

December 4, 2016 2nd Sunday of Advent

WELCOME! To register as a member of the parish, please use the form on the table in the back of the church or stop in the Rectory during office hours.

Next Sunday, the second collection is a Diocesan and National collection taken up to support the Religious Retirement Fund. This fund benefits nearly 33,000 elderly Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests whose religious communities lack adequate retirement funding. Please be as generous as your means allow.

SUNDAY, December 4th

10:00AM Spanish RCIA, Boardman Rm.

MONDAY, December 5th

7:00PM Bible Class Rectory Base.
7:00PM Irish Parade Comm., St. Joseph Conf Rm.
7:00PM Book Club, Boardman Rm.

TUESDAY, December 6th

7:00PM Spanish Bapt. Class, Boardman Rm.
7:00PM Adult Step Dancing, Shep. Hall

WEDNESDAY, December 7th

9:30AM Bible Study, Rectory Base.
1:00PM Seniors, Shepherd's Hall
6:30PM Al-Anon, Rectory Base.
7:00PM RCIA, Boardman Rm
8:30PM AA Open Mtg. Rectory Basement

THURSDAY, December 8th

6:30PM CREW, Sch. Mtg Rm. & School Base.
1:00PM Cancer Guild, Rectory Base.
7:00PM Girl Scouts, Rectory Base. & School Meeting Rm

FRIDAY, December 9th

7:00PM Spanish Prayer Group, Rectory Base.
4:30PM Irish Dance, Shepherd's Hall

SATURDAY, December 10th

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE, Shepherds Hall
6:00PM AA Closed Mtg. Rectory Base.
6:30PM The Crew, Sch. Mtg Rm. & School Base

SUNDAY, December 11th

4PM Lessons and Carols, Church

COLLECTION RESULTS

Sunday, November 27, 2016

TOTAL TO PARISH: \$6,826.00

(Includes: \$4,033.00.00 Regular First Collection and \$981.00 Faith Direct); Renovation and Repair Second Collection \$1,765.00 Faith Direct \$47.00)

Thank you for your constant support of Holy Name Parish. We are very grateful to you.

Thanks



Thanks to all who provided financial support or who gave up their time on Thanksgiving Day to volunteer at our Thanksgiving Day dinner. Thanks also to the Windsor Café who helped prepare the food and a very special thanks to Sharon Smith who has spearheaded this undertaking for the last twenty-five years. One and all you did a wonderful job and put a smile on the faces of everyone there.

The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre



On Friday, November 18th, 2016, I had the high honor of joining with Anthony Caccamo, Vinny Camastro and Tom Larkin and their families at St. Patrick's Cathedral as they were invested in the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. The Mass of Investiture was presided over by the Order's Grand Master, His Eminence Edwin Cardinal O'Brien, Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Grand Prior of the Order's Eastern Lieutenancy and our own Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio, the seventh Bishop of Brooklyn. The Order is a Papal Order and is one of the oldest and most historic Chivalric Orders of the Roman Catholic Church dating back to the time of the First Crusade.

Its original mission was to protect the Church of the Holy Sepulchre but today's mission is to support the needs of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem and its Christian community in the region with support, funding and most especially prayer. To be invested in the Order, one must be an example of faith, charity and moral conduct and be actively involved in and generously support the activities of their parish, diocese, the Universal Church and the mission and goals of the Order. Anthony, Vinny and Tom join our current Knights and Ladies including Maryellen Keogh, Ann Dolan, Phil Lehpamer, Martin Cottingham, Mike Coyne and Nick Sisto. We will be hosting a special Mass of Thanksgiving for all our Knights and Ladies of the Order in January.

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



8, 2016.

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation) is on Thursday, December 8th. We will be having a Vigil Mass at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, December 7, 2016; and we will be having a 9:00 AM Mass and a 7:30 PM Evening Mass on Thursday, December

ADORATION ON DECEMBER 8TH

Immediately after the 9:00 Mass on Thursday there will be Adoration from 9:30 -11:45AM as usual. During the first hour, we will have Prayers for Life after which silent Adoration will resume until Benediction at 11:45 AM.

