

# St. Therese Catholic Church

December 5, 2021 Ministered by the Discalced Carmelite Friars Est. 1924

510 North El Molino Street | Alhambra CA 91801 | (626) 282-2744 | [www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org](http://www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org)



## 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](http://www.discalcedcarmelitefriars.com)

Parish Secretary: Denise McMaster-Holguin X223  
[denisekay@hotmail.com](mailto:denisekay@hotmail.com)

Finance: Noralyn Cailan X228 / [cailannocds@gmail.com](mailto:cailannocds@gmail.com)

Music Director: Paula Grimm | [pgrimm.dir@gmail.com](mailto:pgrimm.dir@gmail.com)

Respect Life Ministry: Catherine Contreras XI12

## 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**

## ST. THERESE CARMELITE SCHOOL

(626) 289-3364

Principal: Alma Cornejo X661

[www.SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com](http://www.SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com)

[principal@sainttheresecarmeliteschool.com](mailto:principal@sainttheresecarmeliteschool.com)



## SACRAMENTS

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

# FROM OUR PASTOR



Blessed Watching and Waiting for the Coming of the Lord, everyone! Every Second Week of Advent, the person of John the Baptist begins to appear in the Mass readings, since he "prepares the way of the Lord." His words and example are meant to help us also to prepare the way of the Lord Jesus by giving witness to Him by our words and actions. For example, Sr. Briege McKenna tells the story of a mother, worried because her son had stopped practicing the Faith, who committed to renewing her son's baptismal promises for him every day. She thought, "I made his baptismal promises for him when he was a baby and couldn't make that act of faith in Jesus for himself. Now, once again for some reason, he is unable to make that act of faith. So, I'll do it for him." After many days of renewing his promises for him, he called her and said, "Mom, I was in the grocery store and started talking to this guy. He's Catholic and we began to talk about the Faith and about the Sacraments and Mass....and guess what? I went to Mass this past Sunday." The man in the grocery store prepared the way for Our Lord to move the heart of that mother's son to come back to the Faith. He witnessed to Jesus. May we all look for ways to do that this week as we prepare for the Coming of the Lord at the end of time and in a special way at Christmas (and every day!). **Oh, and tomorrow, December 6, is the Feast of St Nicholas, the real "Father Christmas."**

Last week, Fr. Wolfgang Seitz preached a mission on Our Lady of Fatima and the Angel of Fatima. Before we start to forget what he said, here are the main principles underlying his talks (this information can be found on the website, [opusangelorum.org](http://opusangelorum.org)):

"Just as the four points of a compass direct us towards our goal when traveling, in the same way in the spiritual life, the four fundamental directions lead us towards Heaven in the company of the holy angels. The principle governing attributes of God are holiness, wisdom, justice, and omnipotence (cf. Dionysius, Commentary on the Divine Names, Book IV, Chapter 12). Each one of us is called to participate in these divine attributes and to be transformed into the likeness of God. By living the four fundamental directions of adoration, contemplation, expiation, and mission, we follow this call.

- ✠ **ADORATION:** We are called to correspond to God's holiness through adoration of God, especially in the Most Blessed Sacrament in union with the holy angels, who unceasingly sing about the throne of God, "Holy, holy, holy!" in profound adoration (cf. Rev. 4:8).
- ✠ **CONTEMPLATION:** We are called to participate in divine wisdom through the contemplation of His Word and salvific works, in union with the holy angels who "continually behold the face of God in Heaven" (Mt 18:10).
- ✠ **EXPIATION:** We are to satisfy God's justice through making expiation for our sins and the sins of the world by carrying our crosses in union with Christ and with the help of the holy angels.
- ✠ **MISSION:** We are called to participate in God's omnipotence by persevering with fortitude in our God-given mission through His strength and the strength of the holy angels.

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

## VIRTUS CLASSES VIA ZOOM

In keeping in line with the Archdiocesan policies for the Protecting God's Children Program, per Fr. Thomas, anyone working or volunteering with or **around** children is required to be certified in the Virtus program. **This includes everyone involved in ANY PARISH MINISTRY, RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, etc.** The following classes will be offered via ZOOM (**you MUST pre-register by the Friday before the class you need to take!!**):

**Protecting God's Children**, the initial full three-hour course required for those who need to be certified for the **first time** within the L.A. Archdiocese, held **Monday, December 6, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., via Zoom.**

**Keeping the Promise Alive**, the recertification course for those recertifying within five years of their first certification (2016), held on **Monday, December 13, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., via Zoom.**

For questions or to register for either class, you must email [rhondalstorey@gmail.com](mailto:rhondalstorey@gmail.com). Once you do that, you will receive the registration forms, followed by the Zoom link the day before the appropriate session.



