

St. Therese Catholic Church



January 4, 2026 1100 East Alhambra Road, Alhambra CA 91801 (Office: 510 North El Molino Street) | (626) 282-2744 | www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org

Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord



"They saw the Child with Mary, His mother,
and they knelt and paid Him homage."

— Matthew 2:11

Christ Revealed to the Nations

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
(*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

Fr. David Guzman, OCD X 1+232

In Residence: Fr. Albert Bunsic, OCD, Fr. Stephen Watson, OCD

(X 1+226), Fr. Raymond Bueno, OCD (X 1+222),

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 | stcreligiouslyed7@gmail.com

Music Director: Charlotte Lansberg X 1+112 | credochoir1@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

PASTOR'S COLUMN

Dear Parishioners of St. Therese,

I wish you all a very Blessed and Happy New Year! Today is the Solemnity of the Epiphany. Let us reflect together on Pope Benedict XVI's words for this feast.

Fr. Peter Mary Vecellio, OCD

Follow the Way Which Leads to the Child of Bethlehem by Pope Benedict XVI

Dear Brothers and Sisters, for the Church which believes and prays, the Wise Men from the East are only the beginning of a great procession which winds throughout history. Thus, we read in today's Gospel about the journey of the Wise Men, as well as the 60th chapter from Isaiah and Psalm 71, about the magnificent prophetic visions which depict the pilgrimage of the peoples to Jerusalem. Like the shepherds, who as the first visitors to the newborn Child in the manger, embodied the poor of Israel and more generally those humble souls who live in deep interior closeness to Jesus, so the men from the East embody the Church of the Gentiles—the men and women who in every age set out on the way which leads to the Child of Bethlehem. The Church calls this feast “Epiphany”—the appearance of the Godhead. If we consider the fact that from the very beginning, men and women of every place, from all the different cultures, mentalities, and lifestyles, have been on the way to Christ, then we can truly say that this pilgrimage and this encounter with God, in the form of a Child, is an epiphany of God's goodness and loving kindness for humanity (Titus 3:4).

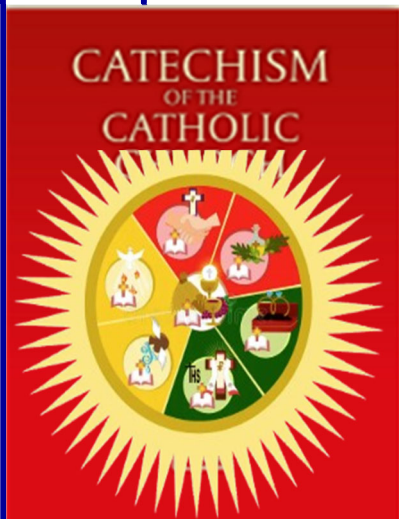
These men who set out towards the unknown were, in any event, men with restless hearts. They were filled with expectation—not satisfied with their secure income and their respectable place in society—looking for something greater. They were no doubt learned men, but they desired more than just knowledge about things. They wanted above all else to know what is essential—how we succeed in being human. And therefore they wanted to know if God exists and where and how He exists. Whether He is concerned about us and how we can encounter Him. Their outward pilgrimage was an expression of their inward journey, the inner pilgrimage of their hearts. They were men on the way towards God.

They were also men of courage—the courage and humility born of faith. Courage was needed to grasp the meaning of the star as a sign to set out towards the unknown. We can imagine that their decision was met with derision: the scorn of those realists who could only mock the reveries of such men. Anyone who took off on the basis of such uncertain promises, risking everything, could only appear ridiculous. But for these men, inwardly seized by God, the way which He pointed out was more important than what other people thought. For them, seeking the truth was worth the taunts of the world.

The Wise Men followed the star and thus came to Jesus, to the great Light which enlightens everyone coming into this world (John 1:9). As pilgrims of faith, the Wise Men themselves became stars shining in the firmament of history, showing us the way. The saints are God's true constellations—lighting up the nights of this world and serving as our guides. St. Paul, in his Letter to the Philippians, told his faithful that they must shine like stars in the world (Phil. 2:15). Let us ask our loving Mother Mary, who showed to the Wise Men the new King of the World (Matt 2:11), to show Jesus Christ to us and to help us be guides along the way which leads to Him. Amen.



Fr. Stephen's Series of Classes on the Catechism of the Catholic Church



Fr. Stephen's next classes in this series will be held on **Tuesday, January 13, and Tuesday, January 27**—from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the **Parish Meeting Room** (every 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, unless otherwise notified).

These two classes will be on **Part II of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, titled "The Celebration of the Christian Mystery."** This section explains how God's saving work is made present and effective in the Church through the seven visible signs of grace called Sacraments. The specific focus for each of the two classes is as follows: **January 13: *Paschal Mystery: The Key to Christian Worship***; and **January 27: *The Seven Sacraments***.

The Epiphany Proclamation for the Year Two Thousand Twenty Six

Know, dear brethren, that, as we have rejoiced at the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, so by leave of God's mercy, we announce to you also the joy of His Resurrection, who is our Savior.



