

St. Therese Catholic Church

Est. 1924

Ministered by the Discalced Carmelite Friars

May 5, 2024 510 North El Molino Street | Alhambra CA 91801 | (626) 282-2744 | www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org



Special School Edition

Faith.



Academics.



Virtue.



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

My Dear Parishioners of St. Therese,

Blessed Easter to you all once again and a Happy Centennial Year for our Parish! St. Therese promised that after her death she would “spend my Heaven doing good upon earth” and send forth a “shower of roses.” This is clearly apparent in our School right now! We are the “little engine that could.” Our School has grown by leaps and bounds since it was re-founded with a classical curriculum nine years ago. We now have the largest enrollment ever in its nine-year history and are on course to have even more enrolled in the fall! Now, I must admit that I have entrusted all our School’s needs entirely into the hands of St. Joseph. As the old saying goes: “Ite ad Joseph!” (Go to Joseph!) He never fails us! Our School Board just finished a novena to St. Joseph the Worker ending on May 1st, imploring this great saint to help us provide for the School’s financial needs, which are many.

More than half of our students are receiving some level of financial aid or scholarship to be able to attend our School. And many of our buildings and facilities are old and in need of repair, refurbishing or replacing. Yet, we put our trust in St. Joseph and the many “shower of roses” that our great patroness, St. Therese, will send upon us. You all are a big part of that “shower” in the generosity you have shown and continue to show to our little school. You are the School’s great treasure and benefactors on this earth! And we thank you for that! Please know that your generous contributions truly help to keep our students in need in a school that truly cares about their sanctity first and foremost. Nowhere else in this Archdiocese will they be educated and formed in a truly Catholic and Carmelite environment within a classical model. That is something to invest in year after year as a Parish! As we may or may not know, our primary apostolate as a parish is the education of our future generations in the Faith. And I can honestly say that our School puts faith first in its educational approach. In this way, I believe that our School truly represents the faith life and vibrancy of our beautiful Parish!

Thank you again and may Our Lord bless you abundantly through the intercession of Our Blessed Lady, St. Joseph, and St. Therese!

-Fr. Peter Mary, O.C.D.

Support Our Students



Donate to the School by Check, PayPal, or Zelle

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. To set up a one-time or recurring PayPal payment, please visit SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com/Donate.

To donate by check, please mail it to **Saint Therese Carmelite School, 1106 East Alhambra Rd, Alhambra, CA 91801**. To donate via Zelle, scan the QR code here.



Become a Sponsor through our “Adopt-A-Saint Scholarship” Fund or our “Our Lady of Guadalupe 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.

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 either of these Scholarship Funds, please stop by our school office during the week or contact the School at **(626) 289-3364**.

"LET ME INTRODUCE YOU..."

BY FR. STEPHEN F. WATSON, O.C.D.

A Weekly Feature for Our Centennial Year



North Story Place is a street in St. Therese Parish that runs north and south between Huntington Drive and East Woodward Avenue. It was named after Francis Q. Story, a Bostonian who came to Alhambra and bought 30 acres of land-later donating a portion of it to the city to create Story Park. His house, built in 1883, is the oldest and biggest one on the street. Its front door faces towards Alhambra Road. Many houses on the street actually look like they came out of a story book! **One of our SCHOOL FAMILIES, Heinrich and Cristina Ranches, their two children, Ian and Laura,** and their dog Milo, live on North Story Place. This is their story.

Heinrich Ranches was born in Manila, along with his two sisters and a brother. He is not German, and he is not Portuguese. His father liked the name Heinrich and so gave this name to his first-born son-although his family and friends call him Dax. Ranches, I was informed, is a common family name in the Philippines. When he was three years old, the family moved to the United States, eventually putting down roots in La Mirada. After Dax graduated from La Mirada High School, he attended Cal State Fullerton and earned a degree in psychology.

