

St. Therese Catholic Church

February 20, 2022 **Ministered by the Discalced Carmelite Friars** Est. 1924
510 North El Molino Street | Alhambra CA 91801 | (626) 282-2744 | www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org



David and Abishai reached Saul's soldiers by night, and there was Saul lying asleep within the camp, his spear thrust into the ground at his head and Abner and his troops sleeping around him. Abishai whispered to David: "God has delivered your enemy into your hand today. Let me nail him to the ground with one thrust of the spear; I will not need to strike him twice!" But David said to Abishai, "Do not harm him, for who can lay a hand on the Lord's anointed and remain innocent? (1 Sam. 26:7-9).

MASSES | CONFESSIONS

Masses—Saturday: 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 and 8:00 a.m.

(the daily 8:00 a.m., the Sunday 11:00 a.m., and the weekday 7:00 p.m. Masses are **LIVE STREAMED** on Facebook AND YouTube); **Rosary: Mon-Sat after 8:00 a.m. Mass**

Masses on Monday, *Tuesday (*Spanish), Wednesday & Thursday EVENINGS at 7:00 p.m. (Tues. and Thurs. are preceded by a showing of The Chosen, Season 2, from 7:00 to 7:15 p.m.); **First Friday Mass: 7:00 p.m.**

CONFESSIONS (OUTSIDE)-Wednesdays from 8:00 to 9:00 p.m.; Saturdays from 3:00 to 6:30 p.m. and Sundays from Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Carmelite Cloister: 7:30 a.m., Monday-Saturday

OFFICE HOURS | CONTACTS

Monday – Friday: 9:00 am-1:00 pm; 2:00 pm-5:00 pm

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: Dcn Joseph Mizerski | Dcn Gilbert Vargas X333;

Annulments: Deacon Gilbert Vargas X333

Vocations: For the Archdiocese: (213) 637-7515

For the Carmelites: www.discalcedcarmelitefriars.com

Parish Secretary: Denise McMaster-Holguin X223
denisekay@hotmail.com

Finance: Noralyn Cailan X228 / cailannocds@gmail.com

Music Director: Paula Grimm | pgrimm.dir@gmail.com

Respect Life Ministry: Catherine Contreras XI12

ST. THERESE CARMELITE SCHOOL

(626) 289-3364

www.SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com

Principal: Alma Cornejo X661

principal@sainttheresecarmeliteschool.com



SACRAMENTS

- **Baptisms:** Register online
- **Weddings:** Register online at least six months in advance
- **Anointing of the Sick:** Call the office

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

"If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do the same. If you lend money to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners and get back the same amount.

"But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend expecting nothing back; then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, for He Himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked" (Luke 6:33-35).

Hello, everyone!

These words from today's Gospel (in the box to the left) are very difficult words from Jesus. To keep going out of ourselves in self-sacrificing love for people who don't appreciate or affirm us is impossible to sustain! No wonder St. Thérèse, our patroness, said later in her short life that she no longer asked for suffering, because if Jesus gave it to her, then she would be responsible for it as a gift, now belonging to her—and she was far too weak to be able to do that!

Rather, she would simply trust Jesus and not ask, so that no matter what it was that He gave her, it was still *His*, and then *He* would be responsible for helping her receive the gift and carry it out. So, if we keep our eyes on Jesus, the Father, and the Holy Spirit, and abide in Them, then we will mysteriously discover that in the midst of our little possible effort, He is doing the impossible!

In the box below is some encouragement from the Liturgy of the Hours for Friday of the 4th Week of Ordinary Time—originally from a homily by a spiritual writer of the fourth century (Hom. 18, 7-11: PG 34, 639-642). Have a blessed week! -Fraternally in Jesus, Mary & Joseph, -Fr. Thomas



"Those who have been considered worthy to go forth as the sons of God and to be born again of the Holy Spirit from on high, and who hold within them the Christ who renews them and fills them with light, are directed by the Spirit in varied and different ways and, in their spiritual repose, they are led invisibly in their hearts by grace. At times, they are like men who mourn and lament over their fellow men, and pouring forth prayers for the whole human race, they plunge into tears and lamentation, on fire with spiritual love for mankind. At other times, they are enkindled by the Spirit with such love and exultation that, were it possible, they would clasp in their embrace all of mankind, without discrimination, good and bad alike.

