

# St. Thomas More Church

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



## Second Sunday of Advent Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> 2017

### EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATIONS WEEKLY LITURGIES

**Saturday Vigil**  
5:00PM

**Reconciliation**

Saturday: 4:00-4:45PM

**Sunday**  
7:30AM, 9:00AM, 12:30PM  
10:45AM *Spanish*

*English*  
**Daily: Mon-Sat**  
8:30AM

**Holy Day Masses**  
8:30AM, 7:00PM

Please contact the Parish Office for arrangements regarding  
Baptisms, Funerals, and Quinceañeras



For Sacraments of Matrimony, please contact the  
Parish Office six months prior to the date of the wedding

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

|                        |                 |                             |
|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Monday-Thursday</b> | 9:00AM - 7:30PM | <i>Closed 1:00 - 2:00PM</i> |
| <b>Friday</b>          | 9:00AM - 7:00PM | <i>Closed 1:00 - 2:00PM</i> |
| <b>Saturday</b>        | 9:00AM - 1:00PM |                             |

### PARISH STAFF

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

**Administrator:** Fr. Thai Le  
(ext. 116) firthaile@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:** Mae Ho  
(ext. 139) or (626) 457-5302 stmdrealhambra@gmail.com

**Director of Religious Education:** Mae Ho  
(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. 110) acct\_stm@yahoo.com

**Youth Ministry & Confirmation Coordinator:** Francisco Ramos  
stm lifeteenymc@gmail.com

**Assistant Coordinator:** Gabriella Ramos (ext. 135)

**Parish Secretary:** Lucia Alcantar  
(ext. 141) stm\_secretary@live.com

**Parish Receptionist:** Mimi Lewis

### SCHOOL STAFF

**School Office:** (626) 284-5778 Fax: (626) 284-3303

**Principal:** Judy Jones (ext. 128)

**Secretary:** Mary Helen Lazo, (ext. 129)

**School Website:** sthomasmorealhambra.org

### TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — The rugged land shall be made a plain; the rough country, a broad valley (Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11).

**Psalm** — Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation (Psalm 85).

**Second Reading** — Conduct yourselves in holiness, hastening the coming of the day of God (2 Peter 3:8-14).

**Gospel** — I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit (Mark 1:1-8).

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab;

Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47,

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30

Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13ab; Mt 11:11-15

Friday: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19;

Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-50, 53-54;

1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

### LECTURAS DE HOY

**Primera lectura** — Prepara el camino del Señor; proclama la buena nueva (Isaías 40:1-5, 9-11).

**Salmo** — Muéstranos, Señor, tu misericordia y danos tu salvación (Salmo 85 [84]).

**Segunda lectura** — El Señor no tarda en guardar su promesa donde está la justicia de Dios (2 Pedro 3:8-14).

**Evangelio** — Juan Bautista apareció proclamando un bautismo de arrepentimiento (Marcos 1:1-8).

### LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Lunes: Is 35:1-10; Sal 85 (84):9ab, 10-14; Lc 5:17-26

Martes: Zac 2:14-17 o Ap 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab;

Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lc 1:26-38 o Lc 1:39-47,

Miércoles: Is 40:25-31; Sal 103 (102):1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30

Jueves: Is 41:13-20; Sal 145 (144):1, 9-13ab; Mt 11:11-15

Viernes: Is 48:17-19; Sal 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19

Sábado: Eclo 48:1-4, 9-11; Sal 80 (79):2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Domingo: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lc 1:46-50, 53-54;

1 Tes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

### Collections for 12/3/17

|                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 5:00 PM           | \$778.00          |
| 7:30 AM           | \$1,046.00        |
| 9:00 AM           | \$3,123.00        |
| 10:45 AM          | \$801.00          |
| 12:30 PM          | \$656.00          |
| By mail/online    | \$528.00          |
| Bldg Fund         | \$295.00          |
| Special Projects  | \$125.00          |
| Christmas flowers | \$475.00          |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>\$7,827.00</b> |

**THANK YOU!**

**GRACIAS!**

**2017 STM School  
Christmas Toy Drive  
Now Through Friday,  
December 15, 2017**

Please bring an Unwrapped New Toy for a girl or a boy, ages Newborn - 14 years that you would like to donate to your classroom. All toys will be donated to the Hillsides Foundation.

Christmas Toy Drive.



