December 6, 2026



St. Therese Church



1100 East Alhambra Road, Alhambra, California 91801 | Office: 510 North El Molino Street | (626) 282-2744, ext. 0



MASSES | CONFESSIONS | DEVOTIONS

Weekend

Saturdays: 8:00 am & 5:00 pm Vigil
Sundays: 7:30, 9:00, 11:00 am & 5:00 pm
Latin Rite High Mass: 1:00 pm

CONFESSIONS

Wednesdays: 7:00 - 9:00 pm
Saturdays: 3:00 - 5:00 pm
Sundays: 12:00 - 1:00 pm

ANNULMENTS

Deacon Gilbert Vargas
deacongilv@gmail.com

CARMELITE VOCATIONS

www.DiscalcedCarmeliteFriars.com

Weekday

M-F: 6:00 and 8:00 am
M-S: 7:30 am at Nuns' Chapel
M-S: Rosary after 8:00 am Mass

Mon & Tues: 7:15 pm (Tues, Spanish)

Thursday evenings: 7:00-8:00 pm:
Exposition and Adoration

First Fridays: Extra Mass: 7:15 pm

OFFICE HOURS

Mon-Fri: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm and
2:00 - 5:00 pm
(Closed for lunch: 1:00-2:00 pm)

CONTACTS

PASTOR: Fr. Peter Mary Vecellio, OCD 1+224

ASSOCIATES: Fr. Robert Barcelos, OCD
Fr. David Guzman, OCD

IN RESIDENCE Fr. Albert Bunsic, OCD
Fr. Stephen Watson, OCD
Bro. Jason Parrott, OCD

DEACONS: Extension 1 + 335
- Deacon Gilbert Vargas
- Deacon Otto Lacayo +
- Deacon Rex Owens +

+ Cell numbers on website

OFFICE | MINISTRY STAFF

Secretary: Denise McMaster-Holguin 1+223
Finance: Noralyn Cailan 1+228
Religious Education: Florence Goh 1+222
Music Director: Charlotte Lansberg

ST. THERESE CARMELITE SCHOOL

(626) 289-3364
www.SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com

Principal: Alma Cornejo X1 + 661
Email:
principal@saintthereseCarmeliteschool.com

SACRAMENTS

Baptisms: Register online

Weddings: Register online at least six months in advance

Anointing of the Sick:
Call the office

ONLINE GIVING

Please consider a gift to Saint Therese Church. Open your banking app; scan this Zelle QR code.

DonateSTC@gmail.com for ID. Recipient is THE ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP OF LA, ST THERESE CHURCH

Pastor's Letter

Dear Parishioners of St. Therese,

Advent is upon us! This is a season of great hope, waiting and longing for the coming of Christ into our lives in an ever deeper way! This was the disposition of Our Blessed Lady, whose presence is especially overwhelming during this season. So, let us invite her to accompany us on this journey of faith as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of Our Savior, Jesus Christ!

Tuesday is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and is a holy day of obligation. The preached novena with Fr. Daniel Chowning begins Saturday, December 5, at the 5:00 p.m. vigil Mass

Let us continue reading from **St. John of the Cross' *Sayings of Light and Love***, Numbers 116 through 125. -Fr. Peter Mary Vecellio, O.C.D.



116. The entire world is not worth a human being's thoughts, for it belongs to God alone; any thought, therefore, not centered on God is stolen from Him.

117. Not all the faculties and senses have to be employed in things, but only those that are required; as for the others, leave them unoccupied for God.

118. Ignoring the imperfections of others, preserving silence and a continual communion with God will eradicate great imperfections from the soul and make it the possessor of great virtues.

119. There are three signs of inner recollection: first, a lack of satisfaction in things; second, a liking for solitude and silence and an attentiveness to all that is perfect; third, the considerations, meditations, and acts that formerly helped the soul now hinder it, and it brings to prayer no other support than faith, hope, and love.

120. If a soul has more patience in suffering and more forbearance in going without satisfaction, the sign is there of its being more proficient in virtue.

