

St. Therese Catholic Church

February 13, 2022 **Ministered by the Discalced Carmelite Friars** Est. 1924
510 North El Molino Street | Alhambra CA 91801 | (626) 282-2744 | www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org



And He came down with them and stood on a stretch of level ground. A great crowd of His disciples and a large number of the people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon came to hear Him and to be healed of their diseases; and even those who were tormented by unclean spirits were cured. Everyone in the crowd sought to touch Him because power came forth from Him and healed them all (Luke 6:17-19).

MASSES | CONFESSIONS

Masses—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 Masses: 6:00 and 8:00 a.m.

(the daily 8:00 a.m., the Sunday 11:00 a.m., and the weekday 7:00 p.m. Masses are **LIVE STREAMED** on Facebook AND YouTube); **Rosary: Mon-Sat after 8:00 a.m. Mass**

Masses on Monday, *Tuesday (*Spanish), Wednesday & Thursday EVENINGS at 7:00 p.m. (Tues. and Thurs. are preceded by a showing of The Chosen, Season 2, from 7:00 to 7:15 p.m.); **First Friday Mass: 7:00 p.m.**

CONFESSIONS (OUTSIDE)-Wednesdays from 8:00 to 9:00 p.m.; Saturdays from 3:00 to 6:30 p.m. and Sundays from Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Carmelite Cloister: 7:30 a.m., Monday-Saturday

OFFICE HOURS | CONTACTS

Monday – Friday: 9:00 am-1:00 pm; 2:00 pm-5:00 pm

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: Dcn Joseph Mizerski | Dcn Gilbert Vargas X333;

Annulments: Deacon Gilbert Vargas X333

Vocations: For the Archdiocese: (213) 637-7515

For the Carmelites: www.discalcedcarmelitefriars.com

Parish Secretary: Denise McMaster-Holguin X223
denisekay@hotmail.com

Finance: Noralyn Cailan X228 / cailannocds@gmail.com

Music Director: Paula Grimm | pgrimm.dir@gmail.com

Respect Life Ministry: Catherine Contreras XI12

ST. THERESE CARMELITE SCHOOL

(626) 289-3364

www.SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com

Principal: Alma Cornejo X661

principal@saintthersecarmeliteschool.com



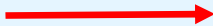
SACRAMENTS

- **Baptisms:** Register online
- **Weddings:** Register online at least six months in advance
- **Anointing of the Sick:** Call the office

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

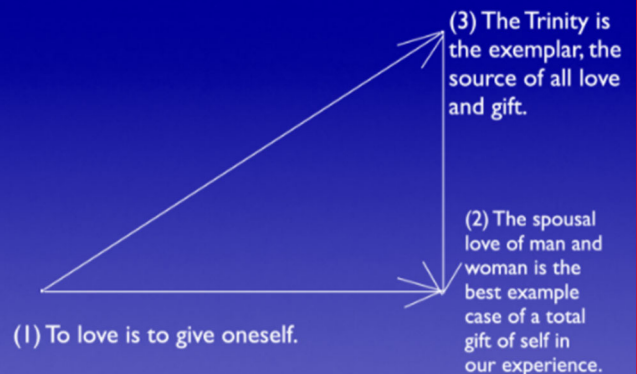
Greetings on this World Marriage Sunday and (Saint!) Valentine's Day (tomorrow)!!! What a great pairing these two days are—back-to-back! The second Sunday in February is always celebrated as World Marriage Day in the Catholic Church, a day of celebrating and honoring and giving thanks for this first Sacrament and "Great Mystery" (Ephesians 5:32), the foundation for all the Sacraments, and therefore extra important—indispensable!—in the Christian community.

"One can say that the visible sign of marriage 'in the beginning,' inasmuch as it is linked to the visible sign of Christ and the Church on the summit of God's saving economy, transposes the eternal plan of love into the 'historical' dimension and makes it the foundation of the whole sacramental order. It is a particular merit of the author of Ephesians that he brought these two signs together, making of them the single great sign; that is, a great sacrament ['sacramentum magnum']" (St. John Paul II, Man and Woman He Created Them, TOB 95b:7).

