

St. Nicholas Episcopal Church

Elk Grove Village, Illinois

A Mission Congregation of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago

PARISH PROFILE



Lively worship



Real community



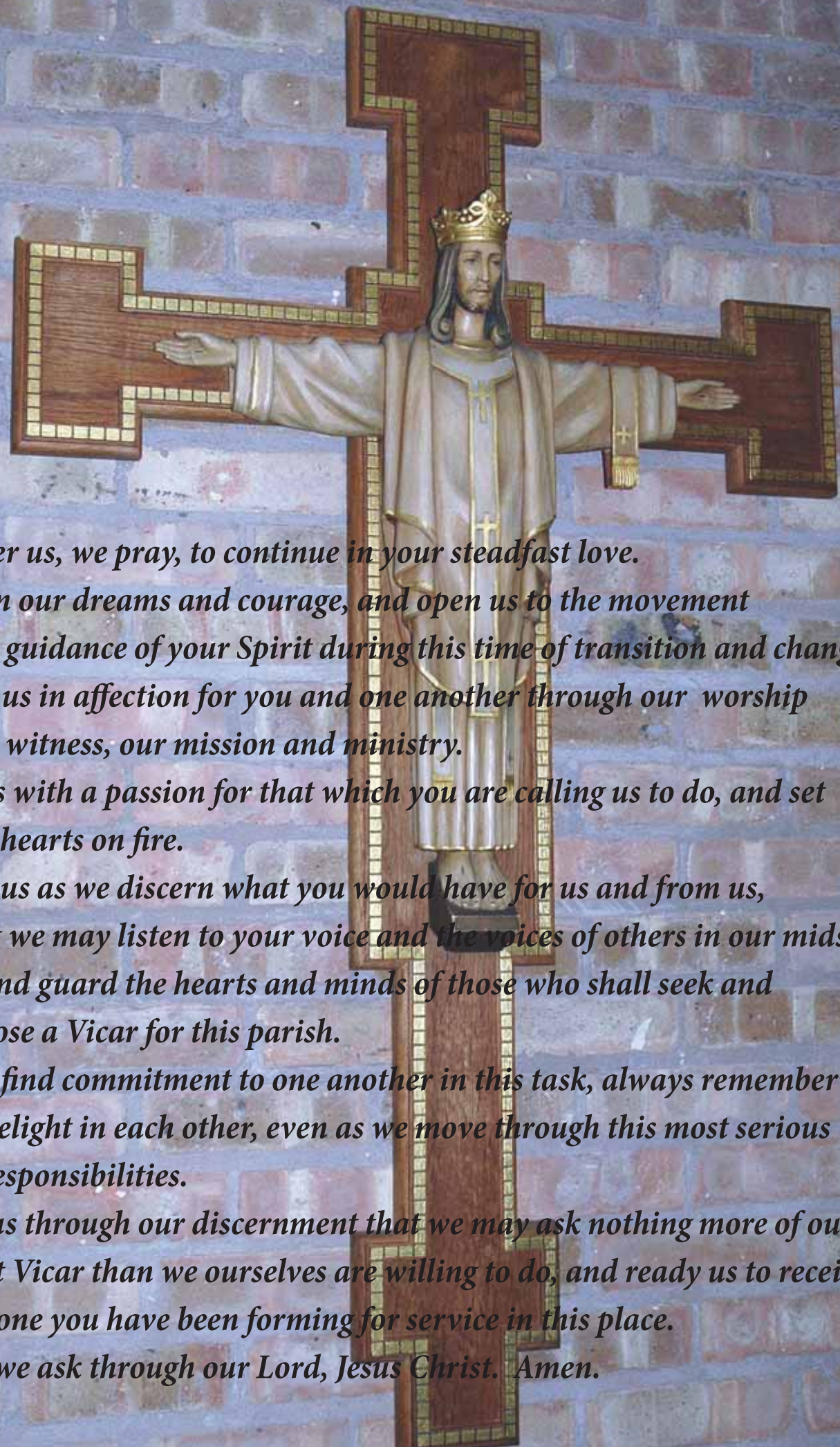
A chance to serve



A place to grow

We include because Jesus includes





*Empower us, we pray, to continue in your steadfast love.
Summon our dreams and courage, and open us to the movement
and guidance of your Spirit during this time of transition and change.
Ground us in affection for you and one another through our worship
and witness, our mission and ministry.
Ignite us with a passion for that which you are calling us to do, and set
our hearts on fire.
Be with us as we discern what you would have for us and from us,
that we may listen to your voice and the voices of others in our midst.
Guide and guard the hearts and minds of those who shall seek and
choose a Vicar for this parish.
May we find commitment to one another in this task, always remembering
to delight in each other, even as we move through this most serious
of responsibilities.
Steady us through our discernment that we may ask nothing more of our
next Vicar than we ourselves are willing to do, and ready us to receive
the one you have been forming for service in this place.
All this we ask through our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

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INTRODUCTION: Who We Are

Visitors to St Nicholas usually say two things about us:

- We are warmly welcoming and accepting — you won't be a stranger long.
- We are different. That's because we include everyone: kids, interfaith families, people of color, gay women and men, people in recovery, young, old, and more.

