

St. Therese Catholic Church



November 12, 2023 510 North El Molino Street | Alhambra CA 91801 | (626) 282-2744 | www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org Est. 1924

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, Tuesday, and Friday evenings: *7:15 p.m. Mass
(*Tuesday's 7:15 p.m. is in **Spanish**).

Thursday evenings: 7:00 pm Exposition & Adoration
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.

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

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

Music Director: Andrew Coyne | Andrew.Coyne1@gmail.com

Respect Life Ministry: Catherine Contreras X 1+112



See Page Seven for an
explanation of this icon

ST. THERESE CARMELITE SCHOOL

(626) 289-3364

www.SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com

Principal: Alma Cornejo X 1 + 661

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

The Pastor's Letter

NOVEMBER IS DEDICATED TO PRAYING FOR THE

Holy Souls

WWW.OURLADYSCENTER.NET

Dear Parishioners of St. Therese:

We just commemorated All Souls' Day in the Church on November 2nd, but **the whole month of November is dedicated to the Holy Souls!** This means that we want to remember the Holy Souls in Purgatory especially during this month; they rely on our prayers and sacrifices. Praying for the dead has a long and venerable tradition within our Church that we must not neglect, because one day we too may be the beneficiaries of others' prayers in the next life. In the Second Book of Maccabees, we hear of Judas Maccabeus offering sacrifice for the souls of his deceased soldiers. And there it says: "For if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again, it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead" (2 Mac. 12:44). That is one of the clearer Scriptural passages that attests to praying for the dead.

The Church has from the beginning taught the reality of Purgatory and the need for some souls to undergo purification before entering Heaven. As paragraph 1030 in the Catechism of the Catholic Church states: **"All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of Heaven."** It needs to be emphasized that the existence of Purgatory is an act of mercy by our loving God because, if it didn't exist, most of us would not make it into Heaven.

But there are still some misconceptions about the nature of Purgatory. It is not, as some have held, a kind of "temporary Hell" experience. As paragraph 1031 goes on to say: **"The Church gives the name Purgatory to this final purification, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned. The Church formulated her doctrine of faith on Purgatory especially at the Councils of Florence and Trent."** So, it is "entirely different" from the experience of Hell, which is another reality that should never be ignored or denied. As the late Fr. Benedict Groeschel, CFR, famously quipped: "I'm looking forward to Purgatory. It's one step up from the Bronx!"

The souls in Purgatory know that they are saved and therefore are waiting in joyful hope for their complete redemption. To their very core, they are longing for God, Heaven, and their own purification. They understand now how much they've fallen short of the holiness of God and desire to be made ready for His eternal embrace. This is good news! Let us intercede for our brothers and sisters, especially our deceased loved ones who rely on our prayers for their process of purification to be complete. And as we near the end of the liturgical year, the Church has us keep in mind the Four Last Things: Death, Judgment, Heaven, and Hell. Focusing on our final end will help us to put our lives in good order right now so that we're prepared for the beauty of eternal life that awaits us!

Fr. Peter Mary, O.C.D.

Thanksgiving Food Drive

Deacon Gil Vargas invites all parishioners to donate non-perishable food—plus turkeys—for those in need for the holiday. On Sunday, NOVEMBER 19, the Parish Hall will be open to receive your donations—before and after the Masses. Please bring grocery bags as well! Distribution will take place on Monday evening, November 20th, to those in need living in the area surrounding our Parish. Remember... God will not be outdone in generosity!



Friendsgiving

The San Gabriel Valley Young Adults invites all **YOUNG ADULTS** to “Friendsgiving,” a potluck dinner at Mater Dolorosa Retreat Center, 700 North Sunnyside Avenue, Sierra Madre at 7:00 p.m., on Thursday, November 16.

Scan this QR code to open the **POTLUCK SIGN UP** sheet... See YOU there!



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.

