



OUR LADY OF CZĘSTOCHOWA CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

Follow Me TO OLC

SAT 5:00PM, SUN 10AM & 12:30PM

CATHOLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION OUR LADY OF CZESTOCHOWA SCHOOL

ENRICHING THE MIND AND CULTIVATING THE HEART THROUGH VIRTUE, RIGOR, & JOY

Lower School
248 Luis Marin Blvd.,
Jersey City, NJ 07302
2 Pre -Grade 3

Upper School
225 Morris Blvd.,
Jersey City, NJ 07302
Grades 4 - 8



MIDDLE STATES ASSOCIATION/CES
ACCREDITED

201-434-2405 | www.olcschool.org

Early Childhood Program for 2-year-olds;
Pre-K Programs for 3- & 4-year-olds

Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles - June 29, 2025

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parish Family,

As I walk around, I've noticed an intriguing fashion statement. More and more people are wearing stones that are often called "healing crystals" or "energy balancers," and they're said to promote calm, clarity, love, or protection. As your pastor and fellow disciple, please accept the invitation to think more deeply about what we wear and where we find our strength.

The desire to find grounding in a chaotic world is normal. When someone reaches for a crystal in a moment of anxiety, or places one under a pillow for sleep, they are often seeking comfort and transcendence.

As Catholics, we believe that this longing finds its fulfillment not in the properties of minerals, but in a Person, Jesus Christ, crucified, risen, and alive. Crystals may be beautiful and naturally occurring, but they are not personal. They do not know us, love us, or walk with us. Jesus does.

The crucifix we wear is not a charm but a proclamation. It tells the story of salvation in a single image: the Son of God, arms stretched out in suffering love, redeeming the world. It is not about "energy" but about grace; not about self-empowerment, but self-giving love. Crystals may symbolize good intentions, but they cannot offer what the cross offers: redemption and eternal life. A crystal cannot tell you who you are or what you are worth. The crucifix can. It declares: You are worth the death of the Son of God. You are loved by name. You are never alone.

St. Augustine, writing in *The City of God*, explores a fundamental question: To which city do you belong—the City of Man or the City of God? The City of Man is built on self-love, on fleeting things, and it is marked by pride and violence. The City of God is built on love of God and neighbor, marked most specifically by forgiveness. The crucifix is the flag of this second city.

Crystals can unintentionally pull us toward the mindset of the City of Man: "If I arrange my life just right... if I place the right stones... if I manage the energy... then I can have peace." But the Gospel tells us that true peace doesn't come from manipulating forces—it comes from surrendering to Love. Jesus said, "My peace I give you—not as the world gives do I give it to you" (John 14:27). The peace of Christ comes not from control, but from trust.

To be clear, wearing a crystal isn't necessarily a sin. Many do so innocently, for fashion or sentimentality. But the Church asks us to discern not just what's allowed, but what leads us deeper into the life of God. In St. Paul's letter to the Galatians he urges believers not to return to "the elemental spirits of the world" (Gal 4:9), but to remain in Christ, who has conquered the powers of darkness through His cross. The crucifix is not a lucky charm; it is a sign of victory over sin and death. It invites us to bring our pain not to stones, but to the wounds of Jesus, who knows our suffering from the inside.

It is important to teach our children not just to seek "good energy," but to know the Good Shepherd. The world needs witnesses, not to crystals, but to Christ. Let your crucifix be your quiet testimony that you belong to the City of God. That you have been claimed by love. And that your hope has a name: Jesus.