# DON'T MISS THIS SPECIAL EVENT NEXT SATURDAY!

**JOJOS PLACE**  
 PRESENTS OUR EXCLUSIVE  
**HOLIDAY POP UP SPECTACULAR**  
 IN CELEBRATION OF THE BLESSING OF  
 OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE  
**Sat., December 11, 2021**  
**4:00pm to 9:00pm**  
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**PLEASE NOTE: THE PARKING LOT WILL BE CLOSED ALL DAY FOR THIS EVENT. Please park in the street!**

**SEE'S CANDY ORDERS:** If you ordered See's Candy, you may pick up your orders at the School Office Monday through Friday during the week of DECEMBER 13 (normal office hours).

**GET YOUR KIDS OUT OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND INTO ST. THERESE!** Call our School (626-289-3364) for information about the new diocesan \$50 million financial assistance for new families. Our School has openings in most grade levels from TK through 8th Grade; we will gladly give you a personalized tour! The classical curriculum, the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Carmelite Friars, present and active in our classrooms, weekly Masses, confessions, and a strong religion program are some of the attributes that make our School special. We are blessed to have faculty members who are all knowledgeable in classical education and who all love and actively practice their faith.

# FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



This **Wednesday, December 8**, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Our Blessed Mother, a day in which we celebrate the fact that she, alone of all humans, **was conceived** (in the womb of her mother, St. Anne) **without having the stain of original sin on her soul**, as do all other people when they are born. This is because she was to be the Mother of our Savior. Unfortunately, many people—even Catholics—still think the Immaculate Conception is when Jesus was conceived in the womb of the Blessed Virgin. When Our Lady appeared to St. Bernadette in Lourdes, France, in March of 1858, she identified herself by saying, “I am the Immaculate Conception.”



For all those able to attend Mass, this is a **HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**. Mass times will be as follows: **6:00 a.m., 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., and 7:00 p.m.** (you may also attend the **Vigil Mass on Tuesday, December 7, at 7:00 p.m.**, which will be held in **SPANISH** as it is on a Tuesday).

Come join us in celebrating this special moment in the life of Mary, kept pure as she had been chosen before the world began to be the first “tabernacle” of her Divine Son.

# FORGIVENESS WORKSHOP

The **St. Therese Avila Group for Young Adults** invites **ALL ADULTS** to join them for this workshop on **“Forgiveness: The Fading Art of What We Need the Most,”** presented by **Octavio Cesar Martinez**. It will be held on **Saturday, December 11, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Guadalupe Courtyard** (enter through door near the Adoration Chapel). This **FREE** event includes mimosas and treats from Porto’s Bakery. We hope to see YOU there!



**ABOUT OUR PRESENTER:** Octavio, the author of *It Was A Beautiful Day When My Father Died*, will give you practical tips and useful skills, which will help you gain a positive mindset and a desire to put these tips into action. He teaches people how to forgive so they can be free from their past, no matter how long ago or how big the offense was. He is an extraordinary speaker with a tremendous ability to tell stories in such a way that draws every listener into a journey with him. With a focus on facing challenges while identifying opportunities, you will be fully engaged throughout his presentation. Don’t miss it!

# Fasting from the Sin of Sloth

Today I choose to fast from the sin of sloth. There might not be a better place to start than with the sin of sloth. We often think of sloth as being lazy, but the meaning of this sin is much deeper. St. Thomas Aquinas called sloth a sadness or "sorrow for spiritual good". Sloth is much more about what goes on inside of us than about our lack of action. There are two easy measures for this sin in our lives. **First: balance.** Do you have a good balance between work, family, leisure, and prayer? Too much here and not enough there is an indicator of sloth. **Second: effort.** If you lack passion or enthusiasm, can't get started, can't finish, can't persevere in hardship, or become distracted or diverted, sloth is a likely culprit. For example, sloth will probably want you to quit this fast at some point. But persevere and make firm your resolve by working slowly through the meditations in the box to the right.

**PAUSE TO HEAR GOD SPEAK:**

"The sluggard buries a hand in the dish, too weary to lift it to the mouth. In their own eyes, sluggards are wiser than seven who answer with good judgment (Proverbs 26:15-16).

