

SAINT THERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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November 15, 2020 MINISTERED BY THE DISCALCED CARMELITE FRIARS Estab. 1924

FIRST MASS IN CALIFORNIA BY ITS FIRST CARMELITES

In 1602, 418 years ago—167 years before the Franciscan Friars founded their first California mission—the Spanish explorer, Sebastian Vizcaino, set out to explore the western coast of America, **under the patronage of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.** Accompanying him and his crew were three Discalced Carmelite Friars, Fr. Andres, Fr. Antonio, and Fr. Tomas, the crew chaplains. After sailing into the harbor of what is now San Diego, on **November 12, 1602**, the feast—at that time—of San Diego de Alcalá, **the three friars celebrated the first Mass in California—naming the area in honor of San Diego.** The Friars then sailed up the coast to Oregon, naming many of the towns we know today, including the Catalina Islands, site of the first-recorded Mass in L.A. County. Later, St. Junipero Serra read the journal of Fr. Antonio, and was so inspired that he made a point of celebrating Mass at the very spot where the Carmelite Friars celebrated Mass near Carmel-by-the-Sea, which had been named in honor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

In 2002, the Carmelite Friars commissioned **Bro. Claude Lane, OSB**, to paint an icon for the 400th anniversary of that first Mass (shown here to the left).



New Parishioners: Welcome to St. Therese! Please register online: www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org

We have an office mail drop (on the right side of the door) at 510 North El Molino Street.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE: HOW TO FORGIVE

Dear St. Therese Church Parishioners and School Families,



These are difficult times: lots of suffering, division, financial strain, fear, uncertainty, confusion. And yet, in the middle of all this, we are called as disciples of Jesus Christ and His One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church to live and work in His and the Father's Holy Spirit of peace and joy. Probably the deepest center of His Gospel is forgiveness of one's enemies. When we *experience* forgiveness, given and received—and not just think or read about it!—our lives change! We become more free and bold and skilled at using our one or five or ten talents, putting our gifts at the service of others. Life becomes a mysterious adventure, so that even in the midst of much darkness we *experience* the GUIDANCE of the Holy Spirit. **G-U-I-DANCE**: God-U (and) I DANCE!!! Perhaps the following guidance on strategies for forgiving will help in taking the next good step towards dancing with God:

STRATEGIES FOR FORGIVING

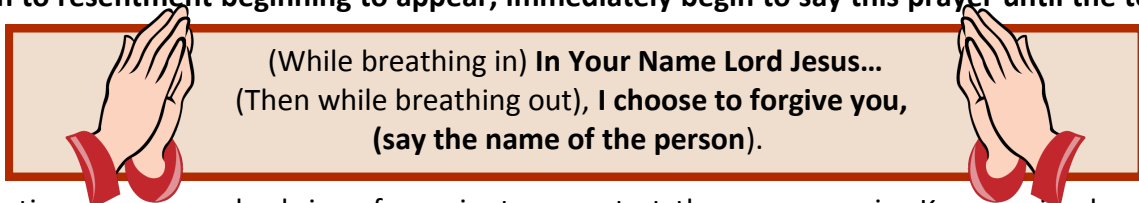
Forgiveness is a three-stage process: from resentment to non-resentment to love. Jesus calls us not just to be neutral toward our enemies, but also to love them. Yes, we must hate the sin, but we must love the sinner. Here are some strategies for doing that, mostly based on Fr. John Hampsch's tape set, *Healing Through Forgiveness* (Claretian Tape Ministries, Los Angeles, CA - Tel. (323) 734-1234).

- 1) Figure out who it is who has offended you. Having a vague, seething anger is not helpful. Ask Jesus to bring to your awareness that person.
- 2) Go to that person first. Don't tell others about it. Only if he doesn't listen to you should you bring in two or three witness, etc. (see Matt. 18).
- 3) "Turn the other cheek" (Luke 6; Matt. 5) does not mean that Jesus is asking you to keep putting yourself in the path of bodily injury. Jesus is talking about when someone hits you with the back of his or her hand across your right cheek. Since most people hit with the right hand, in order to strike your right cheek, the person has to hit you with the **back** of his right hand; that means the person wants to insult you, not commit bodily injury. Jesus is saying you must be ready for more insults, not more bodily injury.
- 4) Ask Jesus to help you deal with the hurt right away and to let go of the anger towards the person. *You can't do it on your own!* So ask Jesus and you will receive the Spirit's help (Luke 11). Come to grips with the problem right away. It's okay to feel the hurt, but don't cultivate the anger, don't brood over it. Otherwise, you may be opening yourself up to demonic contamination. The devil always seeks the weak link in your armor, and then exploits that. Don't let him do that! "Don't let the sun go down on your anger, because the devil will get a mighty foothold in your soul" (Eph 4:27). "Resist the devil and he will take flight" (James 3:15;4:7). St. James is reminding us that bitterness can be demonic. Just in case an evil spirit of bitterness, hatred, or unforgiveness is exploiting your weakness, you can pray a binding prayer for yourself or anyone else who is suffering temptations against forgiveness: *"If there is any spirit of unforgiveness or bitterness or resentment present here, in Your Name, Lord Jesus Christ, and in the power of Your Most Precious Blood, through the intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and of St. Joseph, I bind and rebuke those spirits and send them immediately, quietly, and directly to the foot of Your Cross, Lord Jesus, to do with as You will. We praise and thank You, Lord Jesus, for delivering us from the power of the enemy! Please fill this place with the Light, Life, Love, and Joy of Your Holy Spirit."*