God bless,



MASS INTENTIONS

JUNE 28 - JULY 6

SATURDAY JUNE 28	CHARLES CZYSZ, FRED SAVAGE, HENRY HEISER, & FAMILY DADS FROM LAURA CZYSZ & KEN HEISER, CATHY & ALLIE SAVAGE
SUNDAY JUNE 29	10 AM PEOPLE OF THE PARISH 12:30 PM. FRANCIS S. VASQUES FROM DESIREE & TOM MCMAHON
TUESDAY JULY 1	12:30 PM JENNIFER STEED FROM HEANEY FAMILY
WEDNESDAY JULY 2	12:30 PM PRESENTACION AMOR FROM MANNY C. TUASON
THURSDAY JULY 3	12:30 PM GOOD HEALTH FOR MARYSHA FROM ANETA COLLINS
FRIDAY JULY 4	9:30 AM TOM ECKERT FROM HIS WIFE
SATURDAY JULY 5	5 PM SPECIAL INTENTION OF DR. VIC JOSEPH FROM ANDREA SELVARAJA
SUNDAY JULY 6	10 AM ORLO VARGAS FROM ANA DIAZ 12:30 PM. PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

Sunday Scripture

June 29

Acts 12:1-11

2 Tim. 4:6-8, 17-18

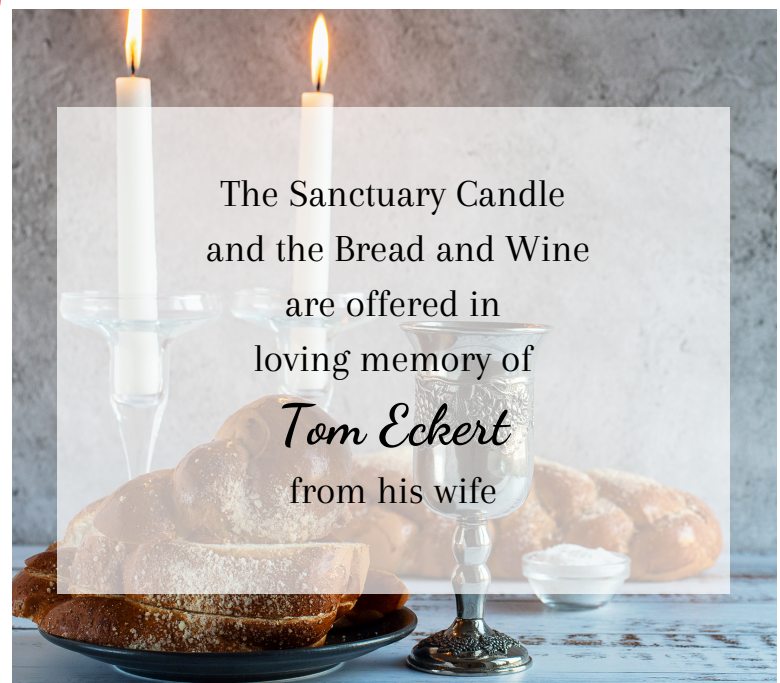
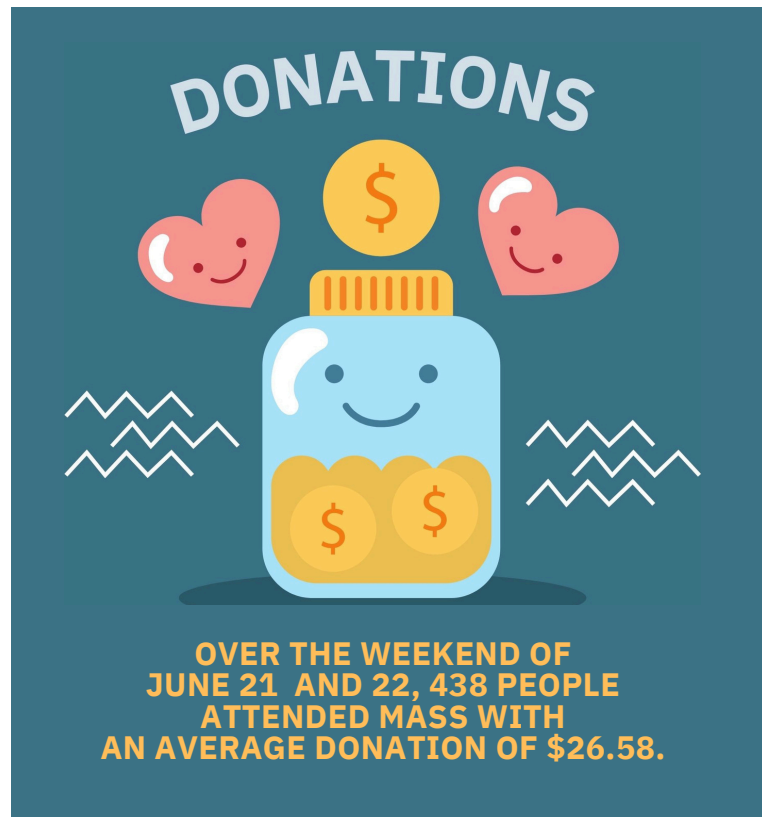
Matthew 16:13-19

