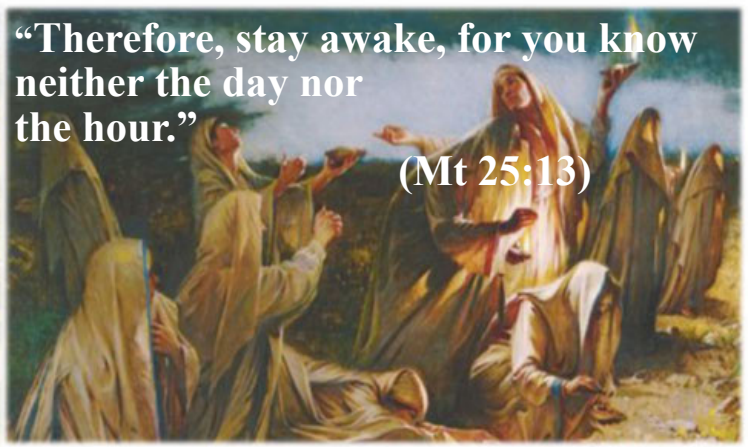




**“Therefore, stay awake, for you know
neither the day nor
the hour.”**

(Mt 25:13)



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
Visiting Priest	Brendan Hankins
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 & 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 in Jesus Christ,

The readings this weekend give us an early taste of the Advent message “Be prepared” or “Ready the way”. We are preparing ourselves to welcome Jesus into our heart. We also just concluded the National Vocation Awareness Week (November 5-11, 2023) with the theme “Vocation: Grace and Mission”. It was the week that we focused on promoting vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life through our prayer and education.

We all have different ways to have a good preparation for our Christian life. For example, we may choose to spend more time in prayer, doing charity or caring for others more. I sometimes find a quiet place to pray and create a spiritual agenda to increase a closer relationship with God and a refreshment of my Christian life. The parable on the “Ten Virgins” in today’s Gospel shows us a way to open our heart to God. Our good preparation must go along with our spiritual life. The lamps are our preparation, and the oil is our spiritual life. Without the oil, the lamps cannot be lit. Without our spiritual life, we will be in dryness or darkness. It is just like a priest who delivers a long homily without a clear message or too much information homily (TMI) without a soul in it. You may be curious about how a priest prepares a Sunday homily. Every priest has his own way to prepare. When I was in the process of being trained to be a priest, one of the best ways that I was instructed to prepare was as follows: On Monday, I would read the Sunday Readings, then pray and meditate on them. On the following day, I would reread them and identify an insight message. This was a message that I had through prayer and meditation. This message would impact my life and I hoped that it would also impact the listeners to whom I would deliver it on Sunday. If the message did not bring life to the priest, it would not be good for the listeners neither. I then had a draft of my homily with an outline that I could edit. On Thursday, I would finish a complete homily and was ready for preaching. The following days before the Sunday Masses, I would spend time practicing how to deliver a homily effectively. In theory, it is the best way for homily preparation, but it is sometimes a big challenge for me. It is hard to focus on the process because of the business of priestly life. I always pray to God for my discipline of preparation, and I ask you to pray for me. I believe that many of us have trouble focusing on prayer. I mean that we are easily distracted by other things. The author of the book of Wisdom in today’s first reading shows us the way that we seek wisdom from God. “Resplendent and unfading is wisdom, and she is readily perceived by those who love her and found by those who seek her”. Our holy father Cyril of Jerusalem indicates that when we seek wisdom in God, we receive the Holy Spirit, who fights for us against the devil. God will show us the way to make our spiritual life grow.

We continue to pray to God for His guidance in our spiritual preparation. I believe whenever we carry out God’s command “to love God and one another” through our prayer, celebration of Sacraments, and acts of charity, we will “be prepared”. We continue to pray for all souls this November. May the souls of those who passed away rest in the peace of Christ.

Fr. Phuong Nguyen, Parochial Vicar

WEEKLY DONATIONS SUMMARY

	Week of Oct. 30 - Nov. 5, 2023	Week of Oct. 30 - Nov. 5, 2022
Envelopes	\$12,602.00	\$11,498.51
Loose	\$3,380.00	\$4,420.00
Electronic	\$6,645.72	\$5,800.64
Total	\$22,627.72	\$21,719.15

**Updated PSA Numbers:**

- Number of donors: 272
- Amount pledged: \$181,026
- Amount received: \$171,364

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!

