

Holy Name Of Jesus Catholic Church



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**We welcome all
in fellowship, sharing our gifts,
and reflecting God's love.**



The Josephites
Society of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart



Holy Name of Jesus School

Holy Name of Jesus Church is a Roman Catholic community rooted in a rich tradition of African American spirituality. We hear the call which Pope Paul VI spoke to all the sons and daughters of Africa: "You must give your gift of Blackness to the whole Church."

As a family of diverse African and Hispanic heritages, we are dedicated to proclaiming the saving message of Jesus Christ through spirit-filled worship, evangelization, Catholic education, and social justice outreach that respects, values, appreciates, and celebrates the cultural heritages of our diverse community

December 14, 2025



Third Sunday of Advent

Pastoral Administration

Very Rev. Kenneth C. Ugwu, SSJ.
Pastor

Deacon Douglass Johnson
Deacon José Penate
Deacon Hosea Alexander (*Rtd.*)

Mrs. Marilyn Ceden, JD
Principal, Holy Name School

Mrs. Catherine Brown,
Director Religious Formation

Mrs. Nelly Molina
Administrative Assistant

Mrs. Jessye Stafford
Pastoral Council Chairperson

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil - 4:30pm
Sunday: 9:00am – English
12:00pm – Spanish

Holy Rosary— 30 minutes
before Sunday masses.

Daily Morning Mass:
Tuesday—Friday - 7:30am
School Mass—Wed—8.15am

Confessions: Saturdays
4:10pm – 4:30pm
or by appointment.

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
9:00am – 6:00pm
Saturday & Sunday Closed

Sacraments

Any parishioner who wishes to arrange a **Wedding** must contact the priest at least 6 months prior to the desired wedding date. Parents desiring **Baptism** for their children are encouraged to contact the office to arrange for the required preparation class for parents and Godparents. When a **Funeral** is to be celebrated, please contact the priest before contacting the Funeral Home. Funerals are not permitted on Sundays or Holy Days of Obligation.

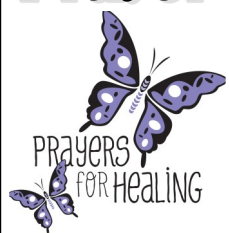
Mass Intentions

All Mass intentions must be submitted to the Parish Office on or before Thursday.

Prayer Corner

Intercessory prayer is a vital part of our mission at Holy Name of Jesus.

We update our prayer and sick list on a regular basis. If you want to be on the list, please email or call the parish office by Wednesday of each week.



Francis Awe, Carol, Oliska (Muffin) and Vanessa Batiste, Vincent Cocom, Anita Alexander, Hosea Alexander, Charisse Alexander,

Camille Alvarado, Michael Arnold, Wendy Bedford, Alida Blunt, Frederick Bradley, Anthony Braithwaite, Sara Brazier, Catherine Brewster, Kim Brown, Lisa Brown, Cheryl Broyard, Holly Budge, Rosa Chavarin, Julia Cocom, Marsha E. Domingue, Jennie Dudley, Keira Easley, Raheim Enriquez, Anna Esquviel, Sean Eugene, Marlon Fajardo, Arthur Ferguson, Ashley Ferguson, Madisyn Grant, Sylvia Garbutt, Victor Garbutt, Jim Higgins, Eddie Hilley, DeShawn Haylock, Barbara James, Krystal James & family, Dcn Douglass & Sherrie Johnson, Olga Johnson, L.J. Johnson, Herbie & Nedie King, Adrian Klemm, Lorraine Klemm, Sharon Lee, Maria Lopez, Jr., Terrell Love III, Amy Mahoney, Rick Mellett, Marilyn Leon-Middleton, Bernard Mitchell, Dimitri Morrison, Amy Mahoney, Antonia Noguera, Godwin Orkeh, Nia Porter, Brenda Robinson, Perla Sander, Constance Sandiford, Andy & Audrey Shaw, Dana Sims, Jonel Seon, Sandra Simmons, Loise Smith, Yolanda Smith, Grant Soberanis Jr., Fredrick Stafford, Kamilie Swift, Pat Swinson, Anyaa Trahan, Joanna Vello, Tammy & Treavon Ware, Valerie Walters, Sandra Wheeler, Alan Whitney, Oscar Williams, and Regina Wiltz.

Bulletin Announcements

All Bulletin announcements Must be in the Parish Office one week before the published date.

Scam Alert!! Beware of any suspicious email or text messages. Call the office for verification.

Holy Hour / Adoration

First Friday of every Month
8-9AM & 7-8 PM Rosary and
Blessed Sacrament Devotion.

Mass Scripture Readings for the Week (Dec 15-Dec 21)

Monday	Numbers 24:2-17 Psalm 25 Matthew 21:23-27
Tuesday	Zephaniah 3:1-13 Psalm 34 Matthew 21:28-32
Wednesday	Genesis 49:2-10 Psalm 72 Matthew 1:1-17
Thursday	Jeremiah 23:5-8 Psalm 72 Matthew 1:18-25
Friday	Judges 13:2-7,25 Psalm 71 Luke 1:5-25
Saturday	Isaiah 7:10-14 Psalm 24 Luke 1:26-38
Sunday	Isaiah 7:10-14 Psalm 24 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-24

Sunday Reflection

It is easy to look at our world and become discouraged by the apparent absence of God and signs of God's salvation. Advent, however, is a season of hope, in which we acknowledge that salvation is both mysteriously present, even in our world, and yet to be fulfilled.

Read together today's Gospel. Think about John's question to Jesus: Are you the One? Jesus does not answer directly, but points to the signs of the kingdom present in his midst.

