

Saint Therese Catholic Church

1100 East Alhambra Road, Alhambra CA 91801 | (626) 282-2744 | www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org

April 11, 2021 / Divine Mercy Sunday **MINISTERED BY THE DISCALCED CARMELITE FRIARS** Estab. 1924

Pastor: Fr. Thomas Koller, OCD X222

Associate Pastor: Fr. David Guzman, OCD X232

In Residence: Fr. Albert Bunsic, OCD;

Fr. Bernard Perkins, OCD X225; Bro. Jason Parrott, OCD;

Fr. Godfrey Chandya, OCD

Deacons: Deacon Joseph Mizerski X333;

Deacon Gilbert Vargas X333

Annulments: Lorraine Mizerski X333

Vocations:

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For the Archdiocese: (213) 637-7515

Parish Secretary:

Denise McMaster-Holguin X223 denisekay@hotmail.com

Finance: Noralyn Cailan X228 / cailannocds@gmail.com

Music Director:

Charlotte Lansberg X226 / cjlansberg@gmail.com

Respect Life Ministry / Vox Vitae:

Catherine Contreras X112

MASSES AND SERVICES

Saturday: 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: 6:00 and 8:00 a.m. (the 8:00 a.m. daily and the Sunday 11:00 a.m. Masses are LIVE STREAMED on our Facebook page AND on our YouTube channel).

Monday & Thursday evenings:

Mass at 7:00 p.m. (also LIVE STREAMED)

CONFESSIONS under the red umbrellas on

Saturdays from 3:00 to 6:30 p.m. and on

Sundays from Noon to 1:00 p.m.



SAINT THERESE CARMELITE SCHOOL
(626) 289-3364

Principal: Alma Cornejo X661

www.SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com
principal@saintthersecarmeliteschool.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: Call the office.



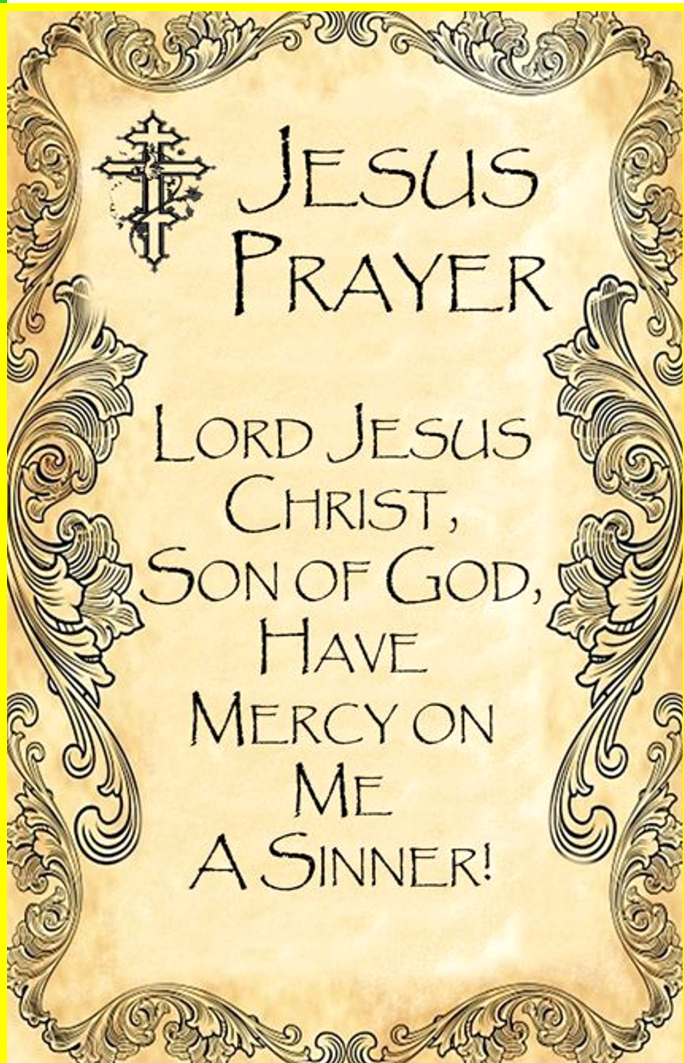
Jesus,
Trust
in
You!