Many in our congregation originally came from other Christian denominations (predominantly from the Roman Catholic tradition (post Vatican II) and have found a home in the Episcopal Church. At St. Nicholas, we have a community that blends the two great traditions, embracing both in worship and outreach. Some members are from the Jewish faith. They, too, have found comfort here at St. Nick's.

While our church facility is located in Elk Grove Village, IL., our congregation has drawn from other communities throughout metropolitan Chicago — Hoffman Estates, Schaumburg, Streamwood, Cary, Lombard, and even the city of Chicago itself.

We affirm, respect, and celebrate every person who comes through our doors. There are no labels. No barriers. No limits. We believe families come in all shapes and sizes, and we do our very best to demonstrate that each of us is a unique child of God - loved and created in His image. We make sure that those who have been excluded from other churches know that it won't happen here. At St. Nicholas all will find a home that provides comfort, support, and affirmation - just as Jesus would have wanted.



Our Mission Statement

In the spirit of St Nicholas . . .

*We seek to care for all,
especially the young
and the vulnerable;
to feed those who hunger physically
or spiritually;
to be a healing presence
to those in physical,
emotional, or spiritual pain.*



History of St. Nicholas Episcopal

In 1959 an Episcopal mission in Elk Grove Village was established by Father Theodore Garcia commissioned by Bishop Gerald Francis Burrill. On June 5, 1959 the gathered families chose the mission name, St Nicholas, and elected a bishop's committee. The first meeting of the Bishop's Committee of St Nicholas was held on July 2, 1959. The purchase of supplies for services (including a cross and candles) was discussed, and one member commended (or commissioned) to build the first altar for the mission. The planning of a chapel capable of seating 175 people and a parish house on a three-acre tract of land at the corner of Ridge Avenue and Spruce Lane in Elk Grove began with Architect Edward Dart, in November 1960. Bishop Burrill dedicated the building on July 14, 1963 and regular services were held at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

Within the first five years of the founding of the mission, the St Nicholas community grew from 17 families to 81 families with attendance expanding from 34 people to over 300 people. By 1964, members had established a choir, organized a Sunday School (which grew to over 100 children) and established a successful pre-school.

Religious, educational and social activities continued in the new building. These included; annual dinners, book fairs, monthly lectures about the historical and theological aspects of the church, and study groups with Father Garcia. In addition, St. Nicholas sent delegates to diocesan conventions.

In 1966, Father Garcia announced his resignation as pastor of the St. Nicholas community. Father Stephen Matthews presided briefly from 1967 to 1970, followed by Father Joseph Peoples from 1970 to 1981.

During the late 1960s and 1970s, the St. Nicholas community was coping with societal issues affecting the United States: increased involvement of youth in politics, the condemnation of racial segregation in local housing, peaceful alternatives to violent protest movements, the slowing rate of growth in the local community, expanded outreach to families unaffiliated with any religious denomination, the use of trial liturgies and new worship forms in order to update those from the 1928 prayer book, and the increasing role of women in liturgy and in church leadership positions.

After Father Peoples announced his retirement in December of 1981, Father Charles Hensel guided the St Nicholas Church community of approximately 70 families, actively engaging in evangelism, stewardship and many social events. The Sunday school transitioned to a multi-generational format, our youth group engaged in social activities and retreats, and an adult education series included lectures by a prison chaplain and a racetrack chaplain. Additionally, spirituality seminars and ongoing Bible study groups were held. Two Alcoholics Anonymous groups began using church space, while service projects began that included collecting toys for needy children, adoption of an overseas child, and support for renovation of a St Nicholas Church in England.

The late 1980s saw technological progress come to St. Nicholas and various upgrades within the church. Many purchases were made, including computers, printers, photocopier, ceiling fans, equipment storage shed, new organ, and thermostat. In addition, the kitchen and bathrooms were refurbished. During this time period, many original members transferred to other cities for new job opportunities or retired to different states. The original children of the church were growing up and moving on.

In December 1995, Father Stephen Martz became pastor of St. Nicholas bringing a renewed energy for outreach and a contemporary approach to worship. His revitalization efforts included expanding the liturgy for children, organizing seminars to strengthen couples' relationships, conducting the annual blessing of the animals with more pets in church, coordinating Taize style worship, and making significant strides in outreach to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered individuals, couples and families. Most noticeably, Father Martz led renovation efforts to make the church space more open and welcoming. In November 1999, chairs replaced pews, walls were torn down to create more open and well lit spaces, a new baptismal font was created using pieces of the old marble altar, and a new altar built from old pews was brought forward into the congregation.



