

St. Therese Catholic Church

Est. 1924



(Now Celebrating the Centennial of Our Founding (1924-2024))

August 25, 2024 510 North El Molino Street | Alhambra CA 91801 | (626) 282-2744 | www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org



“For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in Me and I in him.” Then many of His disciples who were listening said, “This saying is hard; who can accept it?” Since Jesus knew that His disciples were murmuring about this, He said to them, “Does this shock you? But there are some of you who do not believe.” As a result of this, many of His disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied Him (John 6:55-56, 60-61, 64).

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 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 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,

Let us conclude St. Therese's "On the waves of confidence and love."

—Fr. Peter Mary

MANUSCRIPT A, 80r-81v (Part 2)

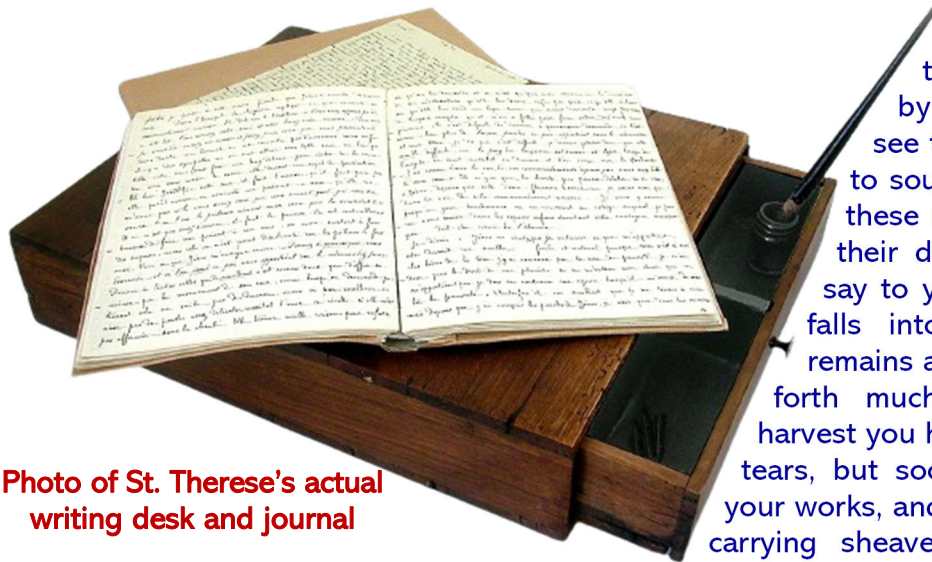


Photo of St. Therese's actual writing desk and journal

I had the happiness of contemplating for a long time the marvels Jesus is working by means of my dear Mother. I see that suffering alone gives birth to souls, and more than ever before these sublime words of Jesus unveil their depths to me: "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it will bring forth much fruit." What an abundant harvest you have reaped! You have sown in tears, but soon you will see the result of your works, and you will return filled with joy, carrying sheaves in your arms. O Mother,

among these ripe sheaves is hidden the little white flower; however, in Heaven she will have a voice with which to sing of your gentleness and your virtues which she sees you practice every day in the darkness and the silence of life's exile!

Yes, for the past two years I have understood very well the mysteries hidden from me until then. God showed me the same mercy He showed to King Solomon. He has not willed that I have one single desire which is not fulfilled—not only my desires for perfection but those too, whose vanity I have understood without having experienced it.

As I have always looked upon you, dear Mother, as my ideal, I desired to be like you in everything; when I saw you do beautiful paintings and delightful poems, I said to myself: How happy I would be if I were able to paint and to know how to express my thoughts in verse and thus do good to souls. I would not have wanted to ask for these natural gifts, and my desires remained hidden away at the bottom of my heart. Jesus, hidden also in this poor little heart, was pleased to show it that everything is vanity and affliction of spirit under the sun. To the great astonishment of the Sisters, I was told to paint, and God permitted that I profit by the lessons my dear Mother gave me. He willed also that I write poems and compose little pieces that were considered beautiful. And just as Solomon, when he considered all the works of his hands in which he had placed so much useless toil, saw that all is vanity and affliction of spirit, in the same way I recognized from EXPERIENCE that happiness consists in hiding oneself, in remaining ignorant of created things. I understood that without love all works are nothing, even the most dazzling, such as raising the dead to life and converting peoples.

