

Saint Nicholas Catholic Church

His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston



Pastor: Rev. Fr. Eliseus Ogbonna Ibeh, MSP

<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
<i>9am – 4pm</i>	<i>9am – 4pm</i>	<i>9am – 4pm</i>	<i>9am – 4pm</i>

2502 Clay (Church) 2508 Clay (Rectory) Houston, Texas 77003- 4498

e-mail: 2508clay@sbcglobal.net Phone: (713)223 – 5210 Fax: (713)222-0424 <http://www.stnicholashouston.org>

<i>Cassandra's Office Hours</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
	<i>9:00am – 3:00pm</i>	<i>9:00am – 3:00pm</i>	<i>9:00am 3:00pm</i>	<i>9:00am –3:00pm</i>

Pastoral Staff	Fr. Eliseus Ogbonna Ibeh, MSP Pastor	stnichpastor@gmail.com	(979) 661 -0834
Cassandra Edmondson	Administrative Assistant	2508clay@sbcglobal.net	
Ester Angafor Sanosi	DRE Director		
Anita Dubie Sendze	Sacristan		
Alvin Gabriel	Finance Council President		

Parish Mission Statement

At St. Nicholas, we are a welcoming Community guided by the Holy Spirit and we celebrate the presence of Jesus Christ in our lives, in prayer, in liturgy, in religious education and in scripture. Joyfully we reach out to everyone and invite them to serve the Lord in the spirit of love. Join us in working for peace, justice and in building a community that welcomes and accept all people as children of GOD.

DECEMBER 31, 2023– FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

MASS SCHEDULE AND DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS

Sunday: Rosary – 8:30am and 10:30am

Mass Schedule: Sundays at 9:00am 11:00am and 1:15pm

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: Holy Hour 7:00am-Mass 8:00am

Reconciliation: Saturdays 10:00 – 11:30 am or by request

Tuesday Mass

Tuesday – Holy Hour 5:00pm Mass 6pm; Legion of Mary Devotion 5:00pm

Sacraments Information

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

Please call the Parish Office (713) 223 – 5210

Baptism

Registered parishioners must contact the Parish Office for an interview with the Pastor. Pre-Baptism classes are required before Baptism.

CCC Education

Classes are available for children who need preparation for First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Classes are held on Saturdays from September through May.

Funeral Services

In the event of the death of a parishioner, please contact the Parish Office before finalizing any arrangements with the Funeral Director

Sacrament of Holy Matrimony

Registered engaged couples must call the Parish Office at least one year before their expected wedding date. Six to eight months are required for marriage preparation. Pre-Cana or Engagement Encounter is required.

Sick and Homebound - Stewardship of Time
Please pray for the sick and homebound of our parish and all who have asked for our prayers:

Mary Broussard, Gardenia Champ, Wilmer John Champ, Wilmer John Champ Jr., June Cushingberry, Diane Elkins, Preston Reed, Anita Garvey, James A. Garvey, Geneva LaFleur, Gladys Njiti, Kourtney Njiti, Elise Richmond, Marie Southern, Lillie Taylor, Eleanor Williams, Velocia Ulmer, Peggy Castenda, Benjamin Petteway, Elaine Mullone, Diele Ekaney, Ella Uwimana

Prayer for the Sick

Dear Lord, Thank you for the lives of everyone in our parish. We pray that you heal the sick amongst us, taking away their sufferings. We burn all chronic and long-term illnesses with the fire of the holy spirit, help them overcome their illnesses. Give them all the power and strength to battle through their diseases. Bring them divine healing in the name of Jesus. AMEN.

