

St. Thomas More Catholic Church

2510 So. Fremont Avenue, Alhambra, CA 91803
(626) 284-8333 Website: stmccatholicalhambra.org

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday, September 6, 2020



COVID-19 SCHEDULES

SEE PAGE 5 FOR EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATIONS
REQUIRED
SOCIAL DISTANCING AND SAFE PRACTICES

Parish facilities are closed until further notice

Attend Mass online at stmccatholicalhambra.org
or [facebook.com/lacatholics](https://www.facebook.com/lacatholics).

ALL EVENTS ARE CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Visit our website at stmccatholicalhambra.org
for more information and updates.

PARISH OFFICE (RECTORY) HOURS

Monday-Friday	8 AM to 5 PM	**Closed to the Public**
Saturday	Closed	Office hours are for staffing only, for responding to emails, and answering phone calls.
Sunday	Closed	

PARISH STAFF

Office: (626) 284-8333 Fax: (626) 282-4459

Pastor: Fr. Thai Le

(ext. 110) frthaile@yahoo.com

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Jeremiah O'Neill

Deacon Couple: Rogelio and Emilia Garcia
rogelio.emilia@hotmail.com (626) 705-1072

Safeguard the Children Contact: To be Announced
(ext. 139) or (626) 457-5302 stmcdrealhambra@gmail.com

Director of Religious Education: Mae Ho
(ext. 139) or (626) 457-5302 stmcdrealhambra@gmail.com

Liturgy & Music Coordinator: Sr. Andrea Johnson
(ext. 137) stmmusiclit@gmail.com

Accounting Manager: Lucy Lai
(ext. 141) acct_stm@yahoo.com

Youth Ministry & Confirmation Coordinator: Francisco Ramos
stmclifetimeymc@gmail.com

Assistant Coordinator: Gabriella Ramos (ext. 135)

Parish Secretary: Lucia Alcantar
(ext. 112) stm_secretary@live.com

Parish Receptionist: Mimi Lewis

SCHOOL STAFF

School Office: (626) 284-5778 **Fax:** (626) 284-3303

Principal: Norma Gibson (ext. 128)

Secretary: Mary Helen Lazo, (ext. 129)

School Website: www.stmcsa.org

School Email: ngibson@stmfalcons.net

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Warn the wicked and try to turn them from their ways (Ezekiel 33:7-9).

Psalm — If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts (Psalm 95).

Second Reading — Owe nothing to anyone, except mutual love (Romans 13:8-10).

Gospel — If two agree about anything for which they pray, it shall be granted to them (Matthew 18:15-20).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Cor 5:1-8; Ps 5:5-7, 12; Lk 6:6-11, or, for Labor Day, any readings from the Mass "For the Blessings of Human Labor," nos. 907-911

Tuesday: Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30; Ps 13:6;
Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 [18-23]

Wednesday: 1 Cor 7:25-31; Ps 45:11-12, 14-17; Lk 6:20-26

Thursday: 1 Cor 8:1b-7, 11-13; Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab,
23-24; Lk 6:27-38

Friday: 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27; Ps 84:3-6, 12; Lk 6:39-42

Saturday: 1 Cor 10:14-22; Ps 116:12-13, 17-18; Lk 6:43-49

Sunday: Sir 27:30 — 28:7; Ps 103:1-4, 9-12;
Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35

LECTURAS DE HOY

Primera lectura — Somos responsables unos de otros y debemos guiarnos mutuamente por el buen camino (Ezequiel 33:7-9).

Salmo — Si hoy escuchas su voz, no endurezcas tu corazón (Salmo 95 [94]).

Segunda lectura — La ley del amor nos obliga (Romanos 13:8-10).

Evangelio — Jesús está presente entre nosotros siempre que haya dos o tres reunidos en su nombre (Mateo 18:15-20).

LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Lunes: 1 Cor 5:1-8; Sal 5:5-7, 12; Lc 6:6-11, o las lecturas de la Misa "Por la santificación del trabajo"

Martes: Mi 5:1-4a o Rom 8:28-30; Sal 13 (12):6;
Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 [18-23]

Miércoles: 1 Cor 7:25-31; Sal 45 (44):11-12, 14-17; Lc 6:20-26

Jueves: 1 Cor 8:1b-7, 11-13; Sal 139 (138):1b-3,
13-14ab, 23-24; Lc 6:27-38

Viernes: 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27; Sal 84 (83):3-6, 12;
Lc 6:39-42

Sábado: 1 Cor 10:14-22; Sal 116 (115):12-13, 17-18;
Lc 6:43-49

Domingo: Eclo 27:30 — 28:7; Sal 103 (102):1-4, 9-12;
Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35

Owe nothing to anyone, except to

*love one
another.*

Romans 13:8

St. Thomas More Eucharistic Celebrations

OUTDOOR TENT MASSES

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT THE STM
WEBSITE AT: stmccatholicshambra.org

OUTDOOR/PARKING LOT MASSES

Due to recent outbreaks, STM will be holding masses in a tent between the church and hall. The church is closed for all masses, but will remain open for confessions on Saturdays.

REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDELINES

Follow all traffic directions for everyone's safety. Please do not attend if you have any flu-like or COVID-19 symptoms, or are expected to self-quarantine. You also must be healthy enough to wear a face covering for a prolonged period of time. Face coverings are required at all times, including when receiving Holy Communion by hand.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Always maintain six-feet distance from others. Members of the same household may sit closer together.

MAXIMUM CAPACITY

The tent's capacity of 60 people at any time. There will be some overflow seating available.

COVID-19 RISKS

COVID-19 (Coronavirus, 2019) is a severe and contagious illness that is potentially deadly. Participating in any public gathering increases your risk of contracting or transmitting COVID-19.

Attending mass is voluntary and a personal decision. The Los Angeles Archdiocese has a special Eucharist dispensation in place (you may pray in place of receiving Holy Communion) and masses may be viewed online.



COVID-19 RISKS, continued

St. Thomas More has taken reasonable precautions to keep everyone safe while offering services. However, St. Thomas More cannot accept responsibility for your personal choice to attend mass. Please consider the risks, your health, and alternatives before attending.

HOLY COMMUNION

After mass, staff and volunteers will direct parishioners to come up to the altar to receive holy communion. Please continue to observe all safety guidelines, including wearing face coverings and social distancing. Members from the same household are asked to observe social distancing during holy communion.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION, HELP,
AND LOVE FOR THE STM PARISH COMMUNITY**

Thank you!

Collections for 8/30/20

	Envelopes	Loose	Total
8:00 AM	\$801.00	\$132.00	\$933.00
9:15 AM	\$555.00	\$292.00	\$847.00
10:30 AM	\$130.00	\$167.00	\$297.00
By Main and Online	\$2,050.00		\$2,050.00
Building Fund	\$1,655.00		\$1,655.00
Assumption Envelopes	\$150.00		\$150.00
Air Conditioning	\$65.00		\$65.00
School Support	\$25.00		\$25.00
	\$5,431.00	\$591.00	\$6,022.00

Twenty-Third Sunday
in Ordinary Time

September 6, 2020

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Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass

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Hello!

There's a story about a young boy camping with his family near a forest. Out of curiosity, he went alone into the woods, enjoying the sounds of birds and watching the butterflies. While engrossed in nature, he realized it was getting dark. He tried to find his way back to camp, but he got lost in the darkness of the night.

When his mind became occupied with fears and anxieties, he prioritized one thought; to be able to hold his father's hand again! The boy had the courage and eagerness to discover things around him, which is a normal part of development and growth. While he had his wits, hands, and intelligence, he lacked one thing: A compass – a tool to help him find his way.