Instead of doing me any harm, of making me vain, the gifts which God showered upon me (without my having asked for them) drew me to Him; and I saw that He alone was unchangeable, that He alone could fulfill my immense desires.

NEW CHOIR SEASON!



Rehearsals for the Eleven o'clock Mass Choir will begin on September 4 at 7:00 p.m. *If you have choral experience, consider using your musical talents to benefit your Parish.* You can call the Music Director, Charlotte Lansberg, at (626) 282-2744, ext. 1 + 222, e-mail her at credochoir1@gmail.com, or see her after Mass.

The commitment to the Choir involves Wednesday night rehearsals, Sunday Mass (with rehearsal at 10:30 a.m., and Mass at 11:00 a.m.), and services for Christmas, Holy Week, and Easter.

The choir will also be singing the Fauré Requiem at a special Mass for All Souls on November 8, commemorating the souls of the faithful departed of the Parish. Check the bulletin next week for more choir announcements!

Safeguard the Children DID YOU KNOW?

Teach children to evaluate sources

Your children will likely spend a significant amount of time online. All sources are not created equal, so teaching them to evaluate the information online is critical. Using concepts appropriate for their age, teach your children to consider the expertise, motive, and relevance of the information they consume. Being able to separate fact from fiction, and to evaluate the quality of the information received, will help your children assess truth. For more tips, read the VIRTUS® article "Keeping Kids Safe Online By Teaching Them to Evaluate Sources"



A Decision of Faith

In the readings today, we are presented with a recurring theme: the choice to follow God with unwavering faith, even when His ways are difficult to understand. The first reading from Joshua captures a pivotal moment in Israel's history. Joshua gathers the tribes and presents them with a choice: to serve the gods of their ancestors or to serve the Lord. In response, the people recall the mighty deeds of God, proclaiming, "We will serve the Lord, for He is our God." This declaration is not made lightly; it is a conscious decision to commit to the God who has delivered them from bondage and guided them through the wilderness.

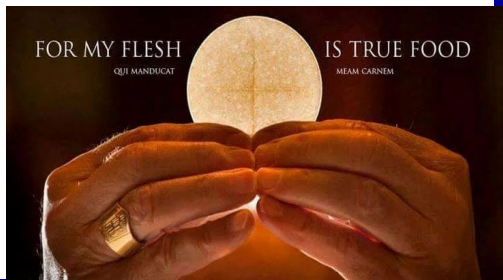
The Psalmist echoes this sentiment in Psalm 34, inviting us to "taste and see that the Lord is good" and declaring that "the Lord hears the cry of the poor." This psalm is a call to trust in God's goodness and to seek refuge in Him, confident that He delivers the righteous

from all their troubles. The choice to follow God is not without challenges, but is rooted in the assurance of His constant presence and protection.

In the New Testament reading from Ephesians, St. Paul speaks of the profound mystery of Christ's relationship with the Church, likening it to the intimate bond between husband and wife. This relationship is one of mutual love and sacrifice, where Christ's love for the Church is demonstrated through His willingness to give Himself up for Her. The Gospel reading from John brings us to a moment of crisis among Jesus's followers. After delivering His teaching on the Eucharist—where He declares that His flesh is true food and His blood true drink—many of His disciples find His words intolerable. They murmur, "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?" *Jesus, aware of their struggle, does not soften His message.* Instead, He turns to the Twelve and asks, "Do you also want to leave?" *This question underscores the gravity of the choice before them: to accept Him fully, with all that His teaching entails, or to walk away.*

