



OUR LADY OF CZĘSTOCHOWA CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Thurs. 10:00 am-2:00 pm



Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time - August 24, 2025

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parish Family,

On this Feast of Our Lady of Częstochowa, we turn to Mary, the Mother of God, whose faithful gaze in the Black Madonna of Jasna Góra has guided generations of believers through times of trial and hope. Her scarred face, marked by centuries of struggle, reminds us that faith is not about escaping hardship, but about finding strength, healing, and direction in the midst of it.

Today's second reading from the Letter to the Hebrews speaks directly into this feast:

"Do not disdain the discipline of the Lord or lose heart when reproved by him; for whom the Lord loves, he disciplines... At the time, all discipline seems a cause not for joy but for pain, yet later it brings the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who are trained by it" (Heb 12:5-7, 11-13).

These words may sound difficult to our ears. Discipline, limits, and correction are not words we naturally like. And yet, they are the marks of God's love. Boundaries are not obstacles to joy, but gifts that keep us safe and help us flourish.

As a mother, Mary understands the gift of boundaries. She raised Jesus in the ordinary rhythms of Jewish family life. Daily prayer, Sabbath rest, synagogue worship, and obedience to God's law were not burdens, but gifts that shaped Him in wisdom and stature.

When life feels difficult, when the Church's teachings are demanding, when prayer seems dry, we can be tempted to resent the discipline of faith. But in those very moments, God is treating us as His children, not abandoning us but shaping us.

The image of Our Lady of Częstochowa herself has been scarred and cut by invading soldiers, yet those wounds were never painted over or sanded out because they speak of strength through suffering and love through trial. The scars are boundaries in their own way, as they remind us that faith does not mean an easy life, but a life that is transformed by God.

Our faith offers us a treasure in the teachings of the Church that have been preserved and passed down through the centuries. These teachings are challenging as they ask us to live chastely, to forgive enemies, to honor life in all its stages, to stand with the poor, and to worship faithfully.

In a culture that values unlimited freedom, these boundaries can seem confining. But Our Lady of Częstochowa reminds us that they are not chains, but guideposts. Just as Poland once rallied around her image for courage and identity, so we rally around the teaching of the Church for clarity and direction – not arbitrary rules, but the wisdom of a Mother who knows what leads to life.

The feast of Our Lady of Częstochowa is not just a Polish devotion but a universal witness. She has become the Mother for all who struggle. Immigrants, the poor, the persecuted, the weary all find comfort in her scars, reminded that the boundaries of faith do not isolate us, but rather unite us as one people of God, walking the path together.

So often we hear that freedom means having no limits, no discipline, no boundaries. But Our Lady of Częstochowa, standing with us today, teaches us a different lesson. True freedom comes from living within God's loving boundaries, trusting His discipline, and embracing the teaching of the Church. Her image shows us that the path is not always easy, but is always worth it.

On this feast, accept the discipline of the Lord not as a burden but as an act of love, as we walk together on the path of faith, so that what is weak in us may be healed, and what is wounded in us may be made whole. Our Lady of Częstochowa, pray for us.

God bless,

Fr. Bryan

MASS INTENTIONS

AUGUST 23 - AUGUST 31

SATURDAY AUGUST 23 5 PM SPECIAL INTENTION OF DR. VIC JOSEPH
FROM ANDREA SELVARAJA

SUNDAY AUGUST 24 10:00 AM PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
12:30 PM JOSEPH KRYNICKI & JOAN VICENTE
FROM: TED & DEANNA JOHNSON

TUESDAY AUGUST 26 12:30 PM SPECIAL INTENTION OF DR. VIC JOSEPH
FROM ANDREA SELVARAJA

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 27 12:30 PM GOOD HEALTH FOR SOFIA CEBALLOS
FROM HEANEY FAMILY

THURSDAY AUGUST 28 12:30 PM MELANIE ZAZULA
FROM HUSBAND BILL ZAZULA

FRIDAY AUGUST 29 12:30 PM KAREN SCHMIDT
FROM BARBARA RZASKI

SATURDAY AUGUST 30 5 PM. CHARLES & MARY CZYSZ
FROM LAURA CZYSZ;
CATHY & ALLIE SAVAGE

SUNDAY AUGUST 31 10 AM PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
12:30 PM CHRISTOPHER ENGLESE
FROM MOM & DAD

Sunday Scripture

August 24

Is. 66:18-21

Heb. 12:5-7, 11-13

Luke 13:22-30

August 31

Sir. 3:17-18, 20, 28-29

Heb. 12:18-19, 22-24a

Luke 14:1, 7-14

DONATIONS



OVER THE WEEKEND OF
AUGUST 16 & 17, 459 PEOPLE
ATTENDED MASS WITH
AN AVERAGE DONATION OF \$32.48.

ONE TIME
GIFTS AND
VISITORS



THANK
YOU FOR
ALL OF
YOUR
SUPPORT

CONSISTENT
SUPPORT AND
PARISHONERS



JOIN THE DMC

DAILY MASS CLUB

TUESDAY - FRIDAY
12:30 PM
22 MINUTE TASTE OF HEAVEN
AT OLC
ONCE PER WEEK OR EVERYDAY



All About O.L.C.

Our Lady of Częstochowa



Feast
Day:
August 26

When did our church get its start?

Our beautiful church, which is named for our Blessed Mother, opened in 1911 so that the many Polish people who lived in Downtown Jersey City could worship God in their native language. We still celebrate Mass in Polish every Sunday!

Polish Roots



Have you ever wondered about the name of our church? Częstochowa is a city in Poland, where the original painting of Our Lady and the Baby Jesus is located in a monastery called Jasna Góra, pictured above. This image was brought to Poland, and we believe it was originally painted by Saint Luke (one of the four Gospels) on a table that the Holy Family used.

(The Gospel of St. Luke in the Bible contains stories about Mary, which she might have told him as he made this painting!)

Our Lady's image includes two cuts on her cheek, which come from the 1300s, when a soldier tried to destroy St. Luke's painting, but didn't succeed.

To keep the painting safe, a metal cover was placed on it, revealing only the faces and hands of Mary and Jesus. Our church's image has a similar cover. The colorful painted image appears above.

More about Icons

Statues, stained glass, and other icons found in churches can help us learn about the holy people who went before us. They usually show saints or scenes from stories from the Bible and are there not only to look beautiful, but to inspire us to follow those examples in our own lives.

Looking at a statue or other holy image while we pray can help us focus on talking to God and asking Him for help and guidance.

Did you know?

Every church or school named "Our Lady of..." is always named for the same person - Jesus' mother. She has many titles.

To Do: *Next Weekend!!* 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!

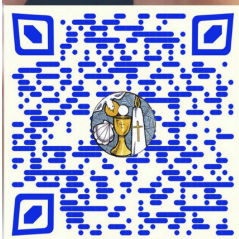


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and more information.



*E*UCHARISTIC ADORATION

EVERY FRIDAY
7 PM