

**DECEMBER 11, 2022**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**



# **ST. NICHOLAS PARISH**

**24252 El Toro Road, Laguna Woods, CA 92637**

[www.st-nicholaschurch.org](http://www.st-nicholaschurch.org)

Parish office (949) 837-1090 • 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**

<b>Pastor</b>	<b>Rev. George P. Blais</b>
<b>Parochial Vicar</b>	<b>Rev. Martin Bui</b>
<b>Parochial Vicar</b>	<b>Rev. Phuong Nguyen</b>
<b>In-Residence</b>	<b>Bishop Thanh Nguyen</b>
<b>Visiting Priest</b>	<b>Msgr. John Campbell</b>
<b>Visiting Priest</b>	<b>Rev. Jack Sewell</b>
<b>Visiting Priest</b>	<b>Rev. Chin Dang</b>
<b>Deacon</b>	<b>Gerardo de Santos</b>
<b>Deacon</b>	<b>Carlos Pineda</b>
<b>Deacon</b>	<b>Chau Tran</b>

### **MASS SCHEDULE**

**Monday-Friday: 9AM (English)**

**Saturday: 8:30AM**

**Saturday Vigil: 4PM(English) 6PM(Spanish)**

**Sunday: 7:30AM, 9AM, 11AM (English)  
5PM (Vietnamese)**

**Holy Day Vigil: 4PM (English), 6PM (Spanish)**

**Holy Days: 7AM, 9AM, 12PM (English)  
7PM (Vietnamese)**

### **RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION) \***

**Wednesday: 6:00PM (month of December)**

**Saturday: 9:00AM**

### **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.

**\*Confessions are held inside the church.**

### **PARISH OFFICE HOURS:**

**Sunday: 8:30AM - 12:30PM; Monday - Friday: 8:30AM - 12:00PM, 1:00PM - 5:00PM**

### Pastor's Message

Dear Parishioners,

This week we continue to hear about John the Baptist. It is now later in Jesus' public ministry and John was in prison wondering if Jesus really was the Messiah. He sends a messenger to question Jesus and receives confirmation that Jesus is the Messiah. Jesus then questions the people about their encounter with John the Baptist. He said "Amen, I say to you, among those born of woman there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

This season of Advent is our time to renew and refresh our understanding and following of Jesus and His message; and a time for us to realize that we will be great in the Kingdom of God when we enter eternal life. While we are still in this world, we continue to learn and grow in our faith and understanding of God, but when we enter His Kingdom, all our questions will be answered.

Monday this week, December 12<sup>th</sup> is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe when Mary our Blessed Mother appeared to Juan Diego in Tepeyac, a town near Mexico City. Our Lady of Guadalupe is the patroness of our Diocese and of the United States and this Feast Day is an important day in the life of our Hispanic brothers and sisters. We will gather in the Church at 5:15 A.M. on Monday for the singing of Mañanitas followed by Mass at 6:00 A.M. We will have the mariachi leading our music. A reception will follow the Mass in the Parish Center. All are welcome.


For these final two weeks of Advent let us continue to grow in our spiritual life and not allow the secular world to distract us from spending time with the Lord. Consider taking the time to come to the Sacrament of Reconciliation in Confession. This week we have an opportunity to step away from the secular world by spending some prayer time with the Lord present in the Monstrance on the Altar. Wednesday December 14<sup>th</sup> is our monthly day of adoration in the presence of the Eucharist and a great opportunity in the middle of the week to spend time in prayer with the Lord.

Fr. George P. Blais

### WEEKLY DONATIONS SUMMARY

	Week of Nov. 28-Dec. 4, 2022	Week of Nov. 28-Dec. 4, 2021
Envelopes	\$11,454.00	\$11,098.00
Loose	\$3,817.50	\$3,561.52
Electronic	\$3,592.30	\$6,399.06
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18,863.80</b>	<b>\$21,058.58</b>

We invite you to consider using electronic/online giving, a convenient and secure way to make your donations. To do so, you may go to the parish website or call the office for assistance in setting it up. Thank you for supporting our parish!

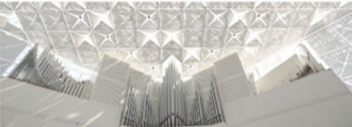


**Christmas at the Cathedral**

A concert featuring the Hazel Wright Organ, Cathedral Choirs & Brass Ensemble

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16 | 7:30 PM

ChristCathedralMusic.org



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**Friday, December 16 at 7:30 PM**  
 For more information, visit  
[www.christcathedralmusic.org](http://www.christcathedralmusic.org)

