FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT





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:

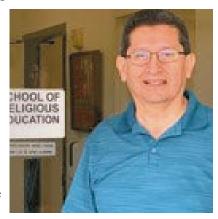
Sunday: 8:30AM - 12:30PM; Monday - Friday: 8:30AM - 12:00PM, 1:00PM - 5:00PM

INTRODUCTION OF ST. NICHOLAS PARISH STAFF MEMBERS

We continue in our series of staff introductions, so that you may become familiar with the names, faces, job titles and responsibilities of the St. Nicholas staff. They are compensated by your generous donations and they are here to serve you. Feel free to reach out to them for any needs you might have.

Alfonso J. Lopez School of Religion Elementary Coordinator and Confirmation 1

Hello, my name is Alfonso J. Lopez. I've been a member of St. Nicholas Parish since 1970. My parents, Juan and Juanita Lopez, migrated to "El Toro" California from Mexico City and raised a family of 8 kids in the Saddleback Valley. I have seen so many changes in SoCal and how it has transformed into a vibrant community. Me and all of my siblings have benefited greatly from the St. Nicholas Parish Catechism program offered to us as children. I am blessed to have been married at St. Nicholas Church to my lovely bride, Royette Anne,



who is originally from the Philippines. She has been a godsent in many ways and a blessing in my life. I became involved as a volunteer, teaching the Faith to students since 2001. This opportunity came by invitation from DRE, Gwen Weiser. My journey as a Catechist continues to grow, thanks to the challenging questions students ask and the richness of our Catholic Faith. I am committed to assisting and enriching the domestic Church life through the teaching of Sacraments, participation in the Liturgy, adoration prayer for the students and service to the St. Nicholas Parish families. I am also an active member of the Knights of Columbus, Council 10590.

I have been part of the St. Nicholas staff since November 2015 specifically in the School of Religious Education. It is a pleasure coordinating, facilitating and serving our volunteer catechists as they prepare their classroom lessons. Being bilingual, I am able to connect families to vital resources both spiritually and emotionally. I am humbled they would trust me in family matters.

Every Summer, we offer the students Vacation Bible School for one week. Initially the students are shy and reluctant but, by the second day they are singing, laughing and learning about the love of Jesus. What a blessing when the students ask if this event will continue. To inspire the minds and hearts of our students is a joy and a blessing, a responsibility humbly taken. Thank you for your trust. I look forward to being of service to families in the faith formation of students and faith enrichment to the parish. All glory to Christ Jesus Our Lord!

Next weekend there will be a second collection for the **Retirement Fund for Religious**.

Thank you for your generosity.



Artworks from the Holy Land

Next weekend we have representatives from the Holy Land with us selling handmade olive carvings to help support Catholic families living in Jerusalem. The mission of this organization is to help support and keep a Catholic presence in the Holy Land. All the profit made will go directly back to those families. So, we ask to please stop by their display to help support their organization. Thank you and God Bless.

WEEKLY DONATIONS SUMMARY

	Week of	Week of
	Nov. 13-19, 2023	Nov. 13-19, 2022
Envelopes	\$8,618.00	\$9,561.00
Loose	\$5,188.00	\$3,743.00
Electronic	\$2,843.73	\$2,314.76
Total	\$16,649.73	\$15,618.76

Please note that this Weekly Donations Summary article, which previously reported the numbers for the previous weekend, will now provide the numbers for the weekend before last. This one week delay will allow us to confirm the accuracy of the numbers by checking the actual deposit amounts on the bank statement, which aren't available until after the weekly bulletin deadline.

DECEMBER 3, 2023

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mass Intentions for the Week

<u>Sunday</u> : 7:30 AM	Asuncion Sosa John Perak Ellen Villanueva-Tiansing Romy Jocson Rel Friscia	(D) (D) (D) (D) (D)
9:00 AM	Mary Houston	(D)
11:00 AM	For the Parish	
Monday: 9:00 AM	Ike Gabrang	(D)
<u>Tuesday</u> : 9:00 AM	Julia Rodriguez and Freddie Mendoza	(D)
<u>Wednesday</u> :		
9:00 AM	Lauro V. De Mesa Deceased Members of	(D)
	Librando Family Joseph Loyatho Hermine Kay	(D) (D) (D)
<u>Thursday:</u> 9:00 AM 4:00 PM 7:00 PM	Lupina Chi Norman Radke Renato Guerrero	(L) (D) (D)
<u>Friday:</u> 7:00 AM 9:00 AM 12:00 PM	Anna Orechkov Cesar Agustin Anchiraico Alexandra Marie DeJong	(D) (L) (D)
<u>Saturday:</u> 8:30 AM	Mercidita Librando	(D)
4:00 PM	Family of Barry Waclawski	(L)
6:00 PM	Hermogenes Gallardo y Rita Fuentes	(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: 1st Sunday of Advent

Monday: St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor

of the Church

Wednesday: St. Nicholas, Bishop

Thursday: St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the

Church

Friday: The Immaculate Conception of the

Blessed Virgin Mary

St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin Saturday:

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: Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you. (Is 63:19)

Psalm: Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved. (Ps 80) **Second Reading**: The testimony to Christ was confirmed among you, so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor 1:6-7)

Gospel: "Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming." (Mk 13:35)

READINGS FOR THE WEEK



Sunday: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3,

15-16, 18-19 (4)/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk

13:33-37

Monday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5,

6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/

Lk 10:21-24

Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/ Wednesday:

Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21,

25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/

Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4,

5-6/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

Next Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11

-12, 13-14 (8)/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

THANK YOU FROM THE ST. NICHOLAS SEWING GROUP!

