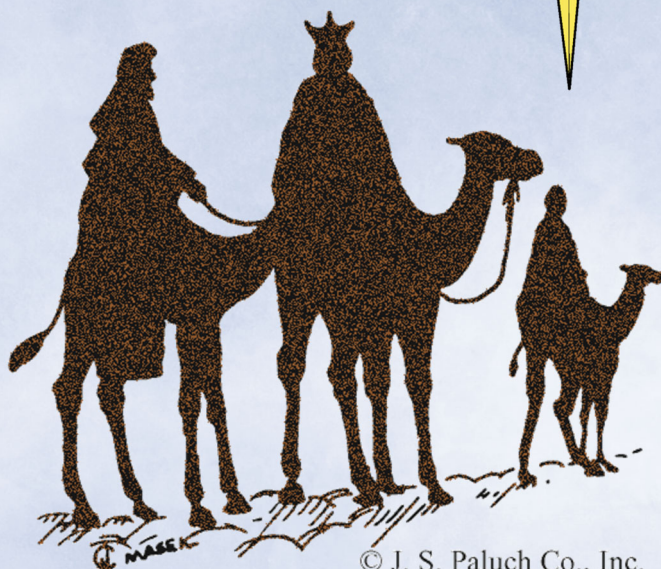
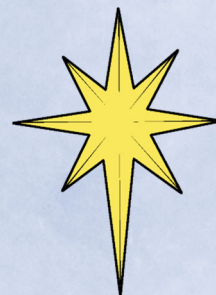


St. Thomas More Catholic Church

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

The Epiphany of the Lord Sunday, January 3, 2021



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; 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 stmdrealhambra@gmail.com

Director of Catechetical Sunday School : Gabriella Ramos
(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
stm lifeteenymc@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

Thank You!

Collections for 12/8/20 - 12/13/20

	Envelopes	Loose	Total
Sunday Masses	\$2,296.00	\$605.00	\$2,901.00
Immaculate Conception & Our Lady of Guadalupe Masses	\$1,093.00	\$401.00	\$1,494.00
By Mail and Online	\$3,435.00		\$3,435.00
Building Fund	\$890.00		\$890.00
Christmas flowers	\$100.00		\$100.00
Christmas	\$40.00		\$40.00
	\$7,854.00	\$1,006.00	\$8,860.00
Retirement Fund for Religious	\$470.00		

Collections for 12/20/20

Sunday Masses	\$1,647.00	\$454.00	\$2,101.00
By Mail and Online	\$2,370.00		\$2,370.00
Building Fund	\$2,085.00		\$2,085.00
Special Projects	\$185.00		\$185.00
Christmas env	\$360.00		\$360.00
School Support	\$30.00		\$30.00
	\$6,677.00	\$454.00	\$7,131.00

Reading I

Is 60:1-6

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory. Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance.

Raise your eyes and look about; they all gather and come to you: your sons come from afar, and your daughters in the arms of their nurses.

Then you shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow, for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you, the wealth of nations shall be brought to you. Caravans of camels shall fill you, dromedaries from Midian and Ephah; all from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the LORD.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

O God, with your judgment endow the king, and with your justice, the king's son; He shall govern your people with justice and your afflicted ones with judgment.

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Justice shall flower in his days, and profound peace, till the moon be no more. May he rule from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

The kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts; the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring tribute. All kings shall pay him homage, all nations shall serve him.

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him. He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor; the lives of the poor he shall save.

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Reading II

Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6

Brothers and sisters: You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for your benefit, namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation. It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Alleluia

Mt 2:2

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Mt 2:1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: *And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.*"

Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance.

He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was.

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.



Hello!

For seventeen centuries after the birth of Jesus Christ, most Christians believed in the Bible's truth. Nonetheless, the mid-seventeenth century introduced a new era of a belief that science, knowledge, and reasoning could be used to explain previous ideas, particularly religious faith in God. Subsequently, skeptical scholars began to dissect the gospels, detecting inconsistencies in different versions. Eventually, skeptical scholars have decided that the story of the birth of Jesus is fictional. Nevertheless, in 1773, a man named William Cowper wrote in his poems, "Light Shining out of Darkness," in which he reminded everyone of his time what life would be like without *divine illumination*. William underscored the Light that shined through humanity was not merely the Light of reasoning or scientific discovery but the *Light* of "God's mysterious way."

Long before the Enlightenment era, there were already people who could observe the universe's changes and Sacred Tradition's wisdom. Today we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord; that is, God revealed His Light for humanity to the Magi—the wise men. Who were these knowledgeable people, and where did they come from? According to the gospel, they came from the East, ancient Persia, and it could take them two to three months for the journey to Bethlehem riding camels. Their expedition to seek someone far wiser than their knowledge and reasoning. In a like manner, they fulfilled the prophecies from the Scriptures. With hindsight, we can see that their quest has several stages—*observation, collective individuals, action, confusion, encounter, and change*.