121. The traits of the solitary bird are five: first, it seeks the highest place; second, it withstands no company; third, it holds its beak in the air; fourth, it has no definite color; fifth, it sings sweetly. These traits must be possessed by the contemplative soul. It must rise above passing things, paying no more heed to them than if they did not exist. It must likewise be so fond of silence and solitude that it does not tolerate the company of another creature. It must hold its beak in the air of the Holy Spirit, responding to His inspirations, that by so doing it may become worthy of His company. It must have no definite color, desiring to do nothing other than the will of God. It must sing sweetly in the contemplation and love of its Bridegroom.

122. Habitual voluntary imperfections that are never completely overcome not only hinder the divine union, but also the attainment of perfection. Such imperfections are: the habit of being very talkative; a small unconquered attachment, such as to a person, to clothing, a book, or to the way food is prepared, and to other conversations and little satisfactions in tasting things, in knowing, and hearing, and the like.

123. If you wish to glory in yourself, but do not wish to appear ignorant and foolish, discard the things that are not yours and you will have glory in what remains. It is certain that you must not glory in these gifts, for you do not even know if you possess them.

124. Oh, how sweet your presence will be to me, you who are the supreme good! I must draw near to you in silence and uncover your feet that you may be pleased to unite me to you in marriage (Rule 3:7), and I will not rest until I rejoice in your arms. Now I ask you, Lord, not to abandon me at any time in my recollection, for I am a squanderer of my soul.

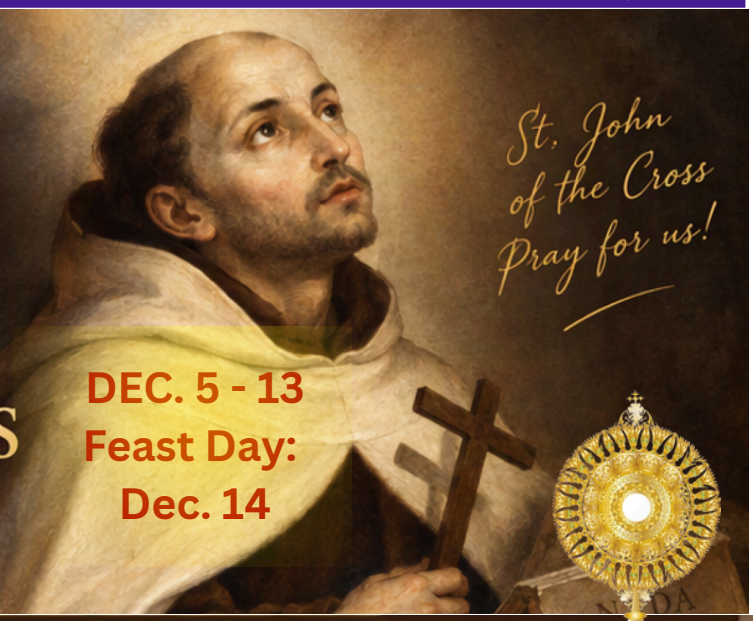
125. Detached from exterior things, dispossessed of interior things, dispossessed of the things of God; neither will prosperity detain you nor adversity hinder you.

NOVENA OF MASSES

TO PREPARE FOR THE

FEAST OF ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS

"In the evening of life, we will be judged on love."



DEC. 5 - 13
Feast Day: Dec. 14

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY NOVENA MASSES
(December 5 & 6 and December 12 & 13)

5:00 p.m.: Mass | 6:15 p.m.: Conference | 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.: Holy Hour

MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY NOVENA MASSES
(December 7 through 11)

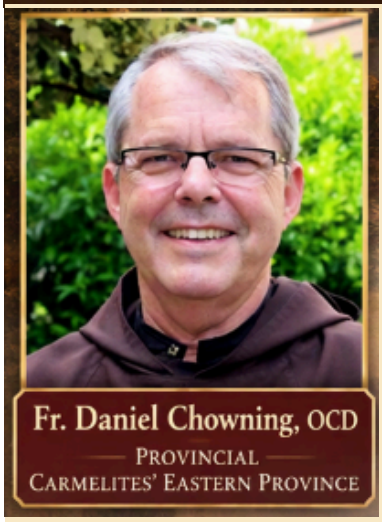
6:30 p.m.: Mass | 7:15 p.m.: Conference | 8:00 to 9:00 p.m.: Holy Hour

FEAST DAY OF ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS
Monday, December 14

