

# St. Thomas More Catholic Church

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

## Third Sunday of Advent Sunday, December 13, 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](http://stmccatholicalhambra.org)  
or [facebook.com/lacatholics](https://facebook.com/lacatholics).

ALL EVENTS ARE CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Visit our website at [stmccatholicalhambra.org](http://stmccatholicalhambra.org)  
for more information and updates.

### PARISH OFFICE (RECTORY) HOURS

|               |              |                                                    |
|---------------|--------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Monday-Friday | 8 AM to 5 PM | <b>**Closed to the Public**</b>                    |
| Saturday      | Closed       | Office hours are for staffing only;                |
| Sunday        | Closed       | responding to emails and<br>answering phone calls. |

### PARISH STAFF

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

**Pastor:** Fr. Thai Le  
(ext. 110) [frthaile@yahoo.com](mailto:frthaile@yahoo.com)

**Pastor Emeritus:** Rev. Jeremiah O'Neill

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

**Safeguard the Children Contact:** Gabriella Ramos  
(ext. 139) or (626) 457-5302 [stmdrealhambra@gmail.com](mailto:stmdrealhambra@gmail.com)

**Director of Catechetical Sunday School :** Gabriella Ramos  
(ext. 139) or (626) 457-5302 [stmdrealhambra@gmail.com](mailto:stmdrealhambra@gmail.com)

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

**Accounting Manager:** Lucy Lai  
(ext. 141) [acct\\_stm@yahoo.com](mailto:acct_stm@yahoo.com)

**Youth Ministry & Confirmation Coordinator:** Francisco Ramos  
[stm lifeteenymc@gmail.com](mailto:stm lifeteenymc@gmail.com)

**Parish Secretary:** Lucia Alcantar  
(ext. 112) [stm\\_secretary@live.com](mailto: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](http://www.stmcsa.org)

**School Email:** [ngibson@stmfalcons.net](mailto:ngibson@stmfalcons.net)



### 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 12/6/20

|                        | Envelopes         | Loose           | Total             |
|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Sunday Masses          | \$2,006.00        | \$605.00        | \$2,611.00        |
| By Mail and Online     | \$2,935.00        |                 | \$2,935.00        |
| Building Fund          | \$145.00          |                 | \$145.00          |
| Special Projects       | \$125.00          |                 | \$125.00          |
| Thanksgiving Envelopes | \$1,020.00        |                 | \$1,020.00        |
| Immaculate Conception  | \$50.00           |                 | \$50.00           |
| Christmas Flowers      | \$269.00          |                 | \$269.00          |
|                        | <b>\$6,550.00</b> | <b>\$605.00</b> | <b>\$7,155.00</b> |

## Reading 1

IS 61:1-2A, 10-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the LORD and a day of vindication by our God.

I rejoice heartily in the LORD, in my God is the joy of my soul; for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem, like a bride bedecked with her jewels. As the earth brings forth its plants, and a garden makes its growth spring up, so will the Lord GOD make justice and praise spring up before all the nations.

## Responsorial Psalm

LK 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54.

R. (Is 61:10b) **My soul rejoices in my God.**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked upon his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed:

R. **My soul rejoices in my God.**

The Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name. He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.

R. **My soul rejoices in my God.**

He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

R. **My soul rejoices in my God.**

## Reading 2

1 THES 5:16-24

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it.

## Alleluia

IS 61:1 (cited in LK 4:18)

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

## Gospel

JN 1:6-8, 19-28

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?" He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Christ." So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, No."

So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?" He said: "I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord,'" as Isaiah the prophet said."

Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.



Hello!

In his book, “Leading with Honor,” the author, Lee Ellis, a former Air Force pilot, described his personal experiences during his years of captivity in Communist North Vietnamese in the 1960s. When their jets were shot down, they tried to parachute to land safely. Still, they were captured and eventually imprisoned for five to eight years. They were lived in dark cells in a hostile environment with torturous interrogators. They endured starvation, loneliness, and other forms of suffering every day. However, these horrid conditions did not corrupt them. In-

stead, they nurtured the hope that one day they would return to their families and freedom. Where did they get the inspiration for such hope?

