

Est. 1924

St. Therese Catholic Church

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

January 5, 2025 | 1100 East Alhambra Road, Alhambra CA 91801 | (626) 282-2744 | www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org



They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother. They prostrated themselves and did Him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh (Matthew 2:10-11).

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 theme for the Church's Jubilee Year of 2025 is "Pilgrims of Hope." And we, as believers in the 21st century, are certainly not the first pilgrims of hope. This weekend and on January 6th, we celebrate some of the first pilgrims of hope, the Wise Men, as they journeyed to discover the greatest hope of all mankind, the Christ Child.

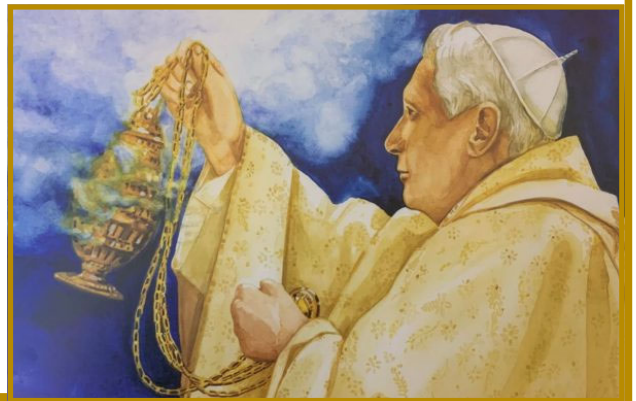
Below is a reflection by **Pope Benedict XVI** on these Magi pilgrims and the Epiphany of Our Lord given at World Youth Day in Cologne in 2005.

"The Magi set out because of a deep desire which prompted them to leave everything and begin a journey. It was as though they had always been waiting for that star. It was as if the journey had always been a part of their destiny, and was finally about to begin. Like the Magi, all believers—and young people in particular—have been called to set out on the journey of life in search of truth, justice and love. We must seek this star, we must follow it. The ultimate goal of the journey can only be found through an encounter with Christ, an encounter which cannot take place without faith.

"The Magi from the East are just the first in a long procession of men and women who have constantly tried to gaze upon God's star in their lives, going in search of the God who has drawn close to us and shows us the way. The new King, to whom they paid homage, was quite unlike what they were expecting. In this way they had to learn that God is not as we usually imagine Him to be.

"Dear friends, this is not a distant story that took place long ago. It is with us now. Here in the Sacred Host He is present before us and in our midst. As at that time, so now He is mysteriously veiled in a sacred silence; as at that time, it is here that the true face of God is revealed. For us He became a grain of wheat that falls on the ground and dies and bears fruit until the end of the world.

"On their homeward journey, the Magi surely had to deal with dangers, weariness, disorientation, doubts. The star was no longer there to guide them! The light was now within them. Their task was to guard and nourish it in the constant memory of Christ, of His Holy Face, of His ineffable Love. May Jesus, the face of the merciful Lord for every person, continue to light our way, like the star that guided the Magi, and fill us with His joy."



A Blessed Epiphany to you all!

May you follow the star that God sends you to find the Hope and the Desire of All Nations!

—Fr. Peter Mary





New Centennial Statue!

Dear Parishioners of St. Therese,
You've probably noticed the bare front corner at Alhambra Road and El Molino Street. This area has been cleared to prepare for a glorious five-foot tall marble statue of St. Therese, which was donated by a generous benefactor in honor of our Centennial Year as a parish.

It is a **replica of the statue outside of the Carmelite Monastery in Lisieux, France**; it will stand atop a three-foot high granite pedestal. Surrounding the statue will be a new rose garden complete with a bench for meditation. Let us remember to thank God and pray for our benefactors! —Fr. Peter Mary

"Mystery of the Church" Classes with Fr. Stephen

Fr. Stephen will be "back in class" on **Tuesdays, January 14 and 28** (7:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the Parish Center). The theme for January 14 will be **"The Church of the Saints and the Saints of the Church: The Universal Call to Holiness."**

The Lord Jesus, the divine Teacher and Model of all perfection, preached holiness of life to each and every one of His disciples of every condition. Thus, all the faithful of Christ, of whatever rank or status, are called to the fullness of the Christian life and to the perfection of charity. By this holiness, a more human manner of living is promoted in this earthly society (Lumen Gentium, chapter 5, No. 40).

How do we become holy?

