

EASTER SUNDAY 2019



WELCOME TO OUR PARISH!

MISSION STATEMENT

St. Nicholas Roman Catholic Parish is a community of disciples called to grow in holiness and lead all to the Father through Jesus Christ. United in the Eucharistic Sacrifice and anointed by the Holy Spirit, we reverently celebrate the Liturgy, boldly proclaim the Truth of the Gospel, and courageously lead a life of Christian Love.

ADDRESS

3510 Rosedale Street NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98335

PARISH OFFICE

Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Phone: (253) 851-8850
Fax: (253) 851-8823
Email: office@stnicholascc.org
Web: www.stnicholascc.org

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 5:30 PM
Sunday 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM
Weds. - Friday 9:00 AM

CONFESSION

Thursday 5:30 PM to 6:00 PM
Saturday 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM

SACRAMENTAL EMERGENCIES

Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM: (253) 851-8850
After Hours & Weekends: (253) 549-1954

MINISTRIES

St. Vincent de Paul Assistance
(253) 851-0554

Marriage & Funeral Arrangements: Fr. Mark Guzman
(253) 851-8850 office@stnicholascc.org

Baptism Arrangements: David Charboneau
(253) 649-4240 david@stnicholascc.org

Annulment Ministry: Deacon Dale Fickes
(253) 851-5035 deacondale@stnicholascc.org

Sick & Homebound: Deacon Dale Fickes
(253) 851-5035 deacondale@stnicholascc.org

PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Father Mark Guzman
(253) 851-8850 frmark@stnicholascc.org

Deacon: Dale Fickes
(253) 851-5035 deacondale@stnicholascc.org

Deacon & Prison Ministry: Mikhail Alnajjar
(253) 851-8850 deaconmikhail@stnicholascc.org

School Principal: Davin Reyes
(253) 858-7632 dreyes@sncsgh.org

Parish Administrator: Mary Shelton
(253) 948-3396 mary@stnicholascc.org

Bookkeeper: Mark Hayes
(253) 851-8659 markh@stnicholascc.org

Program Coordinator for Faith Formation: Nina Potter
(253) 649-4599 nina@stnicholascc.org

Youth Ministry: Michele Heitzmann
(253) 851-9040 michele@stnicholascc.org

Evangelization: David Charboneau
(253) 649-4240 david@stnicholascc.org

Communications/Bulletin: Margaret Betts
(253) 970-4277 margaret@stnicholascc.org

Music Ministry: Debra-Lee Jaap
(253) 649-4239 deb@stnicholascc.org

Facility Steward: Mark MacLeod
(253) 649-4273 markmac@stnicholascc.org

Hall Custodian: Brenda Duffy
(253) 851-8850 brenda@stnicholascc.org

Assistant to the Pastor: Corinne McKibben
(253) 851-8850 corinne@stnicholascc.org

Sacristan: Mark McKibben
(253) 514-9275 markmck@stnicholascc.org

Receptionist (Morning)/Facility Scheduler: RoseMary Sam
(253) 851-8850 office@stnicholascc.org

Receptionist (Afternoon): Christopher Polinsky
(253) 851-8850 office@stnicholascc.org

Pastoral Evangelization Council: David Charboneau
(253) 649-4240 pec@stnicholascc.org

THIS WEEK AT ST. NICHOLAS

SUNDAY, APRIL 21 *Easter Sunday*

- 8:15 AM Toddler Nursery - Parish Center #7
8:30 AM Mass - St. Nicholas Parishioners
11:00 AM Mass - St. Nicholas Parishioners
12:00 PM K of C Easter Egg Hunt - Parish Hall

MONDAY, APRIL 22

- 8:30 AM Rosary - Church
9:00 AM Communion Service
9:30 AM Hearts Afire - Parish Center #1

TUESDAY, APRIL 23

- 8:30 AM Rosary - Church
9:00 AM Communion Service
9:30 AM Women's Prayer & Share - Parish Center #3
10:00 AM Spirituality Book Group - Parish Center #2
1:30 PM Spelling Bee - Parish Hall

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

- 8:30 AM Rosary - Church
9:00 AM Mass - Michael Patterson †

THURSDAY, APRIL 25

- 8:30 AM Rosary - Church
9:00 AM Mass - Father Thomas Keating †
10:00 AM Adoration - Church

THURSDAY, APRIL 25 CONTINUED

- 4:30 PM No Youth Choir - Parish Center #5
5:30 PM Confession - Reconciliation Chapel
6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal - Parish Center #5
6:20 PM Benediction - Church
6:25 PM Open Door Prayer Group - Parish Center #3

FRIDAY, APRIL 26

- 8:30 AM Rosary - Church
9:00 AM Mass - Ralph S. Connelly †
5:00 PM Chaplet of Divine Mercy - Church
6:00 PM Mother & Son Event - Parish Hall

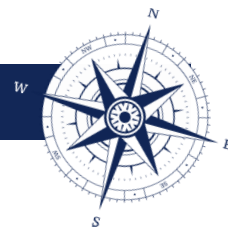
SATURDAY, APRIL 27

- 3:30 PM Confession - Reconciliation Chapel
5:30 PM Mass - Ralph S. Connelly †

SUNDAY, APRIL 28 *Divine Mercy Sunday*

- 8:15 AM Toddler Nursery - Parish Center #7
8:30 AM Mass - Sam Wells †
9:30 AM Hospitality Hour - Parish Hall
9:45 AM K-6 Faith Formation - Parish Center #1
11:00 AM Mass - Bill Rueter †
2:30 PM Divine Mercy Sunday - Church
3:00 PM Divine Mercy Sunday Reception - Parish Center #2
5:00 PM Youth Group - Parish Center #1 & 4