"We earnestly desire each of you to demonstrate the same eagerness for the fulfillment of hope until the end, so that you may not become sluggish but imitators of those who, through faith and patience, are inheriting the promises" (Hebrews 6: 11-12).

**Take time to ask yourself... What is out of balance in my life? When do I become easily diverted or distracted from things that are important?**

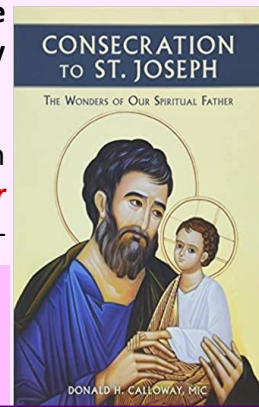
Pray slowly... Heavenly Father, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I renounce sloth and repent all the ways in which I have operated in it. I reject every form of sloth in my life. I ask you, Father, to forgive me, and I forgive myself for my slothful heart and actions. Holy Spirit, fill me with enthusiasm, passion, and eagerness, and make me aware of any slothful thoughts, feelings, or actions. Amen.

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

## St. Joseph Consecration

The next Consecration to St. Joseph will take place on the **SOLEMNITY of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, THIS WEDNESDAY, December 8, at the 7:00 p.m. Holy Mass.**

If you have not been attending our preparation sessions at St. Therese but have been preparing privately using the book, *CONSECRATION TO ST. JOSEPH: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father*, by Fr. Donald Calloway, please contact Maria Alejandra (at 626-993-



To view a short video of Fr. Thomas and Fr. Steve Watson, OCD, talking about St. Joseph, go to: <https://santacruzchurch.flocknote.com/>

## 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.



The totals for the weekend of November 27/28 will be available in next weekend's bulletin.

October 30 / 31.....	\$12,554.00
November 6 / 7.....	\$16,829.00
November 13/14.....	\$28,916.00
November 20/21.....	\$17,923.00

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

# THEOLOGY OF THE BODY SERIES

JOHN PAUL II

Man and Woman  
He Created Them



A Theology of the Body

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 (next date is **FRIDAY, December 10**).

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.**

## GETTING TO KNOW ST. JOSEPH

Last year, on December 8, 2020, in celebration of the 150th anniversary of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church, Pope Francis proclaimed a Holy Year in St. Joseph's honor. This Holy Year will come to a close this Wednesday, December 8, 2021. Here is another article in honor of this great intercessor and Protector of the Church:

The New Testament records not a single word spoken by St. Joseph and he appears only briefly in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, and only in their opening chapters. In John, he gets two drive-by mentions and in Mark none at all. Among the doctrines most often attacked by pagans and Jews are Mary's perpetual virginity and her virginal conception of Jesus. Christians wanted to leave no room for doubt, so their devotional works often portray Joseph as a very old man, infirm and decrepit. In the Coptic History of Joseph the Carpenter, an apocryphal work dating to the sixth or seventh century, he is portrayed as 91 years old at his wedding to Mary—with grandchildren who are older than his bride! In other ancient fictions, he appears as something of a buffoon. Again, the authors seem to think that Mary would be exalted if her husband were humiliated. But for the most part, Christians of the first millennium chose to ignore Joseph. He required too much explanation, and they were occupied with other questions. Great bishops of the fifth century, St. Augustine and St. John Chrysostom, spoke well of Joseph, emphasizing his role in God's plan and expanding on the Gospel's characterization of him as a "just man" (Matthew 1:19). But these few sermons still fell short of what the Church calls veneration.

That kind of notice came only with the ninth century, when Joseph began to appear in prayer books. In the later Middle Ages, he was still usually depicted in art as an old man, but preachers like St. Bernardine of Siena began to propose Joseph as a model for men to imitate, especially husbands and fathers. He came to the fore in the spirituality of the Catholic Reformation. St. Francis de Sales took St. Joseph as patron of the religious order he founded, and St. Teresa of Ávila placed her reformed order under his patronage. In her autobiography she urged all those who took up the life of prayer to devote themselves to St. Joseph in a special way. It was in the New World, however, that devotion to St. Joseph came to flourish most fully. This is the conclusion of Fr. Joseph Chorprenning, OSFS, a great historian of devotion to St. Joseph. "A sizable segment of the population of the New World did not know what it meant to have a father," Fr. Chorprenning explained in an essay on the evangelization of Mexico. The European conquest, and the diseases that came with it, devastated native populations and orphaned countless children. At the same time, many conquistadores had children with Indigenous women, but took little care for their offspring. Franciscan missionaries introduced devotion to St. Joseph in order to give these children a fatherly presence in their lives.

