



St Therese Catholic Church



July 26, 2026 1100 East Alhambra Road, Alhambra CA 91801 (Office: 510 North El Molino Street) | (626) 282-2744 | www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org



The kingdom of heaven
is like a net thrown
into the sea, which
collects fish of every kind.

When it is full they
haul it ashore and
sit down to put what
is good into buckets.

What is bad
they throw away.

Thus it will be
at the end of the age.

The angels will go out and
separate the wicked from the righteous
and throw them into the fiery furnace,
where there will be wailing
and grinding of teeth.

MATTHEW 13:47-50

MASSSES | 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.

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

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: Cell #s under CONTACTS on the

website; **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+ 222 | stcreligiouslyed7@gmail.com

Music Director: Charlotte Lansberg credochoir1@gmail.com

Respect Life Ministry: Catherine Contreras | cathycforlife@gmail.com

ST. THERESE CARMELITE SCHOOL

(626) 289-3364

www.SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com

Principal: Alma Cornejo X 1 + 661

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 St. Therese Church.

Open your banking app; then
scan this Zelle QR code. Use
email donateSTC@gmail.com. If
asked, the recipient is THE
ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP
OF LA ST THERESE CHU.



PASTOR'S COLUMN

Dear Parishioners of St. Therese,

I have been sharing with you over the last couple of weeks a joint letter that came from the two Carmelite generals two years ago regarding devotion to Mary and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. Our Discalced Carmelite General just published a letter on the Solemnity of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel entitled, ***“Clothed in Mary, Moved by the Spirit. A Renewed Covenant: The Brown Scapular.”*** I would like to share an excerpt from this letter below.

—Fr. Peter Mary Vecellio, O.C.D.

In addition to the celebrations marking the 775th anniversary of the bestowal of the Brown Scapular, in 2026 we are celebrating the Jubilee Year of St John of the Cross: the 300th anniversary of his canonization and the 100th anniversary of his proclamation as a Doctor of the Church. There are not many references to Mary in the writings and life of St. John of the Cross; nevertheless, we can say that her presence is intense and profound. We have some passages from him that are of the highest doctrinal and theological richness.

The Sanjuanist writings (i.e., St. John of the Cross) concerning Mary are of great theological and spiritual depth. Among these passages, I would like to highlight, as one of the most valuable, the one he left us in the third book of *The Ascent of Mount Carmel*: “Such was the prayer and work of our Lady, the most glorious Virgin. Raised from the beginning to this high state, she never had the form of any creature impressed in her soul, nor was she moved by any, for she was always moved by the Holy Spirit” (3S 2:10). I recall that Father Otilio Rodríguez, of blessed memory, used to say that this quotation is worth an entire treatise on Mariology.

This docility to the Holy Spirit—this, if you’ll allow me the expression, dancing like Mary to the music of the Spirit, to the rhythm of the Spirit—constitutes the intimate practice that we would ask her to teach and foster in us: not wanting to dance to anyone’s tune, nor to be moved by any other ambition or desire to please, or by fear of not being what other people expect of us. Let us ask Mary for this fidelity and sensitivity of heart. The Virgin Mary was raised from the very beginning to “this exalted state” of loving union with God; that we, with our entire history—our past, our record of successes and shortcomings, of failures and achievements, in times of hardship and in times of prosperity—do not remain trapped in negativity or confined by the limitations of our smallness; we always open our hearts, at the entrance to the cave, like Elijah, to the gentle breeze that moved Mary’s whole life and made her a garden, the Garden of His delight. We invoke Mary to make us faithful to this love, rooted in the Spirit’s desire to transform our lives and our communities into the image of Jesus—truly spiritual, Marian, and truly Carmelite.

We live in an age that asks of us neither self-sufficiency nor dwelling in nostalgia. St. John of the Cross, a seeker above all of union with God, tells us that he was always moved by the Holy Spirit. What moves us, personally and as a community, above all else? The disciples, too, kept their doors closed out of fear of the Jews. The temptation of the closed room is always present in the face of the new realities of each age. And we know that Carmel’s most fruitful times were those in which fragility, loss, persecution, or vulnerability were experienced most intensely. Our saints are masters at allowing themselves to be moved by the Spirit in the hours when the temptation to flee was at its strongest.

The Holy Spirit and Mary ask of us attentive listening, courageous choices—not driven by fear or distrust—and the daring to put the boldness of faith, humility, and prudence into play, together with the wisdom to realize when the time has come to set out on a new path, to close a presence, or to begin a new experience with simplicity. What moves us, and from whom do we allow ourselves to be guided in discernment? Do we call our own desires the Holy Spirit?

