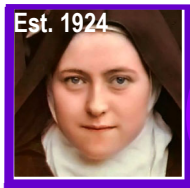

St. Therese Catholic Church

November 30, 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

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(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 wish you all a very Blessed Advent Season! This is a special time of the year to quiet ourselves and slow down our pace of life, which is exactly the *opposite* of what our world encourages. As Isaiah reminds us: *"By waiting and by calm you shall be saved, in quiet and in trust shall be your strength."*

To help us enter into this holy season, **let us reflect on the words of Pope Benedict XVI** on the meaning of Advent.

Fr. Peter Mary Vecellio, OCD

The Meaning of Advent

by Pope Benedict XVI

"Today, the First Sunday of Advent, we begin a new liturgical year. This season invites us to reflect on the dimension of time, which always exerts great fascination over us. However, after the example of what Jesus loved to do, I wish to start with a very concrete observation: we all say that we do not have enough time, because the pace of daily life has become frenetic for everyone. In this regard too, the Church has 'good news' to bring: God gives us His time. We always seem to have little time; even for the Lord; we do not know how or, sometimes, we do not want to find it. Well, God has time for us! This is the first thing that the beginning of a liturgical year makes us rediscover with ever new amazement.

"Yes, God gives us His time, because He entered history with His Word and His works of salvation to open it to eternity, to make it become a covenantal history. In this prospective, time is a fundamental sign of God's love: a gift that man, as with everything else, is able to make the most of or, on the contrary, to waste; to take in its significance or to neglect it with obtuse superficiality.

"Then there are the three great 'points' in time, which delineate the history of salvation: at the beginning, Creation; the Incarnation-Redemption at the center; and at the end the 'Parousia'—the final coming that also includes the Last Judgment. However, these three moments should not be viewed merely in chronological succession. In fact, Creation is at the origin of all things but it also continues and is actuated through the whole span of cosmic becoming, until the end of time. So too, although the Incarnation-Redemption occurred at a specific moment in history, the period of Jesus' journey on earth, it nevertheless extends its radius of action to all the preceding time and all that is to come. And in their turn, the final coming and the Last Judgment, which were decisively anticipated precisely in the Cross of Christ, exercise their influence on the conduct of the people of every age.

"The liturgical season of Advent celebrates the coming of God in two moments: it first invites us to reawaken our expectation of Christ's glorious return; then, as Christmas approaches, it calls us to welcome the Word-Made-Man for our salvation. Yet, the Lord comes into our lives continually. How timely then is Jesus' call, which on this First Sunday is powerfully proposed to us: 'Watch!' (Mark 13: 33, 35, 37). It is addressed to the disciples but also to everyone, because each one, at a time known to God alone, will be called to account for his life. This involves a proper detachment from earthly goods, sincere repentance for one's errors, active charity to one's neighbor and, above all, a humble and confident entrustment to the hands of God, our tender and merciful Father. The icon of Advent is the Virgin Mary, Mother of Jesus. Let us invoke her so that she may help us also to become an extension of humanity for the Lord who comes."

Saint Therese Carmelite School

Faith ⚜ Academics ⚜ Virtue

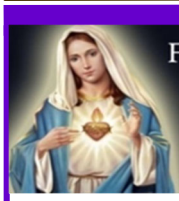
Alone In A Crowd: The Loneliness Behind Tech Addiction

Tuesday, December 2nd
6:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m.
Location: Parish Hall

It is difficult to think that young children can have addictions, and even more difficult to realize that it is happening to children we know—even our own children.

Gain wisdom and the tools to fight this epidemic by joining us on the date and time above to hear Fr. Raymond Bueno and a panel of experts speak about tech addiction and how we can help our children, students, grand-children, and other loved ones heal from this epidemic.