Yes, Baptism is the gateway or door to all the Sacraments, and yet Matrimony is the foundation of all the Sacraments. It's right there at the beginning of creation in Genesis (Chapters 1 and 2). St. John Paul, inspired by St. John of the Cross, taught that "The body, in fact, and only the body, is capable of making visible what is invisible: the spiritual and the divine. It has been created to transfer into the visible reality of the world the mystery hidden from eternity in God, and thus to be a sign of it" (Theology of the Body 19:4). We can summarize it, as shown in this diagram: 

And so, on this occasion of World Marriage Day and Valentine's Day, I encourage everyone reading this—whether married or unmarried—to trust the Church's teaching that we are all invited to marriage (and beyond) with the Holy Trinity! **Let me conclude with quotes from two great saints:** (Fraternally in Jesus, Mary & Joseph, -Fr. Thomas

The St John of the Cross Triangle



FROM ST. AUGUSTINE

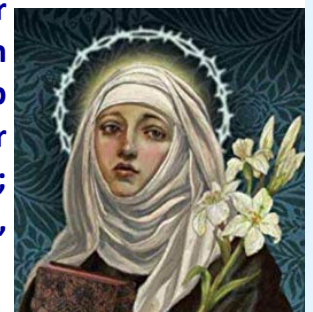
"Late have I loved you, O Beauty ever ancient, ever new, late have I loved you! You were within me, but I was outside, and it was there that I searched for you. In my unloveliness I plunged into the lovely things which you created. You were with me, but I was not with you. Created things kept me from you; yet if they had not been

in you, they would have not been at all. You called, you shouted, and you broke through my deafness. You flashed, you shone, and you dispelled my blindness. You breathed your fragrance on me; I drew in breath and now I pant for you. I have tasted you, now I hunger and thirst for more. You touched me, and I burned for your peace."

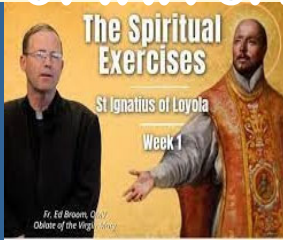
FROM ST. CATHERINE OF GENOA

A priest spoke to St. Catherine of Genoa (who was a wife and mother) of the higher sanctity of the celibate life. She responded: "If world or husband could hinder [God Who is] love, what a petty thing love would be!" (as quoted in Josef Pieper's book, The Four Cardinal Virtues, in the section on Consecrated Virginity).

This same priest later said of her: "Not even life in a military camp could distract her from her love of God; how much less, marriage!"



SPIRITUAL EXERCISES BEGIN THIS THURSDAY!



Just a reminder to everyone who signed up, the first session of Fr. Broom's Spiritual Exercises will be in the church this coming Thursday, February 10, from 7:10 to 8:10, following the Mass at 6:00 p.m.

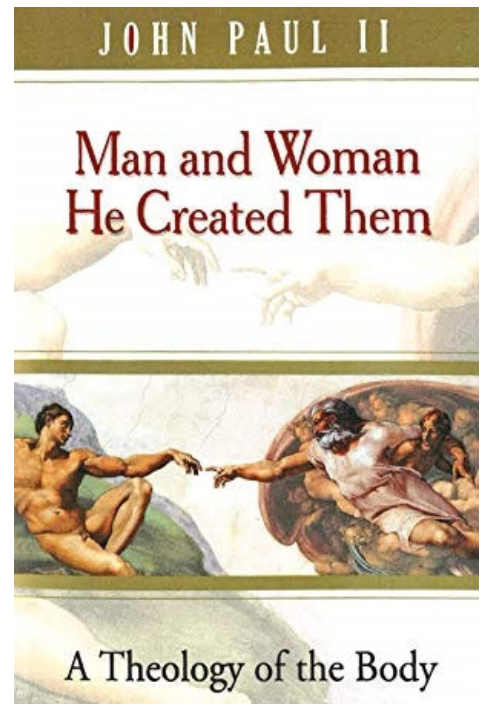
THEOLOGY OF THE BODY SERIES

Everyone is invited to come and learn more about St. John Paul's Theology of the Body by attending this series, facilitated by Fr. Thomas.

