

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 27, 2023



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

Message from our Parochial Administrator

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Jesus said it 2000 years ago: You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of the nether world will not prevail against it. This passage is crucial for a proper understanding of what the Church is, and our role in the Church because this is the most explicit statement that Jesus makes in the Gospels about the Church.

Jesus calls the Church “my Church.” This means that Jesus is the owner of the Church. Neither Peter nor the disciples owns the Church. Pastors and Church leaders who think and act as if they own the Church are like farm workers who go about posing as if the farm belongs to them. All God’s people have been called together as co-workers in Christ’s vineyard, though some work as leaders with their own role overseeing others, but we do not own the Church. We belong to the Church. The owner of the Church is Christ. The Gospel passage then tells us that Jesus is the one who builds his Church. He is the master builder who has the building plan in his hands. Human co-operators are like masons and carpenters employed by the master builder to help him with the building. Our role is to listen and follow his instructions, doing our own small part in the grand design of the master. Workers who stick to their own ideas of what the building should look like rather than follow the directions given by the master may find themselves working at cross purposes with the master.

If Jesus is the owner and builder of the Church, where do we come in? We come in precisely where Peter comes in. Together with Peter we are the building blocks of the Church. Peter is the foundation rock and we are the pieces of stone with which the Church is built: Like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ (1 Peter 2:5). The passive voice “let yourselves be built” indicates that God himself is the builder and not us. Our role is to allow God to use us. The question we could ask ourselves today is: “How is God using me to build up his Church? Am I letting God use me?” We must not forget that no matter how small a piece of stone may be, the master builder could still use it to do something beautiful.

A famous stained-glass artist was commissioned to make a huge portrait for the window of the cathedral in Chartres, France. First, he laid all of the pieces he was going to use out on the floor of the cathedral. Among these awesome pieces of glass was a small, clear piece about as big as a fingernail. As the stained-glass portrait was assembled, that little piece remained on the floor. Only the big colorful pieces were used. On the day of the window’s completion, the entire city gathered to witness the unveiling of the portrait. The artist pulled away the cover cloth and the crowd wowed at the beauty of the colorful window glowing in the sunlight. After a few seconds, however, the crowd grew silent. They sensed that something was missing, that the portrait was unfinished. The great artist then walked over to where the little clear piece of glass lay, picked it up, and placed it in the portrait, right in the center of Jesus’ eye. As the sun hit that little piece, it gave off a dazzling sparkle. The work of art is now complete. Without that small piece, the work was incomplete. In the grand design of building the Church of God, each one of us could consider ourselves to be that small piece of glass; so small and yet so indispensable.

I believe that each one of us, no matter who we are, can be a very important part of the puzzle in building our family and our community. Question for us is: do we believe it? Do we trust in God’s love? May God keep you and watch over each one of you and your family.

Fr. Martin Bui, Parochial Administrator

WEEKLY DONATIONS SUMMARY

	Week of Aug 14-20, 2023	Week of Aug 14-20, 2022
Envelopes	\$6,521.00	\$10,266.00
Loose	\$3,060.00	\$4,268.00
Electronic	\$2,846.73	\$2,970.79
Total	\$12,427.73	\$17,504.79

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!

2023 PASTORAL SERVICES APPEAL UPDATE

Our faith. Our future.

Updated PSA numbers:

Number of donors: 257

Amount pledged: \$168,121

Amount received: \$154,414

Mass Intentions for the WeekSunday:

7:30 AM Jenny Tan (L)
 9:00 AM For the Parish

11:00 AM Luz Arsua (D)
 Briana Carcel (D)
 Thomas Miller
 Corazon I. Santos (D)

Monday:

9:00 AM Tess Gargantiel (D)

Tuesday:

9:00 AM Thelma Toribio (D)

Wednesday:

9:00 AM Stan Riggs (D)

Thursday:

9:00 AM Ginny White (D)
 Maria Vu (D)
 Rolando Libang (D)
 Julia Rodriguez &
 Mary Anderson (D)

Friday:

9:00 AM Salvador Abad (D)

Saturday:

8:30 AM Christina Campbell (L)

4:00 PM For the Parish
 6:00 PM Ramon Ceja (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.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Monday: St. Augustine, Bishop and
 Doctor of the Church
 Tuesday: The Passion of St. John the
 Baptist

Next Sunday: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

HOLY HOUR

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

We invite you to spend an hour of Prayer, Reflection, Adoration, and Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament.

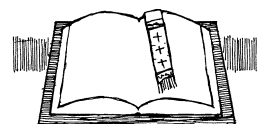
SUNDAY'S READINGS

First Reading: "I will place the key of the House of David on Eliakim's shoulder; when he opens, no one shall shut, when he shuts, no one shall open." (Is 22:22)

Psalm: Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands. (Ps 138)

Second Reading: For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen. (Rom 11:36)

Gospel: "And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven." (Mt 16:18-19)

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: Is 22:19-23/Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8 (8bc)/Rom 11:33-36/Mt 16:13-20
 Monday: 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/Mt 23:13-22
 Tuesday: 1 Thes 2:1-8/Ps 139:1-3, 4-6/Mk 6:17-29
 Wednesday: 1 Thes 2:9-13/Ps 139:7-8, 9-10, 11-12ab/Mt 23:27-32
 Thursday: 1 Thes 3:7-13/Ps 90:3-5a, 12-13, 14 and 17/Mt 24:42-51
 Friday: 1 Thes 4:1-8/Ps 97:1 and 2b, 5-6, 10, 11-12/Mt 25:1-13
 Saturday: 1 Thes 4:9-11/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Mt 25:14-30



A MUST-SEE SERIES!

