

December 7th, 2025
2nd Sunday of Advent

Welcome to Saint Nicholas and Saint William Catholic Parish

Pastor: Rev. Matthew D. Stanley | **Parochial Vicar:** Rev. Michael Gazzingan



*John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying,
"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"*

SUNDAY MASS

St. William Church Saturday (Vigil) at 4:00pm, Sunday at 9:00am, 11:00am, & 5:00pm

St. Nicholas Church Sunday at 8:00am, 10:00am, 12:00pm & 5:00pm (French)

LIVESTREAM MASS Sunday at 11:00am - <https://snswparish.org>

DRIVE UP AND PARK COMMUNION St. William - Sunday from 12:15 to 12:30pm

CONFESSIONS

St. Nicholas Church Saturday from 2:30pm to 3:30pm & Wednesday from 6:00pm to 6:55pm

DAILY MASS

St. Nicholas Church Monday - Saturday at 8:00am, Monday - Friday at 12:10pm, & Wednesdays 7:00pm

St. Nicholas Church is open for prayer & reflection Monday - Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm

ADORATION

St. Nicholas Church Thursday 8:30am to 12:00pm & Wednesday 6:00pm to 6:50pm

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

St. Nicholas Church First Saturday of the month during 8:00am Mass

PASTORAL CARE

If you are in need of Anointing of the Sick, Confession, or Holy Communion, call the Parish Office for assistance

PARISH OFFICE 473 LINCOLN AVE., LOS ALTOS, CA 94022 **PHONE (650) 948 - 2158**

St. Nicholas Church 473 Lincoln Ave & St. William Church 611 S. El Monte Ave Website: snswparish.org

ADVENT: THE NOW

Reflection by Elise Abrahamson

Advent means “coming” or “arrival.” We often think of this season as simply preparing for Christmas, but Advent is far richer, deeper, and more beautiful than preparing for a holiday. It is a season that stretches our hearts between two comings of Christ: His first coming in history as a little baby, and His second coming in glory.

Most people are surprised to learn that the greater part of Advent [its first 13–18 days] is not focused on Bethlehem at all, but on the Second Coming of Christ.

You will notice that prayers and readings during the first 2 Sundays of Advent invite us to lift our eyes toward the future, toward the moment when Christ will return as King and Judge of all. The Gospel this Sunday (Matthew 3:1–12) gives us a powerful guide for this season.

John the Baptist appears in the desert, crying out:

“Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand!”

His message is not cozy or sentimental. It is urgent. Honest. Awakening. Now!

John is the voice reminding us that preparing for Jesus is not about looking at a past event, but readying ourselves for a future one. Just as John called the people of his time to turn back to God, he calls us to do the same.

John tells us that true preparation produces fruit, conversion not just in words but in the way we live. Advent is a reminder that all of us, are called to ongoing Conversion of our Hearts. While canon law only names Fridays and Lent as penitential, the truth is that all Christian life involves continual conversion. Advent asks: What areas of my life still need God’s light?

And yet, this is not a season of fear or despair, it is a season of **joyful hope**.

Unlike the prophets of the old testament who longed for a Messiah they had never seen, we already know the story. Jesus has come! We also know how the story will end, when Christ returns and God becomes “all in all” (1 Cor 15:28). The only question left is one of our responses: *Are our hearts ready for Him?*

Advent invites us to step into that readiness.

What if we lived this Advent differently? What if we treated December 25th not only as the anniversary of Christ’s birth, but as the day we may one day see Him face-to-face? *If you knew that on Dec 25th, Christ would come again and you would die, how would you use Advent to prepare?*

Just as Christmas only arrives if we prepare, decorating, cooking, wrapping gifts, so too does the coming of Christ ask the same of our hearts.

Maybe this Advent God is nudging us to pray a little more intentionally, reach out to someone we’ve been putting off, let go of a resentment, offer or ask for forgiveness, reorder our priorities, or return to the Sacraments.

This is the purpose of Advent: **to get ready!**

Even our traditions echo this call. The Advent wreath, rooted in early German customs, symbolizes God’s unending love through its circular shape and evergreen branches. Each candle burns brighter as Christmas draws near, mirroring the growing light of Christ in a world longing for hope. The season isn’t simply about counting down to Christmas, but allowing the light of Christ to grow within us.

Advent teaches us that **now** is the moment of grace.

Now is the moment to turn back to God.

Now is the moment to choose hope, healing, and holiness.