DAILY READINGS



SUNDAY, APRIL 21

Acts 10: 34a, 37-43, Ps 118: 1-2, 16ab-17, 22-23; Col 3: 1-4
Jn 20: 1-9

MONDAY, APRIL 22

Acts 2: 14, 22-33; Ps 16: 1-2a, 5, 7-11; Mt 28: 8-15

TUESDAY, APRIL 23

Acts 2: 36-41; Ps 33: 4-5, 18-20, 22; Jn 20: 11-18

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

Acts 3: 1-10; Ps 105: 1-4, 6-9; Lk 24: 13-35

THURSDAY, APRIL 25

Acts 3: 11-26; Ps 8: 2a, 5-9; Lk 24: 35-48

FRIDAY, APRIL 26

Acts 4: 1-12; Ps 118: 1-2, 4, 22-27a; Jn 21: 1-14

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

Acts 4: 13-21; Ps 118: 1, 14-15, 16-21; Mk 16: 9-15

SUNDAY, APRIL 28

Acts 5: 12-16; Ps 118: 2-4, 13-15, 22-24; Rv 1: 9-11a, 12-13, 17-19;
Jn 20: 19-31



H

e is risen! He is truly risen! This is what the celebration of Easter is all about — the truth that Jesus was crucified for our sins and three days later rose from the dead, conquering death once and for all. We proclaim this truth every Sunday in the Nicene Creed: “For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate, He suffered death and was buried and rose again on the third day, in accordance with the Scriptures.” We know it’s true, but this Easter Sunday, let’s ask ourselves if we live as if it’s true. Do we simply recite this portion of our Creed week after week or do we live as witnesses to this glorious reality?

A witness, of course, is one with first-hand knowledge. Our readings today focus not only on the Resurrection itself, but also on those who were witnesses to it and to the life and work of Jesus throughout His public ministry. In the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, St. Peter proclaims, “We are witnesses of all that He did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem.”

In the Gospel, St. John describes the first three witnesses to the empty tomb, Mary Magdalene, John (“the disciple whom Jesus loved”), and Peter. Mary Magdalene arrived first at the tomb where our Lord’s Body had been laid. She saw that the stone once covering it had been removed. She ran to Peter and John to tell them what she had seen and they in turn ran to the tomb to see for themselves. Each of these three had an individual “experience” of the empty tomb. Each went up close to it to try take it all in, to marvel at what Jesus’ love and had accomplished. As a result, each one became a witness to the truth of the Resurrection. And they spent the rest of their lives bearing witness to its saving power. In fact, the truth of the Resurrection has been passed on for 2,000 plus years now by those willing to serve as witnesses to its power in their lives. Now it is our turn, privilege, and responsibility to serve as Christ’s witnesses.

How are we, as Christian disciples, to do so all these years later if a witness is one with first-hand knowledge? We may have to look a little more closely to see for ourselves than those first three witnesses, but we can have just as real an experience of the empty tomb and the redeeming power of the Resurrection. We “see for ourselves” when we prayerfully read the Scriptures knowing they are a living love letter from God with a message to each one of us. We “see for ourselves” each time we receive the precious Body and Blood of our Lord in the Eucharist. We “see for ourselves” when we experience His personal and healing power in our hearts during Reconciliation. We “see for ourselves” when we pour out our lives in loving service to those around us and experience the deep satisfaction that only comes when we are imitating our Savior. This Easter, don’t just recite the Creed. Resolve to live as if it’s true. Experience Jesus for yourself every day from now on. You will be a powerful witness to the truth that He is risen! He is truly risen!

God's blessing of peace,

Fr. Mark Guzman, Pastor

We may have to look a little more closely... but we can have just as real an experience of the empty tomb and the redeeming power of the Resurrection.