Similarly, today's first reading described a small Israel's community exiled in a distant land. They were heading on the wrong path, worshipping many gods. Such practices and beliefs left them in a state of darkness and sinful behaviors in foreign lands. God saw His children were lost, and He sent them a compass, the prophet Ezekiel to help guide them on the righteous path. Subtly, God extended His hands to grasp His children back to Him.

God is our Father, who no earthly father can compare. But do we have the courage to let Him grasp our hand and lead us back to Him? Just like the little boy, we want to go and explore the open world as much as we want. We are fascinated by heroic acts, prestigious positions, public fame, and great wealth in a world full of fantasy and instability. Such surroundings attract us, but they eat away at the foundation of our true selves. We lose our sense of belonging—to God, family, and the faith community. We need someone to equip us with a proper tool so we can find our way to God and His Church. In his book, *The Road to Character*, David Brooks wrote, "...when a person can do what he wants, when there are a thousand choices and distractions, then life can lose coherence and directions if there is not a strong internal structure."

Do we have the courage and confidence to examine our inner selves—our false self and authentic self? While the false self tells us that we do not need others and God to tell us what to do or believe, the true self tells us that we can get lost in the darkness if we do not have God and our community. The authentic self leads us back to God, family, and community. Once again, the first reading calls us to seek out the true God in times of darkness. To do so, we must resist our self-deceptive tricks of vanity and stubbornness. In his own words, Thomas Merton wrote, "My false and private self is the one who wants to exist outside the reach of God's will and God's love—outside of reality and outside of life."

We must also reflect upon life with a support system—people whom we trust and have the courage and competence to help us. Imagine sitting on a chair with four legs. Those legs support and hold our body's weight. We can freely move within the chair without worrying about falling. Without a chair's legs to support us, we must use our own body and strength to carry ourselves. Our supporters could be family, friends, counselors, or the faithful community. Who are the people that support you? If you were to get lost, who would you turn to for advice? However, when we decide to accept authentic advice from others, it requires our humility, honesty, and consideration: It does no good to look at a compass if you are only going to say the compass is wrong.

When things went wrong, the boy wanted his Father's guidance. The exiled community thought they would do well without God and a compass to guide them. Consequently, they remained lost in the darkness of their sins! We need God, the Church, and others to help us rediscover our integrity, wisdom, and purpose of life's journey before we stray too far from our best path.

God bless!

Fr. Thai Le

¡Hola!

Hay una historia sobre un niño que acampa con su familia cerca de un bosque. Por curiosidad, se fue solo al bosque, disfrutando del sonido de los pájaros y mirando las mariposas. Mientras estaba absorto en la naturaleza, se dio cuenta de que estaba oscureciendo. Intentó encontrar el camino de regreso al campamento, pero se perdió en la oscuridad de la noche.

Cuando su mente se ocupó de miedos y ansiedades, dio prioridad a un pensamiento; ¡poder volver a tomar la mano de su padre! El niño tuvo el valor y el entusiasmo de descubrir cosas a su alrededor, lo cual es una parte normal del desarrollo y crecimiento. Si bien tenía su ingenio, manos e inteligencia, le faltaba una cosa: una brújula, una herramienta que lo ayudara a encontrar el camino.

De manera similar, la primera lectura de hoy describe una pequeña comunidad de Israel exiliada en una tierra lejana. Iban por el camino equivocado, adorando a muchos dioses. Tales prácticas y creencias los dejaron en un estado de oscuridad y comportamientos pecaminosos en tierras extranjeras. Dios vio que sus hijos estaban perdidos y les envió una brújula, el profeta Ezequiel, para ayudarlos a guiarlos por el camino recto. Dios extendió Sus manos para acercar a Sus hijos hacia Él.

