HOLY NAME OF JESUS CHURCH

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Rev. Lawrence D. Ryan, Pastor

Rev. Emmanuel Conduah, In Residence
Rev. Joseph D'Aco, In Residence
Deacon Edwin Arguera
Deacon Gerry Devine
Deacon Michael Saez

Kathryn Sisto, Coord. of Religious Education
Ivonne Rojas, Director of Music

Mass Schedule

Monday - Friday: 9 a.m.*
Saturday: 9 a.m., 5:30 p.m. (Vigil)
Sunday: 7:30 am, 9 a.m.* (Spanish)
11 a.m.* (Family Mass)

(* *Masses are also livestreamed on our Facebook page.*)

Private Prayer

Monday - Saturday, 10 a.m. to Noon

Confessions

Saturdays: 5 - 5:20 p.m., or by appointment.

Weddings and Baptisms

Please call the Rectory.

Funerals

Please have the Funeral Home call the Rectory.

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Grades PreK-3 through 8

Stephanie Germann, Principal

THIS WEEK @ HNJ

Sunday, December 14
10 a.m. Cursillo & Hispanic Comm: *Rectory Bsmt.*
4 p.m. Spanish Guitar Lessons: *Shepherds Hall*

Monday, December 15
7:30 p.m. Small Faith-Sharing Group: *Rec. Bsmt.*

Wednesday, December 17
6:30 p.m. AlAnon: *Rectory Basement*
8:30 p.m. AA: *Rectory Basement*

Thursday, December 18
6 p.m. Girl Scouts: *Shepherds Hall*
7 p.m. Small Faith-Sharing Group: *Rec. Bsmt.*

Friday, December 19
4 p.m. Irish Step Dance: *Shepherds Hall*
6 p.m. Youth Ministry: *SJWCA Room 107*
6:30 p.m. Grupo de Oracion: *Rectory Basement*
7 p.m. Cub Scouts: *School Cafeteria*

Saturday, December 20
8 a.m. Brooklyn Quilters: *Shepherds Hall*
9 a.m. Fathers Guild Clinic: *School Gym*
10 a.m. Mariano Group: *Rectory Basement*
1 p.m. Food Pantry: *Rectory Basement*
6:30 p.m. AA: *Rectory Basement*

Sunday, December 21
10 a.m. Cursillo & Hispanic Comm: *Rectory Bsmt.*

Christmas 2025 Mass Schedule

Wednesday, December 24

9 a.m. Weekday Mass

Christmas Eve

3:15 - 3:45 p.m. Confessions

4 p.m. Family Mass
(with Pageant)

5:30 p.m. Mass

10 p.m. Spanish Mass

12 a.m. Midnight Mass
(Carols begin at 11:30 p.m.)

Thursday, December 25

Christmas Day

7:30 a.m. Mass

11 a.m. Mass

All of the above will also be live-streamed on our Parish Facebook page.

The results of the December 7 weekend collections will be announced in a future bulletin.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Please include the names of those you wish to memorialize and place your envelope in the collection basket, or deliver it to the Rectory. If you don't have a Christmas Flowers envelope, please write "Christmas Flowers" on a plain one and provide us with your name, the names of those you wish to memorialize, and your donation.

The suggested donation is $15 for each memorial.

This Monday, December 15, is the Deadline for our Winter Coat Drive & Giving Tree.

WINTER COAT DRIVE

Benefiting CHiPS

Knights of Columbus Holy Name Council 4783, in partnership with Holy Name of Jesus Church, is collecting new and/or gently used Men's, Women's, and Children's coats and jackets. All donations will be delivered to the local Brooklyn Charity, CHiPS.

Please ensure your items are clean and free of defects (no tears, missing buttons, broken zippers, etc.) and place them in the box marked "*KofC / HNJ Coats*" in the vestibule of the Church as soon as possible. All donations must be in the box no later than **Monday, December 15** to ensure Members of the KofC can deliver them to CHiPS in time for Christmas. Thank you for your support!

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE 2025

Benefiting Catholic Charities of Brooklyn & Queens

This year, we are collecting **new, unwrapped toys** to help Catholic Charities of Brooklyn & Queens make Christmas a bit brighter for the people they serve. Please take a tag from the tree and bring in your unwrapped gifts as soon as you can. All donations must be placed in the box marked "Catholic Charities" in the Church vestibule, or delivered to the Rectory Office, by **Monday, December 15** to ensure the children will receive them in time for Christmas. Bringing them even earlier will be a big help!

