

St. Therese Catholic Church

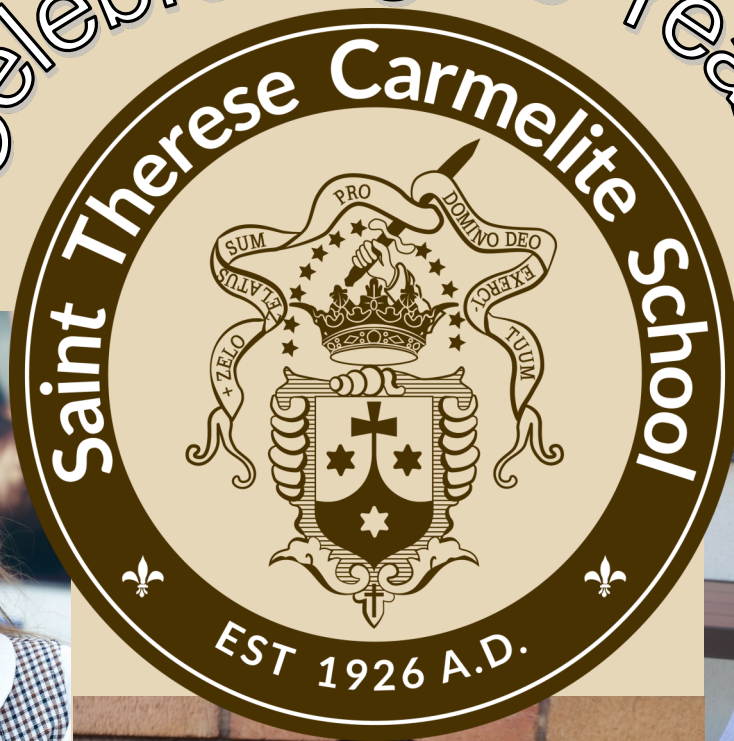
March 6, 2022

Ministered by the Discalced Carmelite Friars Est. 1924

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SPECIAL SCHOOL EDITION

Celebrating 95 Years



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Blessed Springtime (Lent) of soul and body, everyone! The 40 days of Lent begins this First Sunday of (not “in”) Lent, so I know that the Trinity is going to do something wonderful for each one of us—if we just work hard at keeping our eyes on Jesus Who never takes His eyes off of each one of us. We do the possible (keeping our eyes on Him) and He does the impossible (helping us to flourish even in a 40-day desert environment of prayer, fasting, and works of mercy, kind of like walking on water....). Speaking of walking on water, our parish Saint Therese Catholic School walks on water regularly. How so?? Well, being one of only two Classical Curriculum schools in the Archdiocese, in the midst of a two-year pandemic and lots of stormy weather, our school staff and students and families are somehow moving forward with Jesus in the boat with us. We are living out our vocations: “With our eyes on Jesus, we are becoming saints!” In this special bulletin focused on our school, we are hoping to give you a better sense of our school, so that you can help us share this with the multitudes of families out here in Los Angeles County who don’t know about us and might want to enroll their children if only someone will help them discover us!

Support Our Students

Help us to continue fulfilling our mission of educating students in faith, academics, and virtue through a Classical education. An annual pledge of just \$3 a week can cover graduation fees for one student. An annual pledge of just \$10 a week can cover student fees for one student. An annual pledge of \$20 a week covers the annual fundraising fees for one family. Please prayerfully consider supporting our students in one of these ways:

- **Donate to the school by Check or through PayPal**– Choose a one-time donation or a monthly commitment! These funds help cover the general costs of running the school, such as staff salaries, textbook purchases, and facilities maintenance. Please visit SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com/Donate or mail a check to **Saint Therese Carmelite School, 1106 E Alhambra Rd, Alhambra, CA 91801.**
- **Become a Sponsor through our Adopt-A-Saint Scholarship Fund**– The Adopt-A-Saint Scholarship fund exists to help provide an affordable Catholic education for families who otherwise would not financially consider it. If you are interested in sponsoring students through the Adopt-A-Saint program, please stop by our school office during the week or contact the school at **(626) 289-3364.**
- **Become a Sponsor through the Our Lady of Guadalupe Scholarship Fund**– Founded by Fr. Philip of Our Lady of Guadalupe, O.C.D., this need-based scholarship is awarded to students in need who are active parishioners and remain in good academic and behavioral standing. If you are interested in donating to the Our Lady of Guadalupe Scholarship Fund, please stop by our school office during the week or contact the school at **(626) 289-3364.**

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Saint Therese Community,

It is with great joy that I share with you that we have just finished a very successful accreditation visit. Our school was rated highly effective on most of the accreditation factors. The Visiting Committee was composed of five administrators and educators from Catholic schools. Their affirmation of our strong faith, sound academics, and character-building virtue program confirm that we have a parish school that we can all be proud of.

