

# St. Thomas More Church

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



## Third Sunday of Advent Sunday, December 17<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) 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:** Mae Ho  
(ext. 139) or (626) 457-5302 stmdrealhabra@gmail.com

**Director of Religious Education:** Mae Ho  
(ext. 139) or (626) 457-5302 stmdrealhabra@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:** sthomasmorealhabra.org

### TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — As a garden makes its growth spring up, so will God make justice spring up before all the nations (Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11).

**Psalm** — My soul rejoices in my God (Luke 1:46-50, 53-54).

**Second Reading** — Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:16-24).

**Gospel** — I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord (John 1:6-8, 19-28).

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

Wednesday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38

Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a;  
Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56

Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29;  
Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

### LECTURAS DE HOY

**Primera lectura** — Regocíjense en el Espíritu del Señor que nos trae buenas noticias (Isaías 61:1-2a, 10-11).

**Salmo** — Se alegra mi espíritu en Dios mi Salvador (Lc 1:46-50, 53-54).

**Segunda lectura** — ¡Alégrense! Conserven su integridad en el Espíritu y guárdense sin mancha hasta la venida del Señor (1 Tesalonicenses 5:16-24).

**Evangelio** — Cuando preguntan a Juan Bautista quien es, dice, "Soy la voz que grita en el desierto" (Juan 1:6-8, 19-28).

### LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Lunes: Jer 23:5-8; Sal 72 (71):1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

Martes: Jue 13:2-7, 24-25a; Sal 71 (70):3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lc 1:5-25

Miércoles: Is 7:10-14; Sal 24 (23):1-4ab, 5-6; Lc 1:26-38

Jueves: Cant 2:8-14 o Sof 3:14-18a; Sal 33 (32):2-3, 11-12, 20-21;  
Lc 1:39-45

Viernes: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lc 1:46-56

Sábado: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Sal 25 (24):4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lc 1:57-66

Domingo: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Sal 89 (88):2-5, 27, 29;  
Rom 16:25-27; Lc 1:26-38

### Collections for 12/10/17

5:00 PM \$1,155.00

7:30 AM \$1,319.00

9:00 AM \$1,308.00

10:45 AM \$501.00

12:30 PM \$1,317.00

By mail/online \$455.00

Bldg Fund \$834.00

Immaculate Conception \$432.00

Christmas flowers \$60.00

**Total \$7,381.00**

2nd Collection: \$1,702.00  
Religious Retirement Fund

**THANK YOU!**

**GRACIAS!**

**POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS**



Our parish is seeking donations of poinsettias to decorate our altar for the Christmas season. Please bring plants on or after;

**Saturday December 16, 2017**

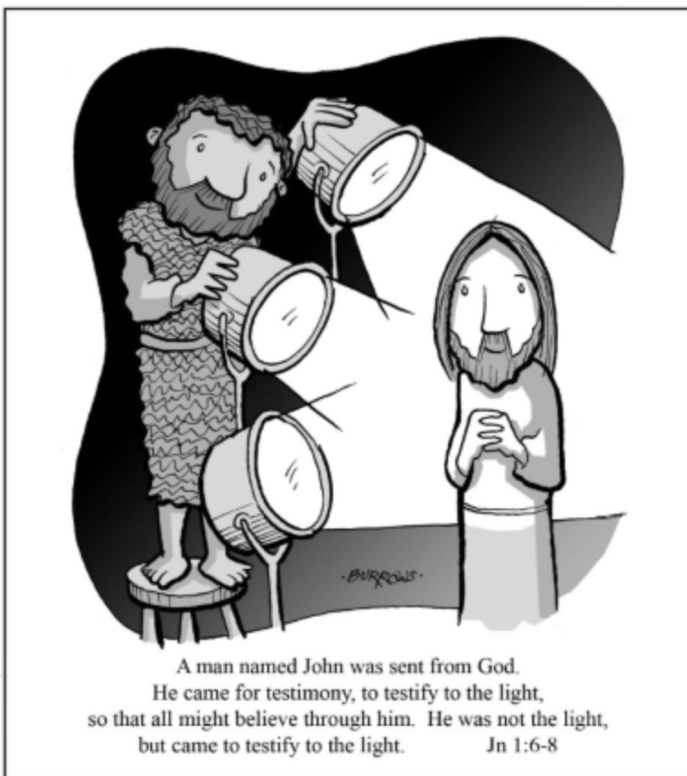
and no later than;

**Saturday, December 23, 2017.**

Please leave the plants on the counter in the children's room to the right of the altar, but not on the altar. If you wish to make a monetary donation for plants or flowers, please use the 'flower' envelopes in the pews and at the stand at each side door. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

The Little Ones

Jim Burrows



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. Jn 1:6-8

Scripture from the New American Bible, rev. ed. © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970, CEB. Used with permission.

