



## **ST. NICHOLAS CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**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**

**Parochial Administrator  
Rev. Martin Bui**

<b>Parochial Vicar</b>	<b>Rev. Phuong Nguyen</b>
<b>In-Residence</b>	<b>Bishop Thanh Nguyen</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 (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 & SERVICES**

#### **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 three 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.

#### **HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE HOMEBOUND**

If you are homebound and are interested in receiving communion on a regular basis, contact the Parish Office to make arrangements.

### **PARISH OFFICE HOURS:**

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

**Message from our Parochial Vicar**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

According to the Liturgical calendar, May and October are the two months that we are called to dedicate our life to the Blessed Virgin Mary. We have so many ways to do this, but saying the rosary is a way that all of us share in common. In Vietnamese Catholic culture, children and even adults often have a liturgical dance in front of a Blessed Virgin Mary statue before Mass or during prayer for the whole month of May. In October, they say the rosary for the whole month. I remember when I was 8 to 11 years old, I was chosen with eleven other kids to dance every day in front of Blessed Virgin Mary statue before Prayer of Community for the whole month. I and other kids went to the rice field to collect different kinds of wild flowers to offer Mary because each one of us represented one color of flower. I loved to dance because I would get free candies and food after I finished. However, as a kid, I did not like to say the rosary on October. I did not understand the meaning and value of the rosary. There was no free food and I thought that saying the rosary was for seniors, not kids. October became a burden for me when I was a kid. I had to pray and say rosary with my parents in the early morning at home from 4:30 AM - 5:00 AM, with the whole community at church from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM, and again with my parents at home before I went to bed from 8:30 PM - 9:00 PM.

I now love to recite the rosary because I understand the meaning, values and beauty of it. When we say the rosary, we together with Mary immerse ourselves in the mission and person of Jesus Christ. The Blessed Virgin Mary also asked us to recite the rosary for the conversion of sinners. We can see by regularly praying the rosary, we understand God's will in our life.

Recognizing the will of God is also the message we reflect upon in this weekend's readings. We always have to make a decision for ourselves. We sometimes change our decision because we later know the good and the bad for us or for others. But God's will cannot be changed because the will of God itself is grace and goodness for us. Jesus says that "for this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and shall raise him on the last day" (John 5, 40).

How do we put our faith into action and understand the will of God in our life? First, we need to put away our thinking "my way is everything". In the first reading, we come to know that God's way and thought is not our way and thought. The Lord always shows his mercy and compassion to the sinners who change their sinful way of life and return to God. God knows what is good for us and others. Second, it is our openness to others. Saint Paul reminds us in the second reading that we shall receive others in the same way we receive Jesus Christ. Finally, we shall willingly change ourselves for the greater good. The second son in today's Gospel changes his mind to fulfill his father's will. The action of the second son represents sinners who change their lives and return to God for the salvation of their souls.

Let us continue to recite the rosary and live the will of God the Father in the way that Blessed Virgin Mary requested us to do, especially during this October: penance, prayer and devotion to her Immaculate heart. May Mary Mother of God continue to intercede for us that we always live in the grace and mercy of God. Amen.

Fr. Phuong Nguyen, Parochial Vicar

**WEEKLY DONATIONS SUMMARY**

	Week of <b>Sept. 18-24, 2023</b>	Week of <b>Sept. 18-24, 2022</b>
Envelopes	\$10,182.06	\$8,679.00
Loose	\$4,345.00	\$3,836.00
Electronic	\$2,210.52	\$1,667.27
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$16,737.58</b>	<b>\$14,182.27</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!

**2023 PASTORAL SERVICES APPEAL  
UPDATE**

Our faith. Our future.

**Updated PSA numbers:**

**Number of donors: 270**

**Amount pledged: \$177,566**

**Amount received: \$165,024**

**Thank you,  
your generosity is appreciated.**

**Mass Intentions for the Week**

Sunday:

7:30 AM	For the Parish	
9:00 AM	Joan Grampp	(L)
	Allen Balledos	(L)
	Pat Burr	(L)
	Suan Thanh Bui	(L)
	Rosa Ybarra	(D)
11:00 AM	Scott & Elpidia Banwell	(D)

Monday:

9:00 AM	Peter Thuy Vu & Maria May Pham	(D)
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Tuesday:

9:00 AM	Andrew Tran	(L)
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Wednesday:

9:00 AM	Felicia Herrick	(L)
	Kenneth French	(D)
	Lourdes Coscolluela	(D)
	Ruby White	(D)
	All Souls in Purgatory	

Thursday:

9:00 AM	Aida Abad	(D)
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Friday:

9:00 AM	Jill R. Hortinela	(L)
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Saturday:

8:30 AM	Fr. Martin Bui	(L)
4:00 PM	Paul & Lorraine Armendariz	(D)
6:00 PM	John Garwal	(D)

