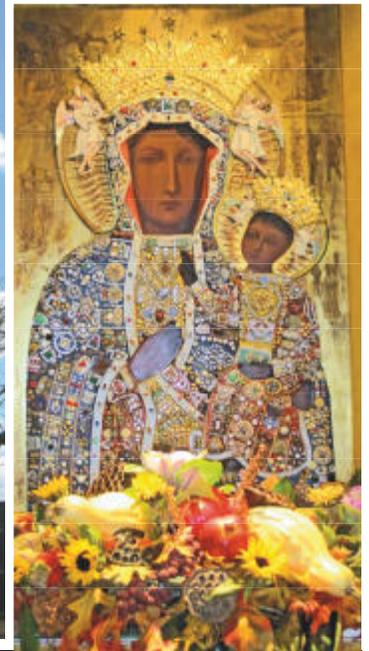
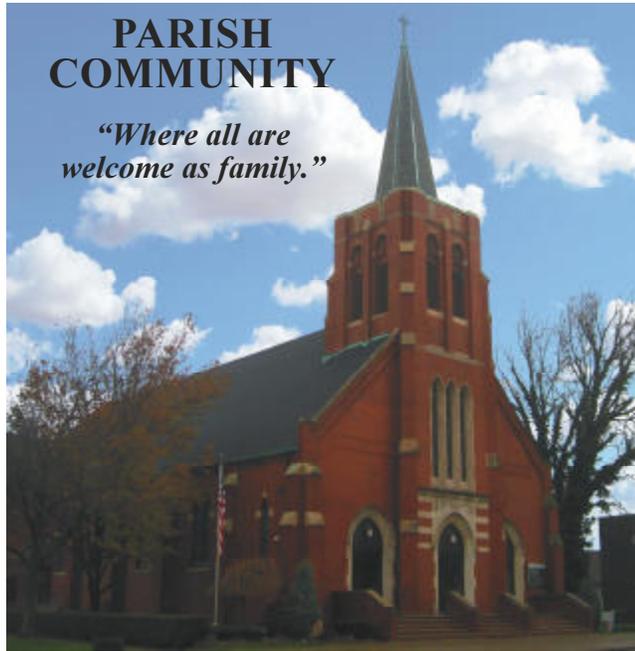


Our Lady of Czestochowa



PARISH COMMUNITY

*"Where all are
welcome as family."*

DECEMBER 20, 2020 - FOURTH 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

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 21 - St. Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor of the Church

Reading I: Song of Songs 2:8-14

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

8:00 a.m. No Mass

Tuesday, December 22 - Advent Weekday

Reading I: Samuel 1:24-28

Gospel: Luke 1:46-56

8:00 a.m. No Mass

Wednesday, December 23 - St. John of Kanty, Priest

Reading I: Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24

Gospel: Luke 1:57-66

8:00 a.m. No Mass

Thursday, December 24 - Advent Weekday

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

Gospel: Luke 1:67-79

2:00 p.m. For the Parishioners of OLC

4:00 p.m. For the Parishioners of OLC

Friday, December 25 - The Nativity of the Lord

Reading I: Isaiah 9:1-6,

Reading II: Titus 2:11-14

Gospel: Luke 2:1-14

10:00 a.m. For the Parishioners of OLC

Saturday, December 26 - St. Stephen, The First Martyr

Reading I: Acts of Apostles 6:8-10, 7:54-59

Gospel: Matthew 10:17-22

4:00 p.m. Herdlein/Goodbread Families By Eric, Linda & Ashley

Celebrant - Fr. Pat

Sunday, December 27 - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Reading I: Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3

Reading II: Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

8:30 a.m. Bob Fleischman By Chris & Steve Kurbiel
Celebrant - Fr. John

10:30 a.m. Mary & Joseph Wielgosz By Family
Celebrant -

SANCTUARY LIGHT

This week the Sanctuary Candle Light burns with unceasing prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament in for Eugene & Helen Dolata By Dennis & Deborah King.

EUCCHARISTIC BREAD & WINE

In Memory of Setlik Family especially Helen & Joe Setlik by Paul & Sandy Setlik.

AMERICA NEEDS PRIESTS!