FROM THE PASTOR

Christ is risen!!! He is risen indeed!!!

Blessed Divine Mercy Sunday to one and all!!! What a gift St. John Paul II gave us in establishing the Sunday after Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday! Did you know that there is no encounter with Jesus or the Father or the Holy Spirit in the Sacred Scriptures where someone asks for mercy and doesn't receive it? That is **the ABCs of the Divine Mercy devotion!** It can be summed up in the following way: **ASK** for mercy, **BE** merciful, have **COMPLETE TRUST** in Jesus' Mercy. Here, again, is an amazing insight from St. Thérèse into the richness of God's Mercy, and how it is **NOT** only about asking for mercy in the face of Divine Judgment.

“Therese has left on record how much she would have liked to learn Hebrew, so as to understand the Gospels better. And this no doubt would have been a great joy to her. For few Hebrew words are etymologically more rewarding than those used to convey the concept ‘mercy’. Four words are used to convey the reality: *hanan*—to lean over [like a loving parent leaning over a child to listen to what he or she wants to share, even when no one else wants to listen!]; *hamalnoum*—to suffer with, to spare since one feels pity [like the judge looking at a repentant sinner]; *raham-rahamim*—to be soft, like the mother’s breast, the entrails, the womb [i.e. feeling protected and safe and snug, full of peace and joy]; and *naham*— to relieve someone, to stop his groans by helping him to breathe. What a program! Therese saw this as **God’s mercy, with regard to man”** (*The Little Way*, by Bernard Bro, O.P., p. 60).



The biggest problem that we create for ourselves is our *self-reliance*, so here is a simple method of **ASKING** for Jesus' Mercy, to help get us into *reliance on Him*. While breathing in, you can gently and silently say, “**Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God,**” and while breathing out you can say, “**Have mercy on me, a sinner.**” The prayer is a combination of 1) the prayer of the blind Bartimaeus calling out to Jesus (Mark 10:47), 2) the prayer of the tax collector in the temple (Luke 18:13) as he beat his breast pleading for God’s mercy, and 3) St. Peter’s great statement of faith in Jesus (Matt. 16:16).

Once you get the hang of this prayer, you can shorten it to “Jesus” while inhaling and “mercy” while exhaling. With the help of St. Therese, you can also focus on whatever meaning of the word mercy best fits your *actual, real, here-and-now* heart movements. Try it especially after receiving Him in Holy Communion. May you experience His Mercy in a deep way this week, to help you to **BE MERCIFUL** to others!

Fraternally in Jesus and Mary and Joseph,
Fr. Thomas, OCD

SCHEDULE FOR DIVINE MERCY

The schedule for the devotion on Divine Mercy Sunday (April 11, 2021) is:

3:00 to 4:00 pm: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
with Holy Hour*

3:00 to 5:00 pm: Confessions (outside)

4:45 pm: Benediction

5:00 pm: Holy Mass

Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity, of Your dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

* The Holy Hour will include:

- A Reading from the Diary of St. Faustina
- Novena Prayer
- Chaplet of Divine Mercy
- The Divine Praises



St. Faustina (Sr. Maria Faustina Kowalska)

St. Faustina was born on August 25, 1905, in Głogowiec, Poland, to Marianna and Stanisław Kowalska as the third of ten children. Two days later she was baptized with the name Helena in the parish church of Świnice Warckie. At the age of nine, she made her first Holy Communion. She attended elementary school for merely three years and then she went to work as a housekeeper in various well-to-do families in Aleksandrów and Łódź. From the age of seven, she had felt the calling to become a religious, but her parents would not give her permission to enter the convent. However, impelled by the vision of the Suffering Christ, in July of 1924, she left for Warsaw to find a place. For another year she worked as a housekeeper to save some money for a modest monastic trousseau. On August 1, 1925, she entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Warsaw.

