daughter</i>
7:00 pm	People of the Parish
Monday 12:30 pm	December 3, 2018 Edward John Bromirski From <i>family</i>
Tuesday 12:30 pm	December 4, 2018 For the Faithful Parishioners of OLC From <i>Michael Burke</i>
Wednesday 12:30 pm	December 5, 2018 Good health and healing of Zhi Jie Tchao From <i>J & S Tchao</i>
Thursday 12:30 pm	December 6, 2018 Iluminada Arrieta Escueta From <i>Edel Eloriaga</i>
Friday 12:30 pm	December 7, 2018 Lerma and Leolino Maglasang From <i>sister Mila</i>
7:00 pm	Min Michelle Lin From <i>self</i>
Saturday 12:30 pm	December 8, 2018 Yu Zhi Qiu From <i>family</i>
5:00 pm	Claire Tuchalski From <i>Connie Piatkowski</i>
Sunday 10:00 am	December 9, 2018 Edward W., Wanda, Barbara, William and Edward Bromirski From <i>family</i>
12:30 pm	Mary Yovino From <i>Peggy Bennett</i>
7:00 pm	People of the Parish

**Attend daily Mass and
make a difference in your life!**

DECEMBER MASS SCHEDULE

DAY	TIME	CELEBRANT
SAT: 12/8/18	12:30 pm 5:00 pm	Fr. Bryan Fr. Bryan
SUN: 12/9/18	10:00 am 12:30 pm 7:00 pm	Fr. Dominick Fr. Bryan Fr. Bryan

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@olcj.org.

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Reflect on today's readings – Prepare for next Sunday

Sunday, December 2, 2018

Jer. 33:14-16; 1 Thes. 3:12-4:2;

Lk. 21:25-28, 34-36

Sunday, December 9, 2018

Bar. 5:1-9; Phil. 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk. 3:1-6

BAPTISM

GATHERING TO UNDERSTAND is a **required** part of our Baptism program that addresses theology, the responsibilities and requirements of parents and Godparents, and other essential information. **The next class will be this Sunday, December 2nd at 11:15 am. Please call the rectory for more information.**



LITURGY

Please remember, beginning in December 2018 with Advent, the practice of OLC will be to kneel during the Eucharistic Prayer, from the Holy Holy to the Great Amen and then from the Lamb of God until coming forward to receive Communion or a blessing, then to remain kneeling until the tabernacle doors are closed. If you missed this announcement please refer to the pastor's letter in the bulletin from November 11, 2018. If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to reach out to Fr. Bryan.

WEEKLY OFFERING



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For the weekend of November 17/18, **368** people attended Mass. The collection in church amounted to \$3,507.07. WeShare donations were \$743 contributing to a weekend collection of **\$4,250.07**.

For the weekend of November 24/25, **412** people attended Mass. The collection in church amounted to \$2,854.32. WeShare donations were \$991 contributing to a weekend collection of **\$3,845.32**.

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

STEWARDSHIP

“But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.”

– Luke 21:28



We celebrate Advent each year in preparation of the birth of Jesus, His first coming, as we await his second coming. In this Advent season, use the sacrament of Reconciliation to strengthen your relationship with Jesus. It's never too late.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT OLC



Children's Liturgy: Every Sunday during the 10:00 am Mass for 20 minutes. Ages 2 and older. Parents are welcome. No registration required – join in!

The OLC Adult Choir: Choir rehearsal will be every Sunday at 11:15 am-12:15 pm and we will sing right after at the 12:30 pm Mass. No experience necessary, all are welcome! For more information, please email the Director of Music, Ben Rauch, at directorofmusic@olcjc.org.

OLC Seniors: Group meets monthly in the church hall and plans several one-day activities as well as trips each year. The next meeting is on December 12. New members welcome (must be 55 and over). For more information, call Dorothy Bromirski at 201-333-4888.

JOIN THE OLC CHURCH PRAYER GROUP!

The OLC Prayer Group meets daily Monday-Friday at church after the 12:30 PM Mass. They begin praying at 1:15 PM and finish between 2:00 PM-2:15 PM. Every day, they pray The Rosary, Divine Mercy and Devotion to Our Lady of Czestochowa. In addition, they add a different devotion each day. If you are interested in joining the prayer group, please contact Chona Veluz via email at: cjveluz@aol.com.



CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS



DETAILS AVAILABLE AT
OLCJC.ORG/ORNAMENT/

JUICE AND DONUTS

HELP WANTED

JUICE & DONUTS

EVERY SUNDAY AFTER THE 10:00 AM MASS. SNACKS ARE SERVED EITHER OUTSIDE OR IN THE CHURCH HALL (WEATHER DEPENDENT)

We're looking for YOUR help!
If you wish to DONATE snacks & beverages, please go to the following website to sign up
<https://tinyurl.com/olcdonutschedule>

THE RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Please give to those who have given a lifetime. Elder sisters, brothers, and religious order priests dedicated their lives to service and prayer. Many worked for years for small stipends. As a result, their religious communities now lack adequate retirement savings. You can help by giving during the annual collection at your local Catholic parish. Our parish will take up the annual collection next weekend December 8/9. For more information, please go to: <http://www.retiredreligious.org>.

OLC CHURCH ADVENT GIVING TREE



Our parish will participate in its annual Advent Giving Tree Program. A Christmas tree will be set up and decorated with "ornaments," each of which will list the name of an organization or individual, and specific item(s) that you are asked to purchase for a person in need.

To participate in the Giving Tree Program, take one or more ornaments from the tree, purchase the item(s) listed, and attach the "ornament" to the UNWRAPPED package. Bring the gift(s) to church and place them under the Giving Tree **no later than next Sunday, December 9**. All gifts will be delivered during the week of December 10.

For further information, you may call Pat Duemig (201-955-1495) or Maggie Englese (201-963-8761). Thank you in advance for your generosity!

MARRIAGE PREPARATION PROGRAMS



If you are engaged to be married and desire the blessing of God on your union, you must first contact the parish. Ideally, this should be done at

least one year in advance of your wedding. A couple may not register for marriage preparation programs until they have met with the priest/deacon preparing them for the Sacrament of Matrimony. Completion of both programs is mandatory.

Pre-Cana Conferences –

January 27 from 1:30-7:00 pm at Our Lady of the Visitation, 234 Fairview Avenue, Paramus NJ

February 2 from 10:00 am-6:30 pm at St. Theresa, 541 Washington Avenue, Kenilworth NJ

February 22 at 8:00 pm & February 23 at 8:00 am at St. John the Apostle, Linden NJ

February 23 from 12:00 noon-6:30 pm at St. Joseph the Carpenter, 157 E. Fourth Avenue, Roselle NJ

(To register, please visit www.rcan.org/precana. \$100 per couple)

God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage –

January 5 from 9:00-4:00 pm at St. Theresa, 541 Washington Avenue, Kenilworth NJ

January 26 from 9:00-4:00 pm at the Archdiocesan Center, 171 Clifton Avenue, Newark NJ

February 9 from 9:00-4:00 pm at the Archdiocesan Center, 171 Clifton Avenue, Newark NJ

February 17 from 12:00 pm-6:30 pm at St. Michael, 40 Alden Sreet, Cranford NJ

(To register, please visit www.joyfilledmarriagenj.org. \$125 per couple)

PROGRAM AT THE MARIANIST FAMILY RETREAT CENTER



Family Advent Weekends (December 7-9 and December 14-16, 2018). Come prepare for the liturgical season! Special weekend themes focus on family activities and preparations related to the season, emphasizing the significance of bringing Jesus to others. Grandparents and other significant family members are welcome! Cost is \$130 per person (8 years-adult)/\$90 per person (2-7 years)/Free Under 2.

Accommodations, meals and all activities are included with price. Financial aid is available for these programs (see website for application). For more information on this retreat, please call 609-884-3829 or visit the Marianist Family Retreat website at: www.cape-maymarianists.org.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES OUTREACH TO LOW-INCOME SENIORS

NJSave

Your One-Stop Application for Benefits and Savings in New Jersey

You May Qualify for Programs If:

- You are a resident of the State of New Jersey
- You are age 65 or older
- You are between the ages of 18 and 64 and receiving Social Security Disability benefits
- You meet certain income requirements

Benefits and Programs:

- Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled (PAAD)
- Hearing Aid Assistance to the Aged and Disabled (HAAAD)
- Lifeline Utility Assistance
- Medicare Savings Programs
- Senior Gold Prescription Discount Program

Additional Savings Programs:

- Universal Service Fund (USF)
- Low-Income Heating and Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP)
- Property Tax Freeze
- Reduced Motor Vehicle Fees
- Low-Cost Spaying/Neutering

Get Help Now and Save Today!

NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Aging Services
1-800-792-9745 www.aging.nj.gov

Scan Barcode With Your Smartphone!