On the **eighteenth day of February** will fall **Ash Wednesday**, and the beginning of the fast of the most sacred Lenten season.

On the **fifth day of April** you will celebrate with joy **Easter Sunday**, the Paschal feast of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the **seventeenth day of May** will be the observation of the feast of **Ascension** of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the **twenty-fourth day of May**, the feast of **Pentecost**.

On the **seventh day of June**, the feast of the **Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ**.



On the **twenty-ninth day of November**, the **First Sunday of Advent** of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom is honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

ROCK'N'ROLL

Dance Party

Back by Popular Demand

**Saturday,
January 17, 2026
6:00 -11:00 p.m.**

*Shake Rattle
& Roll*

Dinner will be from
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Tickets (\$75)
available in the
Parish and School
Offices OR after
select Masses OR
call (626) 533-4839

Family
Friendly!

All Proceeds Benefit
St. Therese School

Dinner and Dance

PLACE: St. Therese Parish Hall
COST: \$75 per person (a great Christmas gift!)

Delicious buffet style dinner included:
First course will be Caesar salad. Second
course will be roast beef with brown gravy,
mashed potatoes and sautéed vegetables.
Sautéed chicken breast made with Marsala
wine, mushrooms and sun dried tomatoes.
Sautéed Atlantic salmon with lemon butter
sauce with mashed potatoes and sautéed
vegetables, penne pasta with vegetables and
Alfredo sauce. Includes dessert: banana and
coconut bread pudding with caramel sauce.

"Let's Go to the Hop!"



Financial Offerings

This bulletin had to be submitted for printing before the weekends of December 20/21 and 27/28. The totals for those weekends will be published in the bulletin of January 11, 2026.

November 22 / 23	\$15,307.00
November 29 / 30	\$16,735.00
December 6 / 7	\$19,283.00
December 13 / 14	\$200,492.00

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



Saint Therese Carmelite School

Faith  Academics  Virtue

Open House

Sunday,
January 25,
10:00 am-3:00 pm
TK-8th Grade



1106 East Alhambra Road
Alhambra, California 91801

(626) 289-3364
www.SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com



Eucharistic Adoration

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

"O Lord Jesus Christ, in presenting ourselves before Thy Adorable Face, to beg of Thee the graces we most need, we beseech Thee to give us above all things the disposition of never refusing at any time to do what Thou requires of us by Thy commandments and divine inspirations."

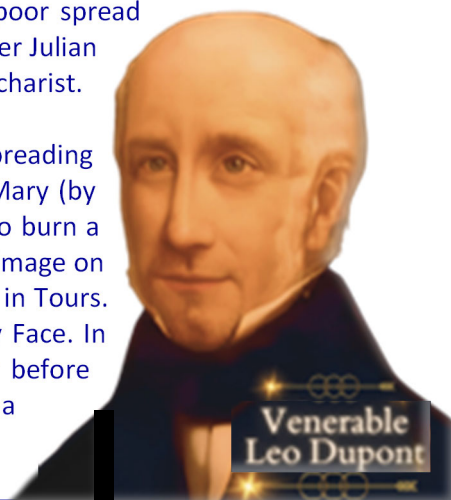
-Ven. Leo Dupont

(1/24/1797-3/18/1876 | Feast Day Dec 1st)

Venerable Leo Dupont, known as "the holy man of Tours," or "the apostle of the Holy Face," was a Roman Catholic layman who helped spread various devotions, such as that of the Holy Face of Jesus and the nightly Eucharistic adoration. He was declared venerable by Pope Pius XII.

In 1849, Dupont helped establish nightly Eucharistic adoration in Tours, with friends from the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. His reputation as a Catholic activist and a helper of the poor spread within France, and he was in contact with other French Catholics such as St. Peter Julian Eymard, who was also an active proponent of spreading devotion to the Holy Eucharist.

Apart from his charitable activities, Dupont is perhaps best known for spreading devotion to the Holy Face of Jesus. After learning of the visions of Jesus and Mary (by the Carmelite nun, Sr. Mary of St. Peter, from 1844 to 1847), Dupont started to burn a vigil lamp continuously before a picture of the Holy Face of Jesus, based on the image on Veronica's Veil. In 1851, Dupont formed the Archconfraternity of the Holy Face in Tours. For 30 years, he prayed for and promoted the case for a devotion to the Holy Face. In 1876, Archbishop Colet of Tours gave permission for the devotion, shortly before Dupont died. After Dupont's death, the archbishop turned his oratory into a chapel, the Oratory of the Holy Face.



Epiphany: The **Light** That Draws All Nations



The Feast of the Epiphany invites us to stand in awe before a God who reveals Himself not only to a chosen few, but to the entire world. Each of today's readings opens a window onto this mystery: the God of Israel shining forth so brightly that every nation is drawn to His light. Isaiah begins with a command that feels almost like a trumpet blast: **"Arise, shine, for your light has come!"** In a world overshadowed by darkness, Isaiah announces that God's glory is breaking through like dawn. This light is not meant to be hidden or hoarded. It is magnetic—so radiant that nations, kings, and caravans are drawn toward it. The prophet imagines a procession of people bringing gifts of gold and frankincense, symbols of honor and worship. Already, Isaiah hints at something beyond Israel's borders: God's salvation is expansive, outward-reaching, and meant for all.

