

St. Therese Catholic Church

May 29, 2022

Ministered by the Discalced Carmelite Friars

Est. 1924

510 North El Molino Street | Alhambra CA 91801 | (626) 282-2744 | www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org

God mounts His throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.
-Psalm 7:6



MASSES | CONFESSIONS

Masses—Saturday: 8:00 a.m. & Vigil at 5:00 p.m.

Sundays at 7:30, 9:00, 11:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.

And Traditional Latin High Mass at 1:00 p.m.

Monday-Friday Masses: 6:00 and 8:00 a.m.

(the daily 8:00 a.m., the Sunday 11:00 a.m., and the weekday 7:00 p.m. Masses are **LIVE STREAMED** on Facebook AND YouTube);

Rosary: Mon-Sat after 8:00 a.m. Mass

Masses on Monday, *Tuesday (*Spanish),

Wednesday & Thursday EVENINGS at 7:00 p.m.

First Friday Mass: 7:00 p.m.

CONFESSIONS (OUTSIDE)-Wednesdays from 8:00

to 9:00 p.m.; Saturdays from 3:00 to 6:30 p.m.

and Sundays from Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Carmelite Nuns: 7:30 a.m., Mon.-Sat.

OFFICE HOURS | CONTACTS

Monday – Friday: 9:00 am-1:00 pm; 2:00 pm-5:00 pm

Pastor: Fr. Thomas Koller, OCD X222

Associate Pastor: Fr. David Guzman, OCD X232

In Residence: Fr. Albert Bunsic, OCD;

Fr. Bernard Perkins, OCD X225; Bro. Jason Parrott, OCD;

Fr. Godfrey Chandya, OCD

Deacons: Dcn Joseph Mizerski | Dcn Gilbert Vargas X333;

Annulments: Deacon Gilbert Vargas X333

Vocations: For the Archdiocese: (213) 637-7515

For the Carmelites: www.discalcedcarmelitefriars.com

Parish Secretary: Denise McMaster-Holguin X223

denisekay@hotmail.com

Finance: Noralyn Cailan X228 / cailannocds@gmail.com

Music Director: Paula Grimm | pgrimm.dir@gmail.com

Respect Life Ministry: Catherine Contreras XI 12

ST. THERESE CARMELITE SCHOOL

(626) 289-3364

www.SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com

Principal: Alma Cornejo X661

principal@sainttheresecarmeliteschool.com

See our **VIDEOS** on the School's Facebook page or on the Church's website >Our School > Videos



SACRAMENTS

- **Baptisms:** Register online
- **Weddings:** Register online at least six months in advance
- **Anointing of the Sick:** Call the office

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Blessed Ascension Thursday-Sunday, everyone—and blessed Day Three of the Novena to the Holy Spirit (which began two days ago on Friday, May 27 (the day after Ascension Thursday)! AND blessed Memorial Day weekend, with lots of extra prayer going out to all of you with family members who have been and/or are members of the military!!! Defending one's country against unjust aggressors with the ultimate sacrifice of one's life is a virtue. If you are anything like me, you might be wondering what is so good about Jesus going to the Father and having us not see Him any more? Couldn't He send the Holy Spirit anyway, and still remain visible to us? Well, as we all know all too well, what might be may be very interesting and attractive, but it doesn't substitute for the most important thing in our lives, namely what is in fact right in front of us!!! So, the fact is that Jesus has indeed disappeared from sight. What could be so good about that?