FROM DOUBT TO BELIEF



This Sunday's first reading (Acts 4:32–35) is one of the descriptions of ideal apostolic life. Remember John's Gospel saying that God is love? Here we have Luke's version in Acts. He begins with the community being "one in heart and mind." They not only believed in the same Risen Lord, but **their love for Him showed in their love for each other**. They were not just a community or parish—they were one family! The faith of the early community of believers led them to rise beyond the selfishness that so many of us struggle with as they grew in communion with Christ and one another. Their selflessness was

a living sign of the impact of their faith in Jesus. They did not find the commandments burdensome, but rather centered their lives on the love of God and neighbor. It is good for us to remember that faith is a gift, as the journey of faith is not always straightforward but often marked by doubt and moments of weakness. The apostles' faith grew as they experienced the Risen Jesus.

Luke shows two ways the Christian communities began to change the world. First, they told anyone who would listen about the resurrection "with great power" (Acts 4:33). You can take that as power to perform miracles, healings, etc.; but it can also mean the power of conviction: They were so excited about Jesus' resurrection that they couldn't stop talking about it! Their fervor was infectious. We could use some of that fervor today. I sometimes think the only reason we don't do miracles ourselves is that we don't really believe we could. Maybe we need to remind ourselves that **we** aren't the ones doing the miracles—**God is!** Remember how many times Jesus told people it was their faith that cured them? God can do miracles any time He wants. But we can't receive them if we don't have faith. Instead of trying to believe that you can do a miracle, try believing that God can do it for you.

The second way the disciples stood out was their willingness to give up anything for the Lord. Luke uses the example of selling their property to share with those in need. But some went even further, giving up their lives for the Faith. So what am I willing to give up for the Lord? How about giving some time to give food to the poor or to help build a home for someone? What can you do to help spread the Faith—maybe give time to be a sponsor for a convert? The love you show to others could be their only experience of God's love.

We hear in today's Gospel (John 20:19–31) about the apostle Thomas, who will forever be remembered as the "one who doubted." We all doubt sometimes, and "Doubting Thomas" shows us how to move from doubt to belief. He did not keep his doubts to himself, but instead voiced them aloud to his trusted companions. We can only imagine the conversations that took place between Thomas and the other disciples as they described the peace that they felt following Jesus' time with them. Thomas' doubts were put to rest once and for all when Jesus offered him physical proof of the Resurrection. We do not have the sort of physical evidence that was shown to Thomas, but we can perceive Christ's presence in the Eucharist, in the words of sacred Scripture, and in the presence and actions of others.

The journey of faith often ebbs and flows, with times when our relationship with the Lord is the guiding force in our lives, and times when we are tempted to turn away from all we know to be true, good, and beautiful. In those moments when we find ourselves struggling with doubt or temptation, we can follow Thomas' lead and turn to trusted companions, faithful and faith-filled family and friends, who will support us and show us the way from doubt to living faith. Like the disciples who were in the room when Jesus came among them, we too have received the Holy Spirit. Today, let us consider where we are on the journey of faith, turn to trusted companions and the Holy Spirit to strengthen us on the way, and know that the Lord is with us as we live and grow in relationship with Christ.

The desire to be able to prove the existence of a divinity has troubled humanity since human consciousness first became aware of the divine. To this very day we are fond of saying that any number of things—from sunsets to hot fudge sundaes—are "proof that there is a God." We get so caught up in the story of "doubting Thomas" that we fail to notice that today's Gospel gives us John's account of Pentecost, the bestowing of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples following the Resurrection. Thomas, evidently, missed out not only on seeing the Risen Christ, but also receiving the Holy Spirit. This is not to be taken lightly and, perhaps, makes Thomas' disbelief a bit easier to comprehend. It also makes his professing that Jesus is his Lord and God—the only time the New Testament explicitly refers to Jesus Christ as "God"—more remarkable.

