

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 7, 2025



Second Sunday of Advent

Pastoral Administration

Very Rev. Kenneth C. Ugwu, SSJ.
Pastor

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

Mrs. Marilyn Cedeno, 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 Sandifold, 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 Vellos, 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 8-Dec 14)

Monday	Genesis 3:9-15,20 Psalm 98 Luke 1:26-38
Tuesday	Isaiah 40:1-11 Psalm 96 Matthew 18:12-14
Wednesday	Isaiah 40:25-31 Psalm 103 Matthew 11:28-30
Thursday	Isaiah 41:13-20 Psalm 145 Matthew 11:11-15
Friday	Zechariah 2:14-17 Judith 13:18-19 Luke 1:26-38
Saturday	Sirach 48:1-11 Psalm 80 Matthew 17:9-13
Sunday	Isaiah 35:1-6,10 Psalm 146 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11

Sunday Reflection

We do many things to get ourselves ready for our celebration of Christmas: purchase gifts, prepare Christmas cards, decorate our homes. John's call of repentance in preparation for Jesus reminds us that our repentance is another way in which we can prepare for the Lord's coming and our celebration of Christmas. Parish communities often offer a communal celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the Advent season. Your family might choose to participate in the communal celebration of the sacrament, or you might seek out the sacrament on an individual basis.

Read together today's Gospel. Talk about how John reminds the people that they prepare for the reign of God by reforming their lives. As a family, prepare a simple reconciliation service in preparation for Christmas such as the following: Gather in a prayerful space, perhaps around your family Advent wreath. Read again today's Gospel: Matthew 3:1-3. Invite each family member to pray silently, asking God to forgive their sins. Pray together an Act of Contrition. Then celebrate God's forgiveness by sharing a Sign of Peace with each other.

In this week's Gospel Reading and next week's, our Advent preparation for Christmas invites us to consider John the Baptist and his relationship to Jesus. In this week's Gospel, Matthew describes the work and preaching of John the Baptist.

John the Baptist appears in the tradition of the great prophets of Israel, preaching repentance and reform to the people of Israel. In fact, the description of John found in this reading is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah (2 Kings 1:8). In this reading, John directs a particularly pointed call to repentance to the Pharisees and Sadducees, parties within the Jewish community of the first century.

John marks the conversion of those who seek him out with a baptism of repentance. Other groups in this period are thought to have practiced ritual washings for similar purposes, and John's baptism may have been related to the practices of the Essenes, a Jewish sect of the first century. John's baptism can be understood as an anticipation of Christian baptism. In this passage, John himself alludes to the difference between his baptism and the one yet to come: "I am baptizing you with water, for repentance . . . He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." (Matthew 3:11).

Stewardship Update

Weekly Goal—\$10,000

November 30, 2025

Actual Collection \$ 4,775.00

- \$ 5,225.00

Two Previous Years:

December 01, 2024 \$ 9,215.00

December 03, 2023 \$ 7,805.00

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



Online Giving

This is a Secure & Convenient Way to Contribute to Your Parish. Online donations may be made at any time from the comfort of your own home or any place with internet access. Online donations are credited to your tax statement for the end of the year (except when made anonymously), and you can change your account preferences and donation amounts at any time.

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

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Benefits of Online Giving include:

- No need to hassle with checks or cash
 - 24/7 web-based access
- Easily schedule recurring donations to coincide with your pay period
- Credit card option allows you to take advantage of rewards such as air miles or cash bonuses
- No need to share bank account information because you enter it directly into the Online Giving secure site
- Allows you to give even if you are unable to attend parish services
- Try Parish Text-To-Give by texting your donation to 323-897-161

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 3rd topic is History of the Catholic Church.** All are welcome.

1st and 2nd year Confirmation classes - Dec. 4th and 18th at 7 pm
Religious Formation - Classes on Saturday, 6th, 13th and 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.

Parish Monthly Food Sale – Today!

Our new monthly food sale takes place today after each Mass. A delicious menu is posted in the hall. We invite everyone to join us for fellowship or to purchase a meal to go. Your support is essential for the success of this effort—please consider buying at least one plate. Thank you and see you in the hall after Mass!

Cleanliness is Next to Godliness: The next group church cleaning will be on Saturday, January 3rd, 2026 at 7:30 am., led by the 50 plus Club, Altar Society and Altar Servers. All are welcome. Thank you!

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

Josephite Liturgical and Historical Calendars: Our parish calendars are now available for a \$5.00 donation each. Get your limited copy from the ushers or the parish office.

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land & Jordan – October 6–17, 2026: You are warmly invited to join Fr. Ugwu, SSJ on a grace-filled pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Jordan next year, October 6–17, 2026. This spiritual journey is a beautiful opportunity to deepen your faith, walk in the footsteps of Jesus, and enrich the life of your family. Experience the Scriptures come alive, visit sacred sites, celebrate Mass in holy places, and encounter God in a profoundly renewing way. Spaces may be limited. See the flyer/Bulletin or call the parish office. Come and be part of this unforgettable journey of faith and blessing!

Monthly Parish Food Sale: The next food sale, organized by the Serving Hands Ministry, will be held on the weekend of January 3rd and 4th. This month's sponsors are the African American Cultural Awareness Ministry. We encourage everyone's support. Thank you for your generosity!

Holy Name of Jesus 50plus Club, our Christmas party this year will be on December 13th beginning at 11:30 am in the church hall. We will have delicious food catered, music and lots of fun. Please come out for our lovely Christmas party, for members the price is \$55.00 per person non-members \$65.00 per person please contact President Clyde Sparrow, Dana Sims or Karen King to pay. Thank you.

You are invited to celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Friday December 12, 2025 mananitas con Mariachi @ 5:00am. Mass in the evening at 7:00pm with Mariachi, following mass there will be refreshments in the parish hall. Next week we will have a Second Collection for Retirement Fund for Religious.

Holy Name School

HNOJ is Enrolling
PreK—8th Grade

Thanksgiving break Nov. 24-28th

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 three special celebrations:

1. Breakfast With Santa – Wed., Dec. 10th

Hosted by a committee of our PTO and Executive Board, this beloved morning will give our students a chance to explore the wonder of Christmas at their level. Expect joy, imagination, and festive moments that sparkle.

2. Mother Christmas Lunch– Sun., Dec. 21st

This beautiful celebration is lovingly sponsored by our **Nigerian Josephite Sisters**, who will provide a lunch/dinner and gifts for our students and their families. Their generosity brings the spirit of Advent to life—a reminder of how deeply we are blessed.

3. Christmas Program – Wed., Dec. 17th

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.



Red flags in gift giving

'Tis the season for giving and receiving gifts, but some gifts are inappropriate for children to receive from adults. Talk to your children about appropriate gift giving – who they should give presents to and who they do not need to give to. Discuss when they should accept a present or not. This would be a good time to establish family rules about gift receiving. For example: friends and family may not accept gifts outside of established holidays, like a birthday or Christmas.

For more information, read the VIRTUS® article “An embarrassment of riches: establishing a framework for gift giving to kids” at lacatholics.org/did-you-know..

CHAIRPERSON
Thomas St. Julien