

# St. Therese Catholic Church

Est. 1924



December 17, 2023 | 510 North El Molino Street | Alhambra CA 91801 | (626) 282-2744 | [www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org](http://www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org)

Rejoice!  
Gaudete  
Sunday



REJOICE ALWAYS. PRAY WITHOUT CEASING.  
IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES GIVE THANKS, FOR THIS IS  
THE WILL OF GOD FOR YOU IN CHRIST JESUS.  
DO NOT QUENCH THE SPIRIT. DO NOT DESPISE  
PROPHETIC UTTERANCES. TEST EVERYTHING; RETAIN  
WHAT IS GOOD. REFRAIN FROM EVERY KIND OF EVIL.

MAY THE GOD OF PEACE MAKE YOU PERFECTLY HOLY  
AND MAY YOU ENTIRELY—SPIRIT, SOUL, AND BODY—BE  
PRESERVED BLAMELESS FOR THE COMING OF OUR LORD  
JESUS CHRIST. THE ONE WHO CALLS YOU IS FAITHFUL,  
AND HE WILL ALSO ACCOMPLISH IT (1 THESS 5:16-24).

## 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 Third 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](http://www.discalcedcarmelitefriars.com)

**Parish Secretary:** Denise McMaster-Holguin X 1+223

[denisekay@hotmail.com](mailto:denisekay@hotmail.com)

**Finance:** Noralyn Cailan X 1+228 / [cailannocds@gmail.com](mailto:cailannocds@gmail.com)

**Religious Ed:** Florence Goh X 1+ 235

**Music Director:** Andrew Coyne | [Andrew.Coyne1@gmail.com](mailto:Andrew.Coyne1@gmail.com)

**Respect Life Ministry:** Catherine Contreras X 1+112

## ST. THERESE CARMELITE SCHOOL

(626) 289-3364

[www.SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com](http://www.SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com)

Principal: Alma Cornejo X 1 + 661

[principal@sainttheresecarmeliteschool.com](mailto: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:

As hard as it may be to believe, this Sunday already begins the traditional last days of Advent, highlighted by the evocative “O Antiphons” in our liturgy. This is because we have the shortest possible Advent season this year at just over three weeks. As I’ve mentioned in previous columns, Advent is very much a season infused with joy. And this joy is expressed liturgically, too—specifically in these “O Antiphons” that always begin on December 17th.

As a matter of explanation, antiphons are one or two sentences that precede and succeed psalms, canticles, or the Gospel reading and which highlight a key idea of those texts, a feast day, or season. The Great—or “O”—antiphons of Advent begin with the vocative “O” and herald the coming Messiah at Christmas and then last for seven consecutive days beginning on December 17th all the way up to December 23rd. They have been universally practiced in the liturgy of the Catholic Church since the seventh or eighth century. Each of them highlights a different title or attribute of the Messiah derived from the Old Testament, principally from the prophet Isaiah. The “O” denotes a characteristic blend of longing, adoration, and pleading. And they affirm the Messiah’s first coming in Bethlehem, along with preparing for His Second Coming at the end of time.

The Church has always taught that the season of Advent is a time of waiting. But this is not a passive waiting. The “O Antiphons” give a voice to this inner longing for the coming Christ. Every “O Antiphon” uses the word, “Come.” If any Advent tradition has the ability to awaken the true spirit of Advent, it is the “O Antiphons.” They are not just devotional; they are liturgical. They are rooted in Scripture, salvation history, and the perennial tradition of the Church. They are song, prayer, and contemplation all at once infused with a cry, longing, and eager expectation.

Practically speaking, the place where you’ll hear and see these “O Antiphons” is in the Gospel Acclamation of the Mass during these seven days and the antiphon for the Magnificat at Vespers in the Liturgy of the Hours. The first one, “O Wisdom,” is a cry for the Light from men who are plunged into darkness. The second antiphon, “O Adonai,” calls to mind the great event of the Exodus. It speaks to us of the majesty of a Deity who is in control of desperate situations. “O Root of Jesse” reminds us that God is a reliable keeper of promises to His children. “O Key of David” invites us to recognize Christ’s birth as the moment when mankind found the lost key to its destiny. In the fifth antiphon, “O Rising Sun,” the Church hails Christ as the Rising Sun on the darkest day of the year. The sixth antiphon, “O Desire of Nations,” proclaims Christ as the joy of man’s desiring, precisely because His act of redemption makes communion among men as a real possibility.

