

The Gator Gazette



Holy Name of Jesus School Parent Newsletter

December 2, 2025

Principal's Perspective

Dear Holy Name of Jesus School Community,

Advent is one of my favorite times of the year—not simply because it leads us to the birth of a baby (though I do love babies!). I cherish this season because it invites us to pause, reflect, and reorient our hearts toward the coming of Jesus.

At Mass this weekend, Fr. Mark spoke about the three comings of Christ: His birth into our world as a child, His return at the end of time, and the often-overlooked coming of Jesus into our own hearts and daily lives. That third coming is what makes Advent especially meaningful for me. This season helps me pay closer attention to how Jesus is speaking, guiding, and moving within me each day.

At Holy Name of Jesus School, our Advent season is filled with meaningful opportunities for students to experience the wonder of our faith and for families to come together as a community to celebrate the gifts shared by our children. Mark your calendars now! Events vary by grade level, and many details are included in the pages that follow in this newsletter. I would especially love to welcome you to our School Mass at 8:30 AM on Thursday, December 18, and our Christmas Pageant at 9:45 AM on Friday, December 19. Families with children in Early Childhood who plan to attend their presentation at 8:30 AM on December 19 are encouraged to bring them along afterwards to the church to enjoy the pageant presented by our older students. It is sure to fill your heart with joy!

Lastly, don't forget to sign up for our remaining Development Tours this week. I would love for you to join us for a Discover HNJ Tour and get an exclusive, behind-the-scenes look at our new construction. Your presence would mean so much to me! Reserve your spot here: <https://forms.gle/BhwQoSeAkZL1hA7m6>

God Bless,
Kirsch J. Williams

To wonder... to achieve... to make a difference... together!



Upcoming Important Dates



Tuesday, December 2

iGiveCatholic Day (see flyer below)
Loyola Sneaux Day (see flyer below)



Thursday, December 4

Christmas Trees Delivered

Friday, December 5

Little Gators, Early Childhood Pictures with Santa
TULANE Spirit Shirt Day (Tulane, HNJ, Green, or Blue tshirt with uniform bottoms) to celebrate
Tulane's AAC Championship Game
School Mass (K-7th Grade) 8:30 AM, Parents Welcome
House Meetings

Friday December 5 - Saturday, December 6

Men's Club Christmas Tree Sale (see flyer below)

Monday, December 8

NO Spirit Shirt - Regular Uniform
School Mass (K-7th Grade) 8:30 AM, Parents Welcome (Feast of the Immaculate Conception)
Community Dinner (see flyer below)

Wednesday, December 10

Back to the Future Family Field Trip at the Saenger

Thursday, December 11

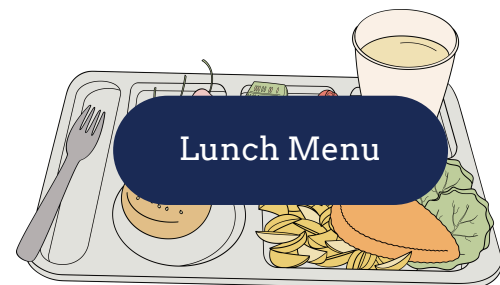
Choir Performance at Lambeth House, 4:00 PM

Friday, December 12

NO School Mass

Saturday, December 13

Men's Club Christmas Party





Music Notes

HNJ Middle School Choir Christmas Season Performances:

Our choir is proud to present a full set of Christmas music on Tuesday, December 16th at the Royal Sonesta. The performance starts at 12:00 sharp and all are invited to come and watch. The performance is free and open to the public.

The choir will also perform at the Lambeth House this Christmas season.



Save the Date!
HNJ Christmas Performances
Friday, December 19



PK3 - Kindergarten
8:30 AM
Rivas Family Auditorium

Dismissal
Immediately Follows



1st-7th Grade
9:45 AM
HNJ Church



To wonder... to achieve... to make a difference... together!