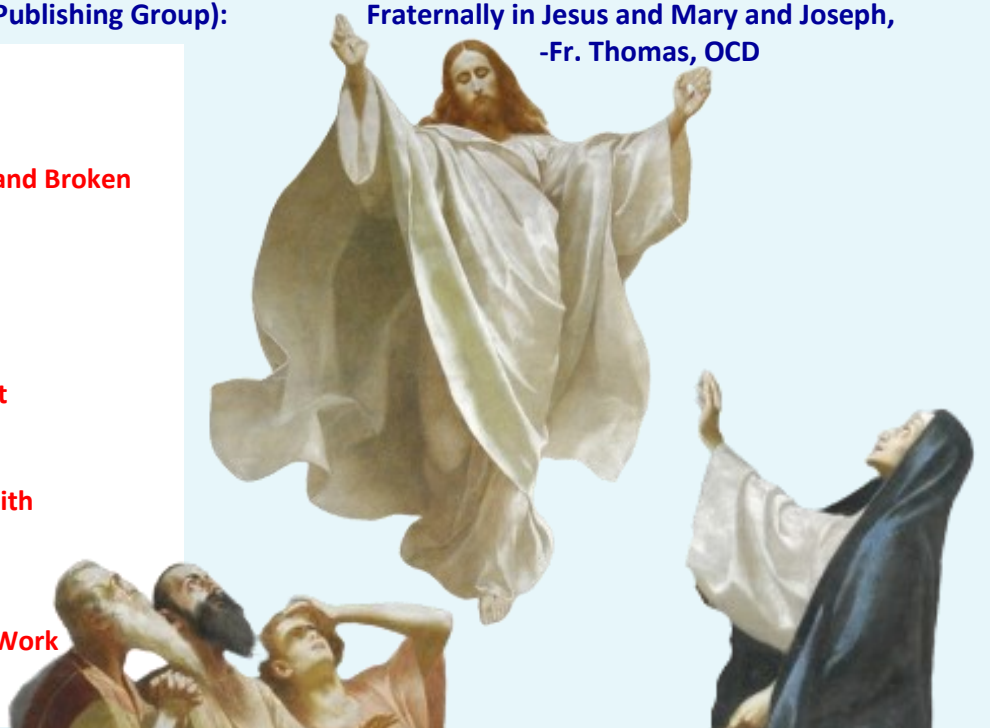
Probably that it helps us tremendously to grow up and mature in our relationship with Him. If He remained visible, we would always be tied to His visible Presence and feel that if we can't see Him, then He is not there—which means that His Presence to us is always limited to our five senses. But what if He decided to be with us ALWAYS, whether we see Him or not!?! Then there would be an Open Heaven between the Father and us NON-STOP!!! I was reading a meditation by a theologian who said something I had not been considering all these years: the time between Jesus' Resurrection and Ascension was for the disciples a time of dying to the familiar Jesus Who could be seen and heard as physically present (even though with a Glorified Body) and of learning to rise to an unfamiliar Jesus Who would suddenly appear and then disappear and then reappear. He came and went during those 40 Days and the disciples had to learn and trust that He was often with them before they could recognize them. That is NOT an easy lesson to learn!

And, so it is with us today: we are all being asked to grow in trust that **He is ALWAYS WITH US**, and yet usually in an invisible way. Signs and wonders that reveal His unmistakable Presence are meant to be regular in our lives, but not most of the hours of every day.... We still need to go mostly by faith and not by sight. And that is why we needed Pentecost 2000 years ago. Without the Lord Who is Spirit bringing the Presence of Jesus into/within us, we would not be able to recognize the ongoing invisible Presence of Jesus after He ascended into Heaven.

So, let us continue to pray the Novena to the Holy Spirit (available at all the entrances to the Church and through our online bulletin). Here are some brief reminders about how to open ourselves more to the Holy Spirit: (Taken from the Spiritual Gifts Handbook: Using Your Gifts to Build the Kingdom by Randy Clark and Mary Healy [pp. 198-215], Baker Publishing Group):

Fraternally in Jesus and Mary and Joseph,
-Fr. Thomas, OCD

1. Be Filled with the Holy Spirit
2. Stay Close to Jesus
3. Get God's Heart for the Lost and Broken
4. Ask, Seek, Knock
5. Take Steps in Faith
6. Do Whatever He Tells You
7. Know Your Authority in Christ
8. Learn from Others
9. Use Testimonies to Stir Up Faith
10. Remove Obstacles and Misunderstandings
11. Give the Holy Spirit Room to Work
12. Take It Out



