

SAINT THERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH

1100 East Alhambra Road, Alhambra CA 91801 | (626) 282-2744 | www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org

January 3, 2021

MINISTERED BY THE DISCALCED CARMELITE FRIARS

Estab. 1924

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: Deacon Joseph Mizerski X333;

Deacon Gilbert Vargas X333

Annulments: Lorraine Mizerski X333

Vocations:

For the Carmelites: www.discalcedcarmelitefriars.com

For the Archdiocese: (213) 637-7515

Parish Secretary:

Denise McMaster-Holguin X223 denisekay@hotmail.com

Finance: Noralyn Cailan X228 / cailannocds@gmail.com

Music Director:

Charlotte Lansberg X226 / cjlansberg@gmail.com

Respect Life Ministry / Vox Vitae:

Catherine Contreras X112

MASSES AND SERVICES

ALL SERVICES ARE OUTDOORS

Saturday Vigil: 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: 6:00 and 9:00 a.m.—the 9:00

a.m. Mass is live streamed on our Facebook

page **AND** on our YouTube channel:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnvT2tTus](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnvT2tTus0wnxlypGOeuf0g)

[0wnxlypGOeuf0g](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnvT2tTus0wnxlypGOeuf0g)

Confessions under the red umbrellas on

Saturdays from 3:00 to 6:30 p.m. and on

Sundays from Noon to 1:00 p.m.

SACRAMENTS:

Baptisms: Register online

Weddings: Register online
at least six months in advance

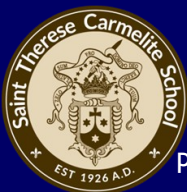
Anointing: Call the office.



SAINT THERESE CARMELITE SCHOOL

(626) 289-3364

Principal: Alma Cornejo X661



www.SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com
principal@sainttheresecarmeliteschool.com

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

And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the Child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star and, upon entering the house, they saw the Child with Mary His mother. They prostrated themselves and did Him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way (Matthew 2:9-12).



New Parishioners: Welcome to St. Therese! Please register online: www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org

We have a mail drop in front of the office at 510 North El Molino Street. It is located on the right side of the door.

FROM FR. THOMAS, Pastor

**"Arise, arise! Wake from your slumber,
Jerusalem: shake the chain from your
neck, captive daughter Zion."**

(Prayer Antiphon from the Liturgy of the Hours for
Tuesday Morning of Week Three of Advent)

Dear Parishioners,

As we continue celebrating the Christmas season we don't want to forget that Jesus especially wants to **GIVE** gifts on His Birthday. What kind of gifts does He especially want to give us? "...You shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). He wants to give us gifts that will *heal us from sin and bring real change and growth especially in our hearts and minds and emotions*—gifts that will help us really prepare for His Second Coming and His Coming each day.

As an example, here are some passages from the ministry book, **Trees of Life** (by Kay Sprung and Pam Spencer):

Every person on the planet has a core-belief system. In the deepest part of each of us is an accumulation of thoughts coming out of things that people have said about and to us, our circumstances, and experiences in life, what we have been taught, and what we have inherited from our ancestors. From all of these areas, each person forms a self-concept or core-belief system of who and what he or she is.

Many people have formed—in varying degrees—a negative self-concept, from mild self-rejection to intense self-destructive self-hatred. This is not the way God intended us to be. Who we are and what we think of ourselves should line up with who and what

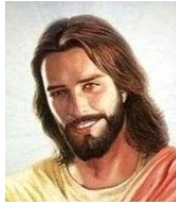
Why? Because God is Truth, so what He says about me is true. To disagree with Him is to call God a liar. To disagree with God about who and what I am is to come into agreement with the enemy of our souls who only comes to steal, kill, and destroy. This agreement with who and what the enemy says I am brings me into believing a lie which opens the door to him.

Believing the lie, instead of God's truth, also shows that I do not understand or believe that Jesus paid the price for me to be reunited to the Father as His precious child, making me a co-heir with Jesus. This too is sin. Denying the salvific benefits Jesus so painfully purchased for me at the Cross is a form of unbelief (John 16:8-9: "The Holy Spirit will convict the world of sin...that they do not believe.")

