

St. Therese Catholic Church

Est. 1924



December 24, 2023 510 North El Molino Street | Alhambra CA 91801 | (626) 282-2744 | www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org



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

(*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.

Note: The daily 8:00 a.m., Monday 7:15 p.m., and

Sunday 11:00 a.m., Masses are all

LIVE STREAMED on Facebook AND YouTube.

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.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

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 Joseph Mizerski | Deacon Gilbert Vargas | Deacon Otto Lacayo: 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

Music Director: Andrew Coyne | Andrew.Coyne1@gmail.com

Respect Life Ministry: Catherine Contreras X 1+112

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
He was in the beginning with God.
All things came to be through Him,
and without Him nothing came to be.
What came to be through Him was life,
and this life was the light of the human race;
the light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.
The true light, which enlightens everyone,
was coming into the world.
(John 1:1-5, 9)

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

The Real Meaning of Christmas

My Dear Parishioners of St. Therese,

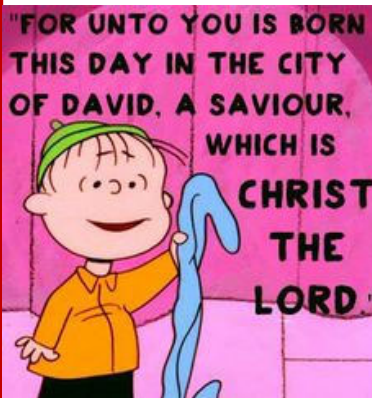
I wish you all a Blessed rest of Advent AND a Blessed Christmas!

This is the time of the year to focus on how Christ comes into our lives anew. When I was living in Uganda a few years back, I had the privilege of baptizing ten little babies and children at a Mass on Gaudete Sunday. And what a time for rejoicing to see Christ coming in a very real way into the lives of those innocent children! Just as Christ came into our lives at baptism, so He wants to come into them again—but in an even deeper way right now. **And isn't this what Christmas is all about?** Not that we have all our gifts wrapped. Or that all our lights and decorations are in place. Or even that we have the Christmas crib ready and waiting for the Christ Child. The more essential question is: **"Are our hearts ready and waiting for Christ to find a new home there?"**



Uganda is clearly not as materially rich as the U.S. or as the West in general, but it *is* rich in spirit. And my time there made me reconsider what is most essential in the Christmas season. We in the West are so used to being distracted and even exhausted by the worldly enticements of Christmas. In fact, we might even go so far as to say that it is not Christmas without this or that "thing." But if we think of that first Christmas in Bethlehem, it was so simple, so poor, and yet so rich in spirit. It was truly **"O Holy Night."** All of us could benefit from trying to simplify our Christmas celebrations so that Christ finds space in our hearts and minds to be filled with Him. Then we can bring Christ to others and become Christ for others. One of my favorite programs as a child, **"A Charlie Brown Christmas,"** really sums up the true meaning of Christmas.

After experiencing the commercialization of Christmas, Charlie Brown exclaims:



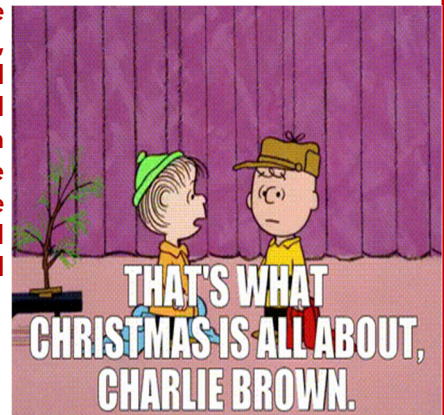
Charlie Brown: "I guess you were right, Linus. I shouldn't have picked this little tree. Everything I do turns into a disaster. I guess I don't really know what Christmas is all about. **ISN'T THERE ANYONE WHO KNOWS WHAT CHRISTMAS IS ALL ABOUT?!**"

Linus: "Sure, Charlie Brown, I can tell you what Christmas is all about (walks to center stage). Lights, please. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, 'Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all

people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.'"

Linus then walks off the stage and stops at Charlie Brown.

Linus: "That's what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown."



May Our Blessed Lord shower you and your families with His special blessings this Christmas season!

Fr. Peter Mary, O.C.D.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE

Merry Christmas from the Friars and the Staff!

Masses for the Solemnity of Christmas

+Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24:
7:30 p.m. AND *Midnight

*Note: Carols will begin at 11:30 p.m.

Christmas Day, Monday, December 25:

7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.,
and 1:00 p.m. Latin High Mass

(NO 5:00 p.m. Mass on Christmas Day)



Masses for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

+Vigil Mass on Sunday, December 31: 5:00 p.m.

