



OUR LADY OF CZĘSTOCHOWA CATHOLIC CHURCH

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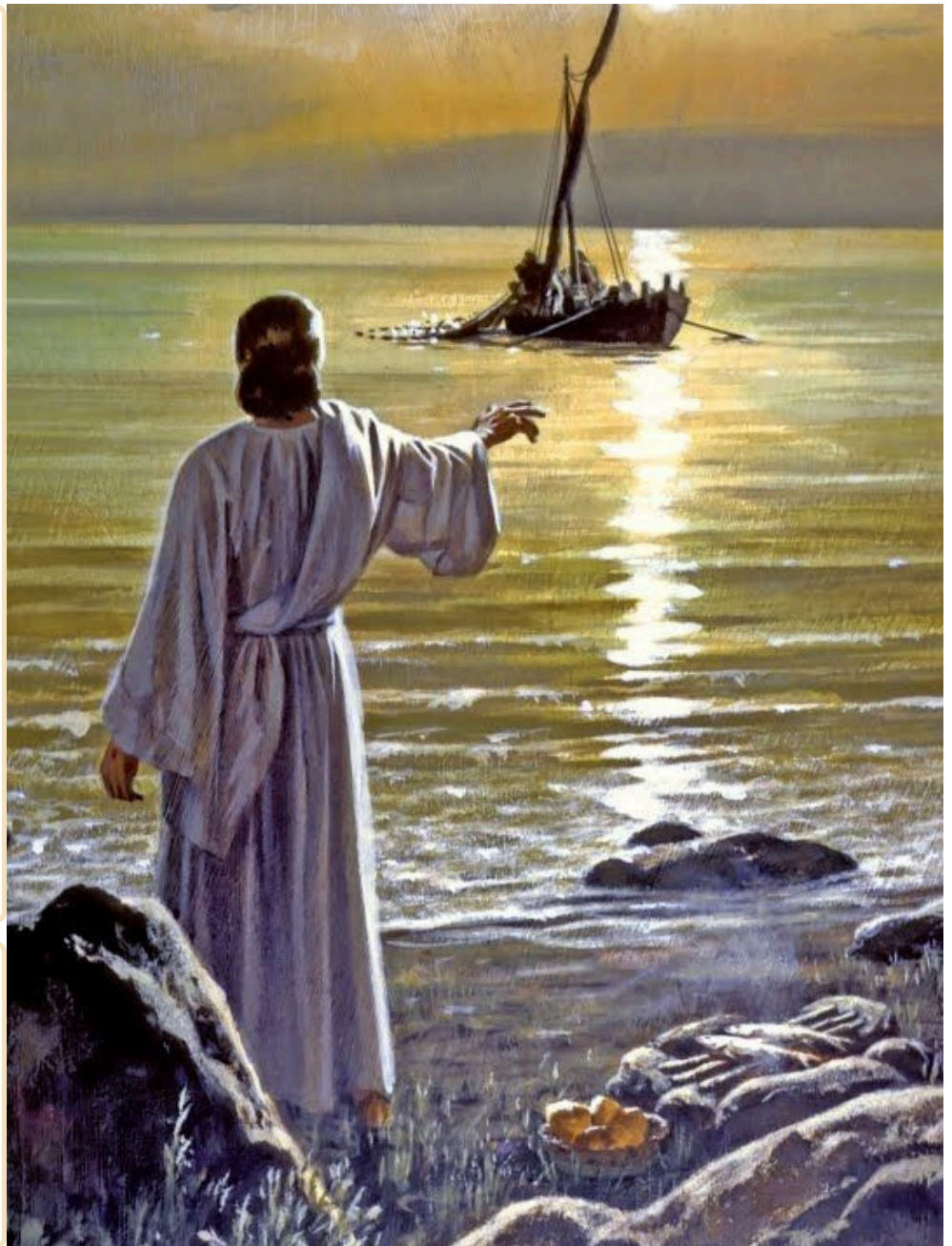
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Monday-Wed., Friday
9:30 am-5:30 pm
Thurs. 10:00 am-2:00 pm



Third Sunday of Easter - May 4, 2025

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parish Family,

This Sunday, we hear the story of Jesus appearing to His disciples at the Sea of Tiberias again. It is a story full of grace and mercy, speaking to the heart of every believer who has ever felt like they've gone backward in their faith or fallen short of their spiritual ambitions.