Our Recent Past

After Father Martz became pastor of the Church of the Holy Innocents in Hoffman Estates and after joint discussions between the two congregations and the diocese, St Nicholas and Holy Innocents merged in January 2007 to create a larger and more vibrant community. Mary Fletcher-Gomez became the first music director of the combined community, bringing more contemporary music and nurturing the growth of the choir. Modern technology was used as the first congregational website www.onebreadonebody.org was launched. The supplemental food pantry of Holy Innocents was expanded through donations and community-wide bagging efforts. Other new ministries included adult education/book discussion, LGBT spirituality meetup groups, 2nd Family Program, community trips to a soup kitchen in Chicago, outreach worship at Asbury Court retirement community, healing blanket ministry, outdoor worship at a new altar installed in front of the building, a vegetable garden to enhance the food pantry, and many other ministries. The Alcoholics Anonymous fellowship had grown from two to ten groups per week and expanded to include an Alanon and a Gamblers Anonymous meeting.

The Presiding Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States came to Chicago the weekend of the ordination and consecration of Reverend Jeffrey Lee as the 12th Bishop of Chicago. Hearing of St. Nicholas's energetic response to ministry, Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori chose to visit and to celebrate mass with us on February 3, 2008.

In conversations with the Bishop's Committee and with Father Martz, Bishop Lee's interest in progressive ideas within the diocese encouraged the St Nicholas community to continue to focus on expansion, which led to a four thousand square foot addition being built in 2009. This expansion included a great room, new classrooms and restrooms, improved handicap accessibility, a new kitchen and additional storage areas.

On February 6, 2011 Father Martz resigned from St Nicholas to become the new pastor at the Church of Our Savior in Elmhurst, IL. Our associate pastor, Father Manny Borg accepted the position of our transition minister. The discernment process for a new pastor began in May 2011.

The spirit of St Nicholas with the Holy Innocents continues to thrive. The first annual Chili Dinner was held on March 5, 2011, with excellent attendance and energy. Worship remains vibrant with the strong voices of our choir. Members remain highly active in our ministries, serving the needs of church members and the surrounding community. St Nicholas looks forward to continuing its mission and ministry through the grace of God, the love of Jesus and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Note: the history of St Nicholas is a synthesis of selected records, including Bishop Committee minutes, annual meeting summaries, letters, local newspaper articles, personal reflections and other documents.



What We Have Learned

We would like to develop a solid children's program.

We would like to develop stronger community partnerships (e.g., to work with our fellow parishes who have a more established children's program and youth groups).

We want to develop more opportunities for all of our parishioners to serve our community.

We want to find more ways to involve our youth in the liturgy.

We want to further develop our music program.

We want continued assistance in furthering our knowledge of discernment of our gifts to prepare us to actively take part in ministry.

We want continued inter-generational education, beginning with Episcopal 101.

We would like to grow from a family-size congregation to a pastoral-size congregation so that we can sustain our current and future ministries.

We would like to become more financially stable so that we can more fully develop our ministries and be more involved in the community.



The Vicar We Seek

Our Vicar should possess the qualities, skills and character to serve as:

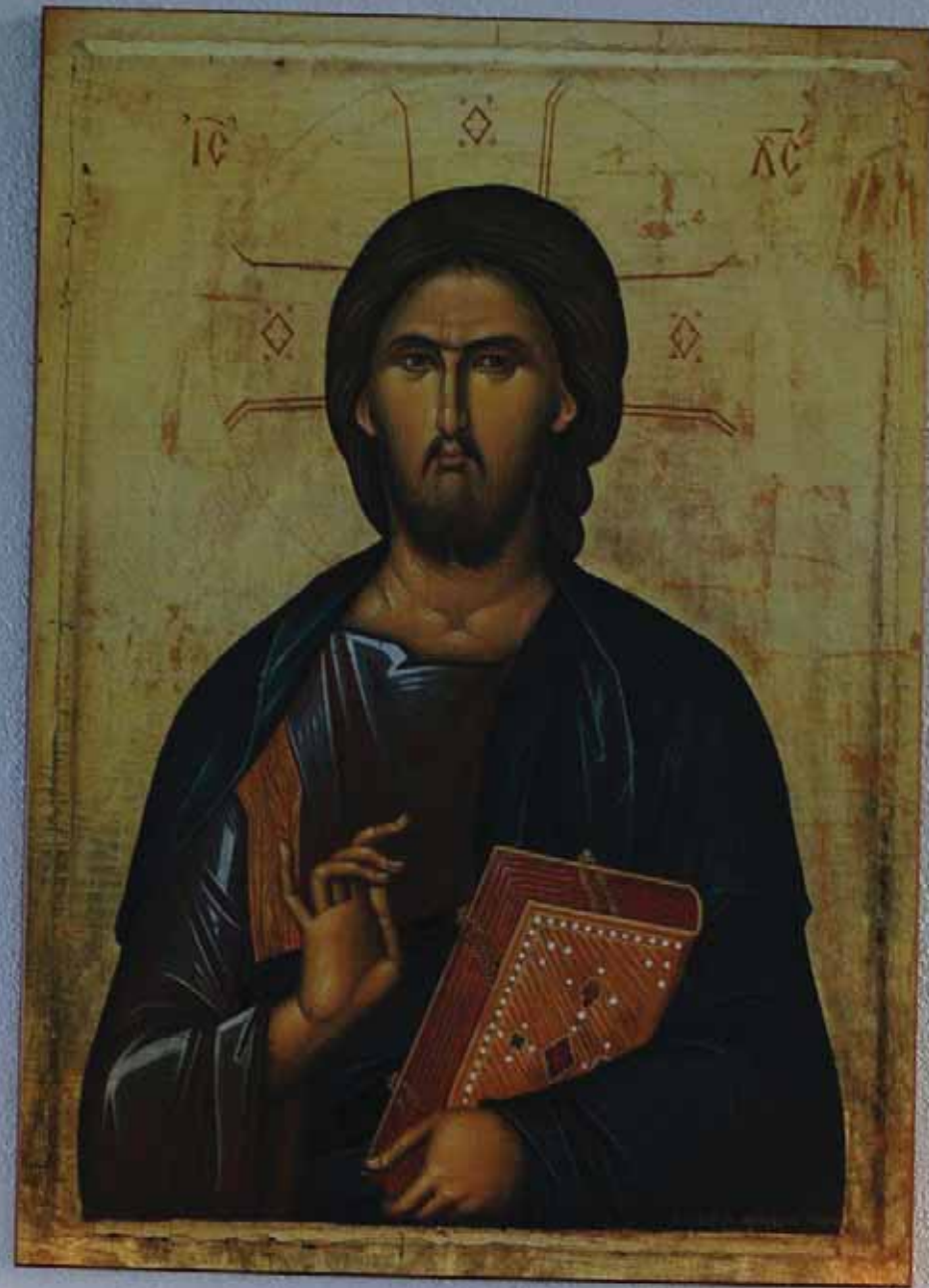
A Transformational Leader who has vision and the ability to empower people to be involved in active ministry. One who fosters leadership in others and leads by example. A leader who is willing to be visible and available to us as a congregation and the community around us, and a leader who is committed, flexible, has good communication skills and is able to work well with a diverse group of people.

A Dynamic and Inspirational Preacher who has a strong preaching style and is able to relate the scripture to our daily lives. One who is comfortable with traditional as well as contemporary worship styles and is able to stimulate and generate discussion that nourishes learning and growth.

A Spiritual Person who has a sense of inner journey and nourishes the spiritual life of each member, providing formation and spiritual direction for our faith community. One who inspires and enriches our faith, helping us to recognize the presence of God at St. Nicholas, bringing the spirit of our congregation out to our families, friends, places of work, and our local communities.

A Compassionate, Energetic and Enthusiastic person who respects and embraces the diversity in our congregation. One who values building and strengthening relationships within the congregation and the local community. Someone who is genuine, personable, approachable and has strong interpersonal skills.

A Strong Administrator who can set and implement strategic goals for St. Nicholas, and who is knowledgeable about and committed to the growth and viability of our church.



Worship at St. Nicholas

Each of our liturgies at St. Nicholas has its own style and character of music, but share the commonality of being drawn from the BCP Rite II and III format. Our worship is joyful and from the heart and certainly not stuffy, though reverent and relevant.

Our Saturday 4:30 pm service began in September of 2010 as an outreach to attract participants from other Christian traditions in our area and to offer an alternative to a Sunday liturgy. The 4:30 service has some hymnody, especially at Christmas and Easter seasons, but primarily the music used is lyrical songs and psalms that are very familiar to our members who came from a Roman Catholic tradition. The GIA Gather-Second Edition hymnal was purchased by St. Nicholas under our previous vicar. Today this hymnal is supplemented with music from other GIA hymnals such as Ritual Song, Gather Comprehensive, as well as Enriching Our Liturgy. To distinguish the music style of this service from our Sunday service, we refer to this as a contemporary service.

Prior to the beginning of our Saturday evening service, our Sunday schedule was a 9:00 am service that was Rite II, and an 11:00 am service that was very much Rite III. From Memorial Day to Labor Day, one "blended" service would be held at 10:00 am.

