

St. Thomas More Catholic Church

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

First Sunday of Advent
Sunday, November 29, 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: Gabriella Ramos
(ext. 139) or (626) 457-5302 stmccatholicalhambra@gmail.com

Director of Religious Education: Gabriella Ramos
(ext. 139) or (626) 457-5302 stmccatholicalhambra@gmail.com

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

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

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

Parish Secretary: Lucia Alcantar
(ext. 112) stmccatholicsecretary@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@stmccatholicalhambra.org



Advent Schedule-2020

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary	Tuesday, December 8, 8 AM (E), 6 PM (S)
Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe	Saturday, December 12, 8 AM (E), 4:30 PM (S)
Penance Services	Sunday, December 13, Noon
Children's Christmas Eve Mass	Thursday, December 24, 4 PM
Christmas Eve Vigil	Thursday, December 24, 6 PM (Bilingual)
Christmas Day, English	Friday, December 25, 8 AM, 9:15 AM
Christmas Day, Spanish	Friday, December 25, 10:30 AM

Thank You

Collections for 11/22/20

	Envelopes	Loose	Total
All Masses	\$1,415.00	\$623.00	\$2,038.00
By Mail and Online	\$1,415.00		\$1,415.00
Building Fund	\$342.00		\$342.00
Special Projects	\$32.00		\$32.00
Thanksgiving	\$177.00		\$177.00
School Support	\$110.00		\$110.00
	\$3,491.00	\$623.00	\$4,114.00

Campaign for Human Development \$232.00

Reading 1

IS 63:16B-17, 19B; 64:2-7

You, LORD, are our father, our redeemer you are named forever. Why do you let us wander, O LORD, from your ways, and harden our hearts so that we fear you not? Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your heritage. Oh, that you would end the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you, while you wrought awesome deeds we could not hope for, such as they had not heard of from of old. No ear has ever heard, no eye ever seen, any God but you doing such deeds for those who wait for him.

Would that you might meet us doing right, that we were mindful of you in our ways! Behold, you are angry, and we are sinful; all of us have become like unclean people, all our good deeds are like polluted rags; we have all withered like leaves, and our guilt carries us away like the wind. There is none who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to cling to you; for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us up to our guilt. Yet, O LORD, you are our father; we are the clay and you the potter: we are all the work of your hands.

Responsorial Psalm

PS 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hearken, from your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth. Rouse your power, and come to save us.

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Once again, O LORD of hosts, look down from heaven, and see; take care of this vine, and protect what your right hand has planted the son of man whom you yourself made strong.

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

May your help be with the man of your right hand, with the son of man whom you yourself made strong. Then we will no more withdraw from you; give us new life, and we will call upon your name.

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Reading II

1 COR 1:3-9

Brothers and sisters: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always on your account for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus, that in him you were enriched in every way, with all discourse and all knowledge, as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you, so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will keep you firm to the end, irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Alleluia

PS 85:8

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Show us Lord, your love; and grant us your salvation.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

MK 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch.

Watch, therefore; you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"



Hello!

In Greek mythology, Narcissus was a hunter known for his beauty. Narcissus was very vain and downgraded those who fell in love with him. Notably, he had never had the opportunity to see his own face. One day he went to the forest and bowed down by a pool to drink water. He saw an image of a pretty person in it and fell in love with the image. One day he tried to kiss the beautiful image in the pool only to find out that he kissed the spring water; no one was there. Narcissus thought that he was falling in love with someone else, but the truth is that he was projecting himself on another person whom he expected would satisfy his desires. Narcissus's false image led him to worship his image from which he could not leave and be free.

Today's first reading reflects similar elements. The prophet Isaiah saw Israel's people were struggling in the darkness of sins and lost their identity. They idolized their inner designs in which they projected outwardly and enticed the whole community. They set up their idols, preferences, morals, and rules and enjoyed them, all while their morality and identities were drifting. He realized that only God could convert and bring them back to where they belonged. Thus, he pleads that God should open the sky and come down to remove the flaw from the people of Israel.

Indeed, God listened to the cry of Isaiah and those who had faith and hope in Him. Hence, God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to the world, guiding them to rediscover their identity. Celebrating our guide, Jesus Christ, is the Advent Season's purpose, which we begin to celebrate this Sunday. We experience God's guidance and strength in our daily life, and we must prepare and receive God's gift.

Sometimes, we see ourselves in the people of Israel. Most currently, we see ourselves, and society, in dark times of disease, illness, isolation, loss, and uncertainty. Some people may have lost their focus on family, God, religion, and Church. People of faith trust in God may find themselves blaming God and lamenting like Isaiah, "Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you." Like, the prophet Isaiah and the Israelites, we want to find peace and hope in our lives and homes.

Nonetheless, we need to pray so that we can focus on God's strength rather than our strength – that is, our own images. God helps us realize that we cannot save our lives by ourselves because we can never transcend our earthly limitations. Only Divine Power can transcend our fears, struggles, and confusion into love, peace, and joy even amid political, social, substantial, and financial sufferings.

