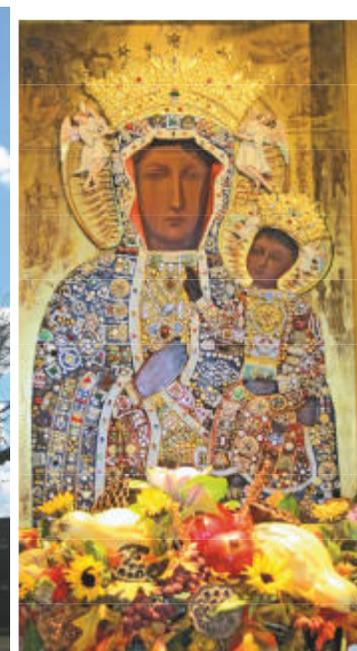
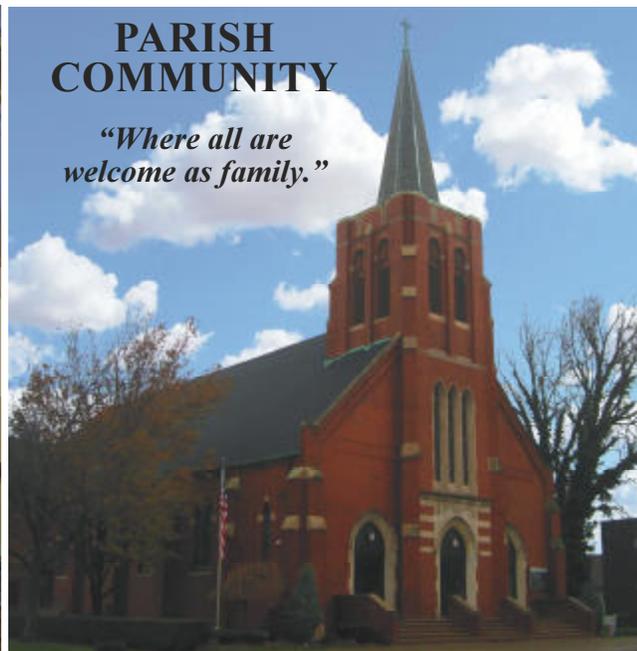


Our Lady of Czestochowa



PARISH COMMUNITY

*"Where all are
welcome as family."*

DECEMBER 13, 2020 - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PARISH STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Gary J Szczepankiewicz

Ext. 111

Deacon John Steiner

Ext. 112

Assistant to Fr. Gary

Bookkeeper

Volunteer Coordinator

Debbie Kwarciany

Secretary

Mary Walkowiak

Ext. 110

Buildings & Grounds

Carmen D'Alessandro

Music Ministry

Tim Neel

Faith Formation Director

Sr. Ryszarda, SSCJ

Office: 694-3644

Fax: 693-3882

R.C.I.A Director

Donna McCrohan

Ministry of Care

Sr. Monica Marie, SSCJ

Spiritual Enrichment

Sr. Jacinta Miryam, SSCJ

Office Hours

Monday-Friday: 9-Noon

Closed on Wednesdays

57 CENTER AVENUE

NORTH TONAWANDA, NY 14120-6601

Phone: 693-3822 • Fax: 693-3882

Website: www.nt-olc.org • Parish Hall: 694-4767

EUCHARIST

Saturday Vigil Mass..... 4:00 p.m.

Sunday..... 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

Monday–Friday..... 8:00 a.m.

Vigil of a Holy Day..... 7:00 p.m.

Holy Day..... 10:00 a.m.

RECONCILIATION: Saturday: 3:15 p.m. (Anytime upon request)

BAPTISM: The Sacrament is celebrated during or after any weekend Mass. Parents are required to attend a class to prepare for their child's baptism. Sponsors are urged to attend and must present a letter of recommendation from their parish.

RECOMMENDATION LETTERS: A letter of recommendation to act as sponsor will be gladly issued to those registered, baptized, and confirmed catholic parishioners who regularly practice their faith.

