

St. Thomas More Catholic Church

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent Sunday, December 20, 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.

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;
Sunday	Closed	responding to emails and 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: Gabriella Ramos
(ext. 139) or (626) 457-5302 stmrealhambra@gmail.com

Director of Catechetical Sunday School : Gabriella Ramos
(ext. 139) or (626) 457-5302 stmrealhambra@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
stmlifetimeenymc@gmail.com

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)

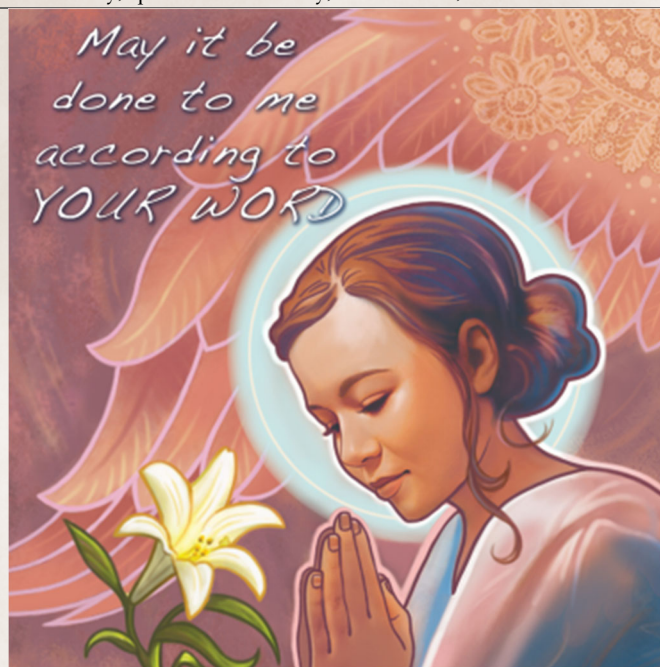
School Website: www.stmcsa.org

School Email: ngibson@stmfalcons.net



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



Reading 1

2SM 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16

When King David was settled in his palace, and the LORD had given him rest from his enemies on every side, he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God dwells in a tent!" Nathan answered the king, "Go, do whatever you have in mind, for the LORD is with you."

But that night the LORD spoke to Nathan and said: "Go, tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Should you build me a house to dwell in? It was I who took you from the pasture and from the care of the flock to be commander of my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you went, and I have destroyed all your enemies before you. And I will make you famous like the great ones of the earth. I will fix a place for my people Israel; I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance. Neither shall the wicked continue to afflict them as they did of old, since the time I first appointed judges over my people Israel.

I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD also reveals to you that he will establish a house for you. And when your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his kingdom firm. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever.'"

Responsorial Psalm

PS 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29

R. (2a) **For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

The promises of the LORD I will sing forever; through all generations my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness. For you have said, "My kindness is established forever"; in heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness.

R. **For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

"I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant: Forever will I confirm your posterity and establish your throne for all generations."

R. **For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

"He shall say of me, 'You are my father, my God, the Rock, my savior.' Forever I will maintain my kindness toward him, and my covenant with him stands firm."

R. **For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

Reading 2

ROM 16:25-27

Brothers and sisters: To him who can strengthen you, according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the command of the eternal God, made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith, to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Alleluia

LK 1:38

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Gospel

LK 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God."

Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.



Hello!

The movie *Cast Away*, a film directed by Robert Zemeckis, tells the story of Chuck, the only employee who survives the crash of a FedEx cargo plane in the Pacific Ocean. Chuck ends up alone on a deserted island and manages to survive four years alone. Eventually, Chuck builds a raft using a plastic wall to venture out into the open seas hoping someone out there will see him. Even though the raft was damaged by a storm, a passing cargo ship finds Chuck and rescues him.

On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, the gospel tells us the story of God's initiative to reach out to humanity—to restore what was damaged by humans' first parents. When God created Adam and Eve, He wanted to share His providential love and care for them. However, they disobeyed and turned His plan around. Eventually, they distanced themselves from Him. Out of the Garden of privilege and His grace, humanity wandered the darkness of sin, which led to suffering. However, God did not abandon humanity. He repaired what was destroyed by our first parents through the Incarnation of His Son. That is the meaning of today's gospel and through the Season of Christmas.

