St. Therese Catholic Church

December 14, 2025 1100 East Alhambra Road, Alhambra CA 91801 (Office: 510 North El Molino Street) | (626) 282-2744 | www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org

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
(*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|stcreligioused7@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@saintthereseccarmeliteschool.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 pray that you all are entering into the quiet expectation of this holy season of Advent in company with Our Lady! **December 14 would normally be the Solemnity of St. John of the Cross but, because of the 14th falling on the 2nd Sunday of Advent, we will celebrate it on Monday the 15th!** One of his great disciples was St. Therese, who read and incarnated his teachings in a singular way.

Let us read Therese's great teaching on **confidence in God**, which she imparted to her sister, Marie.

Fr. Peter Mary Vecellio, OCD

"Nothing But Confidence" (LT 197)

Letter from Therese to Sister Marie of the Sacred Heart

My dearest Sister, I am not embarrassed to reply to you... How can you ask me if you can love the Good God as much as I love Him? If you had understood the story of my little bird, you would not have posed that question. My desires for martyrdom are nothing; they are not what give me the unlimited confidence that I feel in my heart. It is spiritual riches, to tell the truth, that make one unjust, when one rests in them with complacency and when one believes they are something great... These desires are a consolation that Jesus grants at times to weak souls like mine (and these souls are numerous!), but when He does not give this consolation, it is a grace of privilege. Recall those words of Father: "The martyrs suffered with joy, and the King of Martyrs suffered with sadness." Yes, Jesus said: "Father, let this chalice pass away from me." Dear Sister, how can you say after this that my desires are the sign of my love?... Ah, I really feel that it is not this at all that pleases God in my little soul; what pleases Him is that He sees me loving my littleness and my poverty, the blind hope that I have in His mercy... That is my only treasure, dear GODMOTHER; why would this treasure not be yours?

Are you not ready to suffer all that God will desire? I really know that you are. So, if you want to feel joy, to have an attraction for suffering, it is your consolation that you are seeking; since when we love a thing, the pain disappears. I assure you, if we were to go to martyrdom together in the dispositions we are in now, you would have great merit, and I would have none at all, unless Jesus was pleased to change my dispositions. Oh, my dear Sister, I beg you, understand your little girl, understand that to love Jesus, to be His victim of love, the weaker that one is, without desires or virtues, the more suited one is for the workings of this consuming and transforming Love... The desire alone to be a victim suffices, but we must consent to remain always poor and without strength, and this is the difficulty, for: "The truly poor in spirit, where do we find Him? You must look for Him from afar," said the Psalmist...

He does not say that you must look for Him among great souls, but "from afar;" that is to say, in lowliness, in nothingness... Ah! Let us remain then very far from all that sparkles, let us love our littleness, let us love to feel nothing; then we shall be poor in spirit, and Jesus will come to look for us and, however far we may be, He will transform us into flames of love... Oh! How I would like to be able to make you understand what I feel... ***It is confidence and nothing but confidence that must lead us to Love...*** Does not fear lead to Justice? ...Since we see the way, let us run together. Yes, I feel it; Jesus wills to give us the same graces, He wills to give us His Heaven gratuitously.

Oh, my dear little Sister, if you don't understand me, it is because you are too great a soul... or rather, it is because I am explaining myself poorly, for I am sure that God would not give you the desire to be *POSSESSED* by Him, by His merciful Love, if He were not reserving this favor for you… or rather He has already given it to you, since you have given yourself to Him, since you desire to be consumed by Him, and since God never gives desires that He cannot realize. Nine o'clock is ringing, and I am obliged to leave you. Ah, how I would like to tell you things, but Jesus is going to make you feel all that I cannot write...

I love you with all the tenderness of my GRATEFUL little, childlike heart. —*Therese of the Child Jesus*

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)
Wednesday, December 17: 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 20: 3:00–5:00 p.m.
Monday and Tuesday, December 22 and 23:
7:00—9:00 p.m.
NO HEALING MINISTRY DECEMBER 22 AND 29

Weekday Masses Christmas Week:
December 22 – December 24,
and December 26 and 27
6:00 and 8:00 a.m.

