

St. Therese Catholic Church

December 18, 2022 Ministered by the Discalced Carmelite Friars Est. 1924

510 North El Molino Street | Alhambra CA 91801 | (626) 282-2744 | www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org



Fourth Sunday of Advent

When His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with Child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this Child has been conceived in her. She will bear a Son and you are to name Him Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins (Matthew 1:18-21).

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 and 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. (Tuesday's evening Mass is in Spanish). Note: the daily 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Masses and the Sunday 11:00 a.m., Mass are all **LIVE STREAMED** on Facebook AND YouTube)

Rosary: Mon-Sat after 8:00 a.m. Mass

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

Carmelite Nuns: 7:30 a.m., Mon.-Sat.

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, Bro. Jason Parrott, OCD; and 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: Andrew Coyne | Andrew.Coyne1@gmail.com

ST. THERESE CARMELITE SCHOOL

(626) 289-3364

www.SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com

Principal: Alma Cornejo X661

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



A Letter from the Pastor

Blessed Fourth Sunday of Advent! We have one more week to prepare for the Coming of the Lord

Jesus in a special way on December 25th—and to get our birthday gift for Him ready. (Remember, it's *His* Birthday, and for extra important family members, we always put extra effort into selecting their birthday gift, right?) How about this for a birthday gift? First, notice that Jesus is already giving each of us a gift first. What gift is that? Listen to what He is saying: "**Say to the fearful of heart: 'Be strong, do not fear!'**" (from last Sunday's reading from the prophet Isaiah); "**Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid**" (from this Sunday's Gospel reading from Matthew); "**Do not fear this illness, nor anything sharp or hurtful**" (Jesus and Mary to St. Juan Diego on December 12, 1531). Perhaps, with all these "fear not" gifts, we could give Jesus the gift of simply spending some extra prayer time to allow Him to tell each of us personally, "fear not"?? Then, like the people of Isaiah's day, like St. Joseph, and like St. Juan Diego, our hearts will change from fear to more trust in Him (and His Mom). And then, like Isaiah, St. Joseph, and St. Juan Diego, we too will do special acts of kindness that will help to bring the Prince of Peace, Jesus, to others who are hurting.

Speaking of helping others, you may have noticed that at the end of Mass I am now regularly inviting the Lord Jesus to give a word of knowledge to each person at Mass before we leave, so that through something we hear during those 30 to 60 seconds—or see, or feel, or think, or experience in some way, or remember from the Mass readings—we can be in a better position to help someone else that we might meet later that day or week who is suffering. One reason why I am doing that is because I want to help parents to receive from the Lord for themselves and their children supernatural protection from the kind of pain like the family in Riverside is now going through after that catfishing horror that happened recently.

I want to put everyone in a better position to receive the kind of guidance that a Mom received from Jesus after Holy Communion, when He came to her and told her to tell her 17-year-old daughter, "Honey, you can't use my car tonight, even though I promised you that you could because you've been so good lately." "Why, Mom?!...What in the world?! That's totally unfair!!!" "I agree with you completely. I can't figure it out either. But Jesus told me in prayer to tell you that you can't have the car tonight." The daughter starts sobbing and blurts out: "Oh, Mom! Now I have to confess to you that I was lying. I wasn't going to use the car to go out with friends—but to meet a guy in L.A. that I had met online!" Who knows what Jesus saved that family from through a Mom who knew how to spend time in the quiet trying to listen to Jesus?!? Come, Lord Jesus, come soon!!! Blessed Watching and Waiting!

Fraternally in Jesus and Mary and Joseph, —Fr. Thomas

From Chapter Seven of "Be Transformed: The Healing Power of the Sacraments" by Bob Schuchts (**How Holy Matrimony Heals Wounds of Fear**) First Installment

Despite the well-known fact that marriage is poorly regarded in modern society (as evidenced by high divorce rates and recent trends in cohabiting and premarital sex), God intended the sacrament of Matrimony to be the source of love and life in every family and the foundation of security for every human person. As St. John Paul II has so eloquently stated, "the family is the center and the heart of the civilization of love and the first school of love." Every child's heart and overall well-being is formed in this school of love between his or her parents. When bonds of love are secure, children and adults alike experience a pervasive sense of peace and joy, which allows them to thrive and develop to their fullest potential. Having their identities rooted and grounded in God's faithful love (Ephesians 3:16), these secure love bonds enable all the members of the family to experience peace, freedom, and a nourishing intimacy.