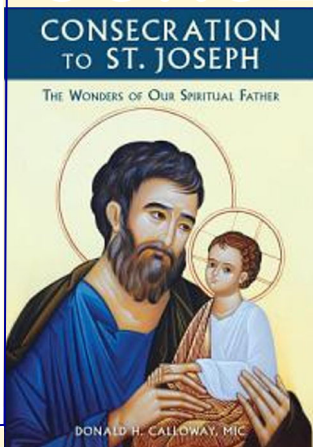
We meet on the **SECOND** and **FOURTH** Fridays of each month from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., in the Guadalupe Courtyard of the Parish Offices. **The next meeting will be February 25.**

Included in the series is audio, video, and Power Point presentations, as well as discussion and prayer. Feel free to bring food and/or drinks to share!

For those who would prefer, you are also welcome to join us **VIA ZOOM**. The Personal Meeting ID Number is 846 381 4560 and the Passcode is yaCsG6.



CONSECRATION TO ST. JOSEPH



We have another opportunity for you to make a consecration to St. Joseph! There will be a weekly preparation meeting held every Wednesday from now until March 16. You have your choice of attending at Noon or at 6:00 p.m. (in the Guadalupe Courtyard in the Parish Office building). The day of the Consecration will be on St. Joseph's feast day of March 19.

You will need to have a copy of the Consecration to St. Joseph book. You can purchase one in the office for \$15 or find it online. For more information, contact Maria Alejandra at ale3767@yahoo.com or (626)993-4236.

Happy Saint Valentine's Day!

A common hagiography describes St. Valentine as a priest of Rome. While under house arrest for evangelizing, a judge told him that if he could restore his blind daughter's sight, he would do whatever he asked. Valentine laid his hands over her eyes and her vision was restored. Valentine told her to destroy all her idols, fast for three days, and be baptized. The judge obeyed and he, his family, and his forty-four-member household were baptized. Later, Valentine was again arrested for continuing to evangelize and was sent to Claudius II, who condemned him to death unless he renounced his faith. Valentine refused and was beaten with clubs and beheaded on February 14, 269. An embellishment to this account states that before his execution, St. Valentine wrote a note to the judge's formerly-blind daughter and signed it, "from your Valentine," which is said to have inspired today's romantic missives".



"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with Me" (Rev. 3:20).

To Praise and Bless Him Forever and Ever...



Blessed John Ruusbroec, a Dutch mystic of the fourteenth century, wrote of the startling effects of such spiritual inebriation: "Spiritual inebriation means that a person receives more perceptible savor and delight than his heart or desire could long for or contain. Spiritual inebriation produces much strange behavior in a person. It makes one person sing and praise God out of the fullness of his joy, and it makes another shed many tears because of the delight he feels within his heart. In one it produces restlessness in all his limbs, causing him to run and jump and dance about, and in another the force of this inebriation is so great that he must clap his hands in jubilation. One person cries out in a loud voice and so makes manifest the fullness which he feels within, and another becomes silent and seems to melt away out of the delight he feels in all his senses. At times this delight becomes so intense that it seems

to such a person that his heart will break because of all these manifold gifts and wonderful works."

Just as in the age of the apostles, the sober intoxication of the Spirit is often experienced as a communal phenomenon rather than just an individual experience. In the Middle Ages, as Franciscan and Dominican friars went from town to town preaching, there were revivals that included processions with banners, torches and jubilant praise of God. A thirteenth-century Franciscan chronicler gives an account of these revivals:

"It was a time of merriment and gladness, of joy and exultation, of praise and jubilation. During this time, men of all sorts sang songs of praise to God. Old people and young people were of one mind. This turning to God was experienced in all the cities of Italy, and they came from the villages to the town with banners, a great multitude of people, to hear the preaching and to praise God. The songs that they sang were of God, not of man, and all walked in the way of salvation. Sermons were preached in the evening, in the morning, and at noon. Men took their places in churches and outdoors and lifted their hands to God, **to praise and bless Him forever and ever**. They wished they would never have to stop praising God, they were so drunk with His love."

