



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

Administrator	Rev. Martin Bui
Parochial Vicar	Rev. Phuong Nguyen
In-Residence	Bishop Thanh Nguyen
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) *

Wednesdays	6:00 PM
Saturdays	9:00 AM

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

Message from Our Parochial Administrator

My Dear Beloved Brothers and Sisters,

Today we are celebrating the thirteenth Sunday in ordinary time. It is also the first week of July which correlates with the annual transition of priests in our diocese and many other dioceses around the country. It is also my first weekend as your new parochial-administrator. First let me introduce to you a little bit about myself.

I came from a big family with 6 other siblings, and I am the only religious person in the family, all others are married. I was born in Vietnam, but grew up here in Southern California since 1990. Growing up, I dreamt of having a beautiful family with kids, a big home, and a sleek sport car. However, things weren't going as I planned, but of God's. After graduating from college, I had questions about the meaning of life and saw sufferings in our world and our neighbors as something very tragic. Gradually, I began to read spiritual books, prayed more, and went to weekly adoration at my home parish, St. Columban in Garden Grove hoping to make a difference. Finally, one day, I decided to contact the vocation office in the Orange diocese to give the priesthood a try. I entered the seminary in 2005 and was ordained a priest in 2011. My first assignment was St. Joachim, and St. Nicholas is my fourth parish. Assigned by Bishop Vann to be your next administrator, I am looking forward to work with the clergy, staff, all ministries, and all of you to build up a place where we welcome and serve everyone who comes our way.

In this Sunday's Gospel reading, Jesus gave us two teachings: one about carrying our cross and the other about hospitality. First, hospitality. It is one of the most important ministries of the Church's life. I have not forgotten the story of the great figure of India, Mr. Mahatma Gandhi. After reading the Bible, Mr. Gandhi stepped into the Catholic church looking for meaning from Jesus and his church, but once at his church, one of the ushers looked at him and said he wasn't welcome. Mr. Gandhi said he never stepped inside the Catholic church again because of that incident. Sad and tragic.

Here at St. Nicholas, we would like to do the opposite. Sometimes, the hospitality of the Church is not the hospitality of a four-star hotel where perfect manners are expected. But here in the Church, in our parish, we have the hospitality of grace, where people who don't have Reader's Digest marriages, picture perfect lives, and who have made mistakes-big and bad ones-can come to begin again. There is room for them here. There is room for you and for me. It would be odd if the community Jesus founded is the only one to throw its wounded overboard. There is a line from a song that I have heard. It's an old song that said, "Send us your weak and we will make them strong." Yes. The hospitality of grace is about helping people put the pieces back together. That's why weekly Mass is important for all of us. We all have our crosses to carry which don't go on vacation for the summer. Here is the place where we can come to renew our vision, revive our commitment to Christ, relight our baptismal candle, reclaim our place at the Lord's table, and slowly remodel our lives. We will begin this vision with our ushers when they greet those who step into this church with courtesy, gentleness, and a big smile of welcome. Each one of us can also do our part with a warm welcome to those we meet in the pews every Sunday.

Moreover, we all know people whose family life, married life and personal life are in a huge difficulty because of the influences by popular culture, the clichés of talk shows. They are people who, St. Paul says in the second reading, were baptized into Jesus Christ, but things went wrong. We all have family members who had marriage problems. If you know of Catholics, ex-Catholics, lapsed Catholics or former Catholics who feel that they are no longer welcome or that too much water has passed over the dam, who have been overwhelmed by their cross in life, let us try to show them the hospitality of grace. Let them know that there is a place for them here.

This is the link with the hospitality of the Shunamite woman in today's first reading. We all know a fellow-Catholics who have made mistakes and committed serious sin of all kinds who now feel that the Catholic Church doesn't want them anymore. They feel that to come to church we have to have our "t's" crossed and "i's" dotted. That is not true. Absolutely not. We gather here to become holy. We are all on the same boat.

Next the cross. Before this section of the Gospel, the Lord said that He came for division, to separate mother daughter, father and son. Here, Jesus says, that if we love our relatives more than we love Him, we are not worthy of Him. These words were on target in the early Church and still happens today in some Muslim countries when the decision to become Christian tore families apart because Christianity was so incompatible with everything around it. When people became Christian, they separated themselves from the whole network of social and business contacts. Becoming Christian was a major decision. It wasn't just a private choice. It had serious consequences.