Whoever has a heart full of love always has something to give. - Pope John XXIII

**Silent Women's Retreat  
January 19-21, 2018**

Begin your New Year spending personal time with God  
Retreat Master and Theme Rev. Phillip De Vous  
"Streams of Grace and Mercy"  
Located in the beautiful and serene grounds of the  
Sacred Heart Retreat House, Alhambra  
For more information please contact  
Nancy Ripoly 626-893-0518

**Help religious communities.**

"Your generous contribution helps us to care for our retired sisters and enables our younger sisters to continue in active ministry," writes a religious sister. Your gift to today's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and more for thousands of senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. It also helps ensure younger members can continue the good works of their elders!

**Our Lady of Guadalupe  
Mass and Celebration**

**Tuesday, December 12, 2017  
St. Thomas More Church  
7:00 P.M.**

Mass for Our Lady of Guadalupe followed by a Celebration Reception in the Parish Hall  
Matachines will dance to our Blessed Mother

For Donations and Volunteering please contact  
Betty Saldana (213)705-9003

**Tree of Giving**

**December 2 - December 17**

'Tis the Season! Please stop by and select an organization's card from the Tree of Giving.

Wrap your gift, attach the tag, and put it under the tree. If your gift is cash or check, place it in a sealed envelope with the name of the organization written on the outside and turn it in to the rectory.

Gifts must be received by

**December 17** to ensure delivery before Christmas. If you have any questions, please call the STM Secretary at

(626) 284-8333 x141.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

**Sunday Breakfast**

Please join us  
8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the hall for



**Coffee and Donuts**

*Sponsored by*

**The Proud Parents of STM  
Third-Grade Students**

**Come get in the Christmas Spirit**

All are invited to share in a Christmas sing-along rehearsal with the choir,

**Sunday December 17th from 1:30-2:30  
in the church**

We'll also have a surprise piano soloist playing songs of Christmas joy. There will be a free Christmas raffle for everyone who comes to participate.

**Come one - come all!**

**CURRENT EVENTS**

|                                     |                                 |                 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Saturday, December 09, 2017</b>  |                                 |                 |
| 6:00 PM                             | No Confirmation Class           | Ministry Center |
| <b>Sunday, December 10, 2017</b>    |                                 |                 |
| 8AM -2PM                            | Breakfast                       | Hall            |
| 9AM-Noon                            | Religious Education Class       | School          |
| <b>Monday, December 11, 2017</b>    |                                 |                 |
| 9:30AM                              | Legion of Mary                  | Ministry Center |
| 7:00PM                              | RCIA Class                      | Ministry Center |
| 7:30PM-9PM                          | Youth Band Practice             | Church          |
| <b>Tuesday, December 12, 2017</b>   |                                 |                 |
| 9AM - 9:30AM                        | Our Lady of Wisdom Prayer Group | Church          |
| 7:00PM                              | Our Lady of Guadalupe: Mass     | Church          |
| 8:00PM                              | and Reception                   | Hall            |
| <b>Wednesday, December 13, 2017</b> |                                 |                 |
| 9AM - 9:30 AM                       | Mother of Perpetual Help Novena | Church          |
| 7:00PM                              | Bible Study                     | Ministry Center |
| <b>Thursday, December 14, 2017</b>  |                                 |                 |
| 1:00PM                              | Mission Circle                  | Ministry Center |
| 6:30PM                              | Youth Nights                    | Ministry Center |
| 7:00PM                              | School Christmas Program        | Church          |
| 8:00PM                              | Spanish Choir Practice          | Church          |
| <b>Friday, December 15, 2017</b>    |                                 |                 |
| 9AM - 1PM                           | Eucharistic Adoration           | Church          |
| <b>Saturday, December 16, 2017</b>  |                                 |                 |
| 6:00PM                              | Confirmation Class              | Church          |
| <b>Sunday, December 17, 2017</b>    |                                 |                 |
| 8AM -2PM                            | Breakfast                       | Hall            |
| 9:00AM                              | Religious Education Class       | Church          |