THE FEAST OF DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

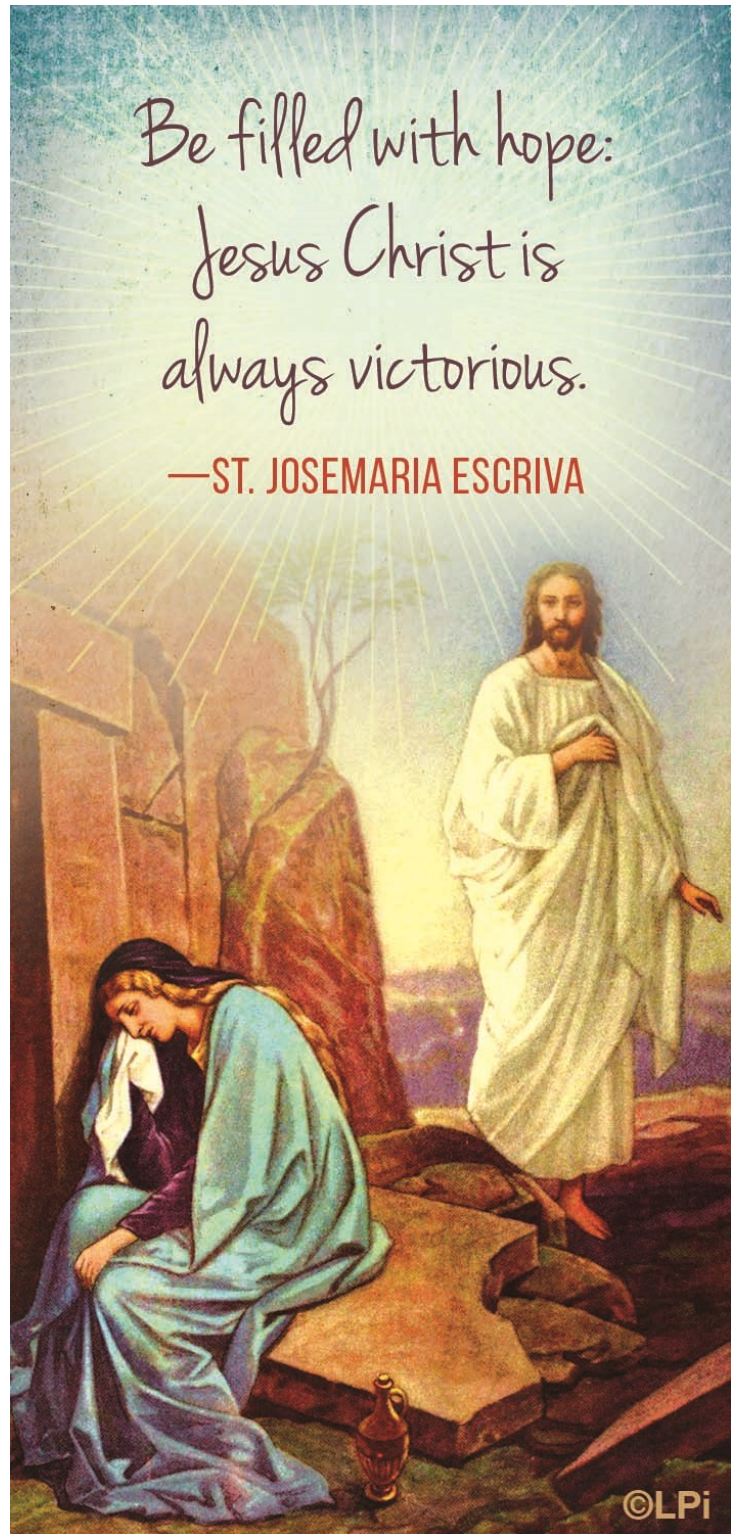


The Merciful Savior Invites you to the Feast of Divine Mercy on Sunday, April 28th from 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM. To learn more about Divine Mercy, visit www.thedivinemercy.org. For more information about our celebration of the Feast of Divine Mercy at St. Nicholas, please contact Paula Silk at (253) 313-1001 or Silk.family@yahoo.com.



10 DAY TRIP TO THE HOLY LAND

Have you always wanted to visit the Holy Land, but need some time to plan? All are invited to join Deacon Mikhail Alnajjar on a Catholic pilgrimage to the Holy Land, March 2-11, 2020. The journey will include visits to the Road of Emmaus, the birthplace of Jesus and His baptismal site, the Dead Sea and the Sea of Galilee, Jericho, Mount of Transfiguration, Cana, Jerusalem, the Garden of Gethsemane, and the site of the crucifixion. For more information, please send your MAILING ADDRESS to Deacon Mikhail Alnajjar at: dmikhail925@gmail.com. Early registration will merit a special discount.



DISCIPLESHIP: ALL AGES CATECHESIS

Study Him. Honor Him. Imitate Him. Praise Him.

Beginning this fall, we will be transitioning to a new model of formation for our entire community on Sunday evenings:
5:00 PM – Gather and opening Prayer | 5:15 PM – Group break-out sessions | 6:30 PM – Dinner | 7:00 PM – Conclusion
To learn more, visit our website or contact David Charboneau, at (253) 649-4240 or david@stnicholascc.org.

Registration opens May 4th.

FOR ADULTS



Foundations of Faith

Led by: David Charboneau

Join us as we prayerfully consider the foundational ideas of Christianity. Using Scripture and the Tradition of the church we will look at the meaning of the Creed (Fall), Christian life, and the Liturgy (Spring). This session will provide valuable insight for both life-long Catholics and those who are new to the faith.



Faith of the Early Fathers

Led by: Emily Brand

Join us as we look at the life and teaching of the Apostles and the early church Fathers. Using original source such as scripture and the writings of the saints, we will consider the theological questions facing the early Church and how questions still impact us today.



Living the Faith with Prayer

Led by: Sherry Campbell

This course will discuss the beauty and rationality of the Catholic faith and how to fully integrate the faith into adult and family daily life, bringing the participant closer to God in the trinity which will ultimately bring about greater peace and joy in their life.



FOR YOUTH & CHILDREN



Edge — Middle School (5th - 8th Grade)

Led by: Michele Heitzmann

Edge Youth Group provides a safe fun place for youth to find solid Catholic community, to get answers to their questions about faith, and, most importantly, to experience Jesus in a profound and personal way. Most weeks, the group will be split into a younger (5th & 6th) and older (7th & 8th) groups.

Purpose — Confirmation (Ages 12 - 18)

Led by: Michele Heitzmann

The Purpose Confirmation program addresses three big questions, "Why believe in God?", "Why trust Jesus?" and "Why be a part of the Catholic Church?" Purpose Confirmation is open to all young people seeking the sacrament of Confirmation between the ages of 12-18.

Infinite — High School

Led by: Michele Heitzmann

Infinite strengthens our teens' Catholic identity, while rooting them firmly in Christ and in His Church. This program is designed for our Confirmed high school students and non-Confirmed upper classmen. We address questions about vocations, life purpose, and living the faith as adults.



Preschool & Kindergarten (18M - 6 Years)

Led by: Nina Potter

Our youngest disciples will be divided into small groups based on age and encounter the faith through Montessori inspired play-based learning. Guided by Catechists, a comfortable space will be prepared with various centers for Eucharist, Baptism, prayer corner, Scripture, practical life, and geography.

Children (1st - 4th Grade)

Led by: Nina Potter

Elementary aged disciples will learn about the faith as they rotate through action packed learning stations including story telling, games, crafts, prayer and more.

Celebrate
Divine *Mercy* Sunday
at St. Nicholas

April 28, 2019 | 2:30 - 4:00 PM



“All the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened.”