May this Advent be a season of preparing not only for the birth of Christ in Bethlehem, but for the coming of Christ into our hearts, our homes, and our lives, today, and at the end of time

"FOR TO US A CHILD WILL BE BORN... AND HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED PRINCE OF PEACE."
(ISAIAH 9:6)



Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
Holy Rosary, Miraculous Image Blessing
Community Celebration

Friday, December 12
St. William Church

5:30pm | Rosary
6:15pm | Image Blessing
6:30pm | Community celebration

Join us as we pray the rosary in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The image, which was donated by a generous parishioner, will then be blessed. A mariachi band will provide music. We will then gather in the St. William Hall for hot chocolate and conchas.



RSVP so we can plan the right number of treats:



<https://tinyurl.com/snsw-olg2025>



Questions: Contact Lidia at: stnicholas@dsj.org

St. William Church, 611 S. El Monte Ave, Los Altos CA 94022

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

JOIN US AS WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS TO CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF CHRIST AND ANTICIPATE THE JOY OF HIS COMING THROUGH MUSIC AND SONG

DECEMBER 14

ST. WILLIAM CHURCH

2:00 PM



FEATURING:

OUR PARISH MUSIC MINISTRY AND
OUR ST. NICHOLAS SCHOOL CHOIR

COME SHARE IN THE HOPE, PEACE, AND
JOYFUL EXPECTATION OF ADVENT

LEARN ABOUT OUR CATHOLIC FAITH

Are you interested in becoming Catholic, completing your Sacraments, or simply deepening your understanding of the faith? Join our Christian Initiation group, which meets every Wednesday evening for prayer, discussion, and thoughtful exploration of what the Church teaches. Throughout the year we walk through many rich themes—everything from the meaning of the Liturgical Seasons, Advent and Christmas, Lent and Easter, to the Sacraments, the Mass, Catholic morality, the Beatitudes, and our call to holiness. We also explore topics like confession and penance, justice and mercy, Catholic social teaching, prayer and spirituality, evangelization, and more! Wherever you are on your journey, you are welcome to learn, ask questions, and grow with us.

Here are some of the upcoming topics we'll be discussing:

- 3-Dec - Liturgical Seasons: Advent & Christmas
- 7-Jan - The Sacraments - Overview
- 14-Jan - The Sacrament of Baptism
- 21-Jan - The Sacrament of Confirmation
- 28-Jan - The Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist
- 4-Feb - The Mass: Introduction & Liturgy of the Word
- 11-Feb - The Mass: Liturgy of the Eucharist & Dismissal
- 25-Feb - The Sacrament of Penance & Anointing of the Sick



For more information, contact Catherine.campbell@dsj.org



Advent Penance Liturgy & Confessions

December 17 at 7:00pm – St. William Church

Advent is a time of preparation, when we prepare to celebrate the mystery of our Lord's coming as one like us, the beginning of our redemption. Advent also moves us to look forward with renewed hope to the second coming of Christ, when God's plan of salvation will be brought to fulfillment. This service of penance and conversion is meant to make us ready in mind and in heart for the coming of Christ, which we are soon to celebrate in the Solemnity of Christmas.



Christmas Poinsettias & Flowers

We need your help in making our worship spaces look beautiful for the Christmas season. Won't you consider donating a poinsettia plant in remembrance of a loved one or just as a gift from you? Special Christmas Flower Envelopes are available in the narthex. All your gifts will be greatly appreciated.



Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Holy Day of Obligation

On Monday, December 8, the Church invites all Catholics to gather to celebrate the Eucharist in praise of the goodness of God who preserved Mary, the Mother of Jesus, from Original Sin at the first moment of her conception. Our Mass schedule is as follows: Monday, December 8 at 8:00am & 12:10pm (St. Nicholas Church) and 7pm (St. William Church).

REVS vs SEMS

\$10 GENERAL ADMISSION
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www.dsj.org/basketball

DIocese OF SAN JOSE VOCATIONS #REVSvsSEMS



Retirement Fund for Religious

Across the United States, hundreds of religious communities lack financial resources sufficient to meet the retirement and health-care needs of aging members. Many elderly religious worked for years for little to no pay, leaving a large gap in retirement savings. At the same time, fewer religious are able to serve in compensated ministry.

Like many Americans, religious communities face the monumental challenge of funding eldercare. Today, retired religious outnumber wage-earners by nearly three to one. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps these communities bridge the gap, offering support for medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please be generous in next Sunday's second collection.