Dios es nuestro Padre, a quien ningún padre terrenal puede comparar. Pero ¿tenemos el valor de dejar que Él tome nuestra mano y nos lleve de regreso a Él? Al igual que el niño, queremos ir y explorar el mundo abierto tanto como queramos. Nos fascinan los actos heroicos, las posiciones prestigiosas, la fama pública y la gran riqueza en un mundo lleno de fantasía e inestabilidad. Este entorno nos atrae, pero devora la base de nuestro verdadero yo. Perdemos nuestro sentido de pertenencia a Dios, la familia y la comunidad de fe. Necesitamos a alguien que nos equiepe con una herramienta adecuada para que podamos encontrar nuestro camino hacia Dios y Su Iglesia. En su libro, *The Road to Character*, David Brooks escribió: "... cuando una persona puede hacer lo que quiere, cuando hay mil opciones y distracciones, la vida puede perder coherencia y dirección si no hay una estructura interna fuerte".

¿Tenemos el valor y la confianza para examinar nuestro interior, nuestro yo falso y nuestro yo auténtico? Mientras que el yo falso nos dice que no necesitamos que otros y Dios nos digan qué hacer o creer, el verdadero nos dice que podemos perdernos en la oscuridad si no tenemos a Dios y nuestra comunidad. El yo auténtico nos lleva de regreso a Dios, la familia y la comunidad. Una vez más, la primera lectura nos llama a buscar al Dios verdadero en tiempos de oscuridad. Para hacerlo, debemos resistir nuestros engañosos trucos de vanidad y terquedad. En sus propias palabras, Thomas Merton escribió: "Mi yo falso y privado es el que quiere existir fuera del alcance de la voluntad y el amor de Dios, fuera de la realidad y fuera de la vida".

También debemos reflexionar sobre la vida con un sistema de apoyo: personas en las que confiamos y que tienen el valor y la competencia para ayudarnos. Imagínese sentado en una silla con cuatro patas. Esas patas sostienen el peso de nuestro cuerpo. Podemos movernos libremente dentro de la silla sin preocuparnos por caernos. Sin las patas de una silla que nos sostengan, debemos usar nuestro propio cuerpo y fuerza para llevarnos. Nuestros partidarios pueden ser familiares, amigos, consejeros o la comunidad de fieles. ¿Quiénes son las personas que te apoyan? Si se perdiera, ¿a quién acudiría en busca de consejo? Sin embargo, cuando decidimos aceptar consejos auténticos de los demás, se requiere nuestra humildad, honestidad y consideración: no sirve de nada mirar una brújula si solo vas a decir que la brújula está mal.

Cuando las cosas iban mal, el niño quería la guía de su padre. La comunidad exiliada pensó que les iría bien sin Dios y una brújula que los guiara. En consecuencia, ¡permanecieron perdidos en la oscuridad de sus pecados! Necesitamos que Dios, la Iglesia y otros nos ayuden a redescubrir nuestra integridad, sabiduría y propósito en el camino de la vida antes de alejarnos demasiado de nuestro mejor camino.

¡Dios bendiga!

