

St. Nicholas Parish

24252 El Toro Road, Laguna Woods, CA 92637
(949) 837-1090; FAX (949) 837-9510; www.st-nicholaschurch.org
School of Religious Education: (949) 837-7676

Our Parish Mission Statement

St. Nicholas Parish is a Catholic community, celebrating our faith through the Sacraments, Liturgy, Prayer and Service. We strive to nurture family life and to create one body out of many in the Lord. We share the Good News with people of all ages, cultures and faith backgrounds.

Adopted July, 1996

CLERGY

Pastor	Rev. George P. Blais
Parochial Vicar	Rev. Quyen Truong
Visiting Priest	Rev. Msgr. John Campbell
Visiting Priest	Rev. Gerald Walker
Visiting Priest	Rev. Charbel Grbavac
Visiting Priest	Rev. Jack Sewell
Visiting Priest	Rev. Chin Dang
Deacon	Wayne Thompson
Deacon	Chau Tran
Deacon	Gerardo De Santos

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 4:00PM, 7:00PM in Spanish
 Sunday: 7:30AM, 9:00AM, 10:45AM, 12:30PM, and
 5:00PM in Vietnamese.

Monday through Friday: 7:00AM and 9:00AM

Saturday: 9AM

Holy Days: 4PM Vigil, 7PM Spanish Vigil, 7AM, 9AM,
 12PM, 6PM, and 7:30PM in Vietnamese.

RECONCILIATION (Confession)

Saturday: 9:45AM to 10:15AM and 3:00PM to 3:45PM
 or by appointment.

BAPTISM

Contact the Parish Office for Baptism scheduling and information.

MARRIAGE

Arrangements must begin at least six months in advance with a priest of the parish.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Call Parish Office in an emergency.
 Special Service celebrated in fall/spring as announced.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

At the death of a family member, please call the Parish Office at your earliest convenience to plan for the Mass of Christian Burial.

EUCARISTIC ADORATION DAY

24-hour adoration begins the second Wednesday of the month at the 9:00AM Mass.

DEVOTIONS & BENEDICTION

Wednesday evenings at 7:00PM;
 Vietnamese—2nd Wednesday of the month at 8PM.
 Recitation of the Holy Rosary and Benediction.
 Filipino—1st Saturday of the month Novena and Rosary Devotion from October-June after the 4PM Mass.

**Parish Office Hours: Sunday: 8:30 AM—1:30 PM
 Monday through Friday: 9 AM—12 Noon; 1 PM — 7:00 PM;
 Saturday: 9 AM—12 Noon**

Book Study/Discussion

All parishioners are invited to join a Book Study/Discussion Group focusing on the Holy Spirit in Scripture. This eight-week class, hosted by parishioners Beth Perak, Mary Anderson and Don Di Maggio, will begin on Friday, September 28th at 9:45AM. Please join as we read, discuss, and learn more about the Holy Spirit and the role of the Spirit in our lives.

**St. Nicholas Senior Singles**

We will gather for lunch on **Friday, Sept. 21st at 12:30PM at The Pub—28362 Bridger Rd. Lake Forest**. Menu ranges from Shepard Pie, Bread Pudding, 9 types of Pizzas with a choice of Sicilian, Chicago, or New Jersey Crust, a Complete Italian menu, wings, burgers, and glass wine or beer for \$3. All senior singles are welcome and wanted.



Call Joan Petrine for reservations, (949) 855-8755.

Catechetical Sunday

This year, the Church will celebrate Catechetical Sunday on September 16th. The 2018 theme will be “Enlisting Witnesses for Jesus Christ”. St. Nicholas will commission those who have volunteered to serve as Catechists on Sunday, September 23rd at the 10:45AM Mass. Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith.

Pastoral Services Appeal 2018

Thank you to all who have already participated in the PSA this year. If you did not receive information about the PSA in the mail, there are brochures and pledge envelopes available in the Church or in the Parish Office.

Participating families: 368

Amount of pledges: \$154,173

Payments received: \$128,414.05

We have reached our diocesan goal of \$111,000 for this year, all monies over that amount will be returned to St. Nicholas to help pay for the parking lot project.

Dear Parishioners,

Today, Jesus asks two questions. “Who do people say that I am?” and “Who do you say that I am?” There is an important distinction between these two questions. The first question refers to what are people saying about Jesus. In other words, what is the gossip about who He is; however, the second is more personal and asks the disciples and us directly to make a statement of faith. Peter was the one to say you are the Messiah, the One who was promised to come into the world and save all mankind. I pray that we may all come to that same realization that Peter did.

