



Saint Therese Church



September 4, 2016

Ministered by the Discalced Carmelite Friars

Established 1924

www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org

510 North El Molino Street - Alhambra, California 91801 282-2744 - FAX 282-7560

(Unless otherwise indicated, all the telephone numbers in the bulletin are in the (626) area code).

Pastor: Fr. Philip Sullivan, OCD (332) **Associate Pastors:** Fr. Bernard Perkins, OCD (232) and Fr. Charles Nawodylo, OCD (224) **In Residence:** Fr. Albert Bunsic, OCD

Deacon Couple: Deacon Joe & Lorraine Mizerski (333)

Vocations: Carmelite: (909) 629-9495 - Archdiocese (213) 637-7515



St. Teresa of Calcutta
Canonized September 4, 2016
Feast Day: September 5

Special Edition on "Tithing"

Masses & Services:

Monday-Saturday:

6:00 & 8:00 a.m.

Carmelite Cloister: 7:30 a.m.

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday:

7:30, 9:00, 11:00 a.m., & 5:00 p.m.

Latin High Mass: 1:00 p.m.

Holy Days:

6:00, 8:00, 10:00 a.m., & 7:30 p.m.

Devotions:

Rosary: After Mon-Sat 8:00 a.m. Mass;
Exposition/Benediction: Thursdays, 7:00-
8:00 p.m.; Intercessors for Priests:
Thursdays, 8:00 p.m.; First Friday Mass
and All-Night Vigil: 7:30 p.m.

FUN QUOTES

- You should give according to your income, lest God make your income according to your giving.
- Give to God what's right—not what's left.
- Some people give God a tenth—a tenth of what they ought to give.
- Charity begins at home—but often dies from lack of outdoor exercise.
- If everyone in your church followed YOUR pattern of giving, would your church receive a token, a tip, or a tithe?

—Brian Kluth

Parish Vision Statement:

To be a spiritual Catholic Family focused on prayer as well as service to the Gospel through a Sacramental life. We envision our Parish as a community of stewards dedicated to building up the Body of Christ through active ministry while living the example of simplicity, humility, confidence and love of our Patroness, St. Therese of Lisieux.

A Letter From The Pastor

TITHING THE LORD'S LAW



Dear Parishioners:

There is a humorous story told about a family that was coming out of Mass. The man says to his wife, *"That wasn't much of sermon that Father gave."* The wife added, *"Yeah, and the choir sang off key."* Meanwhile, their small son has been listening to his parents' conversation. Finally, he speaks up, *"It seemed all right to me,"* he says, *"especially considering that it only cost us a dollar!"* Asking for money is the least enjoyable part of being your Pastor. Yet, it is nevertheless part of my job. However, today, instead of begging, I want to share with you what Sacred Scripture teaches about tithing and offer a practical way to tithe more effectively--for your sake as well as for mine. So, please take time to prayerfully consider how you are meeting your obligations to tithing. And remember, St. Paul tells us, *"God loves a cheerful giver"* (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Thank you for always responding so generously when I ask for your financial support. We are doing a lot of good work here at St. Therese Parish; but we need to be better organized in our fundraising efforts in order to respond to all the needs of this beautiful church, its growing community, and our reformed school. We need to see and understand our tithing efforts as part of the Liturgy--"the work of the people". The offering of the gifts at Mass is a liturgical reenactment of offering to God from your resources. Tithing is a liturgical act of Sacrifice. As we read in the Old Testament, offerings were not only given in the form of money, but also from whatever resources that were available. When I celebrated Mass at our Carmelite mission in Uganda, the Offertory of the Gifts procession took at least an hour because every tribe was represented. Some of the tribes offered clean water carried in jugs; others, chickens in cages; others, fruit; others, coal or cloth; and, yes, some offered money. It was elaborate, deliberate, and it was done in a way that no one would question that it was an act of worship to God.

