

St. Thomas More Catholic Church

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

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday, September 27, 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 stmcatholicalhambra.org
or facebook.com/lacatholics.

ALL EVENTS ARE CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Visit our website at stmcatholicalhambra.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
Sunday	Closed	answering phone calls.

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 stmdrealhambra@gmail.com

Director of Religious Education: Mae Ho
(ext. 139) or (626) 457-5302 stmdrealhambra@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
stmlifeteenymc@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 — When the wicked turn away from their wickedness they have committed and do what is right, they shall surely live (Ezekiel 18:25-28).

Psalm — Remember your mercies, O Lord (Psalm 25).

Second Reading — Consider others as better than yourselves; look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others (Philippians 2:1-11 [1-5]).

Gospel — Tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you (Matthew 21:28-32).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Jb 1:6-22; Ps 17:1bcd-3, 6-7; Lk 9:46-50

Tuesday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a; Ps 138:1-5;
Jn 1:47-51

Wednesday: Jb 9:1-12, 14-16; Ps 88:10bc-15; Lk 9:57-62

Thursday: Jb 19:21-27; Ps 27:7-9abc, 13-14; Lk 10:1-12

Friday: Jb 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5; Ps 139:1-3, 7-10,
13-14ab; Mt 18:1-5

Saturday: Jb 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17; Ps 119:66, 71, 75,
91, 125, 130; Lk 10:17-24

Sunday: Is 5:1-7; Ps 80:9, 12-16, 19-20; Phil 4:6-9;
Mt 21:33-43

LECTURAS DE HOY

Primera lectura — Apártate del pecado para que vivas (Ezequiel 18:25-28).

Salmo — Recuerda tus bondades, oh Señor (Salmo 25 [24]).

Segunda lectura — Guarda en ti la misma actitud que está también en Cristo Jesús (Filipenses 2:1-11 [1-5]).

Evangelio — El que obedece al Señor aunque sea con resistencia, es el que hace la voluntad del Padre (Mateo 21:28-32).

LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Lunes: Jb 1:6-22; Sal 17 (16):1bcd-3, 6-7; Lc 9:46-50

Martes: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 o Ap 12:7-12a;
Sal 138 (137):1-5; Jn 1:47-51

Miércoles: Job 9:1-12, 14-16; Sal 88 (87):10bc-15; Lc 9:57-62

Jueves: Job 19:21-27; Sal 27 (26):7-9abc, 13-14; Lc 10:1-12

Viernes: Job 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5; Sal 139 (138):1-3,
7-10, 13-14ab; Mt 18:1-5

Sábado: Job 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17; Sal 119 (118):66, 71,
75, 91, 125, 130; Lc 10:17-24

Domingo: Is 5:1-7; Sal 80 (79):9, 12-16, 19-20;
Fil 4:6-9; Mt 21:33-43



Humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but also for those of others.

Philippians 2:3-4

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER
27
2020

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St. Thomas More Eucharistic Celebrations

OUTDOOR TENT MASSES



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

OUTDOOR/TENT LOT MASSES

Due to COVID-19, STM will be holding masses in a tent between the church and hall. The church will only remain open for confessions on Saturdays.

REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDELINES

Follow all traffic directions for everyone's safety. Please do not attend if you have tested positive, have any symptoms, or are expected to self-quarantine.

Face coverings are required at all times.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Always maintain six-feet distance from others. Member from the same household may sit close 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 potentially deadly illness. Attending mass is voluntary and a personal decision. St. Thomas More cannot accept responsibility for your personal choice to attend mass. Please consider the risks, your health, and alternatives before attending any public event.

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

Welcome our new Sunday Religious Director!

The future of every child is not merely teaching them how to read and write with evident fluency, but also able to process life's journey with active inner strength. Children who grow in knowledge will never journey alone—Jesus walks with them! With expertise and encouragement, children can know God and grow in His love. A child's wonderful journey can begin here at St. Thomas More Catholic Parish through Sunday Religious Programs.

