



St. Therese Catholic Church



February 22, 2026 1100 East Alhambra Road, Alhambra CA 91801 (Office: 510 North El Molino Street) | (626) 282-2744 | www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org



Then the devil took Him up to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, and he said to Him, "All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me" (Matthew 4:8-9).

MASSES | CONFESSIONS

Masses: Saturdays: 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 & 8:00 a.m.

Rosary: Monday-Saturday after the 8:00 a.m. Mass

Monday and Tuesday evenings: *7:15 p.m. Mass
(*Monday evening Mass followed by Healing Service;

Tuesday's 7:15 p.m. is in **Spanish**).

Thursday evenings: 7:00 pm Exposition & Adoration

First Fridays: 6:00 & 8:00 a.m. and 7:15 p.m.

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

CONFESSIONS: Wednesdays from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.;

Saturdays from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. and

Sundays from Noon to 1:00 p.m.

OFFICE HOURS | CONTACTS

Monday-Friday: 9:00 am-1:00 pm | 2:00 pm-5:00 pm

Pastor: Fr. Peter Mary Vecellio, OCD: X 1+224

Associate Pastors: Fr. Robert Elias Barcelos, OCD

Fr. David Guzman, OCD X 1+232

In Residence: Fr. Albert Bunsic, OCD, Fr. Stephen Watson, OCD
(X 1+226), Bro. Jason Parrott, OCD

Deacons: Deacon Gilbert Vargas | Deacon Otto Lacayo |
Deacon Rex Owens: Leave messages for them at X 1+333;

Annulments: Deacon Gilbert Vargas X 1+333

Carmelite Vocations: www.discalcedcarmelitefriars.com

Parish Secretary: Denise McMaster-Holguin X 1+223 |
denisekay@hotmail.com

Finance: Noralyn Cailan X 1+228 | cailannocds@gmail.com

Religious Ed: Florence Goh X 1+ 235|stcreligiouslyed7@gmail.com

Music Director: Charlotte Lansberg X 1+112 credochoir1@gmail.com

Respect Life Ministry: Catherine Contreras | cathycforlife@gmail.com

ST. THERESE CARMELITE SCHOOL

(626) 289-3364

www.SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com

Principal: Alma Cornejo X 1 + 661

principal@saintthersecarmeliteschool.com



SACRAMENTS

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

PASTOR'S COLUMN

Dear Parishioners of St. Therese,

February is the month dedicated to the Holy Family. And because the family is so under attack in our world today, we need to turn to the Holy Family all the more to help us rebuild family life. During this month, I'd like to share some important excerpts from St. John Paul II's Apostolic Exhortation, *Familiaris Consortio*, on the role of the Christian family in the modern world.

Fr. Peter Mary Vecellio, OCD



St. John Paul II's Apostolic Exhortation, *Familiaris Consortio*

Family, Become What You Are

17. The family finds in the plan of God the Creator and Redeemer not only its identity, what it is, but also its mission, what it can and should do. The role that God calls the family to perform in history derives from what the family is; its role represents the dynamic and existential development of what it is. Each family finds within itself a summons that cannot be ignored and that specifies its dignity and its responsibility: *family, become what you are*.

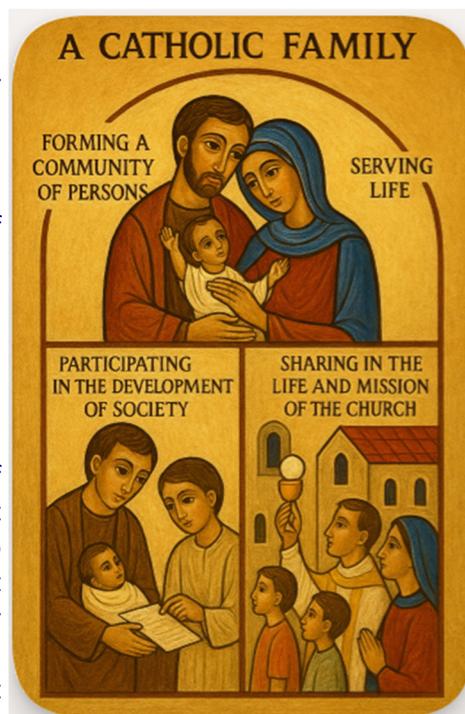
Accordingly, the family must go back to the "beginning" of God's creative act, if it is to attain self-knowledge and self-realization in accordance with the inner truth—not only of what it is but also of what it does in history. And since in God's plan it has been established as an "intimate community of life and love," the family has the mission to become more and more what it is, that is to say, a community of life and love, in an effort that will find fulfillment, as will everything created and redeemed, in the Kingdom of God.

