

St. Therese Catholic Church

February 6, 2022

Ministered by the Discalced Carmelite Friars Est. 1924

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



After He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at the knees of Jesus and said, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man" (Luke 5:4,6,8).

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.** (Tues. and Thurs. are preceded by a showing of The Chosen, Season 2, from 7:00 to 7:15 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 Cloister: 7:30 a.m., Monday-Saturday

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 XI12

ST. THERESE CARMELITE SCHOOL

(626) 289-3364

www.SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com

Principal: Alma Cornejo X661

principal@sainttheresecarmeliteschool.com



SACRAMENTS

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

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Hello in the Holy Spirit! I hope you had a chance to say “hello” to our newly-ordained Carmelite friar, Father Joseph Mary Tran, last Saturday and Sunday. If not, you will no doubt meet him in the near future, since we friars move around and visit one another’s communities. He has an amazing story (as we all do!) and a wonderful personality, and so I hope you meet him soon! And “thank you!” to everyone who helped with cleaning the church and getting everything ready for his ordination day.

On another note, I encourage everyone to sign up for the St. Ignatius Spiritual Exercises Course that Fr. Ed Broom from St. Peter Chanel Church will be leading every Thursday for ten weeks, beginning February 10 (see Page for details). St. Ignatius is a wonderful source of time-tested guidance for growing in identity and intimacy with the Three Divine Persons and in living that out in the Catholic Church—especially nowadays when there are so many obstacles to such a life.



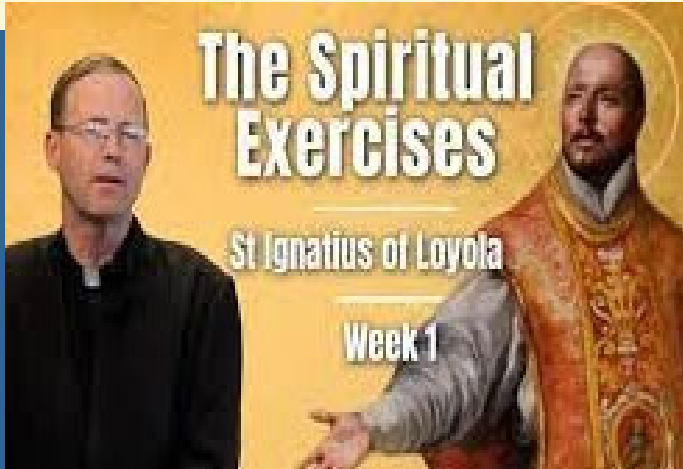
Speaking of identity and intimacy, notice in the First Reading today how **the prophet Isaiah is drawn into a relationship with the Lord through having a vision of His Glory**, of Who He really is, and then after that the prophet is invited into partnering with the Lord in the missionary work of inviting others into that relationship/friendship. The same basic dynamic is at work in the Gospel of Luke today, where we see Simon the fisherman first experiencing how much Jesus is interested in Simon's regular life, and from there Simon begins to trust Jesus enough to cast his nets out again, and then experiences a huge miracle; and then is

interested enough in Jesus to be able to hear and respond to Jesus' invitation to help Him fish for men. So, it begins with learning to trust Jesus enough to have a conversation with Him (our prayer life), becoming curious about Who He is and what He's like (reading Scripture on our own, inviting Him into the hours of our day). Then we become more open to His presence and guidance, and then, as we hear His voice and follow Him and experience small and large miracles, we seek Him even more and want to become His disciples too, no matter how inadequate and unqualified we feel.