COUNSELOR'S CORNER

MORGAN SUBERVIELLE,
SCHOOL COUNSELOR

msubervielle@hnjschool.org

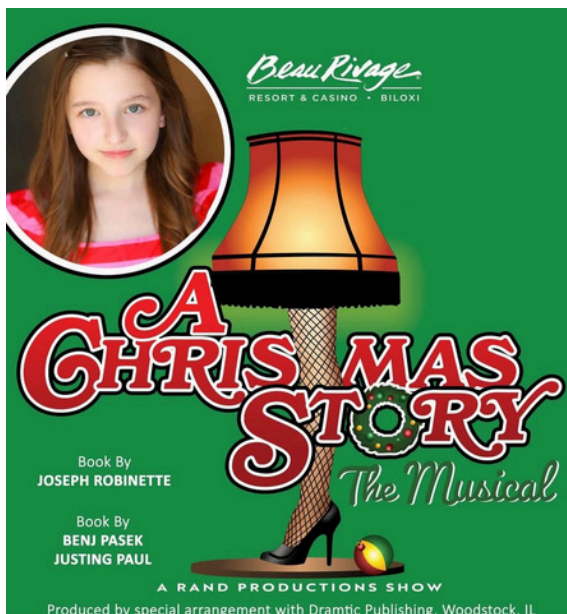


Absenteeism

There is a clear connection between student attendance and student performance in school. Data shows that higher attendance equals higher achievement for all students. Talking to your child regarding the importance of attendance is crucial to his or her success. Chronic Absenteeism (missing more than 10% of days enrolled for any reason) is the single strongest predictor of academic and social decline in students. Children who miss school miss out on opportunities to learn, build lasting friendships, and develop the skills and attitudes needed to become good citizens and valued employees.

HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD?

- Let your child know that you think school is important.
 - Take an interest in your child's school work.
 - Limit and balance extracurricular activities.
 - Provide a set time and a quiet, clean area for doing homework.
 - Post the school calendar and notes on the refrigerator, or another prominent location.
 - Set a regular bedtime schedule. Age should not be a factor.
 - Provide your child with plenty of time to get ready for school.
 - Don't expect your older children to stay home and act as babysitters for younger children.
 - Set good examples and enforce rules.
 - Have regular communication with the school.
- If your child is ill, contact the school and explain the reason for the absence.



Congratulations to 6th Grader **Anna Kramer** for earning a role in A Christmas Story: The Musical.

You can see her perform December 12-27 at the Beau Rivage casino in Biloxi.

She has an ensemble role that over 1000 kids nationwide auditioned for. Way to go, Anna!

To wonder... to achieve... to make a difference... together!



St. Faustina Faculty Courtyard



#iGiveCatholic
Fundraising
Goal: \$15,000



Named for St. Faustina Kowalska, the patron saint of Divine Mercy, this courtyard will provide faculty with a serene place to take a little break, enjoy lunch or have a brief moment of calm.



#iGIVECATHOLIC





PAT GARIN
PHOTOGRAPHER LLC

6505 Spanish Fort Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70124 * (504) 866-4910
info@patgarinphotographer.com * www.patgarinphotographer.com

SANTA PHOTOS
Friday, December 5, 2025

Student Name:	
GradeLevel/Homeroom:	
<i>Parent Email Address:</i>	

Package 1 “Santa’s Special Package”\$55.00
2-5x7 Prints; Christmas Photo Ornament; Digital Image (emailed)

Package 2\$35.00
2-5x7 Prints; Digital Image (emailed)

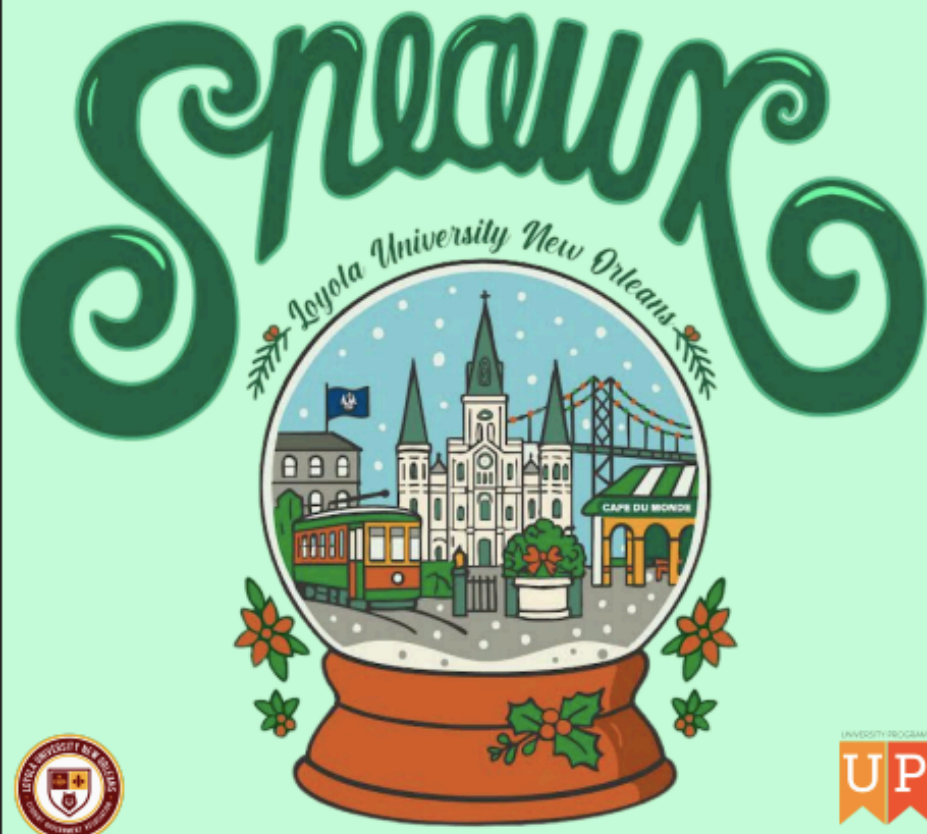
Package 3\$25.00
Digital Image Only (emailed)

