

**NOVEMBER 26, 2023**

**OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE**



# 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

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 Administrator

Brothers and Sisters,

Oscar Wilde wrote a beautiful story called *The Happy Prince*. During his life on earth, the prince had lived a very sheltered life. When he died, the people erected a statue of him in the main square of the capital city. The statue was covered all over with leaves of gold. It had two sapphires for eyes, and a large red ruby on the handle of the sword. One cold evening, a little swallow, on its way south, landed at the base of the statue. As he was resting there, a few drops of water fell on him. He looked up and saw that the Happy Prince was crying. "Why are you crying?" the swallow asked. "When I was alive, I saw no suffering," said the prince. "But from my perch up here I see that there is a lot of unhappiness in the world. I would like to help but I can't because my feet are fastened to the pedestal. I need a messenger. Would you be my messenger?" "But I have to go to Egypt," the swallow answered. "Please stay this night with me." "Very well, then. What can I do for you?" "In a room, there is a mother tending a sick child. She has no money to pay for a doctor. Take the ruby from my sword and give it to her." The swallow removed the ruby with his beak, and bore it away to the woman and she rejoiced. The doctor came and her child recovered. The swallow came back and slept soundly. Next day the prince asked him to stay another night. Then he asked the swallow to take out one of the sapphires, and give it to a little match girl down the square. She had sold no matches that day and was afraid she would be beaten when she got home. Once again the swallow did as he was asked.

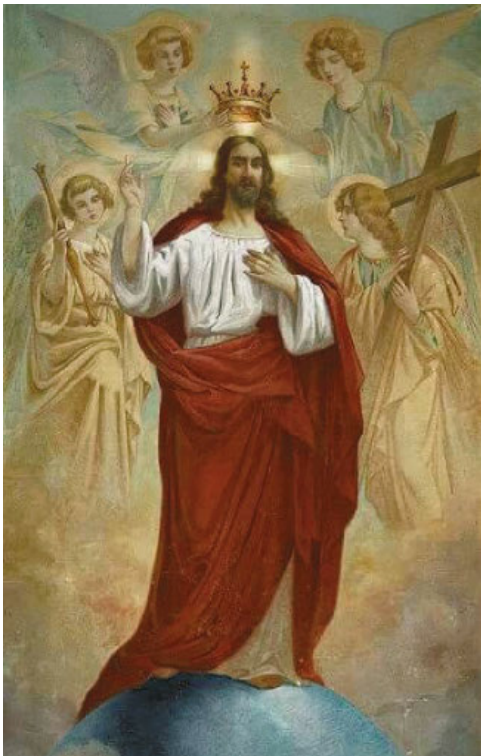
As he was running these errands of mercy, the swallow's own eyes were opened. He saw how much poverty and suffering there was in the city. Then he was glad to stay with the prince and be his messenger. One by one, at the prince's urging, he stripped off the leaves of gold and gave them away to the poor and needy. Finally, he arrived back one evening. But by now the statue was bare, having been stripped of all its ornaments. The night was very cold. Next morning, the little swallow was found dead at the base of the statue. The prince had given away all his riches, but he could not have done so without his faithful messenger, the little swallow.

This weekend, we are celebrating Thanksgiving with family and friends. Let us give thanks to Christ our King, who gave himself totally while he lived on earth. Even as he died, he was still giving to those who were receptive. And from his lofty perch in heaven, he surveys the plight of God's children on earth. But my dear friends, his feet are fastened, his hands tied, and his tongue silent. He needs messengers. He needs

us. He has no hands but ours, no feet but ours, no tongue but ours. And it is his riches, not our own, that we are called on to dispense-his love, his forgiveness, his mercy, his good news, his care to those around us. What is involved is helping in simple things, things which are available to everyone-giving a hungry person something to eat, or a thirsty person something to drink, welcoming a stranger with a smile or hello, visiting someone who is sick. We have many lonely seniors around our parish. I hope that while thanking our King, we remember our seniors in our community, especially those without families or those who are sick. Each one of us can be the little swallow for our King.

*On another note, our parish will have the Missals in the pews next week as we begin our new liturgical year, the first week of Advent. As most of us are coming back to Mass on Sunday, please leave the Missals in the pews for all to use. Please do not take them home. Daily and Sunday Reading are available at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org) for your convenience. Thank you for your understanding. I wish you and your family a blessed Advent.*

### The Solemnity of OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE



#### WEEKLY DONATION SUMMARY

Because of the approaching holidays, there was an early deadline for submitting content for this weekend's bulletin. This prevented us from providing the usual Weekly Donations Summary numbers.

