

# St. Therese Catholic Church

July 16, 2023

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)



Elijah went up to the top of Carmel...and said to his servant, "Go up and look out to sea." ...the seventh time the servant reported, "There is a cloud as small as a man's hand rising from the sea." Elijah said, "Go and say to Ahab, 'Harness up and go down the mountain before the rain stops you.'" All at once the sky grew dark with clouds and wind, and a heavy rain fell (1 Kings 18:42-45).

The small cloud in this passage was first interpreted as a symbol of Mary by a 14th-century Carmelite. After the drought, the cloud restored the fruitfulness of the earth: "The love of God descended on Mary....and through Mary the rains of mercy and grace descended on what was dried up (sin), and thus restored all things."

## 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. and 7:15 p.m.  
(Tuesday's evening Mass is in Spanish).

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

Note: the daily 8:00 a.m., the Monday evening 7:00 p.m.,  
and the Sunday 11:00 a.m., Masses are all **LIVE**

**STREAMED** on Facebook AND YouTube)

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

**CONFESSIONS (INSIDE & OUTSIDE)-Wednesdays**  
from 8:00 to 9:00 p.m.; **Saturdays** 3:00 to 6:00 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. Thomas Koller, OCD X 1+222

**Associate Pastors:** Fr. Robert Elias Barcelos, OCD XTBA  
Fr. David Guzman, OCD X 1+232

**In Residence:** Fr. Albert Bunsic, OCD, Bro. Jason Parrott,  
OCD; and Fr. Godfrey Chandya, OCD

**Deacons:** Deacon Joseph Mizerski | Deacon Gilbert Vargas,  
And Deacon Otto Lacayo: X 1+333;

**Annulments:** Deacon Gilbert Vargas X 1+333

**Carmelite Vocations:** [www.discalcedcarmelitefriars.com](http://www.discalcedcarmelitefriars.com)

**Parish Secretary:** Denise McMaster-Holguin X 1+223  
[denisekay@hotmail.com](mailto:denisekay@hotmail.com)

**Finance:** Noralyn Cailan X 1+228 / [cailannocds@gmail.com](mailto:cailannocds@gmail.com)

**Music Director:** Andrew Coyne | [Andrew.Coyne1@gmail.com](mailto:Andrew.Coyne1@gmail.com)

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

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

See our **VIDEOS** on the School's Facebook page



## SACRAMENTS

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

# Letter from Fr. Thomas, Pastor

**Blessed 15th Sunday of the Year, and especially blessed Solemnity of Our Lady of Mt Carmel, the Patroness of all Carmelites and those who wear the Brown Scapular!!!**

This whole week is an unofficial Octave of Our Lady of the "Garden/Vineyard of God" (the Hebrew meaning of "Carmel"), so it is a good week to soak in Scripture, to pray the Rosary with extra gratitude and devotion, to stay close to Mary in silence, and to team up with her and the Lord Jesus for some extra prayer ministry with others who are suffering.

We also have the Feast of Elijah, the Prophet of Mount Carmel, this week (Thursday, July 20), and so we have a lot of extra help and guidance (God-U-I-Dance) regarding the inner life of prayer and reliance on Jesus. How so? Well, we have the Mass reading on the 20th about Elijah being guided by the Lord to end the three-year water drought by sending his servant Gehazi to check if there were any clouds on the horizon, while he, Elijah, stayed behind to pray. And he sent Gehazi not once, not twice, but SEVEN times to check. It is only after the SEVENTH time that Gehazi sees a cloud, but it is a really small cloud, not bigger than a man's hand. So, he doesn't think much of it.