The visitors were impressed with how engaged our students were. They found it hard to believe that neither parents nor students want technology to be part of school. The innocence and faith of our young scholars conquered their hearts. It is easy to say that they were beyond impressed by observing kindergarten students in deep contemplative work in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. Equally wonderful was watching the eighth grade students prove the Pythagorean Theorem using Euclid's props. From the kindergarten students to the eighth-grade students, our students are amazing! They are amazing because they have amazing teachers and because classical education allows them to develop naturally and to reach their highest potential.

These are excerpts of what the Visiting Committee said about our small but mighty school: "Saint Therese School offers an education that is unique, rigorous, challenging, spiritually fulfilling, and Catholic through and through. Whether it be the daily prayer, the Catechesis that takes place in the Atrium, the classrooms dedicated to Saints, the religious décor, the prayer corners in each classroom, the ongoing spiritual formation under the guidance of Carmelite Friars, or the genuine kindness and compassion shown by the entire student body and staff at Saint Therese, it is clear that Catholicism is at the heart of what they do." Our Catholic identity is what we are most proud of. We are first and foremost a Catholic school. Because we are Catholic and serve God, we aim for excellence in academics and virtue.

A classical education allows us to best serve our students and to guide them to the One, the Good, the True, and the Beautiful! The Visiting Committee was impressed by our standardized scores. Our students' averages fall above the 50th percentiles in both reading and math. In the religion standards, our students score in the 90th percentile range. Comments from the fine educators who came to visit include, "The faculty, staff, pastor, parents and all shareholders are committed to the Classical approach. The students themselves are committed to excellence and embrace the Classical Model of education. In a world reliant on technology, the students at Saint Therese School willingly accept that it is not a necessity for their intellectual and spiritual formation. It is clear that Saint Therese is a high performing school."

I want to thank you, the Saint Therese Community, for your continued prayers and support. Please know that your sacrifices bear much fruit—our students are living proof of that. We have a school where we are all committed to an authentic Catholic education, excellence in academics, and a solid formation in virtue. Our students come from all walks of life, and they are transformed when they walk on our campus. We do not turn students away because of inability to pay. We have a diverse student body. We proudly make a difference in the lives of each and every one of our students.

If you would like to help us carry out our mission, please contact our school office or go to sainttheresecarmeliteschool.com/donate to make a donation. Our students are counting on your prayers and support.

May God reward you for all the good that you do in His name.

Alma Cornejo, Principal

What Makes a Classical Curriculum?

An excerpt from our 2022 WASC Self-Study, written by STCS teacher Miss Heidi Tittmann:

A classical curriculum is composed of the trivium, quadrivium, and the higher subjects. The **trivium** incorporates the basic tools of learning according to the three developmental stages of the students. The Grammar Stage is typically from TK through 5th grade. At this stage, they learn the form and function of language, or basically “how to read and talk” through the study of literature, **reading, observation, and memory**. The Logic Stage follows, for grades 6th through 9th, approximately. The students learn the relation of language to thought, or “how to talk sense” through **the study of arguments/proofs, reason, and interpretation**. They learn how to construct an intellectual argument and to dialogue using the Socratic method. Last comes the Rhetoric Stage, which **incorporates the use and manner of language, or “how to talk with style.”** The focus here is the study of expression, response, and application. When teaching according to these stages, the students become life-long learners and are able to come to know the good, true, and beautiful and can discuss them intellectually and eloquently with others.

The importance of knowing these natural stages of learning is so the teachers are able to teach utilizing tools of learning according to the natural stages of their students. They are taught through the medium of the **quadrivium**, which comprises arithmetic (study of numbers), geometry (study of shapes), astronomy (study of sciences), and harmony (study of music). These are the basis for all scientific studies. The tools of learning are also taught through the medium of the **higher subjects**, which include history, literature, philosophy, and the crown of all subjects, theology.

At Saint Therese Carmelite School, classical pedagogical methodologies are applied in the classroom according to students’ natural stages of development. In the 1st through 5th grade, the teachers focus on memorization skills. The students’ minds are like sponges at this stage and can easily absorb and memorize information. Thus, the teachers provide ample learning opportunities for them to learn phonics, math facts, geography, poems, catechism questions, prayers, and more thorough memorization. In the 6th through 8th grade, the teachers continue working with memorization skills while transitioning into a focus on logical thinking skills. At this stage, students naturally begin to form arguments. The teacher will engage the students in Socratic dialogue and discussions about the texts they are reading across the subjects, helping them to develop arguments which are based on sound reasoning and support from the text. It is at this stage that students can best understand and engage in the scientific method, algebra, geometry, debates, Latin declensions, and other tasks which require critical thinking skills and deduction. These methodologies have been used and tested for centuries and have been proven to produce exceptional results in the students.

