



## Welcome to Holy Name of Jesus Parish

6th Sunday of Easter ~ May 9-10, 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)

Wednesdays – in Church

4:00 pm 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

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

*The Church is a living community.  
It is not only a place we visit on Sunday.  
It is a group of people who follow Jesus  
together. The Gospel reminds us that  
the Holy Spirit remains with believers.  
Because of this, the mission of Jesus  
continues in every generation.*



John 14:15-21

## Liturgical Services This Week

Mon 05/11	Tues 05/12	Wed 05/13	Thursday 05/14	Friday 05/15	Saturday 05/16	Sunday 05/17
Parish Office Closed	7:30am Mass +Michael Stifil  Mass celebrated in Sts. Cyril & Methodius Chapel	<b>Ascension of the Lord</b>		Chapel open for private prayer 9:00am-2:00pm	2:30—3:30pm Reconciliation  4:00pm Mass +Stephanie Petersen and +Chris Zalik r/b Steve and Sandra Zalik	7:30am Mass +Holy Souls in Purgatory r/b Steve and Sandra Zalik  10:00am Mass +Suchyak and Petrus families r/b Martha Suchyak And the Deceased of the parish
		4:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Eucharistic Adoration and Reconciliation 5:30pm Vigil Mass for the Ascension of the Lord For the Living and Deceased of our Parish <i>Services celebrated in Church</i>	*5:30pm Mass +John Ziza r/b nieces Jan and Nancy <i>Mass celebrated in Church</i>  *there will not be a 7:30am Mass			


### MASS INTENTIONS

4:00pm +David G. Andriso  
7:30am Living & Deceased mothers of our parish  
10:00am Living & Deceased mothers of our parish



#### Prayer of St. Augustine

Watch O Lord, with those who cannot sleep, or weep tonight. Tend your sick ones. Rest your weary ones. Bless your dying ones. Soothe your suffering ones. Pity your afflicted ones. Shield your joyous ones. Amen. 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.

 **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 [formationreimagined.org/liturgical-formation/](http://formationreimagined.org/liturgical-formation/) or call the office. Your participation brings life to our celebrations!



### THIS WEEK'S CANDLE INTENTIONS

**Sanctuary Tabernacle Candle**  
*Loving Memory of Frank Ziza*

**Chapel Tabernacle Candle**  
*Living & Deceased Members of the Guild of the Mother of Jesus*

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help Candle**  
*In Loving Memory of Anne Reynolds*

**St Joseph Shrine Candle**  
*In Loving Memory of Howard Gerowe*

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



*Congratulations and God Bless Brienne, Cristopher, Dalton, Joseph, Kaylen and Samantha who will receive Jesus for the first time in Holy Eucharist this weekend on Mother's Day. May the grace of this sacrament guide you throughout your life.*

### Thursday, May 14th, the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord, is a Holy Day of Obligation

The Vigil Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday at 5:30pm and on Thursday at 5:30pm

The message of the Ascension - *The Unfinished Painting*: Leonardo da Vinci had started to work on a large canvas in his studio. For a while he worked at it – choosing the subject, planning the perspective, sketching the outline, applying the colors, with his own inimitable genius. Then suddenly he stopped working on it. Summoning one of his talented students, the master invited him to complete the work. The horrified student protested that he was both unworthy and unable to complete the great painting which his master had begun. But da Vinci silenced him. "Will not what I have done inspire you to do your best?" Jesus our Master began to spread the Good News two thousand years ago by what he said and did, and supremely by what he suffered. Jesus illustrated his message and left us to finish the picture. Will Jesus' life not inspire us to finish the picture? This is the message of the Ascension. (<http://frtonyshomilies.com/>) <https://www.vaticannews.va/>



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



### Happy Mother's Day!

The love that a mother exhibits for her child is utterly unique and a special part of God's plan for the world. The prophet Isaiah even compares God's love for his children to a mother's love for her child: "Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb? Even should she forget, I will never forget you." We remember and celebrate especially today those who have borne and raised children, those who have lost their mother and miss them, those who have had complicated relationships with their mothers. May our mothers remember that they are so deeply loved and appreciated, and that their love for us is a special reflection of God's divine love.

### Vacation Bible School: Summer 2026



Parents and guardians have two opportunities 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!



### A MOTHER'S DAY REFLECTION

Moms suffer the greatest heartaches, the greatest of joys, and everything imaginable in between. This Mother's Day, let's give each other grace. Moms nowadays are inundated with

information and opinions and media and choices and advice, and we're thrown into doing so much with very little help sometimes. Let's say a little prayer for each other for strength, courage, and patience. Mary, Jesus' mother and the greatest of all models to look up to when getting through our day-to-day life, is someone we can turn to and ask for intercession. Our Blessed Mother, even in her perfection, still somehow experienced similar feelings to those that we feel as mothers. I'd like to think that because Mary and so many other women were great mothers, I can be too.