Next Sunday, December 14 at the 9am Mass, we will have the Celebration of the Rite for Entrance into the Catechumenate. “It is desirable that either the entire Christian community or some part of it consisting of friends, relatives, catechists and Priests, should take an active part in the celebration.” N.49 This will be our first time meeting the children with whom we will journey on the road toward the Easter Sacraments.



2025 Annual Stewardship Report to the Parish July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

Thank all of you for your generous giving this past year. With your support, we were able to share our faith and continue preaching the Gospel. We are pleased to provide a stewardship report that reflects just a few of the countless activities of our community of faith, including our financial operations for the fiscal year 2024-2025.

During this past year, we have been blessed by your positive and generous response as good stewards of God’s gifts of your time, talent, and treasure. God freely gives the gifts that we receive. The Holy Spirit calls us to use these gifts to support the Church’s work through our involvement in parish life and our commitment to serving others through the four pillars of Catholic stewardship: prayer, service, formation, and hospitality.

As we look forward to 2026, we remain committed to supporting our excellent liturgies, faith formation for all generations, parish ministries, and putting our faith into action. These good works help us achieve our vision and live out our mission. For us to be successful, we need your continued generosity of time, talent, and treasure. Our parish cannot do this holy work without each one of you working as God’s good stewards.

We encourage you to review the entire report, which can be found on our parish web page <https://stnicholasandstwilliam.org>



HELP DECORATE OUR CHURCHES!

With Christmas approaching, we’re looking for extra hands to help our **Environment Team** prepare our churches for the season. There’s plenty to do—changing banners, tending to our flowers, washing linens, and helping decorate the churches for Christmas.



Join us to help prepare and decorate:
St. William on Monday, Dec 22, 9am-12pm,
St. Nicholas on Tuesday, Dec 23, 9am-12pm.

If you’d like to assist us, please contact our parish office. Thank you for helping keep our churches beautiful as we prepare to welcome Baby Jesus this Christmas!



Mass with Bishop Cantú

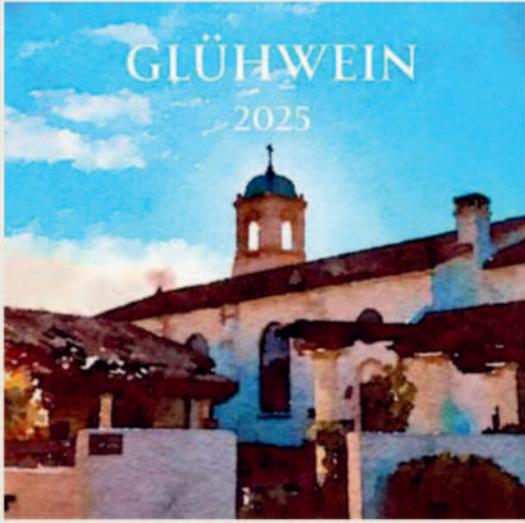
concelebrated with our parish priests

Followed by a Glühwein celebration

Saturday, December 20

Anticipated Mass 4:30PM - St. Nicholas

(Note: Regular 4PM Mass at St. William will be cancelled on December 20)



RSVP



Event is **FREE**, but please RSVP so we can plan the right amount of food:

<https://tinyurl.com/snsw-gluehwein2025>

Questions? Contact us at: stnicholas@dsj.org



Join us this Advent to pause, pray, and prepare for the coming of Baby Jesus through our Parish Mission - a time to come together as a community for a series of reflections, accompanied by adoration, confession, and fellowship. Register Today.

Advent Parish Mission

A time of Purification and Anticipation...

December 9, 10 and 11



@ St. Nicholas Church
473 Lincoln Ave
Los Altos



Morning Schedule:

8:00am Mass
8:30am Mission Talk (abbreviated)
9:00am Reception and fellowship

Evening Schedule:

Tues, Dec 9 & Thurs, Dec 11

6:15pm Confessions
6:15pm Reception and fellowship
7:00pm Mission Talk

Wed, Dec 10

6:00pm Confessions and Adoration
7:00pm Mass
7:30pm Mission Talk
8:30pm Reception and Fellowship

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
Deacon Dominick Peloso**



Event is FREE!



Register at:
www.tinyurl.com/advent-mission-2025

Deacon Dominick Peloso was born in Hilo, Hawaii. He spent ten years in seminary studies for the Diocese of Honolulu. He holds a bachelor's degree in philosophy and master's in public administration. He served 31 years with the Menlo Park Police Department. He was ordained a permanent deacon in 1999 for the Archdiocese of San Francisco and currently serves at Nativity Church and as Director of Vallombrosa Catholic Retreat Center. He has been married for nearly 52 years to Mary Ellen. They are blessed with three married children and 11 grandchildren.