There are many ways for us to get to this revelation in our personal lives; i.e. personal quiet time in prayer, reading of the scriptures, particularly the Gospels, coming to Mass, attending a spiritual retreat, joining a faith group like a bible study or a group focused on a personal relationship with Jesus, and having faith based conversations with others, especially family, friends, and even coworkers.

We have two opportunities starting up here at St. Nicholas to assist us in enriching our personal relationship with Jesus. The first is our bible studies which are offered on Monday evenings and Thursday mornings. These are two different studies running independently. I invite and encourage all to join either one of both of these studies. The other opportunity is the Alpha program which is a ten week program offered on Thursday evenings beginning Thursday Sept. 13. It is not too late to join this group which will assist the attendees in deepening their personal relationship with Jesus. Jesus is the beginning or “Alpha” and the end “Omega”. Please join us in exploring who Jesus is for us as individuals and for all in the world.

Fr. George

**Stewardship of Treasure**

2018

September 9th \$17,465.00
(Excluding electronic giving)

2017

\$22,494.87

52-Weekly Required Budget

\$25,856.00

Mass Intentions for the Week**Monday:**

7AM Charles Jerome Davis
9AM Jim Hopkins and all Parishioners

Tuesday:

7AM Valerie Viero (d)
9AM Thomas and Maria Whie (d)

Wednesday:

7AM Patrick Mai
9AM Ruben Castro (d)

Thursday:

7AM All Souls
9AM Maria Ha Nguyen (d)

Friday:

7AM Patrick Evleth (d)
9AM Salvador Gandara (d)

Saturday:

9AM Erlina Chong (d)
4PM For the Parish
7PM Salvador "Chaco" Rodarte (d)

Sunday:

7:30AM Donna Marie Holt (d)
9:00AM Ellen Devlin (d)
10:45AM Marie Spillane
12:30PM Rita Mangione (d)

We Remember

Huyson Le and Lili Truong

who entered their new and eternal life in Christ.

*Grant to all our dearly departed, eternal rest, O Lord,
and may your light shine on them forever.*

TODAY'S READINGS**First Reading: Isaiah 50:5-9a**

The Lord GOD is my help; who will prove me wrong?

Psalm 116

I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.

Second Reading: James 2:14-18

Faith, if it does not have works, is dead.

Gospel: Mark 8:27-35

Jesus asked his disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" .

Parish Calendar This Week**MONDAY**

Sewing Group, Small Hall, 8AM
Adult Bible Study, Room 201/202, 6PM
Hispanic Rosary, Church, 7PM
Hispanic Marriage Encounter, Room B, 7PM

TUESDAY

St. Nicholas Chorale, Small Hall, 7:15PM

WEDNESDAY

Charismatic Prayer Group, Room A, 9:45AM
Knights of Columbus, Room 104/105, 6PM
St. Vincent de Paul, Room A, 6PM
Devotions and Benediction, Church, 7PM
Certification Basica Curso, Room 201, 7PM
Hispanic Prayer Group, Room B/C, 7PM
Filipino Choir, Small Hall, 8PM

THURSDAY

Adult Bible Study, Room 201/202, 9AM
Faith Alive—Faith Sharing, Room A, 10AM
CCW Meeting, Small Hall, 10AM
Hispanic RCIA, Room B, 6PM
Alpha, Parish Center-1st Floor, 6:30PM
RCIA Class, Room 201, 7PM
Hispanic Council, Room C, 7PM

FRIDAY

Hispanic Bible Study, Small Hall, 7PM
Vietnamese Baptism Preparation, Room C, 7PM

SATURDAY

Eucharistic Minister Class, Room A/B, 8AM
Hispanic Choir, Room C, 4PM

SUNDAY

Vietnamese Baptisms, Church, 2PM
Library CLOSED

The St. Nicholas Library

The Library will be closed on Oct. 7th but will re-open on Oct. 21st.

The Library is open the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month, from 8:45am—12:45pm. We are located in Room C, behind the Parish Office. Freebie Cart: Rosaries, prayer cards and more!

September 16th, 2018

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

SCHOOL OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

2018 - 2019

Registration for Elementary
and High School Religion Classes are
NOW OPEN!



Elementary Classes begin on Monday, October 8th, 9th and 10th from 4:15-5:30PM. Junior High Classes begin on Tuesday, October 9th at 7PM. These classes will be meeting in assigned classroom in the downstairs of the Parish Center.

