

SAINT THERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH

1100 East Alhambra Road, Alhambra CA 91801 | (626) 282-2744 | www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org

December 15, 2019 **MINISTERED BY THE DISCALCED CARMELITE FRIARS** Estab. 1924



Pastor: Fr. Philip Sullivan, OCD X222;
Associate Pastor: Fr. David Guzman, OCD X232;
Carmelite Vocation Director: Fr. Matthias Lambrecht, OCD X224

In Residence:
Fr. Albert Bunsic, OCD X335;
Fr. Donald Kinney, OCD (Chaplain for the Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles);
Bro. Jason Parrott, OCD (7th Grade Teacher)

Deacons: Deacon Joseph Mizerski X333;
Deacon Gilbert Vargas X333

NEW PARISHIONERS,

Register in the office at 510 N. El Molino Street, Alhambra.

Office Hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm; from 2:00 to 5:00 pm; and from 6:00 to 8:00 pm (closed from 1:00 to 2:00 pm and from 5:00 to 6:00 pm).

The Eucharistic Adoration Chapel is open 24/7. An electronic key is needed from 5:00 pm to 6:00 am (available in the office for \$20).

SAINT THERESE CARMELITE SCHOOL (626) 289-3364

www.SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com

Principal: Alma Cornejo X661

Principal @sainttheresecarmelite.school.com

Chaplain: Fr. Matthias Lambrecht, OCD X224

See our VIDEOS on the School's Facebook page or on the Church's Website: > Our School > Videos



MASSES AND SERVICES

Monday-Saturday: 6:00 & 8:00 a.m.
Carmelite Cloister: 7:30 a.m.

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 7:30, 9:00, 11:00 a.m., & 5:00 p.m.
Latin High Mass: 1:00 p.m.

Confessions: Wed: 7:00-8:30 p.m.; Sat: 3:30-5:00 p.m.

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

Exposition/Benediction: Thursdays, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

First Friday: Mass and Confessions: 7:30 p.m.

Baptisms: Once a month on a Saturday

Weddings: Fill out an application (website or office) six months+ in advance

Holy Communion to the Sick: Fred & Margaret Padilla, (626) 282-0943

Anointing of the Sick: Call the office to schedule an appointment.



Parish Secretary:

Denise McMaster-Holguin X223
denisekay@hotmail.com

Finance: Noralyn Cailan X228
cailannocds@gmail.com

Music Director:

Charlotte Lansberg
cjlansberg@choochoorecords.com

Respect Life Ministry / Vox Vitae:

Catherine Contreras X112;
cathycforlife@gmail.com

Cor Jesu Youth Ministry:

Fr. Matthias Lambrecht,
OCD X224
frmatthias@sainttherese.carmeliteschool.com

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

(Grade School, Confirmation

for Youth & Adults,
RCIA, and Liturgical
Ministries): Call
the main office

"BECOMING 'HOUSES OF GOD' "



On the feast day of one of our most-recently canonized Carmelite saints, St. Elizabeth of the Trinity, one of the readings at Mass was from St. Paul's letter to the Romans (15:14-21). He gave them instructions on how they—and we!—should better see one another. We need to train our sight to see things differently—to see as God sees and to act as God desires us to act, according to His will. That's what we're trying to do at St. Therese Parish and School and in our own Christian journeys: To see differently, to see as God sees, to act according to God's will, and to love as God loves.

Our Lord tells us that we must take account of our own ambitions, our own longing to succeed, our own desire to make money, save money, and have things, including positions in life and titles. He knows that we are aware of how to deal with the ambitions of *this world*, but how do we deal with or prepare for the things that are *above*? How are we expressing our ambitions to become saints, for example, rather than to become multibillionaires—not that there's anything wrong with being a millionaire or billionaire; but are we using the same kind of ambition and motivation to achieve the eternal realities of who we are? Does that make sense?

So think about St. Elizabeth of the Trinity; she's a great saint to get to know. Did you know that when she was only 14 years old, her teacher asked her class to write a composition, with each student describing themselves as a sort of self-portrait. Think about that for a moment. To draw one's physical and moral portrait is a delicate subject to deal with. How would you describe yourself? Elizabeth wrote, *"By taking my courage in both hands, I set to work to begin."* In other words, it took courage to look at herself. *"Without pride, I think I can say that my overall appearance is not displeasing."* So she thought herself pretty.