Finally, join me in praying a rosary for mothers. God loves all of his children; it's our job to meet our sisters and brothers on this life's mission and be an apostle to them on the road. As you pray these prayers, take a moment in your humility; put aside anger, resentment, stress, and distractions. On each bead, pray for a mother you know by name or someone you've never met.

Consider praying for.....

the mother who is anxious....

the mother who has suffered loss of a child(ren).

the mother who is estranged from her own mother....

the single mother. ...the mother who feels alone in her motherhood....the mother who has had miscarriage(s)....

the mother who is scared.

...the mother who is experiencing homelessness....

the mother who is in an abusive relationship.

...the mother who has had an abortion....

the mother who has healthy children.

...the mother who is sad....the step-mother....

the mother who is worried....the mother who is the

breadwinner....the mother who has addictions....

the mother who forgets about her own self-worth.

...the mother who is struggling....the mother who is

without faith....the mother who is doubting herself...

the newly-pregnant mother....the mother who is working....

the mother who stays at home....**every mother**

Krissy Pierno <https://www.catholicpostolatelatecenter.org/>

### TAKE THE WORD OF GOD WITH YOU

#### The Ascension of the Lord

Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

The resurrected Jesus appears to his disciples on a mountain in Galilee.

Jesus commissions his disciples to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything he has commanded.

- ◆ How does the Ascension of the Lord challenge you to live your faith more fully?
- ◆ What does it mean to be a disciple maker in your daily life?
- ◆ How have you experienced the Holy Spirit's guidance in difficult moments?
- ◆ Why is it important to trust in God's power rather than rely only on yourself?
- ◆ How can you help others grow in faith through your words and actions?
- ◆ What does Jesus' promise to be with us always mean to you?
- ◆ What are some ways you can step out of your comfort zone to share the Gospel?
- ◆ How can you strengthen your relationship with the Holy Spirit?

*We acknowledge and thank Young-catholics.com for the use of their art and reflection in our bulletin*



"I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate."

John 14:16

## Parish Financial Support

<b>IN-CHURCH May 2-3</b>		
Sunday	\$	1,916.00
Monthly	\$	1,138.00
Other	\$	65.00
<b>MAIL IN/DROP OFF April 27-May 3</b>		
Sunday	\$	1,360.00
Monthly	\$	225.00
Annual	\$	500.00
Other	\$	89.00
<b>ONLINE GIVING - April 27- May 3</b>		
Sunday	\$	1,151.30
Monthly	\$	50.00
Other	\$	.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>6,494.30</b>

The Annual Collection helps the Parish to meet extraordinary expenses that arise each year. **This year our goal is \$45,000.**  
**To date \$ 14,665 has been received towards our goal.**  
 Please prayerfully consider your support towards our Parish Annual Appeal.



**Regular May offertory envelopes include** Monthly Outreach, Monthly Repairs & Improvements, Catholic Communication Campaign, Ascension of the Lord



**NOTRE DAME PREP TUITIION RAFFLE**—Win \$15,000 towards any school—K-8, High School or College. Raffle drawing June 2nd 2026. A maximum of 500 tickets will be sold. To purchase tickets & learn more scan or visit <https://tinyurl.com/TuitionRaffle2026>



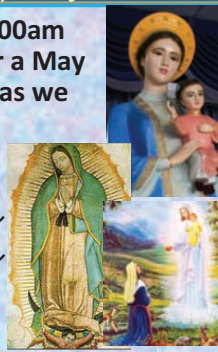
**Mobile Food Pantry—CT Foodshare** distributes a variety of free & nutritious food to families every other Monday in our parish parking lot. **May 18 9:15 10:15am** Bring your own bags.

## MAY CROWNING Sunday, May 17



Join us after the 10:00am Mass on May 17th for a May Crowning in Church as we honor our Blessed Mother and pray for peace.

*Different Titles  
 Different Faces  
 One Blessed  
 Virgin Mary*



The Sisters of Saints Cyril & Methodius in Danville PA, who faithfully served our parish for 60 years as teachers and catechists, *invite you to send your Special Intentions to be included in their prayers.*

Dear Sisters of Saints Cyril & Methodius, please include my special intentions in your prayers as you pray the Rosary in May.

## Upcoming Events...Mark Your Calendar!



**Wednesdays 4:00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation Available - 5:30pm Mass**

**May 10** First Eucharist 10:00am Mass

**May 12** every Tues & Friday  
 Neocatechumenal Way

**May 13** The Chosen

**May 14** Ascension of the Lord

**May 15** Ladies Guild Dinner

**May 16** Knights of Columbus, Porketta Dinner

**May 16-17** Coffee And...

**May 16** Bible Study with Fr. Jim

**May 16, May 30** Men's Reflection

**May 17** May Crowning

**May 18** CT Foodshare Pantry—parking lot HNOJ  
 9:15am-10:15am



We hope you will join us for Season Two of...  
**The CHOSEN Wednesdays at 6:30pm in Heritage Hall May 13**



**The Neocatechumenal Way invites you to begin a journey to experience that Christ is Risen! Tuesday and Fridays at 7:30pm in Heritage Hall.**



**BIBLE STUDY** Join Fr. Jim as we continue to understand the Prophet Isaiah. **Saturday, May 16, 10:00-11:15am**



**MEN'S REFLECTION GROUP** Upcoming Saturday Reflection dates: **May 16 and May 30th.** Join us! Guys are invited to gather at 7:45am in the Parish Community Room – Reflections on the Readings at 8:00, and we finish at 9:00am.