After the Resurrection, instead of going forward boldly in mission, Peter and the others go fishing. This was their lives before meeting Jesus. This is regression, not just a physical return to the Sea of Galilee, but a spiritual departure. They go back to something familiar because the future feels uncertain. They are still confused and ashamed, perhaps even wondering if they are worthy of being disciples.

And what does Jesus do? He meets them right there. On the shore. With breakfast. There is no scolding, no harsh judgment, but only a gentle love. Jesus invites Peter three times to affirm his love, just as Peter had three times denied Him. Jesus is not trying to erase the past but redeem it. Jesus turns failure into a vocation: "Feed my sheep." Maybe you've been there. Maybe you're there right now. Maybe you have returned to old habits or retreated into the familiar because a Lenten faith felt too challenging. Maybe you carry guilt or shame and wonder if God still has a plan for your life.

Hear the Good News: He does! God's love meets us exactly where we are, and it doesn't let us stay there. Like Peter, we are called again—not because we are perfect, but because we are loved.

Easter is not just about celebrating an empty tomb. It's about realizing that Jesus is still showing up on the shores of our everyday lives, still calling us to follow Him after failure, even after regression, even when we've gone fishing.

So if you've drifted, come back. If you've failed, be forgiven. If you've regressed, know that His love still calls your name.

God bless,

Fr. Bryan

Are you celebrating your fifth,
twenty-fifth, or fiftieth wedding
anniversary this year?

Email trish@olcjc.org before May 10 to
be honored at a Mass on Sunday, June 1,
at the Cathedral Basilica
of the Sacred Heart in Newark!