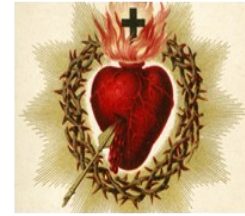


Therefore, the mindsets that do not line up with God's truth need to be repainted and cleaned out by replacing them with Godly mindsets, according to God's word. This is accomplished by choosing with your will, not your emotions, to believe God and what He says as to who you are and what you are.

See the next page to know what God says about us.



WHO I AM IN CHRIST



I Am Accepted in Christ

- JOHN 1:12 I am God's child
- JOHN 15:15 I am Christ's friend
- ROMANS 5:1 I have been justified
- I CORINTHIANS 6:17 I am united with the Lord and one with Him in Spirit
- I CORINTHIANS 6:20 I have been bought with a price, I belong to God
- I CORINTHIANS 12:27 I am a member of Christ's Body
- EPHESIANS 1:1 I am a saint
- EPHESIANS 1:5 I have been adopted as God's child
- EPHESIANS 2:18 I have direct access to God through the Holy Spirit
- COLOSSIANS 1:14 I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins
- COLOSSIANS 2:10 I am complete in Christ



I Am Secure in Christ

- ROMANS 8:1 & 2 I am free forever from condemnation
- ROMANS 8:28 I am assured that all things work together for good
- ROMANS 8:33 & 34 I am free from any condemning charges against me
- ROMANS 8:35 I cannot be separated from the Love of God
- II CORINTHIANS 1:21 I have been established, anointed and sealed by God
- COLOSSIANS 3:3 I am hidden with Christ in God
- PHILIPPIANS 1:6 I am confident that the good work God has begun in me will be perfected
- PHILIPPIANS 3:20 I am a citizen of Heaven
- II TIMOTHY 1:7 I have not been given a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind
- HEBREWS 4:16 I can find Grace and Mercy in time of need
- I JOHN 5:18 I am born of God and the evil one cannot touch me



I Am Significant in Christ

- MATTHEW 5:13 & 14 I am the salt and light of the earth
- JOHN 15: 1 & 5 I am a branch of the True Vine, a channel of His life
- JOHN 15:16 I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit
- ACTS 1:8 I am a personal witness of Christ's
- I CORINTHIANS 3:16 I am God's Temple
- II CORINTHIANS 5:17-20 I am a minister of reconciliation
- II CORINTHIANS 6:1 I am God's co-worker
- EPHESIANS 2:6 I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realm
- EPHESIANS 2:10 I am God's workmanship
- EPHESIANS 3:12 I may approach God with freedom and confidence
- PHILIPPIANS 4:13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me



THURSDAY NIGHTS FOR YOUR SOUL!

CANDLELIGHT MASS, ADORATION, AND VIEWING OF AN EPISODE OF THE CHOSEN

Join your Parish Community every Thursday evening to refresh your soul! The schedule is as follows:

7:00 p.m.: Mass

7:30 p.m.: Adoration

8:00 p.m.: Viewing of Episode Six of *THE CHOSEN* (Jan. 7)

DRESS WARM!
BRING A LAP BLANKET!

Episode 6: "Indescribable Compassion" - Word is beginning to leak out that Jesus is not just an ordinary craftsman. As He and His disciples travel back to Capernaum, they run into a leper, whom Jesus cures. A woman, who witnessed this miracle, takes desperate measures to get her paralytic friend through the crowd to meet Jesus.



You can also watch *The Chosen* on [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com).

THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

Pope Francis has dedicated the year from December 8, 2020, to December 8, 2021, to St. Joseph. December 8, 2020, was the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of St. Joseph as the Patron of the Universal Church. Along with the holy year, the Apostolic Penitentiary also issued a decree granting special indulgences for the duration of the special year, which is “to perpetuate the entrustment of the whole Church to the powerful patronage of the Custodian of Jesus.”