- 5) If the person does not deserve forgiveness, give it anyway! The condition for our receiving forgiveness from God is to forgive those who offend us (read the parable in Matt. 18). We offend the Infinite Majesty of God when we sin, but when another person sins against us, that person only offends a finite majesty (ours). Yet God forgives us that offense IF we forgive those who offend us.
- 6) Do a good action toward that offender as soon as possible. "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you" (Luke 6). Maintain normal conversation with the person, write him a letter or get-well card, visit him, or give him a hug, or pray for him. St. Alphonsus says you don't have to take any action to smooth over a conflict, if you know it will make matters worse by making the person more scornful and violent. But remember, an act of kindness is very, very disarming.
- 7) Remember that if bitterness takes root, it will spring up and cause great harm (Heb 12:15). The medical literature is full of articles showing the correlation between anger, hatred, bitterness and greatly increased risks of stroke, angina, or heart attacks. "Be angry, but sin not" (Eph 4:27). The only way to do that is to hate the sin, but forgive the sinner.
- 8) Whenever the hurtful memory comes up, sanctify the remembrance. Take time in prayer to imagine Jesus with one arm around you and the other around your enemy. "Whatever I have forgiven has been by Christ's authority" (2 Cor. 2:10). It can also help to imagine your enemy's face full of joy and gladness, like when the person is caught up in laughter in an innocent moment. Fr. Benedict Groeschel recommends picturing Jesus kneeling down next to a hole in the ground, where moments later the soldiers are going to place His Cross with Him on it. Picture yourself on one side of Jesus and your enemy on His other side. Jesus is saying, "Father, forgive them, they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34).
- 9) Be ready to forgive future hurts. "Not seven times, but seventy times seven times" (Matt. 18).
- 10) Cultivate what St. Paul calls tender-hearted kindness toward the person. This requires a heroic attitude (Eph. 4:32).
- 11) Remember that the witness value of your forgiveness or non-forgiveness presents the Christian life as something very beautiful or very deformed. Mahatma Gandhi said that he would immediately become a Christian if he saw the Christian life lived the way Christ described it. But he didn't see it lived by Christians that way.
- 12) Choose a time, maybe in the morning or at night, and ask Jesus to come into some spot in your life where unhealed anger thrives, to touch and heal that wound. (You can write to Phyllis Devereux for a "Healing Prayer at Bedtime" card at 10302 Hill Rd., Garden Grove, CA 92640.)

The Most Effective Way to Keep "A Plant of Bitterness from Taking Root" in Your Heart:

Most people wait to forgive until they *feel* like forgiving. But God is not asking you to change your feelings, but to change your will, to do what is good for that person who hurt you, to pass on to him or her the forgiveness that you have received yourself from the Lord. **So whenever you notice a hurtful memory or temptation to resentment beginning to appear, immediately begin to say this prayer until the temptation fades:**



The temptation may come back in a few minutes, so start the prayer again. Keep saying-breathing this prayer as many times as you can each day; in a few weeks you will begin to *feel* differently about the person who hurt you! **YOU MAY HAVE TO SAY THIS PRAYER 70 TIMES 7 TIMES SOME DAYS!!! BUT THERE IS HOPE THAT BY REPEATING IT OVER AND OVER, YOUR FEELINGS WILL ALSO CHANGE OVER TIME.**

CHANGES TO MASS & CONFESSION SCHEDULES



MASS SCHEDULE CHANGE:

On November 9, we began celebrating a **6:00 a.m. Mass Monday through Saturday**—this is in addition to our regular 9:00 a.m. Mass. This will be on an experimental basis. Depending upon how it goes, we may add it to our regular schedule.

CONFESSION SCHEDULE CHANGE:

Confessions are heard on Saturday afternoons under the red umbrellas. Normally, they have been heard from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.; however,

they are now heard on that day from **3:00 to 6:00 p.m.**

Fr. Thomas: “If you are attending the 5:00 p.m. vigil Mass, please do not go to confession after 5:00 p.m.; it is more important you give your full attention to the Mass.”