July 6

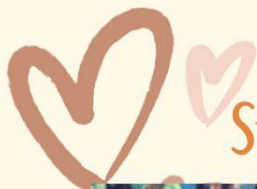
Is. 66:10-14c

Gal. 6:14-18

Luke 10:1-12, 17-20



Just the Facts



Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles

Saints Peter and Paul are both patron saints of Rome, Italy; pillars of the Church; and martyrs (meaning they died for believing in Jesus). They both played important roles in spreading the Gospel during the early days of the Church.

St. Peter was a family man and a fisherman who left his whole life to follow Jesus. He knew and loved Him with his whole heart, but still struggled with doubt (when Jesus called him to walk on water in a rainstorm) and fear (he denied knowing Jesus three times on the night of His crucifixion). He made mistakes, like we all do. Even so, Jesus chose him to be the first leader of His Church on earth. He is usually shown holding a set of keys, which represent the authority given to him to govern the House of God – which is the Church.

St. Paul (originally called Saul) first opposed the idea of Jesus as our Savior, even punishing people who believed in Him! However, one day he saw an extremely bright light and heard the voice of Jesus say, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” And for three days, he couldn’t see and neither ate nor drank. On the fourth day, he was baptized and began to proclaim God’s Word, writing many letters to encourage people to believe, which appear in the New Testament. He is usually shown holding a book (symbolizing his many writings heralding Jesus as our Savior) and a sword (because he was killed for his belief).



Today is their feast day!

Did You Know?

St. Peter and St. Paul both took on new names after they began following Jesus.

St. Peter was named Simon at birth, but Jesus changed it to Peter, meaning “rock,” and told him, “Upon this rock I build my church.”

Paul was given the Hebrew name Saul at birth, but began using Paul, the Latin version of Saul, after his baptism.



Our Lady of Czestochowa Church contains a statue of St. Peter and one of St. Paul! Now that you know what they hold in their hands, can you find them?

To Do: Support Mercy House!

Donate	Food: pasta, sauce, canned fish/meats, cereal, rice, pancake mix, mac & cheese, milk, juice, snack bars, corn
Donate	Baby items: diapers, wipes, gently used clothes & equipment, toiletries
Donate	Household items: kitchenware, bedding/linens, seasonal decorations
Donate	Personal items: adult & teen clothes, toiletries, fem. hygiene

Bring to Mass

**Last Sunday
of each month**

DONUT HEROES

Rule!

**Bring donuts to share
after the 10 Mass!**

**Email donuts@olcjc.org
to find out how!**



† *OLC First Holy Communion & Confirmation Prep*

2025-26 Registration for
Sacramental Preparation for
First Holy Communion
& Confirmation

Now Open!

Students prepare for each
Sacrament through a two-year
educational program: Grades 1
and 2 for Communion and Grades
7 and 8 for Confirmation. Please
go to www.olcjc.org for signup
and more information.

Are you praying for
something or someone?

Would you like more time with God?
Come to weekday Mass
Tuesday-Friday @ 12:30

*The Mass is the most perfect form of
prayer.*

Pope Paul VI