A SPIRITUAL BOUQUET TO OUR LADY



On May 7, we started our Five First Saturdays Devotion here to honor Our Lady's request at Fatima. Over 150 people have signed up and made the commitment to offer a Spiritual Bouquet to her! At the morning Mass on May 7th, Fr. Bernard gave a beautiful homily about the Eucharist and Our Lady to the 100+ people in attendance. Afterwards, over 50 people joined together to pray the Rosary and to take part in the 15-minutes of meditation—with much sincerity and love of Our Lady.

Our next First Saturday will be June 4. Please join us for the 8:00 a.m. Mass, followed by the Rosary and 15 minutes of meditation. It is never too late to join this program as our First Saturday devotion is ongoing. **If you want to sign up, or have any questions, please contact Maria Alejandra at (626) 993-4236.**



The following is taken from Guido Del Rose's Article, "Fatima: The Five Sins":

The second sin of five is blasphemies against Our Lady's perpetual virginity: In the second stage, the Devil attacks Mary's perpetual virginity. The Virgin's perfect correspondence to those all-powerful graces is denied here. Her cooperation was total and complete, not one moment of let-up, not one flaw! Although her virginity is the main feature of this mystery, her entire and matchless acknowledgment of these super-abundant graces is very much at issue. Think for a moment of that mystery: **She received all-powerful graces from God and cooperated with each and every one in an unblemished, absolute way.**

This incomprehensible mystery is due to the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit, effecting a perfect union with the Virgin as His Immaculate Spouse. It is He, the Third Person of the Holy Trinity, Who propitiates her unqualified correspondence. To deny this activity on the part of Our Lady is to repudiate the Holy Spirit as the guarantor of her ineffable collaboration with Him. Attacking her perpetual virginity or reducing it to a lesser position is to destroy the divine plan whereby the Sanctifier accomplishes the salvation of souls in and through His most holy Spouse.

Moreover, not only did she cooperate totally with these graces, she also had the perfect intention of doing so. Her intentions were fully in accord with the desires of the Holy Spirit, the Redemption of all men and the salvation of the elect. Her intelligence and will, unimpaired and unhampered by original sin, were in absolute union with her Divine Spouse. What would the fruit of so sublime a union be? It is not entirely beyond our imagination. If ordinary people can cooperate with graces and produce wonderful results, then what unbelievable consequences would issue forth from Mary's faultless application of these indescribable graces!

NEW PLAYGROUND!

After 96 years, a playground is coming to St. Therese! Parishioner Mary Helen Estrada is spearheading a campaign to erect a small playground outside the Parish Hall. We are asking for your prayers for this special project. The Committee is also looking for help with fundraisers, raffle items, and donations. **A second collection will be taken up for this cause TODAY, Sunday, May 29.** For more information, please contact Vikki Ng at (626) 825-0741. Thank you for your generous support of our endeavor!



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Total Consecration

Join us for the next
four-week program
given by Fr. Ed Broom:
"Total Consecration to
Jesus through Mary."
It will begin this week
on June 2nd, and will
continue on the
following three
Thursday evenings:
June 9, 16, and 23.
Mass will begin at
6:00 p.m., followed by
the talk from 7:15 to
8:15 p.m., with group
sharing from 8:15
to 8:45 p.m.



Our Healing
Ministry
will follow
at 8:45 pm.



www.FatherBroom.com

Thursdays
June 2, 9, 16 & 23

Mass: 6:00 - 7:00 pm
Talk: 7:15 - 8:15 pm
Groups: 8:15—8:45 pm

Registration is not required. Copies of the Fr. Broom's
book—with assigned daily meditations—*Total
Consecration to the Mysteries of the Rosary*, will be
available for \$15 each.