Throughout the Advent Season, we hear readings describing the Israelites in captivity: They were slaves and had lost everything excepted their lives. However, God sent them tremendous hope; a new time has arrived. The prophet Isaiah proclaims there are reasons for joy because the brokenhearted are healed, captives set free, and so forth. Let’s reflect upon this for a moment: Imagine being alone with your hands and legs tied up. That would be a terrible and hopeless feeling. However, when someone arrives, that moment presents a powerful sense of hope from within. Your current situation no longer seems hopeless, which triggers a springtime-like renewal from within: It is an incredible feeling.

This same joyous message of hope is resounded in today’s second reading. We read St. Paul expresses a deep sense of joy, not a vague or superficial emotion. St. Paul’s delight is derived from the people’s hearts when they focus their attention toward God’s providential love and care. So we may inherit such happiness, St. Paul lays out an approach for us; rejoice, pray, and always give thanks to God. If we lose ourselves, feeling alone and scared, we can always find joy and hope knowing that God is there for us! If we turn our whole lives to God, His love and wisdom will occupy our minds and hearts. This is the wisdom that helps us to discern the truth and practice God’s commandments. St. Paul reminds us that these practices are gifts from God whose power surpasses all earthly pain and sadness.

Where do we find hope during the Covid-19 pandemic while some of us struggle to open our eyes to wake up each morning? Even visiting with family and friends during this Season is strongly discouraged. We are afraid to infect and be infected by others, mainly those we formerly bonded and worked with. We observe social distancing and lock-down quarantines to prevent the virus’s spread among family members and friends. As a result, we are alone – by ourselves. By cultivating our inner selves and seeking God through prayer, we will trigger our motivation for hope and joy each day. We will come to terms with this reality; we cannot fully comprehend or control everything in life.

For this reason, we ask God for humility and courage to accept that we cannot control. Let us pray for His guidance, wisdom, and perseverance to transform uncertainty and discouragement into hope and joy. By recognizing God’s love for us, anxiety and doubt will not penetrate our thoughts or affect our actions. While today’s world has changed so much, what remains certain forever is God’s promises for us. He sent the Savior of the world to establish a universal love and salvation that ensures His Divine Power remains in our midst.

Lee Ellis and his companions returned to their families and enjoyed their freedom after years in captivity. They got through those dark and painful years physically and psychologically only because they were committed to their faith in God and each other. St. Paul invites us to realize that we are united with Him every time we practice faithful prayer to God. Hope and joy will always follow solemn prayer, even when surrounded by uncertainties, confusion, and discontent. This Sunday is called “Rejoice Sunday” because we prepare to celebrate the Incarnation of Jesus Christ, who brings us closer to God.

God bless!

Fr. Thai Le

¡Hola!

En su libro, "Leading with Honor", el autor, Lee Ellis, un ex piloto de la Fuerza Aérea, describió sus experiencias personales durante sus años de cautiverio en los comunistas norvietnamitas en la década de 1960. Cuando sus aviones fueron derribados, intentaron lanzarse en paracaídas para aterrizar con seguridad. Aún así, fueron capturados y finalmente encarcelados de cinco a ocho años. Fueron vividos en celdas oscuras en un ambiente hostil con torturadores interrogadores. Soportaron hambre, soledad y otras formas de sufrimiento todos los días. Sin embargo, estas horribles condiciones no los corrompieron. En cambio, alimentaron la esperanza de que algún día regresarían con sus familias y su libertad. ¿De dónde sacaron la inspiración para tanta esperanza?

A lo largo de la temporada de Adviento, escuchamos lecturas que describen a los israelitas en cautiverio: eran esclavos y habían perdido todo, excepto sus vidas. Sin embargo, Dios les envió una tremenda esperanza; ha llegado un nuevo tiempo. El profeta Isaías proclama que hay razones para el gozo porque los quebrantados de corazón son sanados, los cautivos liberados, etc. Reflexionemos sobre esto por un momento: Imagínese estar solo con las manos y las piernas atadas. Ese sería un sentimiento terrible y desesperanzador. Sin embargo, cuando llega alguien, ese momento presenta una poderosa sensación de esperanza desde dentro. Su situación actual ya no parece desesperada, lo que desencadena una renovación primaveral desde adentro: es una sensación increíble.