These wise men observed that almost eight centuries before the birth of Christ, the prophet Isiah had proclaimed, "but upon you, the Lord shine, and over you appear his glory," recorded in today's first reading. So, sometime in their lives, the Magi heard the prophecy about the new Messiah and longed for his arrival. Hence, when they saw a star in the sky, they knew he had arrived. They journeyed together as people of hope for a better future.

For months, they left their families, homelands, comforts, works, and ways of life to follow the star even the destination was not explicitly stated. Admittedly, they lost sight of the star along their quest and made a mistake that almost cost their lives. They arrived in King Herod's court, who was the greatest enemy of God's love. Conversely, while they were in the palace, they were reminded by the Scriptures that showed them the right path. At the end of their journey, they encountered Jesus and the Holy Family and offered their gifts with adoration. Hence, they were forever changed by this encounter.

The Magi's story of searching for a newborn baby in Bethlehem is also our quest to find Jesus. There are times when we are too busy to observe things around us along our journeys, and we are drawn into the auras of objects, authority, careers, pleasures, and frivolity. Many such distractions can saturate our daily lives and blind us to the real star. Equally, there are times when we do not want to accept God's Light for us because we may believe His Light takes away our freedom. In other words, we sometimes do not want religion to get in our way of living—to take away our passion and desires. This means we will never encounter the newborn Baby Jesus; we will not renew ourselves and follow the correct star.

Unlike the skeptical scholars of the Enlightenment era who focused on the Light of knowledge and science to draw their conclusions, the Magi concentrated on the universe and the scriptures, which led them to see God's wisdom for humanity. During this Celebration, the story of Magi is an event in the ancient world and recorded in the gospel. Wise people who searched for Jesus are historically authentic and passed down from generation to generation. We learn from them that true humanity always seeks out the Son of God whose Light shines on their path, fulfilling life's journey despite facing moments of challenge, disappointment, and confusion.

God bless!

Fr. Thai Le

¡Hola!

Durante diecisiete siglos después del nacimiento de Jesucristo, la mayoría de los cristianos creyeron en la verdad de la Biblia. No obstante, la mitad del siglo XVII introdujo una nueva era de creencia de que la ciencia, el conocimiento y el razonamiento podían usarse para explicar ideas anteriores, particularmente la fe religiosa en Dios. Posteriormente, los estudiosos escépticos comenzaron a diseccionar los evangelios, detectando inconsistencias en diferentes versiones. Finalmente, los eruditos escépticos han decidido que la historia del nacimiento de Jesús es ficticia. Sin embargo, en 1773, un hombre llamado William Cowper escribió en sus poemas "La luz brilla en las tinieblas", en la que recordaba a todos los de su tiempo cómo sería la vida sin la iluminación divina. William subrayó que la Luz que brillaba a través de la humanidad no era simplemente la Luz del razonamiento o el descubrimiento científico, sino la Luz del "camino misterioso de Dios".

Mucho antes de la era de la Ilustración, ya había personas que podían observar los cambios del universo y la sabiduría de la Sagrada Tradición. Hoy celebramos la Epifanía del Señor; es decir, Dios reveló Su Luz para la humanidad a los Magos, los sabios. ¿Quiénes eran estas personas conocedoras y de dónde venían? Según el evangelio, venían del este, la antigua Persia, y podrían tardar de dos a tres meses en el viaje a Belén a lomos de camellos. Su expedición para buscar a alguien mucho más sabio que su conocimiento y razonamiento. De igual manera, cumplieron las profecías de las Escrituras. En retrospectiva, podemos ver que su búsqueda tiene varias etapas: observación, individuos colectivos, acción, confusión, encuentro y cambio.

Estos sabios observaron que casi ocho siglos antes del nacimiento de Cristo, el profeta Isías había proclamado, "pero sobre ti resplandece el Señor, y sobre ti aparece su gloria", registrado en la primera lectura de hoy. Entonces, en algún momento de sus vidas, los Magos escucharon la profecía sobre el nuevo Mesías y anhelaron su llegada. Por tanto, cuando vieron una estrella en el cielo, supieron que había llegado. Viajaron juntos como personas con esperanza por un futuro mejor.

Durante meses, dejaron a sus familias, patrias, comodidades, trabajos y formas de vida para seguir a la estrella, incluso el destino no fue declarado explícitamente. Es cierto que perdieron de vista la estrella a lo largo de su búsqueda y cometieron un error que casi les cuesta la vida. Llegaron a la corte del rey Herodes, que era el mayor enemigo del amor de Dios. Por el contrario, mientras estaban en el palacio, las Escrituras les recordaron que les mostraban el camino correcto. Al final de su viaje, se encontraron con Jesús y la Sagrada Familia y ofrecieron sus dones con adoración. Por lo tanto, fueron cambiados para siempre por este encuentro.