P. Thai Le

MASS SCHEDULE and INTENTIONS

Saturday, September 05, 2020

8:30 AM Private Mass

4:00 PM Confessions Fr. Thai

5:00 PM Private Mass Patrick Yiu† Ana Bui Nhan† Peter Huong Phan†

Sunday, September 06, 2020

8:00 AM Fr. Thai Ana Bui Nhan† Peter Huong Phan† Jeff Lamb: Healing

9:15 AM Fr. Andrew Yu Po Lin† Mr. & Mrs. Ernesto Benitez: Thanksgiving

10:30 AM Fr. Thai Pat Tomasulo† Dr. Jason Huong† Josefa C. Villafranca†

12:30 PM Private Mass

Monday, September 07, 2020 Labor Day Holiday

8:30 AM Private Mass Ana Bui Nhan† Peter Huong Phan†

Tuesday, September 08, 2020

8:30 AM Private Mass Joseph Cao Bich Hoa† Dr. Jason Hwang†

Wednesday, September 09, 2020

8:30 AM Private Mass Yu Po Lin† Dr. Jason Hwang†

Thursday, September 10, 2020

8:30 AM Private Mass Yu Po Lin† Dr. Jason Hwang†

Friday, September 11, 2020

8:00 AM Fr. Andrew Simon Darenbourg† Leoderacio Villafranca†

Saturday, September 12, 2020

8:30 AM Private Mass

4:00 PM Confessions Fr. Thai

5:00 PM Private Mass Ramon Lai† Patrick Yiu†

Sunday, September 13, 2020

8:00 AM Fr. Andrew Yo Po Lin† Eric C. Vilafranca†

9:15 AM Fr. Thai Dr. Jason Hwang†

10:30 AM Fr. Thai Rafael Garcia Sr.†

12:30 PM Private Mass

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

- Tuesday, Sept. 8 the at 8 AM:
Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Thursday, Sept. 10 at 5 PM
- Friday, Sept. 11 at 8 AM

PARISH CHURCH CLOSED

Mass will be celebrated outdoors in a tent between the church and hall

Confessions

- Saturday 4:00 pm (in the church)

Masses

- Friday 8:00 am
- Sunday 8:00 am & 9:15 am in English
- Sunday 10:30 am in Spanish

- All attendees and volunteers must wear face masks
- Observe social distancing of six-feet
- Do not have COVID-19, any symptoms, or flu-like symptoms

Visit the STM website for more information.
God Bless! Fr. Thai Le

Please Pray for the Sick

Fr. Jeremiah O'Neill

A Lucia Adame	M Christopher Maimone
Mary Louise Aluzzi	Danilo Magsino
Elias Alvarez	Ruben Magsino
Francis Araiza	Evelyn Manza
Noreen Arroyo	Ariana Alonso Morales
Kelly Artozgui	Barbara Moreno
George Astacio	Bertha Moreno
Rosa Astacio	Fred Maroon
Brianna Ayestas	Felipe Martinez
B Aletha Bailey	Henrietta Martinez
Carla Baker	Jean Miceli
Michele Baker	Arianne Miller
Harlene Breau	Cheryl Morten
Steven Brown	Betty Murray
Tod and Rose Marie Brown	N Gloria Natividad
C Rita Campanella	Mario Nieto
Celia Carmona	John Ng
Erik M. Casillas	O Rosaleen Ocampo
Daniel Cerpa	P Arcadio Pablo
Joan Cervantes	Alebert Pelaez
Patricia Cisneros	Fernando Parra
Leah Grace Cisneros	Ernestina Placencia
Roman Covarrubias	R Virginia Reyes
Rosalba Covarrubias	Cheryl Ann Reynoso
Catalina Cruz	Ryan Reynoso
Mary Louise Cruz	Salvador Reynoso
D Imelda De La Cruz	Laura Rico
Julio Diaz	Francisco Rios
Do Duong	Armando Rivera
Jesus M. Dulay	Domenic Rizzi
E Jan Edwards	Sylvia Rodriguez
F Donna Finocchio	Mike Romano
Louis Finocchio	S Mason Saldaña
Daniel Fuentes	Francisco Sanchez
G Ramona Garcia	Dylan Silva
Daniel Gonzalez	Nicole Smith
Carolina Guzman	Lilian Smitter
I Francisco Ibarra	Connie Sotelo
J Gary Jones	Angie Stockwell
Maria Ivy Lynn Jimenez	T Mike Teong
Raymond Jimenez	Jennies Tiu
K Erin Kametani	V Romeo Villafranca
L Jeff Lamb	Ricardo & Felicidad Villegas
Minoy Lee	Therese Huyen-Duong Thi Vu
Andrea Leija	W Terry Wilson
Pauline Lemire	Janny Wong
Gudalio Lim	Jennifer Wong
David Lindsey	Maria Wong Vasquez
Anna Lovoy	Z Christine Zampese

Pray for the Dead

Lynn Sue Chang
Mariano Cimat Jr.
Simon Darenbourg
Dr. Jason Hwang

Adolphus Jages
Stephanie Ocampo
Mary Rodriguez
Columba Sanchez