Peter's response is one of profound faith: *"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."* In this moment, the apostles choose to trust in Jesus, even when His teachings are difficult to understand. This choice to stay with Christ, despite the challenges, is a powerful act of faith that mirrors the decision of the Israelites to serve the Lord in Joshua's time. It is a reminder that true discipleship involves not only belief but also a willingness to embrace the mysteries of faith, trusting that Jesus is indeed the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

As we reflect on these Scriptures, we are called to consider our own response to Christ's teachings. Are we willing to follow Him, even when His words challenge our understanding? Like the Israelites, we must choose whom we will serve. Like the apostles, we must decide whether we will stay with Christ, trusting in His promise of eternal life. This decision requires faith, courage, and a deep commitment to the God who has loved us with an everlasting love. *May we, like Peter, recognize that there is no one else to whom we can turn, for only in Christ do we find the words of eternal life.*



Time to Register for 2024-2025 Religious Ed Classes!



Religious Education Registration
Children, Teens, and Adults

We are now taking ONLINE registrations (click the links on the home page of our website) for Religious Education classes (classes begin in September). Registration is for: Elementary grades, First Holy Communion, High School Confirmation, and *Adult OCIA (formerly RCIA), [*for those seeking to become Catholic OR to complete their Sacraments].

In-person registration will be in front of the church after the **9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Masses TODAY, Sunday, August 25, and next Sunday, September 1st.** You may also pick up a form from the office.

You will need to submit a copy of each registrant's baptism certificate and the fee by the first day of class (cash or check only). The fees are on the registration forms.

Pilgrimage to France with Fr. David For Our 100th Anniversary (Oct 2024)

St. Therese Parish's Fr. David will be the chaplain for a Special Pilgrimage to France. The Pilgrimage will explore **where the Little Flower lived, as well as other holy sites in France** (Lisieux, Dijon, Lourdes, Mont St. Michel and others), as part of St. Therese Parish's Celebration of our 100th Jubilee Year. The price of this 12-day Pilgrimage is \$3,985.00, L.A. to L.A., which includes round-trip airfare, hotel accommodations, breakfasts and lunches, and admission prices. Mass will be celebrated daily.

The complete itinerary can be found in the church vestibule by the Baptistry... If they're all taken, email our Parish Secretary (denisekay@hotmail.com), using PILGRIMAGE TO FRANCE in the subject line, to request one.



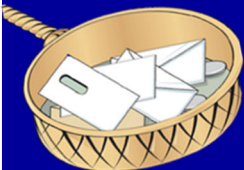
Want to Coordinate the Annual Women's Retreat?



El Carmelo Retreat House is still in need of a captain (coordinator) for St. Therese Church's annual Women's Retreat in Redlands. The retreat usually takes place in the Spring during Lent on the second weekend of March. Training can be arranged.

If you feel called to this important ministry, please contact Fr. Philip Sullivan at El Carmelo Retreat House: (909) 792-1047 or elcarmelorh@gmail.com.

Financial Offerings



August 17 / 18, 2024

Unrestricted.....	\$15,845.00
Restricted	\$ 640.00
T O T A L.....	\$16,485.00

July 20 / 21	\$16,694.00
July 27 / 28	\$15,760.00
August 3 / 4	\$14,462.00
August 10 / 11	\$18,445.00

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

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



“¿Quién causa tanta alegría? La concepción de María.” (Who is the cause of so much joy? The Conception of Mary.) The festival of La Gritería is an old tradition in Nicaragua to pay homage to the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary, national patron saint of that country. The festival is celebrated in December in connection with the feast of the Immaculate Conception. This tradition originated with the arrival of Pedro Alonso Sánchez de Cepeda y Ahumada (brother of St. Teresa of Jesus, founder of the Order of the Discalced Carmelites) to Nicaragua with the image of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception. The people begged Don Pedro to leave the image in Nicaragua. I learned about this tradition when I was

pastor of St. Therese over thirty years ago, when we had a sizeable number of parishioners from Nicaragua. **Otto and Martha Lacayo** were among them. This is their story.