Cristina Kitaoka was born at Cedars-Sinai in Los Angeles-the oldest of three children born to George Kitaoka and Rosa Isela Spenser-and was raised in Rosemead. Her maiden name is Japanese, thanks to her great-grandfather who was born in Japan and immigrated to Presidio, Texas, a border town on the Rio Grande across from the Mexican State of Chihuahua (which is where he met her great-grandmother). Cristina graduated from USC with a specialization in occupational therapy and immediately was employed in her field by Los Angeles County. Per the advice of her parents, as soon as she started receiving a paycheck, she began putting her savings into a house she bought on Wells Street in the parish of St. Anthony.

Heinrich's parents were very involved with the Filipino Association at their parish, Beatitudes of Our Lord, in La Mirada. One of the Association's favorite activities was line-dancing, which was soon taken up by Heinrich. Well, wouldn't you know it, Christina was also into line-dancing! Enter the matchmaker, Stella-a co-worker of Cristina who is herself Filipina. Stella is also a family friend of the parents of Heinrich. So, she arranged for Heinrich to meet Christina. Their early dates were line-dancing practices in parking lots. Cute, no?

As Cristina already owned a house, being a focused person, she knew her next step was marriage. Not only did she love Heinrich, but she knew he would be a good father. So, they were married at Beatitudes of Our Lord on November 16, 2002. Sometime after, they had their first-born, Ian, and baptized him at San Gabriel Mission Church. In 2007, the timing was right to buy the house on North Story Place. The Ranches are only the third owners of this house, which was built in 1929.

When their daughter Laura was born, she was baptized at St. Therese. **Ian did all his primary schooling at St. Therese School.** Laura first attended Immaculate Conception in Monrovia and then was home-schooled for a year during the pandemic. **She is now back at St. Therese School in the 7th Grade** and is doing very well. Ian graduated from Bosco Tech and is now a sophomore at Whittier College.

Some years before, Cristina had encouraged her husband to get a teaching credential. He did that, earning a master's degree in education from National University. Since then, Heinrich has taught at Saints Felicitas and Perpetua in San Marino, Nia Educational Charter School in Altadena ("Nia" is Swahili for "purpose"), San Gabriel High School, and Immaculate Conception (which is why his daughter went to school there). When the Covid pandemic hit, Heinrich switched to being a substitute teacher to spend more time at home with the children. He is presently applying for a teaching position with the San Marino School District.

Heinrich has been a lector for many years, beginning at his home parish in La Mirada. You've probably seen him lector at St. Therese. Cristina heads the In-patient Psychiatry at Los Angeles General Medical Center. She also teaches a summer course at Cal State University, Dominguez Hills. Good parents that they are, their primary focus is on their children. Cristina says, **"St. Therese Church and School both feel like home to us."** For our part, we are more than happy to have them here at home in our Parish.

The Ranches Family is part of the rich 100-year history of St. Therese Parish.
Let us all walk with St. Therese as we journey together in faith during our Centennial year.

Alumni Spotlight: Luke Kachirisky, '20

Luke Kachirisky, the eldest of six, is graduating from Damien High School this Spring. In the Fall, he will attend the United States Merchant Marine Academy, an elite federal service academy with a selective 22% acceptance rate. Luke recently sat down for an interview with us to reflect on his time at Saint Therese and the impact it has had on him.

Luke, can you tell us about how your experience at Saint Therese has prepared you for high school and beyond?

Well, I believe that prior to...going to Saint Therese... I attended public school and I wasn't really grasping the concepts that they were trying to teach me... I was really failing. And I think what really helped here at Saint Therese is that there was...a way of doing things. And that was not only in the classrooms, through education and everything, but I believe it was also through incorporating God in the classrooms. I think that really has helped me in high school, in keeping God in my life and in my studies. Also the opportunities that Saint Therese gave me through geometry and algebra ...I've been able to take more rigorous classes like AP Calculus and higher math classes.

When you first entered Damien High School, did you enter with any honors or place in any special classes?

Yeah, so [as a freshman] they put me in honors classes, like honors debate, and I was able to...test out of algebra and out of geometry and [place into] Honors Algebra 2 as a freshman.

Did your formation at St. Therese help you to evangelize or to be able to talk to your classmates who weren't Catholic?

