

Welcome to
St. Nicholas & St. William
Catholic Parish

Fourth Sunday of Advent



*Father, as our Advent pilgrimage
draws to a close, we re-light the
candles of Hope, Peace, and Joy.
And we light a candle of Love.*

*Grant us the courage
to share your love:
love for life and all creation,
love for sinners and saints,
love for the poor and the little ones.*

*We thank you for the hope your
Son gives us, for the peace he
bestows, for the joy your Spirit
pours into our hearts, and for
your love that redeems us and
shows us the way. Amen.*

Sunday Masses

Indoor Masses

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

St. William - Sunday at 9:00am, 11:00am, & 5:00pm

Outdoor Masses

St. William - Saturday at 4:00pm

Livestreamed Mass

Sunday at 11:00am <https://stnicholasandstwilliam.org>

Confessions

St. William - Saturdays 2:30 to 3:30pm (Hall)

Daily Masses

Indoor Masses

St. Nicholas - Monday - Saturday at 8:00am
Monday - Friday at 12:10pm

Office Hours: Currently closed. Email or call for service:
Mon - Fri, 8:30am - 5:00pm
(650) 948-2158 email: stnicholas@dsj.org

Sacramental Care: If you are in need of Anointing of
the Sick, Last Rites, Confession, or Holy Communion,
call the Parish Office to set up a time (650) 948-2158.

Spiritual Resources: Visit our website at
<https://stnicholasandstwilliam.org>

Updates: COVID-19 response and updates from the
Diocese of San José, visit: <https://www.dsj.org>

Christmas Joy and Peace

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

Every year this joyful season of Christmas comes to us as a reminder that Christ our Savior was born to bring us true lasting peace and joy even amidst the trials, difficulties, hardships, and uncertainties of life. We hear in Sacred Scripture how the angels announced this peace and joy to the world, but oddly enough, on that first Christmas Jesus didn't take away all the worlds difficulties, hardships, and sufferings. Even after celebrating two thousand twenty one Christmases, we still face trials, difficulties, uncertainties, and suffering in the world and in our own lives.

So, were the angels wrong? Not at all! The light of Christ dawned in Bethlehem when the world was still in darkness. And just so, the joy and peace of Christ should be shining in the depths of our hearts even while storms and trials rage on the surface of our lives. The joyful message of Christmas is NOT that our life journey will be easy, but that the journey, when undertaken with Jesus our Savior, is well worth the effort. That's why we can be joyful and at peace even in the midst of our tears and difficulties; because we know that our Redeemer lives and is at our side, and will never abandon us.

The Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph are a good example of living this internal gift of peace and joy even as they experienced the trials, difficulties, and uncertainties that life brought them. Saying yes to God's plan did not exempt Mary or Joseph from the hardships, trials, and uncertainties that they would face. From the moment she gave birth, as she lovingly embraced baby Jesus in her arms, all the way to the day of Mt. Calvary, where she held her son's lifeless body in her loving motherly arms, Mary was still able to maintain that interior peace in the midst of her tears, trials, and suffering as she trustingly awaited the resurrection of her Son. Her sorrows turned to joy that Easter morning. For today, a savior has been born.

Christ was born to give us true, lasting joy, because he came to establish true, lasting peace. Without peace, there is no joy. The peace Christ brings is the interior, spiritual peace that comes from a conscience cleansed by his forgiveness and a heart which knows that our heavenly Father loves us. No one can take away a clean conscience or the knowledge that we are loved by God. That's why Christ's peace is lasting - it is unassailable.

The angels knew this and did not hesitate in announcing their good news of great joy, knowing that Jesus Christ truly does bring lasting peace to men and women of good will.

May this Christmas story of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, awakened within us a profound and basic emotional memory of a God who loves us so much that he became a little child, not so much that he might be with us, but rather we might be with him who will fill our hearts with his contagious Peace and Joy.

Along with Fr. Anthony Uytingco, Fr. Robain Lamba, Seminarian Quizzer Besinio, and the Pastoral Staff, I want to wish you and your families a blessed and Merry Christmas.

Christmas blessings to all,
Fr. John Poncini

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve

St. Nicholas: 4:00pm, 6:00pm, 9:00pm (French), & 11:00pm

St. William: 4:00pm & 6:00pm

Livestream at 6pm

www.stnicholasandstwilliam.org

Christmas Day

St. Nicholas: 8:00am & 10:00am

St. William: 9:00am & 11:00am

OUTDOOR/OVERFLOW SEATING AT ALL MASSES



Christmas Ministers Needed

Can You Answer the Call?