TO THE GENEROUS HOLY NAME OF JESUS PARISHIONERS

This is my report to you of how Holy Name of Jesus (HNJ) Parish did financially during the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year that began on September 1, 2015 and ended on August 31, 2016.

In November of 2015 I outlined to you my four main financial obligations as HNJ pastor: (1) to make certain that the parish operates in the black; namely, that our yearly income covers or exceeds our operating expenses; (2) to make certain we adequately support the fourteen special Diocesan second collections taken up during the year to help meet special Diocesan, and through the Diocese, special national and international Catholic Church purposes like retired clergy and religious, Catholic Relief Services and the Missions; (3) to make certain that each year the parish meets its goal from the Brooklyn Diocese during its Annual Catholic Appeal; and (4) to repay the debt on the Church Loan that we owe.

With respect to the first obligation (operating in the black), I can report that during the past fiscal year our operating revenues covered our expenses, and (unlike last year) I did not have to go into our savings to meet our operating expenses. (Last year, I withdrew \$110,000 from parish savings to cover 2014/2015 expenses.) This was the first FY in the past six that we operated in the black. There were three main reasons that, during the 2015/2016 Fiscal Year, operating revenues covered expenses: (1) The staff reductions that took place in April 2015 plus Fr. Mark's departure in August 2015 enabled us to reduce our salary/benefits expenses; (2) We continue to be very careful about expenditures; and (3) There was an increase in collection revenues in our Sunday Mass first collections and in our Sunday Mass second Parish Buildings Repairs collections that we take up on the weeks when we do not have Diocesan or National collections.

Many of you have responded generously to the appeal I made last November for weekly offerings (for each family or adult contributor who can afford to do so) of at least \$20 in the first collection and \$5 in the second collection. I thank you for doing this, and I ask that you continue. If you are not able to meet those levels, please be as generous as you can. To meet our operating expenses I set a collection goal of a total of \$6200 per weekend to the parish (i.e., a total of \$6200 per week to the parish consisting of all funds (envelopes, cash and checks) collected in the Saturday Vigil Mass/Sunday Morning Masses First Collections and Parish Buildings Second Collections on the weekends we have them), plus funds given electronically via Faith

Direct. We report those totals each week in the bulletin so that you can monitor our progress. Thanks to your generosity we have been able to meet that \$6200 total most weeks. Thank you and please keep up the good work so that we can continue to operate in the black. Our savings are very low and we cannot afford a drop off in weekly collections. I will comment more on our low savings below when I discuss the Church loan.

With respect to the second obligation (supporting the 14 special Diocesan second collections), thanks to your generosity I can report that the amounts received in those collections (which are reported in the bulletin after each special collection) have been very respectable. Please continue to support those special collections. All funds collected in those special second collections are sent directly to the Diocese. Please keep in mind that we do not have a Parish Buildings Repairs collection on weekends when we have a special Diocesan collection.

With respect to my third financial obligation as a pastor, I can report that we met and exceeded the Annual Catholic Appeal goal set by the Diocese. The money over the goal comes back to the parish, and we will be using the overage this year to help lower the debt on the church loan. There is one fact that affects Holy Name's contribution to the Annual Catholic Appeal that you should be aware of. One of HN's donors, who is not a member of this parish, gives a significant donation to the Appeal every year. This helps us to at least meet our goal. If this donation stopped, it would be far more difficult for us to reach and to exceed our goal. I offer you a special personal word of thanks for your faithful support of the Annual Catholic Appeal, which is a critical source of funds for important Diocesan initiatives. It is a very big help to me as a pastor to (because of your generosity) be able to meet HNJ parish's ACA goal.

My comments concerning my fourth obligation as pastor (Repaying the Church loan) will be the longest part of this report.