MASS INTENTIONS

MAY 3 - MAY 11

SATURDAY 5 PM STANLEY STAPINSKI
MAY 3 FROM LAURA CZYSZ & KEN HEISER

SUNDAY 10 AM PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
MAY 4 12:30 PM LARRY GEE
FROM VIRGINIA ELBARODY

TUESDAY 12:30 PM BEORI HERNANDEZ
MAY 6 FROM ARZA-HERNANDEZ FAMILY

WEDNESDAY 12:30 PM JOEL COLLINS
MAY 7 FROM ANETA COLLINS

THURSDAY 12:30 PM NEVILLE AGARD
MAY 8 FROM DIANA & LESLYN

FRIDAY 12:30 PM ANTOINE TAKOU
MAY 9 FROM TAKOU FAMILY

SATURDAY 5 PM MARY CZYSZ, MARGARET
MAY 10 HEISER, & FAMILY MOMS
FROM LAURA CZYSZ & KEN HEISER,
CATHY & ALLIE SAVAGE

SUNDAY 10 AM LINDA MEADE
MAY 11 FROM HALEY GRECZEK
12:30 PM PEOPLE OF THE PARISH



Sunday Scripture

May 4

Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41

Rev. 5:11-14

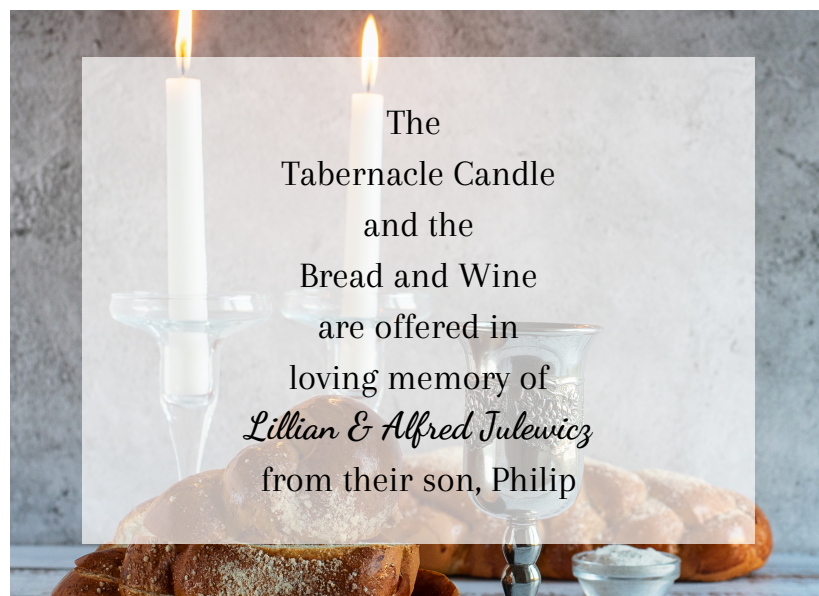
John 21:1-19

May 11

Acts 13:14, 43-52

Rev. 7:9, 14b-17

John 10:27-30



OPERA UNCORKED

SATURDAY MAY 10TH

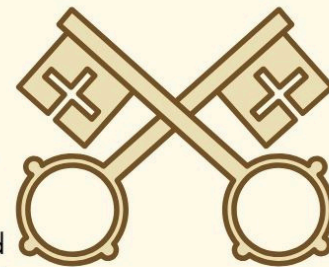
OLC - HOLY FAMILY HALL
SHOW BEGINS 7:30PM
DOORS OPEN 7PM

**TICKET PRICE
INCLUDES THE SHOW,
WINE AND CHEESE**

\$25



All about Popes



May Pope Francis rest in peace. He was our pope for 12 years, and the first pope not to be born in Europe. Now, a new pope will be chosen to lead our Church. Let's honor Pope Francis's memory and take a moment today not only to pray, but to learn about the papacy.



Who chooses the Pope?

The College of Cardinals, a group of special priests who meet and pray and talk about who should be the pope, vote on who the next pope will be.

When the pope is selected, white smoke comes out of the chimney of the Sistine Chapel, letting the curious people who gather outside know the decision is made.

The pope, as leader of the Catholic Church, helps to guide much of the world to help increase God's glory here in our times. Think about it: there are 1.4 billion Catholics on Earth. That's about 1 out of every 7 people on the planet!

'Ex Cathedra'

You can think of the pope's job as the top leader in the church. What the pope announces and declares while officially at his post is considered to be as near perfect as it can be, something called "papal infallibility" from working "ex cathedra," or Latin for "from the chair." You might remember some weeks ago when we talked about how cathedrals get their names from the big chair for the (arch)bishops.



Matthew 16:18-19
And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church,* and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.
19 I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven.* Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

How many popes have there been? What are other names for the papacy?

The pope is also called the Vicar of Christ, which means he represents Jesus on earth in terms of leading the Church. Saint Peter was the first pope, and since him there have been 266 popes in the past 2,000+ years.

What does The Pope do?

In Matthew 23: 2-3 Jesus spoke of the authority of the Old Testament magisterium saying, "The scribes and the Pharisees have taken their seat on the chair [Gk. *cathedras*] of Moses. Since Jesus recognized the authority of the Old Testament when it spoke *ex cathedra* (with the authority of Moses), we recognize that the New Testament establishes the Church, and speaks with the authority not of Moses, but of Jesus Christ himself.
(Matthew 10:40: "He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.")

May 1st was the feast of Saint Joseph the Worker



Saint Joseph has two feast days: March 19th and May 1st. Even though Saint Joseph does not speak in all of the Bible, his actions and dedication to Jesus and Mary are an example for us. He was a hard worker, and so this month, let's pray to Saint Joseph to help us do the work we need to do!

UPCOMING CHILDREN'S LITURGY DATES:
May 11th (Mother's Day),
May 25th, June 8th