For question, contact Lidia: 650-948-2158 ext 2202 or stnicholas@dsj.org

Attention Knitters and Crocheters! Time to start making baby items for our January Outfitting Newborns Collection for mothers in need. Collection dates: Jan. 18-19, 2026 and Jan. 24-25, 2026. Size 0-6 month knitted/crocheted items needed: cotton hats, cotton hat and bootie sets, and sweaters. Contact Karen Shea-Daley, 650 823-9085 for more information.



An Investment in Your Parish

For many years, our Catholic parishes & schools have benefited from the charitable gifts of appreciated property from many good and generous people. Year-end giving becomes an important consideration for many people in these last weeks of the year 2025. The knowledge that your gifts are assisting and advancing the mission of the Catholic Church can bring about tremendous good in our world. If you are able to make a gift of appreciated stock, properties, or cash, while reducing your tax liability, please contact Lidia (lidia.fiandeiro@dsj.org) or (650) 948.2158.

♥ **HEARTS OF LOVE** ♥
A Catholic Book & Gift Ministry

Invites You to Our
Catholic Christmas Faire

St. Nicholas 473 Lincoln Ave, Los Altos
Sun, December 7: 8am–12pm

St. William 611 S. El Monte, Los Altos
Sat, December 13: 4pm–6pm
Sun, December 14: 9am–6pm

Bibles. Rosaries. Crucifixes & Miraculous Medals

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*SPECIAL REQUESTS CONTACT US:
 maryschild@icloud.com
 408-379-6517*

Blue Christmas
 Prayer Service
 Monday, December 15, 7 to 8:30 pm
 Saint Nicholas Church

Join us in
 a holy night of prayer
 for those who grieve
 loss, feel blue or
 empty this
 holiday season

We come together
 to honor your feelings
 and to accompany
 you in this
 time of sorrow

Please register here: 

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**Finally, a faith-based
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**Sign up or learn
 more about this
 program on our
 website**



Join us!



BRING YOUR GIFTS TO THE ALTAR

At each Mass, there are five processions, usually accompanied by music. They are the Entrance, Gospel, Preparation of the Gifts (Offering), Communion, and the Recessional. I would like to focus on one, the Preparation of Gifts. The Church teaches, “It is praiseworthy that bread and wine are presented by the faithful.

These offerings are to be to be “accepted by the priest or deacon.” “Money or other gifts collected in the church should be brought up by the faithful.” Several weeks ago, we renewed the desire of the Church to have members of the faithful bring bread and wine to the altar, as well as inviting the faithful to bring their monetary gifts to be placed in baskets in the sanctuary. (When there is a 2nd collection a distinct second basket will be available). This procession is a powerful sign of bringing one’s gift to the altar. Children can participate by bringing up their families’ gifts or assisting those for whom walking is a challenge.

Faith Formation and Youth Ministry

Registration is still OPEN ONLINE

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

3 to 5 years old
Faith Formation 1st to 5th
 Sundays 10 to 11 am
 December 7 & 14
 in St. William Hall

Christian Sacraments of Initiation

7 to 18 years old
 9 to 11 am
 Dec 6 & Jan 10
 in Teen Center downstairs at St. William

Edge 6th to 8th

Tuesdays 6:30 to 8:00pm
 December 9, 16
Intersection 9th to 12th
 Sundays 6:00 to 8:30 pm
 December 7 & 14
 in Teen Center downstairs at St. William

Confirmation 7th to 12th

2nd and 4th Sundays
 12:00 noon to 1:30pm,
 Dec 7, Jan 11 & 25
 in Teen Center downstairs at St. William



Happy Second Week of Advent!


SNSW YOUNG ADULTS
GET CONNECTED
 Join Us Weekly!
Wednesdays @ St. Nicholas Church
 Adoration & Confession: **6-7 PM**
 Mass: **7 PM**
 Talk/ Social : **7:30 PM**
 Add us on Instagram  Join our Whatsapp! 

Christmas Nativity Pageant



Calling all Angels, Shepherds, Wisemen and Barn Animals to our Annual Pageant

Join us Christmas Eve at the 4 pm mass.
 Rehearsal Thurs., Dec. 18 at 4 to 5:30 pm.
 Sign up online by December 8 to ensure we have a costume for your children.

