

St. Therese Catholic Church

December 10, 2023 510 North El Molino Street | Alhambra CA 91801 | (626) 282-2744 | www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org Est. 1924



A VOICE CRIES OUT: IN THE DESERT, PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD! MAKE STRAIGHT IN THE WASTELAND A HIGHWAY FOR OUR GOD! GO UP ON TO A HIGH MOUNTAIN, ZION, HERALD OF GLAD TIDINGS; CRY OUT AT THE TOP OF YOUR VOICE, JERUSALEM, HERALD OF GOOD NEWS!

FEAR NOT TO CRY OUT AND SAY TO THE CITIES OF JUDAH: HERE IS YOUR GOD! HERE COMES WITH POWER THE LORD GOD, WHO RULES BY HIS STRONG ARM; HERE IS HIS REWARD WITH HIM, HIS RECOMPENSE BEFORE HIM.

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

ST. THERESE CARMELITE SCHOOL

(626) 289-3364

www.SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com

Principal: Alma Cornejo X 1 + 661

principal@sainttheresecarmeliteschool.com

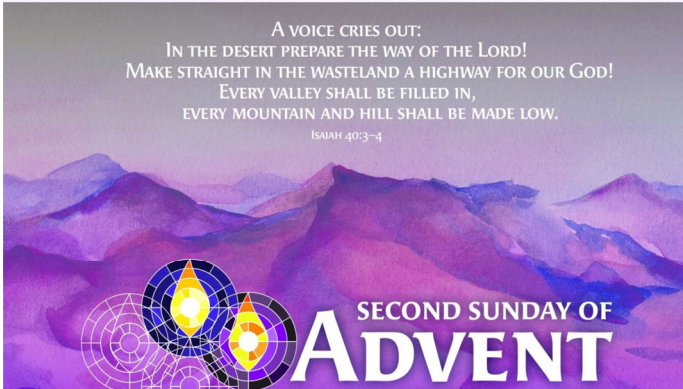
See our **VIDEOS** on the School's Facebook page
or on the Church's website >Our School > Videos



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:

Early in Advent, we hear from the prophet Isaiah: “A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low.” It’s good to ask ourselves: what are the valleys that we need to fill in and the mountains that need to be made low in our lives to prepare the way for Christ to come into our lives once again? Advent, though a penitential season,

is different from Lent in that Our Lady accompanies us in our time of expectation, so that Christ will be born in us again as He was born in her the first time. But we have to make room for Christ so that He may be born in us. Thus, there is a need for detachment from all other things.

This week, we will be celebrating the Solemnity of St. John of the Cross. And Holy Father John has a lot to say about the role detachment plays in preparing ourselves for Christ and the joy He wants to give us. John would call this the Active Night of the Senses. As he says in his Ascent of Mount Carmel: “For a soul to reach union with God through its will and love, it must first be freed from every appetite, however slight. As long as this attachment remains, it is impossible to make progress in perfection, even though the imperfection may be very small.” So, in other words, we have to be careful about any little attachment. John goes on to say: “Freedom cannot abide in a heart dominated by desires, in a slave’s heart. It abides in a liberated heart, in a child’s heart.” The great misconception about John of the Cross is that he’s all about restriction. But it seems fairly clear from what I just quoted from him that he’s really about freedom. For him, detachment is about freeing ourselves in order to be filled with the greatest of all things, God.

One of our youngest Carmelite saints, St. Teresa of the Andes, famously said: “God is infinite joy.” This means that if we are filled with God, we’re filled with great joy! Likewise, if we’re only filled with our own disordered appetites and attachments, we cannot be filled with real joy. John of the Cross says as much: “This is the characteristic of those with appetites; they are always dissatisfied and bitter, like someone who is hungry. They are unhappy with themselves, cold toward their neighbors, and sluggish and slothful in the things of God.” Now, I think none of us wants to be like that! So what does John offer as a remedy? He says that: “A more intense enkindling of another, better love is necessary for the vanquishing of the appetites and the denial of this pleasure.” And this better love, of course, is God. So, we must replace our lower loves with that Higher Love. This is the secret for true joy and freedom not only in this Advent season, but throughout our lives.

Fr. Peter Mary, O.C.D.

No Longer an Evening Mass on Most Fridays

Except for **FIRST FRIDAY** and any **HOLY DAYS THAT FALL ON FRIDAYS**, we no longer have the 7:15 p.m. Mass on Friday evenings. So, that means, no Mass this Friday, December 15, and the following Fridays. Again, this does not include First Fridays. **We will still have an evening Mass at 7:15 p.m. on all the First Fridays of each month. The next one will be January 5th.**



Join us for this "kick-off" of our year-long CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION!

It will begin with the official UNFURLING OF OUR ST. THERESE CENTENNIAL BANNERS in front of the church following the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday, December 16. Then we'll walk over to the Parish Hall for our "Cocktails in December" Social in the Parish Hall. There you will be able to delight in a festive atmosphere, enjoying cocktails, wine and cheese, all while meeting and socializing with your fellow parishioners.

