



# St. Thomas More Catholic Church

2510 So. Fremont Avenue, Alhambra, CA 91803  
(626) 284-8333



## PARISH OFFICE (RECTORY) HOURS

<b>Monday-Friday</b>	9 AM to 4 PM
<b>Saturday</b>	Closed
<b>Sunday</b>	Closed

**PASTOR**  
Father Thai Le

## Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time — September 4, 2022

### PARISH STAFF

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

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

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

**Safeguard the Children Contact:** Gabriella Ramos  
(ext. 139) stmdrealhambra@gmail.com

**Director of Catechetical Sunday School :** Gabriella Ramos  
(ext. 139) stmdrealhambra@gmail.com

**Liturgy & Music Coordinator:** TBA  
(ext. 137) stmmusiclit@gmail.com

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

**Youth Ministry & Confirmation Coordinator:** Francisco Ramos  
Cell: 626-808-8033 Email: 01fdrt@gmail.com

**Parish Secretary:** Gabriella Ramos  
(ext. 112) stm\_secretary@live.com

### WEEKLY SCHEDULE

#### Confessions

Saturdays 4:00PM to 4:30PM—Church

#### Masses

- Tue-Fri **8:30 am** Sat **5:00 pm**
- Sunday **8:00 am & 9:15 am in English**
- Sunday **10:30 am in Spanish**

### UPCOMING EVENTS & SPECIAL SERVICES

**Sister Andrea: Farewell Cake**  
September 4—Parish Hall after all Masses

**Together In Mission**  
September 4—2nd Collection

**Religious Education Parent Orientation**  
September 10 — Parish Hall at 2 PM

### SCHOOL STAFF

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

**Principal:** Teri Moss (ext. 128)

**Secretary:** Laura Ceballos ext. 129

**School Website:** www.stmcsa.org

**School Email:** tmoss@stmfalcons.net

### COVID-19 INFORMATION & NOTICE

COVID-19 remains a highly contagious and life-threatening disease. *Los Angeles guidelines strongly recommend, but do not require, vaccinations and wearing masks in most indoor settings.*

St. Thomas More Parish does not provide COVID vaccination religious-exemption letters.

Please check our website for up-to-date information.

[www.stmcatholicalhambra.org](http://www.stmcatholicalhambra.org)



## Retirement Message

I am announcing the retirement of Sister Andrea. Her last day playing music at St. Thomas More will be on Sunday, August 28, 2022. While it saddens us to read this announcement, we must respect her decision. It has been an honor and blessing to have Sister Andrea serving this parish community for over *thirty-two years*! We thank her for her dedicated caring passion to the Catholic liturgical music and celebration! We will have a farewell cake in the hall after each Mass on **Sunday, September 4**. Kindly stop by and express your appreciation for her vocation and mission for this parish.

Fr. Thai

---

### DID YOU KNOW?

#### *Tips for talking to your children about school safety*

Most children will participate in school safety drills when they head back to the classroom this year, from active shooter drills to weather emergencies. As a parent, you can help your child cope with any anxiety or distress they experience during these drills. Talk to your children about school safety and address any concerns they may have. Remind them that the school and their teachers are working to keep them safe. For more tips, visit <https://www.healthychildren.org>.

---

## Religious Education

**First Communion Preparation:** The Archdiocese requires two years of preparation for this Sacrament. If your child is six years of age or in the 1st grade and wants to participate in Faith Formation at St. Thomas More Catholic School and Parish, you will contact Gabby for registration for this Sacrament.

**Confirmation Preparation:** Our Archdiocese requires two years of formation for this Sacrament. If your teen is starting the ninth grade or had participated in Faith Formation at St. Thomas More last year, please register them for this Sacrament. Participating teens and a parent or guardian must attend the first meetings at 7:00 PM.