(699 Diary of St. Faustina)

Join the hundreds of thousand across the world who have responded to this message of God’s mercy and have found hope, healing and answers to many prayers. The Feast of Mercy is a day when we should approach the Lord with great Faith and Trust and Appreciation. Don’t be afraid to ask for great things, spiritual as well as temporal. Rejoice in Our Lord’s unfathomable mercy! Join our Parish family for a time of worship, prayer, and reflection on God’s mercy.

For more information please contact Paula Silk at (253) 313-1011 or silk.family@yahoo.com.

SUMMER 2019

Belong

1 JOHN 3:1

STEUBENVILLE NORTHWEST *Youth Conference*

JULY 26 - 28, 2019 | SPOKANE CONVENTION CENTER

Learn more by visiting www.spiritusnw.org

At the core of our being is a desire for meaningful connection and authentic relationship. We long to love and be loved, but how often do we just feel lonely? As we search for ways to escape these feelings of isolation, there comes a small, quiet whisper that pierces through to the depths of our heart: "You are never alone, because you are Mine."

This summer, over 50,000 Catholic teens across North America will attend one of 24 Steubenville Youth Conferences to encounter the God who calls us His sons and daughters. Come and experience His overwhelming love for you. You. Belong. Here.



STEUBENVILLE
CONFERENCES

An outreach of Franciscan University of Steubenville



FRANCISCAN UNIVERSITY
OF STEUBENVILLE



STEUBENVILLE NORTHWEST

Each summer, Steubenville Youth Conferences serve over 50,000 youth and their leaders at 23 different conferences across North America. This outreach of Franciscan University of Steubenville seeks to inspire and strengthen teens and youth groups in their collective journeys to Christ.

These conferences are high-energy events featuring inspiring talks, dynamic worship, and profound encounters with Jesus Christ in the Eucharist and Sacrament of Reconciliation.

TEENS One of St. Augustine’s most famous quotes is, “Our hearts are restless until they rest in you, O Lord.” These words often describe the spiritual angst that teenagers experience. Every teen has the desire to achieve something great and to be someone great. We see this desire played out on social media daily. At a Steubenville Conference, teens will learn what it takes to be great in this life. Teens will come to experience a relationship with Christ that can radically transform everything in their life. The goal of every Conference is for teens to open their hearts to Jesus Christ who desires their lives to be fulfilling, exciting, and joyful!

PARENTS Parents are the “primary catechists” of their teens and this is a daunting task when trying to navigate the ups and downs of a teen’s high school years. Between all the extra curricular commitments and academic obligations it can seem near impossible to make church a priority for teens. A Steubenville Conference often has the ability to give teens the spiritual boost that Catholic parents desire for their teens. Many teens have been known to come back from a Steubenville Conference not only renewed in their faith, but taking the lead to initiate prayer within their own family. Imagine how your teen will feel knowing after a Steubenville Conference that the Church is dynamic, alive, and full of hope just like them.

To learn more, visit www.spiritusnw.org and contact Michele Heitzmann, (253) 851-9040 or michele@stnicholascc.org.



YOUTH GROUP - “EDGE” MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY

We all remember that middle school was awkward and difficult. That hasn’t changed. Today, societal shifts have made the middle school years more difficult than ever. “Edge” Catholic Middle School Ministry is St. Nicholas Parish’s program for our younger teens (6-8 grade). Edge provides a safe and fun place for youth to find solid Catholic community, to get answers to their questions about faith, and, most importantly, to know Jesus in a profound and personal way.

Edge meets on Sunday evenings, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (with dinner at 6:30 PM) in the Parish Hall. Come for a visit! The next Edge meetings will be April 28, May 5, May 19, and June 2.

YOUTH GROUP - HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

We offer several series for High School Youth:

“Made for More” A Series on Theology of the Body
Sundays from 5:00 - 7:00 PM
April 28, May 5, May 19, and June 2

“Infinite” A Series on Life Skills
Sundays from 7:00 - 8:30 PM
April 28, May 5, May 19, and June 2



WE ARE HIRING!

We have several open positions for the 2019-2020 school year:

- Second Grade Teacher (Full-time)
- Music Teacher (Part-time)
- Recess Monitor (Part-time)

Please visit www.ocswv.org and click on "employment," for more details. Candidates may also email Davin Reyes, Principal, at dreyes@snscgh.org.

SAVE THE DATES!

Mother & Son Dinner and LEGO Event

Friday, April, 26th

Register here: stnicholascs.ejoinme.org/motherson

Spring Sing

Thursday May 2nd, 6:30 PM and Friday May 3rd, 10:30 AM

Grandparents & Special Friends Day

Friday, May 3rd, 10:30 AM

Family Bingo Night

Saturday, May 4th 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM, Parish Hall

Raising Boys

Monday, May 6th 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Mother & Daughter Night

Sunday, May 12th, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

St. Nicholas Night at the Rainiers

Thursday, May 23rd

Maritime Parade

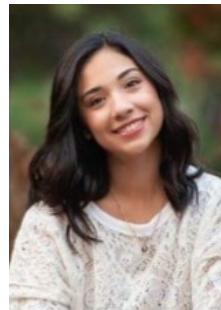
Saturday, June 1st

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Please join us in congratulating the following St. Nicholas alumni (SN class of 2015) as they graduate high school and move on to college in the fall!



Graham Schmidt Graham will be attending Valley City State University in Valley City, North Dakota. He will be playing football and studying Special Education and Spanish.



Juileta Ortiz-Bustillos will attend Central Washington University to study Kinseology and Occupational therapy with a minor in Special Education.



Dawson Damish Dawson received the President's Scholarship to attend Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, AZ, where he plans to major in Aeronautical Engineering.



Klara Messersmith will be attending the Honors College at Washington State University and is a Regent's Scholar. She will be studying zoology and French.

WE ARE DONATING UNIFORMS TO UGANDA & WE NEED YOU!