MATRIMONY: In order to receive the Sacrament of Marriage, you must be a registered, active parishioner for at least six months prior to scheduling a date.

NEW PARISHIONERS: You are most welcome to our parish family and we ask that you register as soon as possible. Contact the Ministry Center for more information.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We are a faith community of Catholic Christians who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and His Church and what it teaches and in His Call to love, share and serve the needs of others. We aspire to this call to commitment by involvement, example and by welcoming all to a joyous celebration of faith and traditions.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, December 14 - St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church

Reading I: Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17

Gospel: Matthew 21:23-27

8:00 a.m. No Mass

Tuesday, December 15 - Advent Weekday

Reading I: Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13

Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32

8:00 a.m. No Mass

Wednesday, December 16 - Advent Weekday

Reading I: Isaiah 45:6-8, 18, 21-25

Gospel: Luke 7:18-23

8:00 a.m. No Mass

Thursday, December 17 - Advent Weekday

Reading I: Genesis 49:2, 8-10

Gospel: Matthew 1:1-17

8:00 a.m. No Mass

Friday, December 18 - Advent Weekday

Reading I: Jeremiah 23:5-8

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

8:00 a.m. No Mass

Saturday, December 19 - Advent Weekday

Reading I: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25

Gospel: Luke 1:5-25

4:00 p.m. Arlene Budziszewski By Herdlein Family
Celebrant - Fr. Roy Herberger

Sunday, December 20 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Reading I: Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

Reading II: Romans 16:25-27

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

8:30 a.m. Bob Fleischman By Gladys Kosztowniak
Celebrant -

10:30 a.m. Irene Palka By Janice Lasky
Celebrant - Fr. Dennis Cleary

SANCTUARY LIGHT

This week the Sanctuary Candle Light burns with unceasing prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament in for Sarah Moses By Marina & Family.

EUCCHARISTIC BREAD & WINE

In Memory of Richard Szewczyk By Audrey & Jim.

IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please pray for the recently deceased. May they rest in peace in the hands of the Lord.

AMERICA NEEDS PRIESTS!

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Advent is a season of waiting in joyful hope for the coming of the Lord. Gaudete Sunday affirms the value of rejoicing and gives reasons for our rejoicing: God has given hope to his people waiting for redemption. We wait with rejoicing for what God has already accomplished and will yet accomplish through Christ.

LECTOR SCHEDULE

Saturday,	December 19
4:00 p.m.	Debbie Kwarciany
Sunday,	December 20
8:30 a.m.	Robert Wyland
10:30 a.m.	Cozette Bayer

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER SCHEDULE

Saturday,	December 19
4:00 p.m.	Sherry Davignon, Donna McCrohan
Sunday,	December 20
8:30 a.m.	May need help
10:30 a.m.	Pam Turton, Chris Kurbiel

PARISH FUNDRAISER

Ongoing Fundraiser - Cans & bottles can be returned at any time to the Can Deposit at 639 Erie Rd, NT (next to the car wash by Budweys/Market in the Square) for 6 cents each. Many Thanks!

GOD'S HEALING HAND

To our brothers and sisters who have contracted and are suffering due to the Coronavirus Disease, we pray that God's healing hand may rest upon you. To medical doctors, nurses and the supporting staff who are in the frontline of the fight against COVID-19, may the good Lord sustain you and inspire you to render your life-saving services with due care, love and compassion. To all who have lost their loved ones due to the Coronavirus outbreak we convey our deepest sympathies. We pray that their souls, through God's mercy, may rest in eternal peace. We pray that God may grant all bereaved families his consolation and strengthen their faith and hope in Jesus Christ, the Risen Lord. Amen.

"COFFEE WITH SR. JACINTA" LIVE OR ZOOM

Every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 9:30 a.m. for a half hour as we take a Spiritual Journey through the Catechism of the Catholic Church. If you want to watch later, please go to YouTube Sacred Heart of Jesus, Thy Kingdom Come. Any questions, please contact me at 814-505-2290 or email me at olcparishspirituallife@gmail.com.

MANY THANKS!