Through Jesus' Incarnation, God has indeed opened heaven to come down to save us from the darkness of sin and suffering. The questions that remain for us are: Do we have the courage and intention to rearrange ourselves spiritually to receive Jesus? Can we surrender our egos? Can we look away from our reflections and look to Jesus? These times can be a good opportunity for us to discover something new about ourselves, our family members, the Church, and God that we otherwise never would have thought about except during such a pandemic.

During these four weeks of this Advent Season, let us light up the four candles of hope while our families pray together. Let's take time to look away from ourselves and any confusion, fear, or despair, and invite God's Son into our hearts, minds, souls, and families.

Narcissus missed the opportunity to see nature's beauty because of his arrogance, his mind trapped in a selfish illusion. The Israelites were proud of themselves, their history, their temple, and their Tabernacle. That selfish pride led them to separation, and they wandered in the desert. We have the Saints in our Church, who, when life brought them to their lowest points and desperation, could find their way back to hope because they allowed God's guiding love to occupy their hearts and minds. We will always face challenges during our daily journeys, but we have Jesus always accompanying us. Be patient and joyful, always watching and following what is good, right, and proper.

God bless!

Fr. Thai Le

¡Hola!

En la mitología griega, Narciso era un cazador conocido por su belleza. Narciso fue muy vanidoso y degradó a los que se enamoraron de él. En particular, nunca había tenido la oportunidad de ver su propio rostro. Un día fue al bosque y se inclinó junto a un estanque para beber agua. Vio una imagen de una persona bonita en ella y se enamoró de la imagen. Un día trató de besar la hermosa imagen en la piscina solo para descubrir que besó el agua del manantial; Nadie estuvo allí. Narciso pensó que se estaba enamorando de otra persona, pero lo cierto es que se estaba proyectando sobre otra persona que esperaba que satisficiera sus deseos. La falsa imagen de Narciso lo llevó a adorar su imagen de la que no podía salir y ser libre.

La primera lectura de hoy refleja elementos similares. El profeta Isaías vio que el pueblo de Israel estaba luchando en la oscuridad de los pecados y perdió su identidad. Ellos idolatrarón sus diseños internos en los que proyectaban hacia afuera y atraían a toda la comunidad. Establecieron sus ídolos, preferencias, morales y reglas y las disfrutaron, todo mientras su moralidad e identidades iban a la deriva. Se dio cuenta de que solo Dios podía convertirlos y traerlos de regreso a donde pertenecían. Por lo tanto, ruega a Dios que abra el cielo y baje para eliminar el defecto del pueblo de Israel.

De hecho, Dios escuchó el clamor de Isaías y de aquellos que tenían fe y esperanza en él. Por eso, Dios envió a su Hijo Jesucristo al mundo, guiándolos a redescubrir su identidad. Celebrar a nuestro guía, Jesucristo, es el propósito de la Temporada de Adviento, que comenzamos a celebrar este domingo. Experimentamos la guía y la fuerza de Dios en nuestra vida diaria, y debemos prepararnos y recibir el regalo de Dios.

A veces, nos vemos a nosotros mismos en el pueblo de Israel. En la actualidad, nos vemos a nosotros mismos y a la sociedad en tiempos oscuros de enfermedad, aislamiento, pérdida e incertidumbre. Algunas personas pueden haber perdido su enfoque en la familia, Dios, la religión y la Iglesia. Las personas de fe que confían en Dios pueden encontrarse culpando a Dios y lamentándose como Isaías: "Oh, si rasgaras los cielos y descendieras, con las montañas temblando ante ti". Como el profeta Isaías y los israelitas, queremos encontrar paz y esperanza en nuestras vidas y hogares.

No obstante, debemos orar para poder enfocarnos en la fuerza de Dios en lugar de en nuestra fuerza, es decir, nuestras propias imágenes. Dios nos ayuda a darnos cuenta de que no podemos salvar nuestras vidas por nosotros mismos porque nunca podremos trascender nuestras limitaciones terrenales. Solo el Poder Divino puede trascender nuestros miedos, luchas y confusión en amor, paz y alegría incluso en medio de sufrimientos políticos, sociales, sustanciales y financieros.

A través de la Encarnación de Jesús, Dios ciertamente ha abierto el cielo para descender y salvarnos de la oscuridad del pecado y el sufrimiento. Las preguntas que nos quedan son: ¿Tenemos el valor y la intención de reorganizarnos espiritualmente para recibir a Jesús? ¿Podemos entregar nuestros egos? ¿Podemos apartar la mirada de nuestras reflexiones y mirar a Jesús? Estos tiempos pueden ser una buena oportunidad para que descubramos algo nuevo sobre nosotros mismos, los miembros de nuestra familia, la Iglesia y Dios en lo que de otra manera nunca habríamos pensado excepto durante una pandemia así.

