

FEBRUARY 26, 2023

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



PRAYER

FASTING

ALMSGIVING

ST. NICHOLAS PARISH

24252 El Toro Road, Laguna Woods, CA 92637

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

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

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday-Friday:	9AM (English)
Saturday:	8:30AM (English)
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

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,

As we begin this Lenten Season, we hear in today's Gospel from Matthew about how Jesus went into the desert to pray for forty days and was tempted by the devil. We have these forty days of Lent to pray and experience conversion in our lives. Like Jesus, we also may be tempted by the devil.

Lent is a time of prayer, fasting, and alms giving as we strive to purify our lives and become better people. We are given this opportunity each year to reflect on our need for God's mercy and forgiveness as we assess our lives and actions in how we are living out God's call to holiness by following His commandments. In our time of prayer, we may be challenged and tempted by the devil to justify our actions so that we do not recognize the seriousness of our faults. Jesus invites us to be strong in our efforts to stand up to the devil and be drawn closer to His desire for mercy and forgiveness.

As we fast and do acts of penance and charity, we are telling the Lord that we are His and we desire to be Holy. Our acts of sacrifice and giving things up are ways to show the Lord our best intentions to be His people and His witnesses in the world that we live. This season is a time to die to sin and rise to new life in the Lord Jesus and this gift of resurrection has been given to us in our Baptism and will be renewed as we renew our Baptismal Promises on Easter Sunday.

This time of reflection calls us to conversion in our lives. As we heard on Ash Wednesday; "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return," or "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel." These two sayings remind us where we came from and where we are going and call us to experience conversion in our life. The second form invites us to be committed to the Gospel message as we strive to give up sin and be better people.

I pray that we may all have an effective Lenten Season leading us to lives of holiness.

Fr. George P. Blais, Pastor

WEEKLY DONATIONS SUMMARY

	Week of Feb. 13-19, 2023	Week of Feb. 13-19, 2022
Envelopes	\$9,104.00	\$11,159.00
Loose	\$3,995.00	\$3,350.00
Electronic	\$2,213.56	\$2,748.93
Total	\$15,312.56	\$17,257.93

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!

2022 DONATION STATEMENTS

Year-end donation statements were mailed out a couple of weeks ago to all those who donated \$200 or more to St. Nicholas Church in 2022. If that includes you, and for some reason you did not receive your statement, please contact Len Goswitz (Parish Business Manager) at (949) 837-1090 or lgoswitz@st-nicholaschurch.org

Please also contact Len if you gave less than \$200 during 2022 and would like to receive a statement. Thank you for supporting our parish!

Help families of the devastating earthquakes in Syria and Turkey through Catholic Relief Services. Please visit: <https://support.crs.org/donate/earthquakes>
Thank you to all who contributed to our special collections last weekend.
We collected \$8,114. Your generosity is appreciated.



Mass Intentions for the Week
Sunday:

7:30 AM For the Parish
 9:00 AM Stefanie Huckleberry (D)
 11:00 AM Ryan & Sara Jaber (L)
 Manuel Figueroa (D)
 Wilbur Frederick (D)
 Causapin Family

Monday:

9:00 AM Nicholas Chuong Nguyen (D)

Tuesday:

9:00 AM Antonio Madrid (L)

Wednesday:

9:00 AM Guise Long Ngoc Nguyen

Thursday:

9:00 AM Kara Anthony (L)
 Antonio Locanas (D)
 Isidra Duenas Manalac (D)
 Barbara Reiter (D)

Friday:

9:00 AM Antonio V. Locanas (D)

Saturday

8:30 AM Daniel J. Yannantuono (D)
 4:00 PM Harry Fletcher (D)
 6:00 PM Estrellita Libang (D)

We remember all our recently deceased who have entered their new and eternal life in Christ, *especially, Frank Hoyt and Anilo Calabrese*. Grant to all our dearly departed, eternal rest, O Lord, and may your light shine on them forever.