Is it easy to give? No, it wouldn't be a sacrifice if it were easy. We need to be careful not to desire the wealth of this world and its possessions. Otherwise, wealth (mammon) will possess us. Maybe you think it couldn't happen to you. This is the point our Lord makes when He says it is easier for a "camel to pass through the eye of a needle" than it is for a rich man to get into Heaven. The Scriptures demand us to look at our relationship with money. They challenge us to ask, "Does money serve what I need to provide for the well-being of my family, or do I end up serving the demands of money?" Serving Money? What does that even mean? Jesus said, "You cannot serve both God and *Mammon" (*Hebrew for money). Can the devil use our relationship with money/mammon to distract us from our relationship with God? You bet! The initial problem is in the word, "relationship". This is why the word mammon is sometimes personified as a devil. The Hebrew Scriptures, as well as the New Testament, warn us not to be dependent on money, but on God. Let's listen to Jesus: "Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?,' for the pagans run after all these things. Your Heavenly Father knows that you need them; but seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own" (Matthew 6:25-34).

Tithing is absolutely still necessary in the Catholic Church today. Tithing is... 1) A personal responsibility that we have with God; 2) Founded in the Scriptures; 3) Worship and, therefore, a solemn and holy part of the Liturgy of the Mass; 4) A sacrifice that we are all commanded to do: "Pray, Fast, and Give Alms"; and 5) A demonstration of our trust in God and the promise He makes to care for His children. I don't remember tithing ever being discussed in this way when I was on the other side of the Sanctuary. In fact, I remember getting pretty upset when the priest would talk about money during the homily. I'm not a TV evangelist. I'm your pastor! So I'm emphasizing the spirituality of giving--totally based on the Bible. Tithing is different from the times that I "beg" for money to do a project, such as a new sound system, a fence for the playground, roof repairs, painting the church, repairing the Hall, etc. Tithing is a demand *from* God and *for* God. We must practice total dependence on the Father who loves us and cares for our every need. For "to whom much has been given, much will be demanded." Please read the other articles in this bulletin for a more thorough explanation on tithing based on the Holy Bible and on the needs of our Parish and School. And Pray always, "JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU! JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU! JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU!"

Fr. Philip Sullivan, Pastor

Where Does Your Money Go?

Look around you. Do you see the beautiful flowers and altar dressings? Are there bulletins and other resources at the doors of the church? Is the lighting good so that you can see and read? Is the sound system working so you can hear the lectors and Presider? Do you feel comfortable? Is it cool or warm enough? Is the church clean and do the bathrooms have the needed supplies? These things and much more are what your contributions provide and support!

Did you know that: It cost over \$160,000 to paint the exterior of the church? The November 2015 electric bill (to heat and light the church) was \$4,100? The July 2016 electric bill (to cool and light the church) was \$3,449? St. Therese pays the salaries and benefits of ten staff employees? The operating cost of our Carmelite school is over one million dollars per year? Tuition assistance for the school is \$120,000 per year?

Did you know that we NEED:

- To begin paying back a loan made to us by the Knights of Columbus for the exterior paint job of the church? (Payment will be approximately \$2,000 per month.)
- To re-roof the flat surface of the church so it won't leak through the ceiling into the church?
- To make numerous repairs to the Parish Office building (formerly the Rectory)? (Its plumbing system is in desperate need of re-piping; its 20-year old carpet needs replacing; its original flooring needs restoring or replacing, and its bathrooms need renovation.)
- To update and/or replace the old wiring for the internet?
- To replace and rewire the VERY OLD phones and phone systems in both the school and parish offices? (We have been quoted \$41,000 for both buildings!)
- To fumigate the Church and Parish Offices?
- To motorize the rolling car gates?
- To install a camera system and all the related electronics for our school's security?
- To replace all the air conditioners in the School classrooms (1st through 8th Grades)? (They are all in very bad condition--with the junior high classes on the top level being the worst.)
- To renovate the Parish Hall? (It needs new kitchen stoves and industrial freezers and refrigerators; the doors need replacement; and the Hall AND School bathrooms are all in very poor condition.)
- To regularly maintain our office machines (copiers and faxes) and frequently replenish office supplies? (Paper, ink, and toner are used daily and are very expensive.)