Looking at it in such a way as to reach its very roots, we must say that the essence and role of the family are in the final analysis specified by love. Hence, the family has the mission to guard, reveal, and communicate love, and this is a living reflection of and a real sharing in God's love for humanity and the love of Christ the Lord for the Church, His bride. Every particular task of the family is an expressive and concrete actuation of that fundamental mission. We must therefore go deeper into the unique riches of the family's mission and probe its contents, which are both manifold and unified. Thus, with love as its point of departure and making constant reference to it, the recent Synod emphasized four general tasks for the family:

- 1) **Forming a community of persons;**
- 2) **Serving life;**
- 3) **Participating in the development of society;**
- 4) **Sharing in the life and mission of the Church.**

18. The family, which is founded and given life by love, is a community of persons: of husband and wife, of parents and children, of relatives. Its first task is to live with fidelity the reality of communion in a constant effort to develop an authentic community of persons. The inner principle of that task, its permanent power and its final goal, is love: without love, the family is not a community of persons and, in the same way, without love the family cannot live, grow, and perfect itself as a community of persons. What I wrote in the Encyclical, *Redemptor Hominis*, applies primarily and especially within the family as such: "Man cannot live without love. He remains a being that is incomprehensible for himself; his life is senseless if love is not revealed to him, if he does not encounter love, if he does not experience it and make it his own, if he does not participate intimately in it."

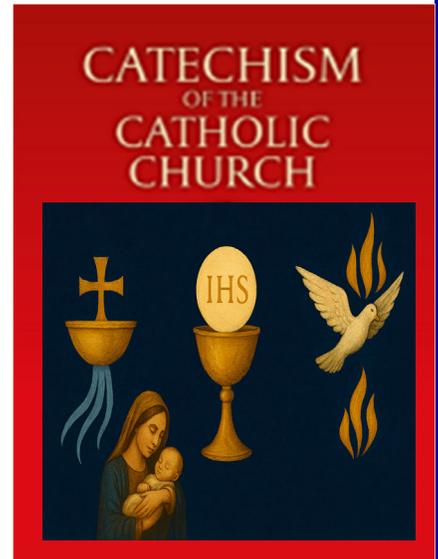
The love between husband and wife and, in a derivatory and broader way, the love between members of the same family—between parents and children, brothers and sisters and relatives and members of the household—is given life and sustenance by an unceasing inner dynamism leading the family to ever deeper and more intense communion, which is the foundation and soul of the community of marriage and the family.



Fr. Stephen's Next Class in His Catechism Series

Fr. Stephen's next class will be **THIS TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24**—from **7:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the Parish Meeting Room**. Each class stands on its own, so you may join at any time.

The topic for this class (continued from February 3) will be the **SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION**. The Catechism says this: *"The Sacraments of Initiation—Baptism, the Eucharist, and Confirmation—lay the foundation of every Christian life. These sacraments are deeply interconnected and progressively draw the faithful into the mystery of divine life. The sharing in the divine nature given to men through the grace of Christ bears a certain likeness to the origin, development, and nourishing of natural life (CC 1212). Those who have been raised to the dignity of the royal priesthood by Baptism, and configured more deeply to Christ by Confirmation, participate with the whole community in the Lord's own sacrifice by means of the Eucharist."*



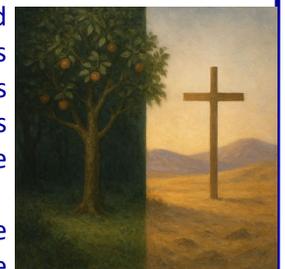
From Dust to Decision: Lent Begins With a Choice