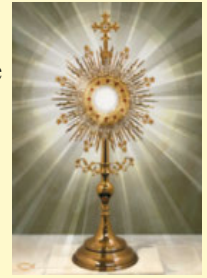
**We remember all our recently deceased who have entered their new and eternal life in Christ, especially *Mary Houston*. Grant to all our dearly departed, eternal rest, O Lord, and may your light shine on them forever.**

**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

Sunday:	26th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Respect Life Sunday
Monday:	The Holy Guardian Angels
Wednesday:	St. Francis of Assisi
Thursday:	Saint Faustina Kowalska, Virgin; Bl. Francis Xavier Seelos, Priest
Friday:	St. Bruno, Priest; Bl. Marie Rose Durocher, Virgin
Saturday:	Our Lady of the Rosary
Next Sunday:	27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**ADORATION**

Our Monthly Day of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is next Wednesday, October 11 beginning after the 9AM Mass and continues until just prior to the 9AM Mass on Thursday, October 12th. *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 HOLY HOUR every Wednesday at 7:00 PM. Join us for prayer, reflection and quiet time with the Lord.

**SUNDAY'S READINGS**

**First Reading:** But if he turns from the wickedness he has committed, he does what is right and just, he shall preserve his life. (Ez 18:27)

**Psalms:** Remember your mercies, O Lord. (Ps 25)

**Second Reading:** Have in you the same attitude that is also in Christ Jesus. (Phil 2:5)

**Gospel:** Jesus said to them, "Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you." (Mt 21:31)

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**



Sunday:	Ez 18:25-28/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9, (6a)/Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5/Mt 21:28-32
Monday:	Zec 8:1-8/Ps 102:16-18, 19-21, 29 and 22-23/Mt 18:1-5, 10
Tuesday:	Zec 8:20-23/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/Lk 9:51-56
Wednesday:	Neh 2:1-8/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6/Lk 9:57-62
Thursday:	Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/Lk 10:1-12
Friday:	Bar 1:15-22/Ps 79:1b-2, 3-5, 8, 9/Lk 10:13-16
Saturday:	Bar 4:5-12, 27-29/Ps 69:33-35, 36-37/Lk 10:17-24



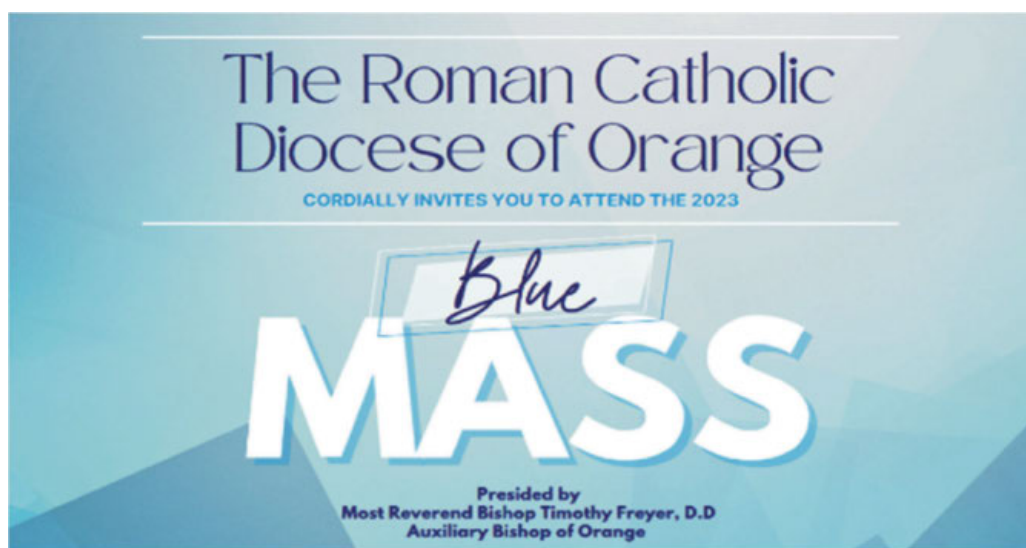


The Federation of Filipino Rosary Groups of Orange County (FFRGOC) will continue the traditional Filipino First Saturday Novena/ Rosary devotion to our Blessed Virgin Mary on October 7, 2023. This tradition is celebrated for 9 months, starting in October 2023 until June 2024. We have been praying this Novena and having 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 and novena ( in English) . This month's rosary will be sponsored by South Area 1. Everyone is welcome.



## ALTAR FLOWERS

**The Environment Ministry is looking for a dedicated and willing volunteer with experience in Horticulture to maintain the flowers and plants inside the church. If interested, please call Del Moses at 714 931-0820.**



The Diocese of Orange is celebrating the annual Blue Mass at Christ Cathedral on Sunday, **October 8 at 5:45 p.m.** for law enforcement, fire & rescue personnel and other first responders who serve Orange County. Friends and family are welcome to attend as well. Please join us in prayer if you can not attend.