Understanding the importance of the Catholic faith in the lives and future of children, I entrust Gabriella Ramos with the position of Director of Catechetical Sunday School.

We pray that God's Spirit will guide her as she prepares and introduces Jesus to your children.

God bless!

Fr. Thai Le

I am very excited to begin my new position of Director of Catechetical Sunday School. In the past 14 years I have taught the Catholic faith and shared my love for Christ with students ages 2-18 years old. I served as Assistant Coordinator of Youth Ministry & Confirmation for the past 7 years. With Christ as our center, we will be diving in together into our faith. I look forward to journeying with you all.

God Bless,

Gabriella Ramos

Director of Catechetical Sunday School

(626) 284-8333 x 139 | stmdeahambra@gmail.com

Thank you!

Collections for 9/20/20

	Envelopes	Loose	Total
8:00 AM	\$545.00	\$139.00	\$684.00
9:15 AM	\$506.00	\$152.00	\$658.00
10:30 AM	\$176.00	\$181.00	\$357.00
By Mail and Online	\$2,665.00		\$2,665.00
Building Fund	\$150.00		\$150.00
Special Projects	\$81.00		\$81.00
Altar Society	\$40.00		\$40.00
School Support	\$30.00		\$30.00
	\$4,193.00	\$472.00	\$4,665.00



Hello!

There was a man who left his career and family to become a Buddhist monk. While he was undergoing the spiritual discipline of a monastery lifestyle, he struggled with one thing; a bicycle he left at his parents' house. The bike was a sentimental gift from his grandpa that reminded him of good memories. Some nights he was restless and unable to sleep thinking about it, even if only to touch the bike. So, he cited various reasons to take leave from the monastery and see his parents. His superior discovered his attachment and requested he must make a rational choice. Upon visiting his parents' home for the last time, he must carry his bike to a mountaintop and throw it into the sea, shouting, "I won." While he still had many battles to fight with, he has won the first one!

There are many images of objects embedded in our minds, and of loved ones that are no longer with us. Sometimes we collect things while visiting famous places or remind of important events. We might collect countless sentimental or valuable treasures over many-many years. Letting go of our prized possessions is not an easy thing to do, even as we realize they will not last forever and cannot come with us into the next life.

Today's readings highlight the significance of social, physical, and mental detachment. In the gospel, Jesus makes a bold statement when he says that tax collectors and prostitutes will enter heaven before the pious chief priests and elders. Prostitutes demean the sanctity of the human body and lure others into dark lifestyles. Similarly, tax collectors were permitted a surcharged and kept the difference as *payment*. Of course, tax collectors would overcharge, effectively *stealing*. Why does Jesus say such repulsive figures will enter heaven first in this teaching?

Jesus implies that folks like prostitutes and tax collectors can open their hearts and listen to Jesus' teaching. The chief priests and elders have more earthly attachments and will not let them go so quickly: They will close their hearts and refuse to hear Jesus' words! Sinners know they cannot become better until they give up their sinful ways. They have touched the lowest level of their existence and realize that their lives are empty and meaningless. At the end of each day, they come face-to-face with emptiness and loneliness. When they heard His words, they could see themselves through their own eyes. They indeed repented.

Our natural tendency is to seek good. Longing for good is not enough! We must pray for God's grace and inspiration to enable us to leave behind our *false selves* and grasp our true and eternal nature so we can grow deeper in our relationship with Our Lord.

We are undergoing the mysterious Covid-19 virus, wildfires, and even earthquakes recently. People who we used to sit with are no longer with us. We have seen the separation between loved ones in recent months due to quarantines and travel restrictions. We have seen the world, society, communities, and families change over the last few months. Yet, we remain practicing our faith with trust in God, which is an unprecedented exception! God has gifted each one of us with great stamina. His blessings provide us solace when we face such exceptionally difficult times.

The Buddhist monk could not rest until his mind aligned with his body and spirit to find his true self. In his famous prayer, St. Augustine wrote, "You have made us for yourself, Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you." The tax collectors, prostitutes, and all sinners are changed forever when they surrender their weaknesses and embrace Jesus' teachings.