The First Sunday of Lent always brings us back to beginnings—back to the soil, the breath of God, and the first human choices that shaped our story. **From Genesis to the Gospel, today's readings trace a single thread: humanity's struggle between trust and temptation, and God's unwavering response of mercy and grace.** Genesis reminds us that we are formed from the dust of the earth, animated by God's own breath. Our life is a gift before it is a task. Yet, the same story reveals how quickly doubt enters the human heart. The temptation in the garden is subtle: not an invitation to obvious evil, but a suggestion that God might be withholding something essential. When trust fractures, fear and shame follow. The realization of nakedness is not merely physical—it is spiritual, a sudden awareness of vulnerability and separation. Lent begins by naming this truth honestly: sin distorts our relationship with God, with one another, and even with ourselves.

Psalm 51 gives voice to that honesty. It is not a psalm of excuses but of confession and hope. The psalmist understands that what God desires most is not external performance, but an interior transformation—a clean heart, a renewed spirit. This prayer becomes the heartbeat of Lent. We are invited not simply to "do better," but to allow God to re-create us from the inside out. True repentance is less about punishment and more about restoration. St. Paul's Letter to the Romans widens the lens. Adam's disobedience, Paul explains, introduced sin and death into the human story, but it did not have the final word. Christ's obedience opens the way to grace and life. Where sin multiplied, grace overflowed even more. Lent, then, is never about despairing over human weakness; it is about recognizing that God's mercy is stronger than our failures. The contrast Paul draws is not meant to shame us, but to reassure us: we are no longer trapped by our past choices. A new way of living has been made possible.

That new way is embodied in today's Gospel. Jesus enters the desert and faces the same fundamental temptations that confront every human heart: the urge to satisfy immediate hunger, to seek power, and to test God's faithfulness. Unlike Adam, Jesus chooses trust. He does not grasp, manipulate, or demand proof. Instead, He remains rooted in His identity as God's beloved Son. The desert becomes not a place of defeat, but of clarity.



As Lent begins, these readings ask us a simple but demanding question: whom do we trust? The practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are not ends in themselves. They are ways of returning to that original trust—of remembering that we are formed by God, forgiven by mercy, and sustained by grace. From dust we came, and by God's love, we are being shaped anew.

FRIDAY SOUP NIGHTS AND STATIONS

SOUP NIGHTS & STATIONS: Soup Nights will be held in the Hall on all six Fridays of Lent from **5:30 to 7:00 p.m.** Stations will follow in the church at 7:00 p.m. **NOTE:** On March 6, the first Friday of the month, the evening Mass will be celebrated *after* the Stations.

The next Soup Night will be **THIS FRIDAY, February 27**, and will be sponsored by The Flame of Love. Future dates and sponsors will be **March 6:** Saint Therese Carmelite School; **March 13:** Cor Jesu / Deus Vocat / Lay Missionaries of Charity; **March 20:** Retrouvaille Marriage Ministry; and **March 27:** The Knights of Columbus. All donations will go to the sponsoring ministries.



LENT



Saint Therese Carmelite School

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Schola Soup Nights

Friday, March 6
5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

It is a Lenten custom of the parish to hold a meatless meal on Fridays in Lent to promote fellowship in the school and parish. These meals are hosted by the different ministries of the parish.

Our Schola Soup Night has been changed to Friday, March 6. All are invited and encouraged to attend Soup Night! Soup Night is free for all to attend, although donations are accepted.

Immediately following Soup Night, Stations of the Cross will be held in the Church at 7:00 p.m.

1106 East Alhambra Road
Alhambra, California 91801

(626) 289-3364
www.SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com

ANNUAL "FR. JEROME APPEAL" FOR THE CLOISTERED CARMELITE NUNS



This weekend, **February 21 and 22**, Kathy Nally, one of the Carmelite Nuns' Auxiliary members, will speak at the Masses about financial assistance for the Cloistered Carmelite Nuns in the Carmel of St. Teresa. **Pink envelopes will be in the pews to**



make a donation during the special collection (taken at all the Masses) to help provide for their needs and the upkeep of their monastery. The Carmelite Monastery was instrumental in St. Therese Parish being established. God bless and reward your generosity!

