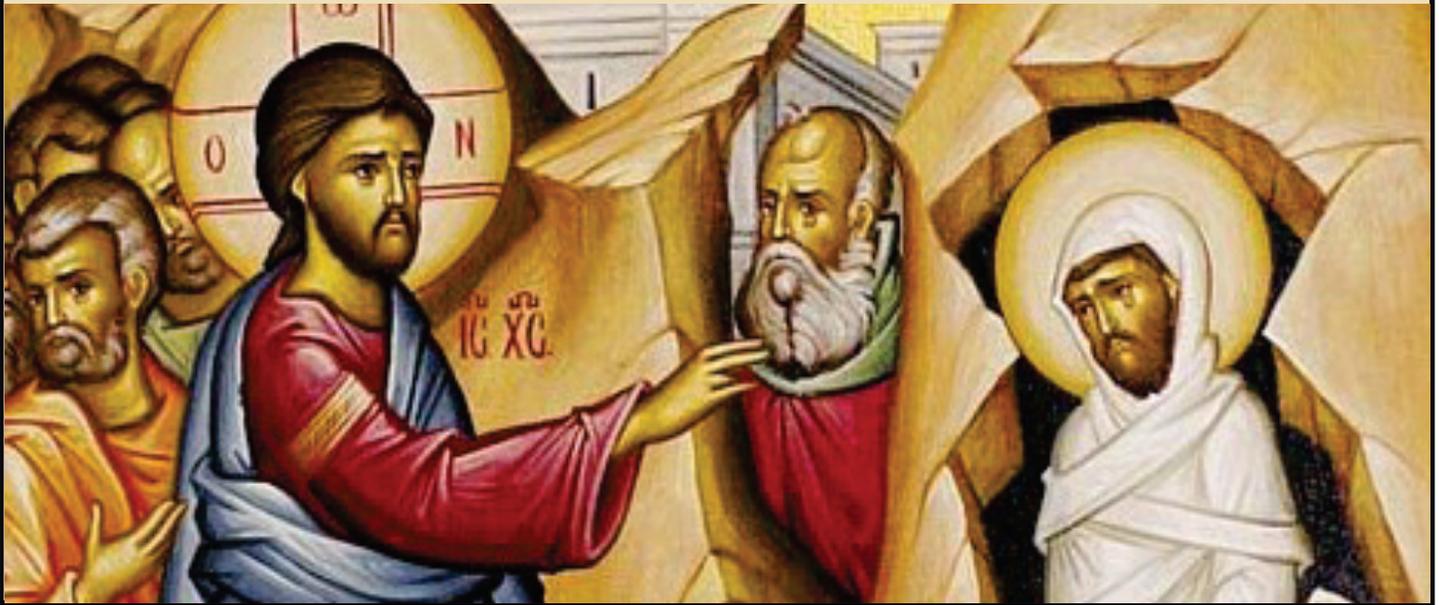


And Jesus raised his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me." And when he had said this, He cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go." John 11:41-44



## Welcome to Holy Name of Jesus Parish Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 21-22, 2026

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)

Fridays in Lent – in Church

4:00 pm Stations of the Cross

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with  
Adoration

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

Fridays 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 03/23	Tues 03/24	Wed 03/25	Thurs 03/26	Fri 03/27	Sat. 03/28	Sunday 03/29
Parish Office Closed	7:30am Mass +Maryann Tararsiuk r/b Verna Pistej  Mass celebrated in Sts. Cyril & Methodius Chapel	 The Annunciation of the Lord 12:15pm Mass For all consecrated Religious & Laity Mass celebrated in Church	7:30am Mass +Florence Rader r/b son, Charles & Marion Rader  Mass celebrated in Sts. Cyril & Methodius Chapel	 4:00pm Stations of the Cross, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Eucharistic Adoration and Reconciliation 5:30pm Mass of the day +Charles Drake r/b daughter, Arleen Drake  Services held in the Church	Reconciliation 2:30—3:30pm  4:00pm Mass +Robert Grega r/b Caren, Roger, Chris, Jay & Leigh Silhavey	7:30am Mass +Nguyen Thi Cham r/b Diem Nguyen and family 10:00am Mass +Mary and Edward Jablonski r/b Silhavey Families And Deceased of the Parish

### MASS INTENTIONS

### THIS WEEK'S CANDLE INTENTIONS



4:00pm +Albert Parravano  
7:30am +Jeff Bryant  
And Deceased of the Parish  
10:00am +Augustin Petrus



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



If you or a loved one are hospitalized or homebound and would like a visit to receive Communion, please call the parish office.

