

Saint Nicholas Catholic Church

His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston



Pastor: Rev. Fr. Eliseus Ogbonna Ibeh, MSP

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9am – 4pm	9am – 4pm	9am – 4pm	9am – 4pm

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>

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

Pastoral Staff	Fr. Eliseus Ogbonna Ibeh, MSP Pastor	stnichpastor@gmail.com (979) 661-0834
Cassandra Edmondson	Administrative Assistant	2508clay@sbcglobal.net
Esther Angafor Sanosi	Director of Religious Education	
Anita Dubic Scudze	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.

FEBRUARY 25, 2024– SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

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., 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, Cynthia Page Randle, Eloise Rollins, Mary Dinka

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- February 18, 2024

On Line Giving	Sunday, February 18th Offerings	DSF GOAL 2024
Sunday Offerings \$558.23	9:00am- \$707.00 11:00am - \$1,713.00 11:00am-\$93.00 Kids 1:15pm - \$742.00 Total - \$3,255.00	\$9,000.00
Maintenance Fund \$5.00		DSF \$100.00

Weekly Readings

Feb 26: Daniel 9:4b-10; Luke 6:36-38
Feb 27: Isaiah 1:10, 16-20; Matthew 23:1-12
Feb 28: Jeremiah 18:18-20; Matthew 20:17-28
Feb 29: Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 16:19-31
March 01 :Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Matthew 21:33-+43, 45-46
March 02: Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

LECTORS

	9am	11am	1:15pm
February 25	Mary/Mari	John/Efua/Eunice	Elijah/John Paul
March 3	Sharon/Mari	Jackie/Dorothy/Nayah	Japhet/Egide

EXTRA ORDINARY MINISTERS

	9am	11am	1:15pm
February 25	Theresa/Jackie	Dorothy/Al/Clement	Agnes/Rebecca
March 3	Jackie/Cassandra	Emmerencia/Valeria/Ernest	Japhet/John Paul

ALTAR SERVERS -11am

	9am	11am	1:15pm
February 25		Sammuel/Alexis/Gima/Vianney	
March 3		Sameer/Francine/Aiden/Sammuel	

Mass Intentions

9:00am +Reola Bellard-Reed

11:00am + Yah Mary Yefon Sendze, + Pa Joseph Atia Asong + S.K. Kilo, +Charles Kilo, + Manyi Grace Kah Tangwa
+ Edna Akpan, Magdalene Welashey, Helen Wamey, Aloysius Welashey and Mami Mary Njowo
+ Debora S. Wara,+ Marie Njowo + Therese Fonji, + Pa John Awah,+ Manyi Grace Segga Awah
+ Pa Christian Sanosi, +Ma Clara Durshui, +Rose Beryen, +Grace Beri, +Judith Bongayen, +Angeline Yensi,
+Keafon Sanosi

1:15pm For God's guidance and constant protection for all his children-by Joe Fomukong

PRAYER OF SAINT GABRIEL OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS

" I will attempt day by day to break my will into pieces. I want to do God's Holy Will, not my own! - *Saint Gabriel Possenti*

Love Mary! She is loveable, faithful, and constant. She will never let herself be outdone in love, but will ever remain supreme. If you are in danger, she will hasten to free you. If you are troubled, she will console you. If you are sick, she will bring you relief. If you are in need, she will help you. She does not look to see what kind of person you have been. She simply comes to a heart that wants to love her. She comes quickly and opens her merciful heart to you, embraces you and consoles and serves you. She will even be at hand to accompany you on the trip to eternity. - *Saint Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother*"

ZELLE ACCOUNT FOR ST. NICHOLAS

IS: Stnichpastor@gmail.com

LENTEN REVIVAL

March 6th - 8th, 2024 starting at 7pm. for Adults

Theme: "Growing in Faith, Hope and Love"

(1 Cor 13:13)

Saturday March 9th 2024 from 9am-4pm. for children

Theme: "Be the best version of yourself"

Guest speaker- Father Franklin Fomukong

FUNDRAISING GALA

Saturday April 6, 2024 St. Nicholas Catholic Church will be having a Fundraising Gala from 8:00pm to Midnight at the parish hall located at 2501 Bell Street, Houston, Texas 77003.

Cost of Tickets \$50.00

Dress to Impress

Red Carpet Glamour/Black Tie Event

Sumptuous 3 Course Dinner will be Served/

Cash Bar \$\$\$

HALL RENTALS

March 2 - Hall rental-meeting at 7:30pm

March 21-Women meeting at 8pm

LIVE THE LITURGY

The Servant-Leader is Servant first... It begins with the natural feeling that one wants to serve first.

SAINT GABRIEL OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS



SECOND COLLECTION

Next Sunday, March 3, 2024 second collection is for Maintenance Fund. Please be generous. Thank you.

