December 13, 2020
Third Sunday of Advent

Rev. Nelson Couto
Administrator

Rev. Brian Brennan

Rev. Ron Lemmert
Sunday Associate

Mailing Address
114 Grand Street
Croton-on-Hudson
New York 10520

Chapel of the Good Shepherd (Harmon)
59 Benedict Boulevard
(off Young Avenue)

Photo courtesy of www.jensencarter.com

Holy Name of Mary is a Roman Catholic
community of believers who are dedicated to
know Christ and become Christ, each one, for the
sake of all. As disciples,
we are called to create an
environment where God
is worshiped and where
we serve our neighbor.
Our warmest welcome
to all who celebrate the
Eucharist with us! We thank
God for your presence at
Holy Name of Mary and we
pray for you and your
families.

Parish Center Office Hours
Mon–Fri 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.
The Parish Center doors will remain
closed. Please ring the doorbell for
assistance.

Parish Administrator
Debra Rago / 914-271-4797 ext. 30
parishadmin@hnmchurch.org

Religious Education
Eileen Brown / Administrative Asst.
914-271-4254/ hnmreeduc@aol.com

HNMMontessori School
Feliz Quinlan / 914-271-5182
felizhnmm@gmail.com
www.hnmmontessori.org

Music Ministry
Sara Della Posta / 917-992-0765
hnmmusic.ministry@gmail.com

Celebration of
The Eucharist

Mass Schedule
Holy Name of Mary
Sunday: 8:30 am, 10:45 am
Saturday: 5:00 pm
Mon – Fri: 12:00 noon

To stream, visit:
www.holynameofmary.org

Sacrament of
Reconciliation (Confession)
Saturdays at 4:00 PM

Baptisms
Please call the Parish Office if you would
like to schedule a Baptism

Marriage
Couples should call the Parish Office at
least six months prior to the wedding.

Rite of Christian
Initiation of Adults (RCIA)
Please call the Parish Office for
information.

If you have a loved one that is not
computer savvy, please print out a
bulletin for them. Spread the love.
Masses for this week December 12th and 13th

5:00 PM  Ivana Manco
8:30 AM  Vinny Antonecchia
10:45 AM Julia Devlin

**MONDAY, December 14**
Noon  Liz Mahaney
      Bianca Montenegro

**TUESDAY, December 15**
Noon  Enes Capellazzi & Cavossi Family
      Edward Keating

**WEDNESDAY, December 16**
Noon  Patricia Carr
      Gerard Kenlon

**THURSDAY, December 17**
Noon  Alphonse Taccetta
      Kevin Heath

**FRIDAY, December 18**
Noon  Alex Trebek
      Catherine Connaire

**SATURDAY, December 19**
5:00 PM  Kevin Dymes Sr.
         Ron & Dolores Williams

**SUNDAY, December 13**
8:30 AM  Anna & Patsy Gigliotti
10:45 AM  John & Josip Milcetic

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The Sanctuary Lamp burns this week, December 12 – December 19
in loving memory of
Julia Devlin
Requested by Peggy Lane

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**Event List**
Dec. 12 - Dec. 19

Masses for this week:
Saturday (Church): 5:00 pm (Fr. Nelson)
Sunday (Church): 8:30 am (Fr. Ron)
10:45 am (Fr. Nelson)
Monday–Friday (Church): 12:00 noon (Fr. Nelson)
Adoration Service: Every Friday at 7 pm in Church

There is no obligation to attend Mass at this time. We encourage you to stay home if you are at risk or sick. Live-streams will still be available for Sunday Masses.

