

SAINT THERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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July 26, 2020 **MINISTERED BY THE DISCALCED CARMELITE FRIARS** Estab. 1924



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Carmelite Vocation Director: Fr. Matthias Lambrecht, OCD X224

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Deacons: Deacon Joseph Mizerski X333;
Deacon Gilbert Vargas X333

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www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org

SAINT THERESE CARMELITE SCHOOL (626) 289-3364, X660

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Principal: Alma Cornejo X661
Principal@
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school.com

Chaplain: Fr. Matthias Lambrecht, OCD X224

See our VIDEOS on the School's Facebook page or on the Church's Website: > Our School > Videos



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MASSES AND SERVICES

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Mornings: 7:30, 9:00, 11:00 a.m.,
Traditional Latin High Mass: 1:00 p.m.
and Sunday Evening at 5:00 p.m.;

Monday-Saturday—9:00 a.m.: Outside for the Public; Noon: Live streamed on Facebook

Confessions in the Parking Lot on Saturdays from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.



The kingdom of heaven

is like a treasure buried in a field,
which a person finds and hides again,
and out of joy goes and sells
all he has and buys that field.

Matthew 13:44



SEEKING WISDOM

If God were to speak to us and tell us to ask for anything we want, what would we say? A financially secure life? Health for ourselves and our families? Safety from all the dangers of the world? To how many of us would it occur to ask for wisdom? We just don't think about it much. We think we know how to run our families, our work, our politics, but how many mistaken ideas do we really have, and how do those work out? Do we treat others, even those we dislike, with kindness and understanding? Solomon asked God for the wisdom to know right from wrong and how to govern God's vast people. God was pleased with this request, and granted it to Solomon in abundance. Can we ask for the same in our lives? Would our lives be happier if we were wiser? "We know that all things work for good for those who love God" (Romans 8:28).

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS LIKE . . .

Parables and more parables. What have we to learn about the reign of God from so many parables? The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field. The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. The kingdom of heaven is like a net thrown into the sea. These parables are not hard to understand, for they all point to something valuable being searched for: a treasure, a pearl, good fish. Those who search for these things give up what they have to acquire these precious things. Those who search are praised for their wisdom in valuing what they find more than what they already have. Even the fishermen can distinguish what is good from what is useless and to be discarded.

The kingdom of heaven is something precious to be sought, even above the good things we have in this world. It is more important than anything we already have and treasure. Jesus says that at the end of the age when the good shall be separated from the bad, the good will enjoy the happiness of the kingdom of heaven.

THE NEW AND THE OLD

It is holy wisdom that allows us to realize how valuable the kingdom is. One more parable ends this reading: "Then every scribe who has been instructed in the kingdom of heaven is like the head of a household who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old" (Matthew 13:52). It is like the Church, which knows what to keep from the traditions of the past and what to cherish in the present time. Tradition is something passed down from generation to generation, but not necessarily unchanged. For example, we always have cake to celebrate birthdays. And yet, perhaps in the past that always meant a white or yellow cake with vanilla frosting. Today, it can mean a chocolate cake, an ice cream cake, or even a fruit pie! It can have the number of candles of the birthday person's age, or a candle for each decade and one for each subsequent year, or one big candle. It can even have, as once seen in a catalogue, Roman numeral candles to spell out the years! Traditions can change and still convey the truths they represent. So it is with the Tradition of the Church. The wise leaders bring forth both the new and the old, and seek in the kingdom what is good.

TODAY'S READINGS

1 Kings 3:5, 7-12
Psalm 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-130
Romans 8:28-30
Matthew 13:44-52 [44-46]

July 26, 2020
Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Open Your Eyes," A Homily

I remember a time when, as a seminarian, I went home to visit my family and we prayed the Rosary together. I don't know if this is your custom, but my parents always encouraged us to say aloud what our intentions were before the Rosary began. So, as we were giving our intentions, my mom was going on and on and on, because, having a lot of children, she had a lot of intentions. My nephew, Trevre, who was only about four-years old at the time, interrupted her and said, "Too many words!"

We've got to look at the silver lining of the Coronavirus. One happy fault is that families are spending more time together at home and, hopefully, so me of that time is being spent in prayer, in reflection, in reading the Bible and, /yes, in praying the Rosary and in letting their family members know what their intentions are. It's *not* too many words, as Trevre said (boy, did he get it from his mom later that day).

I think that the time spent in prayer and reading the Bible at home with your family is a benefit of the Coronavirus. Please don't just let your kids sit in front of the TV or the computer or a videogame. Parents, when your children harass you for a phone, think about what the consequences of giving one to them may be. It will give them the entire world in their hands, and you will be judged severely for that.