+Note: The *morning* Masses on Sunday, December 31,
are for the Feast of the Holy Family.



Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

+Monday, January 1:

8:00 and 10:00 a.m. and 7:15 p.m.

(NO 6:00 a.m. Mass on New Year's Day)

+Note: Because this feast falls on a
Monday, the *obligation* to attend
Mass has been abrogated.



DINNER AND DANCE Shake, Rattle, & Roll! Dance to the Music of the 50's & 60's!

All are invited to attend this fabulous dinner / dance in the Parish Hall on **Saturday, January 13, from 6:30 to 11:00 p.m.** The fee of \$40 per person includes a delicious buffet dinner of Caesar salad, roast beef and gravy, mashed potatoes and sauteed vegetables, chicken breast with Marsala wine sauce, mushrooms and sun-dried tomatoes, Atlantic salmon with lemon butter sauce, penne pasta with vegetables and Alfredo sauce, and dessert. **Dinner will be served only from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.**

There will be a 50/50 game and raffle AND a **special one hour live show featuring "ELVIS"**! All proceeds will go towards the remodel of the Parish Hall kitchen. Tickets available at the school and church offices or call (626) 533-4839 (school reopens January 3rd).



Save the Date

Saturday, January 13, 2024

Shake Rattle & Roll



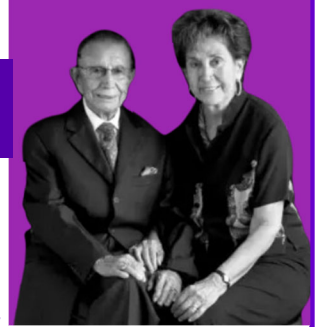
"LET ME INTRODUCE YOU"... By Fr. Stephen F. Watson, OCD

A NEW FEATURE IN THE BULLETIN IN HONOR OF OUR PARISH CENTENNIAL

On Christmas Day 1924, the Parish of St. Therese was formally established and the first parish Mass was celebrated. One of the ways we want to observe the parish's centennial year now underway is to write about YOU, our parishioners, in this weekly parish bulletin. Each family has a story about faith, love, and commitment. I would like to tell your story in 500 words or less. This will be no more than a brief sketch. For example: "How long has your family been in the Parish? How many children are there in your family? What are some of your memorable experiences in the Parish?" I enjoyed doing this 25 years ago in preparation for St. Therese's Parish Diamond Jubilee. I hope you will catch the spirit of preparing for our 100th anniversary. It is a great opportunity for all of us to grow in our faith. Below is the first entry, focusing on **Estela Robles and her family**:

"The best decision I ever made was to become a Catholic."

This is how Estela Robles spoke of her decision to become a Catholic in 1974.



The words in the box above are those used to start the bulletin story I wrote 25 years ago about the Robles family. I return to this family as we begin preparation for the Parish Centennial celebration. On December 8, Fr. David and I joined the Robles family at Forest Lawn in Glendale to pray for and remember Mauro Robles, the patriarch of the Robles family. Don Mauro, who died in May of 2022, would have been 100 years old this month. After praying at the cemetery, the family gathered at the family home on Halsted Circle, a few blocks from St. Therese, their parish church. It has been the family home since 1964. The house was built in 1924, the year St. Therese Parish was established. Mauro and Estella raised five children: Marisela, Ricardo, Rene, Marina, and Jacqueline, who all graduated from St. Therese School. There are now 15 grandchildren—many of whom also went to St. Therese School—and 16 great grandchildren. The five children of Mauro and Estela are members of St. Therese Parish. What is even more remarkable: all five live in St. Therese Parish. Ricardo and his wife Debbie live in the family home with Estela.

Estela was born in Jalisco, Mexico. The family had returned there from California when the Great Depression hit this country in 1929 but decided to move back to California in 1933. After several years of working for others, Estela's father, Jose Arellano, had a chance to buy a little tortilla-making business in East Los Angeles. The year was 1951. But he needed the help of a strong, young man to run the business. He hired Mauro Robles, who was from El Teul, Zacatecas. Mauro Robles was an ambitious young man. Estela says he used to tell his co-workers that one day they would need to make an appointment to see him. It used to make Estela laugh to hear Mauro talk that way.

In 1954, Mauro married Estela. In 1955, he decided to start his own business. It was still the "rolling pin days" of making tortillas. But Mauro saw great potential in the business as Americans were eating more and more Mexican food. He investigated methods for speeding production and discovered a machine used by commercial bread companies and adapted it to mass-produce tortillas. This was a production shortcut never used before by tortilla makers. On May 4, 1958, Mauro opened a small tortilla factory in East Los Angeles and gave it the name "La Reina." Through hard work and innovative planning, La Reina grew to become a prosperous family enterprise.