Thank you to the many St. Nicholas
Parishioners who made our recent "Holiday
Boutique" the most successful ever!

This event is not possible without the talents of the St. Nicholas Sewing Group, meeting weekly, the many volunteers that worked at the event from set up to closing, the St. Nicholas Facilities Management team who set up the Parish Center, and our Priests and parish Staff, who promoted our event.

Between now and Christmas, the Sewing Group will donate the majority of the unsold handmade items to the many charities that we support year round:

- Children's clothing items to Orangewood Youth and Family Center.
- Baby items to Life Center of Santa Ana.
- Knitted caps/scarves to Covenant House for homeless teens.
- Baby items to the pregnant wives of the Darkhorse 3/5 Marine Battalion.
- Lapghans to our Veterans at the VA Hospital.

The Sewing Group also greatly appreciates those that made generous donations to help support our ministry. We remain grateful to parishioners who donate fabric, yarn and sewing notions throughout the year, which allows us to continue our mission to assist the needy in the county. THANK YOU!

PREPARE FOR ADVENT



Come worship with your St. Nicholas Family at our Eucharistic Adoration. As an Advent preparation, we will have an evening of Prayer for Unity, Peace and Vocations with a multilingual program presented by the Unity Group on Wednesday, December 6th at 7:00 PM. Light refreshments will be served after the service. JOIN US!





Celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe December 12, 2023

Join the Parish and the Hispanic community in honoring and celebrating "Our Lady of Guadalupe", patroness of the Americas and of the Diocese of Orange.

Mañanitas: 4:30 AM Mass: 5:30 AM Mass: 7:00 PM



After Mass, please join us in the Parish Center for hot chocolate and Mexican sweet bread. If you would like to donate time or money to help with expenses, please contact Cristina at 949-485-9496.



PANCAKE AND SAUSAGE BREAKFAST Sunday, December 3.

The Knights of Columbus pancake and sausage breakfast is being served THIS SUNDAY 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.

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.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Confirmation & Youth Ministry

Confirmation Classes are held upstairs in the Parish Center at 9:00 AM Sunday mornings. The next class meetings will be:

C2: December 10, 2023 C1: December 17, 2023

The next **Faith Sharing** of the year will be held on **Saturday, December 16th** in the Parish Center immediately following the 4PM vigil Mass. Students are encouraged to bring their families & friends. Come and join us for fun activities, and to learn about the faith. Food & drinks will be provided.



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.



JOYOUS CHRISTMAS DINNER DANCE On Saturday, December 9, 2023 St. Nicholas Parish Center

EVENT SOLD OUT.

TICKETS FOR OPPORTUNITY DRAWING STILL AVAILABLE AT THE PARISH OR SRE OFFICE.

This event is a fundraiser for the Knights of Columbus.

We will be accepting DONATION OF PONSETTIAS in memory of a loved one to help decorate the Church and Parish Center for Christmas. Please bring plants to the Parish Office <u>AFTER MONDAY</u>, <u>DECEMBER 18TH</u>. Please do not bring them before this date.



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.
Additional tickets are available at the Parish
or SRE Office, if you would like extra tickets.
Don't miss the chance of winning, while
taking part in the fundraiser.

New Life CA



Come and join us for a special evening of Prayer, Praise & Worship on <u>December 4, 2023</u>, 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.

"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 placed in the pews for your use. Since COVID restrictions have been lifted, and we are obligated to physically attend Mass, the missals will remain in the church for everyone to use. PLEASE DO NOT TAKE THE MISSALS HOME.

For your convenience you may visit the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops at www.usccb.org to obtain daily and Sunday readings. Thank you for your cooperation.

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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Come and join us in celebrating Simbang Gabi at St. Nicholas Church on Sunday, *December 17* at 6:30 PM.

This is a Filipino tradition and normally a devotional 9 day series of Masses in

preparation for Christmas. Mass will be officiated by Rev. Martin Bui, and the Holy Rosary Philippine Chamber Chorale (HRPCC) will be singing during the Mass. After the Mass there will be a reception at the Large Hall (first floor). ALL ARE WELCOME !!! For questions or details, call Mary Ann at 949-294-5625.



ANGEL TREE

Our annual **Angel Tree** project for Christmas has started. The Angel Tree is in the church on the small parking lot side. 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 10th – unwrapped**. Put the Angel on the present 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.** Additional toys collected will be distributed to the under privileged children of **St. Nicholas Parish families.** Thank you for your generosity!



ST. NICHOLAS PARISH PRESENTS CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22 IN THE CHURCH AT 7:00 PM RESERVE YOUR TICKET AT THE PARISH OFFICE OR GO TO nove.saintnicholas@gmail.com



On Thursuay, November 25, 2025, St. Nicholas celebrated another successful Thanksgiving Day, by serving lunch to almost 400 people. The event would not happen without the tremendous amount of work done by our wonderful volunteers and donors. Your hard work is appreciated.



St. Nicholas, Pray of us

December 6th St. Nicholas God of joy and cheer, we thank you for your servant. In loving the poor, he showed us your kindness; in caring for your children, he revealed your love. Make us thoughtful without need of reward so that we, too, may be good followers of Jesus.



The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary A Holy Day of Obligation

MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, December 7 - Vigil 4:00 PM (English) 7:00 PM (Spanish)

Friday, December 8
7:00AM, 9:00AM, 12PM (English)
7:00 PM (Vietnamese)