FOR SALE: Vox Vitae T-Shirts



The Vox Vitae **ProLife** Flag T-shirts (shown below) are available for sale for \$15 each. We have sold out TWICE, but we have a third order ready to sell. We also have **THE DOGMA WITHIN ME** T-shirts—on sale for \$20 each. Both designs are available in sizes Small, Medium, Large, and Extra-Large. **Call (213) 395-8977 to place your order.**

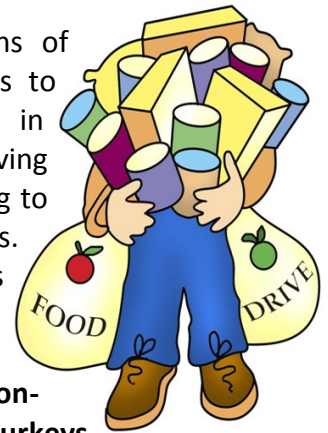
PRE-ORDER TAMALES!



If you would like to pre-order tamales for pick-up on Thanksgiving Day, please call Maria Alejandra at 993-4236. All proceeds benefit Saint Therese Carmelite School!

THANKSGIVING BASKETS

We are seeking donations of non-perishable food items to be distributed to those in need for their Thanksgiving dinner. We are also hoping to get donations of turkeys. We will collect these items after all the Masses **NEXT SUNDAY, November 22.**



Please bring both the non-perishable food and the turkeys directly to the Hall on that day only! We will then distribute them on Monday evening, November 23. God bless you for thinking of others, especially during what may be a very difficult time for them.

FINANCIAL OFFERINGS

"...for God loves a cheerful giver"
(2 Corinthians 9:7)

May God reward you! Below you will find the total collections for the previous four weekends.

NOTE: There is a second collection on the 2ND WEEKEND each month for our School.



October 31/November 1, 2020
 Unrestricted.....\$18,227.00
 Restricted\$ 665.00
T O T A L \$18,892.00

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| October 3 / 4 | \$14,995.00 |
| October 10 / 11 | \$27,817.00 |
| October 17 / 18 | \$13,169.00 |
| October 24 / 25..... | \$21,432.00 |

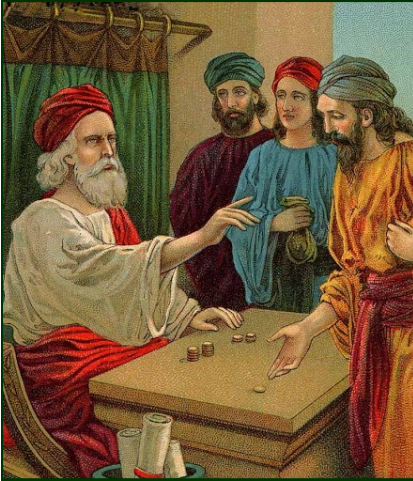
Check Users:
 Please use a donation envelope in order to more easily credit your account.

STREET HOCKEY IN THE PARKING LOT!



Our new pastor, Fr. Thomas, would like to hear from you IF you are interested in reviving (from the early 90's) the grand tradition of **playing street hockey in the parking lot (with or without skates)**. If you would like to play, please call the office and leave your name and phone number. **(Note: masks required)**

THE REST OF THE STORY



Paul Harvey was a popular radio broadcaster with a daily program during which he would relate a historical anecdote, but it would have a twist at the end, and then he would intone “and now...you know the rest of the story.” Today’s Scripture readings are like that. We await the coming Christ as the readings describe for us how to be good servants, but they give us a limited picture. The famous Proverbs passage, “The Valiant Wife,” (Prov. 31:10–13, 19–20, 30–31) is edited down from the full selection (31:10–31) to just a few verses. Take a couple moments to explore the fuller selection. Psalm 128 proclaims, “Blessed are those who fear the Lord,” but in this context “fear” doesn’t mean dread and trepidation. Rather, this kind of fear means “to show awe,” and there are wonderful promises made to those who do.

The letters of Paul to the Thessalonians are among his earliest writings, and are driven by his belief—and the belief of the entire early Christian community—that the return of Christ was imminent, and that devoting time or attention to anything else was foolish. As time progressed, this fervor subsided a bit. Today we may wonder, when we hear these readings about the coming end-times, if we should take them to heart, if we really believe that Christ still may come upon us as a “thief at night” (1 Thessalonians 5:2). Does this mean that we are to stop our long-range goal-setting, get rid of our yearly calendars and planners, or stop putting money in the college education fund? Of course not. What it does mean is that we need to change our lives, living like children of the light and illuminating the world around us with the light of the Gospel. Then, on that day, when the details of our lives become unimportant, we’ll be ready to find our peace in Christ Jesus.