"Sometimes they are cast down below all mankind in lowliness of spirit, so that they reckon theirs to be the lowest and most abject of conditions. And sometimes they are held by the Spirit in ineffable joy. At one time they are like a brave man who puts on the king's full armor and goes down into battle; he fights bravely against the enemy and defeats them. In like manner, the spiritual man takes up the heavenly arms of the Spirit and marches against the enemy and, engaging in battle, tramples the foe beneath his feet. At another time, the soul is at rest in deepest silence, tranquility, and peace, existing in sheer spiritual pleasure and in ineffable repose and a perfect state. Again, the soul is instructed by grace in a certain understanding in the ineffable wisdom and the inscrutable knowledge of the Spirit on matters which neither tongue nor lips can utter.

"Then again, the soul becomes like any ordinary man. In such varied ways does grace work within them and many are the means by which it leads the soul, renewing it according to God's will and training it in different ways so that it may be set before the heavenly Father, pure and whole and blameless. We, too, therefore must make our prayer to God and entreat in love and in great hope that He may bestow upon us the heavenly grace of the gift of the Spirit.

"We pray that we, too, may be guided by that Spirit and that He may lead us into the fullness of divine will and refresh us with the varied kinds of His repose, that by the help of this guidance, exercise of grace and spiritual advancement, we may be considered worthy to attain to the perfection of the fullness of Christ, as the Apostle says: that you may be filled to the complete fullness of Christ."



WOMEN'S RETREAT AT EL CARMELO IN REDLANDS



Join us for our annual Women's Silent Retreat from **Friday, March 11, through Sunday, March 13**, at El Carmelo Retreat House in Redlands. Please note that there will be **NO bus transportation** in 2022. You must drive or carpool to El Carmelo Retreat House, 926 East Highland Avenue, Redlands, California. To join us, **mail the filled-out form below, along with your \$60 non-refundable DEPOSIT check to the retreat captain: LOUISA DAY**, 600 West Gleason Street, Monterey Park 91754 (the balance is due on March 1, 2022). For more info, e-mail Louisa at louisaeday@yahoo.com or text her at (323) 360-5186.

- I want to reserve a **PRIVATE ROOM** with private bathroom (single occupancy) for \$210 per person.
- I want to reserve a **SHARED ROOM** with a shared bathroom (double occupancy) for \$185 per person.

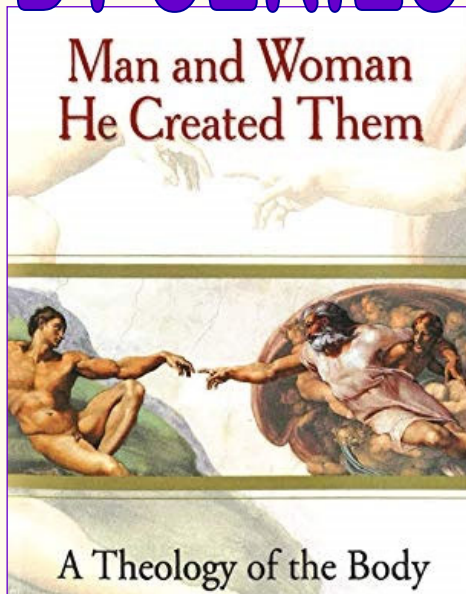
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THEOLOGY OF THE BODY SERIES

Everyone is invited to come and learn more about St. John Paul's Theology of the Body by attending this series, facilitated by Fr. Thomas.

We meet on the **SECOND** and **FOURTH** Fridays of each month from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., in the Guadalupe Courtyard of the Parish Offices. **The next meeting will be THIS FRIDAY, February 25.**

Included in the series is audio, video, and Power Point presentations, as well as discussion and prayer. **Feel free to bring food and/or drinks to share!**



FINANCIAL OFFERINGS

May God reward you for giving from your heart! Below you will find the total collection for last weekend, as well as for the previous four weekends. **Note: There is a second collection on the 2ND WEEKEND OF EACH MONTH** for our School.