The converse is also true. The absence of God's faithful love in marriage and family life leaves everyone feeling insecure. Children and spouses are then schooled in the way of fear and eventually form what researchers call "fear bonds." These pseudo-bonds formed in the absence of love are fortified by proud judgments and confining self-protections. In this kind of environment, it is difficult for married couples and children alike to find genuine connectedness or develop lasting trust with one another. These wounds of fear instinctively motivate all the members of the family to remain isolated in order to avoid more pain, thus creating environments rife with mistrust, which in turn increases fear and mistrust.

(This section is a weekly series presenting excerpts from the above-cited book.)

Christmas and New Year's Schedule



Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession): **Wednesday—Friday, December 21—23, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. each of those three evenings**



Masses for the Solemnity of Christmas

Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24: 5:00 p.m. (Family Mass); 7:30 p.m. (Simple Mass); and 10:30 p.m. (Traditional Choir) Note: Carols will begin at 10:00 p.m.

Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25: 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 1:00 p.m. Latin High Mass (All in English except for the Latin Mass; NO 5:00 p.m. Mass on Christmas Day)

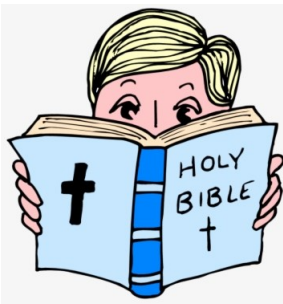
Masses for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

New Year's Eve Vigil Mass, Saturday, December 31, for the Feast of Mary, Mother of God: 5:00 p.m.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, Sunday, January 1: 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. Latin High Mass, and 5:00 p.m.



Today's Readings



First Reading — You will be given this sign: the Virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall name Him Emmanuel (Isaiah 7:10-14).

Psalm — The King of Glory shall come. (Psalm 24).

Second Reading — God has called us to belong to Jesus Christ (Romans 1:1-7).

Gospel — The Son born of Mary shall be called Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins. He shall be Emmanuel, "God is with us" (Matthew 1:18-24).



World Youth Day 2023



Calling all young adults 18-35! Join fellow young adults and Pope Francis for a pilgrimage to Portugal for World Youth Day from July 30 to August 8, 2023. We're also visiting Fatima and the Eucharistic Miracle of Santarem. Cost will be approximately \$4,145 per person (includes roundtrip airfare, hotel, transportation, and more). To register or for more information, contact Amy Rodriguez at amyrodriguez01@gmail.com. To receive text or email updates, text "WYD2023" to 84576.

Mistletoe For Sale

Boy Scout Troop 140 will be selling Fresh Mistletoe for their Annual Fundraiser. See them in front of the church after all the Masses this weekend (December 17 & 18th). Your purchase will help support wholesome activities for boys!

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.



Due to the Christmas holidays/vacations, this bulletin was prepared early. The totals for the weekend of December 10/11 will be in the Christmas bulletin.

November 12 / 13\$23,616.00
November 19 / 20\$13,076.00
November 26 / 27\$16,977.00
December 3 / 4 \$33,466.00

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



Saint Therese Carmelite School

Faith Academics Virtue

Why is Latin the core of a classical curriculum? -Leigh Lowe, Memoria Press speaker and classical curriculum consultant

We believe Latin must be studied to justify the word "classical" in classical Christian education. The study of Latin and the classical civilizations of Greece and Rome has defined classical education for over 2,000 years. The standard has been set; we are not at liberty to change it. Latin offers many practical benefits, but, more than anything, Latin trains the mind and integrates the skills necessary to learn any subject like no other subject can. Latin demands careful, detailed thinking—it is cumulative, systematic, and finite. Latin requires drill work. It requires repetition and consistency. It requires students to mentally organize information into readily accessible groups. It requires perseverance until mastery is achieved. Latin is beautiful and purposeful, which is why it is the core of our curriculum.