**Mass Intentions for the Week**

<u>Sunday:</u>		
7:30 AM	Alfred DiDomenico	(D)
9:00 AM	Maria Cleofe Sapaden	(D)
11:00 AM	For the Parish	
<u>Monday:</u>		
6:00 AM	Mary Anderson & Cleo Apesteguia	(D)
9:00 AM	Mary Piccione	(D)
<u>Tuesday:</u>		
9:00 AM	Maria Loan Tran	(D)
	Darlene Lewandowski	(D)
	Mary Flores	(D)
	All Souls in Purgatory	
<u>Wednesday:</u>		
9:00 AM	Guillermo Sisley	(D)
<u>Thursday:</u>		
9:00 AM	Fred & Mary Guina	(L)
	Therese Blais	(D)
<u>Friday:</u>		
9:00 AM	Alex Labayen, Sr.	(D)
<u>Saturday:</u>		
8:30 AM	Abad Family	(L)
4:00 PM	Eduardo Bernina Lim	(D)
6:00 PM	Lino Flores	(D)

*We remember all our recently deceased who have 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** — The barren deserts will rejoice and flower. Tired bodies will receive strength. Aching hearts will be made glad (Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10).

**Psalm** — The Lord saves us when he comes (Psalm 146).

**Second Reading** — Be patient, for the coming of the Lord is as sure as the rain (James 5:7-10).

**Gospel** — Tell of what you hear and see: The blind regain their vision, the crippled their movement, the deaf their hearing (Matthew 11:2-11).

**ADORATION**

Our Monthly Day of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is on Wednesday, December 14th, beginning after the 9AM Mass and continues until just prior to the 9AM Mass on Thursday, December 15th.



*We invite and encourage you to spend some time with Our Lord in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.*

**HOLY HOUR**

**Saint Nicholas Church celebrates a HOLY HOUR every Wednesday at 7:00 PM.**

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**



**Monday:** Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712

**Tuesday:** Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23; Mt 21:28-32

**Wednesday:** Is 45: 6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 7:18b-23

**Thursday:** Is 54:1-10; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b; Lk 7:24-30

**Friday:** Is 56:1-3a, 6-8; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8; Jn 5:33-36

**Saturday:** Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17

**Sunday:** Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

**Saints of the Week and Special Observances**

**Sunday:** Third Sunday of Advent  
**Monday:** Our Lady of Guadalupe  
**Tuesday:** St. Lucy  
**Wednesday:** St. John of the Cross  
**Friday:** Las Posadas begins





We want to communicate more effectively with you and make it easy for you to control what types of announcements you get from us and how you are notified when we make them. And in order to do this we are using a simple service called FLOCKNOTE. (Like sending "notes" to your "flock".) This is all totally free for you to use and makes it easy for you to get Father George's Weekly Messages, important Parish News, and stay plugged in to the ministries or groups that you care about, all by text message or email updates. Your information will be completely safe and secure. And you can unsubscribe from any updates at any time!

**Join FLOCKNOTE by Texting:**

**SNC1 To: 84576**

or

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Text STOP to 84576 to stop txt notifications at any time. Text HELP for help. There is no charge for this service, but your carrier message and data may apply. Full view of privacy policy and terms at [flocknote.com/txt](http://flocknote.com/txt).

## Bethlehem Artworks



There will be Representatives from the Holy Land this weekend December 10th and 11th after every Mass with Artworks from Bethlehem. We invite you to stop by their display.

As many of you may already know, the situation in the Holy Land is extremely difficult for all who continue to live there. They are faced with very harsh economic conditions, discrimination and hardships in providing for their loved ones. Many have fled looking for a better life and better opportunities. For the Christians that stay behind, they rely heavily on sales of handmade olive wood carvings to survive. For most of them, that is the only way they are able to find any work and the only way they are able to continue living in the Holy land. Our mission is to once again be able to help and support our brothers and sisters and keep Christian presence in the Holy Land. All money that is made from the sales will go directly back to the families. ***We ask that you find it in your hearts to stop by the display and take a look at the amazing work that is made. Please help support our brothers and sisters by purchasing one of their beautiful items. Thank you, God bless!***



## Sunday, December 18th

Come and join us in celebrating Simbang Gabi here at St. Nicholas on Sunday, December 18, 2022 at 6:30 PM. This is a Filipino tradition and normally a devotional 9 day series of Masses in preparation for Christmas.

Mass will be officiated by Fr. George P. Blais. After the Mass there will be a reception at the Large Hall 1st Floor.

Any questions call Mary Ann Puzon at 949-294-5625 or email [preciousgem14@cox.net](mailto:preciousgem14@cox.net)

## PASTORAL SERVICES APPEAL UPDATE

Thank you to all who have contributed to the 2022 Pastoral Services Appeal (PSA). Our assigned goal this year is \$110,000. To date, there are 272 donors who have pledged \$130,999, of which \$123,381 has been received. This means we have already exceeded our goal, and anything above that goal will come back to us as a rebate. Because of your generosity, we have regularly exceeded our goal by a significant amount for the past several years. Based on this positive trend, our budget for the current fiscal year includes an anticipated PSA rebate of \$44,000. This means that between now and December 31, 2022, we hope to receive an additional \$23,001 over what has currently been donated. ***If you have not yet donated to the 2022 PSA campaign, please consider making a contribution before the end of the year. Donation brochures are available in the Parish Office, or you can use the online option which can be accessed on the parish website. May God bless you for your generosity!***



## Confirmation & Youth Ministry

Confirmation Classes have begun for the 2022-2023 academic year. All classes are held upstairs in the parish hall.

