

# Welcome to Holy Name of Jesus Parish

December  
13~14, 2025

## Third Sunday of Advent

Jesus said to them in reply,  
"Go and tell John what you  
hear and see: the blind regain  
their sight, the lame walk,  
lepers are cleansed, the deaf  
hear, the dead are raised, and  
the poor have the good news  
proclaimed to them. And  
blessed is the one who takes no  
offense at me."

Matthew 11:4-6



John the Baptist in Prison  
by Giusto de Menabuoi (1320-1391)

1950  
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203.  
375.5815

Parishoffice  
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church.org

www.hnoj  
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Rev. James DiVasto, Pastor  
Rev. Msgr. J. James Cuneo, J.C.D.,  
Pastoral Associate Emeritus  
Rev. Churchill Penn, In Residence  
Deacon Joseph Huong  
Parish Trustees: Carol Bogue and Paul Kravitz

Faith Formation Facilitator and  
Parish Secretary: Maryjean daSilva  
Finance Board Chair: Chris Silhavey  
Music Director and Organist: Bob Cloutier  
Director of Discipleship, Catholic Community of  
Stratford: Colin Petramale

### MASSES

Saturday Vigil: 4:00pm  
Sunday: 7:30 and 10 am  
Weekday: Tues, Thurs: 7:30 am Mass in the  
Sts. Cyril & Methodius Chapel (former convent)

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT  
Wednesdays—in Church  
4:00 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with  
Adoration and 4:30pm Reconciliation  
5:30 pm Mass

### SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM  
Families are asked to contact the office before the  
arrival of your new child for instructions and  
registration.

RECONCILIATION  
Wednesdays 4:30pm in Church  
Saturdays 2:30-3:30pm (Or by appointment)

### MARRIAGE

We celebrate Christian love and family with the  
Sacrament of Matrimony. Couples should contact  
the office one year in advance.

### ANointing OF THE SICK

Anyone who is ill and in need of prayers, comfort  
and/or strength should call the office to arrange to  
receive this beautiful Sacrament.

### HOSPITALIZATION

If you or a loved one is hospitalized or homebound,  
please notify us to receive care. We are not notified  
due to HIPAA law.

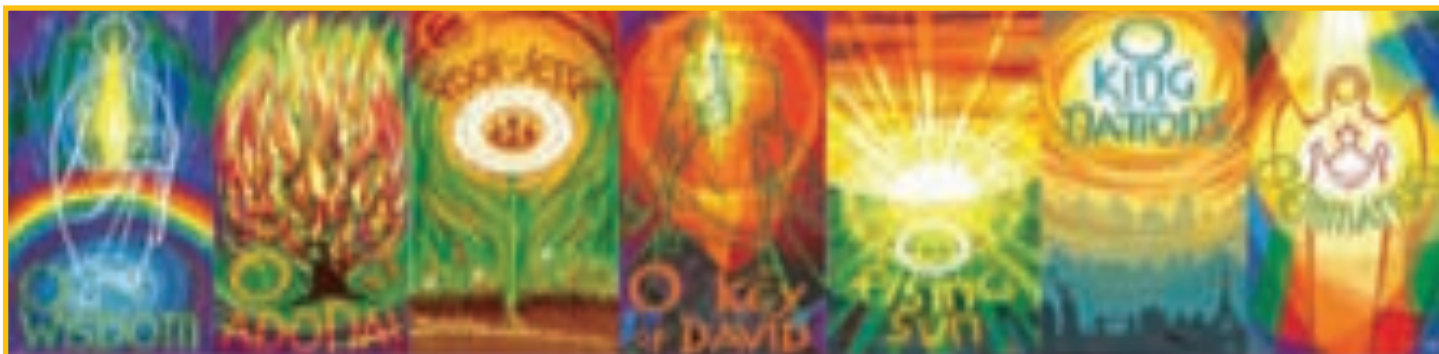
### NEW PARISHIONERS

Welcome! Please call, visit the office or register  
online at [www.hnojchurch.org](http://www.hnojchurch.org)

### BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

Please submit to: [parishoffice@hnojchurch.org](mailto:parishoffice@hnojchurch.org)  
Bulletin deadline is Friday at 4:00pm





## Liturgical Services This Week

Mon 12/15	Tues 12/16	Wed 12/17	Thurs 12/18	Fri 12/19	Sat. 12/20	Sunday 12/21
Parish Office Closed	7:30am Mass +Christine Biesadecki r/b Patricia and Mark Desautels  Mass celebrated in Sts. Cyril & Methodius Chapel	4:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Eucharistic Adoration and Reconciliation  5:30pm Mass +Rose Bielen r/b Kathie Barry  Wednesday Services held in Church	7:30am Mass +Magdalene Goda r/b Stefan Churma  Mass celebrated in Sts. Cyril & Methodius Chapel	Chapel open for private prayer 9:00am to 2:00pm	Reconciliation 2:30—3:30pm  4:00pm +Kenny Iwasczyn r/b Mom and family	7:30am Mass +Denise Martin r/b husband, Roger  10:00am Mass +Mary Golias r/b Michelle Baronowski And The Deceased of the Parish

### MASS INTENTIONS

### THIS WEEK'S CANDLE INTENTIONS

4:00pm	+Anne Reynolds
7:30am	+James & Theresa Zietkowski Ontko And The Deceased of the Parish
10:00am	+Michael Perkowski

**Sanctuary Tabernacle Candle**  
In Loving Memory of James Cavanaugh

**Chapel Tabernacle Candle**  
For the homebound & hospitalized

**Sacred Heart Candle**

Pope Leo's December Prayer Intention "Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope"

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help Candle**

In Loving Memory of John Kwochka Jr.

**St Joseph Shrine Candle**

In Loving Memory of Bill Cabral

**St Michael Candle** For the intentions of the Members of Council 2370 Knights of Columbus



Please remember in prayer, All who are ill.. All Healthcare Workers.. All Military Personnel and First Responders.. All who are near death.. All who have no one to pray for them.. And for all who have died.

**If you, a loved one or a friend are hospitalized and in need of a visit please call the parish office.** Also, if you or someone you know is homebound and wishes to receive communion, or if you will be having surgery and wish to be anointed please call the office.

**Intentions for the 2026 Mass Book** may be requested by calling or emailing the parish office or placed in the offertory basket. Mass Stipends  
Weekend Mass \$15 Weekday Mass \$10  
Candles 1 Week (Saturday to Friday) \$10

### CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

**Christmas Eve** Wednesday, December 24  
Christmas Carols 3:40pm  
Mass 4:00pm

**Christmas Day** Thursday, December 25  
Mass 7:30am

Christmas Carols 9:40am ~ Mass 10:00am

**Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus Mary and Joseph**  
December 27 & 28 regular weekend schedule

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**  
Thursday, January 1, 10:00am

**Feast of the Epiphany** January 3 & 4  
Regular weekend schedule

Celebrate the joy of Christ's birth with us in song!

Join us as we sing Christmas carols before the Christmas Eve Vigil Mass and the 10:00am Christmas Day Mass

**Christmas Eve:** Arrive at 3:40pm for carols  
**Christmas Day:** Arrive at 9:40am for carols

Let's come together in reflection and joyful song.

*Joy*  
to the world!  
The Lord is come



## THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF STRATFORD'S NEWSLETTER

The Catholic Community of Stratford, rich in tradition and united in its mission to foster meaningful encounters with Jesus Christ, invites, welcomes, accompanies, prays with, and educates disciples to minister and serve.

**Together, we are vibrant.**

**Together, we grow in our faith in new and exciting ways.**

**Together, as the Catholic Community of Stratford (CCS), we serve the needs of our community more effectively.**



**Contact:**  
stratford@setoncollaborative.org

### Christ Waiting for Us



This Gaudete Sunday, we are reminded of what some have called “the duty of joy” in the Christian life. God has first loved us, so we can love. God has first forgiven us, so we can forgive. God has first offered his hand to us, so we can lend a hand to one another. What is missing is our remembrance of these simple realities. This Advent, may Christ remind us that he has always been waiting *for us* to return home to his love, mercy, and beauty.