1106 East Alhambra Road, Alhambra, California 91801 | (626) 289-3364



FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

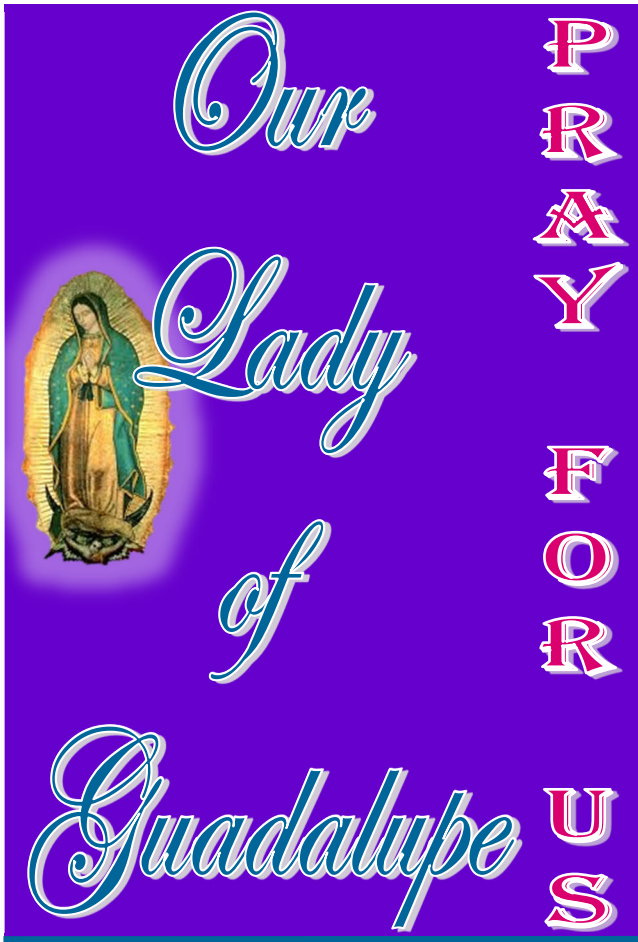
Mark your calendar for our next First Saturdays Devotion on December 6, 2025. Join us for the Rosary and 15 minutes of meditation after the 8:00 a.m. Mass!

Sr. Lucia's Method for First Saturday Meditation: Our Lady has asked that, in addition to praying the Rosary on the first Saturdays, we should also spend fifteen minutes meditating on one or more of the Mysteries of the Rosary Mysteries in order to better exemplify the virtues they contain. Sister Lucia says: "Here is my way of making the meditations on the Mysteries of the Rosary on the First Saturdays: For the first month, I meditate on the First Joyful Mystery, the Annunciation of the Angel Gabriel to Our Lady, in this way:

- **First prelude: I imagine myself seeing and hearing the Angel greet Our Lady with these words: 'Hail Mary, full of grace.'**
- **Second prelude: I ask Our Lady to infuse into my soul a profound sentiment of humility. Then, I meditate on...**
- **1st point: ...the manner in which Heaven proclaims that the Most Holy Virgin is full of grace, blessed among all women, and destined to become the Mother of God.**
- **2nd point: ...the humility of Our Lady, recognizing herself and declaring herself to be the handmaid of the Lord.**
- **3rd point: ...how I must imitate Our Lady in her humility; ...what are the faults of pride and arrogance through which I most often displease the Lord; and ...the means I must employ to avoid them, etc.**

On the second month, I make the meditation on the second Joyful Mystery. The third month, I make it on the third Joyful Mystery and so on, following the same method of meditating. When I have finished the Five First Saturdays with the Joyful Mysteries, I begin the next five months with the Sorrowful Mysteries, then the next five with the Glorious ones, and when I have finished them I start over again with the Joyful Ones." (Note: You may continue with the Luminous Mysteries, which were not part of the Rosary in St. Lucia's time).

Try It Yourself! One of the temptations with praying the Rosary is to run through the beads quickly, dwelling in a superficial way on the Mysteries. To make the meditation as Our Lady requested allows us to dig deeply into just one or two Mysteries to pull out more from them than we may have otherwise done.

