



# OUR LADY OF CZĘSTOCHOWA CATHOLIC CHURCH

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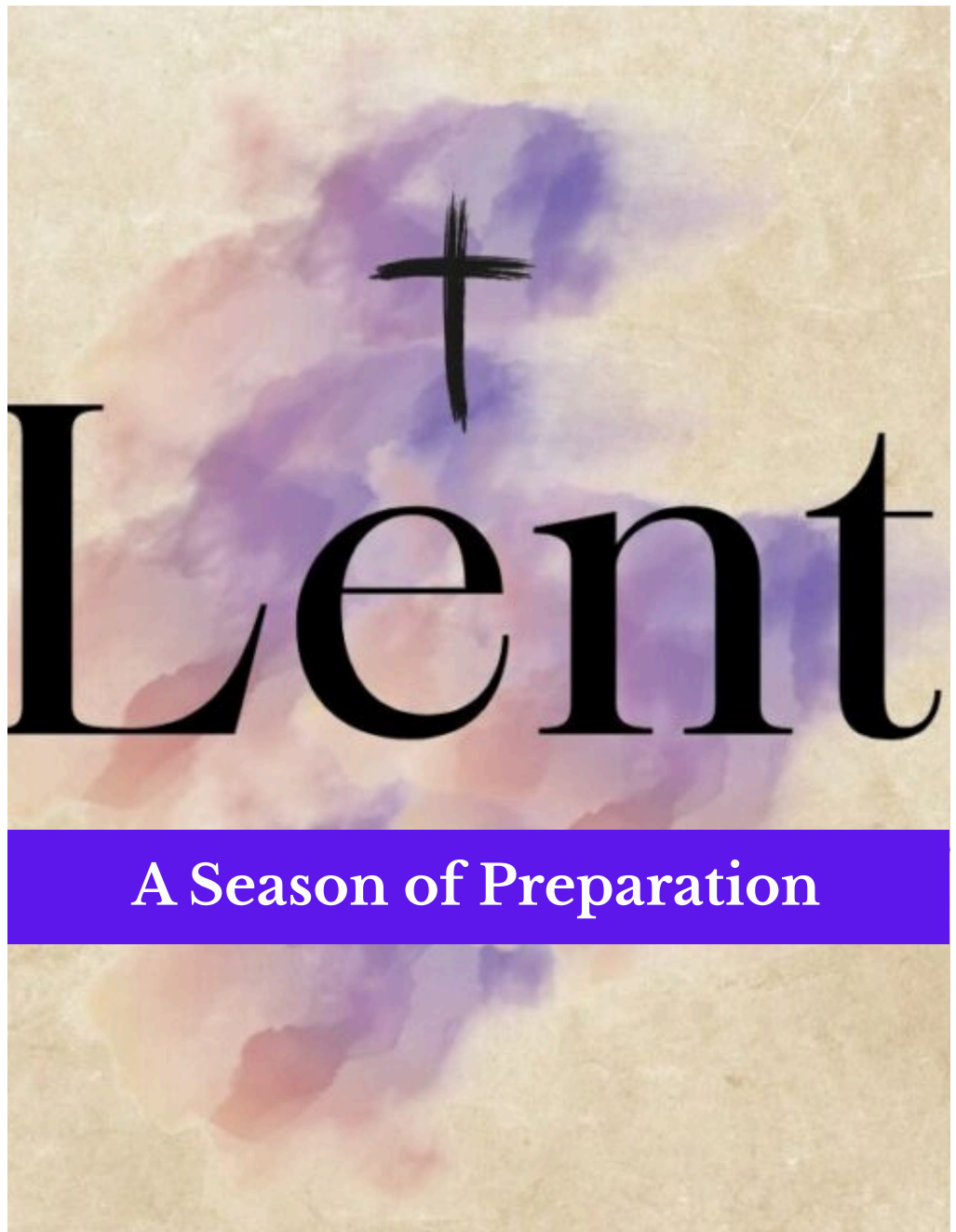
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Monday-Wed., Friday  
9:30 am-5:30 pm  
Thurs. 11:00 am-2:00 pm



Third Sunday of Lent -- March 8, 2026

Dear Parish Family,

The Word of God this week draws us into a demanding invitation to worship the Lord in spirit and truth.

Jesus speaks with the Samaritan woman at the well and tells her that the Father seeks those who will worship Him “in Spirit and truth.” These words are not poetry, but they describe the very heart of the Christian life.