First, I again want to acknowledge the generosity, careful planning, and attention to detail of the parishioners, parish building committee, and my predecessor as pastor, Fr. Jim Cunningham, that, with the help of God, resulted in the beautifully restored Holy Name of Jesus Church which was here for me when I arrived in May of 2015 and which continues to enrich our liturgies every day. Your impressive accomplishment and God's graces should not be forgotten amidst all the details that follow.

Next, let me report on two things that impact the repaying of the Church loan. The first thing is the Brothers House Loan. A few years ago Holy Name

Parish took a large loan to help pay for the extensive renovations necessary before the Brothers House could be rented. The terms of that loan require that, until March of 2019, all of the rents received monthly for the Brothers House immediately go to pay off that loan. After March of 2019 Brothers House rents will become available (as will be discussed further below) to help repay the Church loan. The second thing is the status of the rental of the Convent Building. Throughout 2016 the Brooklyn Diocese's real estate firm (known by its lay name of Rocklyn Asset Corporation) has given high priority to the rental of our Convent. The current approach involves identifying (through a competitive evaluation process) a commercial developer who would enter into a long-term lease and undertake the conversion of the convent into market-rate, residential rental apartments. The commercial lease-holder would be responsible for the costs relating to the renovation and operation of the building, and would pay rent to Holy Name. This long-term commercial lease is an innovative approach that includes many details still to be worked out among many entities. It is promising approach and hopefully will be of great benefit to the parish, but no date can yet be set as to when those benefits will begin to be realized. Any possible Convent rental income is still too uncertain (at least for now) to play a role in the Church Loan Repayment figures being reported below

I will now return to the repayment of the church loan debt. When I arrived in the parish in May of 2015, our church loan debt to the Diocese was about \$1.4 million and we were making interest only payments of \$6,514/month on the \$1.4 million debt. We were not paying off principal because we did not have the money to pay both the 5.5% interest and the principal. Our debt with the Diocese needed to be restructured, and this was done at the beginning of 2016. Earlier this calendar year, in February of 2016, Holy Name, using much of our savings, paid the diocese over \$380,000 to lower our debt to \$1,000,000. This repayment was necessary to obtain a restructured loan arrangement that we could handle. This payment of \$380,000 that lowered our church loan debt left our savings at approximately \$200,000. That is very low level of savings given that we need to maintain five buildings and may need money in the future to handle unforeseen contingencies.

The restructured debt of \$1 million consisted of two new loans, each for \$500,000. The first has an annual interest rate of 6.5% and the second an annual interest rate of 1%. As per the terms of those two loans, we are paying both interest and principal on the 6.5% loan and (for three years) interest only on the 1% loan.

Thus each month we faithfully pay nearly \$10,200 in total to the Diocese to cover our obligations under both loans. We are able to pay that amount because we receive pledge dollars from parishioners who made pledges to the Church Restoration Campaign. I thank everyone who contributed to the Campaign for continuing your monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual payments, which we are using to pay off the 6.5% loan as quickly and prudently as possible. Needless to say we need the pledge dollars to continue to come in as scheduled.

Please note that the impact of the Church loan interest on our finances is significant. In the three years from September 1, 2013 through August 31, 2016, (the three FY's that Church loans have been in place), we have already made \$182,742 in interest payments. The quicker we pay off the 6.5% loan, the less interest we pay and the future dollars we save can be significant. As an example, soon after we began (in March of 2016) making the scheduled monthly payment on the 5-year 6.5% loan, we were surprised by a bequest of \$75,000 from the estate of the late William Shanley and a Church Restoration Campaign pledge and payment of \$25,000 from someone new to the parish. In May of 2016 we combined those two items into a lump-sum \$100,000 payment to reduce the loan. About a month later (using pledge dollars received at the time of the April 2016 "annual" Church Restoration Campaign pledge payments), we were able to send another lump-sum loan repayment to the Diocese in the amount of \$50,000. These two repayments lowered the debt on the 6.5% \$500,000 loan to under \$350,000, and resulted in a permanent savings of an estimated \$42,000 in future interest payments.

