

St. Thomas More Catholic Church

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

Second Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 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: 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 11/29/20

	Envelopes	Loose	Total
Sunday Masses	\$1,440.00	\$605.00	\$2,045.00
Thanksgiving Masses	\$1,125.00	\$288.00	\$1,413.00
By Mail and Online	\$1,475.00		\$1,475.00
Building Fund	\$590.00		\$590.00
Christmas Flowers	\$20.00		\$20.00
School Support	\$60.00		\$60.00
	\$4,710.00	\$893.00	\$5,603.00

Reading 1

IS 40:1-5, 9-11

Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated; indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; the rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Go up on to a high mountain, Zion, herald of glad tidings; cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem, herald of good news! Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God! Here comes with power the Lord GOD, who rules by his strong arm; here is his reward with him, his recompense before him. Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care.

Responsorial Psalm

PS 85:9-10-11-12, 13-14

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what God proclaims; the LORD—for he proclaims peace to his people. Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him, glory dwelling in our land.

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Kindness and truth shall meet; justice and peace shall kiss. Truth shall spring out of the earth, and justice shall look down from heaven.

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

The LORD himself will give his benefits; our land shall yield its increase.

Justice shall walk before him, and prepare the way of his steps.

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Reading 2

2 PT 3:8-14

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day. The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard “delay,” but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar and the elements will be dissolved by fire, and the earth and everything done on it will be found out.

Since everything is to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be, conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved in flames and the elements melted by fire. But according to his promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you await these things, be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace.

Alleluia

LK 3:4, 6

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: All flesh shall see the salvation of God.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

MK 1:1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.” John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins.

John was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: “One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”



Hello!

A few years ago, while waiting for my flight at an airport, I met a Buddhist monk from whom I had the opportunity to meet and delve into the depth of his religion and its practices. I asked him about the types of Buddhist meditations and their benefits. From him, I learned that most meditation methods help us reconnect our mind and body. The world and daily events bring numerous doubts. Facing uncertainties affect our ways of thinking and functioning. Similarly, religions and various spiritual practices help reconnect us with Divine Power and our surroundings in a profound sense.

found sense.

Today's readings reflect a sense of rediscovering or reconnecting with oneself. The prophet Isaiah addresses the Israelites during an excruciating period. They lost their houses, communities, and homelands. Furthermore, they were slaves in foreign lands. Amid confusion and affliction, the prophet Isaiah instills hope and comfort, reminding the Israelites that God understands their suffering and pain. Nevertheless, they needed to get in touch with their *inner selves* to sense God's faithfulness.

The phrase "prepare the ways" spoken by Isaiah is concretized by John the Baptist in today's gospel. John calls out in the desert, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." John helps the listeners recognize their sins and to repent through baptism for the forgiveness of their sins. Repenting is not just about remembering a few sins and past mistakes and confessing to God to have peace of mind. Such acts are merely an external display. In contrast, repentance, first and foremost, is to return to one's inner room and begin from there. Thus, our internal space is the real beginning of a spiritual process that affects our minds and bodies.

Separated from their true God, the Israelites formed substitution gods to satisfy their thirst for pleasure. Unfortunately, none of those gods could bring them peace and comfort. That is why, in today's reading, God said to the prophet, "Comfort, give comfort to my people." Isaiah knew well the Israelites could only be comforted by God.

Are we prepared to allow Jesus to arrive in our lives and home? What barriers do we hold within our hearts and memories that we need to understand to prepare the way for Jesus? Sometimes I hear people say, "I feel that God cannot forgive my bad stuff." Alternatively, "Whatever I confess, I am unworthy to make reparation for my past sins." It could be some sins like separation, stealing, harmful words of revenge, unfaithful Catholics, abortion, divorces, unfaithfulness as a spouse, and so forth.

Each morning after waking up, we carry a burden of guilt that we hold throughout each day. The heavier the guilt we bear, the greater distance we distance ourselves from our Savior. Some day we may feel the forces of sorrow, regret, or resentment from within weighing us down, and we can't find the willpower to keep going. God knew the Israelites were suffering in pain. God knew we are suffering because of our past acts, which is the reason God sent Jesus to save us from the burden of our past. The Incarnation of Jesus erases our past sins, guilt, and resentments so we can make way for His love and forgiveness for us.

If some meditation methods bring our minds back to our bodies, we can try practicing them. Indeed, some days we feel our heads run faster than our bodies and visa-versa. However, we can find a comfortable space to sit for a while without distractions, like people, noises, and devices. We can call this our "time to hang around with God." Alternatively, we could find peace through reading psalms and other Bible verses. Regardless of how we meditate, it is essential to take some time and focus our energy and pray, say, or think things that are meaningful to us.

We could not celebrate Jesus Christ's, our Savior's, birth if John the Baptist did not first repent and fast. He changed his attitude to that of repentance. If we do not hear and adopt his words, then we will never meet Christ. To celebrate the birth of our Savior, we must renew, repent, return, and rediscover our identity—we belong to God.

God bless!
Fr. Thai Le

¡Hola!

Hace unos años, mientras esperaba mi vuelo en un aeropuerto, conocí a un monje budista con quien tuve la oportunidad de conocer y ahondar en la profundidad de su religión y sus prácticas. Le pregunté sobre los tipos de meditaciones budistas y sus beneficios. De él aprendí que la mayoría de los métodos de meditación nos ayudan a reconectar nuestra mente y nuestro cuerpo. El mundo y los acontecimientos diarios traen numerosas dudas. Enfrentarse a las incertidumbres afecta nuestra forma de pensar y de funcionar. De manera similar, las religiones y diversas prácticas espirituales nos ayudan a reconectarnos con el Poder Divino y nuestro entorno en un sentido profundo.