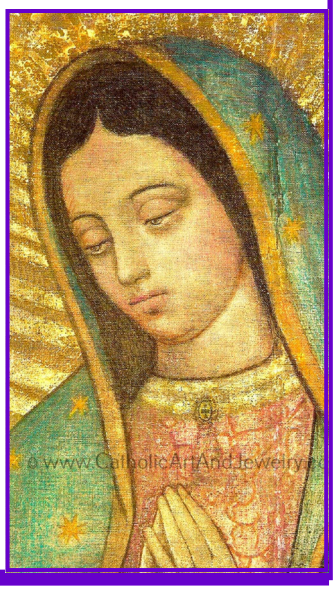


Our Lady of Guadalupe: Mother for All

Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of mercy and hope, draw us close to your Son. Teach us to love as you love and to trust in God's plan. Intercede for us and for all who seek peace and unity. Amen.

On December 9, 1531, the Virgin Mary appeared to Juan Diego on Tepeyac Hill near Mexico City. Speaking in his native language, she asked for a church to be built in her honor. As proof, she left her image miraculously imprinted on Juan Diego's cloak—an image that remains today.



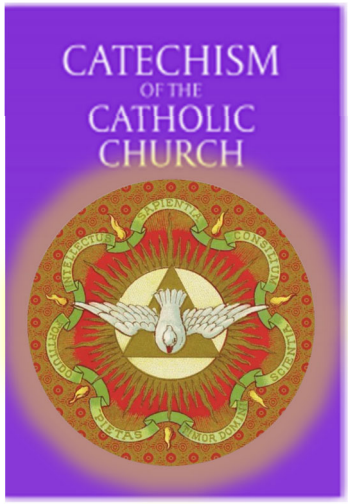
Her message was simple yet profound: unity, compassion, and hope for all people. Our Lady of Guadalupe became a powerful symbol of faith and cultural identity, especially for the marginalized. She reminds us that God draws near to the humble and speaks in the language of the heart.

Today, she is called the "Patroness of the Americas," a mother who bridges cultures and invites us to trust in God's love. Her feast on December 12 is a celebration of life, dignity, and devotion—a call to see Christ in every person.

SAVE THE DATE

TICKETS ON SALE

Fr. Stephen's Series on the Catechism of the Catholic Church



Fr. Stephen's next class in this series will be **Tuesday, December 9, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., in the Parish Meeting Room (upstairs in the Parish Center).** Each class in this series can stand on its own, so you may join at any time. The topic for the next class will be on **Chapter 3, Part I, of the Catechism: *The Holy Spirit*.** The Catechism teaches that faith in Jesus is only possible through the Holy Spirit, who awakens belief and communicates divine life to us. Though the Spirit was the last Person of the Trinity to be fully revealed, He has always been active in salvation history. The Old Testament hinted at His presence, the New Testament unveiled Him more clearly, and now He dwells within us. To believe in the Holy Spirit is to profess Him as consubstantial with the Father and the Son, worshipped and glorified with Them. The Catechism tells us: "No one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit. God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' This knowledge of faith is possible only in the Holy Spirit. To be in touch with Christ, we must first have been touched by the Holy Spirit, who comes to meet us and kindles faith in us" (CCC 683).

Financial Offerings

This bulletin had to be submitted for printing before the weekend of November 22 and 23. The totals for the weekend of Nov. 22-23 will be published in the bulletin of December 7.

October 24 / 25	$24,957.00
November 1 / 2	$26,607.00
November 8 / 9	$15,848.00
November 15 / 16	$16,717.00

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

Advent: A Season of Hope and Preparation

Advent is the beginning of the Church's liturgical year—a time of joyful expectation and spiritual preparation for the coming of Christ. The word *Advent* comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning "arrival" or "coming." During these four weeks before Christmas, we prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of Jesus and look forward to His return in glory.

When Did We Begin Observing the Advent Season? The tradition of Advent dates back to the 4th and 5th centuries, when Christians began setting aside time for prayer and fasting before Christmas. By the Middle Ages, the Church had established the four-week season we know today, marked by themes of hope, peace, joy, and love.