Otto and Martha met in 1976 in Managua, Nicaragua, their birthplace. At the time, the political climate was very unstable and social activities were limited. After dating for a few years, by 1979 the civil war in Nicaragua became life-threatening, prompting Martha's family to receive political asylum and move to Los Angeles where one of her brothers was residing. Otto knew that he wanted to marry Martha and decided to follow her to Los Angeles in 1980. On March 28, 1981, Otto and Martha got married at All Souls Catholic Church in Alhambra, with the consent and blessings from their parents and the entire family. They became St. Therese Parishioners in 1981 and have since been involved in different ministries, serving the Church and the Community.

Otto and Martha were blessed with two beautiful children with big hearts, Otto, Jr., and Gabriella, who both attended St. Therese School from kindergarten to 8th grade. Both Otto and Gaby participated in many extracurricular activities, including serving as Altar Servers in both the Carmel and the Church, playing on Volleyball teams, and enjoying the lifelong friendships they made at St. Therese. Otto, Jr., the oldest, attended Loyola High School and Cal State LA University and now lives in Brooklyn, New York. As the owner of a Volleyball Club in Brooklyn, Otto proudly serves his community as a coach and mentor to many young kids. Gabriella, the youngest, went to Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy and continued to the Catholic University of San Diego. She has always loved helping others by working in the non-profit industry and currently works for the USO (United Services Organization, Inc.) as Marketing and Communications Manager, Event Planner and Fundraiser, supporting America's military service members and their families. She married Nathen Coyle in 2017 and they now have two beautiful children, Liam Joseph and Lucy Jean, who was just born this past July.

Martha is a co-founder of a Pregnancy Help Center and is a Natural Family Planning Practitioner at St. Therese. Martha previously worked for Avon Products in the accounting department for over 30 years until they closed their Pasadena Headquarters. She currently works for the Knights of Columbus Southern California Insurance Agency in Pasadena. Otto worked for the United States Postal Service for 33 years until he retired from Management in March 2023. Otto is a member of our OCDS Community and a Knight of Columbus.

Six years ago, Otto and Martha were accepted into the Diaconate Formation with the Los Angeles Archdiocese; Otto was ordained as a Deacon on June 10, 2023. Deacon Otto and Martha proudly serve the community of St. Therese and the Archdioceses of Los Angeles as a Deacon Couple.

Otto shares, "It was a long and beautiful journey to become a Deacon Couple. We thank our wonderful Community of St. Therese Church—all of you—who have given us your love, support, and prayers. A special thanks to the late Deacon Joe and his widow Lorraine Mizerski, who have been our Diaconate Mentors. We are deeply honored and blessed to serve you all. This 100th year celebration at St. Therese will stay in our memories and hearts forever. We are honored and blessed to be part of its First Centennial."

**The Lacayo Family is part of the rich 100-year history of St. Therese Parish.
Let us all walk with St. Therese as we journey together in faith during our Centennial year.**

National Eucharistic Revival

Do This in Remembrance of Me | Part 13: Liturgy of the Word



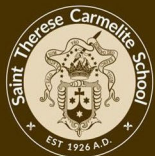
Every Mass, after the Collect, we all sit down and begin the part of the Mass called the Liturgy of the Word, which includes:

- First Reading, usually taken from the Old Testament
- A sung or recited Responsorial Psalm
- On Sundays and Solemnities): A Second Reading from the New Testament (other than the Gospels)
- The Alleluia or Gospel Acclamation
- A reading from the Gospels

A Three-Year Cycle: Sunday readings are divided into a three-year cycle. (The readings for daily Mass are on a two-year cycle with one reading from various parts of the Bible and a Gospel reading each day.) For the Sunday readings, **Cycle A** focuses on the Gospel according to St. Matthew, **Cycle B** focuses on St. Mark, and **Cycle C** focuses on St. Luke. The Old Testament readings correspond to the subject of the Gospel.

The Second Reading, which follows a different type of arrangement, is most often from a Letter of St. Paul to a community or an individual.