### Mass Intentions for the Week

Sunday:

7:30 AM Thomas Mathew (D)

9:00 AM For the Parish

11:00 AM Elaine Villaver (L)

Atanacia Albao Gualberto (D)

Jaime Inducil (D)

Anne O'Donnell (D)

Monday:

9:00 AM Juan Rosado Anchiraico (L)

Tuesday:

9:00 AM Margarita Im (L)

Mary Hong (L)

Mercedita Librando (D)

Mary Carden (D)

Wednesday:

9:00 AM Tess Gargantiel (D)

Thursday:

9:00 AM Maria Min Pham & Joseph Dung Pham (D)

Friday:

9:00 AM Neil (L)

Saturday:

8:30 AM Do Eun Byun (D)

4:00 PM Patricia Saldanha (D)

6:00 PM Aurelio Gallardo (D)

### 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:** As for you, my sheep, says the Lord GOD, I will judge between one sheep and another, between rams and goats. (Ez 34:17)

**Psalm:** The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. (Ps 23)

**Second Reading:** When everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to the one who subjected everything to him, so that God may be all in all. (1 Cor 15:28)

**Gospel:** "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats." (Mt 25:31-32)

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK



**Sunday:** Ez 34:11-12, 15-17/Ps 23:1-2, 2-3, 5-6 (1)/1 Cor 15:20-26, 28/Mt 25:31-46

**Monday:** Dn 1:1-6, 8-20/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/Lk 21:1-4

**Tuesday:** Dn 2:31-45/Dn 3:57, 58, 59, 60, 61/Lk 21:5-11

**Wednesday:** Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28/Dn 3:62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67/Lk 21:12-19

**Thursday:** Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/Mt 4:18-22

**Friday:** Dn 7:2-14/Dn 3:75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81/Lk 21:29-33

**Saturday:** Dn 7:15-27/Dn 3:82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87/Lk 21:34-36

**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: 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday: Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Thursday: St. Andrew, Apostle

Next Sunday: 1st Sunday of Advent





Join us for a  
**JOYOUS  
CHRISTMAS DINNER DANCE**  
on  
**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

**For Tickets, contact**  
Del Moses at 714-931-0820

This event is a fundraiser for the  
Knights of Columbus



**Advent**

**IN PREPARATION OF ADVENT**

Our pre-Advent service of **Eucharistic Adoration** with our diverse ethnicities will be held on Wednesday, December 6th at 7PM, sponsored by the **Unity Group**. You are invited to share in a Holy Hour and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with prayers in multiple languages. We hope you'll join us.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY**

Children ages 5 to 11 are welcome to join us at the 9am Children's Mass, on the **3rd and 4th Sunday 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

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



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR  
PANCAKE AND  
SAUSAGE BREAKFAST**

Next Sunday, December 3, 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.



**Complimentary Pancake Breakfast for all  
Newcomers to St. Nicholas Parish**

"St. Nicholas Welcoming Committee and the Knights of Columbus invite all newcomers to the parish to a complimentary pancake breakfast in the Parish Center on **Sunday, December 3** after the 9:00am and 11:00am Masses. At that time, you can learn about the various ministries at our parish and get to know other newcomers. Please identify yourselves to the Welcoming Committee members who will have a table near the doorway or to a Knights of Columbus member.

The Knights of Columbus welcome all new parishioners to the parish and invite them to become members of the Knights. New parishioners who have previously been Knights, please know that we can transfer or reinstate your membership to our council."

## Confirmation & Youth Ministry



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

**C2: November 26, 2023**

**C1: December 3, 2023**

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).



Please mark your calendars for the following Knights of Columbus future fundraising events:

**Pancake Breakfast on Sundays:** Dec. 3; 2024 - Feb. 4, Apr. 7 and Jun. 2 after all AM masses in the Parish Center.

**Parish Christmas Celebration:** Saturday Dec. 9, 5 PM - 10 PM, Parish Center, buffet dinner/entertainment/auctions. For dinner tickets contact Del Moses at 714-931-0820.

**Donations for individuals with Intellectual Disabilities, (ID/Tootsie Drive),** after Masses January 27th and 28th, 2024.