But Elijah, with the help of his praying/listening heart, realizes that this little cloud is the answer to his prayer, and that rain is about to pour down! So, he tells the king to get ready and go before the rain turns into a flood and stops him. (Doesn't that happen so often with us, that—with the help of prayer—we notice something that seems so insignificant, NO BIG DEAL, and thus judge it poorly but, in the end, it turns out to be A VERY BIG DEAL!!! )

As we learn to pray in silence, we will come to enjoy it as even more rich and filled with the Lord's Presence than lots of audible words. (After the fire...earthquake...windstorm...there came a sound of silence. When Elijah heard it, he hid his face and came out of the cave and experienced the Lord's presence.)

Here are a few thoughts on silence, by then Pope Benedict XVI: "Believing is nothing other than, in the darkness of the world, touching the hand of God, and in this way, in silence, hearing the Word, seeing love..." "In silence, we are better able to listen to and understand ourselves; ideas come to birth and acquire depth; we understand with greater clarity what it is we want to say and what we expect from others; and we choose how to express ourselves."

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





# Mt Carmel: Where the Carmelites Began

Today (Sunday, July 16) is the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, the Patroness of the Carmelite Order. Because St. Therese is a Carmelite Parish, we are allowed to use the liturgy for Our Lady's Feast today instead of the liturgy for the 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

The traditional Carmelite legend claims that a group of men dedicated to God, begun by Elijah and Elisha, remained on Mount Carmel until the days of the New Testament, when they were "prepared by the preaching of John the Baptist for the coming of Christ," and "at once embraced the faith of the Gospel." They are also said to be the first Christians to build a chapel in honor of the Virgin Mary, on the very spot on Mount Carmel in Israel where Elijah had seen the "little cloud," understood as a symbol of the Virgin Mary. The Carmelites have traditionally honored the prophet Elijah and his disciple Elisha as their founders; in the liturgical books of both the Old Observance and the Discalced, they are each given the title "Our Father."

The sacred scriptures (Book of Kings) speak of the beauty of Mount Carmel in Israel where the prophet Elijah defended the faith of Israel in the one living God. There, at the beginning of the thirteenth century, under the title of "Saint Mary of Mount Carmel," the Order of Carmelites had its formal beginning. From the fourteenth century this title, recalling the countless blessings of its patroness, began to be celebrated solemnly, first in England and then gradually throughout the whole Order. It attained its supreme place from the beginning of the seventeenth century, when the General Chapter declared it to be the principal feast of the Order, and St. Paul V recognized it as the feast of the Scapular Confraternity.

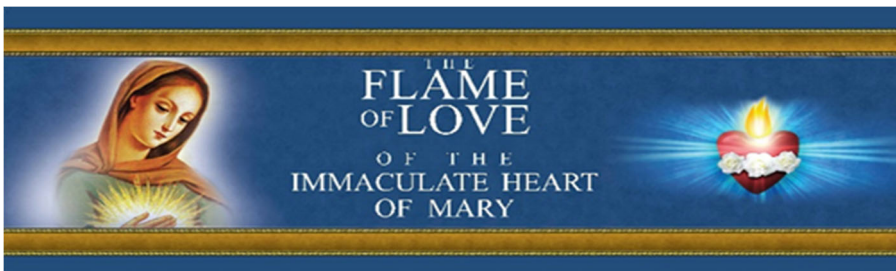


## The Flame of Love: The Greatest Gift of Grace for Our Time

### Living in the Flame – Night Vigil

(continued) from last month): The Night Vigils are perhaps the most challenging, but one of the most effective elements of the Flame of Love devotion. It was hard for Elizabeth, and she told Jesus, "Lord, I

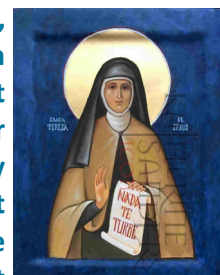
usually sleep deeply. What if I cannot wake up to keep watch?" Jesus: "I will help you with that as well. If there's anything too difficult for you, confidently tell our Mother. She also spent many nights in prayer vigils." Elizabeth was able to double the effort: "The Lord Jesus had first asked me to make a one-hour vigil twice. Now, by the grace of God, since the fire of charity is burning me, I have neither night nor day. All that I could do for the Lord seemed so small. I spend each night in prayer from midnight to 5:00 a.m. Then I go to church where I continue my adoration. Then, at the Holy Mass at 7:00 a.m., I receive the sacred Body of the Lord."