Gift cards are also greatly appreciated. If you do opt for gift cards, we urge you to deliver them to the Rectory Office or place them in the Collection Baskets at Mass to prevent them from being lost. Please do not place gift cards in the Toy Box.

Thank you for your kindness!

A NOTE FROM FR. LARRY

Due to our bulletin company's printing schedule, I am writing this note on Sunday, December 7.

I'll begin by thanking Fr. Emmanuel Conduah for leading our **Advent Parish Mission** during this past week; and by thanking the Knights of Columbus, their Ladies Auxiliary, and other volunteers for hosting this morning's **Hospitality Sunday** gathering in Shepherds Hall. By the time most of you read this note, we will already have had our **Fathers Guild Tree Lighting** in Our Lady's Field on December 11, our observance of the **Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe** during the day on December 13, and—later that evening—our **Music of Advent mini-Concert** and our **Parish Christmas Tree Lighting**. This indeed will have been a very full Second Week of Advent.

As noted on Page 6 in this bulletin, Monday, December 15 is **Reconciliation Monday** when Confessions will be heard in HNJ Church (and in all the Churches in this and nearby Dioceses) from 2 to 4 p.m. and from 6 to 9 p.m.. John the Baptist's clear message in this Sunday's Gospel was "Repent". In addition to Reconciliation Monday, confessions are heard in HNJ Church at 5 p.m. every Saturday evening and in the Rectory by appointment. Please make a good Confession before the end of Advent.

This Sunday is the Third Sunday of Advent, also known as **Gaudete** or "Rejoice" Sunday because of the word "Rejoice" at the beginning of the Entrance Antiphon. It is a Sunday on which priests wear rose-colored vestments, a visual reminder that we are at the mid-point of our movement from the violet of Advent to the white of Christmas.

Please see our **Schedule of Masses for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day** on Page 2 of this Bulletin. Note that the Family Mass (with the Children's Pageant) will be at 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve. We will not have a pageant at the 5:30 p.m. Mass. Also: please note that, similar to our current Sunday Mass schedule, our last Mass on Christmas morning will be at 11 a.m..

On Page 6 of this Bulletin, you will see my **Pastor's Report on the Financial State of Holy Name Parish** as of August 31, 2025, the end of our 2024-2025 Fiscal Year.

As always, thank you and God bless you for your continuing support of this parish and me. ✞

Pastor's Report on the Financial State of Holy Name of Jesus Parish at the end of Fiscal Year 2025

This is my annual financial report to you for how the parish did for the fiscal year beginning September 1, 2024, and ending August 31, 2025.

Our total revenue for the fiscal year was $1,531,361 and our total expenditures were $1,493,890, yielding a gain of $37,471 which increased our fund balance or net worth to $874,521.

Collections, rental income, Annual Catholic Appeal overage, other donations including the Fall 2024 Sidewalks and Asphalt drive, and funds raised from parish social activities all contributed to our revenue.

Our expenses included salaries and benefits for staff and priests along with utilities (gas and electricity), very large insurance premiums, diocesan assessments, repairs and very large deferred maintenance expenses. These included the replacement of all the sidewalks around the Holy Name campus, new asphalt in the Prospect Park West parking lot, and the purchase and installation of a new boiler and chimney liner in the Church. All these expenses were included in the $1,493,890 total expenditures figure reported above.

Like everyone else, Holy Name parish has experienced increases in our daily and recurring operating expenses, such as food, fuel, salaries including pension costs, insurance premiums, and repairs. Meanwhile, mass attendance has not returned to pre-Covid levels and the number of individuals contributing via Faith Direct has not grown. Yet, overall, September 2024-August 2025 was a good Fiscal Year for the parish, especially because we were able to complete important major deferred maintenance projects without incurring debt.

As has previously been reported, our new sidewalks, asphalt, Church boiler and chimney liner cost a total of $541,000, which exceeded the funds we had raised for these projects by $189,000. We had to use existing parish savings to cover that $189,000 without incurring debt. We are currently conducting a special drive to replenish our parish savings so that we can maintain a sound fiscal position to meet remaining deferred maintenance needs plus our ever-increasing ongoing operating expenses.