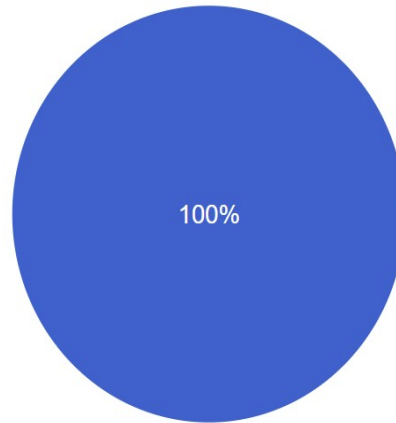


Did You Know...?

On a recent survey, when asked whether the School has a mission and philosophy statement which indicate the integration of the Roman Catholic Faith into all aspects of school, 100% of respondents answered yes.

On a recent survey, when asked whether the school has a religion curriculum that is faithful to the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, 100% of respondents answered yes.

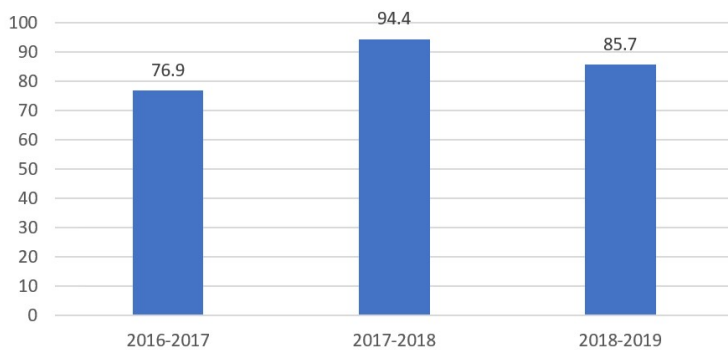
On a recent survey, when asked whether teachers and students have good working relationships and mutual respect for each other, 100% of respondents answered yes.



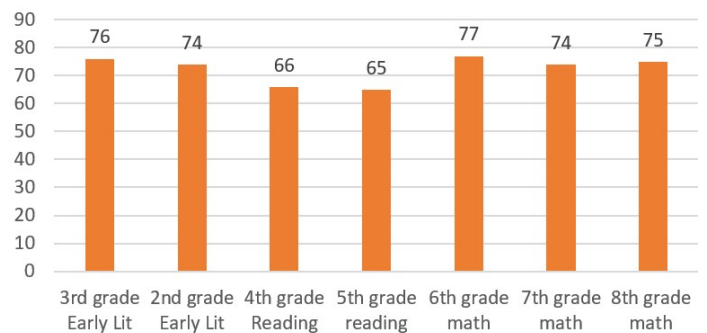
- Yes
- No
- Somewhat
- N/A



ACRE Data showing percent of 8th grade students proficient or advanced in religion standards



Sample Scores for Early Literature, Reading, and Math



Prepared for any high school! Our school curriculum has successfully prepared our students to enter the following private schools. Many of them have been accepted with honors at entrance and scholarships.

- Saint Francis High School
- Loyola High School
- LaSalle College Preparatory High School
- Don Bosco Technical Institute
- Bishop Amat High School
- Ramona Convent Secondary School
- Mayfield Senior School
- Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy
- Alverno Heights Academy
- Saint Monica Academy
- Westridge School for Girls
- Immaculate Heart High School
- Saint Lucy Priory High School

- Saint Damien High School
- Providence High School
- Cantwell Sacred Heart
- Polytechnic School
- Southwestern Academy
- Cathedral High School
- Holy Family High School
- Bishop Alemany High School
- Saint John Vianney Academy
- Chaminade College Preparatory High School
- 'Iolani School

MEET OUR STAFF

Principal: Mrs. Alma Cornejo is in her seventh year as Principal of STCS. She holds a Master's in School Counseling, a Master's in Psychology, a Pupil Personnel Services Credential, and certification for Level 2 of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. She has over 13 years of administrative experience and over 19 years of teaching experience.

Transitional Kindergarten & Kindergarten: Mrs. Ana Vallejo is in her seventh year of teaching at STCS and in her tenth year of working in education. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from Loyola Marymount University and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology. She is certified in both Levels 1 and 2 for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, as well as being certified to administer the Gesell Developmental Observation-Revised test to children ages three through six. She is the TK/K Homeroom teacher and teaches religion to grades 1 and 2.

First Grade & Second Grade: Mrs. Darlene Karnis is in her third year of teaching at STCS. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education from the Franciscan University of Steubenville and a Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education from Georgia State University. She is the 1st and 2nd Grade Homeroom teacher.

Third Grade & Fourth Grade: Mrs. Kendall Migliozi is in her first year teaching at STCS. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from the State University of New York and has taught in elementary classical education and religious education for six years. She is the 3rd and 4th Grade Homeroom teacher.