**Live-stream:** [www.holynameofmary.org](http://www.holynameofmary.org)

Masses also available on youtube
[www.youtube.com/user/nelson1945](http://www.youtube.com/user/nelson1945)

Check us out on facebook at:
[www.facebook.com/holynameofmarycroton/](http://www.facebook.com/holynameofmarycroton/)

Sign up for flocknote to receive important updates from the Parish at:
[www.hnmcroton.flocknote.com](http://www.hnmcroton.flocknote.com)

Continue to support our Parish by giving online through WeShare at
[www.holynameofmary.churchgiving.com](http://www.holynameofmary.churchgiving.com)

You can also mail your weekly envelopes to the Parish Center or put them in the locked mailbox on the wall outside the Parish Center doors.

We are now on AmazonSmile!!! Start at [https://smile.amazon.com/ch/13-1740302](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/13-1740302)
Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Holy Name of Mary, at no cost to you.
**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**


* Please Note: Names on the sick list will be included for 4 weeks unless the family contacts the office to request the names be included for an additional 4 weeks.

**FOR THE DECEASED:** We pray for all those who died this week, especially all those who died from casualties of natural disasters, war and terrorism.

**FOR OUR MILITARY:** Please remember in your prayers our active duty service men and women and those serving overseas.

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### Our Parish Collections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Ending 12/06</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Envelopes:</td>
<td>$4,769</td>
<td>$5,404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WeShare:</td>
<td>$2,622</td>
<td>$1,390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiscal Year to date</td>
<td>$116,466</td>
<td>$139,084</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please make checks out to Holy Name of Mary. The bank has advised they can no longer accept checks made out to HNM.

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**Mass Attendance: December 6th**

With the new seating layout we can now fit up to 125 people in the church. **We will continue to monitor the Mass attendance closely and return to 4 weekend Masses if attendance continues to rise.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mass</th>
<th>In Attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5:00 PM</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:45 AM</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11**

Isaiah describes the joy and salvation which will accompany the coming of Christ. He compares the plants which spring from a garden to the justice that will spring from all nations.

**Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

Paul reminds the Thessalonians to constantly ready themselves for Christ’s arrival. He tells them to “avoid any semblance of evil” so that they may be found irreproachable when Jesus does arrive.

**Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28**

John explains that he is only a messenger to the people for one more powerful than himself. John stresses to them that they must make a path for the one so powerful that he is not fit to unfasten the strap of his sandal.

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From Fr. Nelson

December 13, 2020

As we wait for the coming of Christ, let us ponder the gifts He comes to offer us. He offers us Sonship by taking on our humanness and in so doing, He offers us a place by his side with all the humans that were ever created. We are one right now with the first person that walked the earth, with all of present humanity and with all those that will come long after we have passed. There is no shadow of anything that makes us different from anybody else. We have always played the same games that everyone has played across the ages; we have always sung the same songs that have circulated the globe for centuries. For the aspirations of all humans that have forever been the same (peace, love and food on the table) will forever be the same. We are not born to be competitors or to measure ourselves against standards of wealth, culture, race or religion. Christ brings to our vision the stunning fact that we are all equal: Equal as children of the same Father, loved by the same Father and returning to the same Father.

Let us look at ourselves this Christmas and see where we feel we are doing well and others may be lacking. Where do we see ourselves struggling compared to others? Let us examine where we are making these distinctions, where we are engaged in all kinds of comparing and contrasting. Christ sees no difference between us. We are all loved equally; we are all the sheep of the same shepherd. As a child of God and as a Brother of Christ, this Christmas is the time to claim the Sonship and live in the truth, or we can use the same power we have as a child of God to make falsehood and pain our own. The homeless person on the street is just as infinitely creative and powerful, making choices with which they desire to walk this world. The power of choice is the same for us all. Yet we all choose to play the game of interacting with each other as if we don’t know who we are.

This Christmas, as we allow the birth of Christ to envelop us, let grace allow us to see the same Christ in every human on this planet. Let the angel Gabriel announce to us the silent birth of the Holy One in us. Like Mary, ponder what the angel says. Let us not remain sterile and fruitless but be filled with Christ and sing a new song as we begin a new journey.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Nelson Couto
JANUARY IS NATIONAL BLOOD DONOR MONTH
The New York Blood Center, the Croton Community Blood Drive and the Village of Croton on Hudson are partnering to offer blood drives every Saturday in January 2021 from 10 am to 4 pm at the Croton Municipal Building Community Room, 1 Van Wyck Street. Please use the entrance from the parking lot. The actual dates are January 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30.

