

St. Therese Catholic Church

Est. 1924



December 31, 2023 510 North El Molino Street | Alhambra CA 91801 | (626) 282-2744 | www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org



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

(*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.

Note: The daily 8:00 a.m., the Monday 7:15 p.m.,

and the Sunday 11:00 a.m., Masses are all

LIVE STREAMED on Facebook AND YouTube.

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.

“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 [Mary] a sword will pierce— so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed” (Luke 2:34-35).

When the days were completed for their purification, according to the law of Moses, they took Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord. When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The Child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon Him.

Luke 2:22, 39-40

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 X 1+225

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 Joseph Mizerski | Deacon Gilbert Vargas |

Deacon Otto Lacayo: 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

Music Director: Andrew Coyne | Andrew.Coyne1@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,

I wish you a continued Blessed Christmas season and a Happy New Year! And what a year that is ahead of us! First of all, thank you to all who participated in our centennial kick-off, with the unveiling of the St. Therese Centennial Banners on the front of the church. They are a magnificent beginning to the grace-filled year that awaits us. There are many events planned for the coming year, so please pay attention to the announcements and notices throughout the year so that you can be a part of them. With this in mind, let us resume getting to know our patroness as a preparation for our special year as a parish!

Fr. Peter Mary, O.C.D.

Readings for the Theresian Anniversaries in 2023-2025

Prayer for Pranzini (MS A, 45-46v)

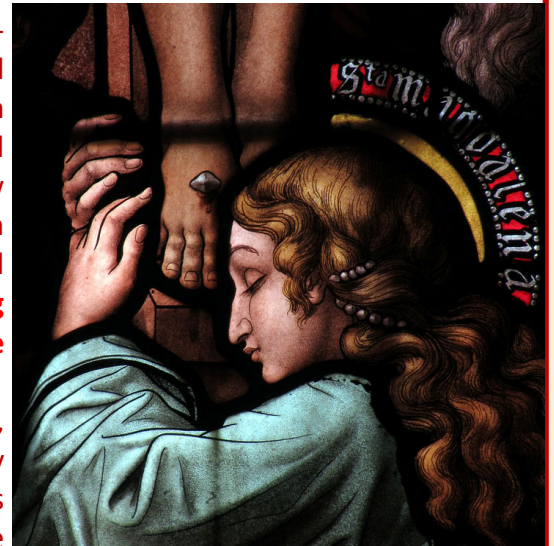
Introduction to the text: As our Carmelite brother François-Marie Léthel affirms: This story is one of Therese's most beautiful texts, one of the strongest concerning Hope in Infinite Mercy in the apparently most desperate situation. In its simplicity and freshness, this text is very rich from the theological point of view on the mystery of the Redemption and the Church's cooperation with this mystery. It unites the points of view of faith, hope and charity, but with hope being the dominant point. **The starting point is a simple image of Jesus Crucified and Mary Magdalene embracing His feet, according to traditional iconography.**

"I thirst" (MS A, 45v): Jesus' thirst on the cross, His blood shed, awakens in Therese the "thirst for souls," the desire to "purify them from their stains," which will instill in her the bold actions and fiery thoughts, in a "true interchange of love," such as the consequences of the "grace of Christmas" and the contemplation of Christ, dead for sinners.

"As yet, it was not the souls of priests that attracted me" (MS A, 45v)," Therese was to say on September 2, 1890, during the canonical examination that preceded profession. **"I came to save souls and especially to pray for priests"** (MS A, 69v). During the Process, Céline amusingly said, "She called this kind of apostolate 'working in the wholesale trade,' since through the head, it reached the members." Her trip to Rome marked a decisive turning point: "Having never lived close to them, I was not able to understand the principal aim of the Reform of Carmel. To pray for sinners attracted me, but to pray for the souls of priests whom I believed to be as pure as crystal seemed puzzling to me!" (MS A, 56r) In Carmel, Therese will never forget this first vocation.

"Condemned to death for some horrible crimes" (MS A, 45v): Thirty-one years old Henri Pranzini had slit the throats of two women and a little girl in a robbery, on March 17, 1887, at Rue Montaigne in Paris. His trial began on July 9 of the same year and ended on July 13 with his death sentence. It was then that Therese must have been passionate about his conversion because the criminal did not seem to show remorse or ask for forgiveness. For Therese, it was a question of preventing him at all costs "from falling into Hell." At a time when Catholicism was strongly imbued with fear of God's judgment, the teenager's privileged weapons were prayer and a trust intimately linked to the mercy of the Father.

"All the infinite merits of Our Lord" (MS A, 46r): Therese liked to emphasize the infinite character of Jesus' merits. Her description of the Pranzini episode is very close to her Act of Offering. Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face would never then cease to pray for the salvation of sinners and would speak of Pranzini as her "first child." The young Carmelite would remain anchored in mercy until her last breath.



NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE



Happy New Year from the Friars and the Staff!