Fifth Grade & Sixth Grade: Miss Melanie Geier is in her second year of teaching at STCS. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Arts from Thomas Aquinas College. She is the 5th and 6th Grade Homeroom teacher.

Seventh Grade: Bro. Jason of the Holy Spirit, O.C.D., is in his fifth year of teaching at STCS. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Theology from the Franciscan University of Steubenville and a Master's Degree in Theology from Mount Angel Seminary. He is the 7th Grade Homeroom teacher, as well as the Religion teacher to grades 7 and 8.

Eighth Grade: Miss Heidi Tittmann is in her fifth year of teaching at STCS. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Arts from Thomas Aquinas College, a Master's Degree in Education from Penn State University, and a teaching credential in both Pennsylvania and California. She is the 8th Grade Homeroom teacher and teaches 7th and 8th grade science and Euclidean Geometry.

Art Teacher: Fr. Robert of Divine Mercy, O.C.D., is in his first year of teaching at STCS. He was an art major in college before joining the Carmelites at the age of 21. He studied iconography at Mt. Angel Seminary and holds a Master's Degree in Theology from Mt. Angel Seminary. He is the Art teacher for 5th through 8th Grades.

Choir Director: Miss Charlotte Lansburg is the Director of Music and Liturgy at Mission Basilica San Buenaventura. She is the founder and director of Credo Catholic Choir, a group that preserves the choral heritage of the Catholic Church. She has also produced five children's records and enjoys teaching 4th through 8th Grade choir at STCS.

Instructional Aide: Miss Marybeth Duncan is in her third year teaching at STCS. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Kinesiology from Cal State Fullerton. She teaches Physical Education for all grades and Phonics to TK students.

Instructional Aide: Mrs. Vanessa Kachirisky is in her first year at STCS. She studied Child and Adolescent Development at Cal State Fullerton and has experience working as a tutor and aide in a classroom with special needs children. She has been a parishioner at St. Therese Church attending the Latin Mass with her husband and six beautiful children for 11 years.

Administrative Assistant: Miss Megan Duncan is in her seventh year at STCS. She manages the front office and teaches religion to TK and K students.

After-School Care Director: Miss Suzi Faias is in her twenty-first year at STCS. She runs our after-school program, including coordinating daily snacks and overseeing homework help. She also substitutes for us in the classrooms and office.

Mass Intentions

Parish Info

March 5 to March 12, 2022

Saturday evening:

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

Sunday:

*7:30 a.m.: Marietta Okamoto, RIP

7:30 a.m.: Lim Ah Wee, RIP

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

11:00 a.m.: Liam Joseph Coyle, 1st B-Day INT

1:00 p.m.: Fonseca & Abele grandparents, RIP

5:00 p.m.: Parishioners

Monday:

6:00 a.m.: Maria Alejandra de Jesus, B-Day INT

*7:30 a.m.: Maria Alejandra de Jesus, B-Day INT

8:00 a.m.: Maria Alejandra de Jesus, B-Day, INT

7:00 p.m.: Maria Alejandra de Jesus B-Day INT

Tuesday:

6:00 a.m.: Franklin & Hong Teng, Anniversary INT

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

8:00 a.m.: Wai Ching Lee Kwong, RIP

7:00 p.m.: Miriam Lopez, Birthday INT

Wednesday:

6:00 a.m.: Eric LeClair, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Nancy Smith, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Irene E. Spencer, Birthday INT

7:00 p.m.: Marietta Okamoto, RIP

Thursday:

6:00 a.m.: Guadalupe Ortega Carrillo

*7:30 a.m.: Marietta Okamoto, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Hernandez-Cuellar Family, INT

7:00 p.m.: Gaby Haro, Birthday INT

Friday:

6:00 a.m.: All Souls in Purgatory

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

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

Saturday Morning

*7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Community

8:00 a.m.: Jose Munoz, 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

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).



“FR. JEROME ANNUAL APPEAL”: The collection to help support the Cloistered Carmelite Nuns in Alhambra **will take place this weekend!** Envelopes are in the pews and on the tables by the doors. Please be generous to the Sisters who pray for us and for the world!

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Every Friday in Lent at 7:00 p.m.

CONSECRATION TO ST. JOSEPH: Contact Maria Alejandra (Ext. 235) if you would like to take part in the Consecration to St. Joseph (you may also come and renew your consecration). It will take place on either March 18 or 19 (will be decided and published before then).

FINANCIAL OFFERINGS FOR LAST WEEKEND (Feb. 26/27):

Unrestricted	\$13,553.00
Restricted.....	\$ 857.00
TOTAL.....	\$14,410.00

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- Counseling
- Referrals - Agencies, Housing, Medical
- 24 Hour Hotline (626) 444-HELP
- Post Abortion Counseling
- Speaker's Bureau

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