



## Welcome to Holy Name of Jesus Parish

December 27-28, 2025

### FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH



1950 Barnum Ave., Stratford CT 06614 203.375.5815



Parishoffice@hnojchurch.org www.hnojchurch.org

Rev. James DiVasto, Pastor

Rev. Churchill Penn, In Residence

Deacon Joseph Huong

Parish Trustees: Carol Bogue and Paul Kravitz

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 12/29	Tues 12/30	Wed 12/31	Thurs 01/01	Fri 01/02	Sat. 01/03	Sunday 01/04
<i>Parish Office Closed</i>	<b>7:30am Mass</b> <i>+Cyprian LaPasina r/b Fr. Jim</i>  <i>Mass celebrated in Sts. Cyril &amp; Methodius Chapel</i>	<b>4:00pm</b> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Eucharistic Adoration and Reconciliation  <b>5:30pm Mass of the day</b> <i>+Christine Biesadecki R/b Sandy Chatlos</i> <i>Wednesday services held in the Church</i>  <i>Parish Office Closed</i>	<b>Solemnity of Mary Mother of God</b>  <b>10:00am Mass</b> <i>For the intentions of the Living &amp; Deceased of our Parish</i> <i>Mass celebrated in the Church</i>	<i>Parish Office Closed</i>	<b>Reconciliation</b> <b>2:30—3:30pm</b>  <b>4:00pm Mass</b> <i>+Reverend Robert Cummins</i> <i>And The Deceased of the Parish</i>	<b>Epiphany of the Lord</b>  <b>7:30am Mass</b> <i>+Michael Andriso r/b daughter, Marion and Charles Rader</i> <b>10:00am Mass</b> <i>+Melnicsak Family r/b Silhavey Families</i>  <i>Parish Nurses</i>

### MASS INTENTIONS



**4:00pm** +Reverend Andrew Marus  
**7:30am** +Nguyen Thi Cham  
And the Deceased of the Parish  
**10:00am** +Antoinette Margonis



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



The holidays can be incredibly challenging if you are grieving the loss of someone you love. The Bereavement 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)

### THIS WEEK'S CANDLE INTENTIONS

#### Sanctuary Tabernacle Candle

*In Loving Memory of Antoinette Margonis*

#### Chapel Tabernacle Candle

*For Peace in the world especially for the Holy Land*



#### Sacred Heart Candle

*For those who are alone and for those who are grieving a loss*



#### Our Lady of Perpetual Help Candle

*For Pope Leo and all Church leaders*

#### St Joseph Shrine Candle

*For migrants and refugees and all seeking a safe home.*

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

### LITURGICAL MINISTRY AT HNOJ PARISH

Liturgical ministry is an excellent opportunity to fulfill your baptismal call of service to one another. An engaging liturgical celebration utilizes the talents and gifts that God has given this community to the fullest extent. For more information on serving as a Reader or Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion (EMHC) visit <https://formationreimagined.org/liturgical-formation/> or call the office. Your participation brings life to our celebrations!



### 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



### Sacramental Preparation

Is your child 7 years old or older and not yet received Baptism? The Stratford Catholic Parishes offer a unique opportunity which prepares families and kids to receive their sacraments. Our next session will be on Thursday, January 15th from 6:00pm-7:30pm at Holy Name of Jesus Parish Offices (2 Mary Avenue, Stratford CT.) Please reach out to Colin Petramale if you are interested in attending: [colin.petramale@setoncollaborative.org](mailto:colin.petramale@setoncollaborative.org).



### Feast of the Holy Family

Today we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family. We look to Jesus, Mary, and Joseph as the exemplars of holiness in the family unit. We look at Jesus for his sacrifice. To Mary for her unshakable willingness to say "yes" to God. And to Joseph for the quiet sacrifices he made as earthly father of Jesus. To say they are exemplars of holiness is not to say that holiness is limited to them. We are invited to share in their holiness in our family lives, by simply being ourselves and doing what is asked of us; whether grand or small, ordinary or extraordinary. All can be an opportunity to love and bring God into this world.



### Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

**Thursday, January 1, is a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, January 1 at 10:00am**

On the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, the Gospel recounts how the shepherds hurried to

find Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. They shared what the angels had told them, proclaiming the newborn child as the Christ. The passage reminds us that understanding the full story often takes time. Just as listeners at Mass may not immediately grasp the full meaning of a reading, people we meet in life do not always know our struggles, joys, or experiences.

Let us reflect on how each person carries unseen burdens. We never truly know what someone is going through—a loss, a diagnosis, or personal hardships. This calls us to approach others with kindness and gentleness. Just as Mary pondered everything in her heart, we are invited to slow down, be present, and treat others with compassion. This is the heart of the Gospel and a way to live out the love of Christ.

### Epiphany Baby Items Collection

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!