## Guild of the Mother of Jesus ~ May 15th Dinner

All Guild of the Mother of Jesus members and All women of the parish are invited to our May Gathering on Friday, May 15th at 5:30pm in the parish Community Room (convent building). We will begin with dinner and are pleased to welcome Sister Catherine Brodersen, Apostle of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to be with us and present a reflection on our **Blessed Mother—A Woman of Faith** - and how her faith and example can guide us in our daily lives. Let us know you are joining us—call the parish office or send an email by May 8th. There is no cost for dinner. Menu will include a hot chicken entree, pasta, salad, bread, dessert and refreshments.



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PRESENTS: PORKETTA DINNER Saturday, May 16, 5:00-7:00pm.** Dinner is open to Members, Parishioners and Guests. Menu includes: Porketta, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls & butter, Soda, Coffee, Tea and Dessert. Reservations are required. \$15.00 per person. Larry Wells 203.395.7073 [lawman1156@gmail.com](mailto:lawman1156@gmail.com)



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



Dear Parish Family, happy and blessed Mother's Day to all our mothers! Be assured of my prayers and gratitude for each one of you. Thank you for your self-sacrificing love and generosity not only to your families and those most in need of a mother's love, but to our parish family too. How appropriate it is today that Brienne, Cristopher, Dalton, Joseph, Kaylen and Samantha received their First Eucharist! Just like you and me, they have begun to experience the most self-sacrificing love, the love Jesus gives us in his Eucharist throughout our lives. Please continue to pray for them, help form them, and always encourage them to receive Jesus in the Eucharist by your own reception of the Eucharist.

Today, and throughout May, we especially honor a very special mother, our heavenly mother, the Mother of God, the Blessed Ever Virgin Mary. Just yesterday, we honored her in our church by praying a rosary and offering Mass in her honor under her title of Our Lady of the Swan (La Virgen del Cisne), dear to the hearts of the people of Ecuador.

Sister Ruth Burrows, O.C.D., an English Carmelite nun (+2023) often wrote about the Blessed Virgin Mary and how through devotion to her we can become not only more like her son but grow in love with Jesus. Sister Ruth said there are three things we need to learn, remember, and practice from Mary.

*"First, 'I am the handmaid of the Lord, be it done to me according to your word.'* I am yours absolutely. Do your will in me and through me; I have no ambitions even of the most religious and spiritual kind. Do your will in darkness if needs be, in pain if needs be; I do not ask to understand, I commit myself to you completely. This is the perfect contemplative stance. The second glimpse of Mary comes through

*Elizabeth: 'Blessed are you for your believing everything the Lord promised you will be fulfilled.'*

The culmination of God's promises is in you. You have allowed him to fulfill his will in you. And in between this perfect offering of trust and its final consummation in her Assumption we are told that Mary *'Kept all these words and pondered them in her heart.'* Yes, blessed are they who hear the word of God and keep it."

These are the mysteries which Mary and Jesus ask each of us to allow them to make present in each one of us. To the extent that we (1) let God's will be done in us even without the need to understand it, (2) believe that God has promises that he truly desires to fulfill in each one of us, and (3) listen and keep in our hearts and minds God's Word, our relationships with both Our Lady Mary and Our Lord Jesus will grow and we will be able to discover and embrace the particular vocation God has for each of us.

*"We do not know how Our Lady spent her days, the details are unimportant. We are told only the things that matter and which must be true of all [of us] who belong to Christ. . . Faith keeps us in the here and now, in this moment and no other, in this situation and no other. Here is my Jesus, here in this moment, this duty, this set of circumstances. What a test of faith is this daily round, this pressure of seeming trivialities!"*

Sister Ruth concludes, *"Mary has allowed herself to be transformed by love into what she was called to be"*. Let us ask Our Lady Mary especially this month to pray, protect, and give us the graces we need to allow ourselves to be transformed by the love of Jesus our Lord into what he calls each of us to be.

O Holy Mother of God, Blessed Ever Virgin Mary, pray for us+

*18 children from Holy Name of Jesus and Our Lady of Grace parishes together prepared for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. The children will receive First Eucharist on Mother's Day at their parish. We pray for the children and their families to continue to grow in faith and grace to recognize Jesus in the Eucharist and live as his disciples.*

*The Spirit will keep on living in you  
Accept..come back..command..Father..help..  
Holy Spirit..love..one..orphans..people..see..true*



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