

**FEBRUARY 2, 2025**

**THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD**



# 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	Rev. Don Romito
Visiting Priest	Rev. Chin Dang
Visiting Priest	Rev. Brendan Hankins
Deacon	Gerardo de Santos
Deacon	Carlos Pineda
Deacon	Chau Tran
Deacon	Bob Ward

### **MASS SCHEDULE**

**Monday-Friday:** 9:00 a.m. (English)  
**Saturday:** 8:30 a.m. (English)  
**Saturday Vigil:** 4:00 p.m. (English)  
**Sunday:** 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. (English)  
12:30 p.m. (Spanish)  
5:00 p.m. (Vietnamese)  
**Holy Day Vigil:** 4:00 p.m. (English)  
6:00 p.m. (Spanish)  
**Holy Day:** 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 12 noon (English)  
7:00 p.m. (Vietnamese)  
**1st Friday of the month:** 7:00 p.m. (Vietnamese)

### **SACRAMENTS & SERVICES**

#### **RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)**

Wednesdays 6:00 p.m.  
Saturdays 9:00 a.m.

#### **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:** 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; **Monday - Friday:** 8:30 a.m.-12:00 noon, 1:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.

### PASTORAL LETTER: FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

This weekend the Church celebrates the feast of the Presentation of the Lord, which occurs forty days after the birth of Jesus. It is hard to believe that forty days have passed since Christmas! But it is important to mark this event for two reasons: first, to show the historical reality of the man Jesus, and second, to emphasize the “Jewishness” of Jesus.

Many people, then and now, have denied or downplayed the mystery that the Son of God actually came to earth as a human being and lived among us in every way except sin. This doctrine of the Incarnation is of the essence of our faith. We believe that Christ came on earth, died and rose for us, so that we might rise with him one day.

For this reason, then, we Christians believe that Jesus was born into a particular family and a particular culture. He was fully Jewish, and his parents raised him in the practice of the Jewish faith. The first-born son of every Jewish family was “presented” to the Lord on the fortieth day of his birth, to thank God for him and to offer him to God. This is another way that we acknowledge the historical fact of the birth of Christ.

It is a sad fact of our Christian history that this Jewishness of Jesus has been neglected, and that so much antisemitism has been the result. Christians and others have persecuted Jews in virtually every generation, including our own. This Sunday might be a good opportunity for us to re-examine our own complicity in this evil, and to redouble our efforts at reconciliation.

Pope John Paul II often referred to the Jewish people as “our elder brothers and sisters,” and today would be a good day to re-emphasize this connection. At the first Presentation of the Lord, Jesus was given to the world as a Jewish child, who would one day become our Messiah and Lord.

Sincerely, Father Don Romito

#### WEEKLY DONATIONS SUMMARY

	Week of <b>Jan 13-19, 2025</b>	Week of <b>Jan 13-19, 2024</b>
Sunday Envelopes	\$7,586.00	\$9,006.00
Sunday Loose	\$7,435.17	\$6,124.00
Electronic	\$2,995.91	\$3,285.73
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18,017.08</b>	<b>\$18,415.73</b>

#### 2nd Collection

There will be a 2nd collection next week for National Needs. This collection combines the collections for Catholic Campaign for Human Development; the Catholic Communication Campaign; Catholic Home Missions; and the Catholic University of America. Thank you for your generosity

#### 2024 DONATION STATEMENTS

Year-end donation statements are now being mailed out to all those who donated \$250 or more to

St. Nicholas Church in 2024. These statements can be used for tax purposes. If you gave less than \$250 during 2024 and would like to receive a statement, please

contact April Alvarado  
(Parish Business Manager) at

(949) 837-1090 or

aalvarado@st-nicholaschurch.org

Thank you for supporting our parish!

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 2024 PSA CAMPAIGN DONATION STATEMENTS

**All those who donated \$250 or more  
to the PSA Campaign will receive  
statements directly from  
the Diocese of Orange.**

**Mass Intentions for the Week**
Sunday:

7:30 a.m. Julia Rodriguez and Rogelio Magan †  
Anita E. Bigornia †  
Mark Shepardson †

9:00 a.m. Cuong Vuong †

11:00 a.m. For The People of Parish

12:30 p.m. Jackie Leiuva †  
Joaquin Padilla Barajas †

Monday:

9:00 a.m. Sandy Flynn  
Marigold Orbita  
Medel Family  
Gustavo Gramp †

Tuesday:

9:00 a.m. Francis Ohr †

Wednesday:

9:00 a.m. Deceased Members  
of Thang Pham Family †

Thursday:

9:00 a.m. Julie Sanestra †

Friday:

9:00 a.m. Judy McCarthy and Lee Maher †

Saturday:

