

Est. 1924

St. Therese Catholic Church

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

December 8, 2024 1100 East Alhambra Road, Alhambra CA 91801 | (626) 282-2744 | www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org

Second Sunday Of Advent



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,

The Season of Advent has an especially Marian quality to it, in that it is a time of great expectation and hope for the coming of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Mary in her very person is the bearer of hope for a world without hope. We might say that if Advent is about the comings of Christ, it is Our Lady who ushers in these comings by her fiat, her “yes” to God. And in this coming week, we have *three great Marian feasts* that anchor this beautiful season.

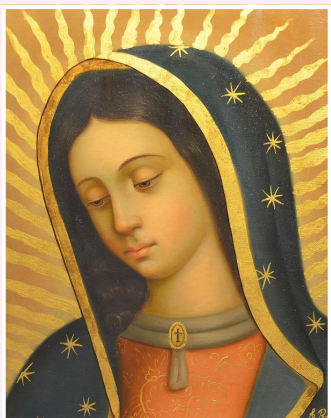
First, we have the patronal feast of our country, the *Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception*, which is observed as a Holy Day of Obligation on December 9th this year because December 8th falls on the Second Sunday of Advent. In this feast, we highlight she who is “full of grace.” Here we see Mary who is pregnant with God in her very being before she is pregnant with God in her womb. Every fiber of her being is filled with God. In this feast, we declare Mary as God’s masterpiece in the created order. As Venerable Archbishop Sheen puts it in his famous book on Our Lady, *The World’s First Love*, she is the “Dream woman before women were, the one whom every heart can say in its depth of depths: ‘She is the woman I love.’”

Then on December 10th, we have the *Memorial of Our Lady of Loreto*. This feast of Our Lady commemorates the famous House of Loreto in Italy, which tradition says is the house of Our Lady. Many saints visited this shrine on pilgrimage including Saints Ignatius Loyola, Francis Xavier, John Berchmans, Stanislaus Kostka, Francis Borgia, Charles Borromeo, Francis of Paula, Francis de Sales, Bernardine of Siena, John of Capistrano, Lawrence of Brindisi, Philip Neri, Camillus de Lellis, Louis Guanella, Robert Bellarmine, Gabriel Possenti, Clement Hofbauer, Brigit of Sweden, Madaleine Sophie Barat, Alphonsus Liguori, Louis Grignon de Montfort, Aloysius Gonzaga, John Bosco, and Therese of Lisieux. St. Therese said upon her visit: “How deep was my emotion when I found myself under the same roof as the Holy Family... I am not at all surprised that the Blessed Virgin chose this spot to transport her blessed house, for here peace, poverty, and joy reign supreme; everything is primitive and simple.” Formerly a Carmelite shrine, Loreto was also the origin of the most famous litany of Our Lady in the Church, the *Litany of Loreto*.



Then finally, dear to so many of us in the Americas, December 12 is the *Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe*. Here, we see Our Lady pregnant and waiting in expectation for the coming of the Christ Child.

Not only does Our Lady reveal herself as expectant with Child, but she is shown blocking the sun god, whom the Aztecs worshipped, and standing on the serpent, yet not pointing to herself but in a posture of prayer wearing the cross of the Christians. Here, Our Lady became mother of all evangelists and patroness of the unborn because, through this miraculous image, she single-handedly turned an entire nation devoutly Catholic and converted around 10 million people from paganism to the true Faith in just ten years’ time.



These three feasts of Our Lady are pivotal in setting the tone for this beautiful season of Advent. Through the intercession of Our Lady, let us also long for and wait in expectation for Christ’s coming into our lives once again!

—Fr. Peter Mary

Fr. Matthias is Here to Give an Advent Mission!



THIS week!

Please join us **THIS WEEK** for this Advent Mission, led by **Fr. Matthias of the Immaculate Heart, OCD**, a former associate. The Mission theme is:

**“Overcoming Obstacles to Divine Intimacy—
Inspired by St. Therese’s Final Passion”**

The Lord will surely grant great graces through this Parish Mission through the intercession of our patroness, St. Therese. The Mission will be held from **Monday evening, December 9, through Thursday evening, December 12**, per the following nightly

SCHEDULE:

"I do not have any other means to prove my love to you, but to throw flowers, that is to let no little sacrifice, no look, no word pass, to take advantage of all the littlest of things and to do them out of love." -St. Therese of Lisieux

- ◆ 6:00 p.m.: Holy Rosary
- ◆ **6:30 p.m.: Holy Mass with Mission Homily**
- ◆ **7:45 p.m.: Holy Hour & *Confessions** (preceded by a brief guided meditation into silence)
- ◆ 8:45 p.m.: Conclusion with Benediction

Special Notes: *On Wednesday, December 11, Confessions will begin at 7:00 p.m., for which there will be several priests available.