**Parish Pasta Dinner:** Saturdays, after 4 PM Mass, 1/20/24 and 5/18/24.

**Wheelchair Drive:** March 2nd & 3rd.

## "BREAKING BREAD" MISSALS

**December 3, 2023 is the beginning of the Church's new liturgical year and the first Sunday of Advent. "Breaking Bread" Missals for 2024 will be available and distributed next weekend.**

**PLEASE DO NOT TAKE THE MISSALS HOME. THANK YOU.**



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 December 2, 2023. This tradition is celebrated for 9 months, starting in October 2023 until June 2024. We have been praying this Novena and Mass at St. Nicholas for the past 31 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 2. Everyone is welcome. Invite members, family and friends.



## OPPORTUNITY DRAWING December 9, 2023



**First Prize \$2,500**

**2nd Prize \$500**

**3rd Prize \$200**

**St. Nicholas Church School of Religious Education is having an opportunity drawing on December 9, 2023. Tickets were mailed to our parishioners a couple of weeks ago. If you would like extra tickets, please visit the Parish Office or the SRE Office. Don't miss the chance of winning, while taking part in the fundraiser.**

**New Life**

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COMMUNITY**



Come and join us for a special evening of Prayer, Praise & Worship on **December 4, 2023**, St. Nicholas Parish Center, Room 104, 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM. Lights refreshments will be served. Additionally, for the remaining Mondays, we extend an invitation for you to join our prayer and fellowship sessions through ZOOM. While we may be physically apart, our hearts remain connected in prayer and unity. Looking forward to sharing these moments of faith and fellowship with you. For additional information/inquires, please contact Dolly at 714-510-4428 or Ivan at 949-245-5895



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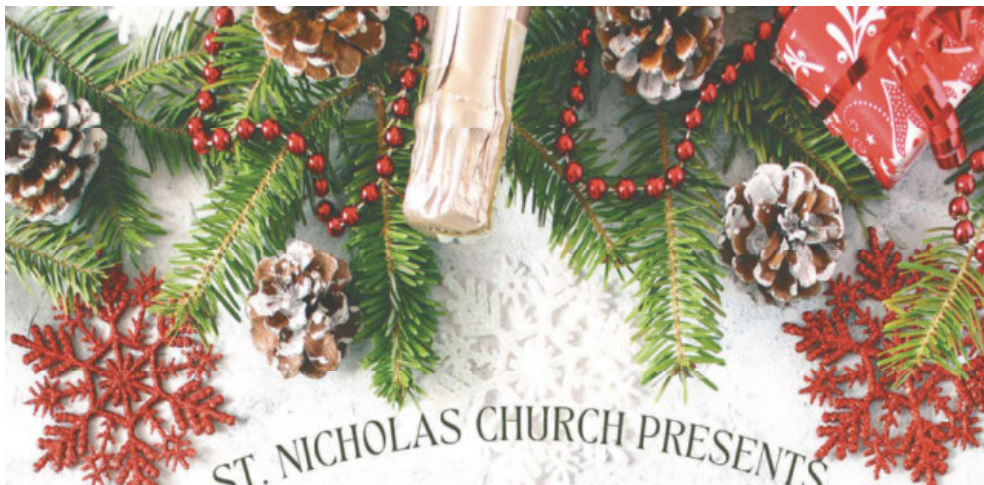
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OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE



ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH PRESENTS



# Christmas

## AROUND THE WORLD

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### SISTER PARISH INITIATIVE APPEAL THANK YOU!

We have the opportunity to share God's love with the next generation. Thank you to our friends at St. Joseph Catholic School in Santa Ana for sharing with us last weekend how much they love their school and want more children to have the same experience. Because of your generosity, we provided just over **\$8,000** in scholarships. We were hopeful over this next year to reach a **goal of \$65,000 for St. Joseph School** so if you are still considering how to share your blessings, please take a bulletin or brochure home and prayerfully consider how you may be called to invest in these little saints! Kathleen Hurtt, VP of Philanthropy & Operations, is available at [khurtt@OrangeCatholicFoundation.org](mailto:khurtt@OrangeCatholicFoundation.org) or 714-282-3026 to serve you.



NO COFFEE AND  
DONUTS THIS  
WEEKEND, SUNDAY  
NOVEMBER 26.

SEE YOU ALL AT THE  
PANCAKE AND SAUSAGE  
BREAKFAST ON  
SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 3RD.

### ANGEL TREE



Our annual **Angel Tree** project for Christmas will start on **Friday, November 25th**. 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 by Sunday, December 11th – unwrapped**. Put the Angel on the present and remember the person who will receive your gift in your prayers. Gifts will be distributed to charitable organizations in Orange County. Thank you for your generosity!