ST. JOSEPH PRAYER GROUP

St. Joseph, Protector of the Holy Family, Patron of the Church, the People of God, hear our Prayer for Peace.

St. Joseph, man of peace and wisdom, teach us the way of peace. Protect us from the hatred and evil that breed terrorism and justify it. Heal the brokenness that remains in many hearts. Release us from the bondage of fear and distrust of neighbor, especially the neighbor who is a stranger in our midst. Gentle St. Joseph, help us to be strong in defense of justice and the care of the poor. Help our Church to be a prophetic leader in the struggle for world peace. Help our parishioners to be generous and constant in praying for peace. Amen.



The St. Joseph Prayer Group has resumed meeting on **WEDNESDAYS at the new time of 3:00 p.m.** Through the intercession of St. Joseph, the group prays for peace and justice issues in our

community and around the world.

Meet inside the church near the statue of St. Joseph (wear a mask and practice social distancing). For more info, call Lucy at 281-3706.

1ST COMMUNION PREP

If your child (in First Grade+) has been baptized but **has not yet received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion, and you'd like to enroll him or her in our preparation classes**, please contact Denise Lopez at deniseclopez7@gmail.com.

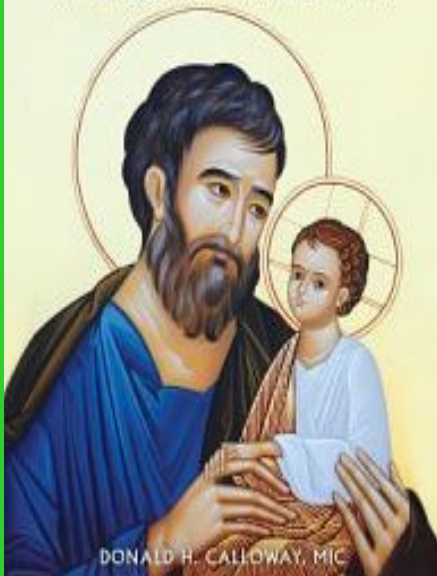


ALSO...

If anyone is able to volunteer to help with this program, please contact Denise as well!

CONSECRATION TO ST. JOSEPH

THE WONDERS OF OUR SPIRITUAL FATHER



CONSECRATION TO ST. JOSEPH

POPE FRANCIS HAS DECLARED THIS YEAR (through December 8, 2021) TO BE THE "YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH"!

As part of our celebration of this special year, we will continue to have **PREPARATION SESSIONS, followed by Consecration ceremonies.** The latest preparation session began on March 24th and will continue every Wednesday through April 28—at your **choice of Noon or 6:00 p.m.**—in the Guadalupe Courtyard (enter on the parking lot side—near Adoration Chapel entrance). The consecration will take place on May 1st, the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker. For more info, contact Maria Alejandra at 993-4236 or ale3767@yahoo.com.

To prepare, we use the book by Fr. Donald Calloway (shown to the left). You may also prepare on your own by reading and praying through the book, available for purchase in the office for \$15. You