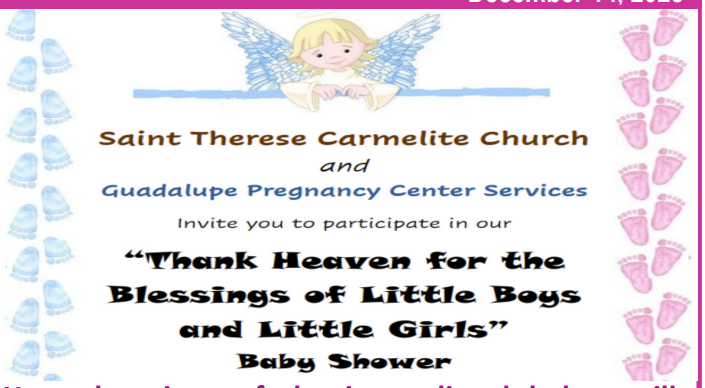
Monday Evening, December 22: **7:15 p.m.**
Tuesday Evening, December 23: **NO Mass**
Wed. Evening, Dec. 24: **No** Confessions

Masses for the Solemnity of Christmas
Christmas Eve, December 24:
5:00 p.m. and *Midnight
***Choral Prelude at 11:30 p.m.**

Christmas Day, December 25:
7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., **+**11:00 a.m.,
and 1:00 p.m. Latin High Mass
(**NO** 5:00 p.m. Mass on Christmas Day)

+Choral Prelude at 10:45 a.m.

Rejoice!



Your donations of the items listed below will greatly help the mothers and babies assisted by Guadalupe Pregnancy Services. A bassinet to collect the items will be in the main vestibule of the church through December 21.

ITEMS NEEDED:

Diapers (sizes 4 and 6 ONLY), bilingual board books, adult bath towels (medium size), baby bath towels, baby bathtubs, infant/toddler toothpaste, Christmas toys (new), highchairs, strollers, swings, potty chairs, gift cards for food, and gift cards for furniture.

Saint Therese Carmelite School

Faith ⚜ Academics ⚜ Virtue

DINE OUT

Support our school and dine out at Spanglish Kitchen! Must present a flyer at the register. Grab a flyer from the church or pick one up at the school office!

December 15, 2025
3PM-8PM

20% of event sales will be donated to Saint Therese Carmelite School

526 N. Atlantic Blvd. Alhambra, CA 91801

Saint Therese Carmelite School
proudly presents

Advent Lessons & Carols & Christmas Pageant

Thursday, December 18, 2025
St. Therese Church, 6:30 pm

Please join us for a night of carols, hymns, and Scripture readings. We hope that our performance will inspire you with hope and joy as we await the Christmas season together.

All are welcome to attend.

1106 East Alhambra Road
Alhambra, California 91801

(626) 289-3364
www.SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com

DEUS VOCAT
PARISH POSADA

"Preparing the Way of the Lord"

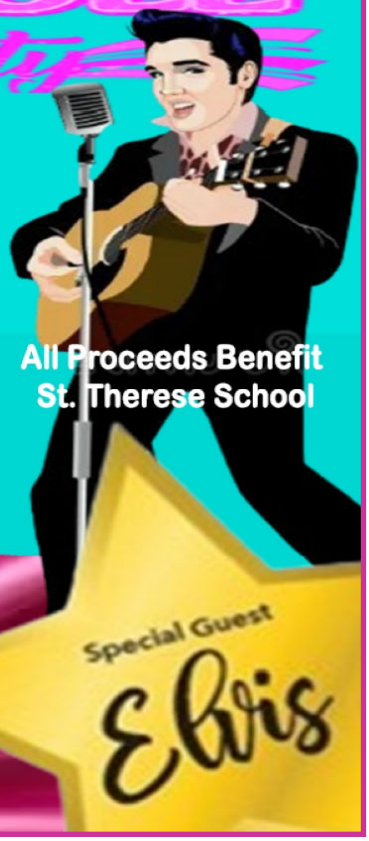
Saturday December 20, 2025
In the Parish Hall
(beginning with the
5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass)

This festive evening—on Sat., Dec. 20—will begin with the 5:00 p.m. Mass in the church, followed by La Posada. We will be in the Hall to enjoy *Prayerful Chants (Villancicos), *Christmas Carols, a *Pinata for the children (with Candy—aquinaldos), *Tamales, *Pan Dulce, *Champurrado, AND MORE! Don't miss this traditional Advent celebration!

Join us as we accompany Joseph, Mary, and Jesus to Bethlehem!

ROCK 'N' ROLL
Dance Party

Shake & Roll Rattle



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

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.

All Proceeds Benefit St. Therese School

Dinner and Dance

Family Friendly!

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

Delicious full buffet dinner and dessert. See the flyer on the website home page for full menu.

St. John of the Cross

St. John of the Cross (1542–1591) was a Spanish mystic, poet, and Carmelite friar, renowned for his deep spirituality and—along with Teresa of Avila—reform of the Carmelite Order. Born Juan de Yepes in Fontiveros, Spain, he entered the Carmelite Order and later became a priest. His life was marked by humility, intense prayer, and a profound love for God.

He championed a return to simplicity and austerity within the order, which led to opposition and even imprisonment. During this time, he composed some of the most beautiful mystical poetry in Christian tradition, including ***The Dark Night of the Soul*** and ***The Spiritual Canticle***. These writings explore the soul's journey toward union with God through detachment and love.