**First-Year Class:** Tuesday, September 20, 2022

**Second-Year Class:** Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Contact **Frank Ramos** for more information at 626-808-8033 or [01fdrt@gmail.com](mailto:01fdrt@gmail.com)

### The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

RCIA is a journey designed to enable a person to become a fully participating member of the Catholic Church. RCIA is for adults and unbaptized teens who want to become Catholic. This journey begins on Thursday, September 22, at 6:30 PM in the O'Neill Center. If you wish to know more about this process, don't hesitate to contact Gabby.

## The National Eucharistic Revival

### A Brief History of the Passover

**The National Eucharistic Revival** is a three-year effort to help the faithful Catholics to get to know and deepen their sense of devotion and faith to the Real Presence of Our Lord in the Eucharist. Whilst the process to the parish level will begin next year, we can start this journey of discernment and incite through our learning and reflection upon the Eucharist's history and meaning.

#### History

The king Pharaoh saw the rising population of the Hebrews in Egypt; for him, it was not a positive reality—a threat to his nation. The practical and quick-fixed solution was to control the population—to capture and enslave the Hebrews in designated lands. In human terms, suppose we were captured or abused by captors emotionally, physically, or psychologically; every day, we would strike to pleasure the captors, hoping they would feed us with decent necessities—feeding us with food, water, warmth. We look forward to regaining our freedom, the time we would return to our loved ones! That was why the Hebrews worshipped the Egyptian gods! God did not want His children to be captured, suffered, and honored under false gods. Thus, God sent Moses and Aaron to tell Pharaoh to let "my people go" (Exodus 5:1-3). Pharaoh did not listen.



#### Would God Surrender to Pharaoh?

God told Moses and Aaron to tell the Israel community that each family would kill a year-old male lamb without defect, take some of the blood, and put it on the side of the tops of the doorframes of the houses. "On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn--both men and animals--and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD" (Exodus 12:11-13). The blood of a lamb on the doorpost saved the Israelites that they could live and prepare for the journey to return to the Promised Land.

*To be continue with part II*

**Mass Schedule and Intentions**

**Please Pray for the Sick**

**Saturday, September 3, 2022**

4:00 PM Fr. Thai Confessions  
 5:00 PM Fr. Thai Parishioners of St. Thomas More

**Sunday, September 4, 2022**

8:00 AM Fr. Thai Helio & Danny Altamirano†  
 9:15 AM Fr. Thai Patrick Yiu† Pete Tirre†  
 10:30 AM Fr. Lorenzo Rafael Garcia†

**Monday, September 5, 2022—Private Mass**

**Tuesday, September 6, 2022**

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

**Wednesday, September 7, 2022**

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

**Thursday, September 8, 2022**

8:30 AM *Communion* Salvatore Lombardo †

**Friday, September 9, 2022**

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

**Saturday, September 10, 2022**

4:00 PM Fr. Thai Confessions  
 5:00 PM Fr. Thai James Householder †

**Sunday, September 11, 2022**

8:00 AM Fr. Thai Helio & Danny Altamirano† Lois Mestaz †  
 9:15 AM Fr. Thai Patrick Yiu† and Rufino Conrado III†  
 10:30 AM Fr. Thai Rafael Garcia Jr†

**A** Suzy Acosta  
 George Astacio  
**B** Aletha Bailey  
 Paul Beers  
**C** Roman Covarrubias  
 Jessica Cerda  
**D** Gerald Darrah  
 Carol De Alaiza  
 Ronnie De La Cruz  
 Sister Margaret Devlin  
 Luz Dicioco  
 Leticia Dicioco  
 Sr Grace DeLeon  
**E** Jan Edwards  
**F** Louis Finocchio  
**G** Gilbert Garcia  
 Lawrence Garcia  
 Isaiah Gutierrez  
**H** Guillermo Herrera  
**K** Sister Marie Kronheimer  
**L** Jeff Lamb  
 Chuy Lara  
 Pauline Lemire  
 Gudalio Lim  
**M** Henrietta Martinez  
 Maria Martinez  
 Ruben Martinez  
 Edgardo Merin  
 Barbara Moreno  
 Betty Murray  
**O** Maria Ortega  
**P** Manuel Pacheco Jr.  
 Fernando Parra  
**R** Ryan Reynoso  
 Armando Rivera  
 Frank Rocha  
**S** Kenneth Salmon  
**V** Gabriel & Socorro Valenzuela  
 Donna Viramontes