Today, so much around us is hostile to Gospel teaching: the drug culture, corporate greed, the way marriage is trivialized, the assault on human life and dignity. On almost every front, we are faced with the decision to silently go along with everyone else or to live as Christ teaches. It is a choice as serious for us as for the early Christians. This is the cross we all have to face. If we see unkind manners, injustice, hatred here in our community, we have the duty to speak up. Even though it might bring discomfort, but this is the cross we too have to carry.

The Church, this parish is a place we can call home, where we can renew their spiritual strength, remove the stains from our baptismal garment and relight their baptismal candle. We can make the effort to show others the magnificent hospitality of Jesus Christ. This is what the Lord teaches, and this is the goal that I would like us to adapt going forward. May our good Lord bless us and guide us. St. Nicholas pray for us. God bless you all.

---Fr. Martin Bui, Parochial Administrator

Mass Intentions for the Week
Sunday:

7:30 AM	For the Parish	
9:00 AM	Jaime Muller de la Lama	(D)
	Molly Mary Braggs Rego	(D)
	Roy Mullenhour	(D)
	Mimi Baker	(D)
11:00 AM	Lee Bevilacqua	(D)

Monday:

9:00 AM	Scott Franklin (D) & Antoinette Franklin	(D)
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Tuesday:

9:00 AM	Monique	(L)
	Carmen Polinario	(D)
	Rommel Garcia	(D)
	Robert Tawara	(D)

Wednesday:

9:00 AM	Bob Mangino	(D)
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Thursday:

9:00 AM	Leticia Balledos	(L)
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Friday:

9:00 AM	Jefferson Windle	(L)
	Marlene Schmitt	(D)

Saturday:

8:30 AM	Hoi Nguyen & Min Tran	(D)
4:00 PM	Miles Christopher Eubanks	
6:00 PM	Deceased Members of Gallardo Fuentes Family	

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.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday:	13th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday:	St. Thomas, Apostle
Tuesday:	Independence Day
Wednesday:	St. Anthony Zaccaria, Priest; St. Elizabeth of Portugal
Thursday:	St. Maria Goretti, Virgin and Martyr

SUNDAY'S READINGS

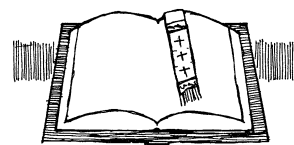
First Reading: "I know that Elisha is a holy man of God.

Since he visits us often, let us arrange a little room on the roof and furnish it for him with a bed, table, chair, and lamp, so that when he comes to us he can stay there." (2 Kgs 4:9-10)

Psalm: For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord. (Ps 89)

Second Reading: Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. (Rom 6:3-4)

Gospel: "Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me." (Mt 10:40)

READINGS FOR THE WEEK


Sunday:	2 Kgs 4:8-11, 14-16a/Ps 89:2-3, 16-17, 18-19 (2a)/Rom 6:3-4, 8-11/Mt 10:37-42
Monday:	Eph 2:19-22/Ps 117:1bc, 2/Jn 20:24-29
Tuesday:	Gn 19:15-29/Ps 26:2-3, 9-10, 11-12/Mt 8:23-27
Wednesday:	Gn 21:5, 8-20a/Ps 34:7-8, 10-11, 12-13/Mt 8:28-34
Thursday:	Gn 22:1b-19/Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Mt 9:1-8
Friday:	Gn 23:1-4, 19; 24:1-8, 62-67/Ps 106:1b-2, 3-4a, 4b-5/Mt 9:9-13
Saturday:	Gn 27:1-5, 15-29/Ps 135:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:14-17

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.



*Adult Faith Formation brings you another opportunity to be part of the
“NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL” MOVEMENT.*

This is My Body

(A book study on the Eucharist)

This June marks the beginning of the National Eucharistic Revival at the parish level. Therefore, St. Nicholas Adult Faith Formation will host a study using Bishop Robert Barron's new book, *This is My Body: A Call to Eucharistic Revival*. We will gather to help us restore our understanding and devotion to the great mystery of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.