Today, our Sunday 10:00 am service incorporates some lyrical songs, but the primary music pulls from the Episcopal tradition of hymnody, chant, and from Labor Day through Memorial Day, our choir adds to the mix with choral and solo music from a variety of musical styles. The 1982 Hymnal is the primary source and augmented with music from the ELCA hymnal Worship and Gather-Second Edition, as well as Enriching Our Music. A coffee hour, along with refreshments, follows this service.

In keeping with our Episcopal tradition and our Anglican Liturgical ancestry, Morning and Evening Prayer are occasionally celebrated – with our Senior and Junior Wardens leading the community.

For many years, St. Nicholas has offered two communion cups, one containing wine, and the other grape juice. We also have a bread baking ministry made up of volunteers who bake bread in two-week cycles, while having traditional and gluten free communion wafers available.

Visitors and members will always find a warm and friendly welcome at both our services, and a cool worship space in the air-conditioned Holy Innocents Hall during the summer. "Passing the Peace" at St Nicholas is great fun and enjoyed by all.



Outreach and Other Ministries

Jesus came that we might have life and have it abundantly. Yet many in his world and our world lack those things they need for abundant life. We respond to the needs of the world by seeking to live a life of love for our neighbor. Our mission is especially focused on children, hunger, and healing, and we encourage all who are part of our community to use their gifts to help transform the lives of others.

Second Family: A program that aims to help children and their families in a variety of ways, but especially with food. Children in need and their families are identified for us by school social workers or other professionals. We then “adopt” the family by making an ongoing commitment to help it in all the ways we are able. We support this ministry and our food pantry by conducting neighborhood collections of food several times a year. At Christmas time, we collect unwrapped toys in the same way, with the gifts going to the Food Pantry children and to needy families from a local school.

Holy Innocents Food Pantry: St. Nicholas operates a supplemental food pantry on the first, third, and fourth Wednesdays of each month from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. The food for the pantry is provided by donations from parishioners, the surrounding neighborhood, members of St. Simon’s Episcopal Church in Arlington Heights, Little Boots Foundation, La Preferida, a vending company, and a Food Depository in Romeoville. The schedule is designed to be more accommodating for people who work during the hours other area food pantries operate. There is no residency requirement, and no questions are asked of families in need.

God’s Garden: Fresh vegetables for our hunger programs are grown onsite in the church’s community garden. Surplus vegetables are donated to other local area pantries in the Elk Grove Village area, most recently through the “Growing Garden” program of the Daily Herald.

Prayer Blanket Ministry: Members of the St. Nicholas community produce prayer blankets to support those inside and outside the congregation who are going through difficulties. The prayer blankets are blessed during a Sunday service before being distributed to the recipients.

12-Step Programs: We are proud to host 10 AA meetings and one GA meeting every week. These 12-step groups bring healing and continuing recovery to hundreds of people each week:

Alcoholics Anonymous

Sundays at 7:30 pm
Mondays at noon and 7 pm
Tuesdays at noon and 7 pm
Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at noon
Saturdays at 1 and 7:00 pm

Al-Anon

Wednesdays at 7:30 pm

Gamblers Anonymous

Thursdays at 7 pm



Our Building and Facilities

The building that was completed in 1963, which was intended to function as the chapel once a larger church would be built, continues to be the primary worship and gathering space of the St. Nicholas community. The building was designed by a young architect, Edward Dart (1922-1975), who became a well-known architect in the Chicago area. He also designed St. Ambrose, Chicago Heights; Church of the Holy Family, Park Forest; Church of the Holy Innocents, Hoffman Estates; Church of the Resurrection, West Chicago; St. Michael's, Barrington; and St. Procopius Benedictine Abbey, Lisle. His last project was Water Tower Place on the near north side of Chicago. Dart's design style was strongly influenced by Frank Lloyd Wright. The unfinished brick used for the building, simple iron cross, and narrow side windows are all strong examples of Dart's vision of modernism with simple functionality, inside giving a feeling of openness yet with a separated connectedness to the world outside.

Due to financial constraints throughout the years, the plan to build a larger building as a worship space along with social hall was not realized. Some of the land surrounding the church was sold off to a residential developer, but enough land was kept to allow for a building addition to take place. Land immediately behind the building was used to build a two-story vicarage. In 2009, the Bishop and Trustees of our diocese funded the building of our 4,000 square foot addition, with the cost of building augmented by the sale of the property of Church of Holy Innocents. With the most recent financial situation, Bishop and Trustees have moved forward with the intention of selling the vicarage property in 2011.

The removal of pews and interior walls adjoining the worship space in 1999, and the use of individual chairs, has created a very functional multi-purpose space. This allowed for creative settings for worship, and the flexibility to host meetings and social events with tables. The Holy Innocents Hall building addition was very welcomed by our community, giving us a good sized social hall with adjoining kitchen, a dividable room for office/classrooms, and a third room that currently functions to both house our food pantry and as a vesting room. As part of the addition, we also now have a cement patio area immediately accessible from the social hall – a great space for outdoor social activities and to gather as a community for the lighting of the fire for the Easter Vigil.