"I am a brunette and, they say, rather tall for my age. I have sparkling black eyes..." She might be a little conceited, wouldn't you say? Elizabeth goes on to say, *"My thick eyebrows give me a severe look. The rest of my person is insignificant. My 'dainty' feet could win for me the nickname of 'Elizabeth of the Big Feet,' like Queen Bertha! And there you have my physical portrait."* So she's pretty, she has sparkly eyes and eyebrows that make her look severe, and she has big feet, which she likens to Queen Bertha's, whoever she was. But then she goes on to say, *"As for my moral portrait, I would say I have a rather good character. I have a good heart and, by nature, I am quiet. I am cheerful and, I must confess, somewhat scatterbrained."* Sound like any of us here?

Now that's how she described herself, but it's not how others described her. You see, we don't always see ourselves the way others see us. In fact, her mother and sister found her most disagreeable to live with. Her own pastor at her church said, "she either's going to become a saint or a demon," because she was so emotional. But this character analysis is kind of an important one for us to think about.

When I was at college at ASU, I was studying to be a character analyst. I wanted to get a degree in illustration so that I could go on to be a cartoonist, drawing characters of family and friends. Every year I would make a Christmas card, turning the people in my life into cartoons. Well, I still do it—but not the same way. The problem was that I was emphasizing the obvious flaws of others. Presidents, Popes, and celebrities are often subject to this kind of art, wherein a physical trait or imperfection is exaggerated for fun; for example, Donald Trump's hair or Arnold Schwarzenegger's muscles, or more familiarly, Fr. Matthias' long beard.

By Fr. Philip Sullivan, OCD

All these are examples that we can exaggerate and make fun of. But most people don't want their physical imperfections exaggerated and exposed for others to laugh at, like having freckles, moles, big ears, or bald heads. It took me a long time to change the way I drew people because I first had to change the way I looked at people. *I* had to change. Change is good, and so is changing bad habits like looking judgmentally at other's imperfections. This is not how saints are made. Winston Churchill once wrote, *"To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often."* Change your thoughts and you will change your world. And not just your world, little as it is, but the whole world. You see, we have to look at the history of the saints and realize they are the ones who change the world, aren't they? Not history's dictators, presidents, monarchs, lawmakers, celebrities, or football stars... *They* don't change the world. *Saints* change the world!

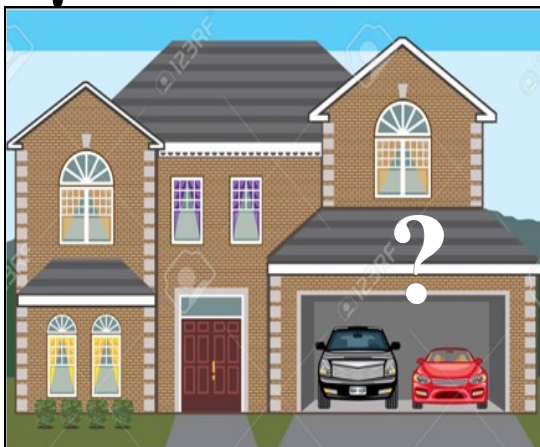
TO IMPROVE IS TO
 – *change* –
 TO BE PERFECT IS TO
change often.
 WINSTON CHURCHILL

St. Elizabeth of the Trinity once wrote, *"I think that in Heaven, my ambition will be to draw souls by helping them go out of themselves by clinging to God, which will allow God to communicate Himself to them and then transform them into Himself."* That's what becoming a saint is all about. Being transformed by God into Himself. That's what's happening to those who seriously pursue becoming saints. And this is what saints do for us. They help us. They help us because "they've been there, they've done that". They struggled with their own conceitedness, like Elizabeth of the Trinity. They struggled with their own imperfections and bad habits, and were successful in overcoming them. And so they want us to be successful at changing our lives, so as to cling to God, so that God can transform us, so that we can change the way we see others by the way we see ourselves, as God sees us.

I still draw characters of others, but I destroyed all of my old drawings that I made when I was in college—drawings of my family and friends, drawings that took hours and hours of work, many tubes of paint, and much discipline. I destroyed them all because they don't correctly portray what God sees in all of us. The name Elizabeth means "House of God". She changed herself, and I'm in the process of changing myself, just as you are all in the process of changing yourselves, by making our lives "Houses of God," so that we can see differently, so that we can see as God sees us, so that God will love in us what He perfectly loves in His Son.

Are you "Houses of God"? When you come up to receive the Holy Eucharist, you will be just that: "Houses of God".