**Join the Cenacle:** Two cenacle sessions are available in the Avila Room every Monday. One from Noon to 2:00 p.m., the other one from 5:00 to 6:45 p.m. The Flame of Love books are available for sale in the parish offices. If you have any questions, please contact Maru Lazatin at (626) 675-3080.

# QUIET LISTENING PRAYER THE INTERIOR CASTLE By St Teresa of Avila

I was now thinking, while writing this, that the verse mentioned earlier, Dilatasti cor meum, says the heart was expanded. I don't think the experience is something, as I say, that rises from the heart, but from another part still more interior, as from something deep. I think this must be the center of the soul, as I later came to understand and will mention at the end. For certainly I see secrets within ourselves that have often caused me to marvel. And how many more there must be! Oh, my Lord and my God, how great are Your grandeurs! We go about here below like foolish little shepherds, for while it seems that we are getting some knowledge of You, it must amount to no more than nothing; for even in our own selves there are great secrets that we don't understand. I say "no more than nothing" because I'm comparing it to the many, many secrets that are in You, not because the grandeurs we see in You are not extraordinary; and that includes those we can attain knowledge of through Your works. To return to the verse, what I think is helpful in it for explaining this matter is the idea of expansion. It seems that since that heavenly water begins to rise from this spring I'm mentioning that is deep within us, it swells and expands our whole interior being, producing ineffable blessings; nor does the soul even understand what is given to it there (IV, 2, 5-6).



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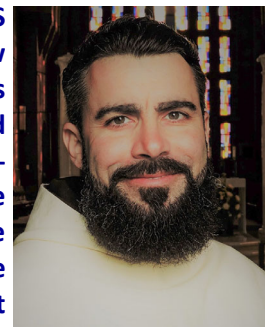
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## Welcome, Fr. Robert!

Please welcome FR. ROBERT ELIAS BARCELOS to St. Therese as our new Associate Pastor. Fr. Robert Elias Barcelos, OCD is a Discalced Carmelite friar of the California-Arizona Province of St. Joseph. He entered the consecrated life at the age of twenty-one in 1999. He studied philosophy and theology at Mt. Angel Seminary for seven years and in 2008 was ordained as a Priest of Christ. He has served his Province in parish ministry, formation of Carmelite vocations and retreat work. Fr. Robert Elias offers a biblical and Eucharistic expression of the riches of our Catholic Christian faith, and explores with you Carmel's spirituality of divine love in "leading people to a deeper knowledge and experience of intimacy with God" (Carmelite Constitutions #101).



# 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.



July 8 / 9, 2023

Unrestricted.....	\$16,115.00
Restricted .....	\$ 325.00
<b>T O T A L.....</b>	<b>\$16,440.00</b>

June 10 / 11 .....	\$17,382.00
June 17 / 18 .....	\$13,900.00
June 24 / 25 .....	\$17,817.00
July 1 / 2 .....	\$14,468.00

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# Our Lady of Mt Carmel



By Fr. Sam Anthony Morello, OCD

The Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel demonstrates the relationship cultivated with the Blessed Virgin over the eight centuries of Carmelite history. Carmelites are known in the Western Church as the first Order to be named after the Virgin Mary. Since the late 13th century, the Carmelites have celebrated this feast as its special Solemnity. It was the pilgrims to Palestine during the Crusades who named them the Brothers of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.

As Carmelites and Christ's faithful, we look to the sacred readings of the Solemnity to find what light the Scriptures cast on the role of the Blessed Virgin as Mother of our Savior, Mother of His Holy Church, and as Mother of the Family of Carmel. In I Kings 18, we climb Mt. Carmel with the prophet Elijah during a severe punitive draught predicted by Elijah himself. We are with him when he sees "...a cloud as small as a man's hand rising from the sea," which Carmelites believe to be a symbol of Mary.