Mass & Prayer Nights

- **MONDAY NIGHTS:** Join us every **MONDAY** evening to strengthen your faith! The schedule is as follows: 7:00 p.m.: Mass; 7:30-8:00 p.m.: Adoration; 8:00-8:30 p.m.: Teaching (indoors!)
- **TUESDAY NIGHTS:** For those wishing to celebrate Mass in Spanish, join us on Tuesday nights at 7:00 p.m.
- **THURSDAY NIGHTS:** Join us every **THURSDAY** evening in **HONOR OF ST. JOSEPH!** The schedule is: 6:30 p.m.: Viewing of an Episode of The Chosen; 7:00 p.m.: Mass; 7:30-8:30 p.m.: Adoration
- **FIRST FRIDAY MASS:** Come and honor the Sacred Heart of Jesus by attending Mass at 7:00 p.m. on the first Friday of each month. Next will be May 7th.
- **SATURDAY NIGHT HEALING PRAYER:** Join us **LIVE OR** via **ZOOM** for Fr. Thomas' **HEALING PRAYER TRAINING**. Training is held on **Saturday nights from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.** (join anytime during that time slot). Here is the link: <https://zoom.us/j/91328296798?pwd=QzllQ3lSMG5aK3k3ZFJlN0gzaHV0dz09> . The Meeting ID is **913 2829 6798**, and the Passcode is **UC3YxA**.



MOTHER'S DAY BABY BOTTLE OUTREACH AND BABY SHOWER



GPS-Guadalupe Pregnancy Services Volunteers will be outside the church distributing **Baby Bottles on Mother's Day weekend (May 8 and 9)**. Please take a bottle and use it like a piggy bank to collect coins, cash, or checks. Your donations help support the life-affirming services of GPS: parenting, personal development, and spiritual enrichment programs for pregnant mothers and mothers with infants and toddlers. Every Bottle Counts! We will collect them on the weekend of May 22 and 23.

ALSO ON MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND: Please bring a **Baby Shower Gift for Baby and Mom!** We will have a crib outside the church on that weekend for you to place the gifts.

ITEMS NEEDED FOR BABIES: Baby shampoo and wash, baby lotion, diaper rash cream, cornstarch-based baby powder, Q-Tips, sippy cups, spoons/forks, socks for boys/girls (12-18 months), clothing, wash cloths and towels, diapers, sizes 3, 4, 5, 6 and pull-ups, sizes 2T/3T, wipes, formula, baby food jars, toys, books

ITEMS NEEDED FOR MOMS: Shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrush, lotion, facial moisturizer, bar soap, feminine hygiene products, dish soap, detergent, cleaning products

FOOD ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE MOMS' PANTRIES: Cereal/oatmeal, canned fruits and vegetables, rice/beans, snacks/cookies

FINANCIAL OFFERINGS

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.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!



Holy Thursday and April 3 / 4	March 7 / 8.....	\$14,589.00
Unrestricted.....	March 13 / 14.....	\$22,832.00
Restricted	March 20 / 21.....	\$22,385.00
T O T A L	March 27 / 28.....	\$12,043.00

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

Mass Intentions

April 10 through April 17, 2021

Divine Mercy Sunday—Vigil on Saturday:

5:00 pm: Linda Arvizu, INT

Divine Mercy Sunday

- *7:30 a.m.: Sr. Elizabeth Cristina, OCD, INT
- 7:30 am: Parishioners
- 9:00 a.m.: Jose Contreras, RIP
- 11:00 a.m.: Joyce Turney, RIP
- 1:00 p.m.: Archbishop Jose Gomez, INT
- 5:00 p.m.: Vivian Mary Rull, RIP

Monday:

- 6:00 a.m.: Mary Rose Go & Patrick Rosal, INT
- *7:30 a.m.: Gabriel Anyanwu & Family, INT
- 8:00 a.m.:** Gonzalo & Daisy Torres, RIP
- 7:00 p.m.: Tom Sullivan, RIP

Tuesday:

- 6:00 a.m.: Angelle Francis Laigo, INT
- *7:30 a.m.: Sr. Elizabeth Cristina, OCD, INT
- 8:00 a.m.:** Gabriel Anyanwu & Family, INT
- 7:00 p.m. (Spanish): OPEN

Wednesday:

- 6:00 a.m.: Thelma M. Piol, B-day INT
- *7:30 am: Joe Roldan, RIP
- 8:00 a.m.: Virgilio B. Odone, B-day INT