This event marks the beginning of our 2024 year-long "100 Years of Walking with St. Therese" Centennial Celebration. If you plan to attend (there is NO COST!), please add your name to the RSVP list located on the table in the front vestibule of the church. Thank you in advance for participating!

RELIGIOUS GIFTS FOR SALE



The Sisters of Agape are in front of the church this weekend, December 9 and 10, to sell religious items and baked goods after each Mass. All

proceeds will go towards helping them build their convent, which is in the process of being constructed. They have wooden items from Jerusalem, religious picture frames, rosaries, small rugs, handmade table runners, and middle eastern pastries. They accept all forms of payment including credit, cash, or check. Thank you for your support!

FEAST OF ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS

As announced, we no longer have a regular evening Mass on Thursdays; however, because the feast of St. John of the Cross (one of the Carmelite Order's reformers) falls on a Thursday, we will have a special Mass that evening, December 14th, at 7:15, followed by a Holy Hour.



This week will also be the first week we will no longer have a Mass on Friday evening. We will, however, continue having an evening Mass every FIRST FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH.

Safeguard the Children - Did You Know?

Recognizing the signs of physical abuse: Safe adults should be on the lookout for signs of physical abuse in children in their care. Some signs include frequent bruises or cuts, frequent and unexplained absences or injuries. Physical abuse can include hitting, kicking, shaking, or other forceful actions, resulting in harm or even death. Children who are suffering from physical abuse may be distrustful or reluctant to receive physical contact, and may dress inappropriately for the season, wearing long pants or long-sleeved shirts to hide injuries. For more information, read the VIRTUS® article "Recognizing Child Maltreatment" at lacatholics.org/did-you-know/.





Saint Therese Carmelite School

Faith Academics Virtue



Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Tuesday, December 12, 8 am
St. Therese Church

All are invited to join us for a celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Empress of the Americas!

A traditional Mariachi will lead in singing Las Mañanitas to the Virgin Mother. Fr. David Guzman will preside at the Mass.

There will be a modest reception in the Guadalupe Garden after the Mass. All are welcome to attend.

Adult Fingerprinting- December 12

According to Archdiocesan policy, all clergy, paid parish/school personnel, and volunteers who work regularly with children or youth must be fingerprinted through the Archdiocese.

If you still need fingerprinting, now is your chance! The earliest remaining appointment time—as of the time of this printing—is at 1:40 p.m.

You **MUST** call for an appointment at (626) 282-2744, ext. 1 + 223.

Allow approximately twenty minutes for your appointment.



Pancake Breakfast Sale
Sponsored by the
Knights of Columbus
Sunday, December 10,
8:30am-12 pm

The Knights of Columbus will be hosting a pancake breakfast sale on Sunday, December 10, to benefit the school.

\$7 per child
\$10 per adult
\$10 for pozole

We appreciate your support of this fundraiser!

Pancake Breakfast



COR JESU II FAMILY NIGHT WITH POTLUCK

December 15--beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Hall
Bring your favorite dish to share!



Fr. Robert Barcelos invites youth, children, and adults to the next Cor Jesu Youth/Family event **THIS Friday, December 15**, beginning at **6:30 p.m.**, with a ***Potluck** (pizza for the children and youth!), followed by Faith Formation (Catechesis and Spirituality) and Eucharistic Adoration. Each group, i.e., youth, adults, and children, will meet separately; there will be something for everyone! **If you would like to volunteer to help that evening, please contact CorJesuStcAlhambra@gmail.com.**

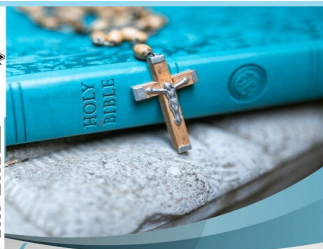


Get Your Mistletoe!



Boy Scout Troop 140 will be selling Fresh Mistletoe for their Annual Fundraiser. See them after all the Masses this weekend and next weekend (December 9 & 10 and 16 & 17).

Your purchase helps support wholesome activities for boys!



Rosary
December 16 at 11 a.m.!

MAKING WORKSHOP

16 December 11 AM Guadalupe Garden

The class fee is \$15 each and includes supplies and a continental breakfast. Held in the Guadalupe Courtyard (within the parish offices at 510 North El Molino Street).

Enter through the door near the Adoration Chapel.

ADVENT MISSION

Evenings of December 17 & 18 (Sunday and Monday)
With Fr. Peter Prusakiewicz, CSMA



Fr. Peter returns to St. Therese to give an Advent Mission on Divine Mercy, St. Faustina, and the Angels. It will be held in the church next **Sunday and Monday evenings, December 17th and 18th.** Sunday evening will begin with Mass at **5:00 p.m.**, and Monday evening will begin with Mass at **6:30 p.m.**—NOT 7:15!—(the talks will be at the end of the Masses), followed by a Eucharistic Healing Service (all in ENGLISH only).