PARISH CONSECRATION TO THE HOLY EUCHARIST

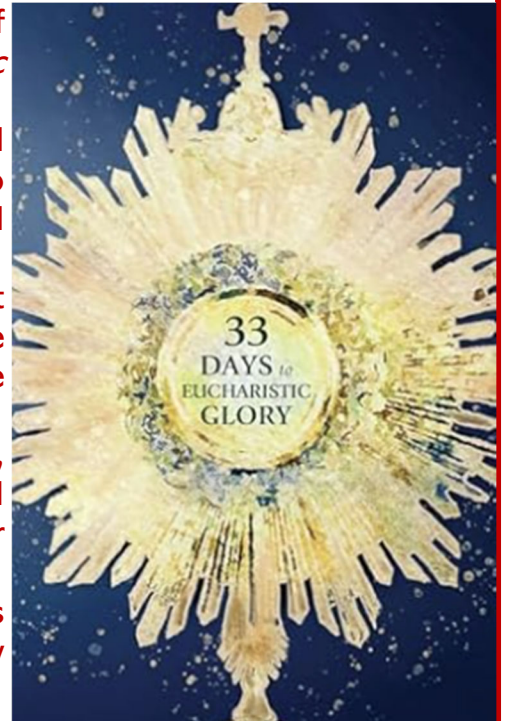
Last week, St. Therese Parish gave away free copies of Matthew Kelly's award-winning book, *"33 Days to Eucharistic Glory."*

If you took one of the books, we encourage you to read and discuss one chapter of this book each day (just two to three pages). The goal is for each person to grow in faith and get closer to Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

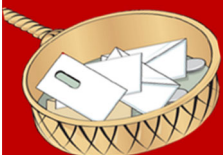
After each of the Masses on **Sunday, February 2**, the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus, the priests will invite all those who would like to consecrate themselves to Jesus in the Eucharist to come forward and pray the consecration prayer.

Together we will invite Jesus to help us love Him more, encourage others to love Him more, and become empowered to share the truth about the "Source and Summit" of our Faith.

If you didn't receive a copy of the booklet, check the tables by the church doors or call the office to see if there are any remaining copies.



Financial Offerings



December 14 / 15, 2024

Unrestricted.....	\$18,201.00
Restricted	\$ 269.00
T O T A L.....	\$18,470.00

November 16/17	\$12,421.00
November 23/24	\$17,177.00
Nov. 30 / Dec. 1	\$26,715.00
December 7 / 8	\$21,818.00

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



Saint Theresse Carmelite School

Faith Academics Virtue

Deeply rooted in Carmelite spirituality, Saint Theresse Carmelite School, united with our parents who are the primary educators of their children, seeks to form students in faith, academics, and virtue through a Classical education.



Open House

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26

10 AM-3 PM

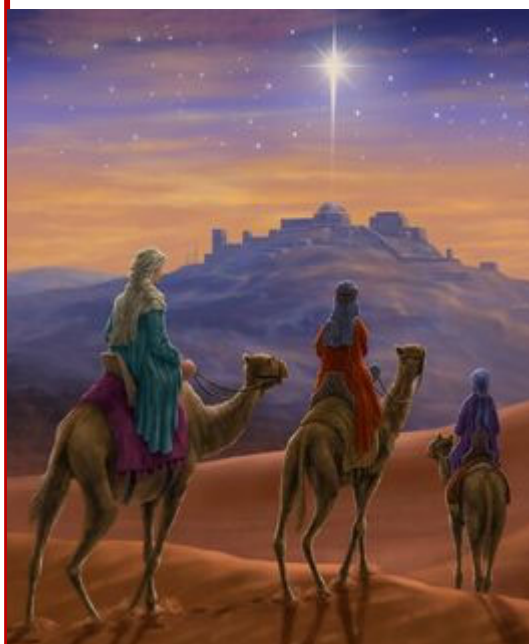
TK-8TH GRADE



1106 EAST ALHAMBRA ROAD, ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91801

"Living as Bearers of the Light of Christ"

Today, we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, a moment when Christ's light was revealed to the nations through the visit of the Magi. The prophecy in Isaiah 60 proclaims, **"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you."** The Magi, drawn by the star, represent all the peoples of the earth who are called to follow the light of Christ. They offered gold, frankincense, and myrrh—gifts symbolizing Christ's kingship, divinity, and His ultimate sacrifice. The gold acknowledges Him as King, the frankincense honors His divinity, and the myrrh foreshadows His suffering and death for our salvation. Yet, the true treasure in this story is the Magi's faith-filled journey to seek and adore the Savior. Their story reminds us that God's revelation is not limited to one people but is a universal call to all who are open to His light.