On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day we need your help to welcome greater numbers of family and friends to Christmas Masses. We especially need more **Ushers** and **Traffic Assistants**. Please contact the Parish Office at stnicholas@dsj.org or 650-948-2158 to let us know which Mass you can help at! Thank you for giving your time.



Advent Season

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursdays after 8:00am Mass, St. Nicholas

Reconciliation Services

Sunday, December 19 before all Masses

PLEASE NOTE . . .

During the pandemic you may "keep holy the Lord's Day" from home!

The obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is derived from the Third of the "Ten Commandments" as given by God to Moses - "keep holy the Lord's Day."

Stay home if you feel sick, even if your symptoms are mild.

If you are experiencing symptoms, or feel ill, please stay home to reduce your risk of catching or spreading illness. Do not go to work, school, or public places. Remember the general dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days remains in effect for all Catholics in the Diocese of San Jose, until further notice.

Keep the Lord's Day holy from home:

View our Livestream Masses and make Spiritual Communions. Personal and family prayer also offers opportunities for spiritual strength and comfort as does reading the Scriptures.

WEAR YOUR COAT!

COVID protocols require fresh airflow. As the weather gets cooler, the Church Doors will remain open during Mass and the heat will be off. Please remember to bring a coat!

Blessing of a Christmas Tree

Christmas is almost here! Have you blessed your Christmas tree yet? According to custom, the Christmas tree is set up just before Christmas and may remain in place until the Solemnity of Epiphany. The lights of the tree are illuminated after the prayer of blessing. In the home the Christmas tree may be blessed by a parent or another family member, in connection with the evening meal on the Vigil of Christmas or at another suitable time on Christmas Day.



+ All make the sign of the cross.

Leader: My brothers and sisters, amidst signs and wonders Christ Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea: his birth brings joy to our hearts and enlightenment to our minds. With this tree, decorated and adorned, may we welcome Christ among us; may its lights guide us to the perfect light.

Reader: Scripture - Titus 3: 4-7 or Ezekiel 17: 22-24

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God.

Leader: Let us ask God to send his blessing upon us and upon this sign of our faith in the Lord.

Reader: Lord, give light to our hearts. That this tree of lights may remind us of the tree of glory on which Christ accomplished our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

R/. Lord hear our prayer.

Reader: That the joy of Christmas may always be in our homes, let us pray to the Lord.

R/. Lord hear our prayer.

Reader: That the peace of Christ may dwell in our hearts and in the world, let us pray to the Lord.

R/. Lord hear our prayer.

All present to say the Lord's Prayer.

Leader: Lord our God, we praise you for the light of creation: the sun, the moon, and the stars of the night. We praise you for the light of Israel: the Law, the prophets, and the wisdom of the Scriptures. We praise you for Jesus Christ, your Son: he is Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Prince of Peace, who fills us with the wonder of your love.

Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we illumine this tree. May the light and cheer it gives be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts. May all who delight in this tree come to the knowledge and joy of salvation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen.

The lights of the tree are then illuminated.

The blessing concludes with a sung verse from "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel": O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night and death's dark shadow put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

From Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers

Faith Formation & Youth Program

Children's Mass January 9

The 2nd-year students will host the next Children's Mass.
Sign up on our website.

Children's Christmas Mass & Nativity Pageant December 24 at 4pm

Rehearsal for all who signed up is
Tuesday, December 21 at 4 pm at St. William

Faith Formation (grades 1 to 5)

Sundays 10 to 11 am
Next classes: January 9, 23, 30

RCIA (generally grades 4 to 7)

Monthly on Saturdays 9 to 11 am
Next class: January 8

Teen Mass

Sundays at 5:00 pm
at St. William Church

Edge (grades 6 to 8)

Mondays from 5 to 6:30 pm
Next classes: January 3, 10, 24, 31

theIntersection (grades 9 to 12)

Sundays 6:15 to 8 pm
Next classes: January 2, 9, 23, 30

Confirmation (grades 7 to 12)

Monthly on Saturdays 9 to 11 am
Next class: January 8



theIntersection and Edge is preparing for Advent! Spreading Christmas hope & joy is evangelization. We hope to bring it with handmade cards to nursing homes where the elderly are vulnerable to depression and mental health issues, especially around the holidays.

