

Est. 1924

# St. Therese Catholic Church



February 2, 2025 1100 East Alhambra Road, Alhambra CA 91801 | (626) 282-2744 | www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org



...They took Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord. Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted; and you yourself a sword shall pierce, so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed" (Luke 2:34-35).

## 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: All 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|stcreligioused7@gmail.com

**Music Director:** Charlotte Lansberg X 1+222|credochoir1@gmail.com

**Respect Life Ministry:** Catherine Contreras X 1+112

## ST. THERESE CARMELITE SCHOOL

(626) 289-3364

www.SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com

Principal: Alma Cornejo X 1 + 661

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 COLUMN

Dear Parishioners of St. Therese,

Don't forget our last official Centennial event will be an organ concert tonight, Sunday, February 2nd, at 7:30 p.m., with a wine and cheese reception to follow. We look forward to seeing you there! I hope everyone with tickets remembered to attend last night's Gala of Roses at Brookside Country Club by the Rose Bowl. It was a wonderful night!

Let us continue our reading from St. Therese in this centenary year of her canonization.

—Fr. Peter Mary

## IN THE ARMS OF JESUS (Ms. C, 35v – 37r)

### Introduction to the text:

Now we are at the last page of Manuscript C, and Therese is finally at the end of her strength and will leave this manuscript unfinished.



“To be united in an intimate way” (Ms. C, 35r): Therese has now passed onto the mystical plane, with this comparison of the iron that desires to be identified with the fire.

“The more these souls will run swiftly in the odor of the ointments” (Ms. C, 36r): “It is through herself being so totally drawn into the flames of the love of Jesus—to the point of being incandescent—that Therese became so attractive. That is how she is still drawing so many men and women to Jesus throughout the world, by demonstrating through her life, as through a clear mirror, all the fascinating and alluring beauty of the Love of Jesus.” (François-Marie Léthel, *Thérèse de l'Enfant Jésus, Docteur de l'Amour*, Venasque, 1990, p. 114).

“A soul that is burning with love cannot remain inactive” (Ms. C, 36r): Transcription of a line of Saint Teresa of Jesus.

“It is only the distress . . .” (Ms. C, 36r): From this word on, the text is written in pencil. On July 8, 1897, Therese was taken down to the infirmary. She wrote a few more lines, but her weakness prevented her from finishing her manuscript.

“Was it not in prayer” (Ms. C, 36r): Prayer is the last word, Therese's last teaching, because it is the key to everything, the way to union with God, the lever which “lifts the world.”

“I have only to cast a glance in the Gospels” (Ms. C, 36v): Until the very end, Therese retained her sensitive and wondering love of the Person of Christ.

“The traces He has left; but how luminous these traces are! How perfumed! I have only to cast a glance in the Gospels and immediately I breathe in the perfumes of Jesus' life” (Ms. C, 36v): cf. *The Living Flame*, Verse 3.

“Has preserved my soul from mortal sin” (Ms. C, 36v): Therese is referring here to the solemn declaration of Fr. Pichon (cf. Ms. A, 70r), but in order to reinforce her last message, which is that, even if she had committed “all the sins” possible, she declares that she would nevertheless go to throw herself into the arms of Jesus.

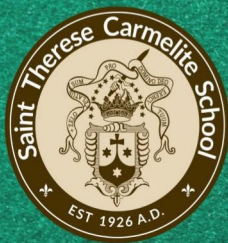


# Saint Therese Carmelite School

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## Fiat40 Women's Challenge for Lent

**Ladies of St. Therese Parish:** Would you like to grow deeper in your relationship with God this Lent by focusing on Mary's virtues? Are you wanting accountability and encouragement in your spiritual life? Do you feel Christ nudging you to go deeper? Please join us for a mini Fiat90 challenge called Fiat40 this Lent! You can find out more about Fiat90 and Fiat40 at <https://fiat-90.com/>.

The challenge starts on Ash Wednesday, March 5th (download the Fiat40 booklet from the website above) and then meets for fellowship and accountability in the Lisieux Room in the Parish Office building (510 North El Molino Street) after the 8:00 a.m. Mass on the following Saturday mornings in Lent: March 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5 and 12—from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. Please email Katrina Crow at [katrina.fcp@gmail.com](mailto:katrina.fcp@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining or have further questions.



# Women's Retreat at El Carmelo

Join the women of St. Therese Church for our annual Lenten Retreat weekend at El Carmelo Retreat House in Redlands on **March 14-16, 2025**. The theme is, *"LORD, TEACH US HOW TO PRAY,"* and our retreat master will be Fr. Philip Sullivan, former pastor of our parish.