Adult Faith Formation invites everyone to view *Season 1 of The Chosen (8 episodes)*, followed by discussion.

**Tuesdays,
August 29 & September 5, 12, 19
9:45am-11:30am
Rm. 201, 2nd floor, 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.

No need to pre-register, just show up. Along with the video, come enjoy some popcorn. Don't miss it!

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

Acompáñenos los sábados después de la Santa Misa de 6pm
el 26 de agosto y el 2, 9, y 16 de septiembre, en el salón 201, 7:00pm,
a mirar la serie de "Los Elegidos". La serie trata sobre la vida y el ministerio de Jesús de Nazaret.
Todos son bienvenidos, los esperamos.

COFFEE & DONUTS

Don't miss Coffee and Donuts, this weekend after the 7:30am, 9:00am & 11:00am Masses at the Parish Center.



**Children's Sunday Liturgy
at St. Nicholas Parish on
Sunday, August 27.**



Children ages 5 to 11 are welcome to join us at the 9am Sunday Children's Mass. If your child would like to attend, sign-ups will be accepted before and after the 9am Mass outside the church, near the garden area alongside the large parking lot area or at the Parish Office.

**Looking for a volunteer opportunity?
Volunteers are needed to assist the
coordinator with Children's Liturgy, 1
hour, 1 Sunday a month. Please call the
Parish Office at 949-837-1090,
if you are interested.**

OUR MINISTRIES & GROUPS CONTINUE



**TO MEET ON A WEEKLY BASIS.
WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN THEM.**

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.

Divine Mercy Group: Every day at 3pm in the Church.

Sewing Group: Meets every Monday, 8am - 12pm, in the Small Hall



**SAVE THE DATE
AMERICAN RED CROSS
COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2023
ST. NICHOLAS PARISH**





Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Come join us! Inquiry Sessions leading to reception into the Catholic Church or the return to the faith will begin on Sunday, September 3, 2023, at 10:00 AM in Room B (behind the Parish Office).

Please call Betty Farrell Scruggs at 949.400.6875 for more information.

SAVE THE DATE

ST. NICHOLAS "ADULT FAITH FORMATION"

PRESENTS

FALL 2023 CATHOLIC BIBLE STUDY

LECTIO "Eucharist Discovering the Mass in the Bible"

Ten-week Bible Study beginning on Monday, September 11, 2023, at 10:00 A.M. All Sessions will be held in St. Nicholas Parish Hall, Room 201.
Instructor: Al Guevara

For information relative to course content, source material, bible editions, etc. Please call : (714) 640-7502

MISSION CO-OP APPEAL & 2ND COLLECTION

This weekend we will have our Summer Mission Co-op Appeal. Fr. Rudy, who is representing his home diocese of Navrongo-Bolgatanga in Ghana, will be preaching at all the weekend Masses. Your generosity is very much appreciated for the mission of Fr. Rudy's diocese. Thank you.



REGISTER NOW FOR SRE CLASSES!

To register your children for Sacramental classes and continuing education, please visit the SRE Office, located in the Parish Center Building, 2nd floor. Classes begin mid-September.

Confirmation & Youth Ministry



Classes for 2023-24 begin in October.

To register for Confirmation, please visit the Confirmation and Youth Office located in the Parish Center, 2nd floor.

Be an Server at the Altar!

St. Nicholas is now recruiting for new Altar Servers to assist the priests and deacons during Liturgies. Requirements to serve as an altar server include being a registered member of St. Nicholas Parish, regularly receiving the sacraments, being in 4th grade or a higher grade and having made First Holy Communion. The Altar Servers form a very important part of our parish, and we are enriched through their dedication and service. If you and your child are interested, please call the Parish Office at 949-837-1090 and leave a message, send an email to Deacon Carlos Pineda at cpineda@stnicholaschurch.org or pick up a registration form at the Parish Office. There will be an altar server's training on Saturday, September 9th. Please meet in the Parish Hall for lunch at 12 PM. We will process to the church after lunch.



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

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**St. Nicholas Parish First Annual
Labor Day Celebration**

ALOHA HAWAIIAN BBQ PARTY

Sunday, Sept 3, 2023
8:30 AM – 2:00 PM

Free-Will Donation
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Men's Aloha Shirt Contest
Ladies' Aloha Dress Contest
Hula Dancers

IMPORTANT MEETING FOR MINISTRIES

Saint Nicholas Parish will be having the first ministry meetings, under the leadership of Father Martin as our Parish Parochial Administrator. Father Martin and Father Phuong will host the meetings for the following ministries:

- ♦ **Ministry of Hospitality (Ushers):** On Friday, August 25, at 6:00 PM in church.
- ♦ **Ministry of Lectors:** On Saturday, August 26, at 10:00 AM in church.
- ♦ **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EM):** On Saturday, August 26, at 11:00 AM in church.
- ♦ **Ministry of Altar Servers:** On Saturday, September 9, at 12:00 PM in the Parish Hall (lunch will be provided). The training will follow in church after lunch.

*The meeting is mandatory,
unless you have a good reason
to be excused.*

Blessings in Christ,
Fr. Martin Bui,
Parochial Administrator



Apostles of the Returning King

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. **The group will meet on Friday, September 1 at 9:45am in Room C.**



Invitation to SoCal Mass in Recognition of all
Immigrants | Invitación a la Misa en
reconocimiento de todos los inmigrantes SoCal

Bishop Kevin Vann invites you to join him at the annual Mass in Recognition of All Immigrants, Archbishop José H. Gomez, presiding, at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angeles, **Sunday, September 17**. All parishes and religious ministries are invited to attend the Mass. Speak with your pastors for more information on how to have your parish represented in the pre-procession. Priests are invited to concelebrate and deacons to join and serve delegations.