**Mary is the quickest, easiest,
and most efficacious path to Jesus**

- St. Louis de Montfort -

FINANCIAL OFFERINGS

May God reward you for giving from your heart! Below you will find the total collection for last weekend, as well as for the previous four weekends. Note: There is a second collection on the 2ND WEEKEND OF EACH MONTH for our School.



May 21 / 22, 2022
Unrestricted..... \$16,022.00
Restricted\$ 476.00
TOTAL.....\$16,498.00

April 23/24 \$21,182.00
April 30/May 1\$13,234.00
May 7/8..... \$26,907.00
May 14/15 \$ 9,330.00

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The Ascension of the Lord

The celebration of the Ascension of our Lord occurs distinctively this year, when the two most detailed descriptions of the event—both written by St. Luke the Evangelist—are brought together in today's readings. We hear both the concluding verses from Luke's Gospel, the first volume of his work, and the first verses of Acts, his second volume. For Luke, the Ascension is the hinge of his two-volume work. The evangelist apparently thought the story of the Ascension was important enough to tell twice. While his first telling emphasizes the meaning of Jesus' earthly ministry, the second telling shifts to how the community of his followers are commissioned to continue this same ministry. Now the apostles, and by implication all who follow Jesus, will bring healing and hope to a world that desperately needs them. Luke reminds us that we the Church are also summoned by Jesus to participate in His work.



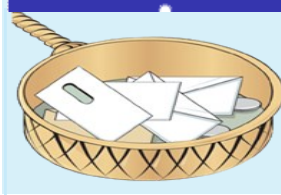
Appreciating the Ascension within the larger story of Jesus can be difficult. This is partly because of the mystical features of Luke's two descriptions, and also the lack of description in the other Gospels. The Ascension describes both the absence and the presence of Jesus. Why did Jesus have to leave? As Jesus told His disciples, His departure makes possible His continuing presence in a new way, through the work of the Spirit beginning at Pentecost. The Ascension is more than a departure, for it describes how the bodily, human Jesus is now "at the right hand of God," and that the Father exalts Jesus as Lord of Heaven and earth. We need to hold these two together: that Jesus knows our human trials and joys and walks compassionately with us; and Jesus also is our Lord, who pushes us out of our comfort zones toward Christian maturity and holds us accountable.

In the descriptions of the Ascension in today's readings, Jesus tells the disciples "You are witnesses" or "you will be my witnesses." The image of witness evokes a legal proceeding, where a person affirms the truth of an event. Sometimes physical evidence, such as a DNA test, serves as witness to the truth. This same word is used again and again in Acts, as the apostles witnessed to the Resurrection, or to the whole story of Jesus. We are called to witness the truth of the Gospel. We might witness in at least three ways. In dialogue with others, we can **speak** the witness, by explicitly sharing the biblical story and what it means for us. We can **do** the witness, by aligning our actions and lifestyle so as to share love for others. We can **be** the witness, in our fundamental openness and faithful response to God, and in our grace-filled personal presence with others. We are the best evidence of the truths of our faith.

The Gospel of John that is read on the Vigil of Pentecost says that "there was . . . no Spirit yet, because Jesus had not yet been glorified" (John 7:39). Obviously the Spirit is co-eternal with the Father and the Son, so John is trying to get our attention. He means that we could not experience the gifts of the Spirit until Jesus had died and risen from the dead. One way of looking at the Ascension is that Jesus can do much more for us in His glory than He could while on earth. How does this work? It happens in two steps. First, He sends the Holy Spirit to the disciples. Second, the