SCHOOL TUITION & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FEES: Over the past 56 years, Catholic schools have gone from having teaching staffs comprised of 74 percent Religious (nuns, etc.) in 1960 to three percent Religious in 2016. Because Religious did not used to collect salaries, that change has impacted the annual budgets of innumerable schools and Religious Education Programs across the United States. The average tuition paid per student covers only approximately 62 percent of the actual costs of education. In addition, most Catholic schools and religious education programs provide some form of tuition assistance. **The difference between the tuition paid and the actual costs are mainly subsidized by the parish or from fundraising activities.**

IN WHAT WAY IS GOD CALLING YOU FOR HELP? If you would like your tithe (or a portion of it) to assist a specific program or our School or any of our Religious Education programs, just make a note of it when you make a donation. Here are some details that may help you decide:

- **St. Therese Carmelite School:** The annual tuition for St. Therese Carmelite School is \$4,980 per child per year. Some Catholic families cannot afford this. Your donation could make it possible for their children to attend!
- **Religious Education Programs:** Again, some Parish families cannot afford to pay the fees for their children who attend our Elementary and/or High School Religious Ed Programs, nor can some afford to pay the fees to attend our catecheses programs, such as Adult Education classes, RCIA, Vacation Bible School, or Summer Youth Camps. We also need help with the expenses required to run our VIRTUS program and Parent Education Classes.
- **Capital Improvement Projects:** As shown above (under our NEEDS), maintaining the upkeep of our church and other parish and school buildings is a huge expense. If you'd like to help with these costs, just make a note asking for your donation to be applied to the special project of your choice. Otherwise, all donations will go into our general expense account (unrestricted), the funds of which are used to pay our regular ongoing bills or to a special project chosen by the Pastor with the advisement of our Parish Finance Council.

What Do the Church and the

What is tithing? Tithing is the practice, established by God in the Old Testament, of returning ten percent of your blessings to God. Originally the tithe was given to the temple or the Church in the form of produce or livestock, since that was the only income the people had. As our society shifted to a monetary exchange system, the tithe began to be paid in currency. What is important for the believer to understand is that the tithe was owed to God. The tithe was not given based on any needs, but simply in recognition and gratitude for the blessings that God had bestowed on the individual. *"The tithes of the herd and the flock shall be determined by ceding to the Lord as sacred every tenth animal as they are counted by the herdsman's rod"* (Leviticus 27:32).

Is tithing mentioned in the New Testament? Jesus actually called His followers to a standard of giving that went far beyond the tithe. He called us to give up everything and follow Him. The early Christians were able to do this. However, as the Church expanded throughout the world, its followers needed to be reminded that generous giving is a hallmark of the Judeo-Christian tradition. The key to understanding how God wants us to give to the Church is found in the New Testament: "On the first day of the week, each of you should set aside whatever he can afford" (1 Cor. 16:2); "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each must do as already determined without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. Moreover, God is able to make every grace abundant for you, so that in all things, you may have an abundance for every good work" (2 Cor. 9:6-8).

Is tithing still necessary in the Catholic Church today? Absolutely! God told the Israelites this contribution was necessary to support the work of the Levites and the poor in the community. Today our Church still needs our support to pay the expenses and financial obligations it incurs as it operates in a commercial society. Salaries, benefits, insurance, maintenance, utilities, etc., are all expenses that never even existed when Our Lord first decreed that each of us was to give back a percentage of what we have. Additionally, we are still called to care for the poor among us. *"Each year you shall tithe all the produce that grows in the field you have sown...so that the Levite who has no share in the heritage with you and also the alien, the orphan and the widow who belong to your community, may come and eat their fill..."* (Deuteronomy 14:22,29).

Why does the Church refer to tithing as "giving back?" Our lives, our families, our health, our education, our unique talents and skills, our jobs, and our income are all blessings from God, entrusted into our care for the good of all peoples. Thus, when we tithe we are really only giving back ten percent of something that ultimately belongs to God anyway. The amazing thing is that our God is a generous and abundant God who lets us keep and enjoy ninety percent of all His blessings.



Why can't churches just ask for support when it has special needs? Inevitably this leads to endless fundraising activities. Without a constant flow of income through tithes given freely in the Offertory, a parish must appeal for funding for every activity or ministry it wishes to undertake. Parishioners get tired of the constant talk about money and the demands on their time that this kind of approach takes. Our Lord warned about this kind of fundraising approach and yelled, *"Stop turning my Father's house into a marketplace."* Yet this is often what we have done when we resort to constant sales and fundraising activities rather than simply asking parishioners to bring their tithe to God's altar first.