We thank the Saber Funeral Home, 549 Oliver St, NT, for printing our 2021 parish calendar.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Watch Mass - Live Streaming @
www.nt-olc.org for weekend Masses

UPCOMING COLLECTIONS

December 13 - Retirement Fund for Religious
December 27 - Parish Assessments

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

We pray for God's healing and comforting presence for all of our sick and homebound parishioners, caregivers, family members and friends, Especially: All those who contracted the COVID-19 virus, Anthony Boryszewski, Maldonado Family, Arlene Royer, David Jakubaszek, Tim Tasner, Shirley McDougall, Dolores Dierdorf, Charlie Insalaco, Ginny Kasperek, Laura Stockburger, Patty Bacon, Patrick Keleher, Helen Stynetski, Ann Bero, Robert Gisel, Mary Lonczak, Jennifer Bowles, Chuck Cederman, Timmy Jakubowski, & all our Nursing Home Parishioners. Please contact the Ministry Center if you would like to place a loved one on our list.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THOSE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES

We pray for the safety of those serving in the Armed Forces, Especially: Lt. Col Maureen Allen, PFC Alexander Fox, M.Sgt. Alan S. Frankosky, Captain Nicole F. Herbst, Lt. Col. Robert F. Setlik, Staff Sgt. Daniel Zwolinski, ENS Adam Suwinski, 2nd. Lt. Shannon Suwinski, PO2 Robert Mathews. S.Sgt. Michael Desimone, Maj. Brian C. Busch. PFC Michael Surran. 1st. Lt. Mark P. Weisenborn, Lt. Col. Patricia Curtis, CPO Michael P. Burngasser USN; PO1 Taia N. Burngasser, SPC Chris R. Koszelak, Tech Sgt. Alec Wingert, Fred Marillo, PFC Michael DiBernardo, PFC Brian Weaver, SR Michael Carey, CMSGT Richard King, SMSGT Jessica King, IT3 Jonathan Slinger, 1st Lt. Leeann Esford A1C William Black & SPC. William A. Koszelak. Lord hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Our Lord and Savior. Amen.

ADVENT MEDITATION

Today is Gaudete Sunday or Pink Candle Sunday. It's a day for rejoicing, to rejoice "without ceasing" and "in all circumstances," St. Paul tell us. But why rejoice today? Because Jesus is near!

In today's Gospel, some Jewish leaders are interrogating John the Baptist about who he is. John replies that he isn't the Christ who would come to save Israel. He is merely testifying to him, proclaiming, "Make straight the way for the Lord". But then he turns the conversation toward them. "There is one among you," John says, "whom you do not recognize". He is the Messiah. He is so holy that John wouldn't even untie his sandal. John hoped that they would rejoice that the Messiah was near, but these men couldn't see him.

Jesus is near to us too, but sometimes we have trouble recognizing him. In the flurry of our Christmas preparations. In our grieving over a deceased loved one. In our worries about the future. Our faith tells us that Jesus is there, but it feels hard to sense his presence in our midst. Even John had trouble: "I did not know him," he says later, but "now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God".

So who makes the difference? The Holy Spirit. Jesus calls him the "Spirit of truth" who guides us to all truth. The Spirit is the One who makes Jesus present to us and helps us understand who he is. John tried to show his questioners that they were

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Projected Collections: \$400,000 / 52 weeks:\$8,375
Actual Collection for week of \$

What do we do with your financial support? Like in your home, we pay our bills. Which means we pay utilities, pay to upkeep the grounds, pay salaries and benefits, purchase supplies, fund all our ministries and faith formation programs and make repairs and improvements. We are very good stewards of what you give us and thank you for your generosity.

HELP FEED THE HUNGARY

The K of C, Madonna Council, along with the NT Catholic Club, supports "Feed the Hungary Program", where we collect non-perishable food items to be distributed to those in need. On December 13th, 2-5 p.m., we will be conducting a drive thru at Madonna Council, 755 Erie Ave. Food items and cash collected will be distributed to the NT food pantry. Any help will be appreciated. Many thanks!