*Join us on Tuesdays, July 11, 18 & 25
at 9:30 in the Parish Hall.*

*No need to sign up. Just show up to the 1st
session. Everyone is welcome.*

(Coming in September, 2023 a study called *Jesus and the Eucharist*

Congratulations, St. Nicholas Parish! Pastoral Service Appeal 2023 Update



Congratulations, we have reached our Diocesan PSA goal of \$110,000! Therefore, any pledge moving forward will be returned to St. Nicholas as a rebate. We will receive our first rebate check in June. For those who have not yet pledged, know that your donation will come to St. Nicholas to help cover the cost of enhancing our church sound system. Thank you for your generosity!

WEEKLY DONATIONS SUMMARY

	Week of June 19-25, 2023	Week of June 19-25, 2022
Envelopes	\$7,650.00	\$9,027.00
Loose	\$4,028.00	\$3,418.00
Electronic	\$1,996.93	\$1,099.33
Total	\$13,674.93	\$13,544.33

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!

Thank you and Farewell

As I transition to my new assignment, I wish to thank all of you for your kind words and generous gifts to me in these past few weeks. Please know that you are in my prayers, and I ask you to pray for me. May God continue to Bless you and Mary, our Blessed Mother, always lead you to Her Son Jesus.

Fr. George P. Blais

Parents sign up your children to learn about God with great music and fun activities.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS) 2023



St. Nicholas Church
July 31, August 1, 2, 3, 4th

8:45 am – Noon, breakfast provided. Great for children age 6–12 years old.

Registration forms available in the Parish Office or SRE Office.

Enrollment for Religious Education classes for the 2023-24 starts in August with classes beginning in September. watch the bulletin for upcoming events & registration information.

Our Lady of Medjugorje

Our Blessed Mother in Medjugorje invites us to pray for peace Monday - Friday at 3:00 PM. Please join the Divine Mercy group at St. Nicholas Parish to fulfill this promise, Monday - Friday at 3:00 PM in the Church.



SEWING GROUP

Sewing Group will not meet for the next few weeks. Please check bulletin for updates.

Children's Sunday Liturgy St. Nicholas Church



PLEASE NOTE: WE WILL NOT HAVE CHILDREN'S LITURGY THIS WEEKEND, JULY 2ND, DUE TO THE HOLIDAY.

Volunteers are needed to assist the coordinator with Sunday Children's Liturgy please call the Parish Office at 949-837-1090 if you are interested.

Confirmation & Youth Ministry



Confirmation Classes have concluded for the 2022-23 academic year.

Please stay tuned for information on summer events & registration for next year's classes or feel free to check the Ministry's Google Calendar (link available on the parish website).



FAITH ALIVE

Come and join us every Thursday in room "A" from 10:00am–11:30am for "Faith Alive". We study the upcoming Sunday Scripture and follow the Sunday missal using "Living with Christ". Don't miss the fellowship, coffee and snacks. We sometime get together for lunch, but that is optional. For questions, please call Rosalie Souza at 949-457-1092. Hope to see you all there .

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

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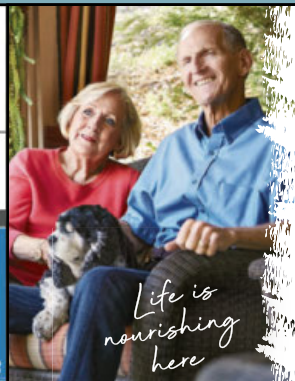
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**Kudos and a special thanks to all the
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Fr. George Blais' farewell
gathering special and memorable.**



**Parish Offices will be closed
Tuesday, July 4th
in observance of
USA Independence Day.**

Happy Fourth of July!

A New Shepherd at St. Nicholas

Effective July 1, 2023, Fr. Martin Bui will replace Fr. George Blais as the chief shepherd of St. Nicholas Parish, having been assigned to this role by Bishop Kevin Vann. Since Fr. Martin has served our community as Parochial Vicar for this past year, many of us may already know him. In accord with Diocesan policy, Fr. Martin's title will be "Parochial Administrator". As Fr. Martin takes on these vital responsibilities, let us all pray that God protects, guides and inspires him as he devotes himself to leading each of us on our journey of faith.