Definitely. I mean, I just came out of Mass right now and being able to see the Altar servers still [altar serving] the way that I was doing it ...Being in that leadership position [helped me] to be able to evangelize at Damien...I think that because I was able to lead altar serving here at Saint Therese, I was [able to bring] those same leadership skills to Damien and I was able to, evangelize, spread the Faith, bring more young men back into the chapels and adoration, pray the Rosary after school and everything.

What do you take from Saint Therese now? What do you take with you to the Merchant Marine Academy?

Going into the Merchant Marine Academy, I know that's going to be a very difficult journey, but I think one thing Saint Therese Carmelite School has taught me is that... anything in life that's worth having is going to be difficult. And I think that the life of St. Therese and the life of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ were difficult... There's going to be suffering and there's going to be sacrifices, but I know that, in the Merchant Marine Academy, that all that suffering, all that sacrifice will be that much more worth it. Definitely the Rosary and prayer [will help me to persevere]. A lot, a lot of prayer. And also the study habits that I have received from Saint Therese.

Is there anything else you want people to know about Saint Therese?

Here at Saint Therese... it's more like family...everybody's kind of interconnected. I feel like the teachers, the staff...everybody is there for one another. And I think that that's something that should really be more prominent and more prevalent [in Catholic schools]. Everybody's family, that's the whole point, you know...Becoming a saint. We're all children of God and we're all trying to get to Heaven. That's what I really loved about Saint Therese—is that we're all family, trying to become saints.



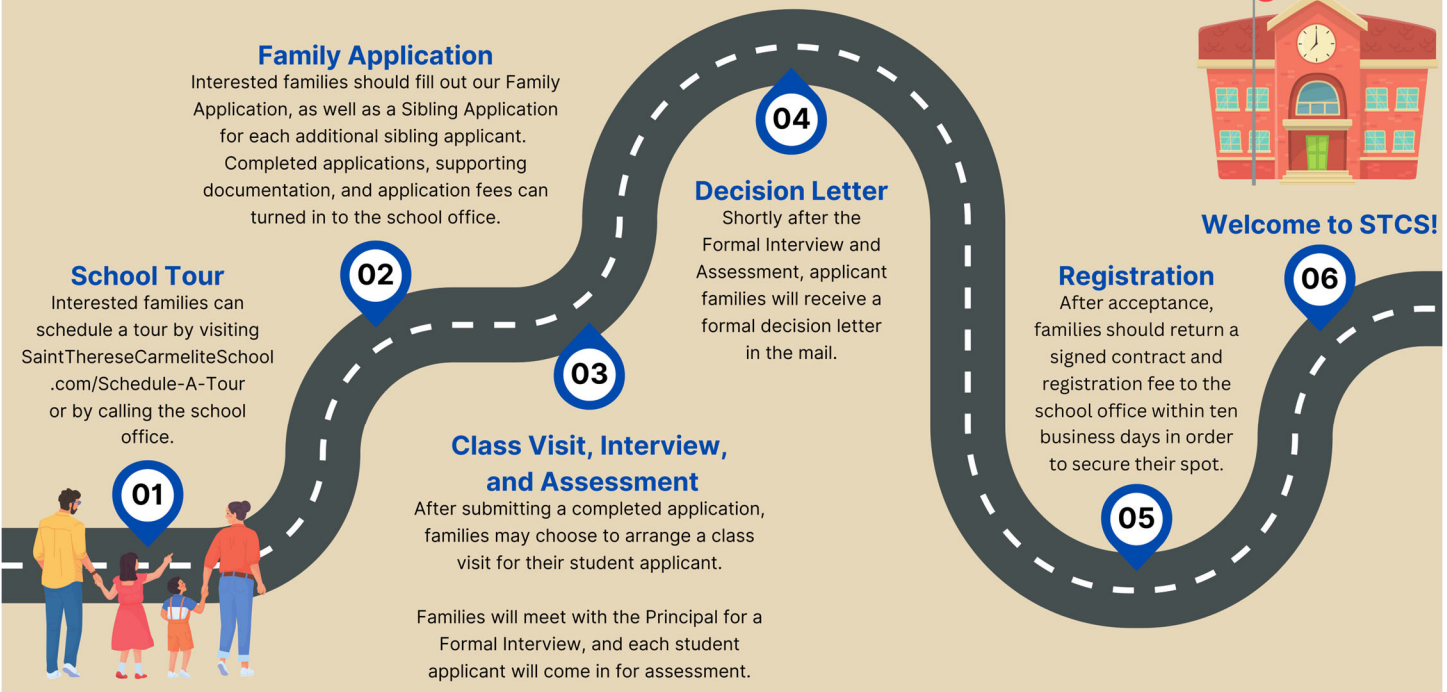
Are you a St. Therese Alum? Let us know!