Saints of the Week & Special Observances

Sunday: First Sunday of Lent
 Monday: St. Gregory of Narek;
 Julian Calendar Lent begins
 Friday: St. Katharine Drexel; Abstinence;
 First Friday; World Day of Prayer
 Saturday: St. Casimir; First Saturday

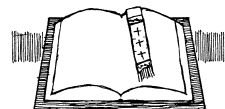
TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading - The man and the woman ate the fruit of the one tree that God had told them to avoid, and their shame overtook them (Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7).

Psalm - Have mercy on us sinners, O Lord (Psalm 51).

Second Reading — Death reigned from Adam to Moses, but now grace and life abound in Christ Jesus (Romans 5:12-19 [12, 17-19]).

Gospel — Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit and there he fasted for forty days and forty nights (Matthew 4:1-11).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK


Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mt 25:31-46
 Tuesday: Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-7, 16-19; Mt 6:7-15
 Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lk 11:29-32
 Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8; Mt 7:7-12
 Friday: Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-8; Mt 5:20-26
 Saturday: Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48
 Sunday: Gn 12:1-4a; Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22; 2 Tm 1:8b-10; Mt 17:1-9

HOLY HOUR

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

Come and spend an hour of Prayer, Reflection, Adoration, and Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament.
Adoration is on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

FEBRUARY 26, 2023

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

LENT FISH DINNER – ON FRIDAY

February 24th - March 31st

**From 5 PM - 6:30 PM
in the Parish Hall.**



**Cost per person: \$10
family prices available**



Prepared by The Knights of Columbus

SEWING GROUP

If you have experience sewing, knitting or crocheting, we would love for you to join the St. Nicholas Sewing Group. We meet every **Monday from 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM in the Small Hall.** If you have any questions, call the Parish Office, 949-837-1090 and leave a message for Cate, the Sewing Director, to contact you.



First Saturday Novena

The Federation of Filipino Rosary Groups of Orange County (FFRGOC) will continue the traditional Filipino First Saturday Novena/ Rosary devotion to our Blessed Virgin Mary on March 4, 2023. This

tradition is celebrated for 9 months, starting in October until June. We have been praying this Novena and Mass at St. Nicholas for the past 30 years. The Filipino choir (HRPCC) will be singing during the 4:00 PM Mass. After the Mass, we will all proceed to the Large Hall SECOND FLOOR for the rosary (in English). This month's rosary will be sponsored by South Areas 1-5. Everyone is welcome to join.



Lenten Alms Change Lives Globally and in your community

Each Lent, Catholic families across the country unite to put their faith into action through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Through CRS Rice Bowl, families learn about how our sisters and brothers across the globe overcome hardships like hunger and malnutrition, and how through Lenten alms, we have the power to make the world a better place for all. ***Please join us in this effort and pick up a Rice bowl/box available in the church and return your alms (box) at the end of Lent. Thank you for your generosity.***



Thank you

Valentines Day Brunch sponsored by the Unity Group and the Parish Ministries, held on February 12, was enjoyed by all, about 400 people attended. Thank you for your support and thank you to all the groups for the food donations.



Thank you!



Thank you to all who supported Hispanic Ministry Tamale Fundraiser this past weekend. It was a very successful.

Gracias

Gracias a todos los que apoyaron al Ministerio Hispano en la venta de tamales este pasado fin de semana.
Fue un gran éxito!

Confirmation & Youth Ministry

Confirmation classes have resumed. All classes are held at 9AM upstairs in the parish hall and include attendance at the 11AM Mass. 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).

Confirmation Classes For Adults



The Sacrament of Confirmation, in which we receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit into our lives, will be offered to adults who have not been confirmed on **Wednesday, May 3rd, at the 7:00 PM Mass.**

If you are 18 years of age or older, baptized, and regularly attend Mass and receive the Eucharist, we invite you to come to seven (7) Saturday sessions in preparation for the Sacrament.