Psalm 72 echoes this universal vision. The psalmist prays for a King who will rule with justice, defend the poor, and bring peace that "shall flourish in His days." This King is not merely a political figure but a sign of God's own reign. The nations recognize something divine in this King's justice and compassion. The psalm's imagery prepares us for the moment when wise men from the East will kneel before a Child whose

authority is unlike any earthly ruler's.

In the letter to the Ephesians, Paul reveals the "mystery" that had been hidden for ages: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise of Christ. What Isaiah foresaw and the psalmist prayed for is now fulfilled in Jesus. The light that dawned over Israel is meant for every people. Epiphany is not just about some travelers—it is the unveiling of God's universal invitation.

All of this converges in Matthew's Gospel. The Magi, guided by a star, arrive seeking the newborn King. They are outsiders—foreigners, scholars, astrologers—yet they are the first to recognize Jesus' Kingship. Their journey is a symbol of humanity's search for truth, and the star is the sign that God meets that search with guidance. When they finally encounter the Child, they fall down in worship. Their gifts—gold, frankincense, and myrrh—echo Isaiah's prophecy and proclaim who this Child truly is: King, God, and Pure Sacrifice.

But Epiphany is not only about the Magi's revelation. It is also about ours. The same light that drew them continues to shine in our world, often in quiet, unexpected ways. God still reveals Himself—in Scripture, in the Sacraments, in acts of justice and mercy, in the faces of the poor, and in the moments when grace breaks through our ordinary days. **Epiphany challenges us to do two things. First, to see—to recognize the ways God is revealing Himself right now. And second, to shine—to reflect that light so others may be drawn to Christ through us.** Isaiah's call, "Arise, shine," is not only poetic; it is a mission. The Church becomes the star that guides others to Christ when we live with compassion, integrity, and joy.

The Magi returned home "by another way," not only to avoid Herod but to show that encountering Christ changes our whole direction. **Epiphany invites us to consider: What new path is God opening for us? Where is His light leading us next?** As we celebrate this feast, may we be like the Magi—courageous in seeking, generous in giving, and transformed by the encounter. And may the light of Christ, rising in our hearts and communities, continue to draw all nations toward the love of God made visible in Jesus.

Mass Intentions

January 3—January 10, 2026

Saturday Evening:

5:00 p.m.: Jose Villacorta, RIP

Sunday:

*7:30 a.m.: Pope Francis, RIP

7:30 a.m.: Parishioners

9:00 a.m.: Santiago and Analiza Uy, RIP

11:00 a.m.: All Humanity and Thanksgiving
for God's Creation

1:00 p.m.: (Latin): Julia Rocha, RIP

5:00 pm: Liam Cox, Birthday INT

Monday:

6:00 a.m.: Emma Rodriguez, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Susan Morgan, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Anna Maria Medina, RIP

7:15 p.m.: DeAvila Padilla & Family, INT

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

6am: Garnet & Jonathan Caritan, 50th Anniv INT

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

8:00 a.m.: Augustin Solaun, RIP

+7:15 pm Anita & Erasmo Armendariz, 76th Anniv.

Wednesday:

6:00 a.m.: Cecilia Garrido, INT

*7:30 a.m.: Susan Morgan, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Nathan Regalado, INT

Thursday:

6:00 a.m.: Christopher Jon Martinez, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Sr. Christine, OCD, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Rosamond Leathem, RIP

Friday:

6:00 a.m.: Varkey Kalaldira, RIP

*7:30 am: Mr& Mrs Peter Halpin & Family, INT

8:00 a.m.: Nicanor Pabines, RIP

Saturday Morning

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

8:00 a.m.: Alvin V. Cailan, Birthday 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

**SEATS ARE FILLING FAST
FOR THE PILGRIMAGE TO
EASTERN EUROPE**

(Poland, Croatia,
Medjugorje, etc.) with
Carmelite friar Fr.

**Matthias Lambrecht,
OCD, from September 3
to September 16, 2026,
for \$5,450 per person.**

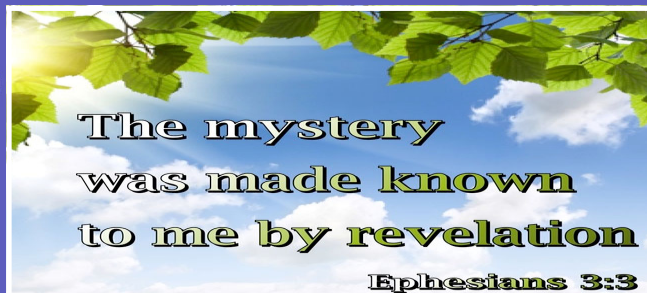
For more information, see
the itinerary on the home

page of our website or contact the Tour Leader,
Beth Maddatu, by emailing her at
maddatubeth2@gmail.com or calling 408-903-
6305.



Endow The King With
Your Justice, O God, The
Royal Son With Your
Righteousness.

Psalms 72-1



Ephesians 3:3