### Sacramental Preparation



If your child is above 7 years old and has not been baptized, the Catholic Community Stratford is offering a special formation process for your child(ren). Our next meal and formation session will be on **Thursday, December 18, 2025, at 5:30pm at Holy Name of Jesus Parish Offices (2 Mary Avenue, Stratford CT)**. If interested, please reach out to Colin Petramale at [colin.petramale@setoncollaborative.org](mailto:colin.petramale@setoncollaborative.org).

### Grief and Hope in the Advent Season



We experience many feelings during the Advent season; grief over our deceased loved ones, hope that we will one day be reunited, and hope that we will soon welcome our Savior. Consider joining us for an Advent adult faith sharing series at Our Lady of Grace Parish Hall on **December 17<sup>th</sup> from 6:00pm-7:30pm**. Free will offering. Please RSVP to Colin at [colin.petramale@setoncollaborative.org](mailto:colin.petramale@setoncollaborative.org).

### JESUS IS COMING TO SAVE US

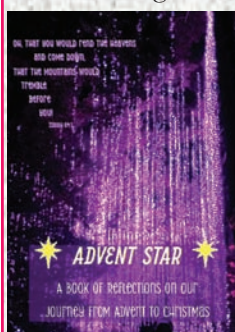
Followers..good..greater..John..kingdom..lame..least..  
Leprosy..messenger..palace..poor..reject

Z W O X U R O O P H G I Q S S I O  
X H N T B Z G Y I T X R L R Q S M  
F E M A L V X C C A L V E V T Y I  
N T G I G U A H K P O W V N R A K  
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### PRAY THE O ANTIPHONS

The O Antiphons are a simple and meaningful way to pray as a family during the last week of Advent. These prayers come from the Church's evening prayer and are used from December 17 through December 23. Each day has a different title



for Jesus taken from the Old Testament. These titles help us think about who Jesus is and why we are waiting for Him. Adding the O Antiphons to your family's prayer time can help everyone prepare for Christmas. You don't need anything fancy—just a quiet moment to pray together. Read the antiphon for each day (**they are included in the *Advent Star* booklet created by our adult parishioners and children—if you don't have one they are available on the back tables in church**) Talk

about what it means and ask Jesus to come into your hearts. It's a peaceful way to slow down and focus on what really matters during this busy season. [Young-catholics.com](http://Young-catholics.com)

### Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Parish Advent Reflection booklet, *Advent Star*.

Your heartfelt, thoughtful, and humorous memories of Christmas—and reflections on the meaning of waiting—were a joy to read alongside the weekly Advent blessings. A special thank you to Fr. Bert for designing and creating *Advent Star*, and to Colin Petramale for bringing this project to life. We hope these reflections inspire you throughout the Advent season.

*Hope Peace Joy Love*



## Parish Financial Support

<b>N-CHURCH Dec 6-7</b>		
Sunday	\$	2,108.00
Monthly	\$	1,094.00
Immaculate Conception	\$	240.00
Other	\$	292.00
<b>MAIL IN/DROP OFF - Dec 1-7</b>		
Sunday	\$	458.00
Monthly	\$	1,330.00
Immaculate Conception	\$	97.00
Other	\$	314.00
<b>ONLINE GIVING - Dec 1-7</b>		
Sunday	\$	758.00
Monthly	\$	73.00
Other	\$	85.00
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$6849.00</b>

**Accountability Sunday, December 7th. Parish financial reports for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2025 are available on our website [www.hnojchurch.org](http://www.hnojchurch.org)**  
**Hard copies are available on the back tables in church.**