Mass Intentions for the Week
Sunday:

7:30 AM Rosemary Hansen (D)
 Benjamin & Marina (D)
 Josefa Araos (D)
 Jolyn Calunsod (D)

9:00 AM Paulina H. Perez (L)
 11:00 AM For the Parish

Monday:

9:00 AM Deceased Family Members
 of La Ngoc

Tuesday:

9:00 AM Emelia Ybarra (D)

Wednesday:

9:00 AM Patricia O'Donnell (D)

Thursday:

9:00 AM Deceased Relatives
 of Thanh Vu (D)
 Ruby White (D)
 Dr. Emanuel T. Ferro
 & David B. Ferro (D)

Friday:

9:00 AM Chase Church (D)

Saturday:

8:30 AM Jose de Jesus Orellana Ruiz (D)
 4:00 PM David Reid (D)
 6:00 PM Alvaro Rozo and Elvira Cortez (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.

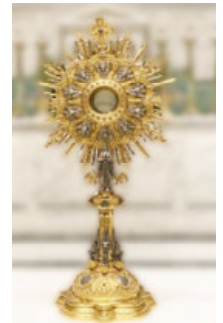
SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Monday: St. Frances Xavier Cabrini,
 Virgin
 Wednesday: St. Albert the Great, Bishop and
 Doctor of the Church
 Thursday: St. Margaret of Scotland;
 St. Gertrude, Virgin
 Friday: St. Elizabeth of Hungary,
 Religious
 Saturday: The Dedication of the Basilicas
 of Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles;
 St. Rose Philippine Duchesne,
 Virgin

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: Resplendent and unfading is wisdom, and she is readily perceived by those who love her, and found by those who seek her. (Wis 6:12)

Psalm: My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God. (Ps 63)

Second Reading: For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep. (1 Thes 4:14)

Gospel: "Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour." (Mt 25:13)

READINGS FOR THE WEEK


Sunday: Wis 6:12-16/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6,
 7-8 (2b)/1 Thes 4:13-18 or 4:13-
 14/Mt 25:1-13
 Monday: Wis 1:1-7/Ps 139:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8,
 9-10/Lk 17:1-6
 Tuesday: Wis 2:23—3:9/Ps 34:2-3, 16-17,
 18-19/Lk 17:7-10
 Wednesday: Wis 6:1-11/Ps 82:3-4, 6-7/Lk
 17:11-19
 Thursday: Wis 7:22b—8:1/Ps 119:89, 90,
 91, 130, 135, 175/Lk 17:20-25
 Friday: Wis 13:1-9/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5ab/
 Lk 17:26-37
 Saturday: Wis 18:14-16; 19:6-9/Ps 105:2-3,
 36-37, 42-43/Lk 18:1-8



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR A
**JOYOUS
CHRISTMAS DINNER DANCE**
scheduled for

Saturday, December 9, 2023

5:00 PM- 10:00 PM

St. Nicholas Parish Center

Prime Rib or Salmon Dinner
\$35 per person, no host bar

Formal Attire Preferred

R.S.V.P. by December 1, 2023

Tickets now available, contact

Del Moses at 714-931-0820

This event is a fundraiser for the
Knights of Columbus

Members of the Committee will be outside the
Church this Sunday, NOVEMBER 12 after the
7:30am, 9am, 11am Masses taking
reservations
for the dinner.

Morning Prayer: The Knights of Columbus
leads 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: Thursdays, 10am, Room A,
Study the Sunday Scripture.

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

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

Apostles of the Returning King: Meets on
the first Friday of the month at 9:45 am in
Room C.

**New Life Catholic Charismatic Prayer
Group:** meets 1st Monday of the month, at
6:30pm in Rm. A.

**Join us for Coffee and Donuts! This Sunday
after all the Masses in the Large Hall.
Thank you for your support.**



**St. Nicholas Annual
THANKSGIVING
DAY TURKEY
DINNER**



AS THE HOLIDAYS APPROACH US BEWARE OF EMAIL AND TEXT MESSAGE SCAMS

If you received an email or a phone text message
from Father Martin Bui or anyone else from the
parish requesting assistance with money transfers,
iTunes gift card purchases, or any other type of
monetary support, **DISREGARD, DO NOT
RESPOND TO THE MESSAGE**, these are scams.
Always check with the Parish Office Staff directly
before responding to any such email,
to verify authenticity.

St. Nicholas Parish Annual Thanksgiving Day
Turkey Dinner will be held on **Thursday,
November 23, 2023 in the Parish Center.**

You may make a reservation by completing the
form which is available in the Parish Office or
download it from the Parish website.
For questions or to check availability for this
event, please call Del Moses at 714-931-0820.