Elizabeth and Bernard Lilly, Bishop Oscar Cantú, and Anton Pham, Youth Minister with a newly planted olive tree at the Diocese of San José 40th Jubilee Closing Mass.



St. Nicholas Catholic School

On December 8th, St. Nicholas Students celebrated their first in-person all-school mass since the pandemic. Fr. John presided over the Immaculate Conception Mass. The 7th Graders led the liturgy and the children's choir led us in song.



**IMAGINE UNLIMITED POSSIBILITIES
ST. NICHOLAS CATHOLIC SCHOOL
NOW ENROLLING FOR THE 2022 - 2023 SCHOOL YEAR!
APPLY TODAY!**

Transitional Kindergarten - 8th Grade

WWW.STNICHOLASLAH.COM



**St. Nicholas & St. William
Parish Office**

473 Lincoln Ave., Los Altos, CA 94022
650-948-2158

Office Hours

Closed during Covid. Email or call for service. Mon - Fri, 8:30am-5:00pm

Website

stnicholasandstwilliam.org

Email

stnicholas@dsj.org

Facebook

www.facebook.com/stnickcc/

Parish Staff

Pastor

Rev. John L. Poncini
x2086 john.poncini@dsj.org

Parochial Vicar

Rev. Anthony Uyttingco
x2088 anthony.uytingco@dsj.org

Parochial Vicar

Rev. Robain Lamba
x2215 robain.lamba@dsj.org

Seminarian

Quizzer Besinio
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Liturgy & Pastoral Care

Fr. Anthony Uyttingco
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Faith Formation

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Anton Quynh Pham
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Music Director

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St. Nicholas Catholic School

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650-941-4056

Principal

Jan Popolizio
jpopolizio@stnicholaslah.com



**TO ENCOUNTER, LISTEN, AND DISCERN
BISHOP CANTÚ'S MESSAGE AT THE END OF OUR JUBILEE YEAR**

<https://www.dsj.org/journeying-together-to-encounter-listen-and-discern/>



Live Laudato Si'

At the beginning of every Eucharistic Prayer we sing "Heaven and earth are full of your glory." Come and spend a few minutes visiting our new **Stations of Creation**. Each image is on a bench in the garden at our Saint William campus.

The images come from a church in Cardiff, Wales. That parish put six Salvadoran folk art crosses around their property. There is a reflection and prayer for each station. You

can listen to these by using the QR code. Or, visit the site at <https://stmaryscf10.com/stations-of-creation/> They suggest "as you move from station to station, enjoy the beauty of God's Creation, the sights and sounds and smells. Marvel in God's work, and in the wonder of your own being."

Praying outdoors is one way to nurture our ecological spirituality. Learn more at <https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/laudato-si-goals/>



Welcome to St. Nicholas & St. William Catholic Parish

Our warmest welcome to all who celebrate with us, whether long-time residents or newly arrived to our parish. We thank God for you. If you are not registered, please fill out this form and place it in the collection basket or mail to the parish office. You can also register online through our website www.stnicholasandstwilliam.org.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Interested in joining the parish, please mail registration

Change of address / phone / email

Moving away, please remove from list

How did you hear about our parish? _____

BIBLE STUDY



Bible Study will not meet during the holidays. We will resume Wed., January 5th (3:00 to 4:30 pm in the St. Nicholas Hall).

JOIN US IN THE GARDEN!

Did you know there is a team of parish volunteers who meet weekly on Fridays at 8:30-10:30am to care for the grounds at St. Nicholas? This joyful crew, called the Garden Team, love being outside and sprucing up the grounds with simple raking, weeding, and sweeping. You are invited to join them! The team has a great need for more helpers as two long-time members are moving. All help is welcome, even if you cannot make it every week. Come by one Friday morning to introduce yourself and claim your rake. All volunteers are required to complete finger printing and safe environment training. Questions? Please contact Pat in the parish office.



Covid-19 Vaccines Explained Ethics: As a faith community concerned about the sanctity of human life, the Diocese of San Jose encourages everyone to strongly consider getting vaccinated, after consulting their physicians or health care providers, for the sake of their own health and the common good of our community. The vaccines are safe and free. Health insurance and immigration status will not affect your eligibility. You can learn more about the moral and ethical issues regarding COVID-19 vaccines and why they have been deemed morally acceptable by the Church by visiting: <https://www.dsj.org/covid19vaccines/>.