As we will be changing our school uniforms this coming school year, we were presented with the opportunity of donating our new and slightly-used uniforms to St. Francis Primary School in Bihomborwa, Uganda. It is one of the schools operated by the sister parish of Star of the Sea, Bremerton. The uniforms will be shipped via an organization called Children of the Nations International (www.cotni.org).

This is where we need your help! The cost to ship all of the uniforms in a container is \$1,000. We need to raise this money quickly, as the items are scheduled to ship at the end of April. If you would like to donate, please mail donations or drop off cash or checks to the St. Nicholas School office any time between 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Monday - Friday. Or you can email development@sncsgh.org. Thank you!



Father Justice with children at St. Francis Primary School



ST. NICHOLAS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Raising Boys

Join Janet Allison, Founder of Boys Alive! for a dynamic workshop about the ups & downs of raising boys (& girls) in these challenging times.

MONDAY, MAY 6 – 6:00-7:30 PM

3555 Edwards Dr. Gig Harbor, WA 98335
(Child Care Provided)

Whether he is 3 or 17, learn ways to help him:

- LISTEN to you
- Navigate his BIG emotions
- Cope with the pull of SCREENS
- Understand the impact of THE BOY CODE

Parents of girls are encouraged to attend, too!

www.boysalive.com





STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Your generosity as of April 14, 2019

Stewardship	\$	13,232
Online Stewardship	\$	4,349
Children	\$	66
Loose	\$	1,473
<u>Total Weekly</u>	\$	<u>19,120</u>

Total Year to Date Offerings	\$	924,609
Year to Date Budget	\$	910,793
<u>Over Budget</u>	\$	<u>13,816</u>

Holy Days	\$	0
<u>Total Year to Date</u>	\$	<u>41,341</u>

Building Fund	\$	110
<u>Total Year to Date</u>	\$	<u>13,256</u>

NEW TO THE PARISH?

Are you new to the parish? Registration forms can be found online at www.stnicholascc.org/new, in the Narthex of the Church, or in the Parish Office. Completed forms can be mailed or dropped off at the Parish Office or placed in the collection basket. If you have any questions, please contact the Parish Office at (253) 851-8850 or email office@stnicholascc.org.

ARE YOU MOVING?

If you recently moved or are planning on moving, please don't forget to update your address here at the parish. We want to make sure that any parish mailings get to you. Please contact the Parish Office by emailing office@stnicholascc.org to notify us of any changes to your address or contact information.

GIVING REFLECTION

"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." - Hebrews 13:16



ST. NICHOLAS OF TOLENTINO FESTIVAL (SEPT 7TH) VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you like to plan events? Are you a wiz at creating fliers and advertising? Do you love to cook? We are looking for members to join the Festival Committee to work on next year's festival. If you are looking to share your talents to help make the St. Nicholas of Tolentino Festival (September 7, 2019) the best one yet, please contact Mary Shelton in the Parish Office at Mary@stnicholascc.org.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, May 7th at 4:00 PM in the Parish Office. Newcomers are more than welcome!

THANK YOU FROM CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

Thank you for your generous support of The Catholic Relief Services Collection and for helping Jesus in disguise. Your contributions will make a difference for the poor and marginalized around the world. If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give! If you would still like to donate, just visit www.seattlearchdiocese.org/crs.

-Seattle Archdiocese Missions Office
www.seattlearchdiocese.org/missions

“ We are a people of hope and of the resurrection, and as devastating as this fire is, I know that the faith and love embodied by this magnificent Cathedral will grow stronger in the hearts of all Christians. ”

—Most Rev. Daniel Cardinal DiNardo,
Archbishop of Galveston-Houston



Remember in your prayers
THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF THE CATHEDRAL OF NOTRE DAME

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Get to know the members of our parish family! Would you like to be interviewed? Or would you like to nominate someone to be featured?

For more information, contact Margaret Betts: margaret@stnicholascc.org

BRADLEY PELOQUIN



Tell us a little about yourself and your family.

I am a senior in high school and I have five siblings ranging in age from 26, 25, the twins are 22, I'm 18, and my younger brother is 9. I have always loved having a lot of siblings. I'm a huge homebody, so I spend a lot of time reading and relaxing with my family. I went to St. Charles Catholic School for 1st and 2nd grade, but when my mom became pregnant with Galen and had kids in three different schools, it was easier to have all of us attend school this side of the bridge. I transitioned to Voyager and had a great experience. We attended St. Nicholas occasionally while still attending St. Charles, and then decided to become parishioners in order to be more part of the community. Outside of school, I run cross country and track, which take up a majority of my free time. Next year I'm planning on studying chemistry at the University of Portland, where I received an athletic scholarship. I'm debating whether to pursue teaching or become a research chemist. I am also considering the priesthood.

How have you kept your faith in today's increasingly secular culture?

It's been a challenge more since I've gotten older. A lot of kids grow up believing in God and then lose their faith by the time they reach high school. I noticed the changes in many of my friends around eighth and ninth grade. Our culture and the media really pushes us to believe that what we grew up with wasn't true. So in a weird way, being in an environment that challenged my faith actually had the opposite effect and made me stronger in my beliefs.

I think the key through it all has been to just be myself. I know that sounds like a cliché, but if you can have confidence to be yourself, you will navigate high school – and life – so much easier. A lot of times my friends' opinions conflict and I really have to be confident in expressing myself. My advice to my peers would be to trust yourself and not blindly trust your friends. Their opinions change all the time, too. Don't conform for the sake of conformity, and follow your heart.

Being a Catholic today is hard in general. Throughout the history of our country, Catholics have suffered persecution, from early Catholic immigrants to President Kennedy. Most recently, the persecution of the Little Sisters of the Poor and their refusal to distribute contraception really struck me. Regardless of whether or not people agree with what we believe as Catholics, we are blessed to live in America, where we have the right to practice our faith freely. It takes courage to be Catholic today, especially a young Catholic, but my faith in God gives my life meaning.

