

Saint Nicholas Catholic Church

December 25-26, 2021

8603 Contee Road ♦ Laurel, MD 20708

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Email: st.nicholaschurch@verizon.net

Website: <http://stnicholaslaurel.org>

Parish Hall Inquiries: Please email
stnicholasparishhall@gmail.com

Welcome to Saint Nicholas Parish!

We are glad you have joined us for worship. We invite you to join in our worship and singing as much as you feel comfortable. Songbooks can be found at the back of church near the entrances. Restrooms are in the back of church to the right of the stained glass window. A cry room can be found on the left side of church. Please let an usher know if you need anything. We hope you will come again soon.

Parish Vision Statement

Saint Nicholas Catholic Church is a community of grace, healing and salvation. Jesus Christ and his Gospel are the heart of our parish and it is in this sanctuary that we find a sense of meaning and purpose. The celebrations of Mass and the sacraments are the means by which we give glory to God. The Eucharist is the food that nourishes our life with Christ, and in him alone do we have faith and find our hope. Our love for Jesus makes us willing to share our time, talent and treasure with our neighbors on earth to build the Kingdom of God. St. Nicholas Church is our support and our family, and we welcome all to join us in worship and service.

Parish Staff

Pastor: Reverend Timothy K. Baer
Weekend Assistant: Reverend Paul Hill
Permanent Deacons: Deacon Eric C. Simontis
Deacon Perry Iannaconi

**Dir. of Religious Education
& Youth Ministry (Ext 109):** Hope Benson

**Dir. of Evangelization
(Ext 111):** Kathy Schmitt

Dir. of Music (301) 213-3031: Stu Knazik

Parish Secretary: Kathy Garnes

Support Staff: Debbie Rausch

Rectory Hours Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri., 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
The Rectory Office is closed on Wednesdays.

Daily Mass Monday to Saturday at 8:30 a.m.; additionally, First Friday Mass & Eucharistic Adoration from 9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Benediction at 6:30 p.m., with Mass at 7:00 p.m. in the Church.

Confessions Saturday from 4:00-4:45 p.m. or by appointment.

Sunday Masses Saturday (Vigil) at 5:00 p.m. and on Sunday at 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11:30 a.m.

New to the Parish? Welcome! Contact the Rectory Office or see an usher to register.



THE HOLY FAMILY

He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man. - Lk 2:51-52

Excerpt from the Lectern for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

GLP

Sacrament of Baptism Congratulations on the birth of your child. To arrange your child's Baptism, parents shall be registered in the parish for at least three (3) months, then attend one required Baptism Preparation Class on Sun., Jan. 9, 2022, Feb. 13, or Mar. 13, after the 11:30 a.m. Mass; finally, the Baptismal Application & the *Godparent Form must be completed and submitted before attending the class.* Baptismal Application Forms are located in the office in the back of the Church. The Sacrament of Baptism is scheduled after the 11:30 a.m. Sunday Mass on Jan. 30, 2022, Feb. 27, or Mar. 27. *Please confirm the date with the Baptism Coordinator before making arrangements.* For more information, contact Luz Cunanan, 301-742-5965, or lpcunanan128@verizon.net.

First Reconciliation, Holy Communion, and Confirmation Contact the Director of Religious Education for more information.

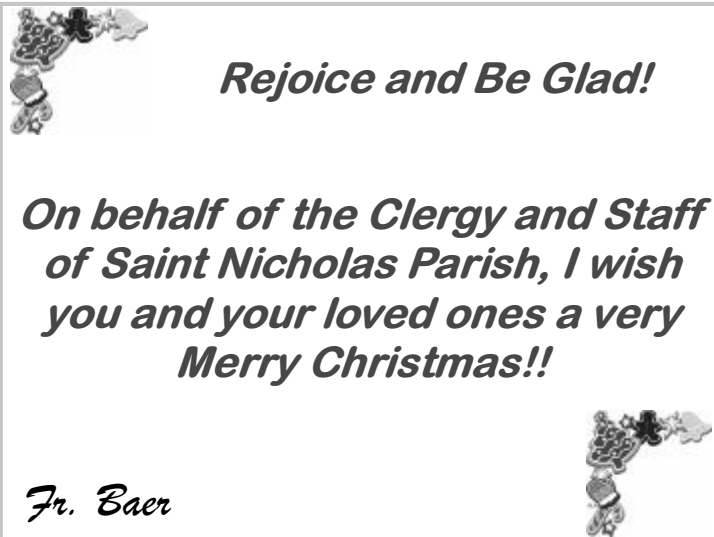
RCIA If you are interested in learning more about the Catholic faith or wish to complete the Sacraments of Initiation, contact Kathy Schmitt (kschmitt123@yahoo.com).

