

Est. 1924

# St. Therese Catholic Church

Now Celebrating the Centennial of Our Founding (1924-2024)

December 1, 2024 1100 East Alhambra Road, Alhambra CA 91801 | (626) 282-2744 | www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org

## First Sunday of Advent



The days are coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and Judah.

In those days, in that time, I will raise up for David a just Shoot; He shall do what is right and just in the land.

In those days Judah shall be safe and Jerusalem shall dwell secure; this is what they shall call her: "The LORD our justice."

-Jeremiah 33:14-16

### 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 X 1+225  
Fr. David Guzman, OCD X 1+232

**In Residence:** Fr. Albert Bunsic, OCD, Fr. Stephen Watson,  
OCD (X 1+226), 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|stcreligiouslyed7@gmail.com

**Music Director:** Charlotte Lansberg X 1+222|credochoir1@gmail.com

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

## 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

# PASTOR'S COLUMN



Dear Parishioners of St. Therese,

Happy New Year! December 1st marks the beginning of Advent, which is **the beginning of our new liturgical year**. As we come to the close of the Centennial Year of our Parish, we pause to express our gratitude for all the graces and blessings of our Parish Family in the last 100 years and also for all of you who have made our Centennial Year so special and blessed! We also look forward to the great Jubilee Year of 2025 for our entire Church and especially for us Carmelites in the Centenary Year of St. Therese's Canonization! The graces keep flowing!

As we now transition between these two great years, the Church places us within this great transition season of Advent. And I say "transition season" because Advent not only prepares us for Christ's first coming at Christmas, but also for His Second Coming at the end of time. So we might say that Advent is ultimately a preparation for eternal life! **Below is a beautiful, little meditation from Pope