OLC PARISH SACRAMENTAL POLICIES

OLC is a lively parish. Because of this, we often receive requests from people who are not registered members of our parish community to celebrate baptisms or "destination weddings" here at OLC. Sacraments are customarily meant to be celebrated in the context of an active faith community. The celebration of any sacrament presumes the practice of the faith, which, in the case of baptism, gives the church every assurance that the child to be baptized will be raised Catholic. It does a disservice to the sacrament when it is celebrated without the serious intention of practicing one's faith. Parish registration helps to insure that individuals are an active part of a faith community and affords them the opportunity, not only through their financial contributions but also through their active participation. It is because of this broader theological understanding of the sacraments that OLC only accepts request for baptisms and weddings from registered and active parishioners. Sacraments (baptisms and weddings) are not normally scheduled until six months after someone is registered.

**REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR
OUR SEMINARIANS**

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.nt-olc.org

Continued
missing something important. Similarly, the Spirit can open our eyes so that we don't miss seeing Jesus present in our lives.

Jesus isn't hiding; he gave us the Spirit so that everyone can know him. And that's a reason to rejoice!

CHRISTMAS ANGEL HUNT

WHEN: Saturday, December 19th
Rain date Sunday, December 20th

WHERE: OLC Church, 57 Center Ave, NT

TIME: 5:30-7:30 p.m.

(takes about 1 hour to complete)

REQUIRED: car with gas in it and flashlights

WHAT: Please join OLC Parish in front of the church on Saturday evening for a Covid-safe family event. This is similar to a scavenger hunt. You will receive a paper (angel checklist) with the description of 12 appearances of angels found in the Bible. (We chose 12 in honor of the traditional 12 days of Christmas).

HOW:

- 1) We will give you a card with directions to a house where you can find your first angel (not necessarily found in numerical order). Addresses will be on the back of these cards, just in case you get lost but the fun is following directions and not the GPS or your own knowledge of how to get to that address.
- 2) When you get to that house, you will see an angel in the front yard with a number on it and a passage from Scripture that tells of that angel's appearance. Look on your checklist and put the number of the angel near the description that matches that passage.
- 3) At the feet of the angel you will find directions to your next angel site. Please note that at three sites, you will have to search to find your directions and this is why you need flashlights.
- 4) Once you have gotten all 12 angels, you are welcome to drop off your completed checklist for a drawing of a few prizes. All who participate will be offered a little treat at the close. The drawing will be held at 7:30 p.m.

CHANGE OF CHRISTMAS MASSES

The Christmas Mass schedule will be different this year. The Vigil Masses for Christmas Eve will be at 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. No 10:00 p.m. Mass this year. Mass on Christmas Day will be at 10:00 a.m.

*Thank you for worshipping with us at
Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish*

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

We have been making shawls at home since the beginning of the pandemic. At this time, we will continue to knit, crochet and pray at home. Prayer Shawls are available for pickup in the Ministry Center for anyone in need during regular office hours.

FLU SHOTS

Due to Covid-19, we are not able to provide flu shots in the parish hall provided by Wurlitzer Pharmacy, as we have done in previous years. Please visit Chris at Wurlitzer Pharmacy for your yearly shot.

Chris Mirowski, Pharmacist
Wurlitzer Family Pharmacy
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N Tonawanda, NY 14120
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Saturday 9-3 p.m.

Phone (716) 260-1131

Fax (716) 260-1132

wurlitzerfamilypharmacy@gmail.com

UPON THIS ROCK

Remember to honor your pledge so we may continue to receive our semi-annual payments from this foundation. Please note that NO money goes to any Diocesan legal fees or settlements. Thank you for everything you do for OLC Parish.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Please join us in order to share some Christmas joy with those in our neighborhood.

WHERE: Beginning in front of the OLC Church
57 Center Ave, NT

WHEN: Tuesday, Dec 22nd from 6:00-7:30p.m.

REQUIRED: Social distancing and masks

PROVIDED: song books

NEEDED: flashlights

Questions and/or registry: Registry is NOT required but it would be HELPFUL.