**MASS SCHEDULE**

|                                     |             |   |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|---|
| <b>Saturday, December 09, 2017</b>  |             |   |
| 8:30 AM                             | Fr. Andrew  | Carmen G. Delgado†                            |
| 5:00 PM                             | Fr. Thai    | Patrick Yiu† Mercedes Bica†                   |
| <b>Sunday, December 10, 2017</b>    |             |   |
| 7:30 AM                             | Fr. Donovan | Peter Sing Nguyen†<br>Mary Anne Odegard†      |
| 9:00 AM                             | Fr. Thai    | Anita Alderete†<br>Bella Domingo-Thanksgiving |
| 10:45 AM                            | Fr. Thai    | Rafael Garcia Sr.†<br>Javier Molina†          |
| 12:30 PM                            | Fr. Andrew  | Virginia Oncera Maclan†                       |
| <b>Monday, December 11, 2017</b>    |             |   |
| 8:30 AM                             | Fr. Andrew  | Parishioners of STM                           |
| <b>Tuesday, December 12, 2017</b>   |             |   |
| 8:30 AM                             | Fr. Andrew  | Jerry Lemire†                                 |
| 7:00PM                              | Fr. Thai    | Parishioners of STM                           |
| <b>Wednesday, December 13, 2017</b> |             |   |
| 8:30 AM                             | Fr. O'Neill | Jasmin Jereza: Thanksgiving                   |
| <b>Thursday, December 14, 2017</b>  |             |   |
| 8:30 AM                             | Fr. Donovan | Blanca Altamirano†                            |
| <b>Friday, December 15, 2017</b>    |             |   |
| 8:30 AM                             | Fr. Thai    | Parishioners of STM                           |
| <b>Saturday, December 16, 2017</b>  |             |   |
| 8:30 AM                             | Fr. Thai    | Parishioners of STM                           |
| 5:00 PM                             | Fr. Thai    | Patrick Yiu† Hector Ortega Jr.†               |
| <b>Sunday, December 17, 2017</b>    |             |   |
| 7:30 AM                             | Fr. Thai    | Peter Sing Nguyen†                            |
| 9:00 AM                             | Fr. Thai    | Bernie & Kay Tittmann: Anniversary            |
| 10:45 AM                            | Fr. Donovan | Parishioners of STM                           |
| 12:30 PM                            | Fr. Donovan | Jose Dolores Sosa Sr.†                        |

*Please Pray for the Sick*

|                          |                           |                            |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Fr. Jeremiah O'Neill     |                           |                            |
| <b>A</b> Mariano Aoanan  | <b>G</b> Alyce Gold       | <b>N</b> Huy Nguyen        |
| George Astacio           | Edelle Gonzales           | <b>P</b> Laura Pagano      |
| Rosa Astacio             | Gavin Gutierrez           | Tony Pagliotti             |
| Brianna Ayestas          | Ricardo Gutierrez         | Sharon Palmiter            |
| <b>B</b> Roy Barrientos  | Carolina Guzman           | Fernando Parra             |
| Douglas Barquero         | <b>H</b> Memo Herrera     | Arpie Pezeshkian           |
| Patricia Bernal          | Sally Herrera             | <b>R</b> Dolores Ramirez   |
| Andy Bouffard            | <b>I</b> Selvia Inado     | Rosalia Rodriguez          |
| Louie Bouffard           | <b>J</b> Darwin Jenkins   | Maria Rosa                 |
|                          |                           | Ramirez                    |
|                          |                           | Ramon Ramos                |
| Steven Brown             | Dennis James              |                            |
|                          | Johnson                   |                            |
| Tod & Rose Marie         | Gary Jones                | Julieta Reta               |
| Brown                    |                           |                            |
| Ida Bustos               | <b>K</b> David Kametani   | Jean Reyes                 |
|                          |                           | Williams                   |
| <b>C</b> Jessica Cabrera | Mary Keffer               | Maria T. Riley             |
| Rita Campanella          | Kimbra Fossen             | Domenic Rizzi              |
| Gloria Cancio            | Theresa Kryszek           | Michael Angelo             |
|                          |                           | Rodriguez                  |
| S. Cano                  | <b>L</b> Bill Lamb        | Mike Romano                |
| Burt Carranza            | Bertha La Barreda         | Ana Romo                   |
| Evelin Carranza          | Anfrea Leija              | Virginia Rosales           |
| Celia Carmona            | William Lievens           | Alissa Roybal              |
| Erik M. Casillas         | James Lindgren            | <b>S</b> Mason Saldaña     |
| Blanca & Procoro         | Yee See Lipsun            | Francisco Sanchez          |
| Castañeda                |                           |                            |
| Jessica Cerda            | Eleanor Lopez             | Virginia Sanchez           |
| Joan Cervantes           | Brother Martin            | Dylan Silva                |
|                          | Lorenzini                 |                            |
| Mary Louise Cruz         | Bonnie Luna               | Sisi Shum                  |
| <b>D</b> Roger Davila    | Elvira Luna               | Uldarica Sison             |
| Julio Diaz               | Rafael & Gerardo          | Eddie Souza                |
|                          | Luna                      |                            |
| Luz Santos               | <b>M</b> Gilbert Madrid   | Dorian Suarez              |
| Dicioco                  |                           |                            |
| Jesus M. Dulay           | Cely Magpantay            | <b>U</b> Leticia Ureno     |
| <b>E</b> Malia Estrada   | Anna Maraldo              | <b>V</b> Richard Valdes    |
| <b>F</b> Ruth Fabela     | Salvador                  | Michael Velasco            |
|                          | Maldonado                 |                            |
| Pat Fernandez            | Edgardo Marin             | Norma Villar               |
| Tony Filosa              | Francis Meyer             | Ricardo &                  |
|                          |                           | Felicidad Villegas         |
| Louis Finochio           | Jean Miceli               | Therese Huyen-             |
|                          |                           | Duong Thi Vu               |
| <b>G</b> Mariano G.      | Tony Micelli              | Theresa Mai Vu             |
| Juan Garcia              | James Montague            | <b>W</b> Martha Willox     |
| Ramona Garcia            | Eric Murillo              | Janny Wong                 |
| Daniela Garcia de        | <b>N</b> Gloria Natividad | Jennifer Wong              |
| la Rosa                  | Mario Nieto               | <b>Z</b> Christine Zampese |
|                          | Victor Ng                 |                            |