February 12 / 13 , 2022		January 15/16	
Unrestricted.....	\$18,008.00	January 22/23	\$24,133.00
Restricted	<u>\$24,620.00</u>	January 29/30	\$17,495.00
TOTAL.....	\$42,628.00	February 5/6	\$14,788.00

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

LOVE AS GOD LOVES

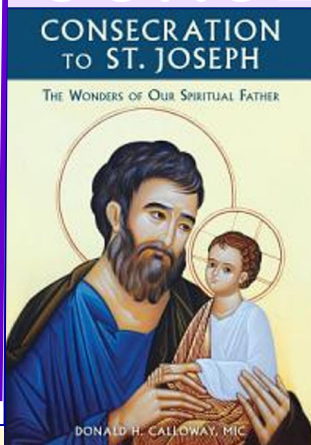
It could have come straight out of a Hollywood script: two enemies, former friends and admirers of each other now pitted against each other. So it is today with Saul and David in our First Reading. Saul had actually praised David for slaying Goliath, and rewarded him by placing him in charge of Israel's military force. David flourished, and was praised and admired for how clearly the hand of God was upon him. Eventually, Saul became jealous, and hatched a plot to finish him off. However, in a turning of the tables, Saul actually becomes the vulnerable one, and David has more than one opportunity to kill him. But it is not a surprise ambush that keeps David from slaying Saul, but the realization that Saul is God's anointed one, the first to bear this title in Israel. Twice David has an opportunity—the second time, he even has a witness and accomplice!—and yet he will *not* do what it seems like the script says he should do.

Our Gospel today continues Jesus' Sermon on the Plain, in which we heard Luke's version of the Beatitudes. Like David in the First Reading, Jesus is also a master of subverting our expectations of what the script is going to do. The scriptwriter we call Luke is even more detailed than Matthew in what "love your enemies" means. Luke spells out specific, active ways to counteract the deeds of those whom we would label "enemies." Beyond that, Luke's Jesus says not to lend merely the shirts off our backs, but our coats as well; to lend money not only to those who can repay, but to those who can't. This is the script of God's Anointed One: do not perpetuate or escalate violence, but reply to it with love. What you think is sufficient generosity needs to be doubled, at the very least. Whenever it seems like the direction of the story needs to be changed—so that harm or sin or cruelty is overcome by love—change the script!

It's likely that some friends or followers of Jesus told Him, from time to time, to "get real" when His teachings seemed too hard or impractical. John's Gospel, near the end of the Bread of Life discourse, reports that some disciples out and out turned away because it was too hard to continue following Jesus. When Jesus said to love our enemies, pray for those who hurt us, or do good to those who hate us, the response, "get real," wouldn't be surprising. And yet, the very life and witness of Jesus is filled with His prophetic examples of doing just that; of refusing to return harm for harm. The lives of the saints are likewise filled with such examples, especially those saints who were laborers in the field for justice and peace. Is this command of Jesus difficult? Yes. Is it impossible? No. Not when we realize that God gave us the example of Jesus, who is like God but also like us. David understood this kind of merciful love and forgiveness, shown by his sparing the life of his enemy in the first reading. Like "David, with God's grace, we are free to change our story; unlike David, we have Jesus to show us the way.



CONSECRATION TO ST. JOSEPH



We have another opportunity for you to make a consecration to St. Joseph! There will be a weekly preparation meeting held every Wednesday from now through March 16. You have your choice of attending at Noon or at 6:00 p.m. (in the Guadalupe Courtyard in the Parish Office building). The day of the Consecration will be on St. Joseph's feast day of March 19.

You will need to have a copy of the Consecration to St. Joseph book. You can purchase one in the office for \$15 or find it online. For more information, contact Maria Alejandra at ale3767@yahoo.com or (626)993-4236.

Come, Holy Spirit!

Over the last few months, we have looked at how the gifts of the Spirit were operating in the age of the apostles and the age of the Church Fathers. We have heard from great men of the faith such as Cyril of Jerusalem, Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, and others who knew what it was to be soberly intoxicated with God's power and love. In the next installments, we bring our focus closer to the present day, as we turn our attention to the extraordinary resurgence of the Pentecostal fire of the Holy Spirit in the last century—fire on the earth!