### EPIPHANY HOUSE BLESSING



"Chalking the doors," is an ancient Catholic Epiphany practice where the priests would traditionally bless the house and then use chalk to write above the main entrance the specific year, separated by the letters C, M and B. The inscription is applied as a prayer that Christ will bless homes so marked and that he will stay with those who dwell there throughout the year and with any guest who may cross their threshold.

Take (blessed) chalk (of any color) and mark on the lintel of your front door **20 + C + M + B + 26** Saying: ***The three Wise Men, C Caspar, M Melchior, B Balthasar followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and twenty six years ago ++ May Christ bless our home ++ and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.***

Blessed chalk and prayer are available on the back tables of church

## Parish Financial Support

<b>IN-CHURCH Dec 13-14</b>		
Sunday	\$	1,179.03
Monthly	\$	55.00
Immaculate Conception	\$	433.00
Other	\$	175.00
<b>MAIL IN/DROP OFF—Dec 13-14</b>		
Sunday	\$	981.00
Monthly	\$	135.00
Other	\$	130.00
<b>ONLINE GIVING - Dec 8-14</b>		
Sunday	\$	408.00
Monthly	\$	20.00
Other	\$	10.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME:</b>	\$	<b>3,526.00</b>

*Thank you! Your generosity has been a blessing to the Church of the Holy Name of Jesus*



## 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 \$ 11,795 has been received towards our goal.** Please prayerfully consider your support towards our Parish Annual Appeal.

## 2025 Tax Contribution Statements

Contribution Statements will be mailed to all parishioners who contributed during 2025. Statements will be mailed by January 31, 2026. If you do not receive a statement after the end of January, please contact the parish office and a copy will be provided for you. Online Givers can access their end of year statement in their account.

## Parish Bookkeeper Position

This position is Part-Time, 24 hours/week, Tues. through Fri. 9am-3pm. The qualified candidate must have knowledge of accounting principles, proficiency in QuickBooks, PayCor, and MicroSoft Office Software as well as proficiency in handling Accounts Payable, Payroll, Bank Reconciliations, Preparing and Maintaining Annual Budgets. For more information, please call or email Father Jim at 203-375-5815, FrDivasto@diobpt.org

**A Special THANK YOU to Shannon Lawn and Landscaping for sponsoring our 2026 Parish Bilingual Calendar Feasts & Saints**

*Calendars are available on the back tables in Church*

## 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 –January 4



### Come Meet & Greet the 3 Kings!

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.



**All are Welcome!**

Free will donations gratefully accepted!



## 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!**

## SAVE THE DATE! 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.

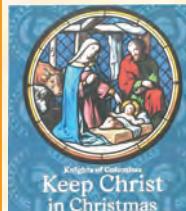
Reservations required by January 13th.

Call Larry 203.395.7073 or lawman1156@gmail.com

## 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.



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

Dear Holy Name of Jesus parish family, I hope that you all had a merry and blessed Christmas day+ And I hope you are continuing to celebrate Christmas every day through New Year's day. For the Solemnity of Christmas itself is celebrated with the church throughout the world for an entire octave of eight days, ending on Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, the Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God.



During the octave of Christmas there are three feast days. The day after Christmas we celebrate the feast of Saint Stephen. He was the first martyr (+35 AD) and one of the first deacons mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles. The very next day we celebrate the feast of Saint John the Apostle who wrote not only a Gospel, but three letters to his early Christian communities. And today, Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup> we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.

Now why is one out of these three feasts that of martyrdom - the sheading of blood for Christ - within the Christmas octave where we bask in the wonder, joy, and peace of Christ's incarnation which God the Father bestowed on us in his infant son Jesus? At first glance this does not seem right. But it is. Jesus was sent by the Father to teach and preach the Kingdom of God, forgive sins, cast out evil, and raise the dead. To save us! He did it all at times within the messy, sinful lives of his apostles, disciples, and the crowds who followed him. And we know he continues to do it now in our own - at times - messy, sinful lives too.

From the manger to the cross, Jesus, Mary, and Joseph did not shy away from the challenging and painful moments in their lives. They came to know not only God the Father's love for them, but the Father's will for each of them. By the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, Jesus, Mary, and Joseph were empowered to accept the Father's will and freely live out their roles in salvation history so that all before us, you and me here now, and all who come after us may be saved and given eternal life.

So let us begin 2026 coming together at Mass on New Year's day to worship our God and asking Mary, the Holy Mother of God, to pray and give us the graces we need to let her son, Our Lord, empower each of us to accept and freely choose more and more the Father's will so that through you and me Jesus may continue his work of salvation.

Happy New Year!

### CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE

A tremendous Thank You to all Bake Sale workers!! Your hard work and dedication to our parish is amazing. To our customers—enjoy your nut & poppy rolls this Christmas season. 85 Poppy Seed Rolls, 244 Nut Rolls and 34 bags of Bobalki were baked for a total profit of \$4353. *May the Christ Child bless you & your families.*



A big Thank You to the 13 helpers who helped set up the Nativity creches inside the church and outside, cleaned and dusted the pews, floors, windows, and decorated, to beautify our church for the Christmas season.



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