Stewardship Offering Contributions- December 24/25, 2023

On Line Giving	Sunday December 24th Offerings	Building Fund	DSF GOAL 2023
Bag of Gold \$136.00	9:00am - \$311.00 11:00am - \$1,179.00 1:15pm - \$433.00 Total - \$1,923.00	9am- \$1500.00	\$9,000.00 Paid \$5,041.00 Remaining to be paid \$3,959.00
Church Repairs \$575.00	Christmas Eve Vigil Mass \$83.00	Mass Intentions 11am-\$240.00	
Sunday Offerings \$425.75	Christmas Day Offerings 9:00am - \$ 181.00 11:00am - \$1,725.00 1:15pm - \$428.00 Total - \$2,334.00		

Weekly Readings	LECTORS		
	9am	11am	1:15pm
Jan 1: Numbers 6:22-27;Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21	December 31 Tara/Mary	Elizabeth/Efua	Elijah/Nicholas
Jan 2: 1 John 2:22-28; John 1:19-28	January 1		
Jan 3: 1 John 2:29, 3:6; John 1:29-34	EXTRA ORDINARY MINISTERS		
Jan 4: 1 John 3:7-10; John 1:35-42	December 31 Theresa/Jackie	Francine/Jolene/Aiden	Japhet/John Paul
Jan 5: 1 John 3:11-21; John 1:43-51	January 1		
Jan 6: Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12	December 31 ALTAR SERVERS -11am-	Francine/Jolene/Aiden/Vianney	
	January 1		

Mass Intentions

9:00am In loving memory of **Josephine Harden**-by-Helen, Terri and Judy Brown

11:00am For the repose of the soul of **Yah Mary Yefon Sendze**- by the Sendze family

For the repose of the souls of **Tchadjui families**- by Pamela Sinju

For the repose of the soul of **Rev Samuel Igbafe, MSP**- by the Esther Intercessors.

For the peaceful repose of our father, **Pa Joseph Atia Asong** and all deceased family members -by the Asong children

For repose of the souls of her husband **S.K. Kilo** and her son **Charles Kilo** and all deceased members and friends of the Kilo family -by Johana Kilo

For the repose of the souls of **Manyi Grace Kah Tangwa** and all deceased family members of the **Tangwa & Wando** family-by Gilbert Tangwa

For the repose of the souls of **Edna Akpan, Magdalene Welashey, Helen Wamey, Aloysius Welashey and Mami Mary Njowo** and all members of the **Youdjeu and Mafiamba** families-by Alida Welashey

For the repose soul of **Debora S. Wara, Marie Njowo** and **Therese Fonji**-by Prisca Wara-Nelson

Thanking God for his enormous blessings bestowed on the **Tangwa family** –by the Tangwa family

Wishing our sister **Mariana Tangwa** a happy birthday celebrated December 25th – by her siblings.

1:15pm For the People of the Parish

Zelle Account for St. Nicholas is:

Stnichpastor@gmail.com

*From the Pastor's Desk
'Happy New Year, 2024'*

My dear Parishioners,

As we thank God for allowing us to see another New Year-2024, we have a lot to thank God for. We thank him that we are above the earth and not under the earth. We thank him for all the blessings of the out going year-2023.

We thank him for the gift of our Church family-St. Nicholas Catholic Church. We thank God for the gift of each other.

On my path, I want to thank all of you for keeping the doors of our Church open. Your gifts of treasure, talent and time are never taken for granted. We did relatively well last year, but there are still room for improvement. The needs of the parish are many, but I know with the grace of God and your active participation, we shall over come them all. Thank you my friends for being good Stewards of God's gift to you.

The year, 2024 has a lot of events we shall look forward to: First Holy Communion, Confirmation, St. Nicholas family day celebration and the 100 year anniversary of our Church building.

May the New Year bring to all of us the blessings from God. Thank you for taking care of me, I am very grateful.

I am,

Your brother and your Pastor,

Rev. Fr. Eliseus Ogbonna Ibeh, MSP

CCE

CCE classes will resume on Saturday the 13th of January, 2024 at 10:00am. There will be a brief parents meeting at 12:00 noon on the Saturday

Cleaning Schedule

Next week cleaning for January 6th will be done by members from the 11:00am Mass.



Dr. Martin Luther King Birthday

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston 39th Observance of the Annual Celebration:

"A MASS OF REMEMBRANCE"

Honoring the birthday of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Mass of celebration will be held on Sunday, January 14, 2024 at 3:00pm at the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart 1111 St. Joseph Parkway Houston, Texas 77002. Principal Celebrant Most Rev. Daniel Cardinal DiNardo and Homilist Rev. Martins C. Emeh, J.C.L. Please plan to attend and celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. King. Reception to follow in the Cathedral Centre.

