



ST. NICHOLAS CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

Parochial Administrator Rev. Martin Bui

Parochial Vicar Rev. Phuong Nguyen In-Residence Bishop Thanh Nguyen

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)

SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

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.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

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

Parochial Administrator's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters.

It is impossible to go through life without some painful experiences happening to us. Some of these things we bring on ourselves such as addictions, sins, or conflicts with others. Others are things we suffer at the hands of others like betrayal, and still others happen through no one's fault such as accidents and natural disasters. Wherever these things come from, they may bring us to a stage where we think there is no way out or no redemption. Nothing can be salvaged. As a result, we fall prey to hopelessness and self-pity. We begin to doubt ourselves, doubt life, and doubt even God.

To anyone of us who felt that way, St. Paul has a message. He tells us in this week's second reading that God has a saving plan, a purpose which everything serves. God can turn things to the benefit of those who persevere and trust in Him. God can bring good out of our pain, even out of our sins. This is not to say that God wills bad things to happen to us. No, God, our loving and merciful Father, does not will bad things for his beloved children. But when bad things do happen to us, God helps us, not only pick up the pieces, but to reap a harvest from the wreckage.

There is a story about a king who owned a very valuable diamond. One day an accident happened and the diamond got deeply scratched. The king consulted experts to see if anything could be done to restore the diamond, but they told the king that even if they were to polish it, they would never be able to repair the wound it had suffered. The king locked the diamond in his vault where it lay hidden and useless for years. Then one day a very famous diamond cutter arrived in the capital. At the king's invitation, he undertook to examine the diamond to see if anything could be done with it. After examining the diamond carefully, he said, "Your majesty, I will make the diamond look even more beautiful than it was before the accident." On hearing this, the other diamond cutters laughed, but the king was delighted and gave him permission to work on the diamond. Bringing all his artistry to work on it, he proceeded to engrave a beautiful rose on the diamond, using the deep scratch as the stem of the rose. When the king and the diamond cutters saw what he had done they were filled with admiration. It wasn't just a clever cover-up. He took the diamond's fault and transformed it into something beautiful.

Similarly, God can help us to transform our worst faults into a virtue, our worst misfortune into our greatest blessing. Our troubles are a lot of times for our growth, and it can be an atonement as well. However, in our pride or just in our sense of hurt, we may throw away or ignore the thing that can bring us closer to God and recognize his grace to help us grow. From painful experiences and difficult times, we can know that God is faithful to us and can bring good out of anything. If we trust him and have patience, we will know the truth of what Scriptures says: "God makes all things work together for the good of those who love him." And if difficult times should return, we will remember what we have learned. What God has already done for us and we will not lose faith. God see us more clearly and knows us better than anyone else. He sees our wounds and sorrows, the scars we carry in our hearts. He will be faithful to us until the end.

Life is unintelligible and unbearable without God. A close friendship with God is a real treasure, like a pearl that a merchant found. It gives us a sense of who we are, and where we are going. If we find God, we find all. God bless you on your journey of faith.

Fr. Martin Bui, Parochial Administrator

WEEKLY DONATIONS SUMMARY

	Week of	Week of
	July 17-23, 2023	July 17-23, 2022
Envelopes	\$8,944.00	\$9,954.68
Loose	\$3,754.50	\$3,272.00
Electronic	\$3,986.93	\$1,342.44
Total	\$16,685.43	\$14,569.12

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!

PASTORAL SERVICES APPEAL 2023 UPDATE

Congratulations, again, on reaching our Diocesan assigned PSA goal of \$110,000! Any pledge moving forward will be returned to St. Nicholas as a rebate. We received our first rebate check in June. As previously announced, our plan for the rebate funds is to do a major upgrade to our church sound system, which is old and faulty. Our hope is to take in a total of \$210,000, which would be \$100,000 above the Diocesan goal, thereby providing sufficient funds to pay for the sound system project. For those who have not yet pledged, know that your donations will come directly to St. Nicholas and will be used for this project. Thank you for your generosity!