Note the Time Change

7:00 p.m.: Mass | 7:45 p.m.: Conference | 8:30 to 9:30 p.m.: Holy Hour

Note the Time Change



ABOUT FR. DANIEL CHOWNING, OCD: Fr. Daniel is the Carmelite Provincial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (23 eastern states plus the District of Columbia). He entered the Province in 1978 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1988. He completed his undergraduate studies at Georgetown University and his theological studies at the Catholic University of America. He studied at the International Center of Teresian Studies in Avila, Spain, and completed his Theology degree at the University of Salamanca, Spain. He has ministered in retreat ministry, spiritual direction, and parish ministry, and wrote the book, ***HEALED BY LOVE***, about John of the Cross's teachings. In 2015, he was elected to the General Definitory in Rome; in 2022, he was elected provincial. He resides at the National Shrine of Mary in Humbertus, Wisconsin.

FEAST DAY OF

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Saturday, December 12, 2026
Outdoor Procession
WITH OUR BLESSED MOTHER
AFTER THE 8:00 AM MASS

7:45 AM: LAS MAÑANITAS

9:00 AM - 12:00 NOON
ST. THERESE
PARISH HALL

Any Monetary Donations Will Be Greatly Appreciated.

FOOD
POZOLE MENUDO
TAMALES PAN DULCE
HOT CHOCOLATE AND MORE!

MARIACHI
AT MASS AND
IN THE HALL

ARTS & CRAFTS
FOR CHILDREN

PARISH MINISTRIES & GROUPS: Please sign up to sponsor a table! This is a community effort! Click the flyer on the website to go to the sign-up site! WE NEED YOUR HELP!



Solemnity of the
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

This feast, celebrated on December 8 each year, is a holy day of obligation to attend Mass.

MASS TIMES ARE:

Vigil Mass on December 7
at 6:30 p.m.

Holy Day Masses on December 8
at 6:00 and 8:00 a.m.,
and 6:30 p.m. in the evening.

Please note that the evening Masses will take place during Fr. Daniel's Novena of Masses in honor of St. John of the Cross.

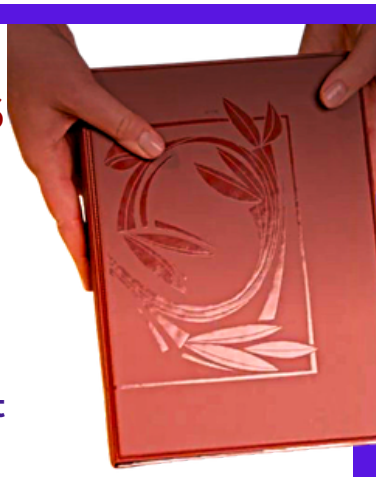
HOLY MARY, CONCEIVED WITHOUT SIN, PRAY FOR US.



Please help us decorate the church with flowers for Christmas by donating to the Christmas Flower fund. You can find Flower Offering envelopes in the pews.

You may donate in memory of a loved one. Just place the name(s) on the envelope, and a Mass will be offered for the repose of the souls of all those enrolled (celebrated at 6:00 a.m., on January 8, 2027).

NEW PEW MISSALETTES



We have recently replaced the missalettes with new ones for the Church year that began with the First Sunday of Advent.

PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE ANY OF THESE FROM THE CHURCH. THERE ARE ENOUGH IN THE PEWS SO THAT EVERYONE PRESENT HAS ACCESS TO THEM. HOWEVER, IF THEY SLOWLY BEGIN DISAPPEARING, THAT WILL NO LONGER BE THE CASE. PLEASE BE GOOD STEWARDS OF CHURCH PROPERTY.

THANK YOU.



BABY SHOWER FOR MOMS AND BABIES IN NEED

St. Therese Carmelite Church and Guadalupe Pregnancy Center Services (GPS) invite you to participate in our *"Thank Heaven for the Blessings of Little Boys and Little Girls"* Baby Shower. Your donations will greatly help the mothers and babies helped by Guadalupe Pregnancy Center Services. A crib to place your gifts is available in the main church vestibule on the weekends. For any questions, please call Maria Alejandra at (626) 993-4236.