SAINTS OF THE WEEK

January 1: Mary, the Holy Mother of God-Solemnity

January 2: Saint Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

January 3: The Most Holy Name of Jesus

January 4: Memorial of st. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

January 5: Memorial of St. John Neumann, Bishop

January 6- Saint Andre' Bessette

BAG OF GOLD

On December 3rd 2023, we will be celebrating our 136th Anniversary and we are asking all parishioners to donate \$1 for each one of these years. The funds will be used for the renovation of the church for it's 100th birthday on December 15, 2024. Thank you in advance!!

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

ALL NIGHT PRAYER VIGIL-LEGION OF MARY

Friday January 5, 2024 -starting at 9pm (Rosary/Prayers/Holy Hour) followed by Mass at 10:00pm.

Saturday January 6, 2024 (Refreshments, Rosary, Holy Hour and Prayers) with a closing Mass at 5:00am.

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

On Christmas Day, we heard in the Gospel Reading how God the Father gave His Son Jesus to Mary and Joseph. Because they accepted the present of Jesus, we too are offered this gift each day. We pray especially during Christmas for the humility to accept the gift of Christ into our lives.

On today's feast of the Holy Family, the Gospel Reading describes the Presentation of the infant Jesus in the Temple. We see how Mary and Joseph give their Son back to God, and to other people as well, and we pray today for the courage to give the gift of Christ to others.

Joseph and Mary are faithful Jews, fulfilling in today's Gospel Reading one of the laws of Judaism: to take the first-born male and present Him to God in the Temple in Jerusalem. For many Jews, this law was merely something that had to be done. For Mary and Joseph however, fulfilling this law had much more meaning, demonstrating their fidelity to the angelic messages announced to each of them many months earlier.

However, we have to wonder if even Joseph and Mary could at this point in time have understood what this Presentation foreshadowed. The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple foreshadows the self-presentation of Jesus on the Cross. This reminds us of an important truth about the Sacred Liturgy: as Advent prepares us for Christmas, so Christmas prepare us for Holy Week.

Some thirty years after the events of today's Gospel Reading, Mary on Calvary witnessed her Son dying on the Cross because of the sins of others. Mary could very easily have rejected her Son's sacrifice and pleaded for Him to come down from the Cross. But as deeply as her sorrow pierced her heart as if it were a sword, Mary—ever-faithful—joined the sacrifice of her own will with that of her Son, and consented to His Sacrifice. As Jesus presented his life to the Father on Calvary, Mary presented her son as well. The “fiat” that she offered at the Annunciation and at the Presentation in the Temple was the same “fiat” that she offered on Calvary.

It is the presentation of Christ on Calvary—of His Body and Blood, soul and divinity—that the priest offers at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. In turn, it is the presentation of Mary on Calvary—of her own will to God—that we as disciples are called to offer each time we assist at Holy Mass.

Hopefully no one who's present at Mass thinks that he or she is a passive spectator. Sometimes, religious ceremonies can turn into spectacles, when decorations or music are thought of as more important than what's being celebrated. If we come to Mass as a spectator, and expect to be entertained, then it's very likely that we're not going to get anything out of the Mass, since we haven't put anything into it.

Kneeling during the Liturgy of the Eucharist, everyone is to be like Mary at Calvary: saying “*Fiat*” to Jesus' sacrifice. In this offering we make at Mass, we include everything in our lives that is precious to us. God may not demand from us what we offer, but we must be willing to offer it. In this we need to realize that if God were to take anything of ours, He would simply be taking what He had given to us as a gift in the first place.

We might put all this a different way. When you come up for Holy Communion and say “Amen”, you are saying “Yes, this is truly the Body of Christ that is being presented to me.” But you are saying “Yes” to something more, as well. Why is God strengthening you with the Body and Blood of His Son? You accept the strength of Jesus' life because God has a mission for you to carry out. The strength you receive in Holy Communion is given to you, not so that you can use that strength any way you wish. The strength of Christ's life is presented to you because God has a plan for your life, and He knows that you will fail without this spiritual nourishment to sustain you.