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DIocese of San José
JUBILEE 2025
PILGRIMS OF HOPE

DIocese of San José
JUBILEE 2025
CLOSING MASS

Thursday, December 18, 2025

- Where: Cathedral Basilica of St. Joseph, 80 South Market St., San Jose
- Time: 7pm

Presided by
Most Rev. Andres C. Ligot
Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of San José

JOIN US

dsj.org/jubilee2025
www.jubilaum2025.va/en



Children's Adoration

Saturday, January 10
1 pm to 2:30 pm
St. William Church
611 S. El Monte Blvd

Join us for a special Eucharistic Adoration especially designed for your children! We are excited to welcome Fr. Anthony Mary Pendergast from Children of Hope to guide us through this special adoration. This is the perfect way to share Christ with your children.

Let the Children Come to Me
Matthew 19:14

Mass Intentions

Sunday, December 7th 2nd Sunday of Advent

7:00 am – Fr. Matt (Poor Clare) † For All the Souls of the Faithful Departed

8:00 am (SN) † Rita & Cesare Fraguiglia by SN Parish

† Ephraim de la Isla by Loving Family

9:00 am (SW) † Paul B. & Paul Jr. Oliveira by Loving Family

† Gertrud M. Kraenkel Novena by Loving Family

10:00 am (SN) Alister Sharp (Birthday) by Loving Family

† Dustin Smith by The Garner Family

11:00 am (SW) † Paulson Bezzam by Bezzam Carcione Family

12:00 pm (SN) People of the Parish

5:00 pm (SW) † Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Blackall by Eileen Gann

Phoebee Lee (Birthday) by Thuy Tran TLD VIP

5:00 pm (SN) † For All the Souls of the Faithful Departed

Monday, December 8th

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00 am (SN) † For All the Souls of the Faithful Departed

12:10 pm (SN) † For All the Souls of the Faithful Departed

7:00 pm (SW) † For All the Souls of the Faithful Departed

Tuesday, December 9th St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin

8:00 am (SN) Alister Sharp (Birthday) by Loving Family

12:10 pm (SN) † Marilena Bernardi by Loving Family

Wednesday, December 10th Our Lady of Loreto

8:00 am (SN) Fr. Michael Gazzingan – Ordination (Intention) by SN Parish

† Rustico Tensuan by Family

12:10 pm (SN) SSVM Contemplative Sisters of Sheshan Monastery in Taiwan (Intention) by Mr. and Mrs. Meza

† Purificacion Delapena by Loving Family

7:00 pm (SN) Lisa Ramirez (Intention)

Thursday, December 11th St. Damasus I

8:00 am (SN) † For All the Souls of the Faithful Departed

12:10 pm (SN) † Anne Rullo by Loving Family

Friday, December 12th Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:00 am (SN) Sr. Galilee / Meza Family (Intention) by Mr. and Mrs. Meza

Gabriele (Birthday) by Loving Family

12:10 pm (SN) † For All the Souls of the Faithful Departed

Saturday, December 13th St. Lucy of Syracuse

8:00 am (SN) † Michael Frier by Loving Mother Family Giuliani (Intention)

4:00 pm – Anticipated Mass (SW) † Margaret Grapp by Loving Family

Sick relatives and friends

Let us pray for Benjamin Backs,
Sarah Bond, Steve Castain, James Franklin Farris,
Pat Haley, Blanca Nieto,
Jason Orellana, Bart Miaullis, Doug Sarver,
Ivana Panontin, and Keilana Soliven.
Jesus - please be a continuous source of strength & comfort for those in need.

Parishioners of Saint Nicholas and Saint William Parish are invited to share the name of a loved one (or themselves) for the prayer list. This prayer list is for those who are sick, hospitalized, or in need of healing. If you are submitting the name of someone other than yourself, we ask that you please obtain their permission. Please email: amy.blalockcastillo@dsj.org to add a name to the list. Thank you

Readings for the week of December 7, 2025

Sunday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 (see 7)/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30

Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab/Mt 11:11-15

Friday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13



Save the Date!
Spaghetti Dinner & Bingo
SPINGO!
Feb. 7th

December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

Saturday – (Anticipated)
(SW) 4:00pm – Fr. Stanley
Sunday Masses

(SN) 8:00am – Fr. Kimm

(SW) 9:00am – Fr. Stanley

(SN) 10:00am – Fr. James

(SW) 11:00am – Fr. Stanley

(SW) 12:00pm – Fr. Gazzingan

(SN) 5:00pm – Fr. Busch (French)

(SW) 5:00pm – Fr. Gazzingan

The presider schedule is subject to change without notice.



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