

# 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>
9am – 4pm	9am – 4pm	9am – 4pm	9am – 4pm

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

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

Pastoral Staff	Fr. Eliseus Ogbonna Ibeh, MSP Pastor	<a href="mailto:stnichpastor@gmail.com">stnichpastor@gmail.com</a> (979) 661-0834
Cassandra Edmondson	Administrative Assistant	<a href="mailto:2508clay@sbcglobal.net">2508clay@sbcglobal.net</a>
Esther Angafor Sanosi	Director of Religious Education	
Anita Dubic 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.*

**JANUARY 21, 2024– THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

## **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.

### **CCE 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, Genevia 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- January 14, 2024**

On Line Giving	Sunday, January 14th Offerings		DSF GOAL 2023
<b>Sunday Offerings</b> <b>\$355.00</b>	9:00am - \$611.00 11:00am - \$2,719.00 11:00am-\$126.00 Kids 1:15pm - \$367.00 Total - \$3,823.00  Maintenance Fund 9am-\$50.00		<b>\$9,000.00</b> <b>Paid \$5,041.00</b> <b>Remaining to be paid \$3,959.00</b>

**Weekly Readings**

**Jan 22:** 2 Samuel 5:1-7, 10; Mark 3:22-30  
**Jan 23:** 2 Samuel 6:12b-15, 17-19; Mark 3:31-35  
**Jan 24:** 2 Samuel 7:4-17; Mark 4:1-20  
**Jan 25:** Acts 22:3-16; Mark 16:15-18  
**Jan 26 :** 2 Timothy 1:1-8; Mark 4:26-34  
**Jan 27:** 2 Samuel 12:1-7a, 10-17; Mark 4:35-41

**LECTORS**

	9am	11am	1:15pm
<b>January 21</b>	Theresa/Tara	Ernest/Emelda	John Paul/Agnes
<b>January 28</b>	Cassandra/Sharon	Joyce/Shu Shu	Egide/Laura

**EXTRA ORDINARY MINISTERS**

<b>January 21</b>	Cassandra/Jackie	Emmerencia/Valeria/Ernest	Agnes/Laura
<b>January 21</b>	Jackie/Theresa	Esther/Joyce/John	Japhet/Egide
<b>January 21</b>	<b>ALTAR SERVERS -11am-</b> Sameer/Gima/Gilbert/Fokwang		
<b>January 28</b>	Sammuel/Sameer/Jolene/Aiden		

**Mass Intentions**

**9:00am** In loving memory of **Reola Bellard-Reed**-by Parishioners

**11:00am** For the repose soul of **Yah Mary Yefon Sendze**- by the Sendze family  
 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  
 For the repose of the souls of **Pa Christian Sanosi, Ma Clara Durshui, Rose Beryen, Grace Beri, Judith Bongayen, Angeline Yensi, & Keafon Sanosi**-by Sanosi children 1 year  
 Thanksgiving to God for countless blessings on my life and another birthday-by Emelda Asong-Quan  
 For the repose of the soul of our mother & grandmother **Princess Catherine Fombang**-by Joe Fomukong & family  
 In loving memory of **Beachamti Irene** on this one year anniversary of her passing-by Helen Fusi

**1:15pm** For the People of the Parish

## **ZELLE ACCOUNT FOR ST. NICHOLAS**

**IS:**

**Stnichpastor@gmail.com**

### **IMPOSTOR PRIEST EMAIL/TEXTING SCAMS**

Recently, there has been an increase in reports of fraudulent email solicitations for financial support, usually in the form of gift cards. These reports are coming from email accounts or text messages identifying as Archdiocesan priests. To minimize fraudulent impact, pastors are encouraged to remind their membership that priests/churches would never make such appeals to the parish community. Advise parishioners to notify the church office immediately if they receive any unfamiliar donation requests.

### **LITURGICAL MINISTRY FORMATION DAY**

Join us Saturday, February 3 for the Liturgical Ministry Formation Day Winter 2024. We are offering formation sessions in four different ministries:

- EMHCs
- Lectors
- **HOSPITALITY MINISTRY:** Parish Usher and Greeter Formation, and  
\*\*Included in this session: "Surviving an Active Shooter". Two officers from the Harris County Constable Office will present skills and techniques to prepare and protect your church in active shooter situations. \*\*
- The venue for this formation is at St. Dominic Archdiocesan Center (2403 Holcombe Blvd., Houston, TX 77021) from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

For more information and to register logon to Capernaum.

Early Registration-\$30 until Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>.

Regular Registration - \$40 begins Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>.

Walk-in Registration - \$50 on a first serve basis if space is available.



### **SECOND COLLECTION**

Sunday, January 28, 2024 is for Bishops Fund for Latin America. Please be generous!!!