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

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MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW



SATURDAY
FEBRUARY
4

All School Christmas Concert and Pageant



Tuesday, December 20, 6:30 pm
St. Therese Church



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.

1106 East Alhambra Road
Alhambra, California 91801

Thank you for supporting our Giving Tuesday Campaign!

Thank you to all of you for playing your part in our Giving Tuesday fundraiser! Altogether, we raised \$2,833.87 from 20 donors.

An especially big "Thank You" to all of our parishioners who donated. We are always grateful for your support of our little school. May God reward you!

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Winning Ticket Will be Drawn Christmas Eve!

This PACKAGE OF FOUR DISNEYLAND TICKETS INCLUDES FREE PARKING and is:

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This package deal is worth \$1,200—but this is your chance to get all four for **ONLY \$50** (buy more than one if you'd like!). Your odds will be good as we will be selling a **MAXIMUM of 150 tickets** (so far, less than 25 sold). The drawing will take place after the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass (no need to be present). All proceeds will benefit Saint Therese Carmelite School. Raffle tickets can be purchased at either the School or the Parish Offices or after one of the Sunday Masses. **BEST OF LUCK TO ALL!**



Like Ahaz or Joseph? | God Wants to Be One With Us

Advent's four Sundays each have their own focus: "Stay awake!" (First); John the Baptist (Second); Rejoice! (Third); Joseph/Mary (Fourth). This year we have the luxury of a whole week between the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas! What shall we do with this gift from God? Maybe take some time to listen for the voice of God in our dreams, as Joseph did.

On this last Sunday before Christmas, we see that Jesus' birth is the fulfillment of the promise of Emmanuel, "God is with us" (Matthew 1:23). The Gospel refers to the first reading from Isaiah. There we see the king of Judah, Ahaz, under attack by the kings of Aram and Israel. He wants to ask the Assyrians for help instead of relying on God. So the weakness of Ahaz gives us the wonderful prophecy of the birth of Jesus: **"A virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son, and shall name him Emmanuel."** Ahaz, of course, did not understand. For him, the prophecy meant the destruction of Judah.

In the Gospel, Joseph also does not understand how Mary came to be pregnant. **But unlike Ahaz, Joseph had faith in God and the angel's message. So, now we have to choose whom to rely on. Do I act like Ahaz, relying on worldly powers, or like Joseph, who trusted the Lord?**

How much time do I spend watching television compared to time in prayer? How much time do I spend reading the Scriptures compared to the newspaper or magazines? How much do I spend on Christmas gifts for my family, compared to what I give to the Church? If I really believe that "God is with us," now is the time to let others see in our actions that Jesus IS Emmanuel.



Not only is the idea of a virgin conceiving beyond comprehension in Ahaz's time, so would the concept of God wanting to be with us, as the name Emmanuel indicates. And yet, this is what we celebrate in the Incarnation—God sent His only Son to earth so as to be ONE with us.

WHOSE HOUSE? Interest in genealogy is much older than current fascination with tracing our heritage.

Matthew's Gospel opens with the genealogy of Jesus, going all the way back to Abraham: "Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about." It's a pivotal point that places Jesus firmly in the "House of David" through Joseph. An essential understanding of the Messiah was that He would come from the house and lineage of King David.

WHOSE HOME? Matthew's Gospel also contains an angelic annunciation scene, when the angel says "Do not be afraid to take Mary into your home." As with most Scriptural angelic appearances, the angel provides an instruction not to fear. More importantly, Joseph is instructed by God's messenger to take Mary into his home. When Joseph and Mary were betrothed, they were officially constituted as husband and wife; the next step—approved by an angel—would have been for Joseph to take Mary into his home. So, he provided a safe place for a young woman in a troubled pregnancy, and offered her Child a home, a heritage, and a lineage. This rather risky move on Joseph's part might inspire us to seek out and help out in those places where people are longing to have a house and—more importantly—a home.