We are seeking to update our alumni database in anticipation of our upcoming centennial anniversary!

If you are an alumni, please email alumni@SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com with your name, graduation year, and contact information; or call the school office to be added to our database.

Application Process: The Road to Becoming a Saint

6 Stages of the Admissions Process



To read more about the application process, visit SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com/How-To-Apply

Prepared for any high school!

Our school curriculum has successfully prepared our students to enter the private schools listed below. Many of them have been accepted with honors at entrance and scholarships.

- Saint Francis High School
- Loyola High School
- LaSalle College Prep 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



Cultivating Virtue Beyond the Classroom: Troops of St. George, Little Flowers, & Little Women

In the Fall of 2022, we began offering Little Flowers and Little Women for girls in TK through 8th Grade. Over 25 years old, these programs use badges and achievements to instill virtues and hospitality skills in young girls and young women. In the Fall of 2023, we began offering the Troops of St. George for boys in TK through 8th Grade. Troop 1925 (named for the year St. Therese was canonized) was chartered on October 1, the feast of St. Therese.

All three of these clubs have done wonders for our students. The girls have learned about virtues from humility to obedience to joy, and older girls have learned skills such as public speaking, event planning, sewing, and house decorating. They have performed acts of service, such as making postpartum baskets for new moms in the community, visiting with different religious communities, and planning school events. They have enjoyed outings such as ice skating and a trip to watch *Cabrini*. The Troops of St. George have covered numerous skills this year, from car maintenance to knot tying to fishing. They have also enjoyed various camping trips together. Throughout all of this, they keep the Faith at the heart of everything they do.

We are happy to have nearly two-thirds of our student body participating in these after-school programs.



Fr. Robert celebrates Mass on a Troops' camping trip.



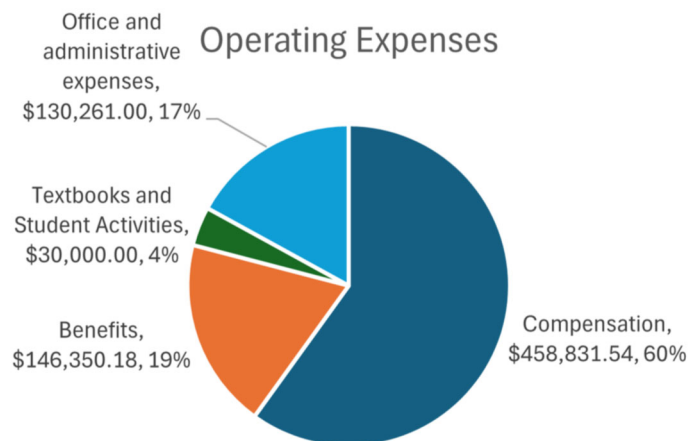
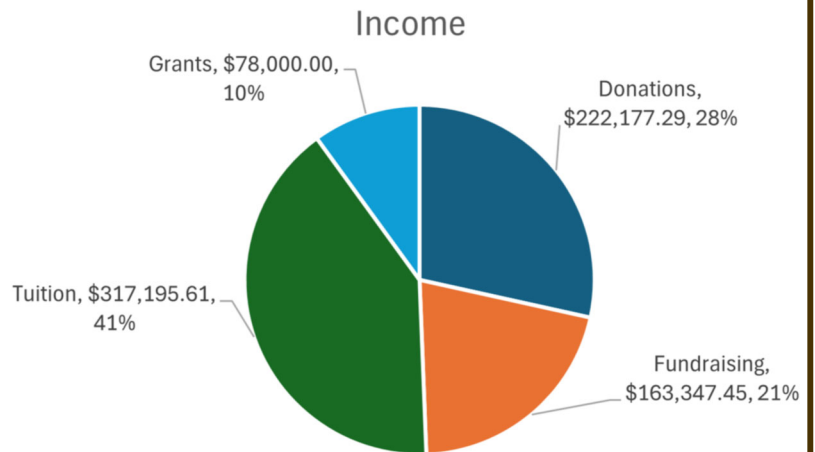
The Little Flowers visit the church.