The involvement of the Robles family in the Church can be attributed to Estela's love of the Faith. When Estela had her own children at St. Therese School, she used to accompany them to church. "I always left the church with peace in my heart," she said. "What is it about the Catholic Church?" she wondered. She decided to look more seriously into the Catholic Faith. Fr. John Lysaught, OCD, answered her questions and gave her instructions. Seeing that Estela was bewildered by the multiplicity of religions and the seeming complexity of many doctrines, he told her she should seek the Infinite God. This had the effect of easing all her fears and confusion. She marvels at the beauty of the Catholic religion. "I am learning new things about it all the time, and it really keeps me alive," she said. She has discovered that this "something" that gave her so much peace when she went to church was the Mass and Holy Communion. "It is something very special for me."

The Robles family is close-knit. They come together on all occasions. It was a delight to be with them to celebrate Don Mauro's 100th birthday. All his children were there. So were many grandchildren and even great grandchildren. Ricardo, Mauro and Estela's oldest son, is now the CEO of La Reina. Their daughter Jacqueline is the President and runs the day-to-day operations. Rene also works full-time at La Reina. Ricardo's wife, Debbie, for several years ran the Bible Study at St. Therese Parish. The real "Reina" of the Robles family is Estela, the guardian and protector of her family's faith.

The Robles family is part of the marvelous history of St. Therese Parish.

Saint Therese Carmelite School

Deeply rooted in Carmelite spirituality, Saint Therese 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 21

10 AM-3 PM

TK-8TH GRADE



Saint Therese Carmelite School is first and foremost a Catholic school. Saint Therese Carmelite School educates students through the Catholic Classical model of education to equip our students with the logic, critical thinking, and language skills necessary to succeed throughout their lives.

- Full 6-year WASC/ WCEA Accreditation
- Classical curriculum
- Weekly Mass
- Monthly Confession
- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
- Latin for 3rd-8th grade
- Euclidean geometry
- All-school choir
- Fine arts
- CYO sports
- After-school daycare

Give them the necessary skills for high school and beyond!

Our middle school program focuses on providing our students with the critical thinking, self-discipline, and independent drive necessary to succeed in a rigorous high school program.



Come and see what our program is about!

1106 EAST ALHAMBRA ROAD, ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91801

Safeguard the Children - Did You Know?



What is a trial balloon? One of the best ways safe adults can help children who are suffering from abuse is to recognize and listen to their disclosures—even if they are done in stages or in subtle ways.

A child may float a “trial balloon” disclosure, meaning he may use a single sentence or phrase to see if a safe adult will respond appropriately. Be on the lookout for sudden disclosures like, “I don’t want to go to So-and-so’s house anymore,” and try responding in a way designed to let the child continue to open up: “Do you want to tell me why?” or “Let’s talk about that,” for example. **For more information, read the VIRTUS® article “Test Balloons or Trial Balloons” at lacatholics.org/did-you-know/.**

ONGOING MEETINGS AND MINISTRIES

AVILA YOUNG ADULT GROUP (Ages 21—39, singles/couples): For more info, go to Avila Outreach on Facebook OR contact the Coordinator, Blake Taylor, at AvilaYoungAdults@gmail.com.

DETENTION MINISTRY: A program for those 21 and older to visit youth in the Juvenile Detention Center in detention in L.A. To sign up or for more info, contact Tom Bleich at tobleich@mac.com

EnCOURAGE: Standing fully by the teachings of the Church, this group of faithful Catholic parents support one another and their loved ones with same sex attraction, through discussion, prayer, fellowship and sacrifice. Meets monthly with a chaplain in a safe and confidential setting. For more info, contact: **-EnCourage for parents** at EnCourage.LosAngeles@gmail.com; OR **-Courage LA for persons struggling with same sex attraction** at CourageCA.LosAngeles@gmail.com).

FIRST SATURDAYS DEVOTION: This group was formed, in response to Our Lady’s requests at Fatima, to honor and make reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Join us **after the 8:00 a.m. Mass every first Saturday of each month** to pray the Rosary and meditate for 15 minutes. For any questions, please leave your contact information for Maria Alejandra at the parish offices.

FLAME OF LOVE: Learn about the Blessed Mother’s messages of grace to seer Elizabeth Kindelmann. Two cenacle sessions are available in the Avila Room **every Monday—one from Noon to 2:00 p.m., the other one from 5:00 to 6:45 p.m.** The Flame of Love books are available for sale in the parish offices. If you have any questions, please contact Maru Lazatin at (626) 675-3080.