The Real St. Therese



An installment from
The Passion of Thérèse of Lisieux by Guy Faucher

During her last illness, Therese wrote a Marian poem: *“Mary, is it then a good thing to suffer on earth? Yes, to suffer in loving God, is the purest happiness! Everything Jesus has given me He can take back. Tell Him that He does not have to ask me... He can also hide Himself; I will*

wait for Him until that day when faith will be no more. Soon I will see you in Heaven. You came and smiled on me in the morning of my life. Come and smile on me again, Mother, for it is evening!” Abandonment was her habitual disposition. It is the “Fruit délicieux de l’amour,” as she expressed it in the title of a poem she gave to Sister Therese of St. Augustine on May 31, 1897. The same sentiments are to be found in some letters and notes of these two months.

In a letter to Sister Anne, who had returned to Saigon, we find this unexpected sentence: **“Oh, Sister, please ask Jesus that I, too, may love Him and make Him loved. I want to love Him, not with an ordinary love, but like the saints who committed follies for Him. Alas! How far I am from resembling them! Ask Jesus, too, that I may always do His will—for that I am ready to cross the world and I am also ready to die”** (2/5/1897). She wrote at length to her spiritual brothers so that she could pass on to them her “way of trust and love,” her reflections on martyrdom (she had just learned of Fr. Mazel's death), and her ardent desire for a universal mission.

At the beginning of June, her condition became worse and events moved quickly. On Saturday evening, May 30, Mother Agnes learned of the hemoptysis of the preceding year. On the night of June 2, she suggested to Mother Marie de Gonzague that she ask Therese to continue her memoirs. She also obtained permission to stay with her in her cell in the evenings. On Wednesday, June 2, Marie Guerin's Veiling Day, Therese (undoubtedly) went to see her family in the parlor. But the next day, a vomiting attack and pains in her side gave concern to those around her. Then on Saturday, June 5, she was suffering so much that she felt as if she was going to die, and the same day her dismayed community began a Novena to Our Lady of Victories. However, the following day, Pentecost Sunday, Sister Marie of the Eucharist took her for a ride in the garden in her father's wheelchair. From this time, Therese usually spent most of her days in her cell. She did have to go downstairs to go out into the garden and was still walking round a little, since we have the account of her coming up to Sister Marie of the Trinity in the grotto of the Holy Face.

Continues next week

Knowledge and Wisdom

For non-Pentecostals and non-charismatics, the **word of knowledge** refers to the ability to understand Christian doctrine, apply the principles of the Bible to the problems of daily life, teach the Christian faith, and interpret the Bible. This interpretation leans much more on natural ability than on supernatural ability. It depends on human learning and intelligence rather than on God's grace giving people access to information they could not have known naturally. But the New Testament records many instances of Christians having access to such supernatural knowledge (Acts 5:3; 9:8-12; 14:9-10; 1 Corinthians 14:24-25), by which God reveals His will in a particular setting or a specific condition that He desires to heal. This knowledge then causes a greater measure of faith to manifest, which in turn releases gifts of power—healings and the working of miracles.

The gift of **word of wisdom** has likewise been interpreted as wisdom gained through experience and knowledge, rather than divine wisdom given supernaturally in the moment. For Pentecostals and charismatics, on the other hand, the word of wisdom is a supernatural leading of the Holy Spirit that gives a person wisdom in making decisions.

Having said this, it is important to understand the emphasis that must be placed on being immersed in the Word in order to exercise prophecy and other revelatory gifts. Those who consider themselves prophets (as opposed to prophesying on occasion) must be deeply grounded in the Bible, which is the measure by which prophecies should be weighed. It is the source book for understanding the mind and ways of God. The Bible often provides language that the Holy Spirit can use to bring forth a “now” word for a person or group in the present.

Within Protestantism, the teaching that each Christian has only one gift is quite popular. Each believer is to discover what his or her gift is and utilize it for the benefit of the local church. There is also a tendency for much of Protestantism to focus on the gifts spoken of in Romans 12 rather than the gifts spoken of in 1 Corinthians 12. Yet, these two lists of gifts are not mutually exclusive, but complementary.