St. John emphasized that true joy and freedom come from surrendering to God's will. Canonized in 1726 and declared a Doctor of the Church in 1926, he remains a guiding light for those seeking spiritual depth. His feast day reminds us to embrace silence, prayer, and trust in God's transformative love.

Series on The Catechism of the Catholic Church

This Tuesday, December 16, from 7:30-9:00 p.m.

Normally, this class would be held on the 4th Tuesday, but because that date is so close to Christmas, it has been moved to this Tuesday.

A Step-by-Step Walk Through the Mass

"Do This in Remembrance of Me" (Part 38: Incense)

What is incense, and where does it come from? According to the Catholic Source Book, "Frankincense… is the main ingredient in the incense used in today's liturgies. A resin produced by a family of desert trees that grow in southern Arabia, it is derived from a sap that dries, forming crystalline lumps of an amber/gold color" (p. 307). Charles Belmonte adds, "Incense is a resinous substance which, when placed upon glowing charcoal, gives off a balsamic odor as it burns. It had a place in Israelite worship; in fact, the psalmist compares prayer to the smoke of incense, rising up to Heaven" (Understanding the Mass, p. 50).

Where is incense mentioned in the Bible? Incense is mentioned in the Book of Numbers 7:14 as part of an offering for the dedication of the altar. Deuteronomy 33:10 makes reference to "the smoke of sacrifice." Exodus 30:34–38 describes blending aromatic substances with pure frankincense in equal parts. In Revelation 5:8, St. John tells us the elders had "gold bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the holy ones." In another reference, Revelation 8:3–4 describes an angel with a gold censer: "He was given a great quantity of incense to offer, along with the prayers of all the holy ones…

Why is incense used at Mass? Fr. Oury notes that incensing "is a mark of honor paid to the offerings that are going to become the Body and Blood of Christ. …Incensing is also a kind of petition, a deeply meaningful one. Through it we pray that the Church's offering and the Church's prayer may mount to Heaven, to the presence of God above, like a veritable cloud of incense" (The Mass, p. 87).

Financial Offerings

This bulletin had to be submitted for printing before the weekend of December 6/7. The totals for that weekend will be published in the bulletin of December 21.

November 8 / 9	$15,848.00
November 15 / 16	$16,717.00
November 22 / 23	$15,307.00
November 29 / 30	$16,735.00

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

Mass Intentions

December 13—December 20, 2025

Saturday Evening:
5:00 p.m.: Silverio Reyes, RIP

Sunday:
*7:30 a.m.: Antonius Maringka, RIP
7:30 a.m.: Rhony Laigo & Family, INT
9:00 a.m.: Viviana & Mary Helen Estrada, INT
11:00 a.m.: Margaret & Carlos Villavazo, RIP
1:00 p.m.: (Latin): David Holman, B-Day INT
5:00 pm: Parishioners

Monday:
6:00 a.m.: Robert, INT
*7:30 a.m.: Ha Vi Nguyen, INT
8:00 a.m.: Erlinda Fontanaras, RIP
7:15 p.m.: Stephanie Ng, RIP

Tuesday (+7:15 p.m. in Spanish):
6:00 a.m.: Alma Dampf, RIP
*7:30 a.m.: Ha Uyen Nguyen, INT
8:00 a.m.: Mary DeSantis, RIP
+7:15 p.m.: Sherie Lynn Harvey, RIP

Wednesday:
6:00 a.m.: Helen Kaplaoff, RIP
*7:30 a.m.: Cloist'd Nuns C-mas Novena 1
(for Friends and Benefactors of Carmel)
8:00 a.m.: Bernie & Kay Tittmann, 58th Anniv

Thursday:
6:00 a.m.: Suffering Souls in Purgatory
*7:30 a.m.: Cloist'd Nuns C-mas Novena 2
8:00 a.m.: Myriva Nierva, INT

Friday:
6:00 a.m.: Easter Flower Memorial, RIP
*7:30 a.m.: Cloist'd Nuns C-mas Novena 3
8:00 a.m.: Jamie Arakawa, RIP

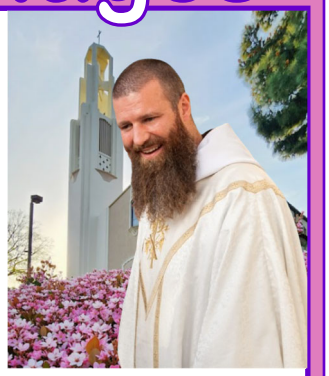
Saturday Morning
*7:30 a.m.: Cloist'd Nuns C-mas Novena 4
8:00 a.m.: Virgilio Lopez, RIP

***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.

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