PARISH & STEWARDSHIP REPORT FY 2020-2021

St. Nicholas & St. William Staff, with the help of the Finance Advisory Council, have worked diligently to be good stewards of your gifts. The Annual Report of our parish financial stewardship for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 is available at the entrances of the church and posted on our website <https://stnicholasandstwilliam.org/annual-finance-reports/>. If you have any questions, please contact Lidia at the parish office: lidia.fiandeiro@dsj.org

Second Collection Report

Catholic Campaign for Human Development: 11/21	\$3,823.50
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Thank you for your continued generosity!

Stewardship Report: November 15-21, 2021

	Actuals	Budget	Variance
Basket, Mailed-in & Online Giving 11/15-21	\$25,452.83	\$21,076.71	\$4,376.12
YTD (as of 11/21)	\$421,974.59	\$437,078.08	(\$15,103.49)
% of Budget YTD			96.5%

Thank you for your continued generosity!

Mass Intentions for the week of December 19, 2021

St. William Church

Sat	4:00pm	Paddy O'Brien †	
Sun	9:00am	Anthony Casa †	Sidel Family
		Gertrude M. Kraenkel †	Loving Family
	5:00pm	Sarah Huff †	Daley Family
		Vincent Martinez - Health	Loretta Fennell

St. William - In-Person & Livestreamed

Sun 11:00am People of the Parish

St. Nicholas Church

Sun	8:00am	Michelle Rousseau †	Loving Family
		Richard Dixon †	Loving Family
	10:00am		
	12:00pm		
	5:00pm		
Mon	8:00am		
	12:10pm		
Tue	8:00am		
	12:10pm		
Wed	8:00am		
	12:10pm		
Thu	8:00am	Cesare & Rita Fraguglia †	
	12:10pm		
Fri	8:00am		
	12:10pm		
Sat	8:00am		

SICK RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

Let us pray for *Erin A., Bertha Alarcon, Paulette Ames, W. M. Andrews, Steve Bednar, Bill Brown, Barbara Brugnoli, Christine Brugnoli, William Brugnoli, Marian Buchheit, Louie Buckley & Friends, Hortense Burke, Mary Buttram, Jose Cabaccan, Jim Carr, Shirley Chiu, Irmgard Chu, Msgr. John Coleman, Jack Connolly, Dominic Corcoran, Mary Jo Corcoran, Sean Corcoran, Joanna Cross, Alta Cuevas, DeBell Family, Angela DiBattista, Pat Dixon, Dan Eber, Cecilia Espadas, Kaitlyn Farley, Jeanine Ford, Shirley Frier, Tia Gamer, Kay Gemello, Diane Geschke, Emil Girczyc, Michael Gray, Iris Hahne, Mary Hardy, Sheila Heidmiller, Gerrard Herndon, Emmitt Jenvey & Family, Michael Kaiser, John Keyes, Margaret Kirk, Josephine Lipinski, Audrey Tischler Livermore, Lisa McBride, Rose McCloud, Sophia McHugh, Pam Medlenhoff, Florence Mendoza, David & Anna Morrison, Alex Munroe, Corrine Murray, Don Murray, Patricia Novack, Carmen Olavarrieta, Kirk Paige, Edna Pear, John Pecoraro, Irene Piontek, Tina Prudencio, Eva, Isidoro, & Jaime Ramirez, Caden James Reinhart, Aidee Reyes, Maria Roja, Star Rodriguez, Mike Roman, Manuel R. Santiago, Doug Sarver, Kathy Schlosser, Kathryn Schmittz, Geri Schultz, Ana Segovia, Jeanne & Lori Sinsley, Betty A. Smith, Carmel Smith, Maryanne Stanislaw, Shirley Stevenson, Nathaniel Stoll, Margie Strasser, Anne Sturm, Mary Lou Swain, Marie Torrise, Lisa Tucker, Robert Tucker, Kathleen Urbaniak, Katie Vanoli, Connie Weaver, David Margaret Welsh, Tracy Weiss, Ruby Welch, Terry Wills, Mercedes Yañez, and Rafael Zamora* that Jesus will be a source of strength & comfort.



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Lk 1:26-38
 Tue: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
 Wed: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
 Thur: Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66
 Fri: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79
 Sat: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25], Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14, Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20, Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]
 Sun: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

May We Pray for You? We believe in the power of prayer!

Our Parish has a dedicated team of parishioners who pray daily for the special intentions of others. Praying for others allows us to put faith into action and recognize God's grace working through us. Please use our prayer request form to submit your intentions at <https://tinyurl.com/snsw-prayer-request> or click this icon on our website so we may pray for you!