**St. Thomas More School  
 Preschool—8th Grade Enrollment**

- ⇒ Quality Education with Updated Curriculum
  - ⇒ Affordable Tuition and Sibling Discounts
  - ⇒ In-Person Learning with great Student : Teacher Ratio
- For information and registration, visit our website:

[stmcatholicalhambra.org](http://stmcatholicalhambra.org)

**Affordable Catholic Education & Tuition Assistance**

Families interested in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles Catholic schools are encouraged to visit [lacatholicschools.org](http://lacatholicschools.org) or call (213) 637-7070 for more information and access to financial assistance.

**Collections for 8/28/22**

*Thank You!*

	Envelopes	Loose	Total
Sunday Masses	\$2,294.00	\$800.00	\$3,094.00
By Mail and Online	\$1,060.83		\$1,060.83
Building Fund	\$275.00		\$275.00
Assumption	\$100.00		\$100.00
Air Conditioning	\$205.00		\$205.00
School Support	\$70.00		\$70.00
	<b>\$4,004.83</b>	<b>\$800.00</b>	<b>\$4,804.83</b>



Loretta Adams

Camilo Cadenas  
 Alvaro Negroe Iyvalle  
 Raymond Covarrubias  
 Lois Mestaz  
 Rosalva Covarrubias  
 Lucy Moreno  
 Gloria Marie Donovan  
 Thomas Rosas  
 Louis Finocchio  
 Mike Jeong  
 Jonna Hernandez  
 Pete Tirre  
 James Householder  
 Ramon C. Valle  
 Martha Laird  
 Teresa Valle

## ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

### **Bereavement Ministry** Pat Ramirez

Bereavement ministers help people and families who recently have lost loved ones. Ministers help contact funeral homes, plan funerals, and suggested readings for the memorial Mass.

### **Altar Server Ministry** Ben Pagcaliwangan

Any students who have received the Sacrament of Baptism and First Holy Communion can apply to be an Altar Server with the approval and presence of their parents or guardians during all training sessions. STM school applicants serve on Sundays and school liturgical celebrations.

### **Ministry to the Sick/Eucharistic Ministers**

**Group Leader:** Yolanda Galvan

These ministers bring Holy Communion to the sick who cannot come to Church, such as in a hospital, nursing home, or homebound. Ministers to the Sick courageously pray with the sick and spend time with them and their families. The minister also assists the priest to distribute the Holy Communion during the Holy Eucharist.

### **Religious Education/ Edge Jr High/RCIA**

**Ministry Leader:** Miss Gabby

Sharing of the faith and teaching children to understand the Catholic faith and prepare for sacraments.

### **Confirmation** Frank Ramos

Preparing teens to receive the sacrament of confirmation and grow in their faith.

### **Flower Ministry** Diane Smith

Care for existing plants and flowers in the church. Decorating altars with flowers for various masses and holidays. Cleaning up and replacing flowers and plants in the church when necessary.

### **Usher Ministry** Armando Gonzales

Ushers are greeters, welcoming the faithful participants on the Vigil and Sunday Masses. Ushers provide guidance for all guests with a focus on those in need. Ushers help organize and invite people to bring gifts to the Altar, pass collection baskets, and hand out bulletins.

### **Lector Ministry** Tom Smith

Lectors proclaim the readings to the congregation during Eucharistic Celebration – Sundays and weekdays. A delivers the readings to prepare the congregation to be inspired by and open to God's Spirit.

### **Spanish Community** Deacon Rogelio Garcia

Serve at the 10:30am Spanish Mass by serving as a lector proclaiming the Word of God, pass the collection baskets as an Usher or distribute Holy Communion.