**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

**Religious give thanks**

A religious sister writes, "When we see the generous response of so many thousands of persons in order to help us, religious men and women, we are left speechless." Senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests across the country send heartfelt thanks and prayers for your donation to last week's Retirement Fund for Religious collection.

**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.

**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!**

**Sunday Breakfast**

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



**Coffee and Donuts**

**Sponsored by**

**The Grief Support Group**

**CURRENT EVENTS**

<b>Saturday, December 16, 2017</b>		
*No Confirmation Class*		
<b>Sunday, December 17, 2017</b>		
8AM -2PM	Breakfast	Hall
9:00AM	Religious Education Class	Church
2PM -3:30 PM	Choir Practice	Church
<b>Monday, December 18, 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 19, 2017</b>		
9AM - 9:30AM	Our Lady of Wisdom Prayer Group	Church
11:30AM	Bingo	Hall
7:00PM	Grupo de Oracion	Ministry Center
7:45PM	English Choir Practice	Church
<b>Wednesday, December 20, 2017</b>		
9AM - 9:30 AM	Mother of Perpetual Help Novena	Church
*No Bible Study*		
<b>Thursday, December 21, 2017</b>		
6:30PM	Youth Nights	Ministry Center
8:00PM	Spanish Choir Practice	Church
<b>Friday, December 22, 2017</b>		
9AM - 1PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Church
6:30PM	Simbang Gabi	Church
<b>Saturday, December 23, 2017</b>		
7:00PM	Posadas Culmination	Church
*No Confirmation Class*		
<b>Sunday, December 24, 2017 — Christmas Eve —</b>		
*No Breakfast*		
10:00AM	Religious Education Class	Church

**MASS SCHEDULE**

<b>Saturday, December 16, 2017</b>		
8:30 AM	Fr. Thai Lopez Reta Family: Special Intentions	
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 Yvette Angelina Robinson†	
12:30 PM	Fr. Donovan Jose Dolores Sosa Sr.†	
<b>Monday, December 18, 2017</b>		
8:30 AM	Fr. Thai Parishioners of STM	
<b>Tuesday, December 19, 2017</b>		
8:30 AM	Fr. Andrew Concepcion Ortega† Valentina, Joel & Antonio Tiu†	
<b>Wednesday, December 20, 2017</b>		
8:30 AM	Fr. Donovan John Baptist Hoang† Glicerio Sison†	
<b>Thursday, December 21, 2017</b>		
8:30 AM	Fr. Donovan Amalio Lozoya†	
<b>Friday, December 22, 2017</b>		
8:30 AM	Fr. Andrew Teresita Licuk†	
6:30PM	Fr. Joseph Parishioners of STM	
<b>Saturday, December 23, 2017</b>		
8:30 AM	Fr. Donovan Parishioners of STM	
5:00 PM	Fr. Andrew Patrick Yiu† Carlos Garcia†	
7:00 PM	Fr. Thai Parishioners of STM	
<b>Sunday, December 24, 2017</b>		
7:30 AM	Fr. Thai Peter Sing Nguyen†	
9:00 AM	Fr. Andrew Eduvigis Gonzalez†	
10:45 AM	Fr. Donovan Rafael Garcia Jr.†	
12:30 PM	Fr. Donovan Rebecca T. Martinez†	
4:00 PM	Fr. Thai Manuel Pacheco†	
10:00 PM	Fr. Thai Samantha Page Blackwood†	

*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
Steven Brown	Dennis James	Ramon Ramos
	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 Alderete	Richard Luna
Alfonso Garcia	Christine Magdaleno
Jose Anibal Lainez	Mary Anne Odegard
Francisco Luevano	Dominico Tran Suu



Hello!

I have attended several events such as wedding receptions, anniversaries, and fundraisers led by a Master of Ceremonies, known as an MC. The duty of an MC seems enormous; conduct to a crowd and keep each event flowing smoothly from start to finish. The guests rely on the MC's announcements for information—the important people and moments, who will be showing up next, so everybody can enjoy the event. The job of an MC is not to simply hold a microphone and stand on the stage. A good MC studies and prepares the program beforehand.

The concept of the master of an event is resonated in today's Gospel in which it portrays John the Baptist announcing the coming of the Savior of the world. John, during this period, was a popular person and known by many through his discipline lifestyle and words. Thus, the audience would instantly identify him as one of the prophets they had been waiting for. In terms of personal interest, recognition, or reputation, John could easily have admitted it and led to be acclaimed and promoted by people. Instead, he singled out Jesus to people and advised them to come to Him, their true Messiah. He set the stage up for Jesus and humbly withdrew from the public applause and recognition; such a profound and humble man!