### **World Day for Consecrated Life Mass**

All are invited to a special Mass celebrating the World Day for Consecrated Life on February 4 at the CoCathedral of the Sacred Heart, 1111 St. Joseph Parkway (Downtown) Houston, TX 77002 at 11 am. Mass presided by Daniel Cardinal DiNardo.

### **SAINTS OF THE WEEK**

January 22- Saint Publius

January 23-Saint Vincent and Saint Marianne

January 24-Saint Francis De Sales, Bishop  
and Doctor of the Church

January 25- Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul  
The Apostle

January 26-Memorial of St. Timothy and Titus,  
Bishops

January 27-Saint Angela Merici

### **CHURCH**

The Sanctuary is a sacred place of worship and should be respected at all times. Please be mindful, EATING and DRINKING is strictly prohibited in the CHURCH at all times.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

January 26-Funeral Mass at 6pm in the Church

January 26-Women meeting at 8pm in the hall

February 2-Funeral Mass at 6pm in the Church

February 3-Career day for children in the hall

February 14-Ash Wednesday

February 14-World Marriage Day

### **CLEANING SCHEDULE**

Next week cleaning for January 27<sup>th</sup> will be done by members from the 11:00am Mass

### THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Some people approach the New Testament as if it were a dogmatic history recounting what was, what ought to be and offering a privileged preview to all that is to come. If they're too fundamentalist, they'll seriously think about plucking out their eye ([Matthew 18:9](#)) — or at least strive to never look at anything that might be tempting. (In old-time religious life, sisters and brothers were admonished to keep "modesty of the eyes," an avoidance of looking at "worldly" things — especially members of the opposite sex.) In our day, we interpret Scripture in its historical and cultural context, realizing that not even our Scriptures are free from images of God that reflect our frailties, saying more about us than about God.

As we hear a bit about Jonah today, we're aware that his story isn't an historical account of a fellow who spent a while in a whale, went on to a successful preaching career and finally became furious with God for not wreaking vengeance on a sinful but repentant people. Actually, we can read the Book of Jonah as the comic book of the Bible, a tale to make us laugh — until we recognize ourselves in the ridiculous conclusion of the story.

Today's selection from Jonah focuses only on his successful call for conversion, ending with the statement that God "repented of the evil that he had threatened." This statement needs to be understood in context. In the variety of images of God we find in Scripture, we hear about God as everything from a tender mother ([Numbers 11:12](#)) to a God of dreadful vengeance ([Psalm 137: 7-9](#), [Nahum 1:2](#)). Our ancestors in the faith, like many of us, projected their expectations on God and counted on God to unleash divine power to destroy the unrighteous (a term often referring to their enemies). That's quite a different image from Jesus' description of his father who cares if a sparrow falls and waits patiently for a wayward child. A vengeful image of God reflects nothing of the compassion Jesus consistently demonstrated.

We hear something quite different with Mark's portrayal of the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Careful reading shows us that the only words Jesus actually preaches in the first chapters of Mark's Gospel are, "This is the time of fulfillment. The reign of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the good news." From Mark 1 to 4, Jesus calls disciples, heals people and converses with them; he also gets into arguments with religious authorities, warning them that they are in danger of blaspheming against the Holy Spirit. But through all of that, the only actual preaching we hear are those 20 words cited above.

We might say that those 20 words referring to fulfillment, the reign of God, repentance and belief in good news are the core message of the entire Gospel. Everything else that Jesus said and did demonstrated the meaning of that message, emphasizing "repent and believe," two words which might ultimately signify the same thing. Jesus' call to repentance, metanoia, invited people to take on a new mindset.

Representing his Father, Jesus didn't focus on sin. He urged people to believe that the reigning of God, a world moving unstoppably toward unity in love, was happening in their midst. In calling them to metanoia, Jesus invited others to see what he saw — that the world was on the way to a future in which God would be all in all — and that future was already appearing.

That message was so attractive that people began to follow him. Many continued to watch him and listen to him, gradually getting caught up in the contagious vision he offered. A chosen few accepted the invitation to throw their lot in with him and join his cause. They entered into a process of learning, of discipleship, in the course of which they found themselves transformed and giving their lives in imitation of Jesus. The more this happened, the more the announcement of the reign of God became a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Jesus' announcement of the nearness of the reign of God was not one and done. The reign of God describes a web of relationships that continually grows, drawing more and more people into unity with God and neighbor — and with all of creation. Each generation is invited to develop that web in the ways most appropriate to their context, accepting the task of adapting the Gospel message so that it remains both faithful and relevant.

Today, Christ and all our ancestors in the faith invite us to adopt the mindset that expects to see that "This is the time of fulfillment. The reign of God is at hand."