# COME FLY WITH THE FALCONS!

## 2022-2023

## Preschool–8th Grade Enrollment is Open NOW



KIDS ALWAYS COME FIRST

TUITION ASSISTANCE &  
SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!

**RESERVE YOUR PLACE TODAY!  
VISIT OUR WEBSITE:**

**626 284-5778  
stmcsa.org**



Hello!

When I reflect on my life, I recall being invited to secular or religious public events, and I made excuses not to attend. I came up with various reasons and excuses to shy away from the invitations. I convinced myself that I wasn't good enough or would make mistakes and be judged by others. I reflect on all the missed opportunities because my emotions governed those decisions!

An opposing force of emotion is resilience, as practiced by the apostle Paul found in today's second reading. Paul was imprisoned while writing this epistle. He was caught between two persons, his assistant and his mentee. Onesimus was an enslaved person that had run away from his master, Philemon. While he was on the run, Onesimus met Paul and was brought to faith in Jesus Christ. Onesimus became Paul's assistant.

On the other hand, Paul was Philemon's mentor. By the law of that time, Onesimus still belonged to Philemon. How should Paul address Philemon? Should Paul hide Onesimus from Philemon? Surprisingly, Paul sends Onesimus back to Philemon with this epistle and asks him to receive Onesimus as a "brother beloved."

Why did Paul do that? Perhaps, Paul reflected upon his conversion—how God's grace enabled him to accept his past and move on with a brighter future. God's grace freed Paul from the slavery of sin and darkness to the light of Christ. Thus, Paul would want the grace of God to guide and transform Onesimus and Philemon in the same way. In addition, through personal resilience, Paul gained the ability to rebound from adversity and endure life's challenges and imprisonment.

The apostle Paul's resilience teaches us that we should cultivate what we have now, even in the most challenging times and situations, to know that the grace of God blesses us. The challenges we face may overwhelm us, but if we embrace them with the grace of God, we can hope for a better future. In the most challenging circumstances Paul faced, he did not complain about the dark cells or lack of provisions; instead, he worried about the well-being of others!

Our emotions may tell us that we are not good enough; we do not need to get up on Sunday to participate in the Eucharist; we do not need God and religion to form our conscience or the things we conduct. Be mindful that if our emotions are telling us to head in one direction, resilience is an opposing force that wants us to change. That was Paul's practice. Today's gospel reminds us to cultivate our inner potential; in other words, our inner resilience is needed for the journey of faith and life as Jesus' followers.

There was a story of a group of individuals who believed they could bypass earthly life by constructing a tall ladder that could reach heaven. They started living together on a reservation away from the rest of the society. Initially, they were excited and confident about the project and worked together as a distinguished group. However, after a while, they started to feel tired and discouraged. They began to point out problems and the mistakes of others. They used each other's shortcomings as sources of entertainment. They gossiped about families, spouses, and children. Eventually, conflicts emerged, and gradually, their ambitions were dashed to pieces. Their project failed, and the group dispersed.

Their mental shortcuts led to destruction. They thought their intellectual minds and strengths could reach as far as heaven. However, the more they tried to distance themselves from God, the closer they came to destruction. When the apostle Paul was locked up and had few choices, he kept one element in mind—his relationship with the Spirit of God. As we grow in maturity in many areas of life, we come to understand that principles of life depend upon our resilience and that we must cultivate and nurture through our relationship with Jesus Christ. When life is without a firm connection and relationship with God, we can be governed by various entities.

God bless!

Fr. Thai Le

¡Hola!

Cuando reflexiono sobre mi vida, recuerdo que me invitaron a eventos públicos seculares o religiosos y puse excusas para no asistir. Se me ocurrieron varias razones y excusas para rehuir las invitaciones. Me convencí de que no era lo suficientemente bueno o cometería errores y sería juzgado por otros. ¡Reflexiono sobre todas las oportunidades perdidas porque mis emociones gobernaron esas decisiones!