In Galatians 4, St. Paul asserts that "In the fullness of time, God sent His Son, born of a Woman, born under the Law," that we might be freed from the Law, and made adopted children of God. Jesus is the Rainfall of overflowing abundance. By this Messianic Rainfall, the Lord Jesus is the fulfillment of the Rainfall promised the Jewish people of old. The whole universe has been watered most plentifully by the grace of the wounded and risen Warrior, Jesus the Savior.

**What is Our Lady's Brown Scapular?** The "scapular," originally the word for a monk's work apron, eventually became a symbol of a way of life and of Marian devotion, a sign of spiritual affiliation with the Carmelites. The Scapular, a sacramental approved since its origins by the Church, is a small sign of the great ideal of Carmel: intimacy with God and friendship among the disciples. The Scapular echoes the promise of Divine Revelation: **"The one who holds out to the end is the one who will see salvation"** (Matt. 24:13), and **"Remain faithful unto death and I will give you the crown of life"** (Rev. 2:10). The Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel is a reminder to its wearers of the saving grace that Christ gained upon the cross for all: **"All you who have been baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves in Him"** (Gal. 3:27).

# The Real St. Therese

The third part of this book will situate these trials in the framework of the patient's life, in the totality of her existence. Some may have felt a certain repugnance at violating a soul's mystery. Some



An installment from *The Passion of Thérèse of Lisieux* by Guy Faucher

sufferings can be readily grasped, but it is in the silence of meditation that the reader must return to the text of the Last Conversations. By definition, sympathy (to suffer with) is a better means to understanding than the story. We must understand, in a realistic way, that Therese was not ignorant about the basic fundamentals of man's estate. She recognized that she had a great capacity for suffering: "Ah! What I suffered I shall not be able to say except in Heaven," she wrote in 1895 when recalling the spiritual suffering of her childhood. This was even more true of September 1897, and she confirmed it herself two hours before she died: "Never would I have believed it was possible to suffer so much! Never! Never!"

A portrait sketch: We have given only the true facts of a story; now we have to gather up the threads and attempt to sketch a portrait. It is true that the outline began to emerge at the beginning of the last chapter. But, like the modern paintings of the saint in the impressionist style, it still needs many strokes of the brush to fill in the detail that we hope will make it more true to life. Let us not be under any illusions... the undertaking is a difficult one for several reasons. First, because of the wealth of material available. We did not wish to write a synthesis. And yet, a portrait of Therese in the face of death gathers together all her thoughts, her whole life. Everything converges towards these decisive moments. This task is also much more difficult than that of the first part, and also more debatable, for it will inevitably be more subjective. The same pictures, edited in different ways, produce different films.

**NEXT WEEK: Chapter 1 of Part III: A HUMAN SAINT**



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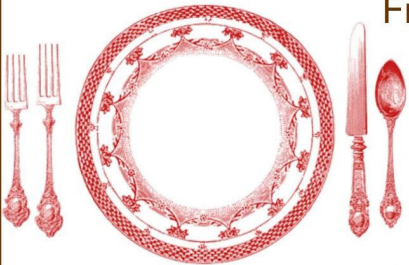


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# Mass Intentions

July 15—July 22, 2023

Saturday Evening:

5:00 p.m.: Engracia Vales, RIP

Sunday:

\*7:30 a.m.: (Carm): Carmelite Order INT

7:30 a.m.: Mary DeSantis, RIP

9:00 a.m.: Parishioners

11:00 a.m.: Cathleen Thompson, RIP

1:00 p.m.: Ed Sepulveda, RIP

5:00 p.m.: Ismael, Omar, & Karina Martin, INT

Monday:

