



OUR LADY OF CZĘSTOCHOWA CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Office Hours

Monday-Wed., Friday

9:30 am-5:30 pm

Thurs. 11:00 am-2:00 pm

THE BEATITUDES

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they
who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean in heart,
for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted
for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

MATTHEW 5:1-10

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time -- February 1, 2026

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parish Family,

This past week, many of us experienced what it is like to be snowed in after a storm. The forecast warned us, the snow came down, and then everything stopped. Roads were impassable. Mass in most places was cancelled. Normal life was interrupted. We found ourselves inside, looking out the window at a world that was strangely transformed.

At first, being snowed in can feel frustrating. We feel confined. And yet, if we allow it, we notice things we usually rush past: the stillness, the light reflecting off the snow, the simple gift of warmth and shelter. What at first felt like an inconvenience becomes an invitation to see differently.

This Sunday, Jesus invites us into a new way of seeing in the Beatitudes. Like a spiritual snowstorm, His words interrupt our usual assumptions about what it means to be successful, blessed, or happy. Jesus does not stand in the center of power or prestige, instead, He goes up the mountain and teaches a crowd made up largely of the disregarded, the struggling, and the ordinary.

And what He says must have sounded as surprising as silence after a storm:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit... Blessed are those who mourn...

Blessed are the meek... Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness...”

To the ear, these do not sound like blessings at all. Poverty, mourning, meekness, mercy, and persecution are conditions we usually try to avoid. Yet Jesus calls them blessings. He sees what the world overlooks. Being snowed in forces us to stop measuring our worth by how much we accomplish in a day. And the Beatitudes do something similar for the soul. They free us from the illusion that our value comes from power, control, or recognition. Jesus reminds us that God’s favor rests not on the strongest voices or the most impressive resumes, but on hearts that are receptive to grace.

The poor in spirit is not about material poverty alone, it is about knowing we need God. Mourning slows us down, just as a storm slows traffic and routine. Grief has a way of clarifying what truly matters. Jesus blesses those who grieve because they have hearts capable of love, compassion, and deep trust in God’s promise of comfort.

Meekness is so often confused with weakness, but in fact it is strength under control. When the world is blanketed in snow, everything becomes quieter. Meekness is that same posture of humility and refusal to force our way through life. And then there is this hunger and thirst for righteousness, longing for God’s justice to shape the world and our own hearts.

The Beatitudes are not simply ideals to admire. They are a portrait of Jesus Himself. He is poor in spirit, obedient to the Father. He mourns at the tomb of Lazarus. He is meek and humble of heart. He hungers for righteousness and shows mercy even from the Cross. To live the Beatitudes is to learn how to live in Christ.

When the snow eventually melts, the world looks the same, but those who allowed the stillness to shape them are often changed. The Beatitudes can do the same for us. Not just heard once, but lived daily, until we recognize that true blessedness is found not in having more things, but in trusting more deeply.

God Bless,



MASS INTENTIONS

JANUARY 31 - FEBRUARY 8

SATURDAY JAN 31	5 PM DEAN STILLER FROM PETER & LUCIA SCHMIDT
SUNDAY FEB 1	10:00 AM GOOD HEALTH FOR REMEDIOS NERI FROM LAUREN & RICK BETZLER 12:30 PM PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
TUESDAY FEB 3	12:30 PM SPECIAL INTENTIONS OF DR. VIC JOSEPH FROM ANDREA SELVARAJA
WEDNESDAY FEB 4	12:30 PM SPECIAL INTENTIONS OF DR. VIC JOSEPH FROM ANDREA SELVARAJA
THURSDAY FEB 5	12:30 PM. SPECIAL INTENTIONS OF DR. VIC JOSEPH FROM ANDREA SELVARAJA
FRIDAY FEB 6	12:30 PM. SPECIAL INTENTIONS OF DR. VIC JOSEPH FROM ANDREA SELVARAJA
SATURDAY FEB 7	5 PM SPECIAL INTENTIONS OF DR. VIC JOSEPH FROM ANDREA SELVARAJA
SUNDAY FEB 8	10 AM PEOPLE OF THE PARISH 12:30 PM BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS MARY LOURDES FROM ANDREA SELVARAJA