Is anyone exempt from the tithe? Our Lord exempted no one from giving. In the parable of the "Widow's Mite," it is important to note that the widow was not given back her two small coins. When Jesus multiplied the loaves and fishes, He asked for all the food that anyone had."

Bible Say About Tithing?

Are there any personal benefits to tithing? Those who embrace tithing report that the satisfaction that comes from gratefully sharing their blessings is tremendous. When you take a hard look at your spending and plan to make God first in your budget, you quickly realize the difference between what you need and what you want. You begin to eliminate the clutter from your life and start to more fully appreciate the many blessings you already have. You stop being “consumed by consumerism” and begin to slow down and prioritize not only how you spend your money but also how you spend your time. Once you stop trying to satisfy yourself with material possessions and spending, you may even find that you enjoy simple pleasures more fully—especially time to deepen your relationships with God, with loved ones, and with your community. Ultimately, those who tithe often feel that the practice brings more joy, more peace, more contentment, and more balance to their lives. *“Give and gifts will be given to you... For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you” (Luke 6:38).*



Should tithing be based on gross or net income? When striving to give a full tithe, you should calculate the amount based on your gross income. The reason is that stewardship calls us to give back to God before we take care of our own wants or needs—including our obligation to our government. By placing God first, we show how much we trust Him. *“Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your produce; then will your barns be filled with grain, with new wine your vats will overflow” (Proverbs 3:9-10).*

If someone has huge financial obligations, do they need to tithe? Even if giving a full tithe is not immediately possible for you, it’s important to work towards this goal. Begin by committing to giving a gift that is planned, proportionate, and sacrificial. Despite the strong urging throughout Scripture to give back ten percent, the average Catholic today gives less than one percent. Try to increase your gift by at least a half percent. If you do that every year, you’ll eventually reach a full tithe. It’s usually suggested to give five percent to your parish, four percent to other charities, and one percent to the Archdiocese (Together in Mission). Of course, it might be necessary to eliminate something in order to increase your giving. A legalistic approach to a certain percentage really isn’t as important as developing an overall grateful and generous way of life. Many who begin on this type of stewardship journey eventually find that they feel called to increase their giving even beyond the ten percent level.

What if I decide not to tithe? Ultimately what will suffer most will be your relationship with God, since it is God who asks for the tithe. It is God who blessed you with gifts to share. It is God who will one day ask for an accounting of how well you shared your gifts. *“Dare a man rob God? Yet you are robbing me! And you say, ‘How do we rob you?’ In tithes and offerings! Shall I not open for you the floodgates of heaven to pour down blessings upon you without measure?” -Malachi 3:8-10.*

How can I find the courage to tithe? Tithing truly does take great faith, but if you wait until you feel that you are financially comfortable, you will never take the step. No matter how much we have, there is always something else we want. If you are ever going to tithe, you will have to step back from your endless list of wants and believe that our generous and abundant God will always provide you with all that you need. *“He who did not spare His own Son but handed Him over for us all, how will He not also give us everything else along with Him?” -Romans 8:32.*

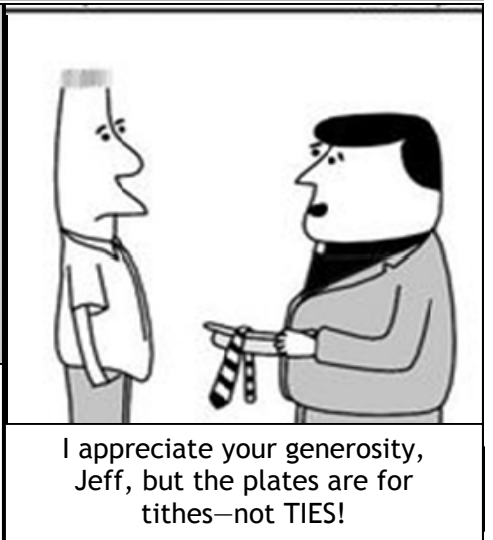
How do I figure out my tithe amount? First, take your pre-tax income and round it to the nearest thousand. Then take off the last three zeros. For example, a person making \$40,000 annually would take off the last three zeros and be left with \$40. This is what you should give every week if you give five percent to the parish (the other five percent goes to the Archdiocese and other charities). If you’re not sure the formula works, check the math. Five percent of \$40,000 is \$2,000. Divide by 50 (easier and quicker than 52) to arrive at the figure of \$40 a week. To calculate your percentage, divide your total donations for the last year by your gross annual income. Move the decimal point over two places and that is your percent of giving, e.g., .0346 is 3.5 percent. Would this be a figure that would make you feel like Jesus’ disciple?