The greenspace around our church has allowed us to have a congregational garden to raise vegetables. In the front of the building, immediately across the driveway from our original building, the altar from the Church of the Holy Innocents allows the opportunity of outdoor community worship.



With the merger of the Church of the Holy Innocents, the art and sacred items from their facility have been blended with those of the St. Nicholas community. We have incorporated images, symbols, and concepts that can be associated with our patron – who is honored in both Eastern and Western Christian traditions. Visitors entering through our new entrance immediately view the large painted icon of our patron, St. Nicholas of Myra.

In the open area of our new gathering space, we have placed the shrine to St. Mary the Virgin. Hung throughout our worship space are grouped icons representing sacred women and men – evangelists, founders of religious communities, Doctors and teachers of the Church, mystics, peace/social justice leaders, and those associated with the LGBT community.



A further example of bringing St. Nicholas into our space is our Advent wreath. It is made from a base of a barrel, the ring supporting the candles is a wheel for a boat/ship, and we add three bags filled with gold candy to the fresh greens (recognizing Nicholas as the patron of children, mariners, and those in need) – it's great that our feast day is celebrated during the season of Advent.

Our baptistry area is a celebration of Christian life, from baptism through resurrection. The basin is the granite baptismal font original to St. Nicholas, and the font/pool was constructed from the original matching stone of the altar – built to allow for the candidate and the presider to both be in the font and either pour or use full immersion in the baptism. In this area, the Sacred Chrism and Oil of the Infirm are displayed. We also remember our deceased members with a continuously burning vigil candle, Book of Remembrance, as well as our columbarium. To the right of the baptistry, we reserve communion wafers in a simple tabernacle.



We are very effectively using traditional liturgical items in the contemporary design of our architect. St. Nicholas is a House of Prayer for all People.



Our Statistics



	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Average Weekly Attendance	52	60	69	69	61
Easter Attendance	122	122	137	146	120
Baptisms	1	1	1	1	2
Weddings	1	0	1	1	0
Confirmations	9	0	0	2	0
Received by a Bishop	11	0	0	6	2
Burials	1	1	2	0	2

Current Age Groups at St. Nicholas

Children < 16	13
16-18	2
19-25	10
26-40	11
41-55	42
56-65	15
66-76	3
> 76	5
Total	101



Stewardship

Stewardship is a critical part of any church's identity. At St. Nicholas, the Bishop's Committee organizes and conducts the pledge drive each fall. Our Transitional Minister is working to educate the parish in the broader meanings of stewardship. We have learned that we need to promote sound stewardship of time and talent with a focus on treasure.

The Bishop's Committee has stated that they currently do not want to go to the diocese for any kind of additional financial aid. We have a fiduciary responsibility to have a balanced budget for 2012. St. Nicholas has been challenged to overcome budget shortfalls the past few years, and have been supported by the Diocese to meet our budget. We recognize that the church must continue to follow a cautious fiscal policy, and build a sound financial plan that supports our needs and goals for the future.

Financial Giving and Yearly Budgets

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Average Weekly Pledge	\$21.37	\$30.86	\$31.22	\$25.33	\$25.00
Number of Pledging Units	27	34	37	38	29
Total Pledge Amount	\$30,000.00	\$54,561.00	\$60,073.00	\$50,057.00	\$37,695.00
Operating Budget	\$89,946.00	\$123,663.00	\$120,522.00	\$112,002.00	\$132,977.00

Parish Leadership Team and Search Committee

CLERGY

The Reverend Manuel Borg
Transition Minister

The Reverend Paul Brouillette
Assisting Priest

STAFF

Mary Fletcher-Gomez
Music/Choir Director and Organist

VOLUNTEER LEADERS

Bob Kalicki
Treasurer

Erlene Lee-Forde
Burser

Hal Stratton
Saturday Liturgy Planner and Musician

Katie Black and Audrey Cannon
Sacristans

Val Gruenwald
John Knepper
Jan Tossman
Children's Program Coordinators

Donna Tamaski
Prayer Blankets

Scott Cummings
Bob Kalicki
Food Pantry Coordinators

Douglas Vanhouten
Manuel Borg
Rummage Sale Coordinators

Jessica Tamaski
Chili Dinner Coordinator

Bill Barlow
Garden of Eden

Bob Kalicki
Karen Martin
Landscaping

Ginny Gibbs
Web Mistress

Jan Tossman
Marketing/Community Outreach

Paul Swanson
Publicity

LEADERSHIP

Patricia (Pat) Kalicki
Senior Warden

Steve Rafferty
Junior Warden

BISHOP'S COMMITTEE

Bill Barlow
Val Gruenwald
Paul Swanson, Jr.
Jessica Tamaski

SEARCH COMMITTEE

Katie Black
Denise Butera
Cyndi DeBock
Benny Delgado
Jon Kessler
Theresa Setchell
Hal Stratton (*Chair*)