Las lecturas de hoy reflejan una sensación de redescubrimiento o reconexión con uno mismo. El profeta Isaías se dirige a los Israelitas durante un período insoportable. Perdieron sus casas, comunidades y patrias. Además, eran esclavos en tierras extranjeras. En medio de la confusión y la aflicción, el profeta Isaías infunde esperanza y consuelo, recordando a los Israelitas que Dios comprende su sufrimiento y dolor. Sin embargo, necesitaban ponerse en contacto con su ser interior para sentir la fidelidad de Dios.

La frase "preparar el camino" de Isaías la centra Juan el Bautista en el evangelio de hoy. Juan grita en el desierto: "Preparar el camino del Señor, enderezar sus rutas". Juan ayuda a los oyentes a reconocer sus pecados y a arrepentirse mediante el bautismo para el perdón de sus pecados. Arrepentirse no se trata solo de recordar algunos pecados y errores pasados y confesarle a Dios que tiene paz mental. Tales actos son simplemente una exhibición externa. En contraste, el arrepentimiento, ante todo, es regresar a la habitación interior de uno y comenzar desde allí. Por lo tanto, nuestro espacio interno es el verdadero comienzo de un proceso espiritual que afecta nuestra mente y nuestro cuerpo.

Separados de su Dios verdadero, los Israelitas formaron Dioses sustitutos para satisfacer su sed de placer. Desafortunadamente, ninguno de esos Dioses pudo brindarles paz y consuelo. Por eso, en la lectura de hoy, Dios le dijo al profeta: "Consuelo, da consuelo a mi pueblo". Isaías sabía bien que los Israelitas solo podían ser consolados por Dios.

¿Estamos preparados para permitir que Jesús llegue a nuestras vidas y a nuestro hogar? ¿Qué barreras tenemos dentro de nuestros corazones y memorias que necesitamos entender para preparar el camino para Jesús? A veces escucho a la gente decir: "Siento que Dios no puede perdonar mis cosas malas". Alternativamente, "Cualquier cosa que confiese, no soy digno de reparar mis pecados pasados". Pueden ser algunos pecados como separación, robo, palabras dañinas de venganza, Católicos infieles, aborto, divorcios, infidelidad como cónyuge, etc.

Cada mañana, después de despertar, cargamos con una carga de culpa que cargamos a lo largo de cada día. Cuanto más pesada es la culpa que llevamos, mayor distancia nos distanciamos de nuestro Salvador. Algún día podemos sentir las fuerzas de la tristeza, el arrepentimiento o el resentimiento desde adentro que nos agobian, y no podemos encontrar la fuerza de voluntad para seguir adelante. Dios sabía que los Israelitas estaban sufriendo de dolor. Dios sabía que estábamos sufriendo debido a nuestros actos pasados, que es la razón por la que Dios envió a Jesús para salvarnos de la carga de nuestro pasado. La Encarnación de Jesús borra nuestros pecados pasados, culpa y resentimientos para que podamos dar paso a Su amor y perdón por nosotros.

Si algunos métodos de meditación devuelven nuestra mente a nuestro cuerpo, podemos intentar practicarlos. De hecho, algunos días sentimos que nuestras cabezas corren más rápido que nuestros cuerpos y viceversa. Sin embargo, podemos encontrar un espacio cómodo para sentarnos un rato sin distracciones, como personas, ruidos y dispositivos. Podemos llamar a esto nuestro "tiempo para estar con Dios". Alternativamente, podríamos encontrar paz leyendo salmos y otros versículos de la Biblia. Independientemente de cómo meditemos, es esencial tomarnos un tiempo y enfocar nuestra energía y orar, decir o pensar cosas que sean significativas para nosotros.

No podríamos celebrar el nacimiento de Jesucristo, nuestro Salvador, si Juan el Bautista no se arrepintiera y ayunara primero. Cambió su actitud a la del arrepentimiento. Si no escuchamos y adoptamos sus palabras, nunca encontraremos a Cristo. Para celebrar el nacimiento de nuestro Salvador, debemos renovarnos, arrepentirnos, regresar y redescubrir nuestra identidad: pertenecemos a Dios.

¡Dios bendiga!

P. Thai Le

MASS SCHEDULE and INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 05, 2020

4:00 PM Confessions

4:30 PM Fr. Thai Patrick Yiu†

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,
Mary Teong: Birthday

10:30 AM Fr. Thai Martha Cano†

Monday, December 07, 2020

Tuesday, December 08, 2020 *Immaculate Conception*

8:00 AM Fr. Thai Jerry Lemire†

6:00 PM Fr. Andrew Parishioners of St. Thomas More

Wednesday, December 09, 2020

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Friday, December 11, 2020

8:00 AM Fr. Andrew Teresa Vicky Phan†

8:30 AM Adoration

Saturday, December 12, 2020 *Our Lady of Guadalupe*

4:00 PM Confessions

4:30 PM Fr. Thai Patrick Yiu†

Sunday, December 13, 2020

8:00 AM Fr. Thai Clint Rau† Peter Sinh Nguyen†

9:15 AM Fr. Thai Vincent Sotelo† Roberto Natividad†

10:30 AM Fr. Thai Rafael Garcia Sr.†
Albert & Gertrude Hernandez†

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