I remain constantly grateful for the continuing generosity of so many Holy Name of Jesus parishioners and friends, which is so important for our financial health. You are in my prayers and I ask for your continued prayers for the parish and for me.

Looking More Closely at the Word

When I was 11, I was riding my bike on a Friday night in Scottsdale, Arizona. I saw giant spotlights swirling in the sky. Something amazing had to be happening. I pedaled after them with excitement. Sweaty and tired, I arrived, only to find a used car lot. Bright lights, flapping banners, inflatable balloon men swaying wildly in the wind. I stood there, heart sinking. All that spectacle, and all my effort … for *this*?

Sunday's Readings

First:	**Isaiah 35:1-6a; 10**
Second:	**James 5:7-10**
Gospel:	**Matthew 11:2-11**

As life proceeds, we learn what it is like to pursue promising but fruitless searches. This week we hear Jesus ask the crowds regarding John the Baptist: "What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind?" (Matthew 11:7). He's not just describing the crowd's mis-aimed pursuit. He's naming our tendency to chase after what's flashy but flimsy.

What are our swaying reeds? For me, it is endless video reels on my phone, worldly pleasures, entertainment in sports, and the good opinion of others. Inflated distractions that bend whichever way the wind blows. But they can't satisfy my soul. What are your flimsy reeds?

John the Baptist wasn't a swaying reed. He was rooted, grounded, unafraid to speak the solid truth. The people went to see him because, deep down, they were starving for something real.

This Advent, the Church asks us to reassess: What are we really looking for? Are we chasing the dazzling but hollow? Or are we seeking what is solid and lasting — that which points to Christ? ~ Father John Muir, © LPi

Boy Scout Troop 237's

Annual Christmas Wreath Sale

Final Days!!

Friday, Dec. 12 — 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
In the Scout Elves' Workshop in SJWCA
(enter through the Church Parking Lot)

Sunday, December 14 — 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Last Day of Sale!! On Prospect Park West near Windsor Place

WHAT ARE THE "O" ANTIPHONS OF ADVENT?

The Roman Catholic Church has been singing the "O" Antiphons since at least the eighth century. They are the Antiphons that accompany the Magnificat canticle of Evening Prayer from December 17-23. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but present ones as well. Their repeated use of the imperative "Come!" embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah.

December 17: O Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!

December 18: O Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!

December 19: O Root of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all his people: come to save us without delay!

December 20: O Key of David, opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom: come and free the prisoners of darkness!

December 21: O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

December 22: O King of all nations and keystone of the Church: come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

December 23: O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law: come to save us, Lord our God!

— From Catholic Household Blessings & Prayer

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MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 14

Third Sunday in Advent - Gaudete Sunday

7:30 a.m. Gregory Rydzyk
Parish Purgatorial Society

9 a.m. People of the Parish

11 a.m. Mary, Anthony, Rosemarie, Peter, & Vincent Camastro

Monday, December 15

9 a.m. Daniel McNulty

Tuesday, December 16

9 a.m. Vicente R. Reselosa

Wednesday, December 17

9 a.m. Daniel O'Leary

Thursday, December 18

9 a.m. Anthony Masella

Friday, December 19

9 a.m. George Cruz

Saturday, December 20

9 a.m. Virginia Reselosa

5:30 p.m. Daniel Sullivan
Anthony Masella
Robert Powers
Nicola Sisto, Sr.
Fr. James H. Sweeney

Sunday, December 21

Fourth Sunday in Advent

7:30 a.m. Pablo Tarculas Reselosa
Parish Purgatorial Society

9 a.m. People of the Parish

11 a.m. Joan DiCostanza

HOLY NAME FOOD PANTRY

SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1987

The Food Pantry will distribute food from the Rectory basement from 1-2 p.m. on Saturdays, December 13 & 27, and January 10 & 24.

We currently need cereal.

Thank you to P.S. 10 and K280 for their recent food contributions to Holy Name's Food Pantry. .