Source: Fr. Luke Spannagel's blog at <https://www.stphils.com/church/eucharistic-revival-walk-through-the-mass/>



Saint Therese Carmelite School

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Our 8th grade class will be selling treats after today's Sunday Masses.

Funds will support their upcoming 8th grade retreat and other school expenses.

We appreciate your generosity!

1106 East Alhambra Road
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(626) 289-3364
www.SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com

Mass Intentions

August 24—August 31, 2024

Saturday Evening:

5:00 p.m.: Suzie Payne, RIP

Sunday

*7:30 a.m.: Parishioners of St. Therese Church

7:30 a.m.: McAllister Family, INT

9:00 a.m.: Lisa Losorelli, Birthday Intention

11:00 a.m.: Sophia Arakawa, Birthday Intention

1 pm (Latin): Candelaria Marrero Ferreria, RIP

5:00 p.m.: Mary DeSantis, RIP

Monday:

6:00 a.m.: Adela Dominguez, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Mathew Asayama, INT

8:00 a.m.: Sophia Arakawa, INT

7:15 p.m.: Gaby Haro, INT

Tuesday

6:00 a.m.: Linda Zinsmeyer, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Helga & Ellena Cheah Wong, INT

8:00 a.m.: Mark Asayama, INT

7:15 p.m.: Souls in Purgatory

Wednesday:

6:00 a.m.: Mary DeSantis, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Engracia Vales, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Brad Thompson, Birthday Intention

Thursday

6:00 a.m.: Jamie J. Arakawa, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Heather Brajkovich, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Raul P. Buenavente, RIP

Friday

6:00 a.m.: Linda Zinsmeyer, RIP

*7:30 am: Michael Alexander/Lauren Cheah, INT

8:00 a.m.: Elyza Tuan, INT

Saturday (Morning):

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

8:00 a.m.: Holy Souls in Purgatory

***Held at the Cloistered Carmelite Chapel (located at 215 East Alhambra Road, Alhambra).**

+

Open to the public except on Sundays and 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"!

Outside the Parish

"IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST. JUAN DIEGO AND OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE," a Pilgrimage from **Sunday, December 8, to Friday, December 13, 2024...** Join us for this inspiring tour to Guadalupe, Mexico, and more! The chaplain will be Fr. Jan Lundberg and the fee is \$2125 double occupancy. To receive a detailed itinerary, call Beth Maddatu at 408-903-6305 or email her at maddatubeth2@gmail.com.

SEEKING ITEMS FOR THE CLOISTERED CARMELITE NUNS' AUXILIARY'S BOUTIQUE in October: Please take a look around your house (in drawers, cabinets, closets, etc.) for items you no longer use or display. These will be sold at the Fall Boutique for the benefit of our Nuns. We need items in good condition: decorative items, small appliances, jewelry, nice dishes, teapots, etc. **NO FURNITURE OR CLOTHING!!** (not a rummage sale). For more info and a drop-off location, please contact Rosemary Moreno at (626) 281-9211. Thank you!



IN LOVING MEMORY OF DEACON JOE MIZERSKI

As had been announced from the pulpit during our Masses and on Facebook, our long-time deacon, Deacon Joseph Mizerski, passed from this earth on August 3, 2024. His funeral was celebrated a week ago, on Saturday, August 17, 2024, with several of our Carmelite friars concelebrating. Deacon Joe—a parishioner for many years—was ordained at Our Lady of the Angels Cathedral on Saturday, June 10, 2000. He has faithfully served at St. Therese the last twenty-four years until his final illness made it impossible to continue. He assisted at countless Masses, delivered hundreds of sermons, and helped with numberless funerals by leading the Rosary, along with his loving wife, Lorraine, as well as presiding at the burials. He has also celebrated the baptisms of many of the babies born to our parish families, and helped prepare marriages.

Deacon Joe—a kind, humble, good-natured man of deep faith—will be greatly missed. Continued prayers for the repose of his soul are requested, along with prayers for the comfort and strength of his wife, Lorraine.

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