We are thinking of making another "lump-sum" repayment in the near future, perhaps in December of this year, using \$50,000 (consisting of a combination of accumulated paid pledges, the "over-goal" funds returned to the parish from the ACA Campaign, and some possible additional Church Loan Repayment funding sources). It is estimated that this this would save another \$14,000 in future interest payments. If we are able to make that additional lump sum repayment and if we are able to (using pledge payments and some other possible Church loan repayment sources) to make our monthly principal and interest payments throughout 2017 and 2018, we hope to be able to have completely paid off the 6.5% loan by December of 2018. We would then still have to repay the second (\$500,000 at 1% per annum) Church loan, which is scheduled to start principal and loan repayments in early 2019. By that time the Restoration Campaign pledge dollars will have been completely paid and

exhausted (having been used to pay off the 6.5% loan). However, in March of 2019 the Brothers House loan (described above) will be completely paid off and the rents from the Brothers House would become available for use to pay off the 1% loan. Once the 1% Church Loan scheduled payments are completed, Holy Name would be debt free.

Please note that thus far during my time here at Holy Name (and hopefully until all loans are repaid) we have worked hard to keep dollars used to repay loans separate from dollars (e.g., from Sunday collections) collected for and used to pay operating expenses. Pledge dollars (and some other dollars from other Church Loan repayment sources) are deposited in a separate bank account used only for the Church Loan. Also please note that (notwithstanding the possible dramatic permanent savings in interest) we remain very conservative and prudent in making "lump-sum" unscheduled loan repayments to the Diocese. As with any debtor, our first priority is making sure that we receive and maintain funds on hand to make our scheduled monthly payments. I repeat that it is very important for pledge dollars to be paid on (and perhaps even ahead) of schedule. Also, if there is anyone (perhaps new arrivals in the parish like the person mentioned above who made and paid a pledge of \$25,000 in May) who has not contributed to the Church Restoration and would like to, please contact me for pledge information (any new pledges would be most appreciated).

Closing Comments

Because our savings are so low any unfortunate large emergency operating expense (e.g., a building roof or boiler replacement) could leave us scrambling for money. In that event I might well have to come back to you for additional help to try to avoid having to approach the Diocese for yet another loan.

Please be assured that, with God's help, I remain committed to serving you as your pastor to the best of my abilities. I again thank you for your continuing generosity. With the help of many very knowledgeable people in both the Diocese and in the parish, I will continue to try to be a careful, conservative steward of the resources you provide to me. What is presented above provides both a report on the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year and a blueprint of how I hope to keep HNJ parish operating in the black and, within a few years, to be debt free and on the road to building up adequate savings. We still face challenges but, as long as weekly collection goals are met and Church loan pledge dollars continue to come in, we remain on a solid financial path.

May God continue to bless this parish, you and all of your loved ones.

Fr. Larry Ryan,
Pastor, Holy Name of Jesus Parish
November, 2016

DATES TO REMEMBER FOR CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Fathers Guild Mary's Field Tree Lighting Ceremony is Friday, December 9th.

Peace Light Ceremony during 5:30PM Mass on Saturday, December 10th and Tree Lighting Ceremony outside Church immediately after Mass.

"Lessons and Carols" (Organ, Choir, Scripture Readings) in Church from 4 PM to 5 PM on Sunday, December 11, 2016.

Advent Adoration in Church from 7:00PM to 10:00PM on Wednesday, December 14th.

Advent Reconciliation Monday in Church from 4 PM to 8 PM on Monday, December 19, 2016.

Christmas Tree Lighting at the Grand Army Plaza will be on Tuesday, December 20th at 5:30PM at the Arch. This event is sponsored by our Deanery and all are invited to attend.