*Pray for the Dead*

|                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Anita Alderate     | Richard Luna        |
| Alfonso Garcia     | Christine Magdaleno |
| Jose Anibal Lainez | Mary Anne Odegard   |
| Francisco Luevano  | Dominico Tran Suu   |



Hello!

If you have ever been on a pilgrimage, I assume a tour guide accompanied you. A tour guide is important for any trip if you do not know much about the place. From a tour guide, you can learn the place's political, religious, and social history. Another benefit of having a tour guide is organizing the group's schedule and activities. Without a tour guide, it could be challenging to accomplish your pilgrimage.

The same is true with *life*. Sometimes it is hard to see ourselves from different perspectives. If we go through life's stages and follow a life coach or map, it makes life simpler, meaningful, and balanced! We do have people to guide us: Throughout the ages, God has sent His prophets and messengers to guide His people, especially when they are heading on the wrong path. However, many times humanity disqualifies God's prophets and messages.

In today's First Reading, the prophet Isaiah delivered an important message to the people of Israelites while they were living in the darkness of sin; God would punish them for having rebelled against God. The prophet calls for the purification of minds and hearts, to stop the sinful way of life, and to return to God. More importantly, Isaiah announces that a baby will be born, Jesus, who will bring salvation to the world by being sentenced to death on the cross.

In the same manner, John the Baptist, in today's Gospel cries out in the desert, "prepare the way, make straight his paths!" What paths is he asking the listeners to take? We have both physical and spiritual paths. Roads and freeways are important physical paths that people commute every day for work, school, and to bring people together. We use roads to deliver goods such as food, water, and other necessities for life. Good roads make life easier

As much as we depend on physical paths for life, our spiritual paths are essential as well. Our *Spiritual paths* are damaged when we separate from God. We want our ways of doing things, and eventually, we stray from His path - His *truth* to form our *truth* worshipping all kinds of gods! Our truth leads to spiritual blindness - mountains and valleys of arrogance, selfishness, laziness, vanity, and isolation. These 'mountains and valleys' block our paths and make them unpassable causing discord, anger, jealousy, and dishonesty. Eventually, our spiritual paths may become so disconnected that we lack any capacity to do good for others or ourselves.

God became man and lived among us because God wanted to be with us. God wants to free us from the slavery of sin; to make our spiritual paths complete, easy, and straight. God became man and dwells in our souls to be our tour guide out from darkness into His light! Who does not want to experience His love and peace?

As we enter the Second Sunday of Advent, today's theme urges us to ponder and revalue our spiritual life: Am I heading in the right direction that leads me to God? Or am I distancing myself from Him? What areas of my life do I need to focus on, so I can grow closer to God? What is the foundation for my spiritual journey?

