



Welcome
to Holy
Name of
Jesus
Parish

January
3~4,
2026

The Epiphany of the Lord



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 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**

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

**Please submit to: parishoffice@hnojchurch.org
Bulletin deadline is Friday at 4:00pm**



Liturgical Services This Week

Mon 01/05	Tues 01/6	Wed 01/07	Thurs 01/08	Fri 01/09	Sat. 01/10	Sunday 01/11
Parish Office Closed	7:30am Mass +Deacon Thomas Mack <i>r/b Fr. Jim</i> <i>Mass celebrated in Sts. Cyril & Methodius Chapel</i>	4:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Eucharistic Adoration and Reconciliation 5:30pm Mass of the day For the Seminarians of our Diocese <i>Wednesday services held in the Church</i> <i>Parish Office Closed</i>	7:30am Mass +William P. Gerak <i>r/b Arline R. Gerak</i> <i>Mass celebrated in Sts. Cyril & Methodius Chapel</i>	Chapel open for private prayer 9:00am to 2:00pm	Reconciliation 2:30—3:30pm 4:00pm Mass +Helen Breznicky And The Deceased of the Parish	7:30am Mass For our Parish Families 10:00am Mass +George Margonis <i>r/b David Margonis</i> 

MASS INTENTIONS



4:00pm **+Rev. Robert Cummins**
And the Deceased of the Parish
7:30am **+Michael Andriso**
10:00am **+Melnicsak Family**



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.*



JANUARY ~ THE MONTH OF THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS

The name of Jesus is the sweetest of all names, and He who bears it is most worthy of all love. He who calls Jesus his friend can be assured that this friend is the most devoted and unselfish of all friends. Jesus is our all. In His name we may pray to the Father with assurance of being heard. In His name the Church administers all her sacraments. In His name she offers all her prayers and blesses homes, the fields, and the sick. In the name of Jesus she casts out evil spirits, and at the hour of our death bids us, "Go forth, Christian soul." She assures us that whoever shall call upon this name will be saved. When our soul has departed this life to seek its eternal home, the Church asks in the name of Jesus, "Eternal rest give unto him, O Lord." Benedict Baur, O.S.B.

At the Name of Jesus let every knee bow, of those in heaven, on earth, and under the earth and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father
 Philippians 2:10

THIS WEEK'S CANDLE FOR INTENTIONS

Sanctuary Tabernacle Candle
In Loving Memory of William P. Gerak

Chapel Tabernacle Candle
Pope Leo's January prayer intention—for prayer with the Word of God—to nourish our lives and be a source of hope in our communities.

Sacred Heart Candle
For Missionaries

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Candle
For our young people and adults preparing for the sacraments of the church

St Joseph Shrine Candle
For the unemployed and the underemployed

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. For more information on serving as a Reader or Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion (EMHC) talk to Fr. Jim or 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.

Confirmation Preparation 2026



In the coming weeks, around 100 children will begin preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation. God willing, they will receive the sacrament in October of 2026. May we pray for them as they prepare to receive the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament. May they be strengthened in the Spirit as they share their unique gifts!

The Epiphany of the Lord



Today we celebrate the revelation of Jesus Christ to the world, who came not just for Israel but for the entire world. In fact, when the Gospel of John says that Christ came to save "the world," the Greek term used is *cosmos*. In other words, Christ came to save *all* creation, which labors through the cycles of life and death--from the furthest galaxy to the nearest neighbor. A love this grand is impossible to fully grasp, yet as the Magi left their homes and sought out on a journey to find Jesus, so we must also leave our comfort zones to do the same. May we trust that Christ is waiting for us on the other side of our discomfort.

Many Thanks & Blessings!

To the Confirmation teens of the Catholic Community of Stratford for putting together 60 toiletry gift bags to be handed out at the December Lord's Kitchen. Thank you to Colin Petramale and the Confirmation team for organizing this Outreach activity.



And to Joe Dimenno for donating cuts from the Church Christmas Cactus for each of our Faith Formation children as a beautiful reminder of the apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe to St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin on a wintery December day in Mexico in 1531. "This was the start of the era of evangelization, changing the course of our history (Mexico) and has had a lasting impact on our hearts."