8:30 a.m. Joey Valenton

4:00 p.m. Juanita

**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  
For the Week of February 2**

Sunday: The Presentation of the Lord,  
World Day for Consecrated Life

Monday: St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr;  
St. Ansgar, Bishop

Wednesday: St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr

Thursday: St. Paul Miki and Companions,  
Martyrs

Saturday: St. Jerome Emiliani;  
St. Josephine Bakhita, Virgin; BVM

Next Sunday: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time,  
World Marriage Day

**24 HOUR EXPOSITION OF THE  
BLESSED SACRAMENT**

**Our monthly Day of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is on the 2nd Wednesday of the month beginning immediately after the 9:00 a.m. Mass and continues until just prior to the 9:00 a.m. Mass on Thursday.**

**Saint Nicholas Church celebrates a HOLY HOUR every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Come spend time in prayer, reflection and Adoration.**

**SUNDAY'S READINGS**

**First Reading:** Lo, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me; and suddenly there will come to the temple the LORD whom you seek. (Mal 3:1)

**Psalm:** Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord! (Ps 24)

**Second Reading:** Therefore, he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every way, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest before God. (Heb 2:17)

**Gospel:** "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation." (Lk 2:29-30)

**Readings for the week of  
February 2, 2025**


Sunday: Mal 3:1-4/Heb 2:14-18/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

Monday: Heb 11:32-40/Ps 31:20, 21, 22, 23, 24/Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday: Heb 12:1-4/Ps 22:26b-27, 28 and 30, 31-32/Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday: Heb 12:4-7, 11-15/Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a/Mk 6:1-6

Thursday: Heb 12:18-19, 21-24/Ps 48:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 9, 10-11/Mk 6:7-13

Friday: Heb 13:1-8/Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9abc/Mk 6:14-29

Saturday: Heb 13:15-17, 20-21/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mk 6:30-34



**FEBRUARY 2, 2025**

**THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD**



## **Fellowship and Faith**

The Women's Ministry  
Welcomes all to their next meeting scheduled on

**Saturday, February 8, 2025 at  
10:00 a.m. in Rm 201 of the Parish Center.  
Fr. Brendan Hankins, O.PRAEM.,  
will be speaking about the  
"Eucharist and the Celebration of Mass"**

for additional info, you may call  
Sandy Flynn at 949-378-6749  
or Peggy O'Donnell at 949-500-0826.  
Hope you are able to join us!

### **Save the date - Sunday, 2 March!**



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul will  
host a breakfast fundraiser at the Parish  
Center. More information to follow in  
upcoming bulletins.

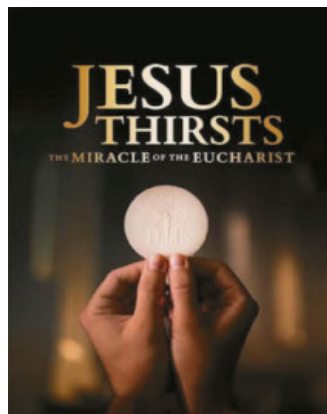
If you are interested in learning more about the  
Society, leave a message at 949.614.0053 or contact  
us by email at [Stvdpsnicholas@gmail.com](mailto:Stvdpsnicholas@gmail.com) or stop  
by classroom C, Thursday mornings, between  
10 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. during our working session  
period. Thank you for your support.

As St. Nicholas Parish  
continues to promote a  
**Eucharist Revival Church,**  
there will be a Parish-wide  
**Consecration to Jesus in the  
Eucharist**  
**on Sunday, February 2, 2025  
at the 11:00 a.m. Mass.**



For additional information, please  
contact Peggy O'Donnell at  
[peggyopeace@gmail.com](mailto:peggyopeace@gmail.com)

### **DID YOU MISS IT IN THE THEATRES!**



The office of Adult Faith  
Formation is offering a  
screening of  
**"Jesus Thirsts:  
The Miracle of the  
Eucharist"**  
**Tuesday, February 4,  
9:45 a.m. in the Parish  
Center, Room 201.**

Come enjoy this  
beautifully done feature  
documentary at your local  
Parish Center. No  
reservations necessary.  
All are welcome!

### **A True Gift of Music MAXWELL TRAN St. Nicholas Youth Choir**



Max is 15 years old and a 10th grader. He started  
playing piano at the age of 4 and joined the  
St. John Neumann children's choir at the age of  
eight. For his most recent piano competition,  
Max won first place at the Golden Classics  
International Piano competition and was invited  
to play solo at Carnegie Hall this past  
Christmas. He is presently a member of the Youth  
choir at St. Nicholas church and an occasional  
pianist under the direction of Dr. Nove. "We  
are very proud of his accomplishments and are very  
fortunate that he shares his gift of music with us  
here at St. Nicholas Parish," says Dr. Nove.