Update on Fr. Albert After His Car Accident



At last Sunday's Masses, we told you that our dear Father Albert had a car accident in Arizona while on the way to visit his twin brother. We are happy to report that he wasn't injured in the accident and is now home safe. His car? Not so much. Unfortunately, the car didn't make it; it was **TOTALED!**

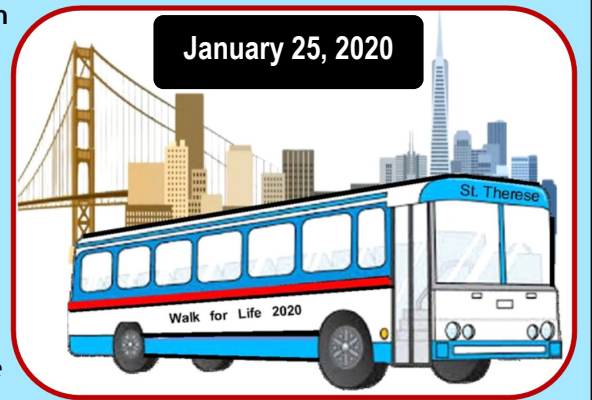
Which brings us to our question: Do you have an **unused extra car** in your garage or driveway that is in good condition and which you would be **willing to give to Fr. Albert** as an early Christmas gift? If so, please contact Fr. Philip either at 282-2744, ext. 222, or at philolupe@yahoo.com.

Your consideration of giving such a car would be very appreciated! God bless you!

BUS TO WEST COAST "WALK FOR LIFE"

Vox Vitae invites YOU to join them for the Walk for Life in San Francisco on January 25th!—two months from now! The Walk and its counterpart, the March for Life in Washington, DC, commemorate the anniversary of *Roe vs. Wade*, the Supreme Court decision that stripped legal protection from unborn children on January 22, 1973. Since then, more than 60 million babies have been aborted in the United States. The Walk for Life is not a party. Rather, over 60,000 people gather together to remember the dead and resolve anew to work to end abortion. We remember also the wounded mothers, fathers, and other family members of the babies.

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN to go to the 2020 Walk for Life (we'll have TWO buses!). Join us! You can register at VoxVitae.org at the Events page. Our tentative schedule on **Saturday, January 25**, is:



Please be a VOICE FOR LIFE! Register today!

Midnight - Check-in at St. Therese Church; **1:00 a.m.**—Depart; **7:00 a.m.**—Arrive in San Francisco; **7:30 a.m.**—Continental breakfast; **9:30 a.m.**—Mass at Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption; **11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**—Info Faire (Lunch can be purchased; bring your own lunch money!); **12:30-1:30 p.m.**—Speakers and rally; **1:30 p.m.**—Walk for Life; **4:30 p.m.**—Bus pick-up at Pier 1; **5:00 p.m.**—Protest at UCSF, the nation's abortion training headquarters and where they harvest organs from late-term babies; **5:30 p.m.**—Bus pick-up at UCSF; **6:00 p.m.**—FREE BBQ dinner at Our Lady Star of the Sea; **7:30 p.m.**—Bus pick-up at Our Lady Star of the Sea; **1:30 a.m.**—Arrive back at St. Therese Church on January 26.

The anniversary of *Roe vs. Wade* is an especially important time to demand legal protection for unborn babies.

CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVE



Please bring food & turkeys and hams on Sunday, December 22!

Our next food drive will be for those in need for Christmas. Please help us by donating non-perishable food items (boxes, bags, cans) AND turkeys and/or hams! Please bring these items to the Parish Hall on **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22**, between the hours of **8:30 a.m.** and **1:00 p.m.**, and **4:30** and **6:30 p.m.**

We will have freezers available in the Hall that day to place the turkeys and hams until we distribute them the next evening.

**Remember...
God will not be
outdone in generosity!**



Each Saturday morning, volunteer Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion bring Our Lord to the Catholic residents of Brookdale Assisted Living facility in Alhambra. We are in need of additional volunteers to serve the Sick at this location. If you are interested in helping, please contact the Coordinator, Larry Regalado, at 788-6085.

ADORATION CHAPEL

"Mary's motherhood extends beyond view. In the will of the Son, she becomes at once Mother and maid: sheltering Him but sheltered in Him, forming Him but formed by Him. When she pronounces the words, 'Be it done unto me according to thy word', the Mother conceives the mystery from the Trinity, in order to give it to the Son. The Son gives the word back to the Trinity by giving everything He has back to the Father in the Spirit. Then, after the Father has received it again, it is distributed to mankind by means of that extravagant expanding—the Eucharist and the Holy Spirit."