Updated PSA numbers:

Number of donors: 251 Amount pledged: \$164,216 Amount received: \$148,059

Mass Intentions for the Week

Sunday: 7:30 AM	For the Parish	
9:00 AM	Madeleine Van Steen	(D)
11:00 AM	Sara & Ryan Jaber Ruth Powell Paterno Abad Lucia Rae Callichio	(L) (D) (D) (D)
Monday: 9:00 AM	Leticia Arnaiz Aurora Adeva Alfonso Tac Tran Randolph Jech	(D) (D) (D) (D)
<u>Tuesday</u> : 9:00 AM	Architect Jaime Muller de la Lama	(D)
<u>Wednesday</u> : 9:00 AM	Dorothy Isaacson	(L)
<u>Thursday:</u> 9:00 AM	Maria Mau Pham & Julia Rodriguez	(D)
<u>Friday:</u> 9:00 AM	Celedonia M. Soles	(D)
<u>Saturday:</u> 8:30 AM	Marina Josefa & Benjamin Araos, Sr.	(D)
4:00 PM	For the Parish	
6:00 PM	Deacon Gerry & Socorro de Santos	(L)

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: 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time Monday: St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest St. Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop and Tuesday:

Doctor of the Church

St. Eusebius of Vercelli, Bishop; St. Wednesday:

Peter Julian Eymard, Priest

St. John Vianney, Priest Friday:

The Dedication of the Basilica of St. Saturday:

Mary Major

Next Sunday: The Transfiguration of the Lord

HOLY HOUR

Saint Nicholas Church celebrates HOLY HOUR every Wednesday at 7:00 PM. Join us for prayer, reflection and quiet time with the Lord.

SUNDAY'S READINGS

First Reading: "Because you have asked for this—not for a long life for yourself, nor for riches, nor for the life of your enemies, but for understanding so that you may know what is right—I do as you requested." (1 Kgs 3:11-12) **Psalm**: Lord, I love your commands. (Ps 119) **Second Reading**: For those he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. (Rom 8:29) **Gospel:** "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field." (Mt 13:44)

READINGS FOR THE WEEK



Sunday: 1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12/Ps 119:57, 72,

> 76-77, 127-128, 129-130 (97a)/ Rom 8:28-30/Mt 13:44-52 or

13:44-46

Monday: Ex 32:15-24, 30-34/Ps 106:19-20,

21-22, 23/Mt 13:31-35

Ex 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28/Ps 103:6 Tuesday:

-7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13/Mt 13:36-43

Wednesday: Ex 34:29-35/Ps 99:5, 6, 7, 9/Mt

13:44-46Thursday: Ex 40:16-21, 34-38/Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6a and 8a, 11/

Mt 13:47-53

Friday: Lv 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37/

Ps 81:3-4, 5-6, 10-11ab/

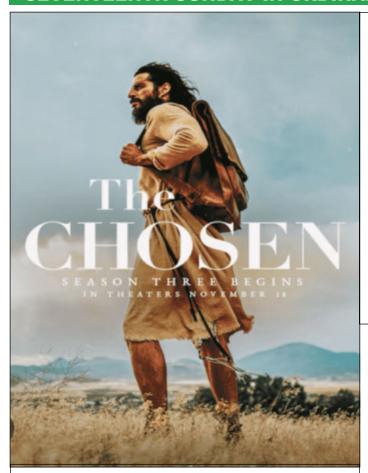
Mt 13:54-58

Lv 25:1, 8-17/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8/ Saturday:

Mt 14:1-12

Next Sunday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6,

9/2 Pt 1:16-19/Mt 17:1-9



A MUST-SEE SERIES!

Tuesdays, August 1 - September 19 9:45am-11:30am Rm. 201 - 2nd floor, Parish Center

This summer, Adult Faith Formation invites everyone to view *Season 1 of The Chosen (8 episodes)*, followed by discussion. Join us on Tuesdays after the 9:00am Mass, upstairs in the Parish Center.

The series is about the life and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth. Primarily set in Judaea and Galilee in the 1st century, the series centers on Jesus and the different people who met and followed or otherwise interacted with him.

The Chosen stays true to the details that are in the text of the New Testament but takes artistic license to fill in the many blanks where the text does not go into detail, but this artistic license is all feasible considering the details that are provided. No need to pre-register, just show up. Along with the video, you can enjoy some popcorn. Don't miss it!

UNA SERIE QUE NO SE DEBE DE PERDER LO INVITAMOS A VERLA!

Este verano la oficina de Formación de Fe para Adultos invita a todos a mirar la serie de "Los Elegidos". Después participaremos en una discusión sobre el episodio con grupos pequeños. La serie trata sobre la vida y el ministerio de Jesús de Nazaret. Ambientada principalmente en Judea y Galilea en el siglo I. La serie se centra en Jesús y las diferentes personas que lo conocieron y siguieron o interactuaron con él.

Acompáñenos los sábados después de la Santa Misa de 6pm el 5,12,19 de agosto y el 2,16, 30 de septiembre, salón 201, 7pm. Todos son bienvenidos, los esperamos.