Confirmation I Classes begin on Tuesday, October 9th and Confirmation II Classes begin Tuesday, October 16th. All high school classes begin at 7PM and end at 8:30PM. They meet upstairs in the Parish Center. Please note: Parents should attend the first class with their students. Schedules have been mailed to all registered families.

IMPORTANT MEETING DATES FOR PARENTS

Elementary and Junior High: At least one parent or guardian must attend either a meeting on **Monday, September 24th or Monday, October 1st at 7PM** downstairs in the Parish Center. Attendance at these meetings is most important as we have safe environment and class information to impart to you and it gives us a chance to meet you and answer any questions you may have. Please call the SRE Office for more information at (949) 837-7676.

IMPORTANT CONFIRMATION NEWS

Confirmation preparation is a two-year program directed toward preparing high school students to deepen their faith commitment culminating in receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. Students may join Confirmation I in their ninth, tenth or junior year of high school. Classes are held on alternate Tuesdays, beginning at 7PM and ending at 8:30PM. **Students attending Catholic Schools must enroll and complete both years (Confirmation I and II) in order to be confirmed.**

For more information, stop by the SRE office or call (949) 837-7676.

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands..." - Psalm 100



Teen/Family Choir Needs YOU

You're invited to join the Teen/Family Choir—we sing at the Saturday, 4PM Mass once a month from September to May. Our practices are held every other Thursday evening from 7:30PM to 9PM in the Choir Loft.

If you're in junior high, high school, like to sing or play an instrument and want to be with a group of friendly people, and celebrate the Mass in a joyful way, the Teen/Family Choir is looking for you! Please call the SRE Office at (949) 837-7676 or come up to the choir loft on Thursday, September 13, 2018 at 7:30PM.

YOUTH MINISTRY



Check us out on Facebook and Instagram: @stnickym



The last Bible Study of the Summer Session is on **Tuesday, September 25th at 6:30PM**. We will take a short break and resume on **Tuesday, October 16th at 6PM** (one hour before Confirmation II Classes start). We hope to see you all there—this is a chance for you to discover how the Word of God still affects your life after 2000 years.

Teen/Family Mass on September 29th at 4PM.

Check out Facebook and Instagram for more activities coming up like Kidsfest, Pennies from Heaven, movie nights, etc...

Pennies from Heaven



In conjunction with the Diocese of Orange Respect Life Month in October, Bishop Kevin Vann has designated Sunday, October 7th as our Diocese's 24th Annual Pennies From Heaven Campaign. Since 1994, the Diocese of Orange has been collecting funds to support local Respect Life Shelters, and centers that give immediate and Long-term care to women and families in crisis. Members of St. Nicholas Youth Ministry and Confirmation will be outside after all the Masses on the weekend of October 7-8th to collect your donations. Thank you for your generosity!



What is Alpha?

Alpha is:

- A practical introduction to the Christian faith that gives guests an opportunity to explore the meaning of life.
- Fun, relaxed and totally non-pressured (that's probably why over 19 million people around the world have already done it!).
- Where you listen, learn, discuss, and discover. Ask anything.
- A place where no question is off limits.

How does it work?

Each Alpha session begins with food, followed by a short talk looking at a different aspect of the Christian faith. After that, there is a time of discussion in a friendly small group.

What is the cost?

There is no charge for the Alpha course.

We're all searching for more:

What is the point of life?/ Why is there suffering in the world?/ What happens when we die?/ Is forgiveness possible?

LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER IS TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 18TH.

September 16th, 2018

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

St. Nicholas Parish presents its 19th Annual



Oktoberfest

Saturday, Oct. 13th, 2018
1:00PM-7:30PM

Dancing, singing, good food, drinks and friends.

Join your parish family—Invite your friends & loved ones. All proceeds from this event benefit the St. Nicholas' School of Religious Education.

**Opportunity drawing held at 7:30PM
\$2,500 grand prize
(Total of \$3700 in prizes)
winner does not need to be present to win
Hourly Attendance Prizes of \$50
"drawn from Grand Raffle tickets"**

**ST. NICHOLAS PARISH "Adult Faith Formation"
PRESENTS TWO CATHOLIC BIBLE STUDIES:**



"The GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN" – a twelve-week study: live class teaching, open class Q and A, along with the biblical history of doctrines and dogmas as taught by the Magisterium of the Catholic Church.

**Started Monday, September 10, 2018, at
7:00 P.M. Room 201**

"The BOOK OF REVELATION" – a twelve-week study: live class teaching and open class Q and A.