Este mismo alegre mensaje de esperanza resuena en la segunda lectura de hoy. Leemos que San Pablo expresa un profundo sentido de alegría, no una emoción vaga o superficial. El deleite de San Pablo se deriva del corazón de las personas cuando centran su atención en el amor y cuidado providenciales de Dios. Para que podamos heredar tal felicidad, San Pablo nos propone un enfoque; regocijense, oren y den siempre gracias a Dios. Si nos perdemos, sintiéndonos solos y asustados, ¡siempre podemos encontrar gozo y esperanza sabiendo que Dios está ahí para nosotros! Si entregamos toda nuestra vida a Dios, su amor y sabiduría ocuparán nuestras mentes y corazones. Esta es la sabiduría que nos ayuda a discernir la verdad y a practicar los mandamientos de Dios. San Pablo nos recuerda que estas prácticas son dones de Dios cuyo poder supera todo dolor y tristeza terrenales.

¿Dónde encontramos esperanza durante la pandemia de Covid-19 mientras algunos de nosotros luchamos por abrir los ojos para despertarnos cada mañana? Incluso se desaconseja visitar a familiares y amigos durante esta temporada. Tenemos miedo de infectar y ser infectados por otros, principalmente aquellos con los que anteriormente trabajamos y nos unimos. Observamos el distanciamiento social y las cuarentenas de bloqueo para evitar la propagación del virus entre familiares y amigos. Como resultado, estamos solos, solos. Al cultivar nuestro ser interior y buscar a Dios a través de la oración, activaremos nuestra motivación para la esperanza y el gozo cada día. Aceptaremos esta realidad; no podemos comprender o controlar completamente todo en la vida.

Por eso, le pedimos a Dios humildad y valor para aceptar que no podemos controlar. Oremos por su guía, sabiduría y perseverancia para transformar la incertidumbre y el desánimo en esperanza y gozo. Al reconocer el amor de Dios por nosotros, la ansiedad y la duda no penetrarán en nuestros pensamientos ni afectarán nuestras acciones. Si bien el mundo de hoy ha cambiado tanto, lo que permanece seguro para siempre son las promesas de Dios para nosotros. Él envió al Salvador del mundo para establecer un amor y una salvación universales que aseguran que Su Poder Divino permanezca entre nosotros.

Lee Ellis y sus compañeros regresaron con sus familias y disfrutaron de su libertad después de años en cautiverio. Pasaron esos años oscuros y dolorosos física y psicológicamente solo porque estaban comprometidos con su fe en Dios y entre ellos. San Pablo nos invita a darnos cuenta de que estamos unidos a Él cada vez que practicamos la oración fiel a Dios. La esperanza y el gozo siempre seguirán a la oración solemne, incluso cuando estén rodeados de incertidumbres, confusión y descontento. Este domingo se llama "Domingo de Alegría" porque nos preparamos para celebrar la Encarnación de Jesucristo, que nos acerca a Dios.

¡Dios bendiga!

P. Thai Le

**MASS SCHEDULE and INTENTIONS****Saturday, December 12, 2020** *Our Lady of Guadalupe*

8:30 AM Fr. Andrew Parishioners of St. Thomas More

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†  
Candi De Aliza: Blessing9:15 AM Fr. Thai Vincent Sotelo† Roberto Natividad†  
Sister Andrea Johnson: Blessing

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

**Monday, December 14, 2020****Tuesday, December 15, 2020**

8:00 AM Fr. Thai Jerry Lemire†

**Wednesday, December 16, 2020****Thursday, December 17, 2020****Friday, December 18, 2020**

8:00 AM Fr. Andrew Anna Kim Bui†

8:30 AM Adoration

**Saturday, December 19, 2020**

4:00 PM Confessions

4:30 PM Fr. Charles Patrick Yiu† Carlos Garcia†

**Sunday, December 20, 2020**

8:00 AM Fr. Andrew Clint Rau† Teresa Vicky Phan†

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

10:30 AM Fr. Thai Albert & Gertrude Hernandez†  
Juan Garcia: Healing**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 Breaux

**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 &amp; Felicidad Villegas

Therese Huyen-Duong Thi Vu

**W** Terry Wilson**Y** Teresita Yu**Pray for the Dead**

Daniel Altamirano

Hefio Altamirano

Martha Cano

Orlando A. Dizon

Romeo Hernandez

Armando Martinez Sr.

Robert Natividad

Diego Palacios

Vincent Sotelo