Una fuerza emocional opuesta es la resiliencia, tal como la practica el apóstol Pablo en la segunda lectura de hoy. Pablo fue encarcelado mientras escribía esta epístola. Estaba atrapado entre dos personas, su asistente y su aprendiz. Onésimo era una persona esclavizada que se había escapado de su amo, Filemón. Mientras huía, Onésimo se encontró con Pablo y fue llevado a la fe en Jesucristo. Onésimo se convirtió en asistente de Pablo.

Por otro lado, Pablo fue el mentor de Filemón. Por la ley de ese tiempo, Onésimo todavía pertenecía a Filemón. ¿Cómo debería dirigirse Pablo a Filemón? ¿Debe Pablo esconder a Onésimo de Filemón? Sorprendentemente, Pablo envía a Onésimo de regreso a Filemón con esta epístola y le pide que reciba a Onésimo como un "hermano amado".

¿Por qué Pablo hizo eso? Tal vez, Pablo reflexionó sobre su conversión: cómo la gracia de Dios lo capacitó para aceptar su pasado y seguir adelante con un futuro más brillante. La gracia de Dios liberó a Pablo de la esclavitud del pecado y las tinieblas a la luz de Cristo. Por lo tanto, Pablo querría que la gracia de Dios guiara y transformara a Onésimo y Filemón de la misma manera. Además, a través de la resiliencia personal, Paul ganó la capacidad de recuperarse de la adversidad y soportar los desafíos y el encarcelamiento de la vida.

La resiliencia del apóstol Pablo nos enseña que debemos cultivar lo que tenemos ahora, incluso en los momentos y situaciones más difíciles, para saber que la gracia de Dios nos bendice. Los desafíos que enfrentamos pueden abrumarnos, pero si los aceptamos con la gracia de Dios, podemos esperar un futuro mejor. En las circunstancias más desafiantes que enfrentó Paul, no se quejó de las celdas oscuras o la falta de provisiones; en cambio, ¡se preocupó por el bienestar de los demás!

Nuestras emociones pueden decirnos que no somos lo suficientemente buenos; no necesitamos levantarnos el domingo para participar de la Eucaristía; no necesitamos a Dios ni a la religión para formar nuestra conciencia o las cosas que conducimos. Tenga en cuenta que si nuestras emociones nos dicen que vayamos en una dirección, la resiliencia es una fuerza opuesta que quiere que cambiemos. Esa era la práctica de Pablo. El evangelio de hoy nos recuerda que cultivemos nuestro potencial interior; en otras palabras, nuestra resiliencia interna es necesaria para el camino de fe y vida como seguidores de Jesús.

Había una historia de un grupo de personas que creían que podían pasar por alto la vida terrenal construyendo una escalera alta que podía llegar al cielo. Empezaron a vivir juntos en una reserva lejos del resto de la sociedad. Inicialmente, estaban entusiasmados y confiados con el proyecto y trabajaron juntos como un grupo distinguido. Sin embargo, después de un tiempo, comenzaron a sentirse cansados y desanimados. Comenzaron a señalar los problemas y los errores de los demás. Utilizaron las deficiencias de los demás como fuentes de entretenimiento. Chismearon sobre familias, cónyuges e hijos. Eventualmente, surgieron conflictos y, gradualmente, sus ambiciones se hicieron añicos. Su proyecto fracasó y el grupo se dispersó.

Sus atajos mentales los llevaron a la destrucción. Pensaron que sus mentes intelectuales y sus fuerzas podrían llegar tan lejos como el cielo. Sin embargo, cuanto más trataban de distanciarse de Dios, más se acercaban a la destrucción. Cuando el apóstol Pablo estaba encerrado y tenía pocas opciones, mantuvo un elemento en mente: su relación con el Espíritu de Dios. A medida que crecemos en madurez en muchas áreas de la vida, llegamos a comprender que los principios de la vida dependen de nuestra resiliencia y que debemos cultivar y nutrir a través de nuestra relación con Jesucristo. Cuando la vida no tiene una conexión y una relación firmes con Dios, podemos ser gobernados por varias entidades.

¡Dios los bendiga!

P. Thai Le