#### Sanctuary Tabernacle Candle

Health & Blessings for John Dempsey Sr

#### Chapel Tabernacle Candle

In Loving Memory of Jeff Bryant



#### Sacred Heart Candle

For all who suffer from depression and loneliness

#### Our Lady of Perpetual Help Candle

For all preparing for the Sacraments of the church

#### St Joseph Shrine Candle

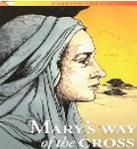
For refugees and all seeking a safe home

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

### LENT & HOLY WEEK



**Tuesday, March 24** Fr. Michael Boccaccio presents *The Passion of Jesus*, John 18 and 19. Soup & Salad at 6:30pm and presentation at 7:00pm in Heritage Hall.



**Friday, March 27 at 4:00pm**  
*Mary's Way of the Cross* with the Guild of the Mother of Jesus



**Palm Sunday, March 28-29**  
4:00pm Saturday &  
7:30am & 10:00am Sunday  
10:00am Mass with the Procession of Palms



**Reconciliation Monday March 30th,**  
3:00 to 9:00pm  
St. James - Stratford, St Lawrence- Shelton,  
St. Catherine of Siena -Trumbull,  
St Mary, St. Margaret, St Augustine—Bridgeport

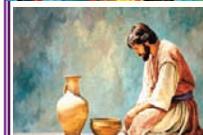


**Tuesday of Holy Week,**  
**March 31, 7:30am Mass**  
in Sts. Cyril and Methodius Chapel



#### Wednesday of Holy Week, April 1

4:00pm Stations of the Cross  
4:30pm Reconciliation and Eucharistic Adoration  
5:30pm Mass of the Day



#### Holy Thursday, April 2

7:30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper  
Adoration until 10:00pm



#### Good Friday, April 3

3:00pm The Passion of Our Lord



#### Holy Saturday, April 4

12:00pm Blessing of Easter Food  
7:30pm **The Great Vigil of Easter**



#### Easter Sunday, April 5

Mass at 7:30am and 10:00am

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



### Praying Through Lent

Jesus, you have known us from the beginning of time, you have known us in the depths of our dreams and in the darkness of our shame, you know us as your beloved. Help us to own that core identity more and more in this season of repentance and mercy. Give us the rock-solid assurance of your unwavering faith in us as we seek the same in you. Amen.



### Vacation Bible School: Summer 2026

Parents and guardians have two options for vacation Bible School in the town of Stratford this year: August 10-14 at St. Mark and August 17-21 at Our Lady of Peace. Please reach out to Dana Donia at ddonia@stmarkstfd.org for more information for the week at St. Mark, or Colin Petramale at colin.petramale@setoncollaborative.org for more information for the week at OLP. Both weeks promise to be faith-filled for all involved!



### Spiritual Direction

Spiritual direction is for any person who desires to deepen their life of prayer—from learning how to pray or how to become more attuned to God's movements in his or her life. Your spiritual director will accompany, guide, and help you listen to the Lord in the stirrings of your heart and prayer. This is a great place to ask the questions of your faith and have a trusted guide help you discover the Holy Spirit's work in your life. Spiritual Directors are available through Franciscan University, School of Spiritual Direction. To learn more about spiritual direction and this wonderful opportunity, contact Laurie Collins at lauriec22@gmail.com

## The CHOSEN

We hope you will join us for Season Two of...

### The CHOSEN

Wednesdays at 6:30pm in Heritage Hall



April 22 Episodes 1 & 2 "Thunder" "I Saw you"

April 29 Episodes 3 & 4 "Matthew 4:24" "The Perfect Opportunity"

May 6 Episodes 5 & 6 "Spirit" "Unlawful"

May 13 Episodes 7 & 8 "Reckoning" "Beyond Mountains"

All are welcome—Bring the family! Snacks will be available or you may bring your dinner!

Study guides will be provided for you to take home. Sign-up sheets in the back of church or call the parish office.

## Annunciation of the Lord~ ANGELUS



V/. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary, R/. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

V/. Behold the handmaid of the Lord, R/. Be it done unto me according to your Word. Hail Mary...

V/. And the Word was made flesh, R/. And dwelt among us. Hail Mary...