What Does Advent Mean for Us? Advent is more than counting down days to Christmas—it is a call to conversion and readiness. The candles of the Advent wreath remind us of Christ, the Light of the World, who dispels darkness. Each week, as we light another candle, we renew our commitment to live in faith and charity.

How Shall We Observe Advent?

- **Prayer:** Spend time each day in prayer, reflecting on Scripture and the promises of God.
- **Sacraments:** Participate in Mass and, if possible, receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- **Acts of Charity:** Share Christ's love through kindness and service to those in need.

Family Traditions:

- Create an Advent Wreath
- Light the Advent wreath and read the daily Gospel (together, if a family)
- Prepare a Nativity scene

A Season of Hope: Advent reminds us that God is faithful. As we await the celebration of Christ's birth, we also look forward to His second coming. Let this season be a time of hope, peace, joy, and love—a time to welcome Christ into our hearts and homes.

Mass Intentions

November 29—December 6, 2025

Saturday Evening:
5:00 p.m.: Souls in Purgatory

Sunday:
*7:30 a.m.: Mark Perez, RIP
7:30 a.m.: Julius & Carmina Doria, INT
9:00 a.m.: Julianna Torres, INT
11:00 a.m.: Mike Marikian, RIP
1:00 p.m.: (Latin): Ursulina Aquino, RIP
5:00 pm: Parishioners

Monday:
6:00 a.m.: Adrian Reyes, INT
*7:30 a.m.: Thanh Ha Nguyen & Family INT
8:00 a.m.: Leticia Vergara & Family, INT
7:15 p.m.: Olga Lopez, RIP

Tuesday (+7:15 p.m. in Spanish):
6:00 a.m.: Michael Morris & Family, INT
*7:30 a.m.: Ha Tien Nguyen, INT
8:00 a.m.: Jose Vales, RIP
+7:15 p.m.: Souls in Purgatory

Wednesday:
6:00 a.m.: Carmina Doria, INT
*7:30 a.m.: Khanh Nguyen, INT
8:00 a.m.: Ms. Fely Bernardo Cruz, RIP

Thursday:
6:00 a.m.: Humberto Perez, RIP
*7:30 a.m.: Sr. Mary, OCD, INT
8:00 a.m.: Lourinda Bray, RIP

***First Friday:**
6:00 a.m.: Robert John Hopkins, RIP
*7:30 a.m.: Rhony Laigo, Birthday INT
8:00 a.m.: Louie Torres, RIP
7:15 p.m.: Maria Concepcion Dimas, INT

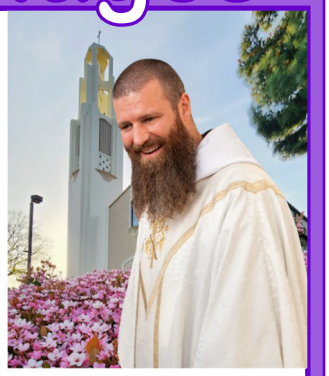
Saturday Morning
*7:30 a.m.: Alhambra Cloistered Carm. Nuns
8:00 a.m.: Louise Jamila Sunga, RIP

***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.

Personal Ad

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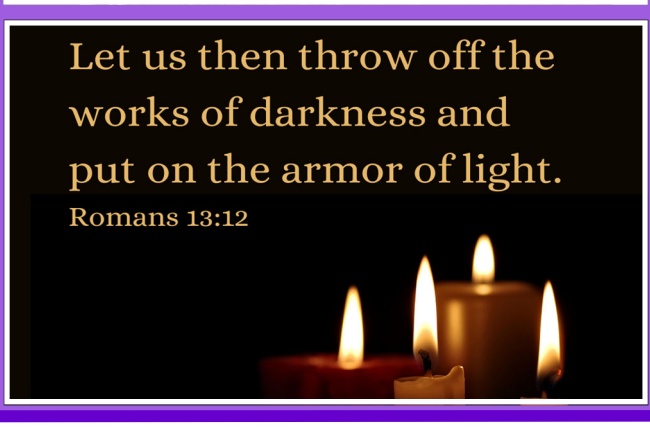

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