By the late 16th century, images of St. Joseph abounded in the art of South and Central America. The 17th-century poet, Sr. Juana Inés de la Cruz, proposed St. Joseph as an antidote to the machismo she found in Mexican culture. Chaste and silent, Joseph had renounced biological fatherhood in order to raise God's Son. There was no bluster in him. A second great movement of devotion would emerge in French Canada, culminating in the construction of St. Joseph's Oratory in Montréal. The project, begun by St. André Bessette in 1904, would expand and eventually become the world's largest shrine dedicated to the Holy Family's patriarch, who is also the patron saint of Canada. Veneration of St. Joseph, though virtually absent in the first millennium, found fulfillment at the second, especially as papal teaching and liturgical developments gave increasing prominence to him.

St. Joseph has not changed, of course. What he was in the New Testament, he has remained through all Christian history: the earthly father of our Savior, the chaste and loving husband of the Virgin Mary, an iconic witness to the dignity of work, and an effective guardian of the Church throughout the world. As devotion develops over time, we can see all of this more clearly.

MIKE AQUILINA, from Bridgewater, Pennsylvania, is the author of dozens of books, including *St. Joseph and His World*, published in 2020.



# Mass Intentions

December 4–December 11, 2021

## Saturday:

5 p.m.: Camille Macedonio, RIP

## Sunday

\*7:30 am: Florence Schroeder, RIP

7:30 a.m.: Parishioners

9:00 a.m.: Rory & Fionn Dennison, INT

11:00 a.m.: Julianna Torres, INT

1:00 p.m.: Gabriel Anyanwu & Family INT

5:00 p.m.: Elena & Paul Saucillo, INT

## Monday:

6 a.m.: Armando & Lupe Cano, RIP

\*7:30 am: Maria Elena Paredes, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Nunez Family, INT

7:00 p.m.: Arenas Ortega Family, INT

## Tuesday:

6:00 am: Mary Rose Go & Patrick Rosal, INT

\*7:30 am: Florence Schroeder, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Carmen Kelly, RIP

7 pm: Mary Rose Go & Patrick Rosal, INT

## Wed—Feast of the Immac. Conception:

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

\*7:30 am: Therese Hong Nguyen, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Azucena Sanchez-Scott, INT

10:00 a.m.: Fr. Matthias Lambrecht, INT

7:00 p.m.: All Souls in Purgatory

## Thursday:

6:00 a.m.: Mark Groberek, INT

\*7:30 a.m.: Dec'd Religious, Relatives, &

Benefactors of Disc. Carmelite Order

8:00 a.m.: Vanessa McDonnell, INT

7:00 pm: Elizabeth Koller, INT

## Friday:

6:00 a.m.: Florence Hutchison, RIP

\*7:30 am: Carm. Nuns Christmas Nov. 1

8:00 a.m.: Fatima S. DeLumen, INT

## Saturday:

\*7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Community

8:00 a.m.: Maria Elena Paredes, RIP

**\*Held at the Cloistered Carmelite  
Chapel, 215 E Alhambra Rd  
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC Mon.-Sat.**

## 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 WAY OF PERFECTION

By St. Teresa of Avila

And this is how the soul understands here, although not with as much clarity. For the soul, likewise, fails to understand how it understands. But it sees it is in the Kingdom, at least near the King who will give the Kingdom to the soul. And, seemingly, the soul has so much reverence that it doesn't even dare ask for this. The state



resembles an interior and exterior swoon; for the exterior man (or so that you will understand me better, I mean the body [for some simpleton will come along who won't know what "interior" and "exterior" means]) doesn't want any activity. But, like one who has almost reached the end of his journey, he wants to rest so as to be better able to continue; in this rest his strength for the journey is doubled.

A person feels the greatest delight in his body and a great satisfaction in his soul. He feels so happy merely with being close to the fount that he is satisfied even without drinking. It doesn't seem there is anything else for him to desire. The faculties are still; they wouldn't want to be busy; everything else seems to hinder them from loving. But they are not completely lost; they can think of who it is they are near, for two of them are free. The will is the one that is captive here (Chapter 31, Numbers 2-3).

# Personal Ads

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