To remain in compliance with the federal guidelines for social distancing, APPOINTMENTS ARE PREFERRED. Walk-ins are welcome if drive capacity permits. You must bring photo id and wear a mask.

To sign up, call 1-800-933-2566 or visit nybc.org/donate.

2021 Breaking Bread Missals have arrived!
They can be picked up at the parish office Monday thru Friday 9am-4pm. As a reminder, we are asking for $3 per book this year.

Make a Difference. Hundreds of US religious communities struggle to provide for aging members because most senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for little pay. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps these communities bridge the gap, offering support for medications, nursing care, and other necessities.

The Care for Creation Ministry will be hosting a Sustainable Sunday Speaker Series event on Sunday December 13 at 3:00 pm – 4:15 pm on the The Power of Faith Communities to Inspire Change with our speaker Dr. Erin Lothes.

Dr. Lothes’ talk will address core themes of the encyclical Laudato Si' in the context of Catholic social teaching. She will also address the power of faith communities to be moral leaders in environmental change, and will suggest best practices in communicating about climate.

Please be part of the online Zoom presentation by logging onto https://fordham.zoom.us/j/99964223882 at 3 pm. The presentation will start shortly thereafter. Login at 2:45 and chit-chat with fellow attendees.

Past Sustainable Sunday presentations are available for viewing on our website www.hnmcare4creationministry.com. Scroll down on the opening page of the web site.

Croton Community Cookbook Sale
We still have plenty of cookbooks for sale. If you haven’t been able to stop by the parish office, we will have stands set up outside the Black Cow and the church at different times this weekend, depending on weather and seller availability.

Cookbooks contain over 300 recipes from our community, including from a handful of Croton restaurants. Not only should you get one for yourself but they make great gifts for others.

Cookbooks are $15 each. All Proceeds benefit the Holy Name of Mary community and ministries.

If you have any questions or would like to help with the sale of books please email HNM Cookbook@gmail.com or call the parish office at (914) 271-4797.

Thank you so much for your support.
Parish Finances in a Time of COVID
Commentary on the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year Report to Parishioners

The 12-month period ending August 31, 2020 can be divided into two almost equal periods: pre-mask and post-mask.

In the pre-mask period our parish continued fiscal trends that had begun perhaps eight years ago. We experienced decreasing collections, searched for new revenue sources and kept a close eye on expenses.

Then came COVID. And masks. And gloves. And social distancing. Public Masses were halted in early March. Our St. Patrick’s Party was cancelled. The buzzer sounded on CYO basketball. We all struggled to learn how to use Zoom. And revenue dropped dramatically.

And yet, nine months after the advent of COVID, we find ourselves in liturgical ADVENT still functioning, still working hard to respond to the spiritual and material needs of our parish community. Mass is available seven days a week for those who feel confident enough to venture out. The children of our parish continue to receive religious education (a bright spot on that front is the increased involvement of parents). Loaves and Fish continues to feed the hungry. Parish ministries and groups have either mastered Zoom or found ways to gather while observing the precautions of masking and social distancing.

Whether due to prudent planning, dumb luck or divine mercy, we ended the fiscal year with a surprisingly small deficit of less than $1,400. Yet this is our fifth deficit in eight years.

Still, collections continue to drop compared to prior years, also the fifth time in eight years. We lost two major fund raisers in the recent fiscal year (St. Patrick’s and Summerfest) which we don’t anticipate returning this year. Couple that with the cancelation of this year’s CYO season and it decreases our projected net income by $26,000 for the fiscal year ending in August 2021.