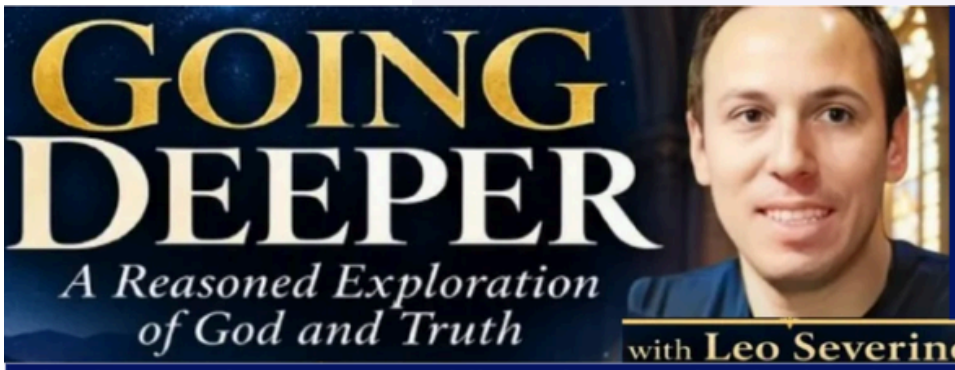
ITEMS NEEDED: Diapers (sizes 4 & 6 only); Board books (bilingual & English); Adult bath towels; Baby bath towels; Baby bathtubs; Infant/Toddler toothpaste; Christmas toys (new); Highchairs, Strollers, Swings, Potty chairs; Gift cards for food and baby furniture.

"Works of mercy at work ... from pregnancy to preschool!"
(626) 872-2483 | www.pregnancy-gps.org

The second week of Advent represents peace and spiritual preparation.



Prince of Peace, quiet our anxious hearts this second week of Advent. Fill us with your calm, heal what is broken around us, and help us share your peace with others. Amen.



Whether you're new to philosophy or simply longing to strengthen your understanding of the Faith, join us for this engaging exploration of God, reason, and the nature of Truth.

The next classes will be on December 7 and 14. Also, Leo will extend his classes into 2027! The first one will be on January 11 (from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., in the Parish Meeting Room).

For questions, please contact Catherine Contreras (213) 435-3942

Financial Offerings



November 21 / 22, 2026
Unrestricted.....$14,949.00
Restricted..... $ 951.00
TOTAL.....$15,900.00

October 24 / 25 .....$27,466.00
Oct. 31 / Nov. 1.....$26,960.00
November 7 / 8.....$23,350.00
November 14 / 15 ...$20,106.00

CHECK USERS: Please use a donation envelope in order to accurately credit your account.







"Have confidence in the compassion of our Creator. Reflect well on what you are now doing, and keep before you the things you have done. Lift up your eyes to the overflowing compassion of Heaven, and while He waits for you, draw near in tears to our merciful Judge."

-St. Gregory the Great (540 – March 12, 604) - Feast Day: September 3

St. Pope Gregory I, known as St. Gregory the Great, was a Roman pope from 590 to 604, a Church reformer, and a Doctor of the Church. Born into a noble Roman family, he served as Prefect of Rome before becoming a Benedictine monk. He was pope during a famine, a plague, and the Lombard invasions. He reorganized church administration, expanded charity and promoted humility, and sent missionaries, notably Augustine of Canterbury, to England. He reformed the liturgy, developed the chant (later called Gregorian Chant), and authored influential works like Pastoral Rule, Dialogues, and Moralia in Job. Immediately canonized after his death, he is honored among the four Great Latin Church Fathers.

The Eucharistic Miracle

During a Sunday Mass in Rome around 595, Pope Gregory noticed a woman laughing as she approached to receive Communion. She had baked the bread herself and could not believe it had become the Body of Christ. Gregory withheld Communion and prayed for a sign. The Host then took on the appearance of a small piece of bloodied flesh the size of a finger. Gregory prayed again; the appearance of bread returned, and the woman repented and received Communion in faith.