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 tombleich@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 in the LA Archdiocese with a chaplain in a safe confidential setting. For more info, contact your local chapter (EnCourage for parents: EnCourage.LosAngeles@gmail.com; OR Courage LA for persons struggling with same sex attraction: 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.

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.

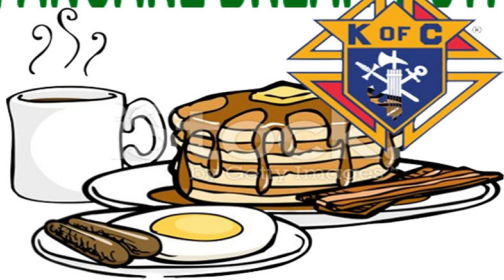
ROSARY MAKERS: This group makes rosaries to be sent to Catholics in third-world countries. Sessions are held on **Mondays from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.** in the Avila Room of the Parish Offices. All are welcome to join!

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.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST!



AS PART OF OUR OUR PARISH CENTENNIAL,

the Knights of Columbus will host a Pancake Breakfast in the Parish Hall **NEXT SUNDAY, November 19th**, after the *Sunday morning Masses (7:30, 9:00, and 11:00). For \$5 per person, you'll get pancakes, eggs, sausage, and a beverage! We hope to see you at this first event to celebrate our upcoming 100-year parish anniversary.



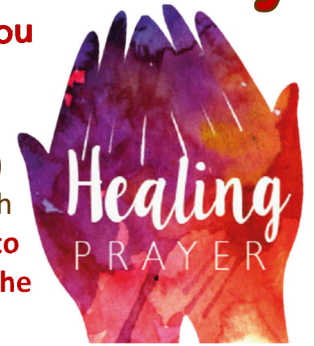
Healing Prayer Ministry

“O Lord, my God, I cried out to you for help and you healed me!”

-Psalm 30:3

THE HEALING PRAYER MINISTRY (HPM) provides personal prayer for the Parish community. **The HPM has moved to Monday nights—immediately following the 7:15 p.m. Mass.**

The HPM also offer private in-person sessions, phone sessions, and are available for outside events. For more info, email hpmStc1@gmail.com.



HelpOurMarriage.com RETRouvaille

A LIFELINE FOR MARRIED COUPLES

Do you or someone you know need marriage help? Retrouvaille (Retro-vai) has helped thousands of couples restore hope, trust, and love in their relationships. Next available weekend is **December 8-10, 2023**. Call (909) 900-5465 to reserve your spaces and for more information.

GPS | Guadalupe Pregnancy Services

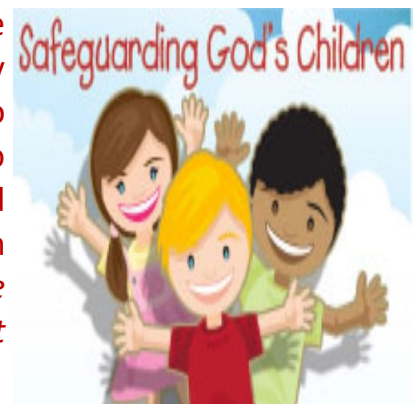
Please join GPS-Guadalupe Pregnancy Services to **CELEBRATE LIFE** at their **13th Annual Fundraising Event—a delicious Dinner and Silent Auction**. This year's 2023 Gala Benefit Dinner (“**Family: Beacon of Light and Hope**”) will focus on the importance of family and community! Your attendance will help raise the funds necessary to continue this important Life Affirming Outreach in the community of the San Gabriel Valley and Greater Los Angeles Area.

This benefit will take place at the **Quiet Cannon in Montebello THIS COMING SATURDAY, November 18!**

Get your tickets online at:
<https://gps2023gala.eventbrite.com>

Safeguard the Children - Did You Know?