La historia de los magos de la búsqueda de un bebé recién nacido en Belén es también nuestra búsqueda para encontrar a Jesús. Hay momentos en los que estamos demasiado ocupados para observar las cosas que nos rodean a lo largo de nuestros viajes y nos sentimos atraídos por las auras de los objetos, la autoridad, las carreras, los placeres y la frivolidad. Muchas de estas distracciones pueden saturar nuestra vida diaria y cegarnos a la verdadera estrella. Del mismo modo, hay ocasiones en las que no queremos aceptar la Luz de Dios por nosotros porque podemos creer que Su Luz nos quita la libertad. En otras palabras, a veces no queremos que la religión se interponga en nuestra forma de vida, que nos quite la pasión y los deseos. Esto significa que nunca encontraremos al recién nacido Niño Jesús; no nos renovaremos y seguiremos la estrella correcta.

A diferencia de los eruditos escépticos de la era de la Ilustración que se centraron en la Luz del conocimiento y la ciencia para sacar sus conclusiones, los Magos se concentraron en el universo y las escrituras, lo que los llevó a ver la sabiduría de Dios para la humanidad. Durante esta celebración, la historia de los magos es un evento en el mundo antiguo y está registrada en el evangelio. Las personas sabias que buscaron a Jesús son históricamente auténticas y se transmiten de generación en generación. Aprendemos de ellos que la verdadera humanidad siempre busca al Hijo de Dios cuya Luz brilla en su camino, cumpliendo el camino de la vida a pesar de enfrentar momentos de desafío, decepción y confusión.

¡Dios bendiga!

P. Thai Le

MASS SCHEDULE and INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 02, 2021

4:00 PM Confessions

Sunday, January 03, 2021

8:00 AM Fr. Andrew Peter Huong Phan† Anna Kim Bui†
Romeo Hernandez†
9:15 AM Fr. Thai Teresa Vicky Phan† Roberto Natividad†
Norma Cuadra†
10:30 AM Fr. Thai Martha Cano†
Albert & Gertrude Hernandez†

Monday, January 04, 2021

Tuesday, January 05, 2021

8:30 AM Fr. Thai All Souls†

Wednesday, January 06, 2021

Thursday, January 07, 2021

Friday, January 08, 2021

8:30 AM Fr. Andrew Anna Kim Bui†

Saturday, January 09, 2021

4:00 PM No Confessions

Sunday, January 10, 2021

8:00 AM Fr. Andrew Peter Sinh Nguyen†
9:15 AM Fr. Thai Carlos Vega† Roberto Natividad†
Norma Cuadra†
10:30 AM Fr. Thai Martha Cano†
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	M Christopher Maimone
Mary Louise Aluzzi	Evelyn Manza
Olivia Altamirano	Felipe Martinez
Elias Alvarez	Henrietta Martinez
Francis Araiza	Fred Maroon
Noreen Arroyo	Jean Miceli
Kelly Artozgui	Arianne Miller
George Astacio	Familia Montañez-Flores
Rosa Astacio	Ariana Alonso Morales
B Aletha Bailey	Barbara Moreno
Carla Baker	Bertha Moreno
Michele Baker	Cheryl Morten
Paul Beers	Betty Murray
Harlene Breaux	N Gloria Natividad
C Rita Campanella	John Ng
Celia Carmona	O Rosaleen Ocampo
Erik M. Casillas	P Arcadio Pablo
Daniel Cerpa	Manuel Pacheco Jr.
Eli Chavez	Fernando Parra
Patricia Cisneros	Albert Pelaez
Leah Grace Cisneros	Thomas Phan
Roman Covarrubias	Ernestina Placencio
Rosalba Covarrubias	R Virginia Reyes
Catalina Cruz	Cheryl Ann Reynoso
Mary Louise Cruz	Ryan Reynoso
D Imelda De La Cruz	Salvador Reynoso
Julio Diaz	Laura Rico
Jesus M. Dulay	Francisco Rios
Do Duong	Juan Rios
E Jan Edwards	Armando Rivera
F Donna Finocchio	Familia Rivera
Louis Finocchio	Domenic Rizzi
Familia Flores	Familia Rodriguez-Flores
Daniel Fuentes	S Mason Saldaña
G Claudia Godinez	Familia Sanchez-Flores
Daniel Gonzalez	Francisco Sanchez
J Maria Ivy Lynn Jimenez	Dylan Silva
Raymond Jimenez	Nicole Smith
Gary Jones	Lilian Smitter
K Erin Kametani	Connie Sotelo
Sr. Marie Kronheimer	Angie Stockwell
L Jeff Lamb	T Mike Teong
Andrea Leija	Jennies Tiu
Pauline Lemire	V Romeo Villafranca
Gudalio Lim	Ricardo & Felicidad Villegas
David Lindsey	Therese Huyen-Duong Thi Vu
Anna Lovoy	W Terry Wilson
M Danilo Magsino	Y Teresita Yu
Ruben Magsino	

Pray for the Dead

Daniel Altamirano	Romeo Hernandez
Helio Altamirano	Armando Martinez Sr.
Martha Cano	Robert Natividad
Orlando A. Dizon	Diego Palacios
Vincent Sotelo	