The angel Gabriel is sent by God to an unpopular young girl named Mary in Nazareth. Mary panicked when she heard the angel's greeting. Who wouldn't? However, the gospel also tells us that Mary responds positively to God's messenger, and she was not forced to obey God's invitation. Her conversation with the angel shows that she was free to choose. Through her listening and speaking, Mary discerns God's grace and plan for her and all humanity. God also chose Mary to collaborate with His plan, and she accepted God's invitation. Wherefore, God's Son, the Savior, dwelt in Mary's womb. Mary is honored by God with the title "full of Grace" because of her obedience. Thus, God's Incarnation in the womb of a woman is a mystery; and the event reveals how much God loved humanity through His humility.

Today's reading reveals how much God has always cared and wanted to be closer to humanity, especially the vulnerable, marginalized, outcast, ordinary, and unfamous human beings. Only because of His unlimited love for humanity, God's Son bent down to lift us up. Thus, we are reminded to be more responsible individuals for those under our care, love, protection, and those who cannot defend themselves. The Catholic Church always defends vulnerable human beings because she believes in the Incarnation—God's Son took on human flesh through the Holy Spirit's power. From the moment Mary said, "may it be done to me according to your word," Jesus began life as a human being, like us, in Mary's womb.

Wherefore, faithful followers of Jesus are called to cooperate in God's plan of salvation through our humble "yes" to God's will. Obedience is such an ambiguous word in the secular world, yet Mary's obedience changed humanity's nature from despair to hope. Thus, the same is right with our obedience to God's will that will lead to a positive result for everyone around us. This includes our time to pray, listen, and keep God's words and commandments in our daily lives; even when we are not fully comprehending the mystery of God—His humility and love—we still trust His Son.

In the movie *Cast Away*, Chuck survived because he was rescued by a cargo ship. Without the arrival of the ship, he would have starved and died in the ocean. The same is right for humanity. Once Adam and Eve searched for freedom, they fell into temptation. Hence, there was a significant distance between them and God that no one could fix. God sent His Son to the world to restore us and to bring us back to God. The Incarnation of God's Son brings us closer to our original nature—we can live in God's grace through the Sacraments. As we prepare to celebrate God's gift for us on Christmas Day, we pray that he will stay within our souls, families, and be with us every day during this challenging pandemic.

Merry Christmas!

Fr. Thai Le

¡Hola!

La película *Cast Away*, una película dirigida por Robert Zemeckis, cuenta la historia de Chuck, el único empleado que sobrevive al accidente de un avión de carga de FedEx en el Océano Pacífico. Chuck termina solo en una isla desierta y logra sobrevivir cuatro años solo. Finalmente, Chuck construye una balsa usando una pared de plástico para aventurarse en mar abierto con la esperanza de que alguien lo vea. A pesar de que la balsa fue dañada por una tormenta, un carguero que pasa encuentra a Chuck y lo rescata.

En este cuarto domingo de Adviento, el evangelio nos cuenta la historia de la iniciativa de Dios de llegar a la humanidad, para restaurar lo que fue dañado por los primeros padres de los humanos. Cuando Dios creó a Adán y Eva, quiso compartir su amor providencial y su cuidado por ellos. Sin embargo, desobedecieron y cambiaron su plan. Finalmente, se distanciaron de Él. Fuera del Jardín de los privilegios y Su gracia, la humanidad vagó por las tinieblas del pecado, lo que la llevó al sufrimiento. Sin embargo, Dios no abandonó a la humanidad. Reparó lo que fue destruido por nuestros primeros padres a través de la Encarnación de Su Hijo. Ese es el significado del evangelio de hoy y durante la temporada de Navidad.