Thursday:

- 6:00 a.m.: Beth Lahoz, B-day INT
- *7:30 am: Sr. Cecilia, OCD, INT
- 8:00 a.m.: McAllister Family, INT
- 7:00 p.m.: Irene Montgomery, RIP

Friday:

- 6:00 a.m.: Engracia P. Vales, B-day INT
- *7:30 am: Sr. Cecilia, OCD, INT
- 8:00 a.m.: Adelaida Garza Hernandez, B-day INT

Saturday:

- *7:30 am: Carmelite Community
- 8:00 a.m.: Fr. Albert Bunsic, OCD, INT

*Held at the Carmelite Chapel,
215 East Alhambra Road

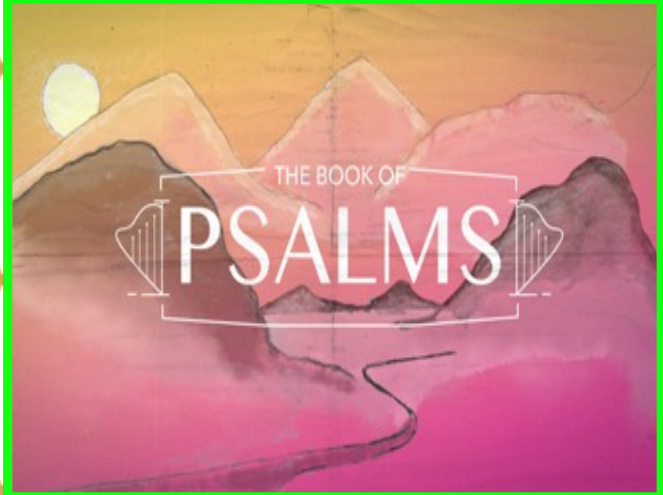
***OPEN TO THE PUBLIC! (Mon-Sat.)**

LIVE STREAMED MASSES:

8:00 a.m. Daily Mass (Monday–Saturday),
11:00 a.m. Sunday Mass and **7:00 p.m.**
Monday and Thursday evening Masses (and
any other special evening Masses) are all
live streamed on Facebook AND YouTube
(for those not attending)—links on our
website’s home page (top left column).

FEAST OF FAITH

The Psalms in the Liturgy



The Book of Psalms is a prayer book, hymnal, and anthology of verse all rolled into one. It contains one hundred fifty ancient songs—poem-prayers that express the joys and sorrows of the Hebrew people and their longing for God. The psalms are incredibly varied in tone. Some are solemn anthems of praise that once accompanied processions of great multitudes to the temple; others record the lonely cries of a faithful soul who feels abandoned by God.

This ancient prayer book of the Hebrew people is our principal prayer book as well. The psalms are everywhere in the liturgy—in the antiphons and acclamations of the Mass, and most particularly in the Responsorial Psalm that follows the first reading. The psalm that is sung at Mass usually echoes the themes of the first reading, and sometimes even comments on it.

In reading the Exodus account of the stubbornness of God’s people in the desert, the psalm comes to remind us: “If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts” (Psalm 95:8). In their wonderful variety, the psalms teach us how to pray.



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Parishioner

WHY IS IT
 A man wakes up after sleeping
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 on an ADVERTISED mattress
 and pulls off ADVERTISED pajamas
 bathes in an ADVERTISED shower
 shaves with an ADVERTISED razor
 brushes his teeth
 with ADVERTISED toothpaste
 washes with ADVERTISED soap
 puts on ADVERTISED clothes
 drinks a cup
 of ADVERTISED coffee
 drives to work
 in an ADVERTISED car
 and then . . .
 refuses to ADVERTISE
 believing it doesn't pay.
 Later if business is poor
 he ADVERTISES it for sale.

WHY IS IT?



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 Your Will.**

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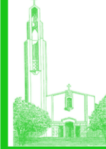
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