“Mary, take us by the hand to place us before the breath of the Spirit, on the path that leads us to the future He desires and dreams for us.”



HAPPY **60th** *Birthday!*
 TO
FATHER MARTIN MARTINEZ, OCD



ROMAN DEFINITOR FOR THE CARMELITE FRIARS



With grateful hearts, we celebrate you on this joyful milestone.
 Thank you for your faithful dedication, spiritual leadership,
 and the witness of your life in Carmel.

May God bless you abundantly!



PLEASE JOIN US

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1ST

5:00 PM MASS

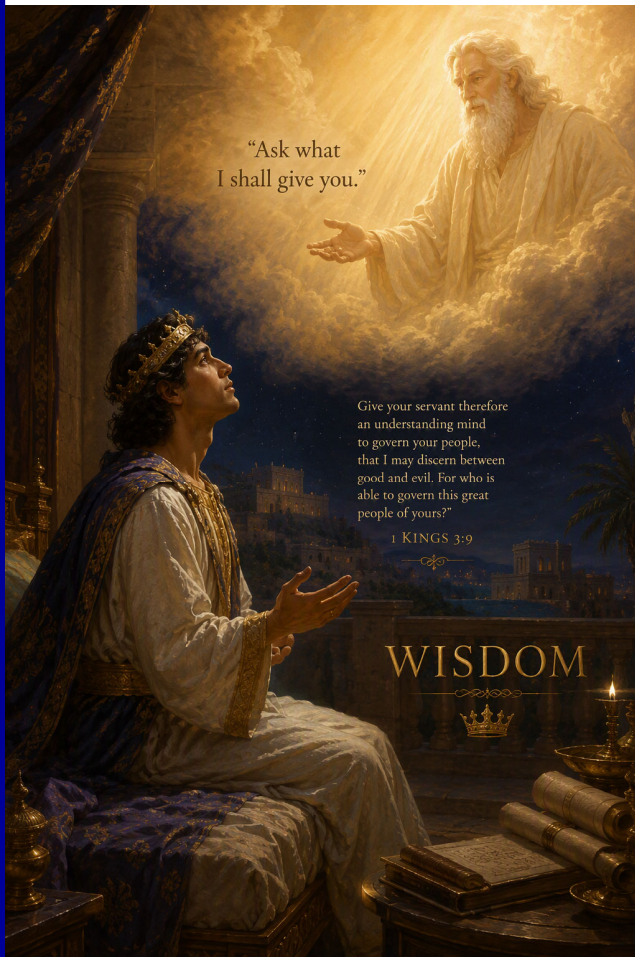
as we honor and pray for

FATHER MARTIN MARTINEZ, OCD

on his 60th Birthday – July 31st



The Request of Solomon As A Young King



The altar at Gibeon was still warm from the sacrifices of the day, but as night fell over the high place, my mind remained restless. Sitting on the throne of my father, David, I felt not the triumph of a new ruler, but an overwhelming, crushing weight. My father was a warrior, a poet, and a man after God's own heart. His shadow was long, his legacy immense. And here I stood—a young man, inexperienced in the ways of governance, thrust to the head of a nation as vast as the sands on the shore.

When sleep finally took me, the darkness of the night gave way to a sacred presence. The Lord appeared to me in a dream, His voice echoing not with terror, but with divine invitation: **"Ask what I shall give you."** In that moment, the entire world seemed to lie at my feet. I could have asked for military might to crush my enemies, long life to enjoy the palace courts, or wealth that would dwarf the treasures of Egypt and Babylon. But looking inward, I saw only my own weakness.

"O Lord my God," I prayed, "you have made me, your servant Solomon, King in place of David, my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to be numbered or counted." I did not need silver; I needed sight. I did not need chariots; I needed clarity.

"Give your servant, therefore, an understanding heart to judge your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of yours?"

The Divine Response

The request pleased the Lord. It was not a prayer born of self-interest, but one rooted in servant leadership and reverence for the responsibility placed upon me. God's voice filled the dream once more, carrying both validation and incredible generosity:

"Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you."

The response did not stop there. God demonstrated that when a heart seeks wisdom above vanity, true stewardship is rewarded far beyond expectation: "I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you all your days."

A Legacy Written in Discernment

When I awoke, the morning light was breaking over Gibeon. The anxiety that had gripped my chest before sleeping was gone, replaced by a deep, unwavering peace. The dream was no mere fantasy—it was a covenant, a testament for every generation: leaders are not measured by the height of their towers or the strength of their armies, but by the posture of their hearts before God. When given the choice of anything under the sun, seeking the wisdom to serve others remains the highest request a soul can make.