Masses for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

+Monday, January 1:

8:00 and 10:00 a.m. and 7:15 p.m.

(NO 6:00 a.m. Mass on New Year's Day)

+Note: Because this feast falls on a Monday, the *obligation* to attend Mass has been abrogated.



DINNER AND DANCE Shake, Rattle, & Roll! Dance to the Music of the 50's & 60's!

All are invited to attend this fabulous dinner / dance in the Parish Hall on Saturday, January 13, from 6:30 to 11:00 p.m.

Save the Date

Saturday, January 13, 2024

*Shake
& Roll Rattle*



The fee of \$40 per person includes a delicious buffet dinner of Caesar salad, roast beef and gravy, mashed potatoes, sauteed vegetables, chicken breast with Marsala wine sauce, mushrooms, sun-dried tomatoes, Atlantic

salmon with lemon butter sauce, penne pasta with vegetables and Alfredo sauce, and dessert. Dinner will be served only from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

There will be a 50/50 game and raffle AND a special one hour live show featuring "ELVIS"! All proceeds will go towards the remodel of the kitchen in the the Parish Hall. Tickets available at the school and church offices or call (626) 533-4839 (school reopens January 3rd).



Masses on TEN Weekdays Held in the Parish Hall

Due to the refinishing of the floors in the church, the **weekDAY** Masses (as well as two Saturday morning Masses) for the dates listed below will be celebrated in the Parish Hall:



Monday-Friday, January 15 to 19

Saturday morning, January 20

Monday-Friday, January 22 to 26

Other than the morning of January 20, ALL weekEND Masses will continue to be celebrated in the church.

Movie Night in January!

We hope to see you at our next Parish Family Movie Night at 6:30 p.m., on Saturday, January 6. We will feature the beloved classic,



"It's A Wonderful Life."



The Hidden Christ

It's been more than two thousand years since God became Man,
And He's still with us, although centuries have been spanned.
Although He has now ascended to the place from where He came,
He still takes on the form of man—though the way is not the same.

For He said to us, "You do to Me whatever you do to the least of My sisters and brothers."

So, if we look with eyes of love at everyone, it's Jesus our Savior that we will discover!

Behold! It's Christ who sits upon a wheelchair throne!

Take heed! It's the Lord now bedridden whom we hear moan!

For whenever you find someone hungry, sick, lonely, or poor,
It's as though Christ Himself had come knocking at your door.

Yes, it's Christ hidden in the "distressing disguise" of those in need;
And it's Christ within us who reaches out to others by loving deed.

This is the time to live out the love He instilled in our hearts,
Until from all of our lives every darkness slowly departs.

Let's spread to others His peace, love, joy, and glory—

All of which began with the Nativity story—

So that Christmas won't be over at the end of December,

But will reside each day in the hearts of all—in each human member!

"LET ME INTRODUCE YOU" .. By Fr. Stephen F. Watson, OCD

A New Feature in the Bulletin for our Parish Centennial

Lucas and Giovanna Setiady have been members of St. Therese Parish since they were married in 1984. They are from Indonesia, a country that embraces more than 300 ethnic groups and stretches 3,200 miles from east to west. It is the largest archipelago in the world to form a single nation state. Lucas is from Java and Giovanna is from Sumatra.

Although Indonesia has the largest Muslim population of any country in the world, both Lucas and Giovanna were brought up in Catholic families. Giovanna, one of seven children, was born on the very day that Pope St. John XXIII was elected. (You can google it since it would be impolite to mention her age 😊). It is not a coincidence that she was given the name Giovanna. The priests of her parish were *Italian* Xaverian missionaries. Lucas, who has a sister, was educated by Dutch Jesuits.



Lucas and Giovanna met at the dental college of the Airlangga University in Surabaya, Java. Lucas came to the United States to continue his dental studies in USC's International Student Program for Dentistry; he lived in Alhambra while at USC. Giovanna came to the United States to join Lucas for marriage preparation. They came to St. Therese seeking a priest and found Fr. Albert Bunsic, who prepared them for their marriage. They went home to Indonesia for the marriage which took place August 5, 1984. An Italian missionary, who knew Giovanna since she was a child, performed the wedding.

The first home of the Setiady family was on Hermosa Drive in San Gabriel. Lucas set up his first dental office on Las Tunas in San Gabriel—just before it changes into Main Street in Alhambra. The Setiadys welcomed their first child, Tamara, in 1987. Their son, Daniel, was born in 1992. Both children were baptized at St. Therese, where they also made their First Holy Communion. The children attended St. Therese School for the first years of their schooling and are both college graduates now. Tamara went to Boston College and is now married. Daniel went to Santa Clara University.

(Turn to Page Seven for the conclusion)

FIRST SATURDAYS DEVOTION

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to honor & make reparation to the

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR OUR NEXT FIRST SATURDAYS DEVOTION ON JANUARY 6TH, AND JOIN US FOR THE ROSARY AND 15-MINUTES OF MEDITATION AFTER THE 8:00 A.M. MASS.