On Thursday, December 12, the **Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe**, we will have a Rose Offering and Enrollment in the Brown Scapular.



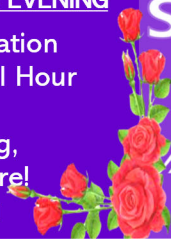
Starts Monday!



DON'T MISS OUT ON GETTING A "GALA OF ROSES" TICKET!

SCHEDULE FOR THE EVENING

- 4:00 p.m. - Registration
- 4:30 p.m. - Cocktail Hour
- 5:30p.m. - Dinner,
Dancing,
and More!
- 9:30 p.m. - Closing



**ST. THERESE CHURCH
100TH ANNIVERSARY**

"Gala of Roses"



After a year of celebrating our hundredth year as a parish, we are preparing for the **CENTENNIAL FINALE, the "GALA OF ROSES" BANQUET** in the Mediterranean Ballroom at Brookside at the Rosebowl (1133 Rosemont Avenue, Pasadena) on **SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 2025!** Don't miss this fabulous Parish Party with your Parish family!

We will have a live band playing music that was popular during many of the decades of our Parish's existence. For the elderly and/or disabled, we will provide **shuttle service** from the parking lot to the Gala's entrance (at arrival only).

Tickets are **\$100 each** (\$1 for each year St. Therese Church in Alhambra has existed!). The deadline to purchase tickets is December 28 or until they are sold out. Tickets can be purchased after selected Masses, in the office during open hours, online by scanning this QR code or by going directly to the link via our website's homepage.



Financial Offerings



November 23 / 24, 2024

Unrestricted.....	\$16,797.00
Restricted	\$ 380.00
T O T A L.....	\$17,177.00

October 26 / 27	\$14,929.00
November 2 / 3	\$25,871.00
November 9/10	\$19,987.00
November 16/17	\$12,421.00

CHECK USERS:
Please use a donation envelope in order to more easily

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



YOUTH! FAMILIES! FR. ROBERT INVITES YOU to the next Cor Jesu Night on Friday, December 13, from 6:15 to 9:00 p.m. See the schedule below:

6:15 PIZZA SOCIAL—Meet in the Hall! We will have pizza at the tables in front.

6:45 PM BREAK OUT INTO CENACLES/GROUPS (1) High School-ers, 2) Middle School-ers (6th, 7th, 8th Grades), 3. *Parents, and 4) *Children)

CARMELITE YOUTH MINISTRY 8:15 PM: HOLY HOUR/CONFESSIONS (ALL are welcome!): Helping youth and their families encounter Jesus (traditional benediction, chants, soft praise, music, Gospel reflection, compline).

*Children from three years through 5th Grade will have the "Virtues in Practice" Program. Parents will break into their own cenacles for reflections on the Sunday Gospels, commitments, intercessory prayer, etc. Bring a Bible and a Rosary! We'll see you there!



Saint Therese Carmelite School
Faith ✦ Academics ✦ Virtue



Interested in joining a poker tournament?
We need a minimum number of committed players to proceed.
Entrance fee will be approximately \$50 (Exact fee TBD)
If you are at all interested, please contact the school!

1106 East Alhambra Road
Alhambra, California 91801

(626) 289-3364
www.SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com

BUY A RAFFLE TICKET FOR A CHANCE TO WIN!



Raffle Tickets to win the above picture (a 15x22" framed and matted print of the original oil painting hanging in the main vestibule of our church) will be sold after all of the weekend Masses (along with the Gala of Roses tickets for our centennial finale on January 11th).

You CAN'T win if you don't take a chance and buy a ticket! They are **\$5 each OR \$20 for FIVE tickets** (a \$5 discount).

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is normally celebrated on December 8, but this year that date falls today, the Second Sunday of Advent. Therefore, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has moved the feast day to **Monday, December 9**; it is still a **holy day of obligation to attend Mass.**

Mass times will be as follows: 6:00 and 8:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. (there is NO vigil, as the evening Mass on Sunday, December 8, is for the 2nd Sunday of Advent).