(Taken from *The Spiritual Handbook*, pages 98-99—available for sale in the Parish office)

Fasting from the Wound of Abandonment

PAUSE TO HEAR GOD SPEAK:

"God has said, 'I will never forsake you or abandon you.'" -Hebrews 13:5

"The LORD will not forsake His people, nor abandon His inheritance." -Psalm 94:14

Today, I choose to fast from the wound of abandonment. It might not be immediately apparent, but if you take a few moments to think about it, the connection between pride and abandonment becomes obvious. Most of us have had an experience of being lost as a child, maybe on an outing with family members. If a memory popped into your head while you were reading this, it probably has some powerful emotions associated with it. You likely felt alone, isolated, unprotected, or uncovered. You might have experienced abandonment in your life through your parents' divorce or a death. Even innocent experiences, like being lost, can leave us with a deep emotional hurt of



abandonment.

We can begin to expose and uproot this wound by examining the thoughts, beliefs, and emotions in our hearts. If you are hyper-loyal, or require it of others, you might be guarding an abandonment hurt by requiring allegiance or duty. Have you ever felt that? Perhaps you've thought, "In the end, I'll always be alone," "It will always be up to me," or "Nobody will be there to protect me." Let's take some time during the reflection below to allow God to speak to and minister to this wound.

Take time to ask yourself...

- What are some of my memories or thoughts around abandonment?
- What do I believe about myself and my life as a result of those memories or thoughts?

Pray slowly... Heavenly Father, In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I renounce abandonment and repent all the ways in which I have sinned because of it. I reject abandonment in every area of my life. I renounce any lies that I have come to believe, including lies such as "I am all alone," "I am on my own," or "Nobody cares about me." Send your Holy Spirit to heal, restore, and transform me. I belong to you. I am loved by you. I am chosen by you. I am known to you. Amen.

The above is taken from the book, *Lenten Healing*, by Ken Kniepmann—available for sale in the parish office.

OFFICES TEMPORARILY CLOSED

Due to an increase in local Covid cases (including people who are associated with this office), we have made a decision to temporarily CLOSE the offices. This will last until further notice.

If you'd like to schedule Masses, request copies of sacramental certificates, or conduct any other church-related business, please call us at (626) 282-2744, ext. 0. Anything you need to pick up will be left on the TABLE TO THE LEFT OF THE FRONT OFFICE DOOR. You may put anything you need to give to a friar or a staff member into the MAIL SLOT TO THE RIGHT OF THE DOOR.

Check our website for information about scheduling a funeral, a wedding, or a baptism. Thank you for your understanding...

WOMEN'S RETREAT AT EL CARMELO IN REDLANDS



Join us for our annual Women's Silent Retreat from **Friday, March 11, through Sunday, March 13**, at El Carmelo Retreat House in Redlands. Please note that there will be **NO bus transportation** in 2022. You must drive or carpool to El Carmelo Retreat House, 926 East Highland Avenue, Redlands, California. To join us, **mail the filled-out form below, along with your \$60 non-refundable DEPOSIT check to the retreat captain: LOUISA DAY**, 600 West Gleason Street, Monterey Park 91754 (the balance is due on March 1, 2022). For more info, e-mail Louisa at louisaeday@yahoo.com

or text her at (323) 360-5186.

I want to reserve a **PRIVATE ROOM** with private bathroom (single occupancy) for \$210 per person.

I want to reserve a **SHARED ROOM** with a shared bathroom (double occupancy) for \$185 per person.

Name: _____
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 E-mail: _____ Parish: _____
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RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT for Healing After Abortion

Rachel's Vineyard Retreats are for men and women struggling with the emotional and spiritual pain of abortion. The retreat is designed to help participants work through repressed grief and anger in a safe, nonjudgmental setting and come to acceptance, healing, and hope for the future. Developed in the Roman Catholic Tradition, it utilizes spiritual exercises and rituals to help grieve the loss of unborn children and to accept God's forgiveness. All inquiries and registrations are confidential. The next one will be held March 4 through 6 in San Fernando at a cost fee of \$300 per person. To register or for more information, please call 323-577-5693, email RVLA.christine@gmail.com, or go to www.rachelsvineyard.org.