During this period, the faithful will have the opportunity to commit themselves “with prayer and good works, to obtain, with the help of St. Joseph, head of the Holy Family of Nazareth, comfort and relief from the serious human and social tribulations that besiege the contemporary world today.” The decree signed by Cardinal Mauro Piacenza, the Major Penitentiary of the Apostolic Penitentiary, and the Regent, Fr. Krzysztof Nykiel, notes that devotion to St. Joseph has grown extensively throughout

Amid the ongoing Covid-19 health crisis, the gift of **the plenary indulgence is also extended to the sick, the elderly, the dying, and all those who for legitimate reasons are unable to leave their homes**, if they are detached from any sin and have the intention of fulfilling, as soon as possible, the three usual conditions and recite an act of piety in honor of St. Joseph, offering to God the pains and hardships of their lives.

the history of the Church, “which not only attributes to him high reverence after that of the Mother of God, but has also given him multiple patronages. St. Joseph, an authentic man of faith, invites us to rediscover our filial relationship with the Father, to renew fidelity to prayer, and to listen and correspond with profound discernment to God’s will.” Therefore, the gift of an indulgence granted through a decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary by mandate of the Holy Father “will be of great benefit to the perfect attainment of the appointed purpose.”



Conditions for the plenary indulgence: The plenary indulgence is granted to the faithful under the usual conditions—1. Sacramental confession, 2. Eucharistic Communion, and 3. Prayer for the Pope’s intentions— to those who, with a spirit detached from any sin, participate in the Year of St. Joseph by doing any of the following things:

- Meditate for at least 30 minutes on the Lord’s Prayer;
- Take part in a Spiritual Retreat of at least one day that includes a meditation on St. Joseph;
- Perform a spiritual or corporal work of mercy in honor of St. Joseph;
- Recite the Holy Rosary in his honor and seeking his intercession;
- Entrust one’s daily activity to the protection of St. Joseph;
- Invokes the intercession of St. Joseph for the unemployed so they can find dignifying work;
- Recite the Litany to St. Joseph or any other prayer to St. Joseph proper to the other liturgical traditions, for the persecuted Church and for the relief of all Christians suffering all forms of persecution;
- Recite any legitimately-approved prayer In honor of St. Joseph, especially on March 19 or May 1.

FINANCIAL OFFERINGS

"...for God loves a cheerful giver"
(2 Corinthians 9:7)

May God reward you! Below you will find the total collections for the previous four weekends.

NOTE: There is a second collection on the 2ND WEEKEND each month for our School.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!



| | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| November 14 / 15..... | \$11,536.00 |
| November 21 / 22..... | \$19,595.00 |
| November 28 / 29..... | \$12,058.00 |
| December 5 / 6..... | \$14,691.00 |

NOTICE: The bulletin editor was on Christmas break and had to submit the bulletin before any collections after December 6 could be counted.

Check Users:

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

The Epiphany of the Lord

When I tell a story, I have a friend who prefers the "nutshell version" first. After that she'll listen to me ramble, but she wants to know the main point right off the bat. When reading and hearing Sunday Scriptures, one may often find the nutshell by looking at the responsorial psalm or the Gospel acclamation. From Psalm 72 we hear "Lord, every nation on earth will adore you." The verse for the Gospel acclamation is Matthew 2:2: "We saw His star at its rising and have come to do Him homage." As a weary world, we need to see the light, to follow with our actions and our words. This is the same hope that is echoed in Isaiah 60:2: "See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the Lord shines, and over you appears His glory." Don't give up, friends! You must shine!

In Matthew's Gospel today (Matthew 2:1-12), we see two extremely different perspectives, two different reasons for searching for Jesus. In some ways, this resembles the polarization of our nation in today's time. What one group sees as good for the nation, those with opposing views think will wreck the country. The Magi were astrologers who saw a vision in the sky and were trying to find a way to follow it and discover the new King of the Jews. Herod heard about this king, and his reaction was dark and negative. He saw the birth of such a king as a threat to his power as the Roman leader of the country and wanted the Magi to pass on to him what they knew about this child. Similarly, on a more personal level, we can either feel threatened or excited by changes that may come, depending on our perspective.

In our minds, it is easy to mix up bits and pieces from Luke's account of the shepherds coming to see Jesus in the stable and the story of the magi. Clearly, it has taken the magi time to get here, and the reading speaks of them coming to the house where the star led them. Nevertheless, they "prostrated themselves and did Him homage. Then they opened their treasures . . ."