She comes to our aid, remains at our side, accompanies us and guides us to our encounter with Christ. She appeared as one of the people, accepting us as we accept her. "La Morenita" is one of us." Sister María Elena Anto



<https://sistersofmercy.org/am-i-not-here-guadalupe-our-lady/St-Juan-Diego>

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. **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. The inscription applied is a prayer that Christ 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

IN-CHURCH Dec 15-21

Sunday	\$	2,353.00
Monthly	\$	126.00
Christmas	\$	346.00
Other	\$	237.00

MAIL IN/DROP OFF—Dec 1-7

Sunday	\$	1,920.00
Monthly	\$	50.00
Other	\$	115.00

ONLINE GIVING - Dec 1-7

Sunday	\$	349.00
Monthly Outreach	\$	46.00
Other	\$	45.00

TOTAL INCOME: \$ 5,587.00

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

Share Faith

Support the Church in Latin America
uscgb.org/latin-america

Regular January offertory envelopes include: Monthly Outreach, Monthly Repairs & Improvements, Initial Offering, Snow Removal, Latin America



Upcoming Events...Mark Your Calendar!

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



Jan 3-4 Parish Nurses

Jan 4 3 Kings Pancake Breakfast –

Faith Formation Family FAITH Event—All parishioners invited!

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



Men's Reflection Group

The Men's Reflection Group upcoming Gathering Dates will be announced soon.



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

Parish Annual Collection Envelope

The Annual Collection helps the Parish to meet extraordinary expenses that arise each year. This Annual Collection will help our parish to meet unbudgeted expenses. **This year our goal is \$45,000. To date \$ 12,205 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.

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 approx. 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 This Week!

Christmas Giving Tree

Our heartfelt thanks to all who supported our annual Christmas GIVING TREE efforts. Through your generosity we were blessed to be able to donate the following: \$375 in grocery gift cards \$ 250 store gift cards 50 plus toys, gifts of clothing Blankets and Food .Your gifts were distributed to 9 Parish Families, Sterling House and local Stratford/Bridgeport Families.



Christmas Joy



Fr. Jim's Column—Just One More Thing!



Dear parish family, happy New Year! I am grateful to be back with you again after suffering with the flu. I am very grateful to Father Boccacio for celebrating the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses on such short notice. Let us show our gratitude to him by continuing to celebrate the birth of Jesus this entire Christmas season until on January 11th we celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord as he taught us.

Thank you to so many of you who have given me and our parish staff Christmas cards, treats, and gifts. Your kindness is touching and very, very appreciated. May God bless and protect you in the New Year+

Like many of you, I want to begin this new year 2026 by allowing the Holy Spirit to guide me in all things, especially my pastoral ministry among us. One way is for me to provide more faith formation opportunities for all of us that will help everyone to encounter and allow the Holy Spirit to guide you in all things. I am pleased to invite you to the first of these opportunities that will begin on Tuesday, January 13th.



The Neo Catechumenal Way is not a program, or a movement, but a way of Christian initiation that I met in seminary, have come very much to appreciate through new friendships, and very much desire to share with you. Our seminarians Emmanuel and Jacob were raised in the Catholic faith and came to discernment of God's call to priesthood through the Neo Catechumenal Way. It is a Church approved way of rediscovery of our Catholic faith that received approval on May 11, 2008 from Pope Benedict XVI. This rediscovery is offered primarily through meetings of catechesis (teaching).

Traditionally, catechesis has been for someone either just curious about the Catholic faith or who desires to become a Catholic seeking baptism. But after the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) the Church has seen the need of reinserting the experience of the catechumenate - the necessary time of catechesis and discernment within a companionship of others – even for those fully initiated into the Church through baptism, confirmation, and the Eucharist and have been Catholic for many years.

So please, come and see with me and my friends of the Neo Catechumenal Way, J.C. Boynton, Enrico & Francesca DaPonte on Tuesday, January 13th in Heritage Hall at 7:30pm for catechesis and good conversation. We'll end at 8:30pm. See you then. God Bless, Father Jim

NATIVITY PAGEANT

Presented by the Faith Formation children was a joyful celebration of the Lord's birth.

Thank you to Carol Kascak and Linda Campanelli for their creativity and leadership in bringing this pageant to life and to Bob Cloutier and the choir for their beautiful music and song.



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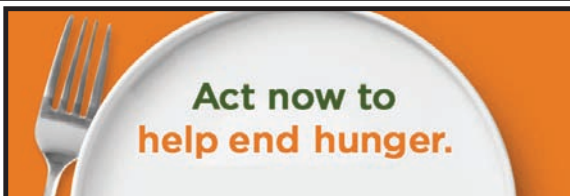
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