What happens if an adult fails to report abuse? A child’s disclosure of abuse must always be taken seriously and handled properly by mandated reporters, teachers, and all trusted adults. The duty to report abuse is the ethically responsible action to take. Failure to report could result in repeated offenses, more severe abuse, and other victims being exposed to a predator. For more information on the importance of reporting abuse, read the VIRTUS® article “*The Consequences of Failing to Report Child Maltreatment: The Impact of All of Us*” at lacatholics.org/did-you-know/.





Saint Therese Carmelite School

Faith ✦ Academics ✦ Virtue

Thanksgiving Pies for Pick Up Next Week! If you ordered a delicious pie, don't forget to pick it up next week! Refrigerated pies will be available for pick up either on **Sunday, November 19, in front of the church after Mass** OR on **Wednesday, November 22, in the school office between 8:00 a.m. and Noon**, depending on the preference you marked on your order form. A limited number of pies will be available for sale after Masses next week. First come, first served. We will sell out quickly!



Becoming Like the Martin Family: STCS Parent Formation Nights



Tuesday, November 21, 7:00 p.m.

“St. Therese of the Child Jesus
and of the Holy Face”

By Fr. Robert Barcelos, OCD

Thursday, December 7, 7:00 p.m.

“How to Live Holy Purity”

By Peter Mary Vecellio, OCD

Both talks will be held in the Parish Hall. Admission is free.
Please note: these talks are for parents only. Childcare is provided.

TK-2nd Grade Warmly Invite You to Their

Fall Poetry Recital

Friday, November 17, 2:00 p.m.

Parish Hall

The Flame of Love: The Greatest Gift of Grace for Our Time

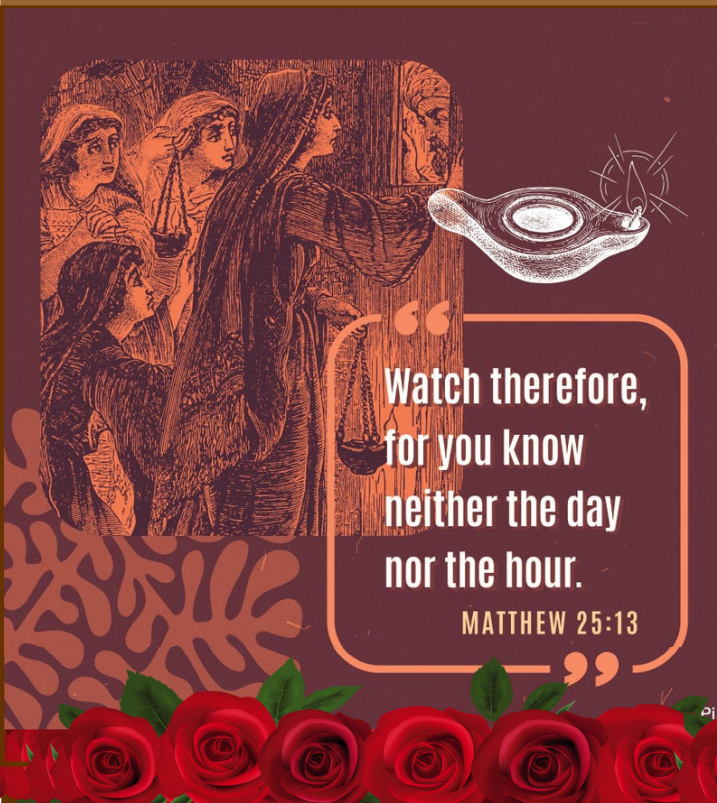


Living in the Flame – Weekly Agenda
Saturday: The Day of Our Mother + Night Vigil

Jesus said: “On this day, venerate our Mother in a special way with a very particular tenderness. As you are well aware, she is the Mother of all graces. Wish that she be venerated on earth as she is venerated in Heaven by the multitude of angels and saints. Seek for agonizing priests the grace of a holy death. Offer every moment of the day for that purpose. What a great reward you will receive! In Heaven, priestly souls will intercede for you and the Most Holy Virgin will be waiting for your soul at the hour of your death. Offer the night vigil for this intention also.”