St. Nicholas Parish Library

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

Confirmation & Youth Ministry



Confirmation classes have begun for the 2023-24 academic year. All classes are held upstairs in the Parish Center at 9:00AM Sunday mornings. The next class meetings will be:

C1: November 12, 2023

C2: November 26, 2023

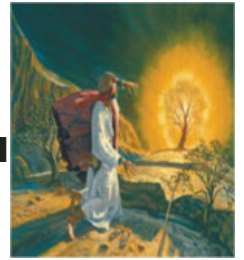
No class Nov. 19, Thanksgiving Break

The next **Faith Sharing** of the year will be held on **Saturday, November 18th** in the Parish Center UPSTAIRS immediately **following** the 4PM vigil Mass. Students are encouraged to bring their families & friends. Come and join us for fun activities, & to learn about the faith. Food & drink will be provided.

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).



SRE Elementary School



The SRE volunteer catechists, teacher's aids and the Staff are happy to see the progress of the students. This past month we have been teaching the children about God's creation. God's love is so amazing. God created us in his image and likeness. He created us male and female. The students are now learning about Moses and how God speaks to him in the Burning Bush. God is calling all of us to live a holy life. God gives Moses the Ten Commandments so that all people may live free from the bondage of sin. *Please pray for our students that they will continue to grow in the Faith and always know that God loves them so deeply.*

**There will be no classes
November 20-November 22**

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

Children ages 5 to 11 are welcome to join us at the 9am Sunday Children's Mass on the 3rd and 4th Sundays of the month for Children's Liturgy. 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.



Sister Parish Initiative Appeal

Be the Answer & Sponsor a Student

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This weekend at Mass, we have the honor of meeting some friends from St. Joseph Catholic School in Santa Ana and learning how our generosity can be an answered prayer for families in our most vulnerable neighborhoods. Sponsoring a student will pass on faith-filled traditions for a lifetime. Please prayerfully consider:

- **\$1,000 – Educate a student for a month**
- **\$5,400 – Sponsor a year of tuition for a student**
- **\$10,000 – Underwrite the full cost of a student for one year**
- **\$100,000 – Establish an endowment in your family's name**



Kathleen Hurtt, VP of Philanthropy & Operations, is available at khurtt@OrangeCatholicFoundation.org or 714-282-3026 to serve you.

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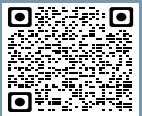
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St. Nicholas Church, Laguna Woods, CA

A 4C 05-4184



ANGEL TREE

Our annual **Angel Tree** project for Christmas will start on **Thursday, November 23**. The Angel Tree will be set up on the small parking lot side of the Church. It will be decorated with angels that have been colored by our School of Religious Ed (SRE) children. On the back of each angel is a description of a child or an adult. Please purchase an appropriate gift for the person described, and **bring it to the Parish Office – unwrapped, by December 13th**. Put the Angel on the gift and remember the person who will receive your gift in your prayers. Gifts will be distributed to Colette's Childrens Home in Huntington Beach and Toys for Tots through our local Fire Department. Thank you for your generosity!

ST. NICHOLAS SENIOR SINGLES 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION LUNCH

12:30 Friday, November 17

Lucille's Smokehouse BBQ
23760 El Toro Rd., Lake Forest,
CA 92630

Reservations required
RSVP to Joan (949) 855-8755

"Friendship with the love of God in our hearts"
We're turning 10! Thanks to You, we are loving a
decade of making new friends!



St. Nicholas Senior Singles is dedicated to fostering spiritual growth and friendship. It is made up of senior single or widowed men and women. We enjoy monthly gatherings in a social environment to make new friends and have fun. New members welcome.



The Hispanic group of St. Nicholas Church paid tribute to the *Lord of the Miracles* with a Mass and a procession on Saturday, October 14.

Please join them in the Parish Hall for their next event, the popular **Tamale Sale** **Saturday, November 18** after the 4pm and 6pm Masses and on **Sunday, November 19** after the 7:30am, 9am and 11am Masses (or until they sell out).



The Hispanic Group is also inviting anyone that would like to help make the tamales to join them. Please call Cristina 949-485-9496 for details.

Holiday Boutique 2023 **Weekend of November 18- 19**

The St. Nicholas Sewing Group is having a major fundraiser on

Saturday, November 18th from 2pm to 6pm and Sunday, November 19th from 7:30am to 12:30pm

Christmas decorations, children's clothing, baby items, fashion tote bags, ever-popular bow-tie scarves, crochet & knit caps/wraps/ponchos/lapghans, mug mats, quilts, household items and much more!

Come start your Christmas shopping early!!

Cash or checks or credit cards.