-Adrienne von Speyr (Swiss Catholic doctor and the author of over 60 spirituality and theology books; she died in 1967)

FINANCIAL OFFERINGS

"...for God loves a cheerful giver"
(2 Corinthians 9:7)

May God reward you! Below you will find the total collections for the last few weekends.

NOTE: The second collection on the 2ND WEEKEND each month is for our School (that's THIS weekend!).



December 7 / 8, 2019

Unrestricted.....\$24,410.00
Restricted \$ 9,109.00
T O T A L \$33,519.00

November 9 / 10.....\$17,120.00
November 16 / 17..... \$23,358.00
November 23 / 24..... \$11,110.00
Nov. 30 / Dec. 1..... \$14,591.00

Check Users:
Please use a donation envelope in order to more easily credit your account.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

STRE (Kindergarten through 8th Grade, including Eucharist Preparation): Classes are in session **TODAY, Sunday, December 15, at 9:00 a.m.**

CONFIRMATION (High School): Classes for First Year (C1) are **Sunday, January 5, at 9:00 a.m., and Tuesday, January 7, at 7:00 p.m.** Classes for **Second Year (C2)** are **TODAY, Sunday, December 15, at 9:00 a.m., and Tuesday, December 17, at 7:00 p.m.**

RCIA: For those wishing to become Catholic or to complete your Sacraments, join us! Classes are held in the Parish Meeting Room on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Upcoming dates are December 19 and January 9, 16, 23, and 30.

ST. VITUS DANCE ACADEMY

Attention: Students in Grades 5 through 12! Want to learn to dance? This class is perfect for beginners and experienced dancers alike! Ballroom styles will be covered, with a primary focus on East Coast Swing. In addition, students will be introduced to folk styles, such as Square, Contra, and English Country dancing. Through interactive lessons, students will learn how to connect rhythms from the music to their steps. At the completion of the classes, students will have learned a wide variety of dance steps, preparing them to confidently approach the dance floor on any occasion. As this class is cumulative, weekly attendance is recommended for the best class experience. **Classes will be held in the Parish Hall from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m., on the following Fridays: January 10, 24, 31, and February 7.** Cost is \$5 per lesson (*paid monthly*). That's four lessons for \$20! Questions? Contact Jessica Standage at jcpianjo@yahoo.com or Michelle Sandberg at (323) 346-5012 (call or text).

CLOTHING DRIVE BY COR JESU

Parishioners! Our Youth Ministry will be collecting warm clothing (new or used in good condition) for the homeless in Skid Row. Please bring your donations to the Hall this Friday evening, **December 20!** Thank you for thinking of others! May God bless and reward you!



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We've Purchased a Gift for You!

Enjoy a free subscription to formed.org an incredible online gateway to the best Catholic content, all in one place!

REGISTER NOW



St. Therese Church has **RENEWED ITS SUBSCRIPTION** to the Catholic media website, **FORMED.ORG**, and is continuing to make it available for **FREE** to ALL our parishioners! Discover all the best Catholic content in one place: Movies, talks, audio dramas, and a great selection of e-books. To register, go to the home page of our website (www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org) and click on the picture shown to the left. Then, simply enter your name, e-mail address, and zip code (**NO PASSWORD NEEDED!**) and get started enjoying all they have to offer.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DECEMBER

Read: "The World's First Love," by Venerable Bishop Fulton Sheen

Listen: "Lectio: Mary, The New Eve," with Dr. Brant Pitre (Eight 35-minute sessions from which to choose).

Watch: 1531: A Story Not Finished Yet," a great movie/documentary (only 75 minutes long) about Our Lady of Guadalupe.

COR JESU YOUTH MINISTRY

Our next Cor Jesu Night will be this Friday, December 20:
FAINT-HEARTEDNESS vs. FORTITUDE

More information:
www.SaintThereseChurchAlhambra.org

See all the photos in FULL COLOR & SIZE on the website (click "Photo Albums" on the "Cor Jesu Youth" link).

(Photos courtesy of Elvia Hernandez)

CHRISTMAS CAROLING!

Saturday, December 21, 10:00 a.m.: Leave for Santa Teresita in Duarte to carol for the elderly residents. Please contact Fr. Matthias if you plan to go (frmatthias@sainttheresecarmeliteschool.com).