And finally, the most famous antiphon of all, which inspired the Advent hymn, “O Emmanuel” assures those who wait for God that He is closer than they could possibly imagine. And this antiphon best expresses the idea that Advent points us towards the three prongs of the future: daily discipleship, the annual commemoration of the Nativity, and the ultimate coming of Christ at the end of time. May the singing and praying of these venerable antiphons in this last week inspire you with the joy and longing for Christ’s coming into your lives anew!

Fr. Peter Mary, O.C.D.

# CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE



## Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

Wednesday, December 20: 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Saturdays, December 16 and 23: 3:00-5:00 p.m.

## Masses for the Solemnity of Christmas

+Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24:

7:30 p.m. AND \*Midnight

\*Note: Carols will begin at 11:30 p.m.

+Note: The *morning* Masses on Sunday, December 24, are for the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

Catholics are obligated (and privileged!) to attend Mass for both the Fourth Sunday of Advent AND Christmas

## Christmas Day, Monday, 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)

## Masses for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

+Vigil Mass on Sunday, December 31: 5:00 p.m.

+Note: The *morning* Masses on Sunday, December 31, are for the Feast of the Holy Family.



## Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

+Monday, January 1:

8:00 and 10:00 a.m. and 7:15 p.m. (NO 6:00 a.m. Mass on New Year's Day)

+Note: Because this feast falls on a Monday, the *obligation* to attend Mass has been abrogated.



# DIINNER AND DANCE Shake, Rattle, & Roll! Dance to the Music of the 50's & 60's!

All are invited to attend this fabulous dinner / dance in the Parish Hall on Saturday, January 13, from 6:30 to 11:00 p.m. The fee of \$40 per person includes a delicious dinner buffet of Caesar salad, roast beef and gravy, mashed potatoes and sauteed vegetables, chicken breast with Marsala wine sauce, mushrooms and sun-dried tomatoes, Atlantic salmon with lemon butter sauce, penne pasta with vegetables and Alfredo sauce, and dessert. Dinner will be served from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

There will be a 50/50 game and raffle AND a special one hour live show featuring "ELVIS"! All proceeds will go towards the remodel of the Parish Hall kitchen.

Tickets available at the school and church offices or call (626) 533-4839.



Save the Date

Saturday, January 13, 2024

Shake Rattle & Roll



# 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 TONIGHT, Sunday, December 17, and TOMORROW, Monday, December 18. Sunday begins with Mass at 5:00 p.m., and Monday begins 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:**  
**The Mystery of the Divine Mercy and the Secrets of St. Faustina**

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

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

## Get Your Mistletoe!



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

Your purchase helps support wholesome activities for boys!

## Movie Night in January!

Mark your calendars for our next Family Movie Night on Saturday, January 6. We will feature the beloved classic, "It's A Wonderful Life."



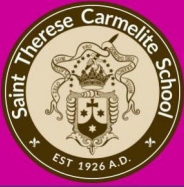
# Safeguard the Children - Did You Know?



### KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE IN HOLIDAY CROWDS

This Christmas, your family will likely be in a crowd or two—at school functions, visiting Santa at the mall, Christmas Eve Mass... According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, over 400,000 children go missing

every year in the US. Crowds are a perfect opportunity for a perpetrator to take advantage of chaos and distraction. Before you head out into the holiday frenzy, talk to your children about some ground rules: Stay together and communicate about where you are headed if you change directions or plans. Consider the "two big steps" rule, which tells your child not to be more than two steps away from you at all times. That way, you can easily keep eyes on each other. For more tips, visit [nationwidechildrens.org](http://nationwidechildrens.org).



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## Advent Lessons and Carols

Tuesday, December 19, 6:30 pm  
St. Therese Church



Join us as we prepare our hearts to journey to Bethlehem and welcome our Savior.

Through a series of readings and hymns, our students will lead you through an Advent reflection to usher in the Christmas season.



All are welcome to attend.  
Light refreshments to follow.

# NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

## “Do This in Remembrance of Me” - Part 1: Holy Water and Sacramentals

Have you ever wondered why there are holy water fonts located near the entrance of the church? In many traditional church layouts, the baptistry was located near the main door of the church. So just as the Sacrament of Baptism is our entrance into the life of God and the Christian Faith, it's symbolic that baptistries and fonts are located at the entrance of churches. So, as you enter the body of the church, you bless yourself with holy water to recall the sacrament through which you entered into God's family, the Church.



By blessing ourselves with holy water, we recommit ourselves to living holy lives in fidelity to Christ, and we prepare ourselves to participate fruitfully in the Holy Mass.

Holy water is water blessed by a bishop, priest, or deacon, and is among the holy things that fall into the category called “**sacramentals.**” They don't confer grace, but prepare us to *receive grace* and help us to be ready to cooperate with those graces so we can grow in faith and holiness (**Source:** <https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/>).

## 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](mailto: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 [tobleich@mac.com](mailto:tobleich@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](mailto:EnCourage.LosAngeles@gmail.com); OR **-Courage LA for persons struggling with same sex attraction** at [CourageCA.LosAngeles@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 16—December 23, 2023

Saturday Evening:

5 p.m.: L.A. McGrath, INT

Sunday:

\*7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Nuns Christmas Novena 3

7:30 a.m.: Michael Alexander Cheah, B-Day INT

9:00 a.m.: Parishioners

11:00 am Bernie & Kay Tittmann, 56th Anniv INT

1:00 p.m.: Norma Aquino, Birthday INT

5:00 p.m.: Deacon Alfred Rios, RIP

Monday:

6:00 a.m.: Joy Shaw, RIP

\*7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Nuns Christmas Novena 4

8:00 a.m.: Marissa Solaun, Birthday INT

7:15 p.m.: Gloria Doria, RIP

Tuesday

6:00 a.m.: My La & Jered Jarvina, INT

\*7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Nuns Christmas Novena 5

8:00 a.m.: John Odonon, Birthday INT

7:15 p.m.: Molly Neilan, INT

Wednesday:

6:00 a.m.: Fr. Jan Lundberg, OCD, B-Day INT

\*7:30 am: Carmelite Nuns Christmas Novena 6

8:00 a.m.: Christine Sia, Birthday INT

NO EVENING MASS—Confessions 7-9 p.m.

Thursday

6:00 a.m.: Adrian Hilario, Birthday INT

\*7:30 am: Carmelite Nuns Christmas Novena 7

8:00 a.m.: Virgilio Lopez, Sr., 101st Birthday INT

NO EVENING MASS—Holy Hour at 7:00 p.m.

Friday:

6:00 a.m.: Jenny Bui, Birthday INT

\*7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Nuns Christmas Novena 8

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

NO EVENING MASS EXCEPT ON FIRST FRIDAYS

Saturday Morning:

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

8:00 a.m.: Nilda B. Lacangan, Birthday INT

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

The Carmel's Chapel is open to the public  
every day except Sundays and holidays.

## 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).

# A Man Sent by God...

By Fr. John Muir

Why do we believe in Jesus and the Catholic Church? Why should we continue to do so? We've never seen Him



face-to-face. Most of us have never had mystical visions of angels or saints. We live in the same world as our atheist and secularists friends. Why do we believe in Christ if we've never seen Him?

The simple, symbolic answer the Gospel presents to us this week might surprise us: we believe because of John the Baptist. Early in John's Gospel we hear: "There was a man sent from God, his name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him." The Baptist powerfully announces Jesus. This is a historical fact, and it is also now a pattern at work in our lives.

John the Baptist stands for the entirety of the old covenant, everything entrusted to the Jewish people. And yet he prophetically opens the door to something entirely new in Jesus, to the revival and fulfillment of God's promises. In every generation, and in every human life, God continues to do this. He has done it through people named Augustine, Francis, Catherine, Therese, and countless others.

In my life, the Baptist's spirit has come through persons named Eric, Paul, Mary, and Ron. I challenge you to name at least three people through whom God has announced the coming of Jesus in your life. Consciously thank God for their testimony. And let's commit ourselves to listening to the spirit of John the Baptist testify again this week so that we might more strongly believe in the light.

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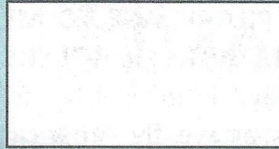
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