

## Elizabeth De La Torre

*Cesar and I with our daughters Sophia and Olga were introduced to St. Nicholas when Fr. Demetri & Presbytera Gloria were assigned there.*

*We visited and attended many of the events and services at St. Nicholas. Although our home parish growing up had always been at the Transfiguration in Lowell we really felt as though we were able to worship and not just attend at St. Nicholas. It reminded us of what our home parish was like growing up and we wanted to offer that to our daughters Sophia & Olga. Growing up I was very close with my church family and it provided such an additional source of support and love like a loving Yiayia. We wanted to provide that to our girls and bring them the opportunities and examples of how to grow in their relationships with God. As parents, our children sometimes hear us the same as Charlie Brown hears his teacher, blah-blah-blah. Being able to see and hear God through others is something we wanted to surround them with for when they do not hear our voices or pay attention to our actions.*

*Cesar has been practicing Thai and American Boxing for the past 4 years. He introduced the sport to both of our girls. He also enjoys golfing and gardening. My hobbies include anything my Yiayia taught me growing up....sewing, crochet, cooking, gardening, drawing, painting, building things and trivia!*

*We envision our Church to be a place of worship! We run around all day with work, duties, responsibilities & kid activities. When we come to church or attend virtually we want it to stop time. As if when we enter the Church, it is like an invisible force field that surrounds us and blocks out the rest of the world. As God's love for us and our love for God and one another protects us but also fills us. We want our girls to feel as if it is their second home.*

*Cesar and I want to create and continue to build a place that allows everyone to experience God's love and God's love through others. Everyone should be able to have that experience in their lives and we hope to continue that legacy for our children and future families. We are firm believers in the saying: "People will not remember what you wore or what you said but they will always remember how you made them feel". Size doesn't matter, people do. I think our tiny little church is a big bright star of love and want to continue adding to that flame.*