Sponsored by St Nicholas Knights of Columbus

**The Knights of Columbus pancake and sausage breakfast is being served this weekend after the 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Masses. Please bring your family and join us for this parish event.**

## SAVE THE DATE

**THIS COMING OCTOBER 20-21** in response to the call for a National Eucharistic Revival, our Diocese will set out to host our own Eucharistic Congress at Christ Cathedral. This free 2-day event will invite people from all walks of life to gather in anticipation of the nearness of God. Through powerful speakers, transformative prayer, and Sacramental celebrations, we will experience the life that flows from His existence, meeting Him in the reality of His Presence. With tracks in English, Spanish and Vietnamese, a track for young adults, and even for young children - there is something for everyone to encounter the presence of God. Registration is free, and you can register now or get more information at [rebo.org/congress](http://rebo.org/congress).

## Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)



Although sessions have started it's not too late to join. We would love to meet you and walk with you on your faith journey.

Sessions meet on *Sundays at 10:00 am, in Room A* (behind the Parish Office). For information or questions, please call Betty Farrell Scruggs at 949.400.6875.

## ST. NICHOLAS "ADULT FAITH FORMATION"

### FALL 2023 CATHOLIC



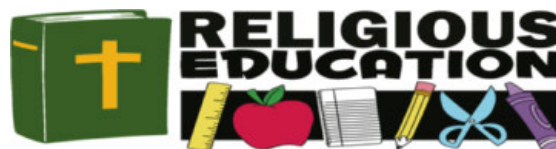
Every Monday,  
September 11 - November 13  
at 10:00 A.M.

### LECTIO "Eucharist Discovering the Mass in the Bible"

Ten-week Bible Study. 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*



## 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, or call Al Lopez at 949-837-7676

## Confirmation & Youth Ministry



Confirmation Classes are beginning for the 2023-24 academic year. All classes are held upstairs in the Parish Hall at 9:00AM Sunday Mornings. The First Class meetings will be:

C1: October 1, 2023

C2: October 8, 2023

If you missed the Parent Meetings and/or still need to register for the 2023-2024 academic year, please attend the make-up Orientation Parent meeting on **Thursday, October 5th at 7PM** upstairs in the Parish Hall. Incoming students for either year of the program are asked to attend with a parent.

*IF YOU ALREADY ATTENDED ONE OF THE PREVIOUS PARENT MEETINGS, YOU DO NOT NEED TO ATTEND THIS MAKE-UP MEETING.*

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).

## SINGERS WANTED!



We are looking for volunteer singers to join our choirs: the Parish Choir, which sings at the 9 AM Mass, directed by Dr. Nové Deypalan, Director of Music and the 11 AM Mass Chorale with Mary Ester. If interested please call the Parish Office at (949) 837-1090 or email Nové Deypalan at [nove.saintnicholas@gmail.com](mailto:nove.saintnicholas@gmail.com)



## St. Nicholas Parish Library

St. Nicholas Parish Library will be open the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month from 8:30am - 12:30pm. Library is located in room C, next to the Parish Office.

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



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**OCTOBER 1, 2023**

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# **FALL FESTIVAL**

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**SATURDAY, OCT 7, 2023**

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## **REMINDER, DON'T MISS IT!**

**Living Rosary at 7:00 PM  
Monday, October 9, 2023**



What better way to honor Mary than with her prayer – **The Rosary**. We will have the Living Rosary–presented by our culturally diversified parishioners. Join us Monday, October 9th at 7:00 PM in the Church and be part of a wonderful event. If you are interested in participating, please contact Jean Duffy at 949-285-4103.



*Please join us!*

*St. Nicholas Parish Adult Faith Formation  
is bringing you  
another opportunity to be part of the*

*“Eucharist Revival Event”.*

***JESUS AND THE EUCHARIST***  
(A seven week Parish wide study)

**It will be held on Tuesdays  
October 3rd - November 14  
9:45 AM - 12:00 PM  
Room 201,  
2nd floor of the Parish Center  
No need to register**

## **RESERVE YOUR SEAT ON THE BUS FOR THE “I AM” CONGRESS**

St. Nicholas is offering a shuttle bus on a first come / first served basis to travel together from our Parish to Christ Cathedral in Orange on **Saturday, October 21 for the “I AM” Congress**. Traveling this way will increase fellowship and community as well as eliminate the inconvenience of traffic and limited parking. Please reserve your seat on the bus. You must sign a waiver and register with Deacon Jerry and Socorro de Santos. Registrations will start on **September 30th after the 4:00 pm Mass** outside in the court yard and continue with the Masses on Sunday, October 1st. Once we have filled the bus we will stop taking registrations. Please note we will attend the Congress from 8am- 5pm. (Once you register, you will receive a confirmation by email. You **MUST** print or show confirmation on your phone on the day of the Congress.