With this report we offer a sincere thank you to all our parishioners for sticking with Holy Name of Mary through all these trials. Once COVID is contained we will still face fiscal challenges. But as a people of faith we face the future with confidence that our community can respond to future challenges.
Revenues/Operating Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1 Collections</th>
<th>8/31/2020</th>
<th>8/31/2019</th>
<th>2020 Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekend, Holyday, Candles/Flowers, Poorbox</td>
<td>572,642</td>
<td>591,145</td>
<td>602,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Ed, Montessori, CYO, Youth Group Combined</td>
<td>283,091</td>
<td>284,971</td>
<td>284,326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Parish Fundraising</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>300 Club, Food Cards, St. Pats etc.</td>
<td>16,983</td>
<td>28,801</td>
<td>28,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental Income, Interest Accrued, Miscellaneous</td>
<td>40,035</td>
<td>39,112</td>
<td>66,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Unrestricted Income:</strong></td>
<td>912,750</td>
<td>944,028</td>
<td>981,776</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expenses/Operating Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Personnel</th>
<th>8/31/2020</th>
<th>8/31/2019</th>
<th>2020 Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel Cost Totals:</td>
<td>604,936</td>
<td>619,958</td>
<td>617,465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office &amp; Administrative</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry/Church/Office Supplies/Services</td>
<td>64,089</td>
<td>55,766</td>
<td>77,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuel, Electricity, Water</td>
<td>50,326</td>
<td>51,955</td>
<td>61,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Facilities Cost</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repairs &amp; Maintenance/ Property Insurance</td>
<td>83,679</td>
<td>105,169</td>
<td>131,285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charitable Contributions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor Box / Loaves &amp; Fish</td>
<td>17,621</td>
<td>6,676</td>
<td>12,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Assessments Totals:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cathedraticum, Regional School Support</td>
<td>93,497</td>
<td>96,615</td>
<td>96,776</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Unrestricted Expenses:</strong></td>
<td>914,148</td>
<td>936,139</td>
<td>995,976</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Unrestricted: Income - Expenses**

-1,398                                                            7,890                                                           -14,200

Restricted Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Renew &amp; Rebuild including Interest Accrued</th>
<th>8/31/2020</th>
<th>8/31/2019</th>
<th>2020 Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Renew &amp; Rebuild including Interest Accrued</td>
<td>99,414</td>
<td>99,010</td>
<td>62,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>40,390</td>
<td>8,390</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Restricted Income:</strong></td>
<td>139,804</td>
<td>107,400</td>
<td>67,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Restricted projects included the parish center windows, renovations to the gym bathroom, upgrades to the internet wiring in the church for streaming Masses, renovations to the gym area as well as the new bells at the chapel.

1 Regular weekend collections were down 3%. Christmas and Easter collections were down 7% with no gathering for Easter Mass.

2 Due to the pandemic we were unable to hold key fundraisers such as Summerfest and St. Patrick’s Day.

3 Part of the savings in Facilities cost is due to cleaning services which used to be contracted out and now falls under personnel.