Marriage Archdiocesan regulations require that preparation with a priest or deacon begins no less than six months prior to the date of marriage. Pre-nuptial counseling and instructions are required. Contact the rectory for more information.

Vocations Contact Father Baer, Deacon Eric, or Deacon Perry if you are interested in vocations to the Priesthood, Permanent Diaconate, or religious life.

Anointing of the Sick Please notify us concerning any parishioners who are sick or homebound, in hospitals or in nursing homes. In case of serious illness or sudden death, notify the rectory immediately.

Funerals Please call the rectory to make arrangements.



Welcome to St. Nicholas! (Check our website & "Flocknote" for the latest updates). Effective October 6, Prince George's County expanded its mask mandates (whether vaccinated or not) indoors. Everyone over the age of two (2) is to be masked while indoors.

Mass Intentions

Mon. Dec 27	8:30 a.m.	+Mary Phan
Tues. Dec 28	8:30 a.m.	+Rev. Sam Craig [Death Anniversary-12/31]
Wed. Dec 29	8:30 a.m.	+Irene Misenas [Death Anniversary]
Thurs. Dec 30	8:30 a.m.	+Rizalina Belandres [R.I.P.]
Fri. Dec 31	8:30 a.m.	+Erlinda & Ceasar Lachica
Fri. Dec. 31	11:00 p.m.	Crossover [Charismatic Ministry]
Sat. Jan 1	10:00 a.m.	Tuazon Family [Thanksgiving] (L)

Masses	December 25 / 26	January 1 / 2
5:00 p.m.	+Angela Punsalan	Parishioners of St. Nicholas
8:00 a.m.	+Catherine Helen Elko	+Betsy Jose
9:30 a.m.	Parishioners of St. Nicholas	Onuoha Family [Thanksgiving] (L)
11:30 a.m.	+Marilynne Kowalski	+Rev. James S. Betz

Mass Intentions To offer a Mass for a loved one (living/deceased), the Mass Intention book is located back in the church office after all weekend Masses. During the week, contact the rectory office with the name/s & Mass date/s being requested. A suggested donation of \$10-15 is requested.

Please Pray For: Stefan Abresch, Paz Belandres, Sandra Harris, Mia Jackson, Florence Jermann, Merle Joseph, Gene Kearney, Doris Menjivar, Zaida Morris, Doris Rosenberg, Erin Tiamson, Ernestine & Oliver Wilford, Jennifer Woods, & our parishioners who are in assisted living, are homebound, in nursing homes, & their caregivers. Call the office to add/remove anyone.

Christmas Flower Donations A list of donors and their memorialized/honored loved ones will be published later for the bulletin.

Food Drive & Gift Card Totals The LARS Holiday Food Drive totaled 530 lbs. The Gift Cards totaled \$1000! Thank you for your generosity!

First Saturday Devotions There has been a **time change** for the First Saturday Devotions to Mary for the Winter Season. **Sat., Jan. 1st**, the Marian Ladies invite everyone to pray, & sing the Rosary after the **10:00 a.m. Mass**. The rest of the winter season will have the First Saturday devotions after the 8:30 a.m. morning Mass. Info: call Luz at (301) 742-5965.

First Friday Eucharistic Adoration First Friday Eucharistic Adoration occurs on Fri., Jan. 7, from 9:00 a.m.-6:30 p.m., with Benediction at 6:30 p.m., & Mass following at 7:00 p.m.

Children's Choir The children's choir is welcoming all children to help us lead the singing at Mass. We will sing every 4th Sunday at the 9:30 a.m. Mass. (They started back by singing on Christmas Eve at the 5:00 p.m. Mass). If your child can read well & enjoys singing, please contact Rolanda Brown for more information on how to join the choir. Email: rolanda7687@gmail.com.

Reminder If you have not picked up the Memorial Candle honoring your loved one, they may be found in the parish hall on the table. Thank you.