V/. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God, R/. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray. Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts: that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our Knights of Columbus Council 2370 for their steadfast service and compassionate ministry in aiding those in need. Inspired by the mission and vision of Blessed Michael McGivney, the Knights continue to embody the principles of charity, unity, and fraternity within our parish and community.



Knights of Columbus members, Stephen Mieczkowski, Marty Gross, Steve Hmura and John Fahey sorted, packed and delivered \$1,002.26 in supplies and donations to Leslie Lopez, Director of Malta House in

Stamford —thank you to our parishioners for their generous gifts to our January Epiphany Collection for babies!



The Knights - Stephen Mieczkowski, Marty Gross, Steve Hmura and Ken McClean, delivered 525 pounds of groceries to Fr. Skip at Blessed Sacrament—once again we thank our parishioners for

their kind donations of food each month to those in need.

## Parish Financial Support

<b>IN-CHURCH Mar 14-15</b>		
Sunday	\$	1,655.00
Monthly	\$	5.00
Other	\$	37.00
<b>MAIL IN/DROP OFF - Mar 9-15</b>		
Sunday	\$	3,066.00
Monthly	\$	101.00
Other	\$	205.00
<b>ONLINE GIVING - Mar 9-15</b>		
Sunday	\$	350.00
Monthly	\$	20.00
Other	\$	7.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5,446.00</b>

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

## Upcoming Events...Mark Your Calendar!

### Fridays, in Lent in Church

**4:00pm Stations of the Cross**  
**4:30pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Reconciliation available**  
**5:30pm Mass**  
**March 21,22 Coffee And...**  
**March 22,29 Faith Formation sessions**  
**March 24 Fr. Boccaccio The Passion of Jesus**  
**March 25 Annunciation—Mass 12:15pm**  
**March 27 Pierogi Dinner**  
**March 28,29 Monthly Food Collection**



### Neo Catechumenal Way

You are invited to join Fr Jim and gather on Tuesday and Friday at 7:30pm for catechesis and good conversation. Talks for adults & youth 13+ Free Childcare

### Easter Crosses



#### BEAUTIFUL HANDMADE CROSSES CEMETERY EASTER CROSSES

Donation \$15 And **STANDING OR**

**WALL MOUNT WOOD CROSSES** In 3 colors \$20 each -Available in the church vestibule or call the parish office to order.



## 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 \$ 14,570 has been received towards our goal.** Please prayerfully consider your support towards our Parish Annual Appeal.

## Annual Bishop's Appeal

Holy Name of Jesus Parish

2026 Bishop's Appeal as of 3/13/26

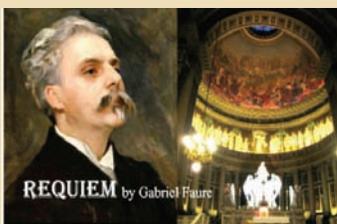
Bishop's Appeal Goal:	\$37,500
Total Pledged:	\$11,760 (31%)
Donors to Date:	41 Donors



To make a gift, or for more information, please visit us at [2026BishopsAppeal.org](http://2026BishopsAppeal.org), call (203) 416-1470 or scan with your phone.

## Pop Tabs for Ronald McDonald House

The Faith Formation class are collecting the pop tabs (pull tabs) from aluminum cans to help support the Ronald McDonald House. The tabs are collected, recycled, and the proceeds help provide free or low-cost lodging for families with hospitalized children. Thank you!



### MUSIC FOR THE SEASON OF LENT *Free Concert*

Choir with guest singers, instruments and organ—  
 Palm Sunday, March 29th at 3:00pm—Stratford United Methodist Church  
 2600 Main St., Stratford

## Pierogi and Pancake Dinner

**Hosted by the Men's Society Friday March 27th 5:00PM – 7:00PM** in Heritage Hall Join us for an evening of fellowship and delicious food. This family event will feature Pierogi's, Potato Pancakes, Apple Sauce, Coffee, Tea, Soda and Water. It's a wonderful chance to gather with friends and meet new people. Dine In or Take out \$15.00 12 Frozen Pierogi \$8.00  
 Deadline for reservations March 24  
 Call Larry Wells 203-395-7073 [Lawman1156@gmail.com](mailto:Lawman1156@gmail.com)



The Knights of Columbus Council 2370 is having a membership drive at the Men's Society dinner on March 27. All men interested in joining please stop by for a good dinner and hear all about what the Knights do.