Are there any topics you are really passionate about?

The pro-life movement is really important to me. I try not to be too political in school, but when conversations about abortion arise, I can't keep quiet. I always try to treat pro-choice people with respect and understanding, but I have to stand up for life. As I said, being myself and standing up for what I believe in is a really core value for me.

What is it that draws you to the priesthood?

The idea first came to me around seventh or eighth grade. I wasn't actively pursuing it, it just subtly started entering my thoughts. The idea of serving people and administering the sacraments sounds very fulfilling to me. Of course, I have doubts and fears, especially the thought that I might not get married, but I truly believe that if I pursued it, I wouldn't be lonely. I love to learn, and I am excited by the idea of attending seminary, developing both academic and spiritual knowledge. I used to think seminary focused primarily on spiritual formation (AKA praying all the time!), but as I learned more, I discovered that a huge part of the seminary is theological, historical, and psychological formation.

What intimidates you about the priesthood?

Probably the main thing is that once you're a priest, you're always a priest. The idea of not turning back is something that scares me a bit, but thankfully there is a lot of time in seminary to discern. Becoming a priest is a lengthy process for a reason, which is great. It helps seminarians really be sure that the priesthood is a good fit for us, and that we are a good fit for the Church. I also think that once I really commit, God will give me the confidence to stick with it. That is a grace.

What are some of the ways you have discerned becoming a priest?

I connected with Fr. Bryan Dolejsi, the Director of Vocations at the Archdiocese of Seattle, and I've received a lot of encouragement, not pressure, from him. I've attended two programs called "Operation Andrew" and a few of the Diocesan Discernment Retreats. During the retreats, guest speakers share their experiences, usually a deacon who will soon become priest and a newly ordained priest. There is also time for Adoration and prayer together, as well as a combination of formal and informal gatherings. It's very cool to see the other guys interested in the priesthood. There is a wide range of personalities and backgrounds. I've also visited with Fr. Mark. He is really excited for me. I know he thinks I would make a good priest, which means a lot to me. Our previous pastor, Fr. Bailey, was really supportive too. Being around priests who are genuinely kind and down-to-earth is really encouraging. When I was growing up, I tended to think that priests were boring and lofty, but as I grew, I came to appreciate how genuine and relatable the priests in my life have been!

How do your parents feel about you considering the priesthood?

They are incredibly encouraging. They have no problem either way, whether I go forward with the seminary or not. They're not pushy, which takes the pressure off of me. They want what is best for me. I'm definitely blessed with parents who are so supportive. I know that some parents don't want their sons to be priests – they want grandkids! But my parents just want me to discern what path will bring me fulfillment.

You have been very involved with Youth Ministry here at St. Nicholas. How have your experiences affected your faith?

I am currently involved in the "Infinite" program, which is a weekly session just for Juniors and Seniors who have already received Confirmation. Infinite helps prepare us for life "outside the nest," once we go out into the real world. The last two years of high school are so busy with college applications and course work, the weekly gatherings have given me an invaluable support system. The more time I put in, the more I truly fall in love with my faith and it strengthens my relationship with God. I always come away from it feeling like I'm glad I came. We just finished a series on vocations, and heard talks from people about married life, religious life, the priesthood, and single life. The biggest thing I took away was to try to appreciate whatever stage of life you're in at the moment and not rush things. We are so focused on moving forward and getting married or being ordained or "getting there," that it's easy to forget that we are in the middle of living a vocation *right now*. We are never going to get back the time we are in right now, so try to live it fully. Try not to wish life away looking for the next best thing.

Do you have any favorite saints or role models?

My Confirmation saint was St. Philip Neri, and I love him for his joy and humility. I watched a great movie about him called "I Prefer Heaven." He lived in Rome during the Renaissance, a time in which there was a lot of corruption in the Church. Many priests were erroneously preaching that people weren't worthy to receive the sacraments of Confession or Communion, which he challenged. He was very courageous in the things he did. He was so open to the poor, especially to children and orphans. He remained positive, no matter what he saw or what he suffered, because he based his joy in God. He also had a great sense of humor.

Do you have a favorite Bible verse?

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." (Proverbs 3:5-6) I'm prone to doing things myself. I'm very independent. I like to prepare. I like to do things with a purpose. It's really challenging for me to step back and let God take the wheel. This verse constantly reminds me to turn over control.

What are you reading right now?

I've been on and off reading Matthew Kelly's books. Matthew Kelly is an Australian apologist, who I discovered in my Confirmation class. Australia is not a particularly religious country, so he has a great perspective for evangelization. He has a great sense of humor and his writing is really charismatic. One of my favorite books he has written is called [Perfectly Yourself](#), which focuses on seeing your inner beauty and self-worth.

Why do you believe in God?

I really see God working through other people, especially other Catholics I know who are so charismatic. Their joy and their confidence inspires me to pursue a relationship with God. I have had so many coincidental meetings that have led to incredibly positive relationships. I attribute the "chance meetings" to God. When I feel God, I feel peace. That's the only way I can describe it. It's hard for me to slow down, to slow my mind down. I often have a hard time falling asleep because my mind is racing. But the more connected I am to God and the more focused I am on being in conversation with Him, the more peace I feel in my heart, and in my mind.

HAPPY EASTER FROM OUR WELCOME TEAM

The St. Nicholas Welcome Team is proud to have welcomed 30 new parishioners and their families in since January! Thank you to the parish for fostering a community of love, faith, and inclusion where the Catholic faith continues to thrive. Have a blessed Easter from the volunteers on the Welcome Team.