Please email Sr. Jacinta @ olcparishspiritual-life@gmail.com or call 814-505-2290.



CAROLING

THE ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Spiritual communion is a great way to cultivate our love for Christ in the Eucharist for times such as these, when Holy Mass is not celebrated publicly. It doesn't matter when or where you are, as long as you practice the devotion with "renewed faith, reverence, humility and in complete trust in the goodness of the Divine Redeemer" and are "united to Him in the spirit of the most ardent charity," as Pope Pius XII says in his encyclical *Mediator Dei* (The Sacred Liturgy).

MAKE AN ACT OF FAITH

Express to the Lord our faith in His merciful love and His real presence in the Eucharist. You can come up with your own prayer or use a traditional version such as:

O my God, I firmly believe that you are one God in three divine Persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. I believe that your divine Son became man and died for our sins and that he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths which the Holy Catholic Church teaches because you have revealed them who are eternal truth and wisdom, who can neither deceive nor be deceived. In this faith, I intend to live and die. Amen.

MAKE AN ACT OF LOVE

Say a prayer to express your love and gratitude to the Lord. You can come up with your own prayer or use a traditional version such as:

O Lord God, I love you above all things and I love my neighbor for your sake because you are the highest, infinite and perfect God, worthy of all my love. In this love, I intend to live and die. Amen.

EXPRESS YOUR DESIRE TO RECEIVE HIM

As you are not able to physically receive the Lord, express your desire to receive Him in your heart.

INVITE JESUS TO COME INTO OUR HEARTS SPIRITUALLY

With a humble and contrite heart, we ask the Lord to come to us just as He would if we were able to receive the sacrament.

OLD WORLD COOKIE SHOP

To be held on Sunday, December 13th at 11:30 a.m. via drive thru pickup. All cookies will be made in the hall by a small team of people and pre-made trays will be assembled in order to limit handling of cookies. Small and large trays will be available for purchase at \$10/lb. Pick a small tray or large tray and it will be weighed.

Volunteer runners will be needed the day of the event. Please note, most work will be done outside of the hall and weather conditions may apply so dress appropriately. A menu of goodies can be found on our website at www.nt-olc.org. Just click on "Events". Contact Shannon Kish @ 807-2030 if you have any questions.

What kind of cookies?

White Chocolate Raspberry Thumbprints

Cherry Surprise

Candy Cane Snowballs

Chocolate Mallow

Whipped Short Bread

Fruitcake Cookie with Rum Glaze

Butter Mint

White Chocolate Cranberry

Gingerbread Russian Teacakes

Kieflies

Cut Outs

Chocolate No Bake

Cuccidati

MERRY MONEY RAFFLE UPDATE

Dear Parish Family,

I wish to thank you for your loyal support of our parish. Due to the wonderful response, we have been successful in selling our goal of 400 raffle tickets. Drawing on Christmas Day, December 25, 2020 after the 10:00 a.m. Mass. Good Luck to All! (Fr. Gary)

A VOCATION VIEW

If God is calling you to a Church vocation, call Fr. Andrew Lauricella at 716-847-5535.

Come, Lord Jesus!
Come into my space!
Come into my life!
Come into my heart!

PRAYER TO RENEW OUR MISSION

Holy God of love and mercy, living in our hearts, sanctify and transform us. Unite and form our minds, hearts and spirits in accord with your holy will. As Jesus calls us friends, may we encounter and accompany one another as family, searching out and embracing especially any of your loved ones whom we have overlooked, wounded or driven away. Forgive us, heal us, renew us! As we trust in you, who have chosen us and called us each by name, may we entrust ourselves to one another as family. As a communion of disciples of Jesus Christ, we accept our mission to proclaim the joy of the Gospel to everyone we meet. May your love for each and every one of us dispel the seeds of doubt, fear and division sown by the Evil One, raising us up as strong and courageous witness to your holy presence among us. We thank you for creating and calling us. We embrace the mission you entrust to us. And we pledge, with your grace, to let your light shine on the world that hungers and thirsts for your Word. Amen.



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 695-2129
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