One time a group of high school students invited a non-Christian friend on a retreat. As the opening talk of the retreat began, he was in the back of the room, with his earbuds on. A leader gently asked him if he could take them off and engage with the others in the room. He took off his earbuds and announced that he was an atheist and didn't want to be there. So, they respected his decision and tried to love him in whatever way he might let them. On Saturday evening, a young woman who had learned to pick up natural signals that people give off and then take that to Jesus and ask Him what to do, came over to him and asked him if she could pray with him. “Go ahead. Whatever.” She began to say something like, “I'm picking up that you don't have friends who really care about you, and that God wants to change that and give you true friends.” “Whoa, there is no way that you could know that unless God really exists! OK, I'm not an atheist anymore. I'm ready to listen to what you all have to offer here.” And then others came over and everyone embraced him and opened their hearts wide, now that his heart was open.

Did you hear Jesus or the Father or the Spirit speak to you personally these past few days or this morning? How might you ask Him to share His heart with you and let you know what He's thinking? As you grow in trust and the art of having a conversation with Him, sharing your day with Him, you will sooner or later hear Him sharing what is on His heart with you. You are not an orphan. **You don't have to earn His love; you are already a beloved daughter or son in His family...** In Him, -Fr. Thomas Koller, OCD

SPIRITUAL EXERCISES OF ST. IGNATIUS - SESSIONS BEGIN **THIS THURSDAY!** -



Thursday evenings, 7:10 to 8:10 p.m.
February 10—April 13, 2022
— Held in the Church —
† Preceded by Mass at 6:00 p.m. †

You are invited to attend this **FREE** ten-week course, conducted by Fr. Ed Broom. It will be held in our **CHURCH** on Thursday evenings from **February 10** through April 13 from **7:10 to 8:10 p.m. each evening**. The sessions will be **preceded by the evening Mass, which will be celebrated at 6:00 p.m.** for these ten weeks (we will return to celebrating Mass at 7:00 p.m. the week after the end of the sessions).

You **MUST** pre-register by sending an email to **StcLENT2022@gmail.com** (include your name and your phone number). If you don't have email, leave a voice mail with Maria Alejandra by calling (626) 282-2744, ext. 1—235.

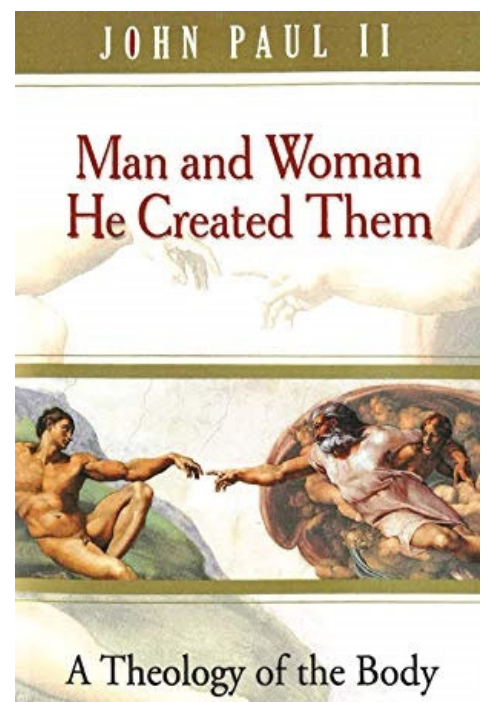
THEOLOGY OF THE BODY SERIES

Everyone is invited to come and learn more about St. John Paul's Theology of the Body by attending this series, facilitated by Fr. Thomas.

We meet on the **SECOND** and **FOURTH** Fridays of each month from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., in the Guadalupe Courtyard of the Parish Offices. **The next meeting will be February 11.**

Included in the series is audio, video, and Power Point presentations, as well as discussion and prayer. Feel free to bring food and/or drinks to share!

For those who would prefer, you are also welcome to join us **VIA ZOOM**. The Personal Meeting ID Number is 846 381 4560 and the Passcode is yaCsG6.