Sunday Scripture

February 1

Zep 2:3, 3:12-13

1 Cor 1:26-31

Mt 5:1-12a

February 8

Is 58:7-10

1 Cor 2:1-5

Mt 5:13-16



DONATIONS

**OVER THE WEEKEND OF
JANUARY 24 & 25, 473 PEOPLE
ATTENDED MASS WITH
AN AVERAGE DONATION OF \$31.92.**

**ONE TIME
GIFTS AND
VISITORS**





**THANK
YOU FOR
ALL OF
YOUR
SUPPORT**

**CONSISTENT
SUPPORT AND
PARISHONERS**



OLC 2026 LENT SMALL GROUPS

SHARE YOUR PASSION

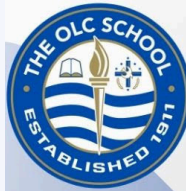


MONDAY-THURSDAY @ 7PM



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

EVERY FRIDAY
7 PM



2026/2027
APPLICATIONS OPEN

STEPS TO APPLY:

- Visit an Open House or tour (optional)
- Complete an online application
- Admissions will contact you to come in for a tour, testing or playgroup



SCAN ME



Glide into Lent

Join Our Community
Thursday, Feb 19, 7-8:30PM
Newport Skates
Falling Is Allowed.
Fellowship Is Required



Thanks to the community's generosity, Mercy House has plenty of clothing, baby items, household items, and other non-food donations. They gratefully request that, until further notice, we donate food, such as:

- Pasta/Pasta Sauce**
 - Canned Fish/Chicken**
 - Pancake Mix/Syrup**
 - Macaroni & Cheese**
 - Small bags of rice**
 - Canned corn**
 - Cereal/ Shelf-stable Milk**
 - Juice**
 - Snack bars**
 - Individually packaged cookies and crackers**
- Or, Amazon and ShopRite gift cards

Thank you!



OLC Kids' Bulletin

The Presentation of the Lord

Why is it called Candlemas?



February 2nd isn't just Groundhog Day; it is also the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, or Candlemas.

Candlemas is about 40 days from Christmas for a reason.

Forty days after the birth of Christ, Mary went to the temple to present her child, Jesus, to be blessed and to be purified herself. This was a ritual that was established in the book of Leviticus. At the temple, the faithful man Simeon and the prayerful Anna the prophetess saw Jesus and prayed to God in thanks, knowing that He was the one they had been waiting for (Luke 2:29-32).

Candles are lit to represent the "light" Simeon talks about. When he sees Jesus, he prays to God, "my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel."

St. Blaise

Feast February 3rd

Saint Blaise lived in the 300s AD around present-day Armenia and Turkey. He is the patron saint of throats because he once saved the life of a boy who was choking on a fish bone.

Candles are also important for Saint Blaise, and pictures of him often include two candles.



On his feast day, some churches have a special blessing of throats using unlit candles.

He promised that anyone who lit a candle in his memory would be free of throat problems, like infection. That's why candles are used in the traditional throat blessing. He is one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers, saints honored as healers. Because of the events of his life and his miracles, he is the patron saint of throat illnesses, animals, wool combers, and wool trading.

Blessing of the Throat



There are many great stories about Saint Blaise and his prayers, not just about people, but animals too! Once, he met a woman whose pig had been taken by a wolf. He commanded the wolf to return the pig. In return, this woman brought candles to light his cell. He was popular in England because wool was a big part of their economy, and he is the patron saint of wool trading.



"When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him."
Luke 2:39-40

Children's Liturgy

The Leaven

February 22nd
10AM Mass