Add Ons: (can only be **ADDED** to package)

- **Christmas Photo Ornament** \$25.00
- **Wallet Size Key Chain** \$15.00
- **3 ½ x 5 Magnet** \$15.00

Package Selected: _____ Amount Paid: _____

*Cash * Check (Payable to Pat Garin Photographer LLC)*Venmo (@PGPLLC)



DECEMBER 2ND

6-8 PM

MARQUETTE
HORSESHOE

The forecast calls for Sneaux! Join UPB at their annual winter celebration. Enjoy cookies, pictures with Santa, train rides, hot chocolate, free shirts (student IDs required), sneaux, learn about Christmas & holidays around the world, and so much more!



Congratulations, Beta Club!



Congratulations to the Beta Club for participating in the Mount Carmel academic competition last month. **Elizabeth Erspamer** earned 3rd place overall in individual general math and **Elizabeth Erspamer** and **Liam Bustamante** placed 4th in team general math.

To wonder... to achieve... to make a difference... together!



Get Ready to
Always Look on the Brightside of Life



AUDITIONS!!!

DECEMBER 8 - 10th

Callbacks on December 12th

Open to Grades 1 - 7th

MONTY PYTHON'S SPAMALOT™

A new musical *lovingly* ripped off from the motion picture
MONTY PYTHON and the Holy Grail

SPAM is a registered trademark of Hormel Foods, LLC, used with permission here.

“It’s just a flesh wound...”



To wonder... to achieve... to make a difference... together!



HNJ MEN'S CLUB

Christmas Tree Sale



The Best Holiday Décor Starts Here!



FRESHEST TREES IN TOWN — FARM TO LOT
YOUR HOME WILL SMELL LIKE HOLIDAY MAGIC



WE DO THE HEAVY LIFTING — TRIMMING, CAR
LOADING, AND DELIVERY AVAILABLE



BUY LOCAL — EVERY PURCHASE FUNDS
PROGRAMS IN OUR COMMUNITY



WHEN

Friday, Dec 5th 5pm to 10pm

Saturday, Dec 6th 8am to soldout



WHERE

Chiu Family Yard

HNJ School

6325 Cromwell Place



RESERVE
YOURS TODAY!



Scan or Click to Order



Holiday Programs 2025

Bike Riding Clinic

Dates: Mon 12/29, Tue 12/30, Wed 12/31, Fri 1/2

Times: 8:00 - 10:00 AM; 30 min. timeslots - up to 3 preferred times

Off-Site Location: Reunion Shelter at City Park

Cost: \$300 for 4, 30 min. one-on-one sessions



Handwriting Helpers

Dates and Times:

Session 1: Mon 12/22, Tue 12/23, Fri 12/26

- 8:00 - 9:00 AM Pre-K Primer
- 9:15 - 10:15 AM Kindergarten Kickstart
- 11:45 - 12:45 PM 1st-2nd Grade

Session 2: Mon 12/29, Tue 12/30, Wed 12/31

- 10:45 - 11:45 AM Pre-K Primer
- 12:00 - 1:00 PM Kindergarten Kickstart
- 2:30 - 3:30 PM 1st-2nd Grade

Cost: \$250 for 3, 60 min. small group sessions



Dress to Success

Dates and Times:

Session 1: Mon 12/22, Tue 12/23, Fri 12/26

- 10:30 - 11:30 AM

Session 2: Mon 12/29, Tue 12/30, Wed 12/31

- 1:15 - 2:15 PM

Ages: Kindergarten, 1st-2nd grade

Cost: \$250 for 3, 60 min. small group sessions



Handwriting Helpers & Dress to Success BUNDLE

Dates and Times:

Session 1: Mon 12/22, Tue 12/23, Fri 12/26

- 9:15 - 11:30 AM (15 min. snack break) **HH & Dress to Success; KK**
- 10:30 - 12:45 PM (15 min. snack break) **HH & Dress to Success; 1st-2nd Grade**

Session 2: Mon 12/29, Tue 12/30, Wed 12/31

- 12:00 - 2:15 PM (15 min. snack break) **HH & Dress to Success; KK**
- 1:15 - 3:30 PM (15 min. snack break) **HH & Dress to Success; 1st-2nd Grade**

Cost: \$450 for 3, 2 hrs. & 15 min. small group sessions (**KK, 1st-2nd Grade**)



Organization Bootcamp

Dates and Times:

Session 1: Mon 12/22, Tue 12/23, Fri 12/26

- 1:00 - 1:45 PM / 2:00 - 2:45 PM / 3:00 - 3:45 PM

Session 2: Mon 12/29, Tue 12/30, Wed 12/31

- 1:15 - 2:00 PM

Cost: \$225 for 3, 45 min. individual sessions



Holiday Programs 2025 Description

BIKE RIDING CLINIC

Individualized, one-on-one program for children of any age who are ready to conquer two wheel bike riding. Children are required to bring a bike without training wheels and helmet. Various strategies and activities are taught to ensure success and independence with bike riding by the end of the week. Held at **City Park**.

HANDWRITING HELPERS

Mini Holiday Session is an academic and enrichment program created to improve **fine motor skills and handwriting performance**.

Pre-K Primer:

Will improve fine motor control and skill development, pencil grasp strengthening, drawing a picture of a person, writing first name in capital letters, & reinforcement of correct capital letter formation.

Kindergarten Kickstart:

Will work on improving fine motor control and skill development, pencil grasp strengthening, reinforce correct case letter instruction, and mastery of first and last name using lower case letters.

Writer's Workshop (1st-2nd):

Will focus on increasing ability to compose and write sentences, provide strategies to decrease reversals, and improve organization of written work on paper.

DRESS TO SUCCESS

For children 5 years and up, this program builds independence with real-life dressing routines. Kids practice **buttoning, zipping, tying shoelaces, and managing daily clothing tasks** while strengthening fine motor skills. A great fit for children who need extra support to make getting dressed easier and more confident.

INDIVIDUAL ORGANIZATION BOOTCAMP

Three, individualized, 45-minute sessions for children in **3rd - 8th grade** who struggle with organizational skills related to the classroom environment and managing their belongings when in school. The sessions will provide the child and require parent involvement with strategies to assist with tackling top three organizational difficulties and implementing strategies to have a more successful and organized year.

Please note we are **CLOSED** on Christmas Day & New Year's Day.



Come, Let Us Adore Him

ADVENT

Morning of Reflection for
Holy Name of Jesus Mothers

Let us join Mary and Joseph on the Road to Bethlehem
as they await the birth of Jesus.

Friday, December 12, 2025

9:30-11:30 a.m.

Holy Name of Jesus Parish Center Faber Room

To confirm attendance, please email terimarchese@aol.com.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR

Community DINNER

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

6:30 PM

Holy Name of Jesus Parish Center

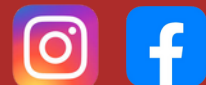
6220 LaSalle Place

Enter through Adoration Chapel Doors or Back Patio

Sponsored by HNJ School Parent Teacher Club



To wonder... to achieve... to make a difference... together!



HOUSE SYSTEM: NOVEMBER CHALLENGES

Click the symbol for each house to find instructions for the house challenge of the month. We look forward to building community with the house system this year!

House of Excellence



House of Reverence



House of Service



House of Truth and Light



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1 in 2

caregivers struggle to provide their child with clean, dry diapers.



28%

of parents experiencing "diaper need" reported skipping meals to afford diapers.

2,800

amount of diapers a baby will use in the first year.



\$100

spent on diapers in a month.



3 IN 5

parents miss work or school because they can't afford the diapers required to leave their baby in childcare.



Without diapers, babies cannot attend childcare or participate in early childhood education.



Educated women and stable families are critical to solving the larger, systemic problems facing Metropolitan New Orleans.



Little Gators is accepting donations of diapers in collaboration with the Junior League of New Orleans' Diaper Drive. Please bring diapers to donate to the Front Office or Little Gators Entrance. Thank you for your support!

DIAPERS AREN'T BASIC.*

*They're essential.