How do we do this? Do we continue looking for Jesus, even if it takes a while and He is not where we expect to see Him? Are we paying attention to the signs showing us the way? What gifts do we have with which to pay Him homage? After seeing Him, the Magi were warned in a dream not to go back the way they came. But if we have seen the Christ Child, how can we go back to where we were? We must continue to respond to God's call to move forward and grow in our lives.

We must seek the right and just path and turn away from the "Herods" and inherent evils in our life. **In a nutshell: Seek God. Pay homage. Amen.**



PRAYER CORNER

On the other hand, if Almighty God in His infinite mercy draws you to Him as forcibly as He did some of the saints while saying the Rosary, make yourself passive in His hands and let yourself be drawn towards Him. Let God work and pray in you and let Him say your Rosary in His way and this will be enough for the day.

-From St. Louis de Montfort's book, *Secret of the Rosary*, Chapter 25

Mass Intentions

For the Week of January 2 through 9, 2021

Saturday:

5:00 p.m.: Christmas Novena 8

Sunday

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

7:30 a.m.: 1) Kate Pollack
2) Ebner Sobalvarro, INT

9:00 a.m.: Marie Wood, RIP

11:00 am: Christmas Novena 9

1:00 p.m.: (Latin): Parishioners

5:00 p.m.: Nancy Cain, RIP

Monday:

6:00 a.m.: Luis A. Mendoza, INT

*7:30 a.m.: Fr. Adam Gonzales, OCD, INT

9:00 a.m.: Ron Lessard, INT

Tuesday:

6:00 a.m.: Victor San Lucas, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Anita Catalano, RIP

9:00 a.m.: Peace in our Cities, INT

Wednesday:

6:00 a.m.: Milagros & Benjamin Samson, RIP

*7:30 am: Fr. Adam Gonzales, OCD, INT

9:00 a.m.: Sherly Tano, RIP

Thursday:

6:00 a.m.: Victor San Lucas, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Ofelia Mariscal, RIP

9:00 a.m.: Physical, Mental, Spiritual Health of All

Friday:

6:00 a.m.: Victor San Lucas, RIP

7:30 a.m.: Kim Thoa Chu, INT

9:00 a.m.: Sr. Christine, OCD, RIP

Saturday:

*7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Community

9:00 a.m.: 1) Tommy Lee O, RIP
2) Anita Catalano, RIP

*Held at the Carmelite Chapel,
215 East Alhambra Road
(CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC)

LIVE STREAMED MASSES:

9:00 a.m. Daily Mass (Monday—
Saturday) and 11:00 a.m. Sunday
Mass are both live streamed on
Facebook AND YouTube
(for those not attending).

Your Gifts?

Did you know that the only reason we say that there were three wise men is because the Scriptures speak of the three gifts that were brought? The Bible never says their number or their names. The gifts tell us about the givers. And these special gifts—gold, frankincense, and myrrh—tell us much.



When one king visited or sent an ambassador to another, he would give a gift of gold to show that he acknowledged the kingship of the other. So the first gift of the wise men tells us they recognized Jesus as King. The second gift is a type of incense, which was used in Jesus time to worship God. So this gift shows the wise men paying homage to Jesus' divinity. The gift of myrrh is oil used to anoint the dying. It reminds us of Jesus suffering and death on the Cross.

So what gifts do **YOU** have for Jesus? Maybe take a hint from the wise men. To acknowledge Jesus as King, a better gift than gold would be to pledge your obedience to Him. Each day you can promise to live your vocation as best you can, to love those around you, and forgive those who hurt you.

A better way than burning incense to pay homage to Jesus' divinity is to take time to pray throughout the day. Some people are able to attend daily Mass, others spend time in adoration before the Eucharist, or even a few minutes of their lunch break to say the Rosary.

As for the gift of myrrh, give Jesus the crosses you bear each day. When we accept suffering in our lives, especially that caused by our sins, we give ourselves to Jesus as He gave Himself for us on the Cross.

The song "Little Drummer Boy" reminds us that the best gift is not necessarily the most expensive. Instead, it is the simple gift that only we can give. Let Epiphany remind us to offer our lives to Jesus each day.



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Parishioner

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 in an ADVERTISED car
 and then
 refuses to ADVERTISE
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WHY IS IT?



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 Remembering
 Your Parish in
 Your Will.**

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