The Epiphany invites us to reflect on how we seek Christ in our own lives. Do we journey with purpose, like the Magi, overcoming obstacles to follow His light? In Ephesians, St. Paul emphasizes that Christ's mystery is now revealed to all people, uniting us as co-heirs in God's promise. The psalm beautifully expresses that Christ's reign brings justice, peace, and care for the poor and afflicted. This feast challenges us to embody the gifts we bring to the Lord—not gold or incense—but our hearts, our talents, and our willingness to serve others. **Like the Magi, let us be transformed by the encounter with Christ and return to our daily lives "by another route," living as bearers of His light in the world.**

BUY A RAFFLE TICKET FOR A CHANCE TO WIN!



The Parish Office is selling the Raffle Tickets during regular hours through January 10. Get yours and take a chance to win the 15"x22" framed and matted print of the original oil painting hanging in the main vestibule of our church—shown here.

The winning name will be drawn at the Gala of Roses dinner. 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).

CENTENNIAL FINALE: ORGAN CONCERT!

Join us as we conclude our 100th anniversary year and the Christmas season with an **ORGAN CONCERT** performed on our 72-



rank Wicks/Schantz Pipe Organ by Julliard-trained organist and head of music ministry at Christ Cathedral in Garden Grove: **David Ball!**

This free concert will be held on **Sunday, January 12, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, at 7:30 p.m. in the church.**

A Cheese and Wine Reception will follow in the Guadalupe Courtyard.



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

"Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Matthew 11:28

"If you ate only one meal a week would you survive? It is the same for your soul. Nourish it with the Blessed Sacrament."

- St. André Bessette (Aug. 1845-Jan. 1937)

St. André Bessette was known for his devotion to St. Joseph and was the patron of the sick, the poor, and the disabled. He was the eighth of twelve children born to a French Canadian couple near Montreal. Sickness and weakness dogged André from birth. At 25, St. André joined the Congregation of Holy Cross. After a year's novitiate, he was given the humble job of doorkeeper at Notre Dame College. He became known as the "Miracle Man of Montreal," and thousands of miraculous healings were attributed to his intercession over the following decades.

St. André led weekly Stations of the Cross and a Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration in the small chapel. So great was his love for the Blessed Sacrament that he often spent his nights in prayer before Jesus. His bedroom, in which he cared for the sick and dying throughout the night, overlooked the chapel. He cut out a window in his room so he could look at the tabernacle and pray to Him day and night.

St. André was inspired to found a shrine to St. Joseph across the street from Notre Dame College. The magnificent Oratory on Mount Royal took 50 years to build. It attracts more than two million visitors a year. The side chapels are filled with the crutches of people healed through St. André's prayers.

Be a Committed Adorer: Sign up by scanning this QR code with your phone!

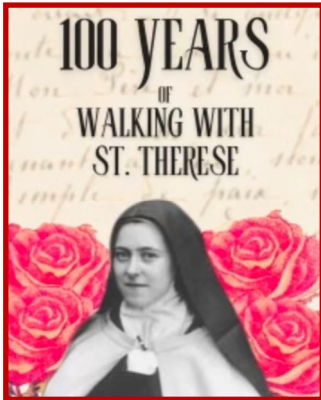


"Now That You've Been Introduced..." By Fr. Stephen F. Watson OCD

The Mickey Mouse Club is part of the hard drive of baby boomers, of whom I am one. Its Alma Mater concluded each afternoon show. I couldn't get its tune out of my head as I wrote this last column for "Let Me Introduce You..." to conclude a year of telling the stories about our families here at St. Therese. Jimmie Dobbs, the Head Mouseketeer, would often expound on a proverb from the Bible and explain its value in everyday life. I'll do the same here.

Come along and sing our song,
And join our family, St. Therese...
Now it's time to say goodbye,
To all our company, St. Therese...
(Adapted from the M.M. Club Alma Mater)

"My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not thy mother's teaching. Bind them always over your heart and fasten them around your neck. When you walk, they will guide you. When you sleep, they will watch over you. And when you awake, they will talk with you" (Proverbs 6:20-22).