As we enter the Third Sunday of Advent, we are called to follow John the Baptist's mission—to introduce Jesus to others through our daily actions and words. This is the mission and invitation for every baptized Catholic that we are proud to live out. Sometimes we doubt our inner potential and faith saying to ourselves, "I am not good enough or know enough to introduce Jesus to others. It is not my job or responsibility to do so. I am afraid to offend the faith and belief of others."

As baptized Catholics, we are called to share the Good News of the world's Savior, Jesus, who arrived and lived in our midst. We live with this Good News through daily simple postures and humble words to begin with; God's love and wisdom will do the rest for us.

To be Christ's messengers is part of our faithful journey. We begin to build a spiritual life during this Advent Season. We ask ourselves, "maybe the Holy Spirit wants to change so I can prepare a space within our hearts for Baby Jesus." We might have fallen into the familiar routines of spiritual laziness. It is time to pray and to participate in the Sacraments of the Church. Begin to pray together with your families each night and give thanks to God for His Son, Christ Jesus, for our lives and eternal happiness. This is the time to prepare ourselves inside so to welcome Jesus; that is the beauty and sacredness of the Advent Season.

With the coming of Christ, the world receives new light of love and hope that casts out the darkness of sin, death, confusion, and hatred. That is why John the Baptist cried out in the desert about; he prepared people to change, making room for Christ. When we have prepared well ourselves inside, it will manifest outside through our daily good deeds and words. That is how to introduce people to Jesus. Every of us is invited to participate as John the Baptist did many years ago.

God bless!

Fr. Thai

¡Hola!

He asistido a varios eventos, como recepciones de bodas, aniversarios y recaudaciones de fondos dirigidos por un maestro de ceremonias, conocido como MC. El deber de un MC parece enorme; Conduzca una multitud y mantenga cada evento fluyendo suavemente de principio a fin. Los invitados confían en los anuncios de MC para personas y momentos importantes de información, que se mostrarán a continuación. El trabajo es sostener un micrófono y pararse en el escenario. Un buen MC estudia y prepara el programa de antemano.

El concepto del evangelio en el que resuena hoy es el retrato de Juan el Bautista anunciando la venida del Savoir del mundo. John, durante este período, era una persona popular y conocida por muchos estilos de vida y palabras de disciplina. Por lo tanto, la audiencia lo identificaría instantáneamente como uno de los profetas que habían estado esperando. En términos de interés personal, reconocimiento o reputación, John podría haberlo admitido fácilmente y llevado a ser aclamado y promovido por personas. En cambio, él señaló a Jesús a las personas y les aconsejó que fueran a Él, su verdadero Mesías. Él preparó el escenario para Jesús y se retiró humildemente del aplauso público y el reconocimiento; un hombre tan profundo y humilde!

Al ingresar al tercer domingo de Adviento, estamos llamados a seguir nuestra misión. Esta es la misión y la invitación para cada católico bautizado del que nos sentimos orgullosos de vivir. A veces dudamos de nuestro potencial interior y de nuestra fe diciéndonos a nosotros mismos: "No soy lo suficientemente bueno o sé lo suficiente como para presentar a Jesús a los demás. No es mi trabajo o responsabilidad hacerlo. Tengo miedo de ofender la fe y la creencia de los demás".

Como católicos bautizados, estamos llamados a compartir las Buenas Nuevas del Salvador del mundo, Jesús, que llegó y vivió en medio de nosotros. Vivimos con esta Buena Noticia a través de posturas sencillas diarias y palabras humildes para empezar; El amor y la sabiduría de Dios harán el resto por nosotros.

Ser los mensajeros de Cristo es parte de nuestro fiel viaje. Comenzamos a construir una vida espiritual durante esta temporada de Adviento. Nos preguntamos: "Tal vez el Espíritu Santo quiera cambiar para que pueda preparar un espacio dentro de nuestros corazones para el Niño Jesús". Podríamos caer en las rutinas familiares de la pereza espiritual. Es hora de orar y participar en los Sacramentos de la Iglesia. Comience a orar junto con sus familias cada noche y dé gracias a Dios por su Hijo, Cristo Jesús, por nuestras vidas y felicidad eterna. Este es el momento de prepararnos dentro. esa es la belleza y lo sagrado de la temporada de Adviento.

Con la venida de Cristo, el mundo recibe una nueva luz de amor y esperanza que arroja la oscuridad del pecado, la muerte, la confusión y el odio. Es por eso que Juan el Bautista es gritado en el desierto; él preparó a las personas para cambiar, haciendo lugar para Cristo. Cuando nos hayamos preparado bien en nuestro interior, se manifestará fuera de nuestras buenas acciones y palabras diarias. Así es como la gente viene a Jesús. Todos están invitados a participar como lo hizo Juan el Bautista hace muchos años.

Dios los bendiga!

P. Thai