New or used in good condition

CLOTHING DRIVE! Please bring warm clothing to the Hall this Friday night!



Mass Intentions

Floral Dedications

**For the Week of
December 14 through December 21, 2019**

Saturday:

5:00 p.m.: Parents of Deacon Joe & Lorraine Mizerski, RIP

Sunday

- *7:30 a.m.: Rosa Maria Thien Chau Nguyen, RIP
- 7:30 a.m.: Michael Alexander Cheah, INT
- 9:00 a.m.: Deputy Joseph Solano, RIP
- 11:00 a.m.: Dunne Family, INT
- 1:00 p.m.: (Latin): Parishioners
- 5:00 p.m.: Julian & Carmen Ballesteros, RIP

Monday:

- 6:00 a.m.: Victorino Ata, RIP
- *7:30 a.m.: John Okamoto, RIP
- 8:00 a.m.: Letty Sebastian, INT

Tuesday:

- 6:00 a.m.: Fr. Richard Mandoli, OCD, RIP
- *7:30 a.m.: Cloistered Nuns Christmas Novena 1
- 8:00 a.m.: Bernie & Kay Tittmann, 53rd Anniv. INT

Wednesday:

- 6:00 a.m.: Ediberto Cardona, RIP
- *7:30 a.m.: Cloistered Nuns Christmas Novena 2
- 8:00 a.m.: Damaris Shower, 27th Death Anniv.

Thursday:

- 6:00 a.m.: Ediberto Cardona, RIP
- *7:30 a.m.: Cloistered Nuns Christmas Novena 3
- 8:00 a.m.: John Benedict Odonio, Birthday Intention

Friday:

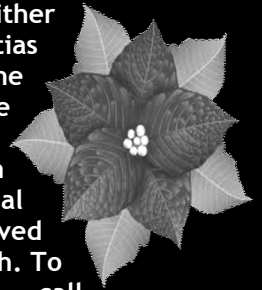
- 6:00 a.m.: Alvin & Anthony Cailan, INT
- *7:30 a.m.: Cloistered Nuns Christmas Novena 4
- 8:00 a.m.: Philip Sebastian, INT

Saturday:

- 6:00 a.m.: Carmelite Community
- *7:30 a.m.: Cloistered Nuns Christmas Novena 5
- 8:00 a.m.: Maria Luisa A. Lapidario, INT

*Held at the Carmelite Chapel, 215 East Alhambra Road. Open to the public except on Sundays and holidays.

For the Advent and Christmas seasons, we will have either greenery (Advent) or poinsettias (Christmas season) on the altar. Call today to schedule your dedication (for a time after the Christmas season) in someone's honor, for a special occasion, or in memory of loved ones! Bouquets are \$50+ each. To arrange for a dedication, call Giovanna at 281-9049.



Outside the Parish

HELP FOR MARRIAGES: 82% of marriages that complete the nine month *Retrouvaille* (REH-tro-v-eye) program are still together five years later? For questions or registration, call 909-900-5465 or visit www.HelpOurMarriage.com. Confidential!

You are invited to join Fr. Joe Joseph's Pilgrimage to SWITZERLAND, GERMANY, THE NETHERLANDS BELGIUM, including the OBERAMMERGAU-PASSION PLAY from SEPT. 2-14. Contact Bernadette at bcorp1114@gmail.com or 323-547-6618 / 323-344-1548.

ARE YOU HOMEBOUND? You can view the Mass on TV on Channel 56 (KDOC) every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. For a free copy of the Mass prayer book, call 1-800-430-0930.

Personal Ads

FREE REFRIGERATOR! Whirlpool side-by-side in working condition. Call 483-9116 if interested. Must pick-up Mon-Fri between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

ROOM FOR RENT in Rosemead apartment to clean, quiet person. Shared bathroom, kitchen privileges. \$630/mo., incl. utilities. Prefer woman but must be non-smoker/non-drug user. Call Rosa at 756-2072.

SEEKING TO RENT a private room with a non-sharing bath. Clean, quiet, non-smoking/-drinking lady always pays on time. Can afford up to \$700/ mo., plus security. Call Valerie at 626-353-7648.

Lectors

Saturday

5:00 p.m. Larry Dumont / Alice Cheung

Sunday

- 7:30 a.m. Rex Owens / Thu Nguyen
- 9:00 a.m. Rosa Natividad
- 11:00 a.m. Pat Cervantes / Sarah Halpin
- 5:00 p.m. Heinrich Ranches