**Started Thursday, September 13, 2018, at
10:00 A.M. Room 201**

It's not too late to join ——————

For information relative to course content, biblical source material, Bible editions, etc.

Please call: AL GUEVARA at (714) 848-1624.

Oktoberfest Opportunity Raffle Tickets

The Oktoberfest Opportunity Raffle tickets have been mailed out this last week. The Oktoberfest is our main fundraiser for the School of Religious Education. Your support of our SRE Program by making a donation for the tickets is much appreciated. The winners of the raffle will be announced at the end of the Oktoberfest celebration on Saturday, October 13th at 7:30PM (The winner does not need to be present). Please see the related post above for additional information regarding the Oktoberfest. Thank you for your prayers and support of our kids.



**THE PRAISE AND WORSHIP
PRAYER GROUP**

Come join us in praise, worship and for healing prayers, on Friday, September 28th at 7:30pm in Room B. All are welcome!

Questions: Phoebe—(949) 855-9263



**Holiday Boutique
Weekend of October 20th and 21st.**

The St. Nicholas Sewing Group is having a Holiday Boutique as a major fundraiser for the Council of Catholic Women Charities on:

Saturday, October 20 after the 4pm Mass and on Sunday, October 21 after the 7:30am, 9am, and 10:45am Masses in the Parish Center at St. Nicholas Church.

We'll have Christmas decorations, children's clothes, baby items, quilts, lapghans, household items, crochet & knitted caps/scarves/ponchos, and much more!

Come start your Christmas shopping early!



Knight of Columbus Blood Drive



Thank you to all who donated and helped organized the St Nicholas Church Blood Drive we are truly grateful. A special thanks to local businesses and our Lady Knights who baked fresh cookies.

Snacks & Coupons donated by: Scratch Bakery, Jersey Mike's, Chick-fil-a, Corner Bakery, Wahoo Tacos.

Cookies baked by: Norma Lanners, Helen Stearns, Sharon Corradino & Willie Duclos

Green Thumb Nursery
Trader Joe's
Great Promos & Engraving

Prizes
\$25.00 gift card
Grocery Gift Bag
Cross

Winners
Jackie Yencer
Reggie Coquia
Theresa Chacon

Donors gave 74 pints of blood. Their donation will be able to save 222 lives. Thank you.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)



Sessions have started, but it's not too late to join. We would love to meet you and walk with you on your faith journey. Sessions start at 7PM, Room 201, every Thursday in the Parish Center. Please call Betty Farell at (949) 400-6875.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY THAT IS ONE OF THE 'HOliest' MINISTRIES YOU CAN BECOME INVOLVED WITH HERE AT ST. NICHOLAS?



Many of our working parishioners already help in this... the Knights of Columbus, St. Nicholas Youth Ministry, our Vietnamese Community, and the Hispanic Community, with occasional help from our Welcoming Committee and Micah's Way.

After 9 years, however, our Coffee and Donuts Coordinators are retiring in NOVEMBER to another community in another Parish. It is urgent we find a new coordinator for this ministry. If your heart is calling you to the 'sweetness' of this ministry opportunity, please call the Marjorie at (949) 295-0915.

Knights of Columbus



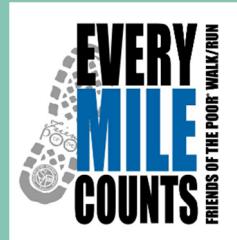
The Knights of Columbus are Catholic men. We live by principles informed by faith. We are sons, fathers, husbands, and grandfathers. Become a member on the weekend of September 22nd and 23rd and begin life's greatest adventure to discover the man God calls you to be. Join the Knights of Columbus, visit KofC.org.

Filipino Novena and Rosary Devotion

The First Saturday Rosary and Novena devotion will start on October 6th, which will follow right after the 4:00PM Regular Mass. The Holy Rosary Philippine Chamber Chorale will be singing during all the First Saturday Masses. The devotion is sponsored by the South Orange County Chapter, Federation of Filipino Rosary Groups. Fellowship will follow after devotion at the Large Hall.

Friends of the Poor 5K Walk/Run

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul sponsors a 5K Walk/Run Event called Friends of the Poor. This is a nationally organized



Walk and Orange County purpose is to expose the Society and its role in helping the needy. There are posters on the Church doors for your registration if you'd like to participate. But, more importantly, knowing our population, we encourage sponsorship of a walker (Jean Duffy, Barbara Benun). To do so, visit fopwalk.org and go to "find a walker" and the "state". By sponsoring one of us your donation stays in this community. Thank you. St. Nicholas continues to be magnanimous in assisting our cause.