FINANCIAL OFFERINGS

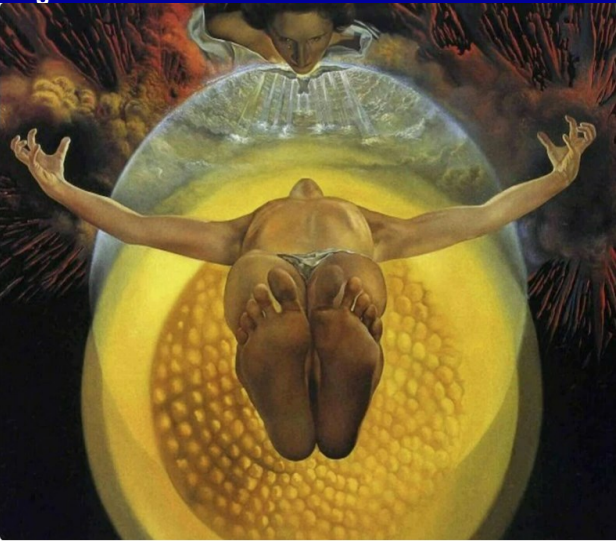
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disciples become His witnesses to all the nations. So let's look at the first step. While Jesus walked the earth, He chose to be limited in time and space, so that a few people could get to know and love Him. But after His resurrection, He could be more effective by sending His Spirit to all believers. Because He is ascended into glory, He can live in all of us. And that leads to the second step.

Before His death, Jesus began to collect a group of followers. Some got to know Him more deeply and became disciples. The rest of the followers were merely curious, or attracted by stories of miracles He had performed. But after His ascension the disciples began to experience Jesus in each other. They could not help but be excited about that and spread that excitement to others. May we all experience that presence in the Spirit, seeing Jesus in ourselves and others.

Fasting from the Wound of Deferred Hope

PAUSE TO HEAR GOD SPEAK:

“Hope deferred makes
the heart sick, but
when the desire comes,
it is a tree of life.”
-Proverbs 13:12

“I wait for the Lord; my
soul waits and I
hope for His word.”
-Psalm 130:5

Today, I choose to fast from the wound of deferred hope. Are you tired of waiting for something you believed would happen? Maybe it's a promotion, a new home, or healing of some hurt or ailment. Maybe you haven't given up completely, but you have begun to wonder. **You have waited so**

long for something that now you wait in sadness. This is deferred hope. Waiting for something good to come or happen is hard. We want our desire to be fulfilled. The longer we wait, the harder it is to hope joyfully for what we expect. Sadness creeps into our waiting. If we don't stop this sadness, it eventually kills hope all together. Deferred hope is the foundation for hopelessness. We can end up

waiting, believing in God but not in His goodness. This sadness can also move us out of waiting and into grasping for it now. Waiting, though, has benefits for us. It reveals our motives, builds patience, transform our characters, and builds dependency on God. Let's look for all the ways in which deferred hope has caused us to let go of dreams or to strive out of a sense of hopelessness.



Take time to ask yourself:

- **Do I have any dreams or desires that I have almost given up on? Why?**
- **How do I feel when I think of the things I've almost lost hope in?**

Hope deferred maketh the heart sick:
but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life.
Proverbs 13:12



Pray slowly... Heavenly Father, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I renounce deferred hope and repent all the ways in which I have sinned because of it, particularly the ways in which I have focused on negative things. I reject deferred hope in every area of my life. I renounce any lies that I have come to believe, and I renounce any companion emotions such as disappointment, worry, and hopelessness. Send your Holy Spirit to transform my heart and mind, giving me supernatural hope. Amen.

The above is taken from the book, *Lenten Healing*, by Ken Kniepmann—available for sale in the parish office.

Mass Intentions

May 28 to June 4, 2022

Saturday Evening:

5:00 p.m.: Alberto Ruiz, RIP

Sunday:

*7:30 a.m.: Sr. Regina, OCD, INT

7:30 a.m.: Mary Cassidy, RIP

9:00 a.m.: Parishioners

11:00 a.m.: Marietta Okamoto, RIP

1:00 p.m.: David Steele, RIP

5:00 p.m.: Wang-Shih Lin, INT

Monday:

6:00 a.m.: John Li, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Sr. Cecilia, OCD, INT

8:00 a.m.: Darlene DeChandt, RIP

7:00 p.m.: Sr. Teresa, OCD, INT

Tuesday:

6:00 a.m.: Dang-Song Ren, INT

*7:30 a.m.: Sr. Regina, OCD, INT

8:00 a.m.: Mary Louise Atencio, RIP

7:00 p.m.: Mary Cassidy, RIP

Wednesday:

6:00 a.m.: Joseph Lim, INT

*7:30 a.m.: Noralyn Cailan, INT

8:00 a.m.: Noralyn Cailan, Birthday INT

7:00 p.m.: Sr. Teresa, OCD, INT

Thursday:

6:00 a.m.: Mary Cassidy, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Sr. Mary, OCD, INT

8:00 a.m.: Erick Lopez, Birthday INT

7:00 p.m.: John Li, RIP

First Friday:

6:00 a.m.: Otto Lopez, Birthday INT

*7:30 a.m.: Rebecca B. Canonizado, INT

8:00 a.m.: Am Tiburcio Buenavente, RIP

7:00 p.m.: Gloria Doria, RIP

Saturday Morning:

*7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Community

8:00 a.m.: Josefina Villacorta, RIP

*Held at the Cloistered Carmelite Chapel,
215 East Alhambra Road,
Alhambra, California.

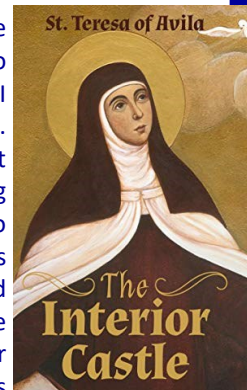
The Carmel Chapel is open to the public every day **except Sundays.**

LIVE STREAMED MASSES:

The 8:00 a.m. Daily Mass (Monday—Saturday), the 11:00 a.m. Sunday Mass, and the 7:00 p.m. weekday Masses are live streamed on Facebook AND YouTube (for those unable to attend due to illness, etc.). Links to those two sites are on our website's home page (in the top left column).

Quiet Listening Prayer

From *THE INTERIOR CASTLE*
by St. Teresa of Jesus (of Avila)



But one noticeably senses a gentle drawing inward, as anyone who goes through this will observe, for I don't know how to make it clearer. It seems to me I have read where it was compared to a hedgehog curling up or a turtle drawing into a shell. (The one who wrote this example must have understood the experience well.) But these creatures draw inward whenever they want. In the case of this recollection, it doesn't come when we want it but when God wants to grant us the favor. I for myself hold that when His Majesty grants it, He does so to persons who are already beginning to despise the things of the world. I don't say that those in the married state do so in deed, for they cannot, but in desire; for He calls such persons especially so that they might be attentive to interior matters. So, I believe that if we desire to make room for His Majesty, He will give not only this but more, and give it to those whom He begins to call to advance further. May whoever experiences this within himself praise God greatly because it is indeed right to recognize the favor and give thanks, for doing so will dispose one for other greater favors. And this recollection is a preparation for being able to listen, as is counselled in some books, so that the soul instead of striving to engage in discourse strives to remain attentive and aware of what the Lord is working in it. If His Majesty has not begun to absorb us, I cannot understand how the mind can be stopped. There's no way of doing so without bringing about more harm than good (Mansion 4, Chapter 3, Nos. 3-4).

Outside the Parish

Carmelite Pilgrimage with FR. RAYMOND BUENO, OCD, to the Marian Shrines of Wisconsin on October 5-12. \$3,295 (double room occupancy) includes round-trip non-stop AA flights from LAX, land travel by deluxe coach, 3*/4* hotels with private bath/daily breakfast/dinner, all touring, daily Mass. \$200 Early bird Discount by May 15th. Add \$450 for single room occupancy. For details, call Louisa & Jack Day at (323) 360-5186 or (323) 403-8768

14-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land (September 28 to October 11, 2022, led by Fr. Darrin Merlino, CMF, for \$4,989). For more information, contact Parishioners Albert and Mary Helen Estrada at (626) 285-6687 or remembertoatl@sbcglobal.net.

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