GPS (GPS-Guadalupe Pregnancy Services): Assists mothers from “Pregnancy to Preschool”. Phone/Text: (626) 238-5476.

HEALING PRAYER MINISTRY: Teams of Lay people trained in Healing Ministry pray for your healing. **Held after the Monday evening Mass in the church.** They also offer private in-person sessions, phone sessions, and are available for outside events. For more info, send an email to: HpmStc1@gmail.com.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: A fraternal order of Catholic men (18 or over) looking to strengthen their faith through serving the Church and community. Call the Alhambra Grand Knight at (888) 869-3124.

ROSARY MAKERS: This group makes rosaries to be sent to Catholics in third-world countries. Sessions are held on **Mondays from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.** in the Avila Room of the Parish Offices. All are welcome to join!

SPANISH PRAYER GROUP: A Spanish prayer group within the community of St. Therese that unites in prayer for the purpose of serving God and the priests and families of St. Therese. The group also trains intercessors committed to serving St. Therese Church. **Meets at 6 p.m. on Tuesday evenings.** For more info, call Adriana Valle at (323) 448-5316.

ST. JOSEPH PRAYER GROUP: Meets **in the church every Wednesday at 3:00 p.m.** to pray for peace and justice issues in our community and around the world. For more info, call Lucy at (626) 281-3706.

WOMEN’S RETREAT: Annual weekend retreat for women **held during Lent** at El Carmelo Carmelite Retreat House in Redlands, California. Contact the Captain, Louisa Day, at (323) 360-5186.

Mass Intentions

December 23—December 30, 2023

Saturday Evening (Vigil for the 4th Sun. of Advent):

5:00 p.m.: Nilda Lacangan, Birthday INT

Sunday Morning (4th Sunday of Advent):

*7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Nuns Christmas Novena #9

7:30 a.m.: Pacifico & Flaviana Lim, RIP

9:00 a.m.: Parishioners

11:00 a.m.: Francis Goh, Birthday INT

1:00 p.m. (Latin): Molly Lynch, RIP

Sunday Evening—Christmas Eve:

*6:00 p.m.: (private) Nina Cox & Lisa Losorelli, INT

7:30 p.m.: Mary DeSantis, RIP

Midnight: Thompson Family, INT

Monday—Christmas Day:

7:30 a.m.: Maryann Losorelli, INT

9:00 a.m.: Archbishop Jose Gomez, INT

*9:30 a.m. (private for Nuns): Cailan Family, INT

11:00 a.m.: All Souls in Purgatory

1:00 p.m. (Latin): Arenas-Ortega Family, INT

Tuesday

6:00 a.m.: Christmas Novena 1

*7:30 a.m.: Maria and her children, INT

8:00 a.m.: Archbishop Jose Gomez, INT

7:15 p.m.: Victoriano Seguerva, RIP

Wednesday:

6:00 a.m.: Augustine Goh, RIP

*7:30 am: Maria Danh Phan & Family, INT

8:00 a.m.: Christmas Novena 2

Thursday

6:00 a.m.: Clyde Sookhan, Birthday INT

*7:30 am: Christmas Novena 3

8:00 a.m.: Ray & Nicole Tittmann, 26th Anniv INT

Friday:

6:00 a.m.: Christmas Novena 4

*7:30 a.m.: Therese Quynh Anh & Family, INT

8:00 a.m.: Linda Kay Hesse, RIP

Saturday Morning:

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

8:00 a.m.: Eddie Sepulveda, RIP

***Held at the Cloistered Carmelite Chapel located at 215 East Alhambra Road.**

Open to the public except on holidays every day except Sundays and holidays.

LIVE STREAMED MASSES:

The 8:00 a.m. Daily Mass (Monday—Saturday), the 11:00 a.m. Sunday Mass, and the 7:15 p.m. Monday evening Mass are live streamed on Facebook AND YouTube. Links to those two sites are on our website's home page (in the top left column).

January Movie Night

Mark your calendars for our next Family Movie Night on Saturday, January 6. We will feature the beloved classic, "It's a Wonderful Life."



Healing Prayer Ministry



The St. Therese Healing Prayer Ministry will be unavailable from December 18th thru January 1st. We will resume on Monday, January 8th, after the 7:15 p.m. Mass. If prayer is needed, send an email to hpmstc1@gmail.com.

"ALL THE ENDS OF THE EARTH HAVE SEEN THE SAVING POWER OF GOD"

RESPONSORIAL

PSALM 98:1