The prophet Isiah and John the Baptist counsel us as to what direction leads to a happy and peaceful spiritual path; through *repentance, reorientation, and reevaluation* of our direction. Advent Season asks us to ponder upon the mystery of God's Incarnation - God became man. If we believe there is an absolute Truth, then we should do our best to follow Jesus who guides us on the right path.

God bless!

Fr. Thai

¡Hola!

Si alguna vez ha estado en peregrinación, supongo que un guía lo acompañó. Una guía turística es importante para cualquier viaje si no sabes mucho sobre el lugar. De un guía turístico, puede conocer la historia política, religiosa y social del lugar. Otro beneficio de tener un guía turístico es organizar el horario y las actividades del grupo. Sin un guía turístico, podría ser un desafío realizar su peregrinación.

Lo mismo es cierto con la vida. A veces es difícil vernos a nosotros mismos desde diferentes perspectivas. Si pasamos por las etapas de la vida y seguimos un entrenador de vida o un mapa, ¡hace la vida más simple, significativa y equilibrada! Tenemos gente para guiarnos: a través de los tiempos, Dios ha enviado a Sus profetas y mensajeros para guiar a Su pueblo, especialmente cuando están yendo por el camino equivocado. Sin embargo, muchas veces la humanidad descalifica a los profetas y mensajes de Dios.

En la Primera lectura de hoy, el profeta Isaías dio un mensaje importante a la gente de Israel mientras vivían en la oscuridad del pecado; Dios los castigaría por haberse rebelado contra Dios. El profeta pide la purificación de las mentes y los corazones, para detener la forma de vida pecaminosa y volver a Dios. Más importante aún, Isaías anuncia que nacerá un bebé, Jesús, que traerá la salvación al mundo al ser sentenciado a muerte en la cruz.

De la misma manera, Juan el Bautista, en el Evangelio de hoy clama en el desierto, "¡prepara el camino, endereza sus caminos!" ¿Qué caminos le está pidiendo a los oyentes que tomen? Tenemos caminos físicos y espirituales. Las carreteras y las autopistas son caminos físicos importantes que las personas recorren todos los días para ir a trabajar, a la escuela y para unir a las personas. Usamos caminos para entregar bienes como comida, agua y otras necesidades de por vida. Los buenos caminos hacen la vida más fácil

Por mucho que dependamos de los caminos físicos para la vida, nuestros caminos espirituales también son esenciales. Nuestros caminos espirituales se dañan cuando nos separamos de Dios. Queremos nuestros modos de hacer las cosas y, eventualmente, nos desviamos de su camino. ¡Su verdad para formar nuestra verdad adorando a todo tipo de dioses! Nuestra verdad lleva a la ceguera espiritual: montañas y valles de arrogancia, egoísmo, pereza, vanidad y aislamiento. Estas 'montañas y valles' bloquean nuestros caminos y los vuelven intransitables causando discordia, enojo, celos y deshonestidad. Eventualmente, nuestros caminos espirituales pueden volverse tan desconectados que nos falte la capacidad de hacer el bien por los demás o por nosotros mismos.

Dios se hizo hombre y vivió entre nosotros porque Dios quería estar con nosotros. Dios quiere liberarnos de la esclavitud del pecado; para hacer que nuestros caminos espirituales sean completos, fáciles y directos. ¡Dios se hizo hombre y habita en nuestras almas para ser nuestro guía de viaje de las tinieblas a su luz! ¿Quién no quiere experimentar Su amor y paz?

Al ingresar al Segundo Domingo de Adviento, el tema de hoy nos urge a meditar y revalorar nuestra vida espiritual: ¿Me estoy dirigiendo en la dirección correcta que me lleva a Dios? ¿O me estoy distanciando de Él? ¿En qué áreas de mi vida debo enfocarme para poder acercarme más a Dios? ¿Cuál es la base de mi viaje espiritual?

El profeta Isías y Juan el Bautista nos aconsejan acerca de qué dirección conduce a un camino espiritual feliz y pacífico; a través del arrepentimiento, la reorientación y la reevaluación de nuestra dirección. La temporada de Adviento nos pide que reflexionemos sobre el misterio de la Encarnación de Dios: Dios se hizo hombre. Si creemos que hay una Verdad absoluta, entonces debemos hacer nuestro mejor esfuerzo para seguir a Jesús que nos guía en el camino correcto.

¡Dios bendiga!

P. Thai