50th Anniversary Memory Book Sales Copies of the 50th Anniversary Memory Book are available for purchase (\$20 cash or check made out to "St. Nicholas Church"). If you wish to obtain one, contact Debbie Rausch, rauschda@gmail.com, or 301-395-9912. We can arrange a time/place for you to buy/pickup a copy after Mass or in the Church Office in the back of the church. Proceeds benefit the parish hall. Thank you.

FREE Books! There are milk crates in the parish hall with leftover FREE books that parishioners may take home. The religious books in the cabinet are also free. Our little library was conceived to allow people to take home and read these books and if they have some to donate, to add then to the cabinet. Feel free to browse!

Lunches for Winter Shelter The *Warm Nights Shelter Program*, located in a hotel in Beltsville, continues this coming winter. St. Nicholas has committed to providing 200 lunches on both Saturday, January 15th & Sunday, January 16th. Lunches can be dropped off in our church parking lot on Saturday & Sunday mornings between 9 and 10 AM. Each lunch should contain a sandwich, chips, a napkin, and a bottle of water. Fruit & dessert can be added if you would like. To sign up or ask a question, contact Mimi Nostro at 301-490-1361 or 240-501-1139, or email her mimi.nostro@gmail.com.

St. Nicholas Prayer Warriors Prayer requests may be sent to Rita McGlothlin, ritamarymcg@gmail.com., or 301-498-7019.

International Catholics of St. Nicholas ICSN meet on the 4th Sunday of the month, after the 11:30 a.m. Mass. The next meeting will be on Sun., Jan. 26th, 2022, in the Cry Room. Info: Jane Okebugwu, jokebugwu@aol.com.

In the Spirit Charismatic Prayer Group Meets every Wednesday, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. All are invited to join us praising God and worshipping together!

Knights of Columbus The Deacon John Lynn Council business meeting is held on the 2nd Tues. of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. (**Next** business meeting: Tues., Jan. 11). The Knights lead the Glorious Mysteries of the Holy Rosary at 11:00 a.m. every Sunday before the 11:30 a.m. Mass. All are invited to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy each Friday at 3:00 p.m. Info: mike.woodruff@mac.com.

Faith Direct Join the parishioners who are using *Faith Direct* for automated giving. *Faith Direct* offers a safe and secure way to donate to our parish. You can sign up from your computer, smart phone or tablet to set up a recurring donation or a one-time gift. Recurring gifts help sustain our parish, as we work to reopen our programs, services, & ministries to meet our parish & community's needs. To sign up: <https://membership.faithdirect.net/MD607>, or text 'Enroll' to (301) 690-8484. Thank you!

Domestic Violence & Human Trafficking If help is needed now, contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline, 800-799-7233 (24 hours); 800-787-3224 (TTY); www.ndvh.org. If you are in immediate danger, call 911. If you need help, 2-1-1 is the number to call. In Baltimore, call 410-685-0525. Elsewhere in Maryland, call 1-800-492-0618.

Retreat for Survivors The Archdiocese of Washington is offering a women's retreat for survivors of abuse on Feb. 20, 2022. This retreat is an occasion for survivors to reflect on God's plan for their lives and for healing through prayer & the sacraments. Info: <https://adw.org/the-way-retreat>. To register: email mcdonald@adw.org, or call Deborah McDonald at 301-853-4466.

Single Catholics St. Raphael Church located at 1513 Dunster Road, Rockville, MD, will host it's 22nd Annual Epiphany Party, on Jan. 8, 2022, starting at 7:00 p.m. It includes a Ledo's Lasagne Dinner, salsa dance lessons, and more. Cost: \$21 by check in advance, or \$27 at the door. Info: 240-426-5589.

Pro-Life The Hyde Amendment has kept tax payers from paying for abortions for 45 years. It is in danger. We (the Archdiocese of Washington & the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) are asking parishes to join us in support of the Hyde Amendment by sharing the following resources in bulletins & social media: <https://www.not taxpayer abortion.com/>.