SAINT OF THE WEEK

Saint Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows

After a youth devoted to the world and society, attending the theatre, chasing women and the hunt, he was led to the Passionist Order by Our Lady, making his profession on 22 September 1857. Gave his life to prayer, sacrifice, and a devotion to Our Lady and the contemplation of her sorrows over the sufferings of Jesus. Many miracles are attributed to him after death. Cured Saint Gemma Galgani when she prayed for his intervention.

Patron saint of school children and students

SAINTS OF THE WEEK

February 26-St. Victor the Hermitt, St. Alexander, St. Flavianus, St. Porphyrius, St. Paula

February 27-St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows, St. Gregory of Narek

February 28- St. Augustus Chapdelaine, Pope Saint Hilary
February 29-St. Aubin

March 01- St. David of Wales, St. Albinus of Angers, St. Leolucas of Corleone

March 02- St. Chad of Mercia, St. Angela of the Cross, St. Agnes of Prague, St. John Maron

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- Liturgical Meeting for all Liturgical Ministers- Lectors, EMHC, Altar Servers, Ushers, and Psalmists-Saturday March 2, 2024 at noon
- March 3-Installation of EMHC
- March 22-ACCCRUS meeting at 6pm
- Every Friday during the Lenten Season, Sacrament of Reconciliation at 10am in the Church
- Stations of the Cross will be every Friday at 6:30pm will be led as follows:
 - March 1-Led by CWA-ICB
 - March 8-Led by CMA
 - March 15- CWA-OLOM
 - March 22-1:15pm Mass Parishioners
 - March 29-Youth Ministry

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

The first few months of the New Year are often difficult for people... cold weather, longing for the bygone holiday season, failed New Year's resolutions. But I've always found it to be a refreshing spiritual time because it reminds me of my own discernment of the priesthood, which reached a fever pitch during the month of February while I was a sophomore in college. For months and months, I had told the Lord the same thing: "Just tell me what you want me to do, and I'll do it! Anything you ask of me, Jesus!" But I didn't really mean it! I wanted to get married, so while I told Jesus I'd do anything He asked, I had a very narrow vision of what that meant. Finally, in the early days of February, through prayer, spiritual guides, and some Divine Providence, He moved my heart out of the comfort zone of what I was "willing" to do so that I could actually say and mean, "Just tell me what you want me to do, and I'll do it," and say yes to the seminary.

The Scriptures are full of moments like this. Take Abraham in our First Reading for this Second Sunday of Lent. He hears his name called and he cries out, "Here I Am!" This is the ancient and traditional statement of openness to the Lord. He implies he is willing to do whatever the Lord will ask of him. But then he is presented with something beyond comprehension... to sacrifice his only son! His certainty in the Lord's goodness is immediately tested. Does he really mean that he is here, that he will do whatever the Lord asks if only he makes it known. He must be thinking, "Lord, I would do anything for You, but not THAT!" One is reminded of the magnificent scene in the Acts of the Apostles where Saul is left blinded by his encounter with Lord on the way to Damascus. The Lord calls out to Ananias, who gives the same response as Abraham: "Here I Am!" We can sense his Faith and his deep desire to serve, but then the Lord asks something he could never imagine... welcome the one who is persecuting Christians into your home, grant him sight, and baptize him! Once again, the Lord asks the willing soul something beyond their comprehension. And in the cases of Abraham and Ananias, as well as with every willing soul, their courage and bravery are intensely rewarded.

The Lord knows this is difficult! He knows He asks hard things of us, so He provides us moments of strength, confidence, and encounter! In our Gospel, Peter, James, and John experience the transfigured Lord in His majesty and might. They KNOW in that moment that He is God and that whatever He asks will be worth it. The Lord grants them this moment because He will soon ask difficult things of them; to preach Him amongst non-believers, to travel to the ends of the earth, and, eventually, to go to their deaths. How often they must have recalled this magnificent moment while they were dealing with a difficult call from the Lord. How Abraham must have meditated upon the Lord's goodness in granting his desire for a son when he was asked to give him away.

When the Lord grants us these "mountaintop" experiences—moments in which we feel Him, know Him to be God, and know ourselves to be loved by Him—we cannot merely let them pass. It is understandable that Peter wants to remain in that magnificent moment on the mountain. The saints refer to this as consolation, and they encourage us to soak it up, to allow it to deeply penetrate our mind and heart. By resting in and remembering the activity of the Lord during great times, we are encouraged and strengthened to believe that God will come through for us when we follow Him into something difficult! A great spiritual habit to develop is to think through your day before you go to bed, not only considering your moments of sin, but also saying thank you for the many, often hidden, moments of God's activity. When we recall the mountaintop experiences, we are more prepared to trust God's call.

Jesus knows you are strong enough to do hard things, things you never imagined you'd be capable of doing. This Lent, recall those moments in which Jesus has come through in your life, when He has shown you a mountaintop experience, when He has granted you a great desire. Ask Him for the grace to believe that the same will be true this time, when you say, Here I am, and follow through with whatever he asks.