Join the Cenacle: 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.



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.



November 4 / 5, 2023
Unrestricted..... \$17,242.00
Restricted \$ 110.00
T O T A L.....\$17,352.00

October 7 / 8\$20,030.00
October 14 / 15\$33,391.00
October 21 / 22\$17,181.00
October 28 / 29\$11,725.00

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

Mass Intentions

November 11—November 18, 2023

Saturday Evening:

5:00 p.m.: All Souls Novena #9

Sunday:

*7:30 a.m.: (Carm): Dec'd Religious, Relatives, and Benefactors of the Carmelite Order

7:30 a.m.: Joseph and Helen Raney, RIP

9:00 a.m.: Concepcion & Rodolfo Aguilar, RIP

11:00 a.m.: Gonzalo & Daisy Torres, RIP

1:00 p.m.: Gabriel Anyanwu & Family, INT

5:00 p.m.: Parishioners

Monday:

6:00 a.m.: Angelo Catania, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Concepcion & Rodolfo Aguilar, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Gabriel Anyanwu & Family, INT

7:15 p.m.: Mr. Yongshan Hua, RIP

Tuesday:

6:00 a.m.: Dan Hummel, INT

*7:30 am Dec'd Relig., Rel. & Bene of Carm.'s

8:00 a.m.: Concepcion & Rodolfo Aguilar, RIP

7:15 pm: (Spanish): Renato Villafuerte, RIP

Wednesday:

6:00 a.m.: Nicholas Solichin, B'day INT

*7:30 am: Concepcion & Rodolfo Aguilar, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Don Seguerva, INT

7:15 p.m.: **NO MASS—Confessions 7-9 p.m.**

Thursday:

6:00 a.m.: Fr. Michael Kokaszka, INT

*7:30 a.m.: Concepcion & Rodolfo Aguilar, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Daisy Thompson, INT

7:15 p.m.: **NO MASS—Holy Hour at 7:00 p.m.**

Friday:

6:00 a.m.: Pacita Piol, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Helen Hummel, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Concepcion & Rodolfo Aguilar, RIP

7:15 p.m.: Mary Strouse, Sr., RIP

Saturday Morning:

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

8:00 a.m.: Lorelei Vales Sunga, Birthday INT

*Held at the Cloistered Carmelite Chapel. 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).

Christ Our Light

By Fr. John Muir

Lately I've been enjoying the deep meaning of Eastern icons. I love how they express a tapestry of meaning in a way that can surpass the written or spoken word. Today's parable from Jesus about the ten virgins is a good example. **Try googling "wise and foolish virgins icon" and you'll see an image of how Christ meets our heart's deepest needs if we attend to Him with the proper attitude (note: one rendering of this icon can be seen on our front cover!).**

I'm serious. Take a moment to google and look at it. See how it depicts the risen Jesus behind a closed door with the five wise virgins with lighted lamps. He gazes with them toward the five foolish and lamp-less virgins, symbolizing the outward looking of divine love for the lost. Moreover, the wedding feast is no ordinary one. It takes place in a walled city and garden, indicating it's a new Jerusalem and a return to Eden. The table isn't typical, either. It's a Eucharistic feast. Now we see that the door in Jesus' parable is the way into the Church, where Christ is the new Light burning amidst the dark midnight of this world.

The richness continues. We notice, too, that the foolish virgins look exactly the same as the wise ones in their clothes, hair, and expressions. The only difference is they departed to buy oil and now they are sadly excluded. We often act like consumers in the marketplace to fulfill our need for love and mercy. We'll always end up disappointed if we shop around. Jesus sums up the moral of the story this way: "Watch, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour." Watch, remain, don't spiritually shop. It is always better to quietly remain close to the Eucharistic community of the Church, even if we feel like our oil has run out. This week, let's consider placing the icon of the wise and foolish virgins on our phone lock screen or computer desktop to help us remember to stay close to Him, especially when life feels dark.