4 The cathedraticum ($48,988) & support for regional schools ($44,509) are assessments made by the Archdiocese.
## 2020 Recap of Major Ministries/Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religious Education</th>
<th>8/31/2020</th>
<th>8/31/2019</th>
<th>2020 Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approx 260 Families</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition &amp; Donations</td>
<td>$67,948</td>
<td>$75,798</td>
<td>$73,826</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Expenses</td>
<td>(100,001)</td>
<td>(98,671)</td>
<td>(98,826)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net</td>
<td>(32,053)</td>
<td>(22,873)</td>
<td>(25,000)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HNM has always subsidized Religious Ed as we find it a key function of the Church. There were upfront costs seen in this year’s expenses that will significantly reduce what needs to be subsidized next year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Montessori School</th>
<th>8/31/2020</th>
<th>8/31/2019</th>
<th>2020 Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approx 30 Families</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition &amp; Donations</td>
<td>$170,009</td>
<td>$164,598</td>
<td>$167,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Expenses</td>
<td>(145,310)</td>
<td>(136,504)</td>
<td>(143,553)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allocation of Facility Expenses</td>
<td>(23,000)</td>
<td>(23,000)</td>
<td>(23,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net</td>
<td>1,699</td>
<td>5,094</td>
<td>947</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A portion of the Parish’s facilities costs is allocated to the school. Customarily the school reimburses the Parish for these costs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CYO Basketball</th>
<th>8/31/2020</th>
<th>8/31/2019</th>
<th>2020 Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>$41,543</td>
<td>$39,948</td>
<td>$39,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Expenses</td>
<td>(27,386)</td>
<td>(25,278)</td>
<td>(25,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net</td>
<td>14,157</td>
<td>14,671</td>
<td>14,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Youth Group</th>
<th>8/31/2020</th>
<th>8/31/2019</th>
<th>2020 Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>$3,591</td>
<td>$4,627</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Expenses</td>
<td>(11,280)</td>
<td>(11,280)</td>
<td>(11,280)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net</td>
<td>(7,689)</td>
<td>(6,653)</td>
<td>(7,280)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Income does not include $3,000+ raised by the Youth Group for charities such as Peekskill homeless, etc. Expenses covered two people dedicated to Youth Group and ancillary costs.

### Charitable Contributions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>St. Vincent DePaul</th>
<th>8/31/2020</th>
<th>8/31/2019</th>
<th>2020 Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>$6,884</td>
<td>$8,333</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants made to the poor</td>
<td>(13,609)</td>
<td>(4,918)</td>
<td>(6,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net</td>
<td>(6,725)</td>
<td>3,415</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Loaves &amp; Fish</th>
<th>8/31/2020</th>
<th>8/31/2019</th>
<th>2020 Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>12,072</td>
<td>3,425</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td>(4,544)</td>
<td>(1,960)</td>
<td>(6,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net</td>
<td>7,428</td>
<td>1,465</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Poor box donations go towards St. Vincent DePaul which are then used for grants to the poor. These take the form of grocery gift cards and cash payments on the basis of need. Loaves and Fish consists of donations made strictly for Loaves and Fish which go to support them in preparing meals for the food insecure in the community.
Holy Name of Mary  
**Holiday Giving Drive**  
to Support  
**Croton Caring Committee**  
*December 7 - 18, 2020*

The holidays can be a particularly challenging time for those in need – perhaps this year more than ever. The Croton Caring Committee would appreciate your support in helping to make the holiday season a little brighter for our Croton neighbors-in-need.  
**Below are some ways you can help.**

**Donate Food for Christmas/Hanukkah Food Baskets**  
Croton Caring Committee prepares and delivers holiday food baskets to local individuals and families in need. We collect any non-perishable breakfast, lunch and dinner items.  
**We are particularly in need of these items:**

- Complete Pancake Mix  
- Syrup  
- Oatmeal  
- Pop-Tarts  
- Peanut Butter & Jelly  
- Pasta Sauce  
- Granola Bars  
- Canned Vegetables (Green Beans, Peas, Corn and Carrots/Mixed Veg)

Food donations may be dropped off anytime at 11 Eklof Court (bins on front porch).

**Donate a Family Gift for Holiday Gift Program**  
Along with the food baskets, Croton Caring’s Adopt-a-Family Program provides families in need with holiday gifts. **We are particularly in need of family gifts. This year our push is to help local businesses at the same time by purchasing gift cards to places families can eat or purchase things they need (e.g. restaurants, deli’s, grocery stores, drug stores, etc). This is a great way to help Croton business too!** Other family gift ideas include: winter items (hats, gloves, scarves, socks); warm blankets/throws or a box of Candy or other Holiday Treat.

Gift items may be dropped off in the garage of 22 Sunset Drive (across from Sunset Park).