Mass Intentions

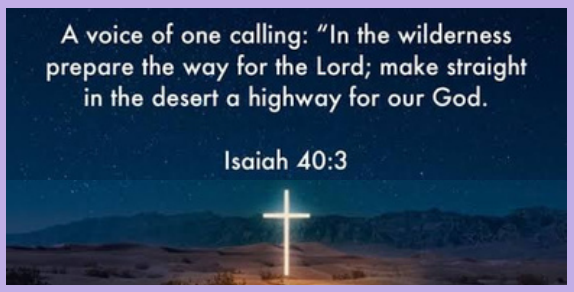
December 5 - 12, 2026

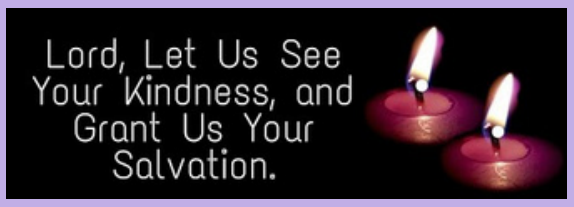
Saturday Evening Vigil Mass:
5:00 p.m.: Rhony Laigo, INT
Sunday:
*7:30 a.m.: Thanksgiving for God's Gift of Human Life
7:30 a.m.: David Steele, RIP
9:00 a.m.: Camille Macedonio, RIP
11:00 a.m.: All Humanity & Thanksgiving for God's Creation
1:00 p.m.: The Sick & Elderly and the Poor, INT
5:00 p.m.: Parishioners
Monday:
6:00 a.m.: Doctors, Nurses, Caregivers
*7:30 a.m.: Neil Dy, INT
8:00 a.m.: America and the Church in the U.S., INT
6:30 p.m.: Lopez Cifuentes Family, INT
Tuesday:
6:00 a.m.: Cailan Vales Family, INT
*7:30 am: Mary DeSantis, RIP
8:00 a.m.: Mary Rose Go & Patrick Rosal INT
6:30 p.m.: Jamie Arakawa, RIP
Wednesday:
6:00 a.m.: Carmelite Nuns' Christmas Novena 1 (for their friends and benefactors)
*7:30 a.m.: Maria Teresa Thanh RIP
8:00 a.m.: Maria Estrada, INT
6:30 p.m.: Catherine L. Thanh Truong Bu, RIP
Thursday:
6:00 a.m.: All Humanity/Th'gvg for God's Creation
*7:30 a.m.: Atlas Chambliss, INT
8:00 a.m.: Carmelite Nuns' Christmas Novena 2
6:30 p.m.: Catherine L. Thanh Truong Bu, RIP
Friday:
6:00 a.m.: Carmelite Nuns' Christmas Novena 3
*7:30 a.m.:Bess Tuan, INT
8:00 a.m.: Vocations to Priesthood, Religious Life, INT
6:30 p.m.: Catherine L. Thanh Truong Bu, RIP
Saturday Morning
*7:30 a.m.: Alhambra Cloistered Carm Nuns
8:00 a.m.: Grace Chan, INT

*Held at the Cloistered Carmelite Chapel (215 East Alhambra Road, Alhambra)
*Open to the public except Sundays and holidays.)

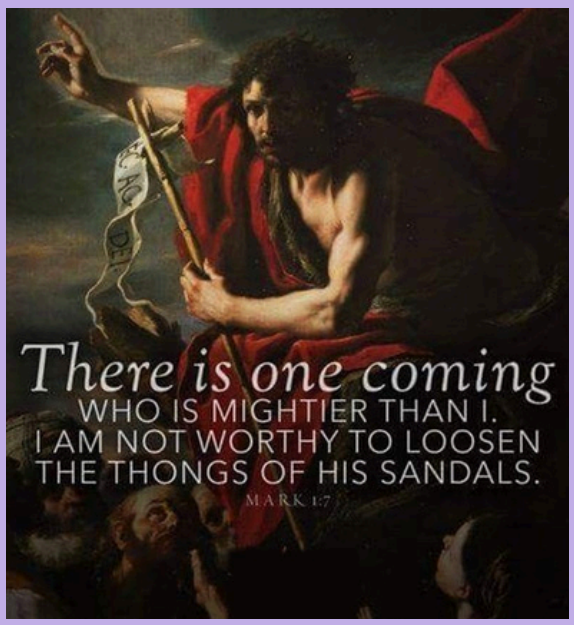
LIVE STREAMED MASSES: We livestream the daily 8:00 a.m. Mass and the HOMILIES from the Sunday 11:00 a.m. and the Monday 7:15 p.m. Masses. Be sure to "tune in."

Today's Scriptures





But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.



Rest in Peace

Please pray for the repose of the soul of:
+ Frances Santos
(Wife of Robert Santos)