God bless!

Fr. Thai

¡Hola!

Hubo un hombre que dejó su carrera y su familia para convertirse en monje budista. Mientras se sometía a la disciplina espiritual del estilo de vida de un monasterio, luchaba con una cosa; una bicicleta que dejó en casa de sus padres. La bicicleta fue un regalo sentimental de su abuelo que le traía buenos recuerdos. Algunas noches estaba inquieto y no podía dormir pensando en eso, aunque solo fuera para tocar la bicicleta. Entonces, citó varias razones para despedirse del monasterio y ver a sus padres. Su superior descubrió su apego y le pidió que hiciera una elección racional. Al visitar la casa de sus padres por última vez, debe llevar su bicicleta a la cima de una montaña y arrojarla al mar, gritando: "Gané". Si bien todavía tenía muchas batallas con las que luchar, ¡gane la primera!

Hay muchas imágenes de objetos incrustados en nuestras mentes y de seres queridos que ya no están con nosotros. A veces coleccionamos cosas mientras visitamos lugares famosos o recordamos eventos importantes. Podríamos recolectar innumerables tesoros sentimentales o valiosos durante muchos, muchos años. Dejar ir nuestras posesiones más preciadas no es algo fácil de hacer, incluso cuando nos damos cuenta de que no durarán para siempre y no pueden acompañarnos a la próxima vida.

Las lecturas de hoy resaltan la importancia del desapego social, físico y mental. En el evangelio, Jesús hace una declaración audaz cuando dice que los recaudadores de impuestos y las prostitutas entrarán al cielo antes que los piadosos sumos sacerdotes y ancianos. Las prostitutas degradan la santidad del cuerpo humano y atraen a otros a estilos de vida oscuros. De manera similar, a los recaudadores de impuestos se les permitió un recargo y mantuvieron la diferencia como pago. Por supuesto, los recaudadores de impuestos cobrarían de más, robando efectivamente. ¿Por qué dice Jesús que figuras tan repulsivas entrarán al cielo primero en esta enseñanza?

Jesús da a entender que personas como las prostitutas y los recaudadores de impuestos pueden abrir su corazón y escuchar las enseñanzas de Jesús. Los principales sacerdotes y los ancianos tienen más apegos terrenales y no los dejarán ir tan rápido: cerrarán sus corazones y se negarán a escuchar las palabras de Jesús. Los pecadores saben que no pueden mejorar hasta que abandonen sus caminos pecaminosos. Han tocado el nivel más bajo de su existencia y se dan cuenta de que sus vidas están vacías y sin sentido. Al final de cada día, se encuentran cara a cara con el vacío y la soledad. Cuando escucharon sus palabras, pudieron verse a sí mismos a través de sus propios ojos. De hecho, se arrepintieron.

Nuestra tendencia natural es buscar el bien. ¡Anhelar el bien no es suficiente! Debemos orar por la gracia y la inspiración de Dios para que podamos dejar atrás nuestro falso yo y comprender nuestra verdadera y eterna naturaleza para que podamos profundizar en nuestra relación con Nuestro Señor.

Estamos sufriendo el misterioso virus Covid-19, incendios forestales e incluso terremotos recientemente. Las personas con las que solíamos sentarnos ya no están con nosotros. Hemos visto la separación entre seres queridos en los últimos meses debido a las cuarentenas y restricciones de viaje. Hemos visto cambiar el mundo, la sociedad, las comunidades y las familias en los últimos meses. Sin embargo, seguimos practicando nuestra fe con confianza en Dios, ¡lo cual es una excepción sin precedentes! Dios nos ha regalado a cada uno de nosotros una gran resistencia. Sus bendiciones nos brindan consuelo cuando enfrentamos momentos tan excepcionalmente difíciles.