JESUS' PARABLES ON THE KINGDOM OF GOD

How do you describe eternity to men bound by time? How do you paint the majesty, the total consuming value of my Father's realm, using only the dusty, day-to-day vocabulary of Galilee?

I sat with my apostles in the quiet of the house, away from the demanding crowds on the shore. I looked into their earnest, sun-weathered faces—fishermen, tax collectors, men who knew hard work, sweat, and simple trade. They wanted so desperately to understand what this "Kingdom of Heaven" really was. They expected a political force, a grand palace, or an earthly army. But the Kingdom is far subtler, deeper, and infinitely more precious than any human power.

So, I kept searching for new pictures, layering metaphor upon metaphor, hoping to light a fire of understanding in their minds. I watched them lean in, and I tried another angle. I spoke of a laborer out in a field—a man sweating under the afternoon sun, turning over dry soil with a wooden plow. Suddenly, the metal strikes iron. He digs with his bare hands and uncovers a chest, forgotten for generations, overflowing with gold and gems. **"The Kingdom of Heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."**

I wanted them to see the joy in the man's eyes. He didn't complain about selling his house, his tools, or his livestock. He did it gladly, almost laughing with delight, because he knew that what he was gaining was worth everything he was letting go. That is what my Father's Kingdom requires—and gives. Total surrender, met with unimaginable gain. They were still processing the image of the field, so I offered another glimpse, this time from the life of a merchant—someone who knows trade and valuation.

"Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it." This man wasn't a farmer stumbling upon luck; he spent his entire life hunting for perfection. He knew every flawed, dull pearl on the market. But when he laid eyes on this single pearl, his search ended. It was so glorious that he emptied his entire fortune just to possess it. The Kingdom isn't just something you happen upon; it is the ultimate answer to the soul's lifelong search for beauty and truth. I looked over at Peter, Andrew, James, and John. Their hands were calloused from hauling ropes on the Sea of Galilee. I needed an image that would hit them right where they lived.

"Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. When it was drawn ashore and sorted, they put the good into containers but threw away the bad."

They nodded—this was a scene they had lived a thousand times. But I wanted them to look beyond the fish to the solemn reality of eternity: the Kingdom is vast, sweeping wide across the world to draw everyone in. Yet, a day of sorting will come at the end of the age, where what is true and good will be gathered, and what is corrupt will be cast away.

I paused, scanning their eyes. I could see the sparks of comprehension beginning to take hold. "Have you understood all these things?" I asked them. "Yes," they replied. They saw it now, even if only in part. I smiled and gave them one final picture to carry with them: **"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."**



David's 119th Psalm

The refrain, "Lord, I love your commands," is not simply a statement about following rules. It is the cry of a heart that has discovered a treasure. The psalmist has come to see that God's commands are not burdens but gifts. They reveal the path to life, protect us from deception, and lead us into communion with He who loves us.

When the psalmist says that God's words are worth more than "thousands of gold and silver pieces," he reminds us that true wealth is not found in what we possess but in the wisdom that guides our lives. We spend much of our energy seeking security, success, and fulfillment, yet no earthly treasure can satisfy the deepest hunger of the human heart. God's word alone speaks truth that endures when everything else passes away.

This love for God's commands is rooted in trust. The psalmist asks for God's kindness and compassion because he knows that the Lord's law is not cold legislation but a loving invitation. Every command of God flows from His desire for our good. To love His commands, therefore, is to love the One who gave them. It is to believe that God's way, even when difficult, leads to freedom and peace.

The psalm also reminds us that God's word sheds light. In a world filled with confusion, competing voices, and false promises, the Lord's teachings illuminate the path before us. They give understanding to the simple and wisdom to those who seek Him with a humble heart. God's commands help us recognize truth, reject falsehood, and walk confidently in His presence.

Today we might ask ourselves: Do I see God's commands as restrictions, or do I see them as a gift? The saints learned that obedience was not the loss of freedom but the discovery of it. Like the merchant who found the pearl of great price, they recognized something so valuable that everything else became secondary.