The Sober Intoxication of the Spirit



When the Holy Spirit comes powerfully into a person's life, the manifestation of charisms is not the only result. Often, there is also an experience of being so overwhelmed by God's power and love that people can start to feel and act inebriated—they are "beside themselves" (2 Corinthians 5:13). This is what happened on the Day of Pentecost, when some skeptical bystanders saw the behavior of the disciples and came

up with the only explanation they could think of: "They are filled with new wine" (Acts 2:13). Ironically, there was truth in that disdainful comment. In the prophets, "new wine" was an image of the abundance of divine life that God would pour out when the Messiah came: "Behold, the days are coming when . . . the mountains shall drip sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it" (Amos 9:13). At Pentecost, that "new wine" of the Spirit came!

The Fathers of the Church were well aware of this irony, and they enjoyed commenting on it. St. Ambrose of Milan writes in one of his hymns, "Let us drink with joy the sober intoxication of the Spirit!" St. Cyril of Jerusalem explains to catechumens preparing for baptism: "They [the disciples at Pentecost] are not drunk in the way you might think. They are indeed drunk, but with the sober intoxication that kills sin and gives life to the heart and which is the opposite of physical drunkenness. Drunkenness makes a person forget what he knows; this kind, instead, brings understanding of things that were not formerly known. They were drunk insofar as they drank the wine of that mystical vine which affirms, 'I am the vine, you are the branches'" (John 15:5).

St. Augustine adds, "The Holy Spirit . . . found you thirsty and He has intoxicated you. May He truly intoxicate you!" The Apostle Paul said, "Do not be drunk with wine which leads to debauchery." Then, as if to clarify what we should be intoxicated with, he adds, "But be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart" (Eph. 5:18-19). Doesn't a person who rejoices in the Lord and sings to Him exuberantly seem like a person who is drunk? I like this kind of intoxication. The Spirit of God is both drink and light. For most of Church history, it was taken for granted that receiving the Holy Spirit was a fact of experience, as it was for the early Christians in Acts—not something you merely accepted by faith.

Augustine said in one of his sermons, "Thanks be to the Lord our God, and wave upon wave of praise to that God to whom praise songs are due in Zion. Thanks be to Him to whom we have been singing with devoted hearts and mouths, because we can feel the holy love of Him deeply ensconced in your hearts, because you revere Him as Lord and love Him as Father. Thanks be to Him who is desired before He is seen and whose presence is felt." The thirteenth century's St. Thomas Aquinas is rightly thought of as a man of the intellect, a master of logical thought and careful distinctions. But few realize that Thomas was also a man inebriated with the love of God. The same Thomas who wrote the *Summa Theologica* also wrote this:

"Spiritual refreshment consists of two things: the gifts of God and His sweetness. With reference to the first, [Scripture] says: 'they shall be drunk with the abundance of your house' [Ps 36:9]. The house is the Church [1 Tim 3:15]. . . . 'They shall be drunk' insofar as desires are fulfilled beyond all measure of merit, for drunkenness is a kind of excess... People who are drunk are not inside but outside themselves. Thus, those filled with spiritual gifts have all their attention on God. And they are refreshed not only by these gifts but also by the love of God . . . And you shall make them drink of the torrent of your pleasure. This is the love of the Holy Spirit that causes a force in the soul like a torrent. And it is a torrent of pleasure because it causes pleasure and sweetness in the soul."

(Taken from *The Spiritual Handbook*, pages 96-98—available for sale in the Parish office)

Fasting from the Sin of Narcissism

PAUSE TO HEAR GOD SPEAK:

"Why do we envy the happiness and the goods of others? Because we are proud; we should like to be the sole possessors...of all the world. We hate our equals, because they are our equals; our inferiors, from the fear that they may equal us; our superiors, because they are above us." (St. John Vianney)

"Love is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury" (1Corinthians 13:5).