El monje budista no pudo descansar hasta que su mente se alineara con su cuerpo y espíritu para encontrar su verdadero yo. En su famosa oración, San Agustín escribió: "Nos has hecho para ti, Señor, y nuestro corazón está inquieto hasta que descanse en ti". Los recaudadores de impuestos, las prostitutas y todos los pecadores cambian para siempre cuando rinden sus debilidades y abrazan las enseñanzas de Jesús.

¡Dios bendiga!

P. Thai Le

MASS SCHEDULE and INTENTIONS

Saturday, September 26, 2020

8:30 AM Private Mass

4:00 PM Confessions Fr. Thai

5:00 PM Private Mass Patrick Yiu† Beatrice Padilla†

Sunday, September 27, 2020

8:00 AM Fr. Andrew Yo Po Lin† Andres Patron† Ana Zenzola†

9:15 AM Fr. Andrew Dr. Jason Hwang† Lydia Hernandez†
Robert Bracamontes†

10:30 AM Fr. Thai Rafael Garcia Jr. † Adalberto Raigoza†
Francisco Ibarra†

12:30 PM Private Mass

Monday, September 28, 2020

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

Tuesday, September 29, 2020

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

Wednesday, September 30, 2020

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

Thursday, October 1, 2020

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

Friday, October 2, 2020

8:00 AM Fr. Thai Fr. Thai Le & Family

Saturday, October 3, 2020

8:30 AM Private Mass

4:00 PM Confessions Fr. Thai

5:00 PM Private Mass Patrick Yiu† Dr. Jason Hwang†

Sunday, October 4, 2020

8:00 AM Fr. Andrew Yo Po Lin† Familia Sanchez-Flores: Healing

9:15 AM Fr. Thai Dr. Jason Hwang† Familia Rodriguez: Healing

10:30 AM Fr. Thai Ramonda Gracia: Birthday
Familia Montañez: Healing

12:30 PM Private Mass

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 Artzgui	Barbara Moreno
George Astacio	Bertha Moreno
Rosa Astacio	Fred Maroon
Brianna Aystas	Felipe Martinez
B Aletha Bailey	Henrietta Martinez
Carla Baker	Jean Miceli
Michele Baker	Familia Montañez-Flores
Harlene Breaux	Arianne Miller
Steven Brown	Cheryl Morten
Tod and Rose Marie Brown	Betty Murray
C Rita Campanella	N Gloria Natividad
Celia Carmona	Mario Nieto
Erik M. Casillas	John Ng
Daniel Cerpa	O Rosaleen Ocampo
Joan Cervantes	P Arcadio Pablo
Eli Chavez	Alebert Pelaez
Patricia Cisneros	Fernando Parra
Leah Grace Cisneros	Ernestina Placencio
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	Juan Rios
Jesus M. Dulay	Armando Rivera
E Jan Edwards	Familia Rivera
F Donna Finocchio	Domenic Rizzi
Louis Finocchio	Familia Rodriguez-Flores
Familia Flores	Mike Romano
Daniel Fuentes	S Mason Saldaña
G Ramona Garcia	Familia Sanchez-Flores
Claudia Godinez	Francisco Sanchez
Daniel Gonzalez	Dylan Silva
Carolina Guzman	Nicole Smith
I Francisco Ibarra	Lilian Smitter
J Gary Jones	Connie Sotelo
Maria Ivy Lynn Jimenez	Angie Stockwell
Raymond Jimenez	T Mike Teong
K Erin Kametani	Jennies Tiu
L Jeff Lamb	V Romeo Villafranca
Minoy Lee	Ricardo & Felicidad Villegas
Andrea Leija	Therese Huyen-Duong Thi Vu
Pauline Lemire	W Terry Wilson
Gudalio Lim	Janny Wong
David Lindsey	Jennifer Wong
Anna Lovoy	Maria Wong Vasquez
	Z Christine Zampese

Pray for the Dead

Dr. Jason Hwang
Robert Bracamontes
Lydia Hernandez
Adolphus Lages

Stephanie Ocampo
Bernal Rivera
Sylvia Rodriguez
Columba Sanchez