Together as a family, look through the newspaper for signs of hope that God is at work in our world. Pray that the world will know God's salvation by praying together the Lord's Prayer.

The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called *Gaudete Sunday*. *Gaudete* is the Latin word meaning "rejoice." This Sunday is so named because "Rejoice" is the first word in the entrance antiphon for today's Mass taken from Philippians 4:4,5: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near." Some people mark this Sunday on their Advent wreath with a pink candle instead of a purple candle. This Sunday is a joyful reminder that our salvation is near.

This week's Gospel Reading continues our Advent reflection on the person and message of John the Baptist. Last week we heard John speak about his relationship to the coming Messiah, Jesus. This week, we hear Jesus' message to John the Baptist, now in prison, about the signs of the kingdom found in Jesus' ministry and Jesus' assessment of John's role in the Kingdom of God.

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of John's arrest in chapter [14:3-12](#). In today's Gospel, John sends word to Jesus from prison, asking if Jesus is the Messiah for whom he has been waiting. Jesus responds by pointing to the miracles that he has worked and invites John and the other hearers to make their own determination. In his next breath, however, Jesus praises John for his role in preparing the way for Jesus. Then Jesus says that all of those who work for the Kingdom of God will be as great as John and even greater.

Stewardship Update

Weekly Goal—\$10,000

December 7th, 2025

Actual Collection \$ 9,463.00

- \$ 537.00

Two Previous Years:

December 08, 2024 \$ 3,945.00

December 10, 2023 \$ 8,776.00

Thank you for your generous stewardship. Your church needs your financial support.



Online Giving

The link is: <https://www.holynameofjesus la.org/online giving>

'SERVING HANDS' MONTHLY FOOD SALE DECEMBER REPORT

SPONSORED BY
PPC, HNOJ SCHOOL PTO & ALUMNI
MINISTRY

INCOME

PPC-HNOJ PTO & ALUMNI	\$ 626.00
Food Sale	\$ 1,522.00

SUB TOTAL INCOME \$ 2,148.00

EXPENSES

Invoices	\$ 580.49
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NET INCOME \$ 1,567.51

Thank you to our wonderful ministry sponsors, volunteers, parishioners, and patrons for your continued support and participation. Great things continue to happen when we build our church community together. May God bless you all abundantly.

Religious Education

OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults, formerly RCIA). OCIA classes are for those seeking to become Catholic or learn about the faith. Order of Christian Initiation for Adults, formerly RCIA). Learn more about your faith by becoming a catechist for Sacramental Preparation, Confirmation, and Youth Ministry. For more information, contact Cathy Brown. Classes are held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month. On Tuesday, **December 16th Reconciliation/Penance Service**. All are welcome.

1st and 2nd year Confirmation classes - 18th at 7 pm
Religious Formation - Classes on Saturday 20th. No classes will be held on Sat., Dec., 27th and on January 3, 2026. Classes resume on Saturday, January 10th.

Please note that we are live streaming on YouTube.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please remember to join Praying of the Holy Rosary 30 minutes before each mass in the church. May our Blessed Virgin Mary continue to intercede for us.

The next church cleaning group is on Saturday, January 3, 2026, at 7:30 am, led by the 50+ Club, Altar Society, and Altar Servers. Everyone is welcome to help.

HNOJ Advent Reconciliation Service will be held Tuesday December 16 at 7:00pm. Confessions in English and Spanish.

The Josephite Liturgical and Historical Calendar is more than a calendar—it uniquely presents Black Catholic history and heritage. Copies are still available for a \$5.00 donation. You may obtain a limited copy from the ushers or the parish office.

Join Fr. Ugwu, SSJ for a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Jordan, October 6–17, 2026. This faith-deepening journey includes visits to sacred sites, Mass at holy places, and an opportunity to experience the Scriptures in a powerful, living way. Space is limited—see the flyer or contact the parish office for details.

The Serving Hands Ministry will hold the next Monthly Parish Food Sale on January 3rd and 4th, sponsored by the African American Cultural Awareness Ministry. All are encouraged to support. Thank you for your generosity!

Christmas Flower donation envelopes are now available. These offerings help decorate the church with beautiful Christmas flowers. Please return your envelope by Wednesday, December 17, and see an usher to receive one.

Next week we will have a Second Collection for Christmas Charity.

Holy Name School

HNOJ is Enrolling

PreK—8th Grade

THE ADVENT SEASON AT HNOJ

December ushers in a season of hope and holy anticipation. We are delighted to gather as a school family for special celebrations:

Christmas Program – Our students will present the story of Christ's birth through narration, song, and performance. This cherished tradition brings our community together in celebration, reverence, and joy.

Christmas Break Monday, December 22–January 2, 2026. School resumes on Monday, January 5, 2026.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Midnight Mass— Thursday, December 25, 2025 at 12:00 am—Christmas Caroling starts at 11:45 pm.

Mass—Thurs., Dec. 25, at 9:00 am (English)

Mass— Thurs., Dec. 25 at 12:00 pm (Spanish)

Mass— Thurs., Jan. 1 at 9:00 am—Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God



Watch out for fire dangers

Christmas is a popular time to decorate with candles and electric lights, both inside and out of the house. These decorations can be beautiful and festive but also come with the risk of fires.

Parents should make sure to keep candles out of reach of children, and off surfaces where they could be easily knocked over. All lights should be checked for faulty wires or other defective parts that could cause a fire. For more information, read the “Holiday Safety” article on <https://www.nsc.org/community-safety/safety-topics/seasonal-safety/winter-safety/holiday?/>.

CHAIRPERSON
Thomas St. Julien