Today, I choose to fast from the sin of narcissism. An extension cord, a headphone cable, or a string of Christmas lights may be put away neatly, only to be pulled out later as a hopelessly knotted mess. This image helps describe the inner workings of narcissism. In this type of pride, our uniqueness to our heavenly Father becomes tangled up with the littleness of our humanity before Him. We confuse our God-given specialness with an illusion of greatness. We are so confident of our own specialness that we think others cannot relate to us. Here are some key questions you might consider to help yourself identify any narcissistic tendencies: Do you think that nobody really understands you? Do you think that others can't possibly comprehend your inner workings? Is it hard to receive compassion from others when you believe that they really can't

understand? Take some time to really think about your answers to those questions because they can be indicators of different forms of narcissism in your life. Narcissistic beliefs often make us expect everything and everyone to order themselves to our pain, perceptions, and emotions. Let's dig a little deeper with the **meditation below** to check in with our own narcissism.

Take time to ask yourself... Where in my life do I believe I am more special than others? In what ways do I believe that nobody really understands me because nobody else is like me?



Pray slowly... Heavenly Father, In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I renounce narcissism and repent all the ways in which I have acted out of it. I reject every form of narcissism in my life. I ask you, Father, to forgive me, and I forgive myself for my narcissistic tendencies, and all the times they have tempted me to sin. Holy Spirit, make me aware of any narcissistic thoughts, feelings, and actions. Amen.

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

OFFICES TEMPORARILY CLOSED

Due to an increase in local Covid cases (including people who are associated with this office), we have made a decision to temporarily CLOSE the offices. This will last until further notice.

If you'd like to schedule Masses, request copies of sacramental certificates, or conduct any other church-related business, please call us at (626) 282-2744, ext. 0. Anything you need to pick up will be left on the TABLE TO THE LEFT OF THE FRONT OFFICE DOOR. You may put anything you need to give to a friar or a staff member into the MAIL SLOT TO THE RIGHT OF THE DOOR.

Check our website for information about scheduling a funeral, a wedding, or a baptism. Thank you for your understanding... STAY SAFE!

WOMEN'S RETREAT AT EL CARMELO IN REDLANDS



Join us for our annual Women's Silent Retreat from **Friday, March 11, through Sunday, March 13**, at El Carmelo Retreat House in Redlands. Please note that there will be **NO bus transportation** in 2022. You must drive or carpool to El Carmelo Retreat House, 926 East Highland Avenue, Redlands, California. To join us, **mail the filled-out form below, along with your \$60 non-refundable DEPOSIT check to the retreat captain: LOUISA DAY**, 600 West Gleason Street, Monterey Park 91754 (the balance is due on March 1, 2022). For more info, e-mail Louisa at louisaeday@yahoo.com

or text her at (323) 360-5186.

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I want to reserve a **SHARED ROOM** with a shared bathroom (double occupancy) for \$185 per person.

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RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT for Healing After Abortion

Rachel's Vineyard Retreats are for men and women struggling with the emotional and spiritual pain of abortion. The retreat is designed to help participants work through repressed grief and anger in a safe, nonjudgmental setting and come to acceptance, healing, and hope for the future. Developed in the Roman Catholic Tradition, it utilizes spiritual exercises and rituals to help grieve the loss of unborn children and to accept God's forgiveness. All inquiries and registrations are confidential. The next one will be held March 4 through 6 in San Fernando at a cost fee of \$300 per person. To register or for more information, please call 323-577-5693, email RVLA.christine@gmail.com, or go to www.rachelsvineyard.org.



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.



January 29 / 30 , 2022		January 1/2	
Unrestricted.....	\$16,121.00	January 8/9	\$61,621.00
Restricted	\$ 1,374.00	January 15/16	\$13,532.00
TOTAL.....	\$17,495.00	January 22/23	\$24,133.00

CHECK USERS: Please use a donation envelope in order to more easily credit your account.