**Weekend Package: Friday night to Sunday afternoon**

**Double room occupancy (2 per room): \$230 each person, includes two nights & six meals**

**Single room occupancy (private room): \$260 each person, includes two nights & six meals**



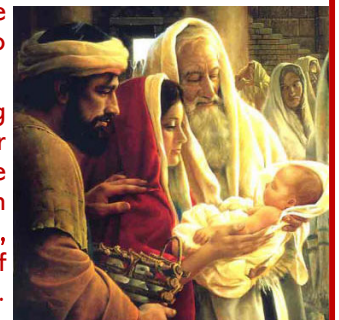
A non-refundable deposit of \$75 is required to reserve your room. Check or money order payment only (VenMo, Zelle, or credit cards not accepted). Make checks payable to: El Carmelo Retreat House (memo: "Women's silent retreat, March 14-16, 2025).

The registration form can be found in the brochure located by the church entrances. Payment(s) can be mailed to the retreat captain, Chantal Richardson, 15730 Nelson Ave., City of Industry, CA 91744. If a registration form is unavailable or you would like more information please contact Chantal at [chantalmarierichardson@gmail.com](mailto:chantalmarierichardson@gmail.com) | (951) 743-8801 (call or text) \*\* You must be age 18 and older to attend\*\*

# A Light to All Nations

Today, Sunday, February 2nd, we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, a moment filled with both profound meaning and intense hope. In the Gospel of Luke, Mary and Joseph bring the infant Jesus to the temple to fulfill the Law of Moses. Yet, what begins as an act of obedience to the law becomes a revelation of who Jesus truly is. Simeon, guided by the Holy Spirit, recognizes Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah, calling Him **"a light for revelation to the Gentiles and glory for your people Israel."** This declaration reminds us that Jesus' mission is universal: He comes to bring salvation to all people, regardless of nationality or background. Simeon's words, coupled with the presence of the prophetess Anna, speak to how faith and patience are rewarded when we remain open to God's timing.

The other readings complement this theme beautifully. Malachi speaks of the Lord refining His people, just as gold is purified in fire. Jesus, by assuming our humanity, enters into our struggles and trials, as described in the letter to the Hebrews. He becomes our compassionate High Priest, offering Himself to reconcile us with God. On this feast, we are called to reflect on how Jesus brings light into the darkest corners of our lives. **Are we willing to let Him refine us, so we too can reflect His light to the world?** Just as Simeon and Anna recognized the light of Christ, we are invited to see Him at work in our daily lives and, in turn, carry that light to others.



# Financial Offerings



January 25 / 26, 2025

Unrestricted..... \$13,434.00  
 Restricted ..... \$ 95.00  
**T O T A L.....\$13,529.00**

December 28 / 29 ..... \$28,935.00  
 January 4 / 5 ..... \$54,273.00  
 January 11 / 12 ..... \$18,441.00  
 January 18 / 19 ..... \$16,106.00

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

# TONIGHT! ORGAN CONCERT!

Join us at 7:30 PM TONIGHT, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, as we conclude our 100th anniversary year with a free ORGAN CONCERT performed on our 72-rank Wicks/Schantz Pipe Organ! **DAVID BALL**, Julliard-trained organist and the head of music ministry at Christ Cathedral in Garden Grove, will perform.



Join us after the concert for a...  
**A Cheese and Wine Reception**  
in the Guadalupe Courtyard!

# Eucharistic Adoration Chapel



## Eucharistic Adoration

*"Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28*

How is it possible to receive Jesus into one's heart and not to die?"

St. Imelda Lambertini  
(1322 – 12 May 1333)

Patroness of First Communicants

St. Imelda Lambertini was the daughter of a noble family from Bologna who was sent to a Dominican convent at age nine. As young as 5 years of age, she expressed a deep desire to receive Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament by making her First Communion. At that time, the age was set around 14, so Imelda found her greatest desire denied her.



At age 11, on May 12, 1333, the feast of the Ascension, a host appeared above her head, moving the priest to give her Communion. After receiving her first Holy Communion, which would also be her last, she died in ecstasy. She shows us that our desire for the Eucharist allows the sacrament to impact us more powerfully!



**Be a Committed Adorer:** Sign up by scanning this QR code with your phone!

# Deus Vocat (God is Calling)

**DEUS VOCAT** This new **Parish Vocation Apostolate** invites you to help us in supporting **TWELVE CANDIDATES** who are discerning

**GOD IS CALLING**

God's call to a religious vocation. It is

such as these our Apostolate supports.

**NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9**, Deus Vocat will provide **PAN DULCE & HOT CHOCOLATE** for a donation after the morning Masses (7:30, 9:00, & 11:00 a.m.) and **PIZZA & SOFT DRINKS** after the afternoon Masses (1:00 and 5:00 p.m.) Stop by!

**You are also invited to join Deus Vocat every Thursday at 7:00 p.m.** in the Lisieux Room (in the Parish Office building, 510 North El Molino Street) to pray for vocations. To join Deus Vocat, please contact:

Francisco Alcala at (323) 497-4951  
or Marcela Alcala at (626) 940-4899 |  
marcelafigalcala@gmail.com.

# Children's Holy Half-Hour

**ZELIE'S CIRCLE** invites Moms and their children five and under to join them every **FIRST THURSDAY** of each month from **10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.** for this holy half-hour for children.

If you would like more info, email [zeliescirclestc@gmail.com](mailto:zeliescirclestc@gmail.com).



# LOCAL SHELTER FOR EATON FIRE VICTIMS



In association with the San Gabriel Regional Pastoral Office, Pasadena's St. Philip Church's Newman Center has created a **SHELTER FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE EATON CANYON FIRE**.

**They are seeking VOLUNTEERS (must be Virtus certified and fingerprinted)** to take shifts at the shelter during the foreseeable future. **THEY ESPECIALLY NEED OVERNIGHT VOLUNTEERS.** There is a maximum of 15 volunteers per daytime shift and a minimum of two at night. If you can cover any of the shifts listed below, call Krista at **(626) 793-0693, ext.**

**111**, or send her an email to [kcorbello@stphiliptheapostle.org](mailto:kcorbello@stphiliptheapostle.org), letting her know which shift and on which day(s) you're able to help.



**9:00 AM - 1 PM Church Cleaning & Donation Support & Set-Up**

**1:00 PM - 5 PM Donation Support & Grocery Runs/Deliveries**

**5:00 PM - 8 PM Donation Support & Clean Up**

**9:00 PM (overnight) Overnight Stay\*: 1-2 volunteers**

\*Arrive at 9:00 p.m. and stay until 9:00 a.m. You will stay separately from the evacuees.



# Mass Intentions

**February 1—February 8, 2025**

**Saturday Evening:**

5:00 p.m.: Lauryl McGrath, INT

**Sunday**

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

7:30 a.m.: Emily & Lauren Cheah, INT

9:00 a.m.: Ruth Laigo & Family, INT

11:00 a.m.: Janet Paz, Birthday INT

1:00 p.m. (Latin): Paul Russell, RIP

5:00 p.m.: Parishioners

**Monday:**

6:00 a.m.: Veronica Singh, INT

\*7:30 a.m.: Sr. Kim Marie, OCD, INT

8:00 a.m.: Paul Vong Kong Wah, RIP

7:15 p.m.: Luisa and Guiberto Amarilla, RIP

**Tuesday:**

6:00 a.m.: Francis Sy Su, Birthday INT

\*7:30 a.m.: Donald & Debbie Dominguez, INT

8:00 a.m.: Anthony Woo, RIP

7:15 p.m.: Ryan Siars, INT

**Wednesday:**

6:00 a.m.: Terrence Louis Sia, Birthday INT

7:30 a.m.: Fr. Stephen Watson, OCD, INT

8:00 a.m.: Ralph Tamez, RIP

**Thursday:**

6:00 a.m.: Tito and Gabino Sia, RIP

\*7:30 a.m.: All Humanity and Thanksgiving for God's Creation

8:00 a.m.: Sabrina Kiowski, INT

**First Friday:**

6:00 a.m.: Souls in Purgatory

\*7:30 a.m.: Sr. Frances, INT

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

7:15 p.m.: Karina Laigo, INT

**Saturday (Morning):**

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

8:00 a.m.: Ruth Laigo & Family, INT

\*Held at the Cloistered Carmelite Chapel (215 East Alhambra Road, Alhambra). Open to the public except on Sundays and some 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"!

# Pilgrimage

**PILGRIMAGE TO PORTUGAL, SPAIN, FRANCE, AND ITALY** with Fr. Julius Ntalo, OCD: Join this 14-day pilgrimage from July 11 to 24, 2025, to all four countries listed in the title. For more info and to receive an itinerary, contact ABM Tours at 310-514-3323 or 408-903-6305 or maddatubeth2@gmail.com. See more info at abmtours.com.



## IN LOVING MEMORY

**LOIS JOHNSON**, a long-time parishioner, died on January 6, 2025, in Walnut Creek, California. Lois and her husband Chuck (who died in 2005) sent all ten of their children to St. Therese School and were both very involved in the Parish.

Lois was born on St. Patrick's Day in 1925; this year she would have turned 100. During her many years at St Therese, Lois was a very active member of the Parish. She served on the Ladies' Auxiliary, was a member of our Respect Life group, the Carmelite Nuns' Auxiliary, and our Christian Service program.

The Johnsons' first home was on El Molino until they moved to Lindaraxa Park. Lois lived there until about ten years ago when she moved up north to be closer to her children. Please pray for the repose of her soul.



## Deaths

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF:  
+ Luis De La Torre  
(husband of Maritza De La Torre)  
The funeral Mass will be on  
Saturday, February 8, at Noon.

## Personal Ads

FREE TV... 44 inches wide. Call Denise in the church office at (626) 282-2744, ext. 1 + 223.

FOR RENT: 3 BR, 2 BA home, available Feb. 15. Semi-furnished, washer/dryer, dishwasher, plus misc. furniture. Two-car driveway, no street pkg. \$3,600 per month. Call (626) 215-3159 and leave a message.

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