## Parish Annual Collection Envelope

The Annual Collection helps the Parish to meet extraordinary expenses that arise each year. This year our major building upgrade was to replace the Church boiler which has been completed. With four buildings to maintain there is always another maintenance issue that arises. This Annual Collection will help our parish to meet these unbudgeted expenses. **This year our goal is \$45,000. To date \$11,690.00 has been received towards our goal.** Please prayerfully consider your



**Regular December offertory envelopes include:** Monthly Outreach, Monthly Repairs/Improvements, Immaculate Conception, Christmas Flowers, Retired Religious Fund, Christmas, Poor & Needy



**Christmas Cemetery Baskets** are available for order. Small round arrangements are \$15 each and Large oval arrangements are \$20. Call the parish office.

**Oplatky** (Christmas wafers) is available before and after Mass and at the Parish Office \$3.00 donation per package.

## Waiting Well with Fr Mike Schmitz

Dear parish family, as we continue our Advent journey you are invited to spend these last weeks with Father Mike's daily video program *Waiting Well* available on the Ascension App. Please go to either [www.ascensionpress.com](http://www.ascensionpress.com) or scan the QR code here to download the Ascension App and sign up for *Waiting Well*.



**An excerpt on Peace from *Waiting Well***

**"St. John Paul II in his 1979 World Day of Peace message, said, 'Do not be afraid to take a chance on peace, to teach peace. The aspiration for peace will not be disappointed for ever. Work for peace, inspired by charity which does not pass away, will produce its fruits. Peace will be the last word of history'".**

I hope many of you will join me to journey through Advent with Father Mike.

## Upcoming Events...Mark Your Calendar!

**Wednesdays, in Church 4:00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Reconciliation available 5:30pm Mass**



**Dec 13-14 Coffee And...**

**Dec 14 Faith Formation**

gathering for Children in Heritage Hall

**Dec 14 Christmas Bake Sale Pick Up day**

**Dec 14 Monthly Teen Mass & Activities 11:30—2:00PM AT OUR LADY OF GRACE CHURCH**

**Dec 17 Grief & Hope in the Advent Season** Faith Sharing Series Our Lady of Grace Parish Hall 6-7:30pm

**Dec 19** Advent Reflection and Dinner hosted by the Ladies Guild

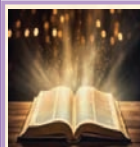
**Dec 20** Men's Reflection Group

**Dec 21** Christmas Pageant with the Faith Formation children in Church following the 10am Mass

**Dec 27-28** Monthly Food Collection

**Dec 29** Lord's Kitchen

## Men's Reflection Group



**The Men's Reflection Group will meet next on December 20th in the Parish Community Room.** Guys are invited to gather at 7:45am to start our reflections on the Readings at 8:00, and we'll finish at 9:00am. **Join us!**

## LADIES GUILD ADVENT REFLECTION & DINNER

**The Guild of the Mother of Jesus warmly welcomes all Guild members and all women of the parish to an ADVENT REFLECTION & DINNER, Friday, December 19 at 5:00pm** in the Parish Community Room. Join us for a time of reflection and fellowship, a Candle Ceremony and delicious hot meal. Reservations required - \$15 per person. Call or email the parish office [parishoffice@hnojchurch.org](mailto:parishoffice@hnojchurch.org) 203.375.5815 RSVP by December 14th.

## Christmas Tree Blessing Prayer



To begin the Christmas tree blessing, gather everyone around the tree. Start with a moment of silence. Ask each person to think about the birth of Jesus and the joy He brings. Next, say the blessing prayer together.

**Dear God,**

**You sent Jesus into this world to show us Your love. As we look at this tree, we remember Jesus' birth and the eternal life He gives us. Bless this tree, and let it remind us of Your Son's light and love. May the gifts under this tree remind us of the many gifts You have given us. Bless this home and watch over us during this holy season. Amen.**

After the prayer, invite family members to share their own thoughts. They might share a special memory, a prayer, or something they are thankful for this Christmas. End the ceremony with a final prayer, asking for God's peace and joy to fill your home.

## Fr. Jim's Column—Just One More Thing!

### Fr Jim's Third Sunday of Advent Message

Dear parish family, here on the Third Sunday of Advent, we celebrate *Gaudete* Sunday. *Gaudete* is from the Latin word for rejoice. Here at the midpoint in Advent, we begin to move from solemn preparation through repentance to joyful anticipation of Christmas coming soon. We light the pink candle on our Advent wreath instead of the usual purple. I wear rose-colored vestments. These are signs of the nearing arrival of Jesus and a break in our acts of penance in Advent. Actually, the full name for this Third Sunday of Advent comes from the Latin "Gaudete in Domino semper" which Saint Paul speaks about in his letter to the Philippians 4:4, "*Rejoice in the Lord always*". As Saint Paul explains, "*The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*" (Phil 4:5-7)



Indeed, let us like John the Baptist's disciples in today's Gospel go and witness to others what you and I have seen and heard about Jesus, to find joy in the midst of our Christmas preparations because the coming of Jesus is almost here. Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus!

Father Jim

### Celebrate the Coming of Our Lord!



Join us as we prepare our hearts for Christmas! Our Faith Formation children will present **The Story of the Nativity Pageant** through Scripture, Reflection, and Song on **Sunday, Dec 21** following the **10:00 AM Mass**. After the presentation, enjoy a light pasta lunch in Heritage Hall. Email or call the parish office to let us know you'll be there.

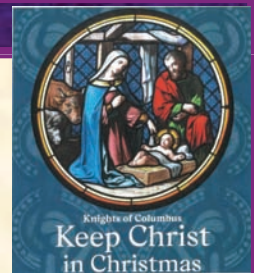
**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT REHEARSALS** are held in the Church on: Dec. 14 following Sunday Faith Formation 12:15-1:00pm and Thursday, Dec. 18—Full dress rehearsal & music —6:00-7:00PM



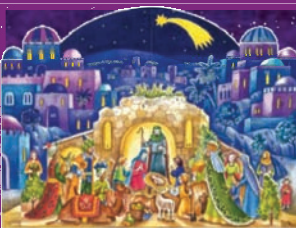
**Faith Formation dates: Sunday, Dec 14 in Heritage Hall 11:00am-12:15pm**  
**Dec. 21 Family FAITH Event—Christmas Pageant in the Church**, following the 10:00am Mass  
**Dec 28 —Christmas break**

### Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest

**The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a Christmas Poster Contest for Grades K to 8.** The poster must reflect the theme of *Keep Christ in Christmas*. Each poster should be the original work (including concept, layout, slogan and visual images) of a single person. Poster should be approximately 11x17 in size (poster board is available upon request) Entry forms with all the details are available at the back tables in church or at the parish office. Winners of the contest will be awarded a \$25 gift card. Posters are due by January 4th.



### The Spirit of Christmas

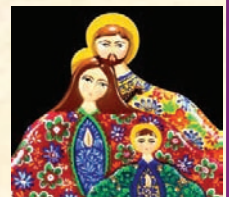


Blessed Michael McGivney Pilgrimage Center presents *The Spirit of Christmas* exhibit with creches and artwork from around the globe that showcase the feasts and traditions that are a part of the preparations and celebrations of Christ's birth. Also, *Away in a Manger*, highlights the diversity of locales where artisans have portrayed Christ's birth from the birthplace of the creche in Greccio, Italy to the streets of New Haven where Blessed Michael McGivney ministered and founded the Knights of Columbus.

The *Christmas Tree Festival* showcases an array of Christmas trees colorfully decorated by CT schoolchildren. Enjoy these programs, including the annual Christmastime Family Day.

Visit [MichaelMcGivneycenter.org](http://MichaelMcGivneycenter.org) The exhibit runs through Feb1, 2026.

Open Wednesday through Sunday 10:00am to 4:00pm. Free Admission & Parking. Gift Shop  
1 State Street, New Haven 203.865.0400





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