A.R.K. INVITATION

A.R.K. (Apostles of the Returning King) invites you to be part of the "Rescue Mission for Souls", helping Catholic-Christians to find peace and guidance during these turbulent times.



We will gather monthly to share the rosary and review guidance messages here at the parish, which is a potent form of "small-church community".

We will meet on the first Friday of each month at 10am, Room C (library). For more information about resources for A.R.K., call Peggy O'Donnell, 949-500-0826; or Anne Timossi at 949-294-3215 or go to www.directionforourtimes.com

If you struggle with any of a number of human challenges, and you want guidance, please check out the pamphlets in the main vestibule.

ADORATION

Our Monthly Day of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is on the 2nd Wednesday of the month beginning after the 9AM Mass and continues until just prior to the 9AM Mass on Thursday.



Vacation Bible School (VBS) 2023

July 31, August 1, 2, 3, 4 8:45 am – 12:10pm

MEET IN ROOM 101

Confirmation & Youth Ministry



Classes for 2023-24 begin in October.

OPEN ENROLLMENT BEGINS AUGUST 7, 2023

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).



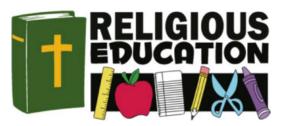
We want to communicate more effectively with you. To easily get Weekly Messages from our Parochial Administrator, important Parish News, and stay plugged in to the ministries or groups that you care about join *FLOCKNOTE*,

by Texting: SNC1 To: 84576

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snchurch.flocknote.com/StNicholasChurch

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SRE open enrollment/registration for religious education classes for the year 2023-24 begins Monday, August 7.

Please visit the SRE Office to sign-up your children for Sacramental classes and continuing education.

Classes begin mid-September.

For questions, please call Al Lopez at 949-837-7676.

Inscripciones para clases de educación religiosa para el año 2023-24 comienzan el lunes, 7 de agosto.

Visite la oficina de SRE para inscribir a sus niños en clases sacramentales y educación continua. Las clases comienzan en septiembre. Si tiene preguntas, llame a Al Lopez al 949-837-7676.

JOIN OUR MINISTRIES THIS WEEK IN PRAYER, REFLECTION & ADORATION:

Morning Prayer: The Knights of Columbus lead the rosary Mondays, 8:05am in the Church.

Hispanic Group: Rosary & Adoration, Mondays, 7:00pm in the Church.

Charismatic Prayer Group: Wednesdays, 10:00am, Room A.

Faith Alive: Thursday, 10am, Room A, Study the Sunday Scripture.

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

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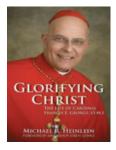
CONTACT ME Victoria Quinn

vquinn@4LPi.com (800) 950-9952 x2602

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Glorifying Christ: The Life of Cardinal Francis E. George, O.M.I



Author Michael R. Heinlein will share the fascinating story of the heroic disciple of Christ, Cardinal Francis E. George, O.M.I., on **August 1** at the Freed Theater on the Christ Cathedral campus.

It will start at **6 p.m.** with a reception and the talk begins at **6:30 p.m.**, with an audience Q&A and book signing to follow. *Registration for this book-signing event has been updated. It is now free for all attendees*. There will also be a raffle for two free books. Register by visiting https://cardinal-rancis.eventbrite.com

SEWING GROUP



Meets every Monday

Sam –12 noon

In the Small Hall



If you have experience sewing, knitting or crocheting, we would love for you to join us, we have the machines, yarn, and materials — just come and enjoy the fellowship.

If you have any questions, call the Parish Office at 949-837-1090 and ask for Cate, the Sewing Director, to contact you.

Hispanic Community would like to thank all who participated in the Celebration of the Divine Child this past Saturday at the 6 pm Mass. The event was a very well attended.



PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST



Next Sunday, August 6, 2023, the Knights of Columbus will have a pancake and sausage breakfast after the 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Masses. Please plan to attend this parish event with your family and friends.

DON'T MISS COFFEE AND DONUTS AT THE PARISH CENTER THIS SUNDAY AFTER ALL THE MASSES.

Gracias a todas las personas que participaron en la Celebración del Divino Niño Jesús este pasado sábado y por hacer este evento posible. Fue una gran celebración con más de 250 personas en asistencia. Se les agradece todo el apoyo y trabajo, y devoción

Los invitamos a que nos acompañen todos los lunes al Rosario y Adoración al Santísimo a las 7:00 pm, al Estudio Bíblico los viernes a las 7 pm y a la Misa los sábados a las 6:00 pm, todo es en español.