Mass Intentions

February 5 to February 12, 2022

Saturday evening:

5:00 p.m.: Eliseo Tan, RIP

Sunday:

*7:30 a.m.: Sr. Faustina, OCD, INT
 7:30 a.m.: Sebastian Goh, INT
 9:00 a.m.: Huong Ly & Family, INT
 11:00 a.m.: Mark Gonzales, RIP
 1:00 p.m.: Ursulina Aquino, RIP
 5:00 p.m.: Parishioners

Monday:

6:00 a.m.: Marcus Gonzalez, INT
 *7:30 a.m.: Emma Lowenberg, RIP
 8:00 a.m.: Gene Ruckh, RIP
 7:00 p.m.: Ruben Ruvalcaba, INT

Tuesday:

6:00 a.m.: Ruth Laigo, Birthday INT
 *7:30 a.m.: Jamie Arakawa, RIP
 8:00 a.m.: Judy Gutierrez, INT
 7:00 p.m.: Blanca Ruvalcaba, INT

Wednesday:

6:00 a.m.: Mr. Gonzalez, INT
 *7:30 a.m.: Grace Lowenberg, INT
 8:00 a.m.: Martin Boles, INT
 7:00 p.m.: All Souls in Purgatory

Thursday:

6:00 a.m.: Varkey Kalapura, RIP
 *7:30 a.m.: Sr. Anna, OCD, INT
 8:00 a.m.: Jay Shower, RIP
 7:00 p.m.: Gonzalo Torres, RIP

Friday:

6:00 a.m.: Ann Maria, INT
 *7:30 a.m.: Dec'd Religious, Relatives, Beneficiaries
 of the Discalced Carmelite Order, RIP
 8:00 a.m.: Gonzalo and Daisy Torres, RIP

Saturday Morning

*7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Community
 8:00 a.m.: Heidi Tittmann, Birthday INT
***Held at the Cloistered Carmelite Chapel,
 215 E Alhambra Road, Alhambra,
 California. Although Mass is still being
 celebrated at the chapel for the above
 intentions, it is TEMPORARILY CLOSED
 to the public, due to an increase in Covid**

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

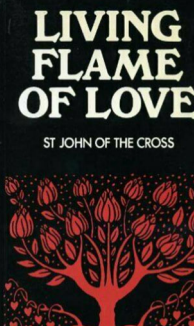
From *The Living Flame of Love*

By St. John of the Cross

Wipe away, O spiritual soul, the dust, hairs, and stains, and cleanse your eye; and the bright sun will illumine you, and you will see clearly. Pacify the soul, draw it out, and liberate it from the yoke and slavery of its own weak operation, which is the captivity of Egypt (amounting to not much more than gathering straws for baking bricks) [Ex. 5:7-19].

And, O spiritual master, guide it to the land of promise flowing with milk and honey [Ex. 3:8, 17]. Behold that for this holy liberty and idleness of the children of God, God calls the soul to the desert, where it journeys festively clothed and adorned with gold and silver jewels, since it has now left Egypt and been despoiled of its riches, which is the sensory part [Ex. 32:2-3]. Not only this, but the Egyptians are drowned in the sea of contemplation [Ex. 14:27-28], where the Egyptian of sense, not finding a foothold or some support, drowns and thereby frees the child of God, which is the spirit that has emerged from the narrow limits and slavery of the operation of the senses, from its little understanding, its base feeling, and its poor way of loving and being satisfied, that God may give it the sweet manna.

Although this manna has all these tastes and savors [Wis. 16:20], with which you desire the soul to be occupied through its own labor, nonetheless, since it is so delicate it melts in one's mouth, it will not be tasted if mingled with some other taste or some other thing (Stanza III, No. 38).



Deaths

Please pray for the repose of the soul of:

† KEVIN McKEOWN

(A former long-time parishioner and a maternal nephew of Bro. John O'Neill, who was an Irish Carmelite friar stationed at St. Therese for 43 years)

Personal Ads

The Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart at Santa Teresita in Duarte are seeking to hire compassionate nurses such as CNAs and LVNs to join us. If interested, call (626) 408-7820 or email SantaTeresitaInc.com.

FOR RENT: ROOM IN APARTMENT—On Lake Avenue in Pasadena (shared bath, house privileges). \$850/mo plus \$500 deposit. Call Connie at (626) 318-6281.

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