This special feast is the commemoration of the fact that Mary, *alone of all humans*, was conceived in the womb of her mother, St. Anne, without the stain of original sin on her soul. (Unfortunately, many people—even Catholics—still think the Immaculate Conception is when Jesus was conceived in the womb of the Blessed Virgin.)

Come join us in celebrating this special moment in the life of Mary, kept pure as she had been chosen before the world began to be *the first "tabernacle" of our Divine Savior.*



NEW PARISH MINISTRY: DEUS VOCAT



GOD IS CALLING

After today's Masses, a parish representative from our new ministry, the Deus Vocat Apostolate, ("God is Calling")— will give a short announcement. There will also be a table in front of the church at which you can sign up to pray for vocations and receive a handout.

You can also have a chance to host the pilgrim statue of St. Therese for one-week's time. For more information, call Francisco Alcala at (323) 497-4951 or Marcela Alcala at (626) 940-4899.

JOIN OUR PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO FRANCE NEXT OCTOBER

TWELVE DAYS! September 21 through October 3, 2025

**Chaplains: Fr. Peter Mary Vecellio
Fr. Robert Elias Barcelos**

Join two or our friars and a group of fellow parishioners for this pilgrimage to the home country of our patroness. Three nights in Lourdes, one night in Dijon, five nights in Lisieux, and one night in Paris—with day trips to Mont Saint-Michel, Alençon, Caen, and Langrune. Daily Mass will be celebrated! The cost is \$3,530 per person, not including airfare, which will be secured soon. For more info and to receive an itinerary, call ProRome Tours at (434) 953-1112, E-mail their office@prorome.com, or go to their website at www.prorometours.com/sainttherese/ (you may also click the link on our website home page (right column)).

"In the Footsteps of St. Therese"
St. Therese Parish Pilgrimage to France

REGISTER NOW

September 21 to October 3, 2025

"Let Me Introduce You..." By Fr. Stephen F. Watson OCD



"Praise be Jesus Christ of Nazareth!"

When I was a student at the Universidad de Las Americas in Cholula, Mexico, I could see from my dormitory room balcony four majestic, snowcapped mountains: Popocatepetl, Iztaccihuatl, Citlaltépetl, and Malintzin. Popocatepetl and Citlaltépetl are active volcanoes. The latter is also known as Pico de Orizaba and is the highest mountain in Mexico—over 18,000 feet high—making it the third highest mountain in all of North America. At the base of the mountain is a town called Orizaba. It was there in Orizaba, in the Mexican state of Veracruz, that **Maria Alejandra de Jesus Arenas** was born. This is her story.

Maria Alejandra is one of nine children of Victor Gilberto Arenas and Alicia Maria Guadalupe, OCDS. When Maria Alejandra was three years old, she came to Los Angeles with her mother and two of her brothers. Her father was already working in Los Angeles as a mechanic. Her older sister stayed in Mexico with her grandmother, and the five youngest siblings were born in Los Angeles. The family lived in the Parish of St. Alphonsus

in East Los Angeles. Maria Alejandra went to their Parish School through eighth grade. When her grandmother became ill, Maria Alejandra's mother went back to Mexico to take care of her. When her mother returned to Los Angeles, her firstborn, Norma Alicia Maria, returned with her.

In 1986 the family moved to Pasadena and became active parishioners of St. Andrew. Maria Alejandra's mother used to bring her children to Sacred Heart Retreat House for the New Year's Eve prayer vigil. This is how Maria Alejandra came to know about the Carmelite communities in Alhambra. When her older sister, Norma Alicia, began discerning a religious vocation to be a cloistered Carmelite nun, her mother brought her to visit the Carmelite nuns in Alhambra. Since she still did not speak much English, she was referred to the Carmelite nuns of Cristo Rey Monastery in San Francisco. That community was Spanish-speaking, having been founded by a community of Carmelite nuns who fled Guadalajara during the persecution in the 1920's. This daughter is now named Sister Teresa of the Child Jesus and of the Holy Face, OCD.