Upcoming Liturgies

- ◆ Saturday, Dec, 25, Christmas Day– Mass: 10:00 a.m. (**No 8:30 a.m. Daily Mass or 5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass**).
- ◆ Sunday, Dec. 26, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph– 8:00, 9:30, & 11:30 a.m.
- ◆ Friday, Dec. 31, Mary, Mother of God, 8:30 a.m. Mass, (**No Vigil Mass**); Charismatic Ministry– Mid-night Mass (Crossover) starts at 11:00 p.m.
- ◆ Saturday, Jan. 1, 2022, Mary, Mother of God– Mass: 10:00 a.m.
- ◆ Saturday, Jan. 1, 2022, **Epiphany Vigil Mass– 5:00 p.m.**

Holy Land Pilgrimage with Father Jack Fr. Jack Kennealy, Pastor of St. Matthias Catholic Church in Lanham, MD, will be the Tour's Spiritual Leader on a 12 day-10 night visit to the Holy Land, from May 22-June 2, 2022, with a cost of \$4280.00 per person, based on double occupancy. (See the flyer posted on the bulletin board or on the parish hall table). More information may be obtained from Fr. Jack Kennealy, at Kennealyj@adw.org, or rtemmaus@gmail.com. (Israel requires a COVID19 vaccine certificate as a condition prior to entering the country).

Supporting Afghan Refugees Two programs supporting Afghan refugee families, one at a military base in Quantico (support being provided by the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops) & one in Prince George's County (a nonprofit group called Homes Not Borders). For info: Peggy Arizzi at: USC-CBleadQuantico@USCCB.org & Laura Osuri, Founder & Director, at: laura@homesnotborders.org.

Tutoring English Remotely with Zoom Volunteer with the Catholic Charities virtual team at St. Matthias. Tutors would be assisting Hispanic leaders of the Vincentian Friends on the Peripheries, a tri-parish group in Prince George's County serving vulnerable families. Tutoring would occur one hour a week, from mid-February through mid-May. Apply online before Jan. 9: <http://bttr.im/dspnu>. Info: Laura.Yeomans@CC-DC.org, 202-315-9440.



Readings for January 1 / 2

The Epiphany of the Lord

First Reading	Isaiah 60:1-6
Second Reading	Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
Gospel	Matthew 2:1-12

Parish Bulletin Deadline Please submit items by Thurs., at Noon for publication in the parish bulletin 10 days later to Debbie at rauschda@gmail.com. Thank you.



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"Her Treatments are Life-Changing"

A local acupuncturist is helping folks live free from the suffering of CHRONIC PAIN

Richard S., of Laurel, MD found himself living in constant pain. He had received a diagnosis of peripheral neuropathy and everyday he felt as though he was walking on pins and needles. He was becoming weaker and weaker. "I was beginning to be worried that one day I would be wheelchair-bound."

Unfortunately Richard's story is all too familiar for those living with chronic pain.

Whether it's the numbness or tingling from NEUROPATHY, the burning pain of SCIATICA, the unbearable swelling and stiffness of ARTHRITIS, or the constant fatigue associated with FIBROMYALGIA, chronic pain makes it difficult to do things others take for granted.

Often, the only solution doctors have for these complex conditions are surgery or prescription medications with no guarantee of success.

PAIN-RELIEVING TREATMENTS FOR:

Migraines Fibromyalgia
Back Pain Neuropathy
Knee Pain Arthritis
Fatigue Sciatica
Stress/Anxiety

Fortunately for Richard, a local licensed acupuncturist, Shiopei Low, is using the time-tested science of Acupuncture and modern technology, originally developed by NASA to assist in increasing blood flow and expediting recovery, to treat these conditions.

"We have a beach condo on the second floor. One morning after treatments I walked right down the stairs and got in the car," Richard shared. "I remember thinking 'that's become so easy for me', I didn't have to hold on to the handrail or anything! It's life-changing to have my strength and mobility back!"

The kind of treatments Shiopei Low, L.Ac provides has been reversing the effects of conditions like Neuropathy, Sciatica, Arthritis, and Fibromyalgia for over 20 years without invasive surgeries or medications that come with uncomfortable side effects. If you're living a life of constant pain and discomfort, Shiopei Low, L.Ac at Patapsco Acupuncture & Integrative Medicine can help!

Shiopei is now accepting new patients but only for a limited time. To determine whether or not you are a good candidate for her personalized and comprehensive treatments an initial consultation is required.

Call 443-774-5441 today to schedule!



443-774-5441

www.patapsco-acupuncture.com