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Lord dwells among us. David worries that the ark of God dwells in a tent; Mary doesn't hesitate to allow the ark of God to dwell within her. God is not bound by human constraints, and yet he asks us to participate with him, and cooperate with his grace, that the ark of the covenant and the arc of salvation history may be made available to all.

LECTOR SCHEDULE

Thursday,	December 24
2:00 p.m.	Jessica King
4:00 p.m.	Cozette Bayer
Friday,	December 25
10:00 a.m.	Joan Dirmyer
Saturday,	December 26
4:00 p.m.	Walt Wojtanowski
Sunday,	December 27
8:30 a.m.	Jerry Privitera
10:30 a.m.	Paul Wojtasek

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER SCHEDULE

Thursday,	December 24
2:00 p.m.	Deacon John
4:00 p.m.	Sherry Davignon
Friday,	December 25
10:00 a.m.	
Saturday,	December 26
4:00 p.m.	Kathy Zoladz, Judy Smolka
Sunday,	December 27
10:30 a.m.	Teresa Smith, Mary Jo Kocsis

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.

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.

IN YOUR PRAYERS

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

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

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

UPCOMING COLLECTION

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

It's almost Christmas! That thought can fill our hearts with anticipation. We might look forward to seeing family or friends. We can't wait to see the look on a loved one's face when they open the gift we carefully chose. Or we just want to enjoy celebrating Jesus' birth with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

But think about the anticipation that the Jews felt as they awaited the coming of the Messiah! Their hope was kindled almost one thousand years before Christ, when God promised David a kingly lineage. Image as well Mary's surprise when the angel described the son she would bear by using nearly the same words that God had spoken to David so much earlier. He would be called Son of the Most High, he would sit on the throne of his father, David, and he would reign over an eternal kingdom. Israel's long wait was over, the birth of Jesus would bring about everything they had hoped for.

As modern-day Christians, we don't experience the Jews' yearning for a Messiah, but we can still feel the ache of longing. For peace. For justice. For security. Jesus is the fulfillment of these yearnings too. When conflict, on a large or small scale, threatens to tear us apart, Jesus offers reconciliation and the chance to live once more in peace with God and our neighbor. When injustice breaks our hearts, Jesus tells us he has come to make all things right and to give us the strength to make

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Projected Collections: \$400,000 / 52 weeks: \$8,375
Actual Collection for week of Nov 29 \$4,426
Dec 6 \$9,507

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.

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.

NATIVITY SETS ON DISPLAY

Fr. Roy Herberger will have 300 (of his 650) nativity sets from 58 countries on display at the Fatima Shrine, Lewiston during their "Festival of Lights." It will be open to the public from 5-9 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only thru January 3rd.

A VOCATION VIEW

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

continued
things better in our own corner of the world. When insecurity makes us feel as if nothing ever remains the same, Jesus reminds us that his kingdom is everlasting; he gives us a sure foundation to build our lives on.

That's the kind of fulfillment that the kingship of Jesus can bring. That's what he promises. And that's a gift we can all receive this Christmas.

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.

**REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR
OUR SEMINARIANS**



**PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.nt-olc.org**

*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.

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

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
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Saturday 9-3 p.m.

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Fax (716) 260-1132

wurlitzerfamilypharmacy@gmail.com

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! Recent donation received of \$355.02.

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.

"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.

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)

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Given in Memory/Honor of: Joseph Monte, Josephine Monte, Jack Allen, Molly Allen, Richard Bayer, Szczepankiewicz Family, Kowalczyk Family, Pocheban & Wilke Families, Vincent DiVirgilio, Fred & Frances Cacia, Robert Russell, Carmella DiBernardo, Florence Mazurawski, Irene Struski, Victor Struski, Antoinette Walk, William Walk, Raymond & Virginia Herberger, Doug Miller, Mary Jane O'Connor, Pauline Ostrowski, Frank Ostrowski, M/M Dominic Anastasa, Agnes Johnson, M/M Frank Bourdage, Christine O'Farrell, Ellen Kam, Thomas O'Farrell Sr., William Kam, Thomas O'Farrell III.

BAPTISM CLASSES

Until further notice, Baptism classes will be suspended.

POLISH PLATTER UPDATE

We thank you for your continued support. Our parish profit \$2,051.33.

SPECIAL DONATION

A donation of \$15 was made to the OLC Garden Club in Memory of Florence Najuch from M/M Michael Tylec.

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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