Last week in my homily, I talked about turning the "light of faith" on. I gave you the image of someone holding up a lighter in a dark room, followed by other people holding up their lighters. Nowadays, it's cell phones. Some people turn on their cell phones and then everyone else starts turning theirs on, too. Turning on the light of faith has an effect on other people. When they see your light go on, they're going to turn on their lights, too—or at least they have the potential to turn on their light of faith. Be mindful, when that light goes on, other people will see it, but the Enemy will also see it. Be not afraid! Our Lord said three times in last week's Gospels, "Be not afraid." Let the light of faith go on in your life unapologetically. Let others follow that light and turn on their lights. If the Enemy pursues you, then you know you're doing God's work. Do not be afraid! Our Lord has conquered the Enemy! If we are faithful, we will conquer the Enemy as well.

There's an interesting saying that we use metaphorically a lot: "Open your eyes!" "Watch out!" "Where are you going?" "What are you doing with your life?" "Open your eyes!" Another silver lining of the Coronavirus is that, since March 17, we now celebrate Ad Orientem Masses. Why is that a silver lining? First of all, I now keep my eyes open during the sacrifice of the altar. It's not that I didn't want to look out and see your beautiful faces—some not so beautiful. It's just that I didn't want to be distracted at Mass, especially when I'm at the altar. Because of not wanting to be distracted by cell phones, keys dropping, babies crying, or people walking in and out to go to the restroom or wherever, I would naturally close my eyes. Now, I don't have to! Now I face the same eschatological direction that you do, meaning we are all waiting together for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Now we are uniting our prayers to God—not just vocally but also visually—through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ's Cross.

Also, now I'm uniting with you more prayerfully than I ever have in celebrating the Holy Mass—the Passover Meal, which we call the Last Supper—with the execution of Our Lord on the Cross. If that execution of our Lord on the Cross was separated in any way from the Passover meal at the Last Supper, then it would remain only a horrific Roman execution. So, as I stand at the altar of the Memorial of the Last Supper, I am more connected than ever by looking up at Our Lord Crucified. Seeing the image of our Crucified Lord better unites this Memorial of the Last Supper with the completion or consummation of our Savior when He said upon the Cross, "It is finished." What is finished? The Passover meal AND our slavery to sin and death. Watch where you are going! Where *ARE* you going? When I stand with my arms outstretched in praying the "Our Father," I am identifying myself and my priesthood with Our Lord's Priesthood on the Cross and His sacrifice for His people, for us. I'm reminded of the sacrifice that is demanded of me as your spiritual father and as the Pastor of this Parish. **(Continued on next two pages)**



by Fr. Philip Sullivan, O.C.D., Given

More intensely than ever am I celebrating the Mass for you, for your intentions, for your souls. Open your eyes and see what Our Lord has done for us. The Enemy wants us to be distracted. How many times have I told our altar servers during our training sessions not to look out at the people and, yet, this is the expectation of our priests at every Mass: To look out at the people. Why not look out at the people? Again, not because I don't want to see you—I love you!—but because now we are focused together in the eschatological direction of the Second Coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We are united more than ever as I pull you, with my prayers united with yours, into the sacrifice of Our Lord's Memorial—the Last Supper, the Crucifixion, and the Resurrection. That's what the Eucharist is all about. It no longer makes any sense to me to stand at the altar facing you. I have to face the Lord and His sacrifice, which is what the Mass is all about: the sacrificial love of God through His giving us His Son and the sacrificial love of Jesus Christ through His giving us His life on the Cross. Open your eyes!

In today's first reading from Second Kings (2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16), the prophet Elisha tells the barren wife that she is going to give birth to a boy. This isn't the first time we've heard stories like this in the Scriptures. John the Baptist's story was an amazing one about a barren wife giving birth in her old age. But there is an end to this story from Kings that you may not know unless you continue reading it. If you want to start reading the Bible together as a family, Bishop Robert Barron suggests starting with the Book of Kings. There's a lot going on in it, including fighting, swords, fire from Heaven, and other amazing things. When the boy dies, and he does die young, Elisha is called onto the scene to raise him from the dead. It's kind of tragic really. The boy comes stumbling out from the field where his father is working and says, "my head is aching, my head is aching." The father has the servants take him back to the house, where the boy's mother immediately puts him in the bed she had made for Elisha in the upper room that we heard described in the first reading. Elisha the priest was immediately called into service. He comes to the boy, blesses him, and raises him from the dead.

I admit that the readings today were kind of hard to piece together. But when I continued reading about the boy who was brought back to life, it made a lot of sense to me. The themes of today's Scriptures today are hospitality, the cross, and baptism. Do you know that at every baptism, Mom and Dad, when you bring your baby into the church to be baptized, you are willing that baby to be freed from original sin and to be made into a House for God? (The Protestants have it wrong. As Cardinal Newman said, "To be steeped in history is to cease being Protestant." This means that if you know your history, you won't protest the truth.) I say that because you have a responsibility, as Mom and Dad, to make that House for your child a fit home for Christ to visit. Isn't that what Christ is directing His disciples to do? "When people receive you, they receive Me." Yes, sometimes we have priests and bishops and, if you're rich enough, cardinals visit our houses, and maybe one of them will bring Christ into your house. I hope so!