From Spiritual Gifts Handbook—on sale in the office

Mass Intentions

December 17 to December 24, 2022

Saturday Evening:

5:00 p.m.: Francis Woo Sow Chong
and Mary Yee Paik Hoe, RIP

Sunday:

*7:30 am: Carmelite Nuns' Christmas Novena for
Living/Dead Members of Carm. Aux. and Friends
and Benefactors of the Monastery, #5

7:30 a.m.: Kin Cheah, INT

9:00 a.m.: Christian Joshua Ng, Birthday INT

11:00 a.m.: Parishioners

1:00 p.m.: Molly Lynch, RIP

5:00 p.m.: Marty Smith & Family, INT

Monday:

6:00 a.m.: Ernie & Denise Holguin, INT

*7:30 am: Carmelite Nuns' Christmas Novena #6

8:00 a.m.: John Benedict Odonno, INT

7:00 p.m.: Arenas Ortega Family, INT

Tuesday:

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

*7:30 am: Carmelite Nuns' Christmas Novena #7

8:00 a.m.: Virgilio Lopez, 100th Birthday INT

7 p.m.: Shirley Janine Sullivan, RIP

Wednesday:

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

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

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

7:00 p.m.: Erde Ramos Dato, RIP

Thursday:

6:00 am: Fr. Bernard Perkins, OCD, Birthday INT

*7:30 am: Carmelite Nuns' Christmas Novena #8

8:00 a.m.: Stefan Rahardja, RIP

7:00 p.m.: Ronaldo Cuarto, RIP

Friday:

6:00 a.m.: Augustine Goh, RIP

*7:30 am: Carmelite Nuns' Christmas Novena #9

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

7:00 p.m.: Albert Grobarek, RIP

Saturday Morning:

*7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Community

8:00 a.m.: Carlos and Carla Johnson, INT

*Held at the Cloistered Carmelite Chapel.

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

LIVE STREAMED MASSES:

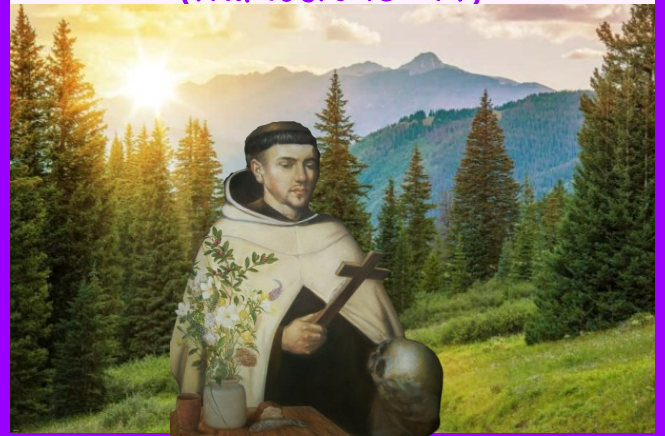
The 8:00 a.m. Daily Mass (Monday—Saturday),
the 11:00 a.m. Sunday Mass, and the 7:00 p.m.
weekday Masses are live streamed on Facebook
AND YouTube (for those unable to attend due to
illness, etc.). Links to those two sites are on our
website's home page (in the top left column).

Quiet Listening Prayer

FROM THE SPIRITUAL CANTICLE

By St. John of the Cross

"My Beloved,
the mountains,
and lonely wooded valleys,
strange islands,
and resounding rivers,
the whistling of
love-stirring breezes,
the tranquil night at the
time of the rising dawn,
silent music,
sounding solitude,
the supper that refreshes,
and deepens love."
(Numbers 13—14)



Personal Ads

ROOMS FOR RENT IN HOUSE: Shared bath, kitchen
privileges. TEXT Miriam at (626) 590-0768 for details.

Deaths

Please pray for the repose of the soul of

+ Joanne Hawkins

(former long-time parishioner)

Arrangements are pending



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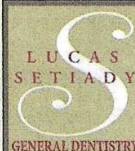
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