The Little Women enjoy an ice skating trip.

2023-2024 Financial Summary

July 2023 through March 2024



Mass Intentions

May 4—May 11, 2024

Saturday Evening:

5:00 p.m.: Merle Smith, INT

Sunday

*7:30 a.m.: John Hummel, RIP
7:30 a.m.: Carter & Fullenkamp Families, INT

9:00 a.m.: Emma Villa, OCDS, RIP

11:00 a.m.: Wang-Shih Lin, RIP

1:00 p.m. (Latin): Christopher Huling, RIP

5:00 p.m.: Gilberto Gomez, RIP

Monday:

6:00 a.m.: Jose Cruz Lopez, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Darion Sawyer, INT

8:00 a.m.: Wang-Shih Lin, RIP

7:15 p.m.: All Souls in Purgatory

Tuesday

6:00 a.m.: Wang-Shih Lin, RIP

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

8:00 a.m.: Jose Cruz Lopez, RIP

7:15 p.m.: Parishioners of St. Therese

Wednesday:

6:00 a.m.: Christine Padilla, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Lupe Salgado, Birthday INT

8:00 a.m.: Mother Maria, OCD, INT

Thursday

6:00 a.m.: Jose Cruz Lopez, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Lynn & Louie Salgado, INT

8:00 a.m.: Julius & Carmina Doria, INT

Friday:

6:00 a.m.: Alex Villanueva, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Julia Munoz, RIP

8 a.m.: Alicia Maria Guadalupe Ortega RIP

Saturday (Morning):

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

8:00 a.m.: Mother Maria, OCD, INT

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

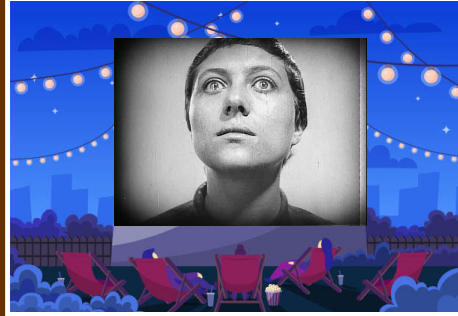
Open to the public except Sundays/holidays.

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 evening Masses. "Tune in"!

Save these Two Dates!

MOVIE NIGHT! PRESENTED ON THE BIG SCREEN IN OUR PARKING LOT



Fr. Peter Mary invites everyone to join him at **6:30 p.m., on Saturday, May 18,** for our next **M O V I E N I G H T !**

Showing on our parking lot BIG SCREEN will be: **The Passion of Joan of Arc.** Directed by Carl Theodor Dreyer, with Maria Falconetti as Joan of Arc, this 1928 rapturous masterpiece, with soulful close-ups of Falconetti's tremulous martyr, is an immortal screen classic that will live forever! It's on many "best movies ever" lists.

ST. THERESE PARISH PICNIC FOR OUR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Fr. Stephen has reserved Lacy Park in San Marino for our Parish and School Picnic on **Sunday, June 16th, from Noon to 5:30 p.m.** Let Father know if you'd like to help in any way.



FINANCIAL OFFERINGS

April 27 / 28, 2024

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| Unrestricted | \$11,584.00 |
| Restricted | \$ 365.00 |
| TOTAL | \$11,949.00 |