Saint Therese Carmelite School Faith ✠ Academics ✠ Virtue

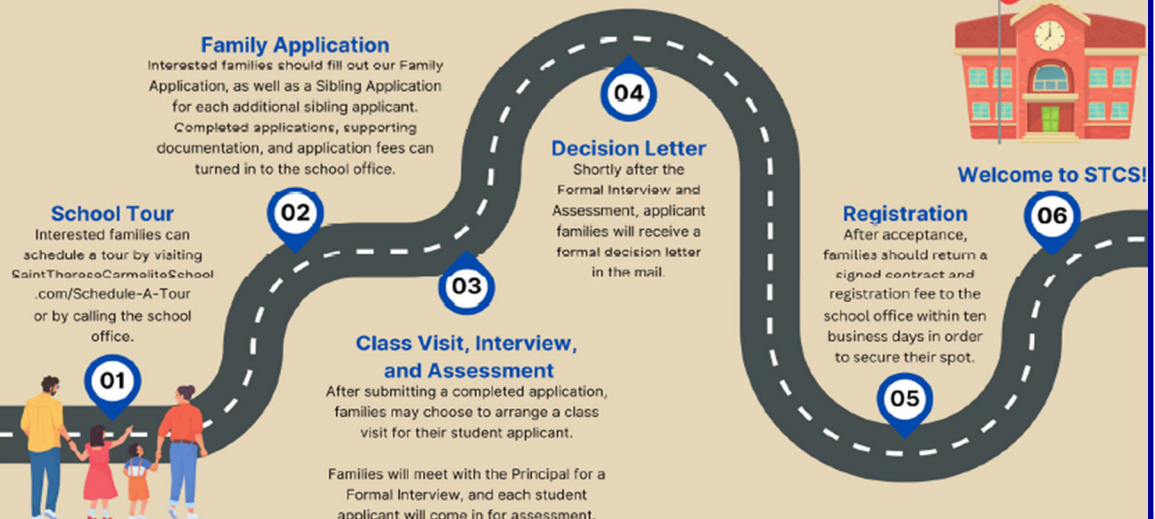
OPEN ENROLLMENT TK-8th Grade

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started!



6 Stages of the Admissions Process



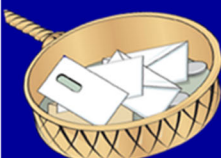
Financial Offerings

July 18 / 19, 2026

Unrestricted..... \$22,486.00
Restricted \$ 500.00
T O T A L..... \$22,986.00

June 20 / 21 \$31,384.00
June 27 / 28 \$16,851.00
July 4 / 5 \$20,843.00
July 11 / 12 \$15,380.00

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



Mass Intentions

July 25—August 1, 2026

Saturday Evening Vigil Mass:

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

Sunday:

*7:30 a.m.: Mother Teresa, OCD, INT

7:30 a.m.: Stella Guangga, INT

9:00 a.m.: Tim Barnett & Family, INT

11:00 a.m.: Parishioners

1:00 p.m.: Walter Ruiz, INT

5:00 pm: Gloria Andrade, RIP

Monday:

6:00 a.m.: Ramone Chacon, RIP

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

8:00 a.m.: All Humanity and Thanksgiving
For God's Creation, RIP

7:15 p.m.: Anna Margarita Morales, RIP

Tuesday (+7:15 p.m. in Spanish):

6:00 a.m.: Rodrigo Chacon, RIP

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

8:00 a.m.: Leon Grimm, 21st Bday, INT

7:15 p.m.: Gilberto Chacon, RIP

Wednesday:

6:00 a.m.: Thanh Ha Nguyen, INT

*7:30 a.m.: Mark Andrew Perez, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Jose Contreras, RIP

Thursday:

6:00 a.m.: Thomas and Theresa Duong, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Teri Kos, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Elliot Zino, Bday, INT

Friday:

6:00 a.m.: Ramiro Chacon, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Jack Forkey, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Phillip I. Tittmann, 21st Bday, INT

Saturday Morning

*7:30 a.m.: Alhambra Cloistered Carm. Nuns

8:00 a.m.: Ritchie Sia, Bday, 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 at the Sunday
11:00 a.m. and the Monday 7:15 p.m.
Masses. Be sure to "tune in"!

Pilgrimages

The complete itinerary for the following pilgrimage is on the website (OUTSIDE THE PARISH section).

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE with Fr. Philip Sullivan, OCD, from November 22—December 3, 2026. Walk in the footsteps of Jesus in Galilee, Tiberius, Caesarea, Cana, Capernaum, Nazareth, Bethlehem, Jericho, Mt. Carmel, Jerusalem, etc. Walk the Via Dolorosa, take a two-hour boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, float on the Dead Sea, and much more! \$4,599 each (from LAX). Contact: Albert or Mary Helen Estrada at (626) 533-4839.



Personal Ads

FOR RENT: Small downstairs unit with kitchen, bath, BR, and LR area—for one to two people. Rent is negotiable. Call Socorro at (323) 219-2253.

Looking for a Photographer for Your Special Event? Planning a wedding, party, or anniversary celebration? Capture every meaningful moment with professional photos and video! Martin, a parishioner and experienced photographer and filmmaker, offers high-quality still photography and videography services for all occasions. Friendly, reliable, and professional service. Call or text: 760-641-1366.