Matthew’s Gospel (25:14–30) shows us various ways that people might respond to God in the parable of the talents. (Be sure to read ALL the verses in this Gospel so you can get “the rest of the story.”) In the story of the talents, the head of the household leaves the servants “talents” or money, which they are expected to foster and develop during the leader’s absence. Today we think of a talent as an innate ability or a skill. It is interesting that they were distributed “according to ability,” which would express a certain intimacy as we realize that the master knew each one, and already had an idea of their capabilities. They were not given explicit instructions like “put this in the bank” or “invest this in your portfolio” or “take piano lessons.” Rather, we are told that the goods were divided unequally. One received five, one received two, and the last received one.

When the head of the household returned, the outcomes were just as varied as we and our responses might be. Some people are multitalented and capable of accomplishing many great things, like the servant who turned five into ten. Others may be more inclined to do one or two things very well and may excel in them. Still, there are some who may struggle in life, and their accomplishments are very small. But those who made use of their gifts were praised and told, “Well done, good and faithful servant.” When it came to the second coming, the return of their master, they both made some effort. The only one in whom the head of household showed any disappointment was the one who made absolutely no effort, the one who was frozen by fear or indifference. As we journey toward the kingdom, there are not always clear instructions. We are simply asked to try, to give it our best effort. There is nothing in the passage to say that these servants didn’t make mistakes along the way, but their master saw them and loved and praised them for their actions, their attempts, as God will do with us. And now... you know the rest of the story.

Mass Intentions

**For the Week of
November 14 through 21, 2020**

Saturday:

5:00 p.m.: George Watson, RIP

Sunday

*7:30 a.m.: Sr. Anna, OCD, INT

7:30 a.m.: Don Seguerra, INT

9:00 a.m.: Maureen Lynch Grobarek, RIP

11:00 a.m.: Renato Villafuerte, RIP

1:00 p.m.: (Latin): Ramon Aquino, RIP

5:00 p.m.: Parishioners

Monday:

6:00 a.m.: Steve Brunaczki, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Deacon Joe & Lorraine Mizerski, INT

9:00 a.m.: Daisy Thompson, INT

Tuesday:

6:00 a.m.: Helen Hummel, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Mother Brenda Marie, OCD, INT

9:00 a.m.: Soledad Ruiz, RIP

Wednesday

6:00 a.m.: The McAllister Family, INT

*7:30 a.m.: Pacita Piol, RIP

9:00 a.m.: Lorelei Vales Sunga, INT

Thursday:

6:00 a.m.: Hilario Casado, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Cynthia Diep & Family, INT

9:00 a.m.: Hilario Casado, RIP

Friday:

6:00 a.m.: Larry Aubry, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Sr. Anna, OCD, INT

9:00 a.m.: Hilario Casado, RIP

Saturday:

6:00 a.m.: Patrick Hummel, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Community

9:00 a.m.: Fr. Matthias Lambrecht, OCD, INT

*Held at the Carmelite Chapel,
215 East Alhambra Road
(CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC)

**9:00 a.m. Daily
Mass (Monday—
Saturday) is held
outside for the
public and is
live streamed on
Facebook for those
not attending.**

Saint of the Week

**SAINT ROSE PHILIPPINE DUCHESNE
(1769-1852)**

Feast: November 18

Pope Benedict once declared himself struck by how remarkably diverse our American saints are—some native born: Mother Seton, Katherine Drexel, Kateri Tekakwitha; most, like many Catholics today, immigrants: Padre Serra, Bishop Neumann, Mother Cabrini, and today's saint, St. Rose Philippine Duchesne.



When the French Revolution that dispersed her convent ended, Rose joined the Religious of the Sacred Heart, volunteering for their United States mission, opening the first free school west of the Mississippi. Only after lengthy service as Superior did Rose—now seventy-one—realize her life's dream, undertaking a mission among the Potawatomi Indians. When some worried about her advanced age and failing health, the Jesuit mission leader overruled them: "She must come! She may not be able to do much work, but she'll bring the mission success by praying for us!"

Frustrated by her inability to learn their languages, Rose nevertheless "spoke" to the Native Americans by her prayerful presence before the tabernacle. "Quah-kah-ka-num-ad," they named her, "Woman-Who-Prays-Always"—their way of bestowing the title the Church would later make official: saint!



**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE
REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF:**

† Jim Hawkins (former parishioner)

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 Parishioner

WHY IS IT
 A man wakes up after sleeping
 under an ADVERTISED blanket
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 and pulls off ADVERTISED pajamas
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 with ADVERTISED toothpaste
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 puts on ADVERTISED clothes
 drinks a cup
 of ADVERTISED coffee
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 in an ADVERTISED car
 and then
 refuses to ADVERTISE
 believing it doesn't pay.
 Later if business is poor
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WHY IS IT?



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 please call the Parish Office.

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