6:00 a.m.: Fidel Patron, RIP

\*7:30 a.m.: Ignacio & Jessie Guzman and Antonio Salazar, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Nilda Lacangan, INT

7:00 p.m.: Ismael, Omar, & Karina Martin, INT

Tuesday:

6:00 a.m.: Fidel Patron, RIP

\*7:30 am Ignacio & Jessie Guzman and Antonio Salazar, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Gregorio Vallejo, INT

7:00 p.m.: Ismael, Omar, & Karina Martin, INT

Wednesday:

6:00 a.m.: Jonathan Solichin, Birthday INT

\*7:30 am Ignacio & Jessie Guzman and Antonio Salazar, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Raymond Anthony Cuevas, RIP

7:00 p.m.: Ismael, Omar, & Karina Martin, INT

Thursday:

6:00 a.m.: Ignacio & Jessie Guzman and Antonio Salazar, RIP

\*7:30 a.m.: Shirley Sullivan, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Shirley Sullivan, RIP

7:00 p.m.: Ismael, Omar, & Karina Martin, INT

Friday:

6:00 a.m.: Fidel Patron, RIP

\*7:30 am Ignacio & Jessie Guzman and Antonio Salazar, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Maryanne Losorelli, Birthday INT

7:00 p.m.: Ismael, Omar, & Karina Martin, INT

Saturday Morning:

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

8:00 am Ignacio & Jessie Guzman and Antonio Salazar, RIP

**\*Held at the Cloistered Carmelite Chapel. The Carmel's Chapel is open to the public every day except Sundays and holidays.**

**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. Monday evening Mass are live streamed on Facebook AND YouTube. Links to those two sites are on our website's home page (in the top left column).

# Pilgrimages

## Pilgrimage<sup>s</sup>



Join the Carmelite Pilgrimage, “In the Footsteps of St. Therese of Lisieux & St. Elizabeth of the Trinity,” from Sept 28-Oct 11, incl. Paris, Lourdes, Ars, etc. Chaplains are Fr. Mark Kissner, OCD, and Fr. Joseph Mary Tran, OCD.

Contact Beth Maddatu at (408) 903-6305 | maddatubeth2@gmail.com.

**5-DAY PILGRIMAGE TO MEXICO, OCTOBER 9-13, 2023, WITH FR. ROBERT BARCELOS, OCD:** A pilgrimage is more than a vacation or a trip! Join us as we fly American Airlines direct to Mexico City. Take time to pray at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, walk to Tepeyac Hill to the Old Cathedral, site of the apparition, and have daily Mass in and around colonial Mexico! Enjoy famous Talavera tiles and the amazing Rosary Chapel in Puebla. Visit Coyoacan and Ocotlan, site of many miracles! Enjoy a boat ride on Xochimilco's floating gardens! \$1,499 includes 4-Star Hotel, breakfasts and dinners. Deadline to register is July 25, 2023. **Contact Albert and Mary Helen Estrada (626) 533-4839.**

**French Canada Pilgrimage September 14-21, 2023:** Discover Quebec's Shrines honoring the Mother of God and the Guardians of the Holy Family, St. Joseph Oratory, and St. Anne Beaupre. Cost is \$3350 (double room occupancy | add \$395 for single room occupancy), which includes roundtrip flights from LAX and land travel by motorcoach, guesthouses/hotels with private bath, daily breakfast & dinner, all touring, and daily Mass.

**For more info, call Louisa & Jack Day at (323) 360-5186 / (323) 403-8768 or Sacred Heart Tours at (845) 594-2222 |**



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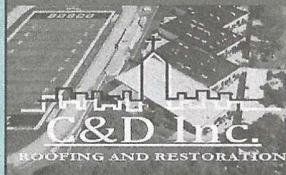


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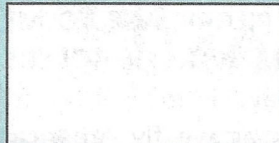
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