In the Catholic Church of the nineteenth century, the Holy Spirit had become what some theologians have termed "the forgotten Person of the Trinity." Many traditional works of spirituality hardly mentioned the very source of spirituality, the Holy Spirit. There were some formal prayers to the Holy Spirit, but little expectation that He would actually come in a perceptible way. But God was at work behind the scenes. In the late 1800s an Italian Catholic religious sister named Elena Guerra—now honored in the Catholic Church as **Blessed Elena Guerra**—sensed that God was leading her to spread devotion to the Holy Spirit. She founded a religious order devoted to the Holy Spirit and formed prayer groups that she called "Pentecost Upper Rooms." **Her hope was that the Church would be united in constant prayer for the coming of the Spirit, and that "Come, Holy Spirit" would be a prayer on the lips of every Catholic.**

Sister Elena felt called by God to write a series of confidential letters to the Pope, at that time **Pope Leo XIII**, telling him that God desired to renew the Church through a return to the Holy Spirit. Amazingly enough, Pope Leo paid attention to her appeals. In response, he wrote a letter to all the Catholic bishops of the world, asking the whole church to pray a novena to the Holy Spirit every year, leading up to the feast of Pentecost. A novena is nine days of prayer, based on the original "novena," when the disciples prayed in the Upper Room between Jesus' ascension and Pentecost (Acts 1:14).



Curiously, the specific intention that Pope Leo asked Catholics to pray for during this novena was Christian unity—and this was at a time when "ecumenism" was not in the vocabulary of either Catholics or Protestants, and each side viewed the other as simply condemned! Unfortunately, many bishops ignored Pope Leo's request. Sister Elena told the Pope she was pleased with his efforts but disappointed with the poor response of bishops. She then begged the Pope to dedicate the new century that was about to begin to the Holy Spirit. So, he did: On January 1, 1901, Pope Leo opened the century by praying the ancient hymn "Come, Creator Spirit" (Veni, Creator Spiritus), invoking the Holy Spirit upon the new century on behalf of the whole Church.

Fasting from the Wound of Loneliness

PAUSE TO HEAR GOD SPEAK:

"And behold, I am with you
always, until the end of the age."
-Matthew 28:20

"Father of the fatherless, Defender of
widows, God in His holy abode, God
gives a home to the forsaken and
leads prisoners out to prosperity."
-Psalm 68:6-7

Today, I choose to fast from the wound of loneliness. You might be old enough to remember the 1960s hit song, "One Is the Loneliest Number." Even pop culture knows that loneliness is broken and incomplete. We are meant to live in communion and relationship with others and with God. Yet, we've all been lonely at times. If you've experienced some of the sins and wounds we have posted here these last few weeks—for instance, the sin of



self-reliance or the wound of abandonment—your loneliness may feel like a dark, empty hole. In our pain of abandonment, we protect ourselves from others by relying only on ourselves. We end up alone and lonely, which further feeds our feelings of being abandoned. You might feel completely alone and isolated, even when you are with loved ones. The sense of being alone can be overwhelming and incapacitating. As you reflect on this, you might find that your loneliness also connects with wounds of rejection and fear.

Take time to ask yourself...

- In what types of situations do I normally feel lonely?
- What memories do I have (perhaps memories of self-reliance or abandonment) that seem to trigger feelings of loneliness?

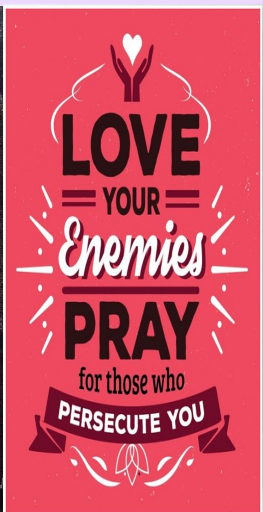
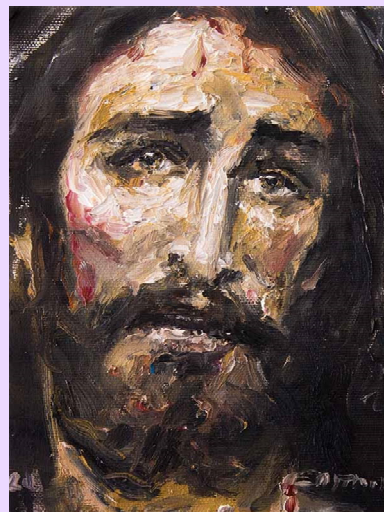
Pray slowly... Heavenly Father, In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I renounce loneliness and repent all the ways in which I have sinned because of it. I reject loneliness in every area of my life. I renounce any lies that I have come to believe, including lies such as "I am all alone," "Nobody will save me," "Nobody really cares," or "Nobody will notice if I'm not here." Send your Holy Spirit to speak the truth to my heart that I am loved, cared for, and am not alone. Amen.