### Lazarus Comes Back to Life!

Bethany..cloth..cry..face..Lazarus..Martha..  
 Mary..out..sick..sister..stone..tomb

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

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



Dear parish family, here we are at the Fifth Sunday of Lent. Holy Week and Easter is just around the corner. I hope you're experiencing a challenging, holy lent. Maybe like me, you've had some days when you felt weary of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Or maybe you've had days wondering if God is even seeing and listening to you. Maybe you're even thinking that it all doesn't matter because you're convinced that even the little changes for the better you've had so far this lent won't last. Well just consider this . . .

*Come over to me all you who are restless  
and I will teach you how to be quiet, how to leave yourself alone.*

*Come over to me all you who are anxious.  
Even if I don't take your anxiety away, I will change it into fresh currency  
as you turn your cares into greater belief in my caring.*

*Come over to me all you who are lonely.  
I was lonely too and could find no place to lay my head.*

*Come over to me all you who worry what others really think about you.  
It doesn't matter. They misunderstood me no matter what I did.*

*Come over to me all you who are always talking and pleading,  
and explaining yourself to others. I know you inside out.  
I know the worst. So you can come to me without any explanation.*

*Come over to me all you whose great plans for yourself have failed.  
You don't know how lucky you are. And others too.*

*Come over to me all you who can't stand yourselves. I touched lepers.  
And I once called a man out of a tomb who had been stinking there for four days.  
So come over to me, I can stand just about anything.*

*Come over to me all you who can't stand other people.  
I know what is behind their misery. I know the worst in them as I know it in you.  
And I embrace you both.*

*Come over to me all you who fret about the past. I was there.  
I was part of your past and I have forgotten all about it.  
So be like me and forget it too.*

*Come over to me all you who can't live peacefully in the present.  
Come to me now without reserve. That is the way to live peacefully in the present.  
Come to me all you who fear the future. Do not fear. I am your future.*

Father Thomas Dominic Rover, O.P. (+1997) wrote this poem. I hope you hold on to it. All the experiences you and I have had, and will continue to have, are really precious to God. Don't be afraid or indifferent to Fr. Rover's words.

Take his poem to heart. Let's you and me come over to Jesus now and especially during Holy Week.

Praying for you. Please pray for me. Fr. Jim

## WHY DO WE COVER STATUES AND AND IMAGES WITH A VEIL DURING LENT?



The last two weeks in the season of Lent are called Passiontide which begins on the Fifth Sunday of Lent. This is when the Church shifts her focus from Christ in the desert (the Gospel for the First Sunday of Lent) to Christ during His Passion.

During this period of Passiontide, you may have noticed in your parish that the crucifix and other statues and images around the church have been veiled with a purple cloth. The practice of veiling images alerts us that something is different, it can be startling at first, but the last two weeks of Lent are a time of immediate preparation for the celebration of the Sacred Triduum. The veils are hard to miss and they serve as a reminder to get ready!

The veiled images build within us a longing for Easter Sunday. The veils seem out of place, and even counterintuitive. It can seem strange that the crucifix is covered up during Passiontide. Through this absence of images, our senses are heightened and we become more aware of what is missing. Similarly, the suppression of the Alleluia during Lent effectively demonstrates that we are in exile from our true Home, where the angels sing Alleluia without ceasing.

In the *Roman Missal* we find the instruction, "**In the Dioceses of the United States, the practice of covering crosses and images throughout the church from [the fifth] Sunday [of Lent] may be observed. Crosses remain covered until the end of the Celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday, but images remain covered until the beginning of the Easter Vigil.**"

When images are unveiled before the Easter Vigil, we are reminded that we, in a sense, live in a veiled world. It is through our own death that we are able to see our true home, and the veil is lifted. Christ lifts the veil through His Resurrection. Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. John 11:25-26

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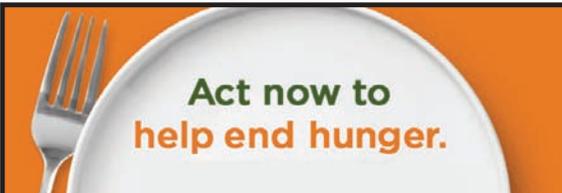
f: 203-386-1886

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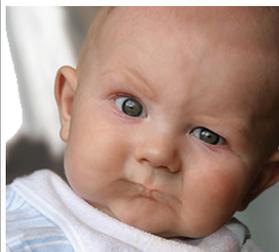
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