As a young adult, Maria Alejandra began working at St. Andrew Parish in the religious education office at the time when Msgr. English was the Pastor. She was there for eight years, from 1992 to 2000. She then worked as the Director of Religious Education (DRE) and the Coordinator of Confirmation at St. Frances Jane Chantal Parish in North Hollywood. Then, from 2003 to 2013, she worked as the DRE under Fr. Dario Miranda at Mother of Sorrows Parish in South Central. After that, she worked for a couple years as a preschool teacher at Blessed Sacrament School in Hollywood, while also being a foster mother.

Always a strong pro-life advocate, Maria Alejandra joined other prayer warriors to do sidewalk counseling at the abortion mill on Rosemead Boulevard. It was there that she met the then-Pastor of St. Therese Church, Fr. Jan Landburg, OCD, who also prayed at that abortion mill. Thanks to her and others persistent prayer warriors from all areas of the L.A. Archdiocese, that abortuary closed in 2011. At the same time, Guadalupe Pregnancy Services (GPS) opened their doors. It was then that Maria Alejandra started coming more often to St. Therese Parish and becoming more involved, including attending the weekly Bible Study classes coordinated by Debbie Robles. By then, she was living in Rosemead.

Maria Alejandra got one of her nieces to send her children to St. Therese School and then began volunteering a lot of her time to the School. She also started helping Noralyn and Denise in the Parish office, especially when they were away. She has been active with the Rosary Makers, the Flame of Love Apostolate, the First Saturday Fatima Devotion, the Lay Missionaries of Charity, and the Altar Society. She also began a devotion to St. Joseph, in which she prepared participants to make a consecration to this glorious saint. Maria Alejandra says: *"All for the greater honor and glory, prayer and praise, blessing and thanksgiving of almighty God—and for the salvation of souls."*

After her mother's death in 2021, she and her brother Victor moved from Rosemead to Arcadia Avenue, a few miles from the Parish. Victor works at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology. For many years, Maria Alejandra used public transportation, i.e., the bus, to get around. Thanks to some generous parishioners, however, she now has a car. Maria Alejandra says of her mother: *"She instilled in me the teachings of the Catholic Faith and the love of Holy Mother Church, mainly by her example in the Spirit of Carmel. Deo Gratia!"*

The Arenas 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.

Mass Intentions

December 7—December 14, 2024

Saturday Evening:

5:00 p.m.: Camille Macedonio, RIP

Sunday

*7:30 a.m.: All Families, INT

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

9:00 a.m.: Parishioners

11:00 a.m.: Gabriel Avalos, RIP

1:00 p.m. (Latin): Cailan Family, INT

5:00 p.m.: Lori Ann Rios, INT

Monday:

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

*7:30 a.m.: Paul Saucillo, INT

8:00 a.m.: Vanessa McDonnell, INT

7:15 p.m.: Mark Grobarek, RIP

Tuesday:

6:00 a.m.: Jessie Gerber, INT

*7:30 a.m.: All Mothers & Grandmothers, INT-RIP

8:00 a.m.: Atlas Chambliss, INT

7:15 p.m. (Span): Arnoldo Trejos Caldera, RIP

Wednesday:

6:00 a.m.: Howard Duff, INT

*7:30 a.m.: Bess Tuan, INT

8:00 a.m.: McAllister Family, INT

Thursday:

6:00 a.m.: Gonzalo & Daisy Torres, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Linda Allison & Family, INT

8:00 a.m.: Barbara Fuehls & Family, INT

Friday:

6:00 a.m.: Lourdes Lao, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Th'gvg for God's Gift of Life

8:00 a.m.: Jorge & Genoveva Boco, RIP

Saturday (Morning):

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

St. John Paul II OCDS Group

8:00 a.m.: David Holman, Birthday INT

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

*Open to the public except on Sundays and some 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

PILGRIMAGE TO PORTUGAL, SPAIN, FRANCE, AND ITALY with Fr. Julius Ntalo, OCD:

Join this 14-day pilgrimage from July 11 to 24, 2025, to all four countries listed above. For more info and to receive an itinerary, contact ABM Tours at 310-514-3323 or 408-903-6305 or maddatubeth2@gmail.com. See more info at abmtours.com.

ST. TERESE PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO FRANCE

with Fr. Peter Mary & Fr. Robert from Sept 21 to Oct 3, 2025. For info, go to <https://prorometours.com/sainttherese/> or contact ProRome Tours at (434) 953-1112 or office@prorome.com. **THIRTY-FIVE PARISHIONERS have already signed up!**