Durante estas cuatro semanas de esta temporada de Adviento, encendamos las cuatro velas de esperanza mientras nuestras familias oran juntas. Tomemos un tiempo para apartar la mirada de nosotros mismos y de cualquier confusión, miedo o desesperación, e invitar al Hijo de Dios a nuestros corazones, mentes, almas y familias.

Narciso perdió la oportunidad de ver la belleza de la naturaleza debido a su arrogancia, su mente atrapada en una ilusión egoísta. Los israelitas estaban orgullosos de sí mismos, de su historia, de su templo y de su tabernáculo. Ese orgullo egoísta los llevó a la separación y vagaron por el desierto. Tenemos a los santos en nuestra Iglesia, quienes, cuando la vida los llevó a su punto más bajo y desesperados, pudieron encontrar el camino de regreso a la esperanza porque permitieron que el amor guía de Dios ocupara sus corazones y mentes. Siempre enfrentaremos desafíos durante nuestros viajes diarios, pero tenemos a Jesús siempre acompañándonos. Sea paciente y alegre, siempre mirando y siguiendo lo que es bueno, correcto y apropiado.

¡Dios bendiga!

P. Thai Le

MASS SCHEDULE and INTENTIONS

Saturday, November 28, 2020

4:00 PM **No Confessions**

Sunday, November 29, 2020

8:00 AM Fr. Thai Anna Tran† Helidorio & Daniel Altamirano†

9:15 AM Fr. Andrew Rodolfo Magturo† Sarah Morente†
Diego Palacios†

10:30 AM Fr. Thai Martha Cano† Manuel Pacheco Jr.: Healing

Monday, November 30, 2020

Tuesday, December 01, 2020

8:00 AM Fr. Thai Maria Elena Alatorre†

Wednesday, December 02, 2020

Thursday, December 03, 2020

Friday, December 04, 2020

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

8:30 AM Adoration

Saturday, December 05, 2020

4:00 PM **Confessions**

Sunday, December 06, 2020

8:00 AM Fr. Andrew Roberto Soriano†
Helidorio & Daniel Altamirano†

9:15 AM Fr. Thai Diego Palacios† Manuel Pacheco Jr.: Healing

10:30 AM Fr. Thai Martha Cano†

First Sunday of Advent Mass

Saturday, Nov. 28 at 4:30 pm

South Parking Lot

Remain in vehicles and Tune radios to 87.9 FM

PARISH CHURCH CLOSED

We will celebrate mass outdoors in the large parking lot south of the church.

Confessions

- First and Third Sundays, or by appointment (meet by the Rectory's garage)

Masses

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

- Everyone 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

Mary Louise Aluzzi

Olivia Altamirano

Elias Alvarez

Francis Araiza

Noreen Arroyo

Kelly Artozgui

George Astacio

Rosa Astacio

B Aletha Bailey

Carla Baker

Michele Baker

Paul Beers

Harlene Breau

C Celia Carmona

Erik M. Casillas

Daniel Cerpa

Eli Chavez

Patricia Cisneros

Leah Grace Cisneros

Roman Covarrubias

Rosalba Covarrubias

Catalina Cruz

Mary Louise Cruz

D Imelda De La Cruz

Julio Diaz

Jesus M. Dulay

Do Duong

E Jan Edwards

F Donna Finocchio

Louis Finocchio

Familia Flores

Daniel Fuentes

G Claudia Godinez

Daniel Gonzalez

J Maria Ivy Lynn Jimenez

Raymond Jimenez

Gary Jones

K Erin Kametani

L Jeff Lamb

Andrea Leija

Pauline Lemire

Gudalio Lim

David Lindsey

Anna Lovoy

M Danilo Magsino

Ruben Magsino

Christopher Maimone

M Evelyn Manza

Felipe Martinez

Henrietta Martinez

Fred Maroon

Jean Miceli

Arianne Miller

Familia Montañez-Flores

Ariana Alonso Morales

Barbara Moreno

Bertha Moreno

Cheryl Morten

Betty Murray

N Gloria Natividad

John Ng

O Rosaleen Ocampo

P Arcadio Pablo

Manuel Pacheco Jr.

Fernando Parra

Albert Pelaez

Thomas Phan

Ernestina Placencia

R Virginia Reyes

Cheryl Ann Reynoso

Ryan Reynoso

Salvador Reynoso

Laura Rico

Francisco Rios

Juan Rios

Armando Rivera

Familia Rivera

Domenic Rizzi

Familia Rodriguez-Flores

S Mason Saldaña

Familia Sanchez-Flores

Francisco Sanchez

Dylan Silva

Nicole Smith

Lilian Smitter

Connie Sotelo

Angie Stockwell

T Mike Teong

Jennies Tiu

V Romeo Villafranca

Ricardo & Felicidad Villegas

Therese Huyen-Duong Thi Vu

W Terry Wilson

Y Teresita Yu

Pray for the Dead

Daniel Altamirano

Helio Altamirano

Orlando A. Dizon

Armando Martinez Sr.

Robert Natividad

Louie Richard Ortiz

Diego Palacios

Vincent Sotelo