So many people feel pulled in divergent directions. While some emphasize spiritual feelings, experiences, and inspiration, others seek to live by their own version of objective truth. They cling tightly to rules and doctrines, often disconnected from a living relationship with God. Jesus does not allow us to choose one over the other: He calls us to both.

To worship in truth means that our faith is not something we invent. It is received. God has revealed Himself in history, in the Scriptures, and fully in His Son. Truth anchors us and keeps us from drifting into a religion made in our own image. In a culture where my truth frequently replaces the truth, the Church gently but firmly proclaims that Christ Himself is the Truth. We do not worship a projection of our preferences (no matter how hard our algorithm may try), we worship the living God who has spoken.

But truth alone is not enough.

To worship in Spirit means that our faith is alive, animated by the Holy Spirit, personal, interior, and transformative. The Spirit moves us beyond external observance into real conversion. It is possible to know the Church's teachings and still keep God at arm's length. The Spirit invites us to intimacy in prayer that is honest, to repentance that is heartfelt, and charity that costs us something.

Truth without Spirit can become cold. Spirit without truth can become confused.

Together, they form the fullness of Christian worship.

This has practical consequences for us as a parish family. First, it challenges how we approach the Mass. The Eucharist is not a performance to evaluate nor a weekly obligation to complete. It is the meeting place of Spirit and truth. The truth of Christ's sacrifice is made present on the altar. The Spirit makes that sacrifice alive in our hearts. When we come distracted or merely going through motions, we miss the depth of what is offered. I invite you this week to prepare intentionally for Sunday Mass by arriving a few minutes early, reading the Scriptures ahead of time, and, most importantly, asking the Holy Spirit to open your heart to what God is saying to you today.

Second, it shapes our personal prayer. Prayer is not merely reciting correct words, nor is it merely chasing emotional consolation. Prayer in spirit and truth means bringing our doubts, wounds, gratitude, and hopes before God, while remaining rooted in the faith the Church hands on. The Spirit teaches us to pray honestly, while truth keeps our prayer aligned with Christ.

Third, it affects how we live in the world. To live in truth means we cannot quietly conform to every cultural current. We have been given very concrete examples of how our moral choices, speech, use of money, and care for the vulnerable can all be grounded in the Gospel. To live in the Spirit means we do this not with harshness or superiority, but with humility, patience, and love. The Spirit softens our tone even as truth strengthens our convictions.

This balance is especially important for parents, who are called to hand on both the content of the faith and the warmth of a living relationship with God. Children must see that Catholicism is not merely a set of prohibitions, or a vague encouragement to be nice, but a coherent truth about who God is and a vibrant spiritual life that fills the heart with joy and purpose.

God bless,

*Fr. Bryan*

# MASS INTENTIONS

## MARCH 7 - MARCH 15

**SATURDAY** 5 PM JOE HEANEY  
**MAR 7** FROM SEAN HEANEY

**SUNDAY** 10:00 AM REGINA BREE  
**MAR 8** FROM CAROLYN KRASINSKI  
 12:30 PM PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