For an article entitled, “Philosophy and Principles of Tithing According to the Rule of St. Michael,” go to: http://www.saint-mike.org/library/rule/excerpts/principles_tithing.html

On the Lighter Side of Tithing



"I said he's beginning to TEETHE—not tithel!"



Mass Intentions

For Week of 9/3/16 TO 9/10/16

Saturday:

5:00 p.m.: Therese Hong T. Nguyen RIP

Sunday:

*7:30 a.m.: Richard Rodriguez RIP

7:30 a.m.: Parishioners

9:00 a.m.: Therese Hong T. Nguyen RIP

11:00 a.m.: Martha & Larry Campos RIP

1:00 pm (Latin) Edna Nacpil RIP

5:00 p.m.: Flaviana Lee Lim RIP

Monday:

6:00 a.m.: Holy Souls in Purgatory, esp. Members of FOSS

*7:30 a.m.: Daniel Yan INT

8:00 a.m.: Ricardo Arreliga RIP

Tuesday:

6:00 a.m.: Al Rosenthal RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Therese Hong T. Nguyen RIP

8:00 a.m.: Corazon Aclaro INT

Wednesday:

6:00 a.m.: Rosalva Chavez RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Therese Hong T. Nguyen RIP

8:00 a.m.: Daisy Torres INT

Thursday:

6:00 a.m.: Faustina and John Paul Truong INT

*7:30 a.m.: Therese Hong T. Nguyen RIP

8:00 a.m.: Ruth Laigo INT

Friday:

6:00 a.m.: Elena Saucillo INT

*7:30 a.m.: Sam Casper & Jacob, Monica, & John Park RIP

8:00 a.m.: Elide Ayuso RIP

Saturday:

6:00 a.m.: Zenaida Gutierrez RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Community

8:00 a.m.: Beatriz Castro RIP

*Held at the Carmelite Chapel, 215 East Alhambra Road
Open to the public every day except Sundays/holidays.

Floral Dedications



This week's Floral Dedication is:

In Honor of
St. Teresa of Calcutta

Make arrangements for a dedication in someone's honor, for a special occasion, or in memory of loved ones! Just leave a message for Giovanna Setiady at 281-9049. Bouquets are \$45 plus.

Personal Ads

Want extra income? Rent to a Catholic boarder! Producer/new parishioner in final phase of film seeks affordable room for 3 months. References by STC parishioners available. Call Daniel at 205-370-3542.

Deaths

Please pray for the repose of the soul of:

✠ Joan Finnegan

Her Memorial Mass will be on:

Friday, September 9, at 10:00 a.m.

Outside the Parish

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat weekend for Healing after Abortion: Rachel's Vineyard retreat is 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 October 7-9 in Duarte. Cost: \$215 per person. For registration or more information, call 866-2-RACHEL or 866-272-2435 - www.rachelsvineyard.org - <https://www.youtube.com/user/rachelsvineyard>

INTENTIONS OF THE HOLY FATHER FOR SEPTEMBER:

1) That all contribute to the common good and the building of a society that places the human person at the center; and 2) That by the Sacraments and Scripture, Christians may become more aware of their mission to evangelize.

L e c t o r s

Saturday:

5:00 p.m. Alice Cheung

Sunday:

7:30 a.m. Blanca Ruvalcaba / Flora Santoso

9:00 a.m. Jim Raney / Nancy King

11:00 a.m. Andy Zepeda

5:00 p.m. Lucy Lopez

INFORMATION PAGE

Bulletin Number:
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1 Through 8

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: