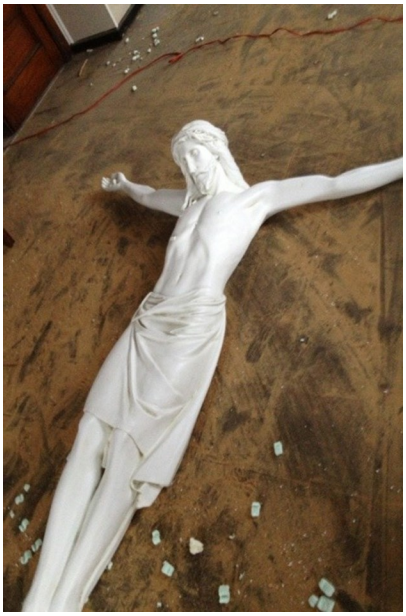
Holy Name of Jesus Church – "Grotto"

The Holy Name "Grotto" has been the scene of countless family pictures throughout the years. People have shared many happy occasions that our Church played in their lives at the foot of the Grotto such as Baptisms, First Holy Communions and Confirmations. Its been a fixture for so long it's hard to remember when it wasn't there. We have proof that the Grotto was not built with the Church in 1878 (see next page).

The best guess is the grotto was installed sometime in the 1940's. The image of Our Lord's Crucifixion has stood on the corner of Prospect Ave and Prospect park west as a witness to our changing times. While lovingly cared for by Holy name's dedicated staff, by the end of the 1990's, the concrete Statues and the wood and steel clad cross began to show its age. By 2013, the set was in complete disrepair.



Knowing the significance and importance of the "Grotto" Throughout Holy Name's history, our Pastor, Fr. Jim Cunningham directed the Buildings Committee to take action. With a donation from a generous benefactor, the liturgical guidance and support of Fr. Jim, the Building Committee set out to renew the Grotto for Generations to come.

The first order of business was finding replacement statues. After much discussion and research, it was decided to replace the concrete versions with custom fibreglass replicas. The statues were ordered from the Miraculous Medal Company in Dallas, manufactured in Italy and shipped by Cargo ship to the United States.

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With the statues of Our Lord, Sorrowful Virgin Mary and John the Beloved settled, the committee turned their attend to the cross. The first option was to replace the wood and steel cross with a fiberglass one but it did not seem timeless. With that, as we have come to find many times, Holy Name's own Mel Pynn came to the rescue with his vision and talents. Mel hand crafted a steel cross out of a 20 foot long piece of steel channel that weighed over 600 pounds, To ensure it lasts, the cross was powder coated instead of being painted. Like with all of Mel's work, it is a thing of beauty and craftsmanship.

After Century Construction completed the refurbishment of the front exterior of the Church (pointing and waterproofing), the Grotto was reinstalled to its former glory. The Holy name maintenance Team completed the job by installing updated LED lighting.

Over the years, the Grotto has evolved with new features like the garden area and different plantings, the September 11th Memorial and the Knights of Columbus Memorial to the Unborn.

With the work preformed by our dedicated volunteers and with Fr. Jim's support, many more generations of Holy namers will make memories with the Holy Name grotto as a backdrop to their love of our faith and their love of Holy name.

Pre-Grotto:

How many items can you pick out that are different at today's Holy Name?

Move to the next page for the answers.

Pre-Grotto:

Rectory Tower
Old Convent
Higher Bell Tower
No Doorway sheds or Garden Light Posts. Different Iron work.
No Grotto
No Basement Sheds
No Stairs or Ramp

Holy Name of Jesus Church – "Grotto"

Before:

After:

Statue Niches:

St. Patrick

St. Joseph