Dec. 17th—Topic: The Mystery of the Divine Mercy and the secrets of St. Faustina

Dec. 18th—Topic: St. Michael and the Angels in the life of St. Faustina

There will also be a 1st-class relic of St. Faustina and a special blessing with the Scapular of St. Michael the Archangel.

DINNER AND DANCE

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

This fabulous dinner | dance will be held in the Parish Hall on Saturday, January 13, from 6:30 to 11:00 p.m. The fee of **\$40 per person** includes a buffet dinner, including roast beef, chicken, salmon, and penne pasta.



There will be a 50/50 game and raffle AND a special guest as well:

ELVIS!

All proceeds will go towards the remodel of the kitchen in the Parish Hall. Get your tickets at the school or church offices or after some Sunday Masses.



Flame of Love: The Greatest Gift of Grace for Our Time



Living in the Flame
 Weekly Agenda
 Sunday: For the Youth
 + Night Vigil and Holy Mass

For this day, Jesus gives no specific directions. However, Mary later instructed Elizabeth about Sunday's intention: "Even on Sunday, your day of rest, you will do vigils and attend as many Masses as possible. Offer them for the youth. Think of the many children guided every year to my Divine Son. How many souls are lost, not taking root because no one is concerned about their spiritual progress. Offer these days especially for the young. Even when my Most Holy Son was tired, He wanted the children to come to Him. That is why you also must never be tired. You know it is Him who asked you to continually share in His work of Redemption."

Join the Cenacle: 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.

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 tombleich@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 9—December 16, 2023

Saturday Evening:

5 p.m.: Martin & Joanne Palanza, 30th Anniv INT

Sunday:

*7:30 a.m.: (Carm): Lauren Cheah, INT

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

9:00 a.m.: Mark Grobarek, RIP

11:00 a.m.: Leo LaRocca, RIP

1:00 p.m.: Gabriel Avalos, RIP

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

Monday:

6:00 a.m.: Silverio Reyes, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Deceased Relatives, Religious, and Benefactors of the Carmelite Order, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Lourdes Lao Uy, RIP

7:15 p.m.: Vox Vitae Team Leaders, INT

Tuesday—Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

6:00 a.m.: Archbishop Jose Gomez, INT

*7:30 a.m.: All Catholics in Americas, INT

8:00 a.m.: Alicia Maria Guadalupe, RIP

7:15 pm: Fr. Philip Sullivan, OCD, INT

Wednesday:

6:00 a.m.: Gabriel Anyanwu & Family, INT

*7:30 am: Dec'd Rel, Relig, Benef of Carm Order

8:00 a.m.: Gonzalo & Daisy Torres, RIP

NO EVENING MASS—Confessions 7-9 p.m.

Thursday—Feast of St. John of the Cross:

6:00 a.m.: Sr. Juanita de la Cruz, OCD, INT

*7:30 am: Carmelite Nuns Christmas Novena 1

8:00 a.m.: Flame of Love Apostolate

7:15 p.m.: David Holman, B-Day INT

(Holy Hour to follow the Mass)

Friday:

6:00 a.m.: Michael Alexander Cheah, B-Day INT

*7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Nuns Christmas Novena 2

8:00 a.m.: Bonifacio Uy, RIP

NO EVENING MASS EXCEPT ON FIRST FRIDAYS

Saturday Morning:

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

8:00 a.m.: Michael Alexander Cheah, B-Day INT

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

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).

How To Be Free

By Fr. John Muir



We like to think we are totally free, but the bitter truth is we simply are not. Or better put, our freedom is limited on every side—by governments, corporate giants, physical and mental frailties, genetic shortcomings, and even the boundaries of time and space. Above all, our freedom is limited by the burden of our sins and pending deaths.

In our day, we are perhaps particularly aware that we are not free to disconnect from the technocratic rulers of the air. If you doubt me, try not paying your internet bill and see what happens. We are not totally free.

It's nothing new, of course. In Jesus' day, everyone felt the crushing weight of the Roman Empire. You can say you're free all you want. But try not paying your taxes to Rome and see what happens.

Once we feel this burden in our own lives—however it comes—we are ready to hear the stunning announcement that commences Mark's Gospel, "The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." It's not a simple perfunctory introduction, but a dramatic announcement of new freedom.

The word "Gospel" was a political, even military, term. It meant: a great victory has been won and a new king is in charge. This Jesus—not the Roman emperor—is God's Son, and He has defeated all that crushes human freedom. It's time to follow Him and be truly free. This week, let's refuse to submit our freedom to false rulers—especially that of sin. And let's rejoice that Christ is coming to make us perfectly free from all our oppressors.

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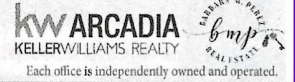
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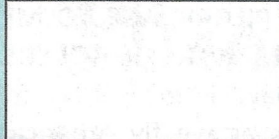
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