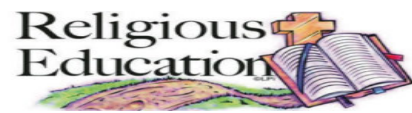
Classes will be held from 10 AM to 11:30 AM, beginning **Saturday, March 11th, in Room "A"** (the building behind the Parish Office).

Registration forms are available in the Parish Office. If you wish more information, please call Gloria at (949) 768-7228.



Thanks to all who joined the in-class and ZOOM sessions for the Book Study Holy Moments by Matthew Kelly. **Tuesday, February 28th is our last session for this book. Adult Faith Formation will continue to schedule faith filled events.**

Gracias a los que no acompañaron en el estudio del libro Momentos Sagrados. La Formación de Fe para Adultos continuará programando eventos llenos de fe.



SRE - 2023 First Reconciliation

On February 11th, 38 students received their Sacrament of First Reconciliation. Please continue to pray for our SRE students so that they may always experience and grow in understanding the many Graces God gives us in the Sacraments.



SRE classes continue on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Please check your class schedule for specific times and dates.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Lopez at 949-837-7676

STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Please join us for Stations of the Cross every Friday, starting February 24TH, at 9:45 AM & 7:00 PM in English, 7:00PM in Spanish, and 8:00 PM in Vietnamese.

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

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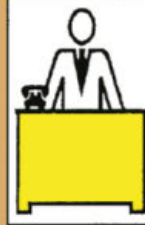


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Lent: A time for healing and renewal
St. Nicholas Parish Lenten Mission
March 13 – 16, 2023



Lenten Mission Director:
Fr. Jacob Carazo, OFM Conv.

All are invited to reflect on how to live a healthy and holy Lent that will lead us to healing and renewal. We are all aware of the penitential acts of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Now, we can together explore over four days, how to strengthen those penitential acts as we continue listening to the challenging call to conversion, purification, and enlightenment.

Father Jacob will begin guiding us to our Lenten Mission preaching at the Sunday Masses the weekend of March 11 – 12, 2023, as well as at Daily Mass during the Lenten Mission. The talks will take place Monday, March 13 – Wednesday, March 16 from 9:45 – 10:45 AM followed by a 30-minute time for questions and answers. The same talks will take place in the evening from 7 – 8 PM followed by a 30-minute time for questions and answers. On Thursday, March 16, the focus will be on Penance and Reconciliation and the talks will be from 9:45 – 10:15 AM followed by confessions and then in the evening from 7 – 7:30 PM with confessions to follow.

The morning and evenings talks will be in the Parish Hall Monday, March 13 – Wednesday, March 16, while the Thursday, March 17 final talks on Penance and Reconciliation in the morning and evening will be in the church.

Pastoral Service Appeal 2023



It is time for our annual Pastoral Services Appeal. This year our diocesan goal is \$110,000. Please pick up a brochure and prayerfully consider making a pledge for this year's appeal. Thank you to those who have already made a pledge in response to the letter that you received from the diocese.

Lenten Penitential Practices

Please remember that all Catholics in the U.S. are encouraged to enter into sacrificial penance, during the 40 days of Lent.

Abstinence: Catholics aged 14 and up are to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays of Lent, and Good Friday.

Fasting: In the dioceses in the United States, Catholics aged 18 through 59 are bound to fast on both Ash Wednesday and Good Friday (April 7, 2023).

Easter Duty: All the faithful, after they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, are bound by the obligation of receiving Communion at least once a year. This precept is to be fulfilled during the Easter Season unless it is fulfilled, for a just cause, at some other time during the year. This period is extended to include all the weeks of Lent and the Easter Season up to Pentecost Sunday, May 28, 2023.

ELECTRONIC GIVING CARDS

We wish to thank all who donate to the Church electronically and invite all to consider using this format to contribute to the Church. We are implementing a new courtesy practice for those who give electronically so that you have something to put in the collection basket. We will have small cards available at the doors of the Church when you enter. The card reads: "I donate electronically." Feel free to pick one up if you wish to have something to put in the collection basket.