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**The Croton Caring Committee Thanks You for Your Support!**

The Croton Caring Committee has served the Croton community for almost 40 years. Learn more about us at our web page: **www.crotoncaring.org**  
Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @crotoncaring
Taghkanic Chorale to present virtual holiday concert starting December 12

For each of the past 53 years the Taghkanic Chorale has performed the best of choral music live for appreciative Westchester audiences. But this year live choral concerts, and even in-person rehearsals are all but impossible, so most choral groups have been in hiatus.

Despite the challenges, the Taghkanic Chorale has been rehearsing regularly, and will present its annual holiday concert online beginning Saturday, December 12 with the theme “Hope and Healing”. The performance combines singers captured remotely and compiled into a “virtual chorale”, with in-person recordings of small ensembles at the Holy Name of Mary Church in Croton.

How it came to be is a story of determined optimism, technology and ingenuity. In March as Covid restrictions kicked in, the Chorale moved its rehearsals to Zoom for safety. When each piece was ready, singers videotaped themselves singing it in their own homes, and the videos were electronically assembled into an overall performance. Meanwhile, smaller ensembles of TC singers rehearsed together outdoors through the fall, in masks and maintaining social distancing. In mid-November, these small groups met at the church in Croton to record live performances, again meticulously following Covid protocols.

The live recordings were a triumph of planning and execution. Singers brought their fans and extension cords, and the church windows were opened for ventilation. After recording each piece, singers stood outside while the fans cleared the air for up to 30 minutes each. “The process took over three hours, but it was well worth it,” says David Watson, a tenor. “I like to kid people that the Chorale sang in person in front of 15 of its biggest fans.”

Jason Tramm, the Chorale’s Music Director was the driving force throughout, recognizing the healing power of choral music. “Beyond the obvious impact of Covid on our health, economy and society, it has taken a subtler toll on our emotional and spiritual well-being as well.”

In that spirit, the program features stirring and inspiring music by classical and modern composers - striking an uplifting chord in this season of joy and sharing. It includes excerpts from Handel’s Messiah, Mendelssohn’s Elijah, and Vivaldi’s Gloria, along with The Awakening by Joseph Martin, I Believe by M. Miller, and Earth Song by Frank Ticheli, plus a couple of well-loved holiday pieces.

As Maestro Tramm sees it: “In a year characterized by disruption, deprivation and loss, music can be a source of beauty, solace and joy that we desperately need at this point.”

The concert begins online streaming on Saturday evening, Dec. 12 at 7:30 pm, and the recording will be available on YouTube until the end of December. Listeners should use this link to access the concert: https://youtu.be/8Slg0AukFc

The performance is free to all, though donations are encouraged to help support the Chorale’s not-for-profit work at https://www.taghkanicchorale.org/donations
We will be asking everyone to make reservations to attend Mass this Christmas. In consideration of safety guidelines and attendance restrictions, we want to do everything in our power to allow people to celebrate Christmas in a safe manner. Please let us know which Mass you plan to attend and how many family members will accompany you. Your family will be assigned seats based on size and availability. **There will be limited seating and we will strictly adhere to distancing and capacity restrictions so please reserve your seats ASAP to be assured entry.**

**Christmas Mass Schedule:**

**Thursday, December 24: Christmas Eve**
- Church: 5:00 pm Vigil Mass *(at church capacity)*
- Church: 7:00 pm Vigil Mass
- Church: 9:00 pm Vigil Mass

**Friday, December 25: Christmas Day**
- Church: 8:30 am
- Church: 10:45 am

**Reserve seats in the following ways:**
Phone: 914-271-4797 x 10
Email: parishsecretary@hnmchurch.org
Or in person at the Parish Center at 114 Grand St.
Monday thru Friday 9am - 4pm.

You will receive confirmation of your reservation which we ask that you bring with you to the Mass. Ushers will be provided a list as well.

*There will be no noon Mass on Christmas Eve*