OUR FORMER STUDENTS WHO HAVE ACHIEVED THE FOLLOWING HONORS IN HIGH SCHOOL:

At Cathedral Prep School and Seminary:

Anthony Camastro 10th Grade – First Honors

At Bishop Kearney HS Academic Honors went to the following Students:

Bridget Pynn 12th Grade – Principal's List

Melissa Rendon 9th Grade – Second Honors

Kelly Acosta 10th Grade – Second Honors

Casey Carty 11th Grade – Second Honors

Congratulations to these St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Academy alumna. Keep up the good work.

The Food Pantry will distribute food on Dec. 17 2016 and Jan. 7, 2017. At this time tuna, tomato sauce, and cereal are needed. Thank you for your ongoing support. We are very grateful to St. Joseph the Worker Academy, PS10, and K240 for their recent food drives that brought in needed food during upcoming winter weeks. Thank you to the administrators, teachers, parents, and students at these three schools for supporting our community food pantry.



Holy Name Book Club

The Book Club will meet on Monday, December 5th at 7pm in the Rectory. Our selection for December is NIGHT by Elie Wiesel.



GIVING TREE

Don't forget to pick up your Giving Tree suggested donation list in the rear of the church to help make this as meaningful time of the year for the mothers and children of Hour Children which is headed by Sister Tesa Fitzgerald, CSJ.

You will find a list created by Sr. Tesa of things which are important for the children as well as the moms who are transitioning from prison to their new life of raising their children. **PLEASE DO NOT WRAP YOUR GIFTS AS IT MAKES IT EASIER FOR SANTA WHEN HE IS GIVING THE PRESENTS.**

Memorials

Week of December 4, 2016

The **Sanctuary Lamp** is being donated in memory of **The Brennan and Farrell Families** requested by **Kathleen Brennan**.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:

We pray for the sick in our church and community. May God give them renewed health and strength. We pray especially for Robin Bermudez, Yvonne Hajjar, Marty Boland, Patricia Fuentes, Jean Thomas, Joan O'Malley, Virginia Regis, Kathy Nolan, Jimmy Cunningham, Louise Miller, Kathy Perez, Carmen Rodriguez, Marilyn Bloom, Donna Baker, Walter Kent, Victoria Godkin, and Joseph Marsillo.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT NAMES WILL STAY ON THE SICK LIST FOR A FOUR-WEEK PERIOD AND THEN BE REMOVED. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE NAME PLACED BACK ON THE SICK LIST, YOU MUST CALL THE RECTORY.

For our departed loved ones...

We extend our prayers and deepest sympathies to the families and friends of our parish who have lost a loved one, especially Grace Tam.

Please remember those enrolled in our **Purgatorial Society** on Sundays at 7:30am, especially Grace Tam, Vito V. Brienza, Wanda Esposito, Peter Fallonn, Guido Pezzulich and Miguel Navarrese.

LET US PRAY.....For these Mass intentions during the Week of **December 4, 2016....**

Sunday, December 4th Second Sunday of Advent

7:30AM Purgatorial Society & Suzanne Wright
 9:00AM Mass for the People
 10:30AM Mary, Anthony, Rosemarie & Peter Camastro
 12 Noon MaryAnn & Bill Purdy

Monday, December 5th

9:00AM Timothy Griffin

Tuesday, December 6th Saint Nicholas

9:00AM Lena & Isodore Galucci

Wednesday, December 7th St. Ambrose

9:00AM John & Mary Regan Fopeano
 6:30PM Mass for the People

Thursday, December 8th Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary

9:00AM Gloria & Rick Porzio
 7:30PM Mass for the People

Friday, December 9th Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtiatotzin

9:00AM Anne M. Murphy

Saturday, December 10th

9:00AM Edward Clancy
 2:00PM Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass
 5:30PM Mary Arpaia
 Edward Gelling
 Peter E. & Peter G. Heaney
 Carmela DiTonno
 In Thanksgiving to St. Anthony,
 The Blessed Mother & St. Joseph

Sunday, Third Sunday in Advent

7:30AM Purgatorial Society & Theresa Halloran
 9:00AM Mass for the People
 10:30AM Paula Perez
 12 Noon Doris Ansbro