Elk Grove Village is a municipality located near O'Hare International Airport and the City of Chicago.. Elk Grove Village encompasses 10.9 square miles. As the name suggests, Elk Grove Village is home to a small herd of elk kept in a grove at the eastern edge of the Busse Woods forest preserve. However, elk are not native to the area, and the name "Elk Grove" actually comes from a mispronunciation of the Native American name for the place. Elk Grove Village, incorporated in 1956 in Elk Grove Township, was originally founded as a planned suburban community. The majority of homes were constructed by Centex Corporation. As part of the original planning concept, the Village was to be home to separated residential and industrial areas.

As of the 2010 census, there were 32,745 people, 13,278 households, and 9,294 families residing in the village. The racial makeup of the village was 86.03% White, 1.41% African American, 0.10% Native American, 8.79% Asian, 0.04% Pacific Islander, 2.30% from other races, and 1.34% from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race were 6.23% of the population.

Ancestries: German (25.6%), Polish (19.4%), Irish (17.1%), Italian (14.7%), English (6.8%), Swedish (4.6%).

There were 13,278 households out of which 33.5% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 58.4% were married couples living together, 8.6% had a female householder with no husband present, and 30.0% were non-families. 25.6% of all households were made up of individuals and 8.6% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.60 and the average family size was 3.17.

The median income for a household in the village was \$62,132, and the median income for a family was \$71,834. About 1.5% of families and 2.0% of the population were below the poverty line, including 1.4% of those under age 18 and 6.2% of those age 65 or over.

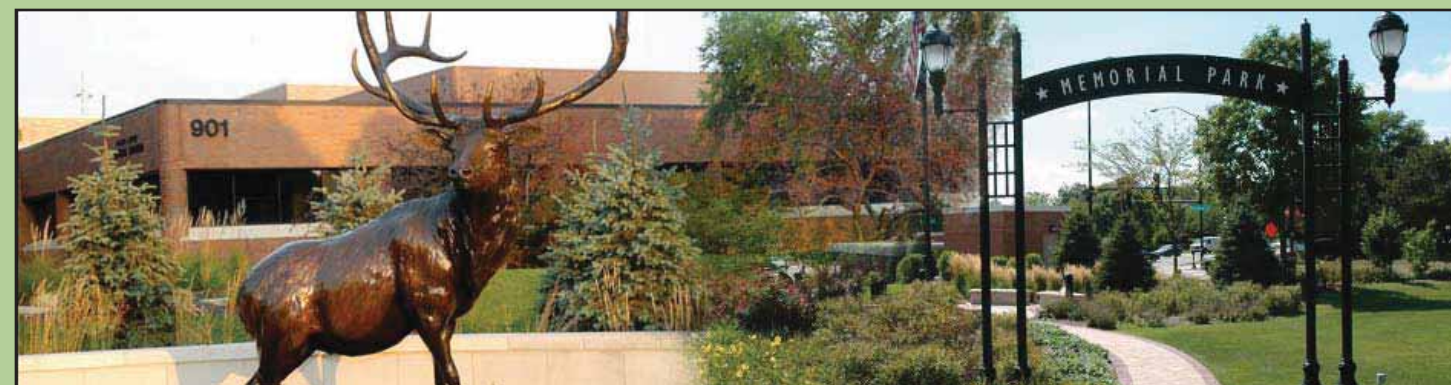
Elk Grove Village is home to 13 elementary schools. Those 13 schools are located within two public school districts and one private school. Elk Grove Village's high school students attend one of two public schools: Elk Grove High School and Conant High School. Elk Grove residents and employers are served by a number of local colleges and universities. Elk Grove residents are able to attend Harper Community College, which offers two-year degrees and technical degrees and programs. In addition, Elk Grove Village is also home to a satellite campus for Dominican University's Masters in Business Administration program. The satellite campus is located on the ground of Alexian Brother Medical Center. Other nationally recognized four-year programs are available through DePaul University, Northern Illinois University, Northwestern University, Roosevelt University, University of Chicago, and University of Illinois at Chicago.

The Elk Grove Park District maintains approximately 473 acres, including 44 parks, 19 public tennis courts and a community athletic field that includes football, soccer and baseball fields. In addition, residents and visitors have access to the Jack A. Claes Pavilion, which includes a 28-foot carousel, indoor playground, Fitness Center, banquet room, arts and crafts room, dance studio, racquetball courts, 2 gymnasiums, indoor and 2 outdoor swimming pools.