Culture and civilization need continuity with the past to grow and flourish. Continuity is not a slavish adherence to the way things were done by our parents. It is, however, a reverent regard for our parents and what they passed on to us. Jesus says that one who is instructed about the Kingdom of Heaven is like a householder who brings out of His treasure things new and old (Matt.13:52). Everyday we learn about some new thing, whether it be the latest phone, fashion, song, or diet. The temptation is to forget or disregard the past—and even the stories of our ancestors. There should be, at the very least, remembrance and reverence for those who have lived before us. True, "the times, they are a'changin'," but, perhaps, we need to put the brakes on. We are so inundated by information and new things that we barely have time to get to know ourselves and others. Today, there is a longing to be connected with others and to belong to a place. People have no place to simply be together. Cyberspace is not real. Even the family hardly exists as a place. Gerard

Manley Hopkins' poem, *The Leaden Echo and the Golden Echo*, comes to mind. Let me share an excerpt:

The Leaden Echo: *How to keep—is there any any, is there none such, nowhere known some, bow or brooch or braid or brace, láce, latch or catch or key to keep, Back beauty, keep it, beauty, beauty, beauty . . . from vanishing away?*

The Golden Echo: *There is one, yes I have one (Hush there!); Only not within seeing of the sun, Not within the singeing of the strong sun.... Óne. Yes I can tell such a key, I do know such a place,*

Where whatever's prized and passes of us, everything that's fresh and fast flying of us, seems to us sweet of us... Give beauty back, beauty, beauty, beauty, back to God, beauty's self and beauty's giver...

When the thing we freely forfeit is kept with fonder a care, Fonder a care kept than we could have kept it, (and we, we should have lost it)....

Where kept? Do but tell us where kept, where.— Yonder.—What high as that! We follow, now we follow.— Yonder, yes yonder, yonder, yonder.

The place where our past, present and future is kept is Yonder, or, as it is said in Spanish, *más allá del sol*. We are pilgrims heading to the Promised Land. We journey together in faith. We are not saved merely as individuals but as part of the Family of God. He does not make us holy and save us without a bond or link between one another (Lumen Gentium, No. 9).

This past year I have written about forty-nine Parish families (twenty-three of whom are coming to the Gala on January 11!). Often, when I approached someone to ask if I could write the story about their family, I would be told that there was nothing to write about. Au contraire, each family, and yes, each individual person, is a page of salvation history. The stories shared in this bulletin are like windows into the workshop of God.

I thank all of you who have shared with the Parish a glimpse of your lives and families. Let us grow in appreciation of our own stories and not forget the past. Let us make our Parish a great congregation of families who come to this sacred place to worship God, together as many families forming One Family connected to a place and to one another for the salvation of our souls. See you at the Gala on Saturday!

Through the years we'll all be Friends
Wherever we may be...
T-H-E ... R-E-S-E ... C-H-U-R-C-H...
St. Therese, St. Therese...
Forever let us hold our banners h i g h !
(Adapted from the M.M. Club Alma Mater)

Mass Intentions

January 4—11, 2025

Saturday Evening:

5:00 p.m.: Cathy Herrera, INT

Sunday

*7:30 a.m.: Deceased Religious, Relatives, and Benefactors of the Carmel of St. Teresa

7:30 a.m.: Cheah & Goh Families, INT

9:00 a.m.: Rosa Lopez, RIP

11:00 a.m.: Lourdes Lao, RIP

1:00 p.m. (Latin): Parishioners

5:00 p.m.: Olive & Carlos Pasumbal, INT

Monday:

6:00 a.m.: Park Ho Soon Maria, RIP

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

8:00 a.m.: Nathan Coyle, Birthday INT

7:15 p.m.: Fred Escobedo, INT

Tuesday:

6:00 a.m.: Teddy Yang, INT

*7:30 a.m.: Fr. Stephen Watson, OCD, INT

8:00 a.m.: Bill Vosque, INT

7:15 p.m.: Eileen Acheson, INT

Wednesday:

6:00 a.m.: Charleen Alexander, RIP

7:30 a.m.: Peace in All Nations, INT

8:00 a.m.: Mary Frances Magaña, INT

Thursday:

6:00 a.m.: Sebastian Acheson-Phillips, INT

*7:30 am: All Humanity | Th'gvg for God's Creation

8:00 a.m.: Catherine Yong Yik Khean, RIP

Friday:

6:00 a.m.: Souls in Purgatory

*7:30 a.m.: Alvin Cailan, Birthday INT

8:00 a.m.: Rick Mazzone & Daniel Dela Torre, RIP

Saturday (Morning):

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

8:00 a.m.: Virgilio Lopez, RIP

***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

SPECIAL PILGRIMAGE FOR THOSE WHO ATTEND THE LATIN MASS! Fr. James O'Reilly FSSP, of St. Vitus Catholic Church in Northridge, will lead a Footsteps of St. Paul Pilgrimage to Greece and Turkey from May 9th to May 20th, 2025. This will be an opportunity to visit the places to which St. Paul journeyed. There will be a guided tour, and Fr. O'Reilly will offer the Traditional Latin Mass each day. **DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS JANUARY 9** (STC just received this info). For more info, go to www.stcharlespilgrimages.com/oreilly

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.