**Next Class Meetings:**  
C2: 12/11/22 9AM  
C1: 12/18/22 9AM

Our Next Faith Sharing event will be held on Saturday December 17th upstairs in the Parish Hall immediately following the 4PM Mass. Students are encouraged to bring their sponsors, family, friends, etc. Please keep an eye out for further announcements regarding important dates for Confirmation and Youth Ministry in the coming weeks, or feel free to check the Ministry's Google Calendar (link available on the parish website).



## CONFESSIONS IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

Monday	December 12	9:30am 6:00pm
Tuesday	December 13	9:30am
Thursday	December 15	9:30am
Friday	December 16	9:30am
Saturday	December 17	9:00am
Monday	December 19	9:30am 6:00pm
Tuesday	December 20	9:30am
Wednesday	December 21	9:30am 6:00pm
Thursday	December 22	9:30am
Friday	December 23	9:30am

Please note: evening confessions in the month of December will be at 6:00 PM.

*There will be no confessions on Wednesday, December 14.*

## AS THE HOLIDAYS APPROACH US BEWARE OF EMAIL AND TEXT MESSAGE SCAMS

If you received an email or phone text messages from Father George Blais or anyone else from the parish requesting assistance with money transfers, iTunes gift card purchases, or any other type of monetary support, PLEASE DISREGARD, these are scams. Always check with the office directly before responding to any such email to verify authenticity.



SRE classes continue on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Please check your class schedule for specific times and dates. For questions regarding SRE classes please call 949-837-7676.

## Donate a Poinsettia in Memory of a Loved One



We will be accepting donations of Poinsettias in memory of a loved one to help decorate the Church and Parish Center for Christmas. Please bring plants to the Parish Office starting **Friday, December 16, 2022.**

*Please do not bring them before then.*  
Thank you.

*The Knights of Columbus would like to thank everyone who attended the recent pancake breakfast. It is only through the support of parishioners that we are able to continue to support our parish and community. Your participation in our events is greatly appreciated. !!*



**Website Bulletin: St. Nicholas news continues after the ads, on page 8. Please scroll down.**





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Attorney Timothy J. O'Connor Local Parishioner



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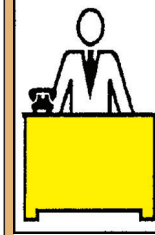


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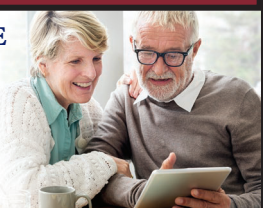
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### ANGEL TREE

Our annual **Angel Tree** project for Christmas started on **Friday, November 25th**. The Angel Tree is set up on the small parking lot side of the Church. It is decorated with angels that have been colored by our School of Religious Ed. (SRE) children.

On the back of each angel is a description of a child or an adult. Please purchase an appropriate gift for the person described, and **bring it to the Parish Office by Sunday, December 11th – unwrapped**. Put the Angel on the present and remember the person who will receive your gift in your prayers. Gifts will be distributed to charitable organizations in Orange County. Thank you for your generosity!

### **CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**



#### Saturday, December 24

**8:30am - regular weekend Mass**

#### **Christmas Vigil Masses**

**4:00 PM (English)**

Parish Choir & String Quartet

**6:00 PM (Spanish)**

**8:00 PM (Vietnamese)**

**11:00 PM (English)**

St. Nicholas Chorale

#### Sunday, December 25 - Christmas

*7:30 AM (English)*

*9:00 AM (English)*

*11:00 AM (English)*

*5:00 PM (Vietnamese)*

*Organ and Cantor at all the Masses*



### **OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CELEBRATION AT ST. NICHOLAS MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2022**

Join us in honoring and celebrating "Our Lady of Guadalupe". Mañanitas & Rosary in the church at 5:15 AM, followed by a Mass at 6:00 AM. After Mass, please join us in the parish hall for hot chocolate and Mexican sweet bread.



\*\*\*\*\*

Celebración en honor a Nuestra Señora,  
La Virgen de Guadalupe  
Parroquia de San Nicolas

#### **LUNES, 12 DE DICIEMBRE**

**5:15 AM Mañanitas y Rosario en la iglesia**

**6:00 AM Santa Misa (procesión después de la Misa)**

**Después de la procesión habrá pan dulce y chocolate en el "Salón Grande".**

**"The Eucharist is the highway to heaven."**

- BL. CARLO ACUTIS