MEMORIALS

The Hosts and Wine have been donated for the week in loving memory of **John Hayes** in honor of his birthday, as requested by Cynthia Cruz. The Sanctuary Lamp will be lit for the week in memory of **Sarah Paynton** as requested by her loving family.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:

Especially: Violetta Torio; Debbie Healey; George Schwartz; Maria Schwartz; Alex Mwandiambira; Mike Fuchs; Bob Raymond; Rosanora Quiros; Michael Lang; Diane Paul; Alex Sisto; Gerard Kent; Danielle S.; Deidre Murphy; Maureen Cullen; Diane Paul, Reese Lambert; Jean Volkes; Jack Cregg; Tom Duggan; Lina Pira; Christine Harkins; Joseph Parma Delia; Mary Ann Robertson; Coach Donald Kent; Richard Rodriguez; Hyunja Paasch; George Capella; Connie Nugent; Alayne Cox; Holly Palazzo; Ted Shea; Penelope Seiss; Thomas Nugent; Mary Pat Stasiak; Rosauro Peña; Lisa Feldman; Patricia Donleavy; Bill Slattery; Camille Tiftafeh; Patrick Cregg; Catherine Donovan; Cheryl Jablow; and Dcn. Felipe Almendárez.

... AND FOR OUR DEPARTED LOVED ONES:

Please pray for the members of our community who have gone before us into the fullness of life, especially **Francis O'(Frank) Grady**. Please remember all those who are enrolled in our Purgatorial Society as well.

Baptism

The following children have been Baptized in HNJ Church since August 16, 2025:

Chase Matthew Ruiz - August 16

Silas Casey Hodgkinson - August 30

Milo Vincent Mallazzo - August 30

Robert Anthony Gradowitz - November 2

Kyleigh Colleen Alaouie - November 8

Antonio Alfonso Rivera, III - November 8

Hannah Lily Brown - November 16

Stella Ewa Puniewska-Hansen - November 22

Lainey Mara Sisto - December 6

We congratulate our newest Catholic Christians, their parents, Godparents, and all their loved ones.

We ask, Oh Lord, that these children grow in wisdom, knowledge and understanding to know you.

We ask that from henceforth, the Holy Spirit will continually be their guardian.

We ask that you let your love radiate over these children and their families as we welcome them into the body of Christ.

Amen.

Please contact the Rectory Office to inquire about Baptisms.

Confessions will be available in HOLY NAME OF JESUS CHURCH at the above times. We invite you to make a good confession in preparation for Christmas.

How to go to Confession

1. You always have the option to go to confession anonymously, that is, behind a screen or face to face, if you so desire.
2. After the priest greets you in the name of Christ, make the sign of the cross. He may choose to recite a reading from Scripture, after which you say: "*Bless me Father for I have sinned. It has been (state how long) since my last confession. These are my sins.*"
3. Tell your sins simply and honestly to the priest. You might even want to discuss the circumstances and the root causes of your sins and ask the priest for advice or direction.
4. Listen to the advice the priest gives you and accept the penance from him. Then make an Act of Contrition for your sins.
5. The priest will then dismiss you with the words of praise: "*Give thanks to the Lord for He is good.*" You respond: "*For His mercy endures forever.*" The priest will then conclude with: "*The Lord has freed you from your sins. Go in peace.*" And you respond by saying: "*Thanks be to God.*"
6. Spend some time with Our Lord thanking and praising Him for the gift of His mercy. Try to perform your penance as soon as possible.

Prayer Before Confession

O most merciful God! Prostrate at your feet, I implore your forgiveness. I sincerely desire to leave all my evil ways and to confess my sins with all sincerity to you and to your priest.

I am a sinner, have mercy on me, O Lord. Give me a lively faith and a firm hope in the Passion of my Redeemer.

Give me, for your mercy's sake a sorrow for having offended so good a God. Mary, my mother, refuge of sinners, pray for me that I may make a good confession. Amen.

An Act of Contrition

Oh my God,
I am sorry for my sins with all my heart.
In choosing to do wrong
And failing to do good,
I have sinned against you
whom I should love above all things.
I firmly intend, with your help,
to do penance,
to sin no more,
and to avoid whatever leads me to sin.
Our Savior Jesus Christ
suffered and died for us.
In His name, my God, have mercy.
Amen.

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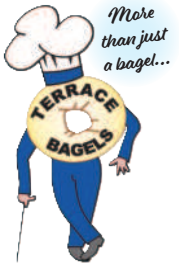

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