FINANCIAL OFFERINGS

May God reward you for giving from your heart! Below you will find the total collection for last weekend, as well as for the previous four weekends. Note: There is a second collection on the 2ND WEEKEND OF EACH MONTH for our School.



February 5/6, 2022

Unrestricted.....	\$12,910.00
Restricted	\$ 1,878.00
TOTAL.....	\$14,788.00

January 8/9	\$61,621.00
January 15/16	\$13,532.00
January 22/23	\$24,133.00
January 29/30	\$17,495.00

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

Mass Intentions

February 12 to February 19, 2022

Saturday evening:

5:00 p.m.: Mark Gonzales, RIP

Sunday:

*7:30 a.m.: Sr. Therese Marie, OCD, INT

7:30 a.m.: Gabriel Anyanwu & Family, INT

9:00 a.m.: Emilio and Emma Sirias, RIP

11:00 a.m.: Sophie Waxman, RIP

1:00 p.m.: Aliwarga Family, RIP

5:00 p.m.: Parishioners

Monday:

6:00 a.m.: Yolanda & George Rossy, INT

*7:30 a.m.: Emma Lowenberg, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Carmen Kelly, RIP

7:00 p.m.: Nelson Bautista, INT

Tuesday:

6:00 a.m.: Michael Gonzalez, INT

*7:30 a.m.: Mother Maria, OCD, INT

8:00 a.m.: Joseph Freymann, INT

7:00 p.m.: Emma and Emilio Sirias, RIP

Wednesday:

6:00 a.m.: Ismael Gonzalez, INT

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

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

7:00 p.m.: Jessie Martinez, RIP

Thursday:

6:00 a.m.: Marietta Okamoto, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Emma Lowenberg, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Joe Reyes, RIP

7:00 p.m.: Alice Uy and Bob Bitler, INT

Friday:

6:00 a.m.: Steven Smuckler, INT

*7:30 a.m.: Mr. and Mrs. Ponet, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Chuck Marikian, RIP

Saturday Morning

*7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Community

8:00 a.m.: Anthony Le Xuan, RIP

***Held at the Cloistered Carmelite Chapel,
215 E Alhambra Road, Alhambra,
California. Although Mass is still being
celebrated at the chapel for the above
intentions, it is TEMPORARILY CLOSED
to the public, due to an increase in Covid**

LIVE STREAMED MASSES:

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

Woe Is Me?

In Luke's version of the Beatitudes, he has only four blessings and he adds four woes. These woes correspond to the blessings: 1) the poor and the rich, 2) the hungry and the filled, 3) those who weep and those who laugh, and 4) the hated and the well-treated. Did you notice that all the things that we work forty or more hours a week to give to our family are considered "woes"? So, is Jesus saying we should not have savings for the future, food for the kids, a happy, safe environment, or a good reputation?



I suspect that the disciples and the others listening to Jesus wondered the same thing. Jesus may have been exaggerating a little, but He had a point. The values of this world are not necessarily the values of God's Kingdom. For example, self-reliance, usually considered a virtue, can be taken to an extreme of not relying on God for our needs, or for justifying the belief that poverty is the fault of the poor. Jesus Himself is the extreme example of reversing worldly values: His death was not a tragic ending, but the saving action that brought us forgiveness and new life in the Resurrection.

So, how do we experience the blessings of the poor, the hungry, the mourning, or the unpopular? Do we have the faith to let go of self-reliance and to trust in Jesus? How much money does it take to meet the needs of our family? How much do we really need and how much is just extra? Are we really helping our children if we give them anything they want? We teach them to do their best in school and sports. Do we also teach them to give to the poor or to help other children struggling with schoolwork? We buy them nice clothing; do we teach them to see Jesus in others? How can we say this is all too idealistic, and still claim to believe in the Resurrection?

I don't expect everyone do go around saying "woe is me." Some of the happiest people are those who live simple lives of faith and trust in God. When we learn to trust God and love one another, we can not only see Jesus in others, but He can also be seen in us.

Deaths

Please pray for the repose of the soul of:

† JOHN LI

(A Mass will be celebrated for the repose of the soul of John (who served regularly as one of our sacristans) on Saturday, February 19, at 10:00 .

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