The above is taken from the book, *Lenten Healing*, by Ken Kniepmann—available for sale in the parish office.



CalFresh is for people who are low-income and meet federal income eligibility rules and want to add to their budget to put healthy and nutritious food on the table. You do not have to be destitute or living on the street to qualify—some people are getting up to \$300 a month to supplement their food budget. It may be especially important during this pandemic!

To see if you qualify and/or to sign up, go to:
<https://www.cdss.ca.gov/food-nutrition/calfresh>.



Mass Intentions

Quiet Listening Prayer

February 19 to February 26, 2022

Saturday evening:

5:00 p.m.: Beatriz de Castro, RIP

Sunday:

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

7:30 a.m.: Parishioners

9:00 a.m.: John Baptism Duc H. Dau, RIP

11:00 a.m.: Michael Arakawa, B-Day INT

1:00 p.m.: Ursulina Aquino, RIP

5:00 p.m.: Mark Gonzales, RIP

Monday:

6:00 a.m.: Gene Ruckh, RIP

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

8:00 a.m.: Colin Greene, RIP

7:00 p.m.: Enrollees in Christmas Flower Offering

Tuesday:

6:00 a.m.: John Teng, INT

*7:30 a.m.: Emma Lowenberg, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Jeanne and Michael McHugh, RIP

7:00 p.m.: Irene Saucedo, INT

Wednesday:

6:00 a.m.: Theresa Lim, RIP

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

8:00 a.m.: Lucia Peralta, RIP

7:00 p.m.: Arthur Longoria, RIP

Thursday:

6:00 a.m.: Tom S. Miller, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Sr. Therese Marie, OCD, INT

8:00 a.m.: Jesus Vinoya, RIP

7:00 p.m.: Alma Butler, RIP

Friday:

6:00 a.m.: Bishop Edward William Clark, INT

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

8:00 a.m.: Luis Armando Arenas, B-Day INT

Saturday Morning

*7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Community

8:00 a.m.: Vongreach Yun, RIP

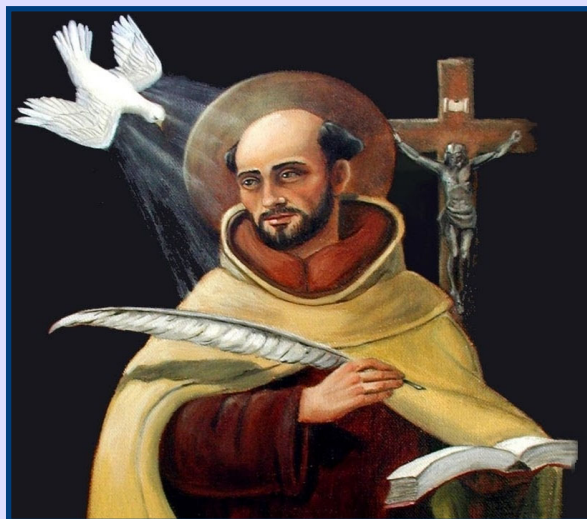
***Held at the Cloistered Carmelite Chapel,
215 E Alhambra Road, Alhambra, California.**

**Although Mass is still being celebrated
at the chapel for the above intentions,
it is TEMPORARILY CLOSED
to the public, due to an increase
in Covid cases.**

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).

*From The Living Flame of Love
By St. John of the Cross*



When a soul approaches this state [of contemplative prayer], strive that it become detached from all satisfaction, relish, pleasure, and spiritual meditations, and do not disquiet it with cares and solicitude about heavenly things or, still less, earthly things. Bring it to as complete a withdrawal and solitude as possible, for the more solitude it obtains and the nearer it approaches this idle tranquility, the more abundantly will the spirit of divine wisdom be infused into its soul.

This wisdom is loving, tranquil, solitary, peaceful, mild, and an inebriator of the spirit, by which the soul feels tenderly and gently wounded and carried away, without knowing by whom or from where or how. The reason is that this wisdom is communicated without the soul's own activity.

Deaths

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

† MARY CORRENTI

Mary was a long-time member whose six children went to our school. She was also an active member of the Carmelite Auxiliary and its quilting group.

- and -

† SUM CHAN

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