**TUESDAY** 12:30 PM SPECIAL INTENTIONS OF  
**MAR 10** DR. VIC JOSEPH  
 FROM ANDREA SELVARAJA

**WEDNESDAY** 12:30 PM IN THANKSGIVING  
**MAR 11** MARY LOURDES & STEVEN SELVARAJA  
 FROM ANDREA SELVARAJA

**THURSDAY** 12:30 PM. GOOD HEALTH FOR  
**MAR 12** MARY LOURDES  
 FROM ANDREA SELVARAJA

**FRIDAY** 12:30 PM. SANTIAGO BITAR  
**MAR 13** FROM THE KERBAJ FAMILY

**SATURDAY** 5 PM JUDY GLEESON  
**MAR 14** FROM CAROLYN KRASINSKI

**SUNDAY** 10 AM PEOPLE OF THE PARISH  
**MAR 15** 12:30 PM GABRIELA &  
 MANUEL ALEMON  
 FROM THE ALEMON FAMILY

### Sunday Scripture

March 8

Ex 17:3-7

Rom 5:1-2, 5-8


Jn 4:5-42

March 15

1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

Eph 5:8-14

Jn 9:1-41



**DONATIONS**

**OVER THE WEEKEND OF FEB 28 & MAR 1, 625 PEOPLE ATTENDED MASS WITH AN AVERAGE DONATION OF \$36.81.**

**ONE TIME GIFTS AND VISITORS**





**THANK YOU FOR ALL OF YOUR SUPPORT**

**CONSISTENT SUPPORT AND PARISHONERS**



**OLC CHURCH**

COME AND JOIN US

# STATIONS OF THE CROSS

*Every Friday at 7PM*

Followed by Lent friendly soup supper and community

I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed Me - **Matt 25:35**




**Except Mar 20 Fish Fry**

# OLC Kids' Bulletin

## Third Week of Lent

### Saint John of God

Feast March 8th



Painting from Cuzco School, 18<sup>th</sup> cent., Peru, displayed at Brooklyn Museum

St. John of God is the Patron Saint of:  
Booksellers  
Firefighters  
Heart Patients  
Hospitals  
Nurses  
Printers  
The Sick



Éric Puybaret

This is a mystery, but it is also something we can understand through the words of the Bible, and prayer.



### Water this Week



When were you baptized?

This week, Jesus gives a woman water and says this water is not like regular water. What does that mean? How can this remind us of our baptism?

When you enter and leave church, do you dip your hand in the holy water and make the sign of the cross? Next time you do, think about your baptism, and what special water God gives you at every moment!

**Saint John of God** was a soldier who was raised in the faith, but was not very devoted for a long time.

Once he heard the words of John of Avila, though, he turned away from his sinful ways and turned fully toward God, helping the poor and the sick, often carrying people to the hospital he eventually opened.

He's the patron saint of firefighters for heroically saving people from a burning hospital.

When a saint is the 'patron' of something, he or she is devoted to and prays for the needs of that group. For example, Saint Anthony is the patron saint of lost items, he brings God our needs when we lose something. Similarly, Saint Thomas Aquinas is the patron saint of students, so he prays for students in a special way. Do you know anyone or anything you can bring in prayer to St. John of God to bring to God?

*Jesus answered, "Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of **water** and **Spirit**."*

– John 3:5



Christ and the Samaritan Woman, Artemisia Gentileschi, 1637  
Located in Pisa, Italy

How can paintings help us understand these mysteries better?

By looking and asking questions! And praying, of course.

What do you notice in this painting?

### Children's Liturgy

March 22nd

10 AM Mass

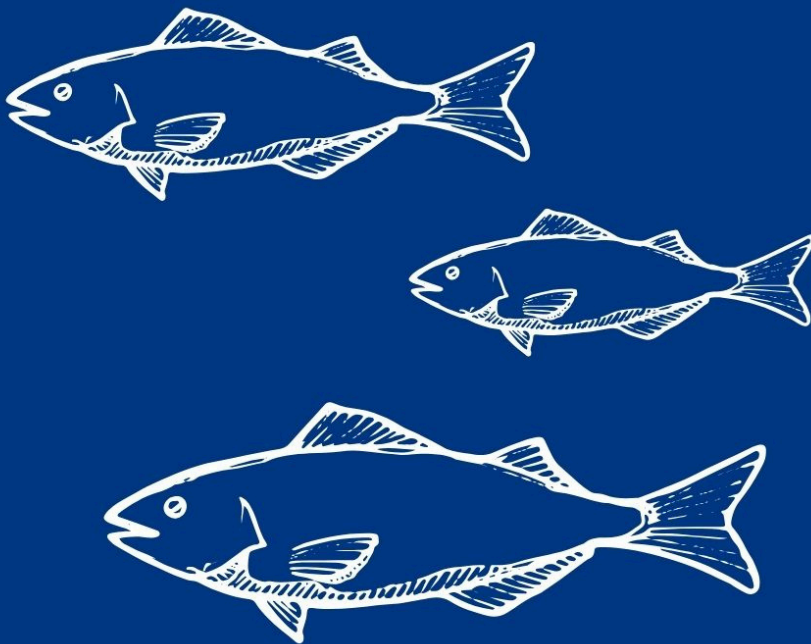


OLC CHURCH

# FISH FRY 2026

• FRIDAY, MARCH 20 @ 7PM •

\$30 ADULTS  
\$15 KIDS



LIVE MUSIC W/ PET IN THE MIDDLE  
BEER AND WINE INCLUDED  
GREAT FOOD  
OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY

236 Van Vorst Street, Jersey City