Are you new to the parish? Do you have questions about our ministries or parish activities? Stop by the Welcome Table next weekend (April 27-28) and visit with any of our Welcome Team members!

PARISH DIRECTORIES

Thank you so much to our parish Welcome Team for helping distribute the parish directories last weekend! We could not have done this without you. Directories continue to be available for pickup in the parish office. Parishioners who had their photo taken for the directory receive copies first. Once all those directories have been distributed, anyone is welcome to pick up the extra copies. Stop by the parish office any time Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM to receive your copy!

TIME TO DOWNSIZE?

The Facilities Team is looking for a used lawn mower to help maintain our nine acres. If you have one, please contact Mark McLeod at markmac@stnicholascc.org or (253) 649-4273 or Larry Roemmich at (253) 851-6345.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD PANTRY



We are in need of the following items: small pancake mix, syrup, cereal, canned corn, jelly, cookies, packages potatoes, and shampoo. Thank you for your continued support and generosity!



EASTER SUNDAY EGG HUNT

Come and join the fun after the 11:00 AM Mass on Easter Sunday for our annual Easter Egg Hunt, hosted by the St. Nicholas Knights of Columbus! There will be candy and prize-filled plastic eggs for children. All are welcome to join in the fun! **St. Anthony, pray for us!* 😊

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

Looking for a way to bring God back into your marriage? Try Natural Family Planning! It's not only good for you, your spouse, your family, and your health, but it keeps God at the center of your relationship – where He should be!

To learn more about Natural Family Planning, visit www.live-the-love.org or call Chris or Christine Ryalls, our parish NFP Coordinators, at (253) 851-7445.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER



Christ said "Receive the Holy Spirit." Bring the Holy Spirit into your marriage on the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter at the Sheraton Hotel, Bellevue on May 17-19, 2019. To learn more, visit wwme.org. For more information, contact (206) 772-2344. Sign up today.

A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP EUSEBIO ELIZONDO

To the faithful in the Archdiocese of Seattle,

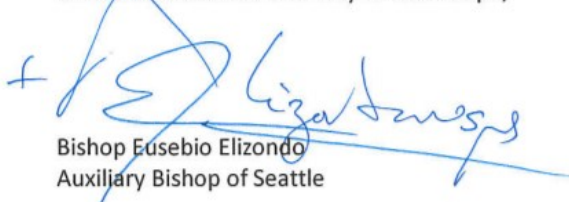
The purpose of this letter is to invite you to participate in a "Share the Journey" event hosted by the Archdiocese of Seattle this spring. Beginning April 29th, faithful Catholics from across Western Washington will participate in *Walking & Witnessing for Immigrant Families*, a two-week pilgrimage and prayer walk culminating on Saturday, May 11th with an 11:00 AM Mass outside of the NW Detention Center in Tacoma. I hope that you will join me in this walk and for the Mass.

Everyone across our Archdiocese is welcome to participate in this show of solidarity with migrants and refugees of the past, present and future. Some will walk only a portion of the journey, many will partake in the entire walk, and we hope that all will include the pilgrims and this effort in their daily prayers. Additional ways to contribute include helping with hospitality and donating to the Archdiocese of Seattle's fund designated to help families at the border. We are proud to announce that 100% of proceeds will be distributed equally to three Catholic agencies serving people in need at the US border.

Parish communities are encouraged to organized locally, and we would like to support this effort by providing you with a number of helpful resources that you can find at WACatholics.org/PrayerWalk2019. Questions? Contact:

Erin Maguire, Catholic Community Services,
ErinMa@ccsww.org, (206) 327-2472 or
 Joe Cotton, Archdiocese of Seattle,
Joe.Cotton@seattlearch.org, (206) 382-4847

United in Christ and Our Lady of Guadalupe,



Bishop Eusebio Elizondo
 Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle

THE ST. NICHOLAS WW FORWARD CLUB

For those Widows and Widowers who have lost a loved one, the purpose of our group is to offer comfort, companionship, and support in this new season of our lives through sharing and seeking God's will, purpose, and direction. Our next meeting will be Saturday, April 27th at 1:30 PM at Spiro's Restaurant on Harborview Dr. in downtown Gig Harbor. Please plan to join us. If you are new, we would love to meet you and have some social time together.

YOUTH CHOIR IS ON BREAK



Youth Choir will resume on Thursday, May 2nd. For more information please contact Debra Jaap, our Music Director, at deb@stnicholascc.org or (253) 649-4239.

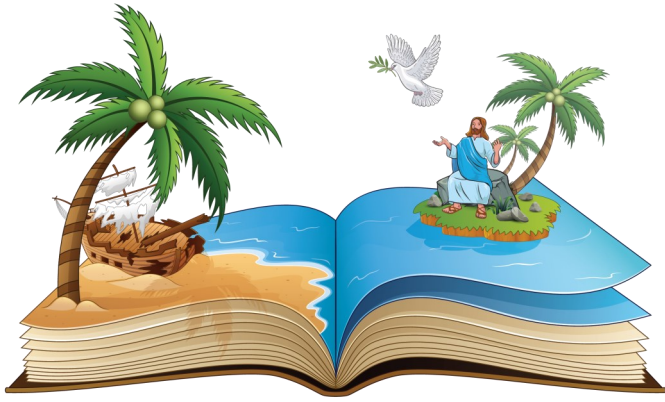
DRIVEWAY EXPANSION PROJECT

The driveway expansion project is moving forward. We are currently looking for demolition and construction companies to bid the project. If you, or someone you know, manages a construction company and would like to submit a proposal, please contact Mary Shelton at (253) 948-3396 or mary@stnicholascc.org.

"WHAT SHOULD WE WATCH TONIGHT?"