1925-1929 Three Appearances by Our Lady to Lucia—February 15, 1926:

The Child Jesus and Our Lady Appear to Lucia: Our Lady appeared again to Lucia at the convent, this time with the Child Jesus, to ask Lucia to spread the devotion of the First Saturdays. Lucia responded that her Mother Superior wanted to spread the devotion, but her confessor had discouraged it. Later that year, Lucia entered the Order of the Sisters of St. Dorothy as a novice.

Saint Therese Carmelite School

Deeply rooted in Carmelite spirituality, Saint Therese Carmelite School, united with our parents who are the primary educators of their children, seeks to form students in faith, academics, and virtue through a Classical education.



Open House

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

10 AM-3 PM

TK-8TH GRADE



Saint Therese Carmelite School is first and foremost a Catholic school. Saint Therese Carmelite School educates students through the Catholic Classical model of education to equip our students with the logic, critical thinking, and language skills necessary to succeed throughout their lives.

- Full 6-year WASC/ WCEA Accreditation
- Classical curriculum
- Weekly Mass
- Monthly Confession
- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
- Latin for 3rd-8th grade
- Euclidean geometry
- All-school choir
- Fine arts
- CYO sports
- After-school daycare

Give them the necessary skills for high school and beyond!

Our middle school program focuses on providing our students with the critical thinking, self-discipline, and independent drive necessary to succeed in a rigorous high school program.



Come and see what our program is about!

1106 EAST ALHAMBRA ROAD, ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91801

Mass Intentions

Dec. 30, 2023—Jan. 6, 2024

Saturday (Vigil for Feast of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph):

5:00 p.m.: Christmas Novena 5

Sunday Morning (Feast of the Holy Family)

*7:30 a.m.: Therese Quynh Dao & Family, INT

7:30 a.m.: Lim Hoa Huh, RIP

9:00 a.m.: Lupe Amalia Cano, RIP

11:00 a.m.: Arenas Ortega Family, INT

1:00 p.m. (Latin): Christmas Novena 6

Sunday Evening—Vigil of Mary, Mother of God:

5:00 p.m.: Parishioners

Monday—Feast of Mary, Mother of God:

NO 6:00 A.M. MASS!

*7:30 a.m.: Therese Quynh Hoa & Family, INT

8:00 a.m.: Liam Cox, Birthday INT

10:00 a.m.: Christmas Novena 7

7:15 p.m.: Mary DeSantis, RIP

Tuesday

6:00 a.m.: Angelo Centero, INT

*7:30 a.m.: Khoat Phan & Family, INT

8:00 a.m.: Angelina Brajkovich, RIP

7:15 p.m.: Christmas Novena 8

Wednesday:

6:00 a.m.: Mother Maria, INT

*7:30 am: Tu Phan & Family, INT

8:00 a.m.: Christmas Novena 9

Thursday

6:00 a.m.: Carter & Fullenkamp Families, INT

*7:30 am: Sr. Cecilia, OCD, INT

8:00 a.m.: Fr. Quan Tran, INT

First Friday:

6:00 a.m.: Julius & Carmina Doria, INT

*7:30 a.m.: Fr. David Guzman, OCD, INT

8:00 a.m.: Fr. Quan Tran, INT

7:15 p.m.: Maria May Peralta, INT

Saturday Morning:

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

8:00 a.m.: Carlos and Carla Johnson, INT

***Held at the Cloistered Carmelite Chapel**

located at 215 East Alhambra Road.

Open to the public except on holidays

LIVE STREAMED MASSES:

The 8:00 a.m. Daily Mass (Monday—Saturday), the 11:00 a.m. Sunday Mass, and the 7:15 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).

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As the children started school, Lucas and Giovanna got more involved with the Parish. Lucas has served on both our Parish Council and our School Board. He has also been a lector for many years; you can still see him lecturing at the Monday 6:00 a.m. Mass.

Giovanna used to be an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist and brought the Blessed Sacrament to the homebound. Today, she can be seen in the church, especially on Mondays, tidying up after the weekend Masses. For many years, she was the backbone of our Altar Society, preparing the sanctuary and the church for the big seasons of Lent/Easter and Advent/Christmas and the special holy days. She is also a member of the Cloistered Carmelite Nuns' Auxiliary.

Giovanna says she'll never forget the warm reception she received from the first parishioner she met, Annette Tomanovich. Today, Lucas and Giovanna are the ones giving a warm welcome to those who come to St. Therese. They have seen many pastors and priests come and go, and have also seen dear people like Annette cross over to their heavenly rewards after their long journeys of faith. The presence of Lucas and Giovanna at St. Therese Parish for forty years helps to make the Parish a community of the faithful who seek to love and serve Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The Setiady family is part of the rich history of St. Therese Parish. Let us all journey together in faith with our patroness St. Therese in this centennial year.