

Welcome  
to  
Holy  
Name of  
Jesus  
Parish

December  
20-21, 2025

Fourth  
Sunday  
of  
Advent

1950 Barnum Ave., Stratford, CT 06614

203.375.5815



Parishoffice@hnojchurch.org    www.hnojchurch.org



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 Silhavy  
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

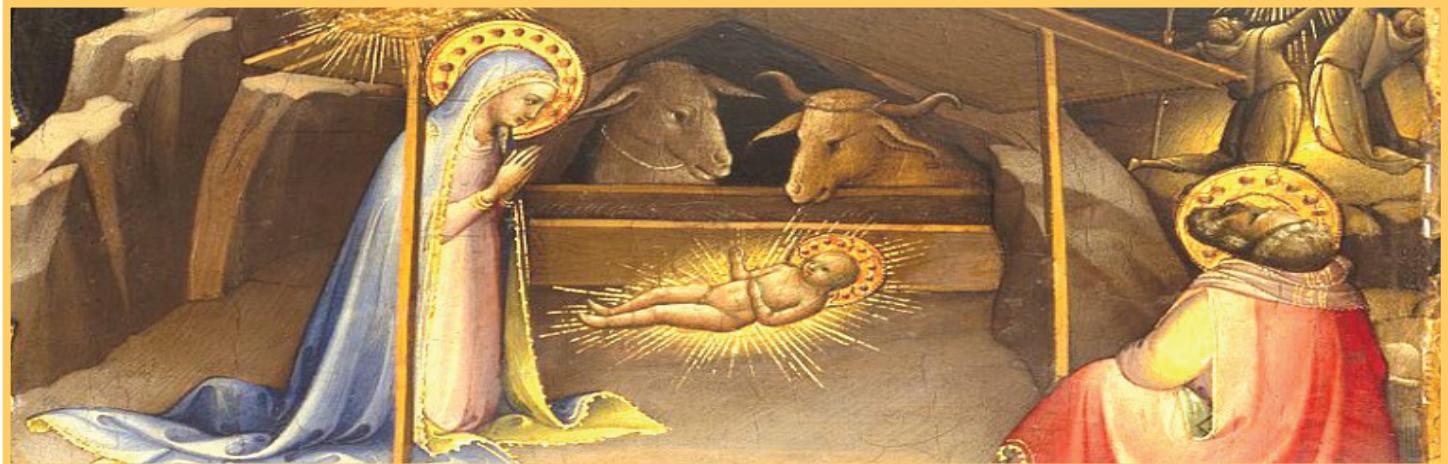
If you or a loved one is hospitalized or homebound,  
please notify us to receive care. We are not notified  
due to HIPAA law.

#### 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 12/22	Tues 12/23	Wed 12/24	Thurs 12/25	Fri 12/26	Sat. 12/27	Sunday 12/28
Parish Office Closed	7:30am Mass +Dorothy Uhelsky r/b best friends, Jan and Nancy  Mass celebrated in Sts. Cyril & Methodius Chapel	<b>Christmas Vigil</b> Mass 4:00pm For the Deceased of the Parish  Parish Office Closed	<b>Christmas Day</b> 7:30am Mass For the Deceased of the Parish  10:00am Mass For the Deceased of the Parish		Reconciliation 2:30—3:30pm  4:00pm +Reverend Andrew Marus r/b Mary Ann, sister  Parish Office Closed	<b>FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY</b> 7:30am Mass +Nguyen Thi Cham r/b Diem Nguyen & family And The Deceased of the Parish  10:00am Mass +Antoinette Margonis r/b David Margonis

Monthly Food Collection

### MASS INTENTIONS

4:00pm	+Kenny Iwasczyszyn
7:30am	+Denise Martin
10:00am	+Mary Golias And The Deceased of the Parish



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. 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



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.

### THIS WEEK'S CANDLE INTENTIONS

#### Sanctuary Tabernacle Candle

In Loving Memory of Rev. Andrew Marus



#### Chapel Tabernacle Candle

For Peace in the world

#### Sacred Heart Candle

Health & Blessings for Msgr. Cuneo,  
58th Anniversary of Ordination

#### Our Lady of Perpetual Help Candle

In Loving Memory of Mary Joan Marus

#### St Joseph Shrine Candle

Health & Blessings for Fr. Bert,  
41st Anniversary of Ordination

#### St Michael Candle

For the intentions of the Members of Council 2370 Knights of Columbus



### CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

**Christmas Eve, Wednesday, Dec 24**

**Christmas Carols 3:40pm ~ Mass 4:00pm**

**Christmas Day, Thursday, Dec 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**

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



## A Prayer for Advent from Fr. Henri Nouwen

Lord Jesus,  
Master of both the light and the darkness,  
send your Holy Spirit  
upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do  
seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.

We who are anxious over many things  
look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways  
long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy  
seek the joy of your presence.  
We are your people, walking in darkness,  
yet seeking the light.

To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"  
Amen.

## HIS NAME WILL BE EMMANUEL: GOD IS WITH US

Angel..baby..dream..embarrass..Emmanuel..engaged..  
Joseph..Mary..promise..quietly..true..young

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

Hope Peace Joy Love



"The angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream."

Matthew 1:7

## Bereavement Ministry Fairfield County Catholic Cemeteries



The holidays can be incredibly challenging if you are grieving the loss of someone you love. The Bereavement Ministry has created these short audiocasts which you will hopefully find helpful. Type [thegrief.org](http://thegrief.org) into your internet search engine to access them. The Bereavement Ministry Fairfield County Catholic Cemeteries [ctcemeteries.org/bereavement](http://ctcemeteries.org/bereavement)



## Cemetery Baskets

Thank you to Mary Ann Wells and Barbara Sheehy for creating beautiful cemetery baskets for our loved ones.



The total profit was \$1400.00. Each year the ladies collect all the supplies needed to make the baskets; the containers, dirt, plants, decorations, etc. If you do not keep the containers and dirt after the season, you may return them to the office so they can be re-used. Thank you!

## Parish Financial Support

Due to an early Christmas publishing deadline, our Parish Financial Support will be updated next weekend.

**"Make an Impact! Support our Ministries!"**  
Online Giving -Give it a try!

SIGN UP TODAY BY VISITING OUR  
WEBSITE [WWW.HNOJCHURCH.ORG](http://WWW.HNOJCHURCH.ORG)  
AND CLICK ON THE GIVE BUTTON TO  
CREATE YOUR ACCOUNT



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 and the total will be updated next weekend.** Please prayerfully consider your support towards our Parish Annual Appeal.



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



**"Sleeping in her still room, she gave Him the sleep of the child in the cradle, the sleep of the young man rocked in the storm-tossed boat. Breaking and eating the bread, drinking the wine of the country, she gave Him His flesh and blood; she prepared the Host for the Mass."**

Caryll Houselander, *The Reed of God*

Caryll Houselander is revealed to have been a mysterious, eccentric, and faith-filled individual. She was a self-declared loser, having never fit in anywhere but the Catholic Church (and even within the Church's arms, she remained a misunderstood anomaly). Many people will find her to be incredibly relatable, and everyone will find her interesting. One of her most famous writings, *The Reed of God* remains one of the most influential books on Mary for the modern Catholic. <https://www.catholicmom.com/articles/caryll-houselander-a-biography>

## Upcoming Events...Mark Your Calendar!

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



Dec 27-28 Monthly Food Collection

Dec 29 Lord's Kitchen

Jan 1 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Mass 10:00am

Jan 3 Men's Reflection Group

Jan 3-4 Parish Nurses

Jan 4 3 Kings Pancake Breakfast –Faith Formation FAITH Event

Jan 11, Jan 25 Faith Formation

Jan 17 Stuffed Cabbage Dinner

Jan 17-18 Coffee And...

Jan 19 Lord's Kitchen

Jan 24-25 Monthly Food Collection



## 3 King's Pancake Breakfast –Save the date!



Join us on Sunday, January 4 following the 10:00am Mass for our Annual 3 King's Pancake Breakfast hosted by the Faith Formation Program

## Men's Reflection Group



The Men's Reflection Group will meet next on January 3 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!**

## STUFFED CABBAGE DINNER

The Holy Name of Jesus Men's Society presents a Stuffed Cabbage Dinner, Saturday, January 17

from 5:00-7:00pm. Dinner includes:

One Stuffed Cabbage, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Bread, Soda, Water, Tea and Coffee. Sit down or Take out \$15.

Reservations required by January 13th. Call Larry 203.395.7073 or [lawman1156@gmail.com](mailto:lawman1156@gmail.com)



## 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!"

Dear Holy Name of Jesus parish family, Merry Christmas! A Merry & Blessed Christmas!

I hope your journey this Advent season has brought you to a joyous Christmas day. In this bulletin you will find prayers, reflections, and opportunities throughout the Christmas season that I hope will help you find a way to celebrate Christmas Day and the Christmas season, even if it may be challenging to do so.



Please know that I am so very grateful for each of you. Your kindness and generosity is a beautiful sign of Christ present among us. I see this in your love for me, one another, and especially for those in need in our parish, our Stratford community, and beyond.

Your kindness and generosity shines too when we worship together at Mass and faith formation with our children. Thank you to all the many hands and hearts who help week in and week out. Many thanks to all who have given so much of your time, talent and treasure that made the Tag Sale, Men's Society Car Show, Knights of Columbus Coats for Kids, Lord's Kitchen, Family Bingo Night, Guild of the Mother of Jesus Poppy Seed and Nut Roll Bake Sale, and the Giving Tree.

And many thanks to those who lead and those who participate in our Fatih Formation program, Guild of the Mother of Jesus, Bible Study, and Men's Reflection group. These ministries offer faith formation in the Word of God, the Sacraments, and devotion to Our Lady the Blessed Ever-Virgin Mary that are at the center of our Catholic faith.

In all these ways dear parish family you and I have prepared and waited well for Christmas Day. May you find a moment this Christmas season to kneel down next to Jesus in the manger and let him remind you of how much he loves you and is grateful for you. May you experience the peace of knowing that you have had some little part in his coming to save us all.

God Bless + Father Jim



Throughout the month of January, we will be collecting items to be distributed to local agencies including Malta House and Mercy Learning Center. Boxes will be placed near the back platforms of the church or donations can be dropped off at the parish office.

***The Wisemen brought Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh***

**Items most needed today include**

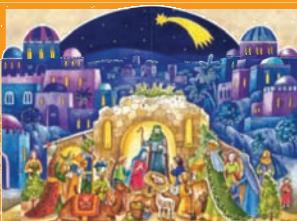
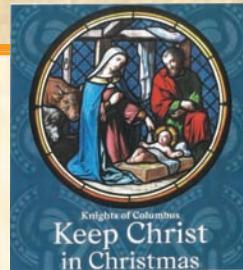
**disposable diapers, wipes, baby lotion, onesies, baby blankets, Purell hand wash, Lysol, disinfectant spray, paper towels, un-scented laundry detergent and gift cards.**

Thank you for your generosity!

### 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.



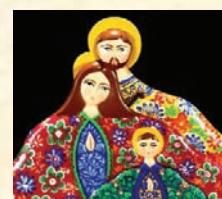
### The Spirit of Christmas

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 Feb 1, 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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World Peace

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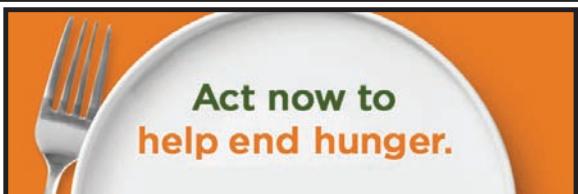
**Stop The Texts. Stop The Wrecks.**



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Sponsor a veterans' wreath  
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[WREATHSACROSSAMERICA.ORG](http://WREATHSACROSSAMERICA.ORG)



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jcallahan@burnsconstruction.com  
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Don't forget to call  
me after mass  
to find out  
how advertising  
in your local  
church bulletin  
can help you!

John Schlick  
845-490-0096 cell



## Stop scams that target older adults

Share what you know:

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