Looking for a source for fun, free films? Check out Formed.org! Formed.org offers FREE Catholic movies, eBooks, podcasts, and kids' shows. It's like Catholic Netflix, Audible, and Kindle all in one! You can stream or download high-quality Catholic content to your computer or mobile device by visiting www.formed.org and entering the code: **M4HZ4Y**

Shipwrecked: Jesus to the Rescue!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2019

Join us June 25 - 28, 2019 from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM for Vacation Bible School!

Life is filled with ups and downs – high points and low points. Imagine what it is like to be shipwrecked on an island! VBS 2019 *Shipwrecked: Jesus to the Rescue* immerses learners entering grades K-5, in a modern-day island culture where they experience new traditions, taste new food, craft island-themed projects, and engage in outdoor activities on the island playground.

Shipwrecked drama skits will portray bible stories about real people who experienced difficult times when Jesus came to their rescue. Participants will discover that God never leaves us, and He has plans for us!

Registration is FREE! Registration closes at 80 participants (grades K-5). Volunteers needed (grades 6-adult)! *Don't miss the boat! Register today!* www.stnicholascc.org/vbs

For questions about Vacation Bible School, or to volunteer, please contact Nina Potter, Program Coordinator, at (253) 649-4599 or nina@stnicholascc.org.

LUNCH AT TIFFANY'S

Save the date for the Visitation Guild's Annual Spring Luncheon & Card Party: "Lunch at Tiffany's"! The luncheon will be held on Monday, April 29, 2019 at St. Nicholas Parish Hall. Tickets will be \$12. For more info please contact Angela Lindsay at (253) 853-2007 or Ronni Wight at (360) 981-3342.

OUR LADY OF THE VISITATION GUILD MEETING CHANGE

Due to our regular scheduled meeting falling during Holy Week our next meeting is being moved to Wednesday, April 24th. Please plan to attend. This meeting is very important because it is our last meeting before our Annual Spring Luncheon. If you have any questions please call Margo Danforth at (253) 884-2869.

2019 ST. NICHOLAS PARISH SEATTLE MARINERS GAME

Come join your fellow parishioners in a full day of fun at the ball park! The game will take place on Saturday July 27, 2019 between your Seattle Mariners and the Detroit Tigers. Game time is 1:10 PM. Seating is on the 1st level by 3rd base. We will be leaving the back parking lot at St. Nicholas at 11:00AM sharp. Cost is \$65 per person which includes game ticket, bus transportation, food on bus and prizes. For reservations, contact Louise Pettie at (253) 858-2815.

ADORATION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Did you know that St. Nicholas Catholic Church offers Adoration and Benediction every Thursday from 10:00 AM - 6:20 PM? We are always looking for volunteers to help. If you can't commit once a week maybe you could be a sub to fill in when some else can't. We are required to have two people at all times. If you like to be a substitute or permanent time please contact Christopher Polinsky in the Parish Office at (253) 851-8850 or chris@stnicholascc.org.

JOIN THE MEAL TRAIN!

The Saint Nicholas Meal Train provides support in the form of meals for families. Hundreds of meals have been delivered to families experiencing the arrival of a new baby, unexpected medical challenges, personal emergencies and bereavement. Meal Train volunteers help cook meals for the parish meal trains, and deliver those meals. Come be a part of this compassionate, supportive and community-building ministry. For more information, contact Rebekah Gummow at (408) 425-0568 or email tyceandrebekah@yahoo.com.

ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK



Please patronize the businesses advertised on the back page of this bulletin. Their support allows

Catholic Printery to print this bulletin at no cost to the Parish. When you patronize these businesses let them know that you saw their ad in our bulletin. Advertiser of the week is: Jim Hendryx, Gig Harbor Real Estate.

PROJECT RACHEL

Project Rachel is a confidential ministry of Catholic Community Services for anyone who desires healing after being impacted by abortion. This includes the mothers and fathers of children lost to abortion, grandparents and other relatives, health care providers, and many others. Project Rachel's mission is to provide a confidential and compassionate ministry that offers resources for spiritual, emotional, and psychological healing to anyone who has been impacted by abortion regardless of faith background. We strive to convey God's forgiveness and mercy in order to restore and empower lives. Call 1-888-456-HOPE for information or assistance.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Paper copies of the current schedule are available in the Sacristy for anyone who would like one. If you need to make changes to your schedule, call or text Mark McKibben at (253) 514-9275.

PRAYERS FOR OUR TROOPS & FIRST RESPONDERS

Please pray for the men and women, and their families, who devote their lives to the safety of our country.
To add or remove a name from the list, write to: margaret@stnicholascc.org

Lance Corporal Thomas S. Arnesen, USMC
 Captain Claire Betterbed, USA
 Captain Elizabeth Betterbed, USA
 Lieutenant Tommy Betterbed, DMD USN
 SSG Dane Betts, USA
 Julianna P. Haven, Critical Care Nurse
 Nathan Haven, EMT
 SGT Mitchell Jeffers, USMC, Force Reconnaissance
 2nd Lieutenant Joseph Keenan, USMC
 LCDR Matt Kokkeler, USN
 SFC Ryan Kraeger, USA
 Master Sergeant Justin Patrick Mansfield
 SSgt Dakota K-R Moist, USMC

Airman First Class Liam Morris
 Staff Seargant Jason Naputi
 Master Sergeant Merideth Naputi
 PFC Tyler Munn
 James R. Olson, Firefighter/Paramedic
 Jason R. Olson, Tacoma Police Officer/Pierce County Search and Rescue
 1st Lieutenant Casey Peloquin, USAF
 PFC Graham Potter
 MIDN 3/C Will Ryan, USN
 Cpl. Austin L Rudy, USMC
 Patrick R. Sam, Gig Harbor Police Officer
 Captain Kimberly Sandberg, USN
 Joe and Linda Siegel
 Eric Waters, Division Chief, Gig Harbor Fire Department