If you are interested in joining the Auxiliary Board or would like more information, please email KathleenNally@yahoo.com.

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Tempted on the Heights

After long days of fasting, Jesus stood on the barren heights, His body weakened, His spirit steady. **The tempter came not with noise, but with reason.** Each offer was shaped to sound practical, even compassionate. Why should one hunger, when power could turn stone into bread? Why walk the slow road of obedience, when all kingdoms could be gained at once? Why trust the unseen Father, when proof could be forced in a single dramatic act?



Yet, within Jesus was a deeper knowing. As the Son, He remembered the Father's voice, the love shared before the world began. To feed Himself by command would be to step outside trust. **To seize kingdoms would be to rule without the Cross.** To demand rescue would be to turn faith into spectacle. **Each temptation offered a crown without surrender, glory without obedience, power without love.**

The struggle was real. Hunger pressed His body, and the world's pain pressed His heart. But Jesus chose the way of faithfulness, not for Himself alone, but for all who would follow. By refusing to worship Satan, He reclaimed human obedience where it had first been lost. **When the devil departed, Jesus remained—still hungry, still in His human body, yet unshaken—having chosen again the Father's will, and the long path of redemption.**

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION



“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.”
Matthew 11:28

"Introibo ad altare Dei, ad Deum qui laetificat juventutem meam."

("I will go up to the altar of God, to God who gives joy to my youth.")

Blessed Noel Pinot (December 9, 1747 – February 21, 1794. Feast Day February 21)

Blessed Noel Pinot, Priest and Martyr, was born at Angers in 1747. He became a priest and excelled in ministering to the sick. In 1788, he was made pastor at a parish in Louroux Beconnais, which he revitalized spiritually through his piety and preaching.



In the wake of the French Revolution then in progress, priests were required to take an oath that went against the principles of the Church. Fr. Noel refused to take it and was sentenced to be deprived of his parish for two years. Nonetheless, he continued to carry out his ministry in secret. Later, the holy priest even took clandestine possession of his parish and continued his pastoral work, managing to avoid capture for his defiance of the Revolutionary edict.

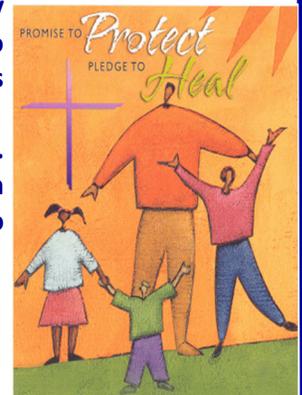
However, one day while fully vested for Mass, Father Noel was captured and dragged through the streets to the jeers of hostile spectators and soldiers. He remained in jail for twelve days and was given the death sentence for refusing to take the oath. The holy priest went to the guillotine still vested for Mass and uttering the words that began the pre-Vatican II Mass: *"I will go to the altar of God, to God who gives joy to my youth."* He joined his sacrifice to that of his Master on February 21, 1794.

SAFEGUARD THE CHILDREN

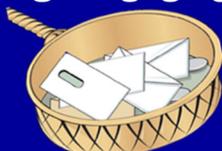
DID YOU KNOW? Domestic violence and children Domestic violence has many forms, including emotional, financial, physical, and sexual abuse. Research on children who live in homes with domestic violence shows that there can be long-standing consequences to a child's health.

Twenty-six states have passed laws protecting children who witness domestic violence. Children who grow up seeing violence between parents often struggle in their own relationships later in life. The single greatest predictor of whether children will grow up to be perpetrators of domestic violence is whether they witness it themselves as children.

For more information, read the VIRTUS® article "Domestic Violence, Part 1" at iacatholics.org/did-you-know.



Financial Offerings



February 14 / 15, 2026

Unrestricted..... \$17,993.00
 Restricted \$ 1,735.00
T O T A L.....\$19,728.00

January 17 / 18 \$14,944.00
 January 24 / 25 \$34,685.00
 January 31 / Feb. 1.... \$17,606.00
 February 7 / 8 \$18,110.00

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

Mass Intentions

Pilgrimages

February 21—February 28, 2026

Saturday Evening:

5:00 p.m.: Juan and Ana Leon, INT

Sunday:

*7:30 a.m.: Maria Huong Truong Family, INT

7:30 a.m.: John Teng, INT

9:00 a.m.: Sr. Faustina Mary, OCD, INT

11:00 a.m.: Anita Cota, RIP

1:00 p.m. (Latin): Parishioners

5 p.m.: Jesus & Catalina Gomez, RIP

Monday:

6:00 a.m.: Silverio Reyes, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Theresa Lim, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Tom Anaya, RIP

7:15 p.m.: Souls in Purgatory

Tuesday (+7:15 p.m. in Spanish):

6:00 a.m.: Carlos Ibarra & Family, INT

*7:30 am: Isaias Diokno, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Irma Mireles, RIP

7:15 p.m.: Leon Santos & Family, INT

Wednesday:

6:00 a.m.: Souls in Purgatory

*7:30 a.m.: Elizabeth Haley Nguyen, INT

8:00 a.m.: Hattie Kretschmer, 1st B-Day

Thursday:

6:00 a.m.: Alyna Guangga, INT

*7:30 a.m.: Peter Halpin & Family, INT

8:00 a.m.: Elijah Chavez, INT

Friday:

6:00 a.m.: Mendoza Family, INT

*7:30 a.m.: Antonius Maringka, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Katelynn Torres, INT

Saturday Morning

*7:30 a.m.: Alhambra Cloistered Carm. Nuns

8:00 am: Andres Perez, RIP

***Held at the Cloistered Carmelite Chapel**

(215 East Alhambra Road, Alhambra.

Open to the public except

Sundays and holidays.)

LIVE STREAMED MASSES:

We livestream the daily 8:00 a.m. Mass

and the HOMILIES at the Sunday

11:00 a.m. and the Monday 7:15 p.m.

Masses. Be sure to “tune in”!

For the complete itineraries and applications for each of the following pilgrimages, go to the home page of our website and scroll down to the **OUTSIDE THE PARISH** section.

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE with Fr. Philip Sullivan, OCD, from November 22—December 3, 2026.

Walk in the footsteps of Jesus as we travel through Galilee, Tiberius, Caesarea, Cana, Capernaum, Nazareth, Bethlehem, Jericho, Mt. Carmel, Jerusalem, etc. Walk the Via Dolorosa, take a two-hour boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, float on the Dead Sea, and so much more! \$5299 each. Direct flight from LAX. For more info, please contact Albert and Mary Helen Estrada at (626) 533-4839.



CARMELITE-INSPIRED PILGRIMAGE to Italy, Greece & Ephesus from July 9-18, 2026: Land Tour cost with three one-way inter-European flights: \$4350. Includes 9 nights at 3-4 star hotels, private bath, breakfast & dinner, private motorcoach or van, all touring on program, entrance fees to all sites per itinerary, tour chaplain & daily Holy Mass. Additional Costs: Overseas flights (LAX round trip to Rome, Italy). As of now, the non-stop airfare varies from \$1000 (economy) to \$2600 (Premier) on Norse Atlantic. Sign-up deadline: April 30, 2026. Pilgrimage is with Sacred Heart Tours, (845) 594-2222, www.sacredhearttours.com. For more info, contact Louisa Day at (323) 360-5186.

ALABAMA, HERE WE COME! Pilgrimage to the Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament and EWTN from July 29 to August 4, 2026. Come see what the Lord did through Mother Angelica and is still doing through the friars at EWTN and the cloistered nuns at the Shrine. A full six days of serenity, prayer, spiritual talks, tours, fellowship, and family fun. Space is limited. Approximately \$1,500 per person. For more info, call Albert and Mary Helen Estrada at (626) 533-4839.

Rest in Peace

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF:

+ Roberto Garcia

(Father-in-law of Shao-Wen Larios)

His funeral will be celebrated on Friday, February 27, at 11:00 a.m. (Latin Rite)

+ Milton Chow

(Husband of Rosario Chow)

His funeral will be celebrated on Saturday, February 28, at 2:00 p.m.

May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

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