Please support our DIAPER DRIVE

All funds and diapers donated benefit the Junior League of New Orleans Diaper Bank

Altar Servers Needed!



Interested in becoming an altar server at Holy Name of Jesus Church? Any students who have received First Communion are encouraged to sign up. We are in need of altar servers at all weekend masses.

Please contact Kristy Christiansen at kristy.christiansen@gmail.com for details.



HOLY NAME of JESUS CHURCH
A Community for Others

LESSONS & CAROLS

A Candlelight Christmas Concert
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2025 at 7:30PM
6367 St Charles Ave, New Orleans, LA 70118

FEATURING
Rachel Looney, Irini Hymel,
Catherine Comardelle,
& Claire Shackleton, *Soloists*

Randy Higginbotham
& Dreux Montegut, *Organ*

Amy Thiaville, *Violin*

& the Our Lady of Prompt Succor
Choral Sextet

To wonder... to achieve... to make a difference... together!





HOLY NAME of JESUS CHURCH

A Community for Others

6367 St. Charles Avenue New Orleans, LA 70118
On the Campus of Loyola University • www.hnjchurch.org

DECEMBER 7, 2025

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil 4 p.m.
Sunday 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.
University Mass 5 p.m. (Loyola Chapel)
(when Loyola University is in session)
Weekdays 7 a.m. (Church)
Weekdays 12:30 p.m. (Loyola Chapel)
Saturday 8:30 a.m. (Church)

RECONCILIATION

Monday & Thursday 7:30-8:00 a.m. (Church)
Saturday 3-3:45 p.m. (Church)
Sunday 4:15-4:50 p.m. (Loyola Chapel)
(when Loyola University is in session)
(or by Appointment)

PARISH CENTER

6220 LaSalle Place
New Orleans, LA 70118
(located 4 blocks north of St. Charles Ave.)

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
(closed 12-1 p.m. for lunch)
Phone: 504-865-7430
Email: holyname@hnjchurch.org

ADORATION CHAPEL HOURS

Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

WWW.HNJCHURCH.ORG



PAY YOUR ANNUAL DUES



Eat a Steak

But first, pay your dues. Your contribution keeps the beer cold, the steaks sizzling, and helps us host events and fundraisers all year.



Join the WhatsApp Chat

- Announcements and reminders
- Ask what time dismissal is
- Complain about carpool traffic
- Get a plumber recommendation



Events All Year

- Back to School BBQ
- Pumpkin Patch
- Haunted House
- Xmas Party
- Men's Club on the Avenue
- Crawfish Cook-Off



HNJ Men's Club
WhatsApp group



ORDER YOUR



HNJ Door Hanger

DOOR HANGERS ARE NOW
IN STOCK IN THE OFFICE!

\$35 EACH

ORDER YOURS TODAY!

ORDER HERE

HNJ Family Masses

Mark your calendars for our Family Masses featuring family and child-centered liturgies.

September 7 ~ Grandparents Family Mass, 10:30 a.m.

September 21

HNJ School 7th Grade Retreat Family Mass, 10:30 a.m.

November 9 ~ Family Mass, 10:30 a.m.

December 24

Christmas Eve Masses - 4 p.m. & 6 p.m.

January 25

Catholic Schools Week
Family & Alumni Mass, 10:30 a.m.

March 15 ~ Family Mass, 10:30 a.m.

April 5 ~ Easter Family Mass - 11:00 a.m.

To wonder... to achieve... to make a difference... together!





**HOLY NAME OF
JESUS SCHOOL**
A LOYOLA UNIVERSITY PARTNER

Mission

Holy Name of Jesus School is an inclusive community dedicated to teaching children confidence, compassion, and integrity while staying committed to academic excellence and the Catholic faith.

Core Beliefs

- Find God in everyone and everything
- Strive for personal excellence
- Are boys and girls for others
- Open eyes with faith, open ears with truth, and open hearts with love

Academic Vision

Holy Name of Jesus School fosters academic excellence in an inclusive environment where our community celebrates and supports all members through student development, innovation, and social justice.

Motto: To wonder, to achieve, to make a difference, together

Decisions: Student-centered

In implementing this academic vision, Holy Name of Jesus School is committed to:

2025-2026

GOAL #1

Empower Student
Agency through
Data-Driven
Reflection

2025-2026

GOAL #2

Cultivate
Responsible, Ethical
Learners in a
Digital World

2025-2026

GOAL #3

Build on Home-School
Partnerships Rooted
in Cultural
Celebration

Learn more about Holy Name of Jesus School

www.hnjschool.org

504-861-1466

To wonder... to achieve... to make a difference... together!