The Park District also operates the Sheila Ray Adult Center, a Preschool, Rainbow Falls Waterpark, Pirates' Cove Children's Theme Park, Fox Run Golf Course and Driving Range, The Elk Grove Historical Museum and the Rainbow Falls Community Center. Busse Woods Forest Preserve contains an 11.2 mile pedestrian and bicycling path that encompasses the forest preserve. This forest preserve is also home to Busse Lake, a 590 acre lake, where residents and visitors can try catching a northern pike at one of the six fishing walls.



Source Wikipedia and elkgrove.com



The Episcopal Diocese of Chicago

With 38,000 baptized members, 380 clergy and 127 congregations and fellowships, the Diocese of Chicago ranks as the twelfth largest of the 100 domestic dioceses of the Episcopal Church in the United States. The Episcopal Diocese of Chicago traces its beginning to 1835 when Bishop Philander Chase founded the Diocese of Illinois. In 1877 two new dioceses were created out of the western portion of the state (the Diocese of Quincy) and the central and southern sections (the Diocese of Springfield) leaving the northern third of Illinois to the original diocese which took the name of its see city (where the bishop is seated), Chicago. It comprises 21 counties and 12,000 square miles, bounded on the west by the Mississippi River, on the north by the Wisconsin border, on the east by Lake Michigan, and on the south by Interstate 74. Besides Chicago, its principal cities include Aurora, DeKalb, Elgin, Joliet, Kankakee, Rockford, and Waukegan.

The diocese is organized into 10 regional deaneries for administration and ministry networking. Diocesan headquarters are located adjacent to St. James Cathedral at Rush and Huron Streets in Chicago. St. James Cathedral, founded in 1834, was the first Episcopal Church in northern Illinois and was designated the diocesan cathedral in 1955, succeeding the Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul which was destroyed by fire in 1921.

Rooted in the church's Anglo-Catholic tradition, the Diocese of Chicago welcomes a diversity of cultural, liturgical and theological expression as exemplified in its worship settings which range from evangelical to traditional Anglo-Catholic; in its ethnic diversity (seven Hispanic congregations, ten African American congregations and a joint Anglo-Korean congregation) and in its affiliated organizations which include Cursillo (faith renewal), Episcopal Church Women (service), the Society of St. Mary (Marian devotional), the Brotherhood of St. Andrew (service), the Union of Black Episcopalians, Episcopal Peace Fellowship, and Integrity (gay/lesbian caucus).

The diocese is considered a leader in the church in the areas of leadership development (through its innovative Making Excellent Disciples program for new priests); lifelong Christian formation; and misconduct prevention (Keeping God's People Safe program).

The diocese's commitment to social witness and community service is expressed through the work of 12 Episcopal Charities and Community Service agencies; various committees including the Hunger Commission, AIDS Task Force, the AntiRacism Commission, and the Commission on Global Ministry; and participation in community organizing efforts such as United Power for Action and Justice. Most diocesan congregations are engaged in some form of outreach, many through diocesan or ecumenical partnerships such as the PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter) program; Habitat for Humanity; and various transitional and long-term housing ministries.



OUR BISHOP

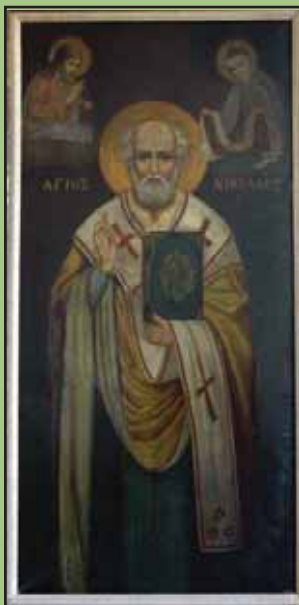
Spiritual oversight of the diocese is vested in its bishop, the Rt. Rev. Jeffrey D. Lee, who was elected the 12th bishop of Chicago on November 10, 2007, and consecrated bishop on February 2, 2008. Bishop Lee succeeds Bishop William D. Persell who was elected bishop in November 1998 and consecrated March 13, 1999. Bishop Persell previously served as dean of Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland in the Diocese of Ohio, and before that as rector of St. Ann and the Holy Trinity parish in New York City. Bishop Persell resigned office on the consecration of Bishop Lee, and retired to Cleveland with his wife Nancy.

The bishop serves as presiding officer of the administrative bodies of the diocese, including the Diocesan Council (budget and program), Bishop and Trustees (property management and gifts and endowments) and Diocesan Convention (legislation); and as the ecclesiastical authority of the diocese. With no set term, the bishop serves until he reaches the mandatory retirement age of 72, or steps down for personal or canonical reasons. The bishop is assisted by a 20-member staff organized in four departments: Office of the Bishop; Finance and Administration; Deployment and Congregational Development; and Communication and Development. Source episcopalchicago.org

St. Nicholas Episcopal Church

1072 Ridge Avenue - Elk Grove Village, Illinois

847-439-2067



www.stnicholasepiscopal.org