El ángel Gabriel es enviado por Dios a una joven impopular llamada María en Nazaret. María entró en pánico cuando escuchó el saludo del ángel. ¿Quién no lo haría? Sin embargo, el evangelio también nos dice que María responde positivamente al mensajero de Dios y no se vio obligada a obedecer la invitación de Dios. Su conversación con el ángel muestra que ella era libre de elegir. Al escuchar y hablar, María discierne la gracia y el plan de Dios para ella y toda la humanidad. Dios también eligió a María para colaborar con su plan y ella aceptó la invitación de Dios. Por tanto, el Hijo de Dios, el Salvador, habitó en el vientre de María. María es honrada por Dios con el título de "llena de gracia" debido a su obediencia. Por tanto, la Encarnación de Dios en el vientre de una mujer es un misterio; y el evento revela cuánto amó Dios a la humanidad a través de su humildad.

La lectura de hoy revela cuánto Dios siempre se preocupó y quiso estar más cerca de la humanidad, especialmente de los seres humanos vulnerables, marginados, marginados, ordinarios y poco conocidos. Solo debido a Su amor ilimitado por la humanidad, el Hijo de Dios se inclinó para levantarnos. Por lo tanto, se nos recuerda que debemos ser individuos más responsables con aquellos bajo nuestro cuidado, amor, protección y aquellos que no pueden defenderse. La Iglesia Católica siempre defiende a los seres humanos vulnerables porque cree en la Encarnación: el Hijo de Dios se hizo carne humana a través del poder del Espíritu Santo. Desde el momento en que María dijo: "hágase en mí según tu palabra", Jesús comenzó su vida como un ser humano, como nosotros, en el vientre de María.

Por tanto, los fieles seguidores de Jesús están llamados a cooperar en el plan de salvación de Dios mediante nuestro humilde "sí" a la voluntad de Dios. La obediencia es una palabra tan ambigua en el mundo secular, sin embargo, la obediencia de María cambió la naturaleza de la humanidad de la desesperación a la esperanza. Por lo tanto, lo mismo ocurre con nuestra obediencia a la voluntad de Dios que conducirá a un resultado positivo para todos los que nos rodean. Esto incluye nuestro tiempo para orar, escuchar y guardar las palabras y los mandamientos de Dios en nuestra vida diaria; incluso cuando no comprendemos plenamente el misterio de Dios, su humildad y amor, todavía confiamos en su Hijo.

En la película *Cast Away*, Chuck sobrevivió porque fue rescatado por un barco de carga. Sin la llegada del barco, habría muerto de hambre y muerto en el océano. Lo mismo vale para la humanidad. Una vez que Adán y Eva buscaron la libertad, cayeron en la tentación. Por lo tanto, había una distancia significativa entre ellos y Dios que nadie podía arreglar. Dios envió a su Hijo al mundo para restaurarnos y traernos de regreso a Dios. La Encarnación del Hijo de Dios nos acerca a nuestra naturaleza original: podemos vivir en la gracia de Dios a través de los sacramentos. Mientras nos preparamos para celebrar el regalo de Dios para nosotros el día de Navidad, oramos para que Él permanezca en nuestras almas, familias y esté con nosotros todos los días durante esta desafiante pandemia.

¡Feliz Navidad!

P. Thai Le

MASS SCHEDULE and INTENTIONS**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 Juan Garcia: Healing, Albert & Gertrude Hernandez†

Monday, December 21, 2020**Tuesday, December 22, 2020**

8:30 AM Fr. Thai Peggy Yeung: Birthday

Wednesday, December 23, 2020**Thursday, December 24, 2020 Christmas Eve**

4:00PM Fr. Charles

6:00PM Fr. Thai Ramon Lai†

Friday, December 25, 2020 Christmas

8:30 AM Fr. Andrew Felix Perez: Birthday

9:15 AM Fr. Thai Alejandro, Yee See & Henry Lipsun† Michael Toh†

10:30 AM Fr. Thai

Saturday, December 26, 2020

4:00 PM No Confessions

4:30 PM Fr. Charles Patrick Yiu† Christopher Pinkus† Julietta Reta†

Sunday, December 27, 2020

8:00 AM Fr. Andrew Peter Huong Phan† Anna Kim Bui† Dante Panganiban†

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

10:30 AM Fr. Thai Rafael Garcia Jr.† 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 **8:30 am**
- Friday **8:30 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

Hefio Altamirano

Martha Cano

Orlando A. Dizon

Romeo Hernandez

Armando Martinez Sr.

Robert Natividad

Diego Palacios

Vincent Sotelo