**Community Blood Drive  
Thursday, February 20, 2025**



## **MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS MINISTRY**

The monthly meeting of the Mental Health and Wellness Ministry is on **Tuesday, February 4** at

6:30 p.m. in room 201 of the Parish Center.

Our speaker will be Ms. Jere Miller, a therapist from Irvine. She will be speaking about mental health for the older person, including depression.

Jere has a lot of unique experience and in 2019 she was selected as an "Orange County Woman of Influence."

Please join us for an enlightening discussion. Coffee, tea, and snacks will be provided.

If you have any questions, please call Mary Emminger at 518-788-7612.



**St. Nicholas Parish  
Adult Faith Formation  
Presents  
Winter 2025 Catholic:**

## **BIBLE STUDY Continuing with... "The Book of Revelation"**

**This is a ten-week study, meeting once a week, in the St. Nicholas Parish Center, Room 201.**

**Each session consists of live teaching (no videos or power point presentation), open Q and A allowed, and in fact, encouraged.**

**Content includes Catholic approach to the understanding and interpretation of the biblical texts in line with Magisterium teaching of the Doctrines and Dogmas of the Catholic faith.**

**Beginning Monday, January 27, 2025  
10:00 to 11:30 A.M.**

**St. Nicholas Parish Hall, Room 201  
For more information, please contact  
Al Guevara at (714) 640-7502.**

Please join us for

# *Valentine's Brunch Potluck*

*Food donations are welcome!  
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**Sunday, February 16, 2025**  
after the 7:30am, 9:00am,  
11:00am and 12:30pm Masses

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Questions: Del (714)931-0820



## **New Life Catholic Charismatic Community Meets Monday, February 3**

Come join us for a special evening of Prayer, Praise and Worship on Monday, February 3, 2025 at St. Nicholas Parish Center, Room 104, 6:30 p.m.- 9:00 p.m. Our guest speaker will be Sr. Carmen Jackson. Light refreshments will be served. For additional information or inquiries, please call Dolly at 714-510-4428 or Ivan at 949-245-5895.



**Parish Ministries continue to meet.  
Please check our website for their  
meeting schedule.**



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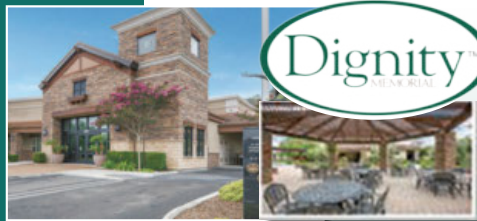
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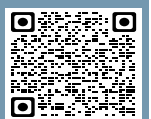
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**SUNDAY  
FEBRUARY 2, 2025  
AFTER ALL MORNING  
MASSES**

Sponsored by St Nicholas Knights of Columbus

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

### FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2.

We will have a general blessing of candles at the 4:00 pm Vigil on Saturday and all Sunday Masses. *Please bring your own candles or purchase in the sacristy before Mass.*



### FEAST OF ST. BLAISE - MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3.

We will have individual blessing of the throats at the 9:00 a.m. Please join us.



### Apostolate of the Returning King A.R.K

We gather monthly to share the rosary and review guidance messages here at the parish, which is a potent form of "small-church community". A.R.K meets on the first Friday of each month at 10:00 a.m., Room C (library).

For more information about resources for A.R.K., call Peggy O'Donnell, 949-500-0826 or Anne Timossi at 949-294-3215 or go to [www.directionforourtimes.com](http://www.directionforourtimes.com)



### New Life Catholic Charismatic Community Meets Monday, February 3

Come join us for a special evening of Prayer, Praise and Worship on Monday, February 3, 2025 at St. Nicholas Parish Center, Room 104, 6:30 p.m.- 9:00 p.m. Our guest speaker will be Sr. Carmen Jackson. Light refreshments will be served. For additional information or inquiries, please call Dolly at 714-510-4428 or Ivan at 949-245-5895.



### Confirmation For Adults

The Sacrament of Confirmation, in which we receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit in our lives, will be offered to adults who have not been confirmed on Sunday, May 4, 2025, at the 5:00 p.m. Mass.

If you are 18 years of age or older, baptized, and regularly attend Mass and receive the Eucharist, we invite you to come to seven (7) Saturday sessions in preparation for the Sacrament. They will be held from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., beginning **Saturday, March 8th, in Room A** (the building behind the Parish Office). Registration forms are available in the Parish Office. The registration fee is \$35. If you would like more information, please call Gloria at (949) 768-7228.

### HISPANIC MINISTRY TAMALE SALE

*February 8 and 9, 2025*



Mark your calendar and support the Hispanic Ministry at their popular tamale sale on **February 8 and 9**, after the Saturday, 4 p.m. Mass and Sunday after all the A.M. Masses, (or until they sell out).

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

COFFEE AND DONUTS WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE THIS WEEKEND AFTER ALL SUNDAY A.M. MASSES JOIN US!