At baptism, if we want to connect what St. Paul is saying in today's reading (Romans 6:3-4, 8-11) with our other readings, we have to see that **Baptism is the House through which Jesus Christ wants to enter.** Don't we say right before we receive the Eucharist, "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof"? (In Spanish, the words are: "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter into my house".) So, parents, you have opened the door of your children's souls through baptism, in order that they can receive Christ in hospitality.

St. Thomas Aquinas wrote, "**By baptism, men are buried with Christ; that is, conformed to His burial.** For just as a dead man is put under the earth, so one being baptized is submerged under water. Hence, there are three immersions in Baptism, not only to indicate belief in the Trinity but also to represent the three days of Christ's burial. And just as the three days of burial were one burial, so the triple immersion constitutes one Baptism. That is also why solemn Baptism is celebrated in the Church on Holy Saturday, when the burial of Christ is commemorated" (*Commentary on Romans*, No. 474).

on Sunday, June 28, 2020

It is your job, Mom and Dad, to keep that House in order so that Christ will find a suitable home to live in. Does that make sense? Do not abandon that responsibility to the Catholic schools! You will not be satisfied and neither will our Lord. Again, you will be judged if you abandon your responsibility to be the primary teachers of the Faith to your children. Catholic schools are *NOT* producing Catholics. There are only four Catholic schools in this Archdiocese—the largest Catholic archdiocese in this country—that I would trust to produce Catholics for the future of this Archdiocese. Children going through Catholic education are not remaining Catholic! That’s not just my opinion. Read the statistics. Read the pew research. Read Georgetown’s Cara research from 2015. In fact, in that Cara report, the word that is used all throughout the document is “disassociated,” as in, children are becoming “disassociated from the Catholic Church.” After all the money, time, love, and effort that you have put into your children’s education, your children could very well end up being disaffiliated with the Catholic Church! Those are the statistics.

So let us make that House for your children. Why? Well, as we hear in today’s Gospel (Matthew 10:37-42), so that they can carry their crosses, so they can take their sacrifices—of every event and every moment of their lives—and offer them on the altars of their hearts. In this House you have opened up for your children, there is a heart of sacrifice. Yes, Mom and Dad, you have to teach your children to love God more than they love you! That’s what our Lord is teaching His disciples and that’s what He is teaching all of us today. When they come to that reality, children will enter into a life of sacrifice, a life of sacrificial love they can understand with every crucifix they gaze upon and with every book they read about the life of a saint—a sacrificial love that has been mandated from every disciple of Jesus Christ. That is the Cross. That’s what you begin when you open the soul of your child and they receive Jesus.

But the sacrifice of the Cross does not remain a horrific crucifixion or a horrific bout of cancer or a horrific pain of any kind; instead, it is united intimately with the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Again, if you look at the first reading in its full context, you will see the image of the resurrection there because Elisha raises that little boy from death to life. In every baptism, we die to ourselves and rise with Christ in life. I want to commend all you families who have been open to life and have baptized your children and brought them up in the Faith.

One prayer that I love to pray for my parish—and I pray it every single day—is echoed from today’s Psalm (Psalm 89:2-3, 16-19), where the Lord puts a shield around His people. I learned this prayer from my mother, as she used to ask God to put a shield around her family. Every night I pray, “Father, put a shield around the people you have entrusted to my care as their pastor. In the Holy Name of Jesus, send angels to guide them. May Our Lady of Mount Carmel wrap them with her mantle, her scapular of prayer and love. May St. Joseph guide them as he guided the Holy Family. And may St. Therese, who promised to spend Heaven doing good upon earth, shower them with graces from Heaven. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.” I say that prayer of protection for you every day because if I did not, I would be judged severely for being a negligent father of the flock our Lord has entrusted to my care.

My brothers and sisters, open your eyes! Open your hearts! You are about to receive our Lord, His Body and Blood, His Soul and Divinity, in the Eucharist! Be changed! Be holy! Become a Saint!

May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.



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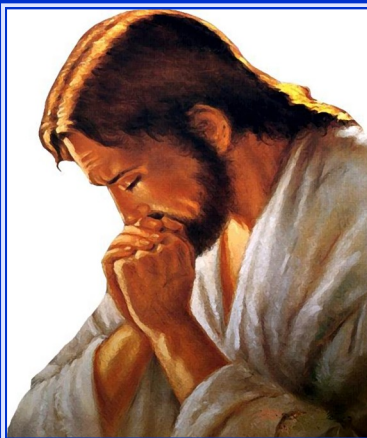
Come celebrate with us at our **OPEN HOUSE / LUNCHEON** (including dessert, tours, and prizes)! Special Guest: Auxiliary Bishop David O'Connell.

It will be held on **Saturday, August 1, 2020, from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.**, at 1168 San Gabriel Boulevard, Unit E-F, Rosemead 91770. Donations welcomed but not required.

RSVP: Please RSVP (with your name and the number of guests) by going to the GPS website (www.pregnancy-gps.org) and clicking on the link ("Click here to RSVP") which is directly under the picture shown to the right... OR call/text (323) 360-5186.



JESUS' PARABLES



Jesus' parables offer three different images for the Kingdom of Heaven. Remember that popular line from a phone commercial: **"Can you hear me now?"** Jesus is trying to teach and basically says, **"Do you understand me now? Do you get it now? No? Then let me explain it another way."**

He is shedding light on just how very important His mission is, that the kingdom of God is the most important thing, and that we must make every choice, every effort, to strive for it. To use a sports metaphor, Jesus is telling us we must not look for immediate satisfaction, but we must "play the long game" because, in the end, living with Him in eternity is the **only** thing that really matters.

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Below you will find the total collections for the last few weekends.

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Restricted.....	\$ 5,844.00	June 27 / 28.....	\$12,213.00	
TOTAL.....	\$28,744.00	July 4 / 5.....	\$15,658.00	

Mass Intentions

Today's Readings

For the Week of July 25 through August 1, 2020

Saturday:

5:00 p.m.: James Grimm, 17th B-day INT

Sunday

- *7:30 a.m.: Cristina Nera, OCDS, RIP
- 7:30 a.m.: Leuteria Manuntaq Sacramento, RIP
- 9:00 a.m.: Benjamin & Milagros Samson, RIP
- 11:00 a.m.: Dina Odone, INT
- 1:00 p.m.: (Latin): Parishioners
- 5:00 p.m.: Johnny Y. Dy, RIP

Monday:

- *7:30 a.m.: Sr. Therese Marie, OCD, B-day INT
- 9:00 a.m.: Gianna Halpin, B-day INT
- Noon: Concepcion Alcaraz, RIP

Tuesday:

- *7:30 a.m.: Raymond Reyes, RIP
- 9:00 a.m.:** 1) Christina Chernick, RIP
- Noon: Leon Grimm, 15th B-day INT

Wednesday

- *7:30 a.m.: Clara Grace Maringka, RIP
- 9:00 a.m.:** 1) Elliot Zino, B-day INT
- Noon: Maria Enny So, RIP

Thursday:

- *7:30 a.m.: Karina Therese Laigo, INT
- 9:00 a.m.:** 1) Christina Chernick, RIP
- Noon: Roland de la Rosa, RIP

Friday:

- *7:30 a.m.: The World's People, INT
- 9:00 a.m.:** 1) Karina Therese Laigo, INT
- Noon: Phillip Tittmann, 15th B-day INT

Saturday:

- *7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Community
- 9:00 a.m.:** 1) Karina Therese Laigo, INT
- Noon: Maryann Gutierrez, INT

*Held at the *Carmelite Chapel,
215 East Alhambra Road.

**9:00 a.m. Mass is outside
for the public;**

**Noon Mass is live
streamed on Facebook
and is private.**

The ending of today's Gospel speaks about "the new and the old." Jesus is saying that a person "instructed in the Kingdom" has wisdom both old and new; in other words, that person learns from the past as well as from the present.

Let's look at each of those. We learn from the past by studying it. So the wisdom of the Kingdom comes first from the Scriptures. The more familiar we are with the word of God, the more wisdom we possess. Along with studying the Scriptures, we must pray over them and ask the Spirit to show us how they apply to our lives.

We can also learn from the lives of the saints and the writings of the Church. The saints may have lived extraordinary lives, but they all began as ordinary people who gave their lives to Christ. The writings of the Church, though sometimes very technical, contain the wisdom of centuries of living the Faith. If you only have time to go to Mass on Sundays, just listening to the homily can help to apply the Scriptures to your life.

One way we can learn from "the new" is to learn from our mistakes. That includes learning from our sins. When we are truly sorry, we make an effort to change our ways. You might say we have to learn a new way to respond to that situation. In the Bible, the word "repentance" means a change of heart, a new way of seeing and doing things.

We can also learn from the mistakes and the successes of our friends. As we share our faith with them, we share the stories of our lives, both good and bad. These stories can teach how to live our Faith (or how not to!). One of the advantages of having friends whom we trust enough to confess our faults to is that we do not have to figure out life on our own. God can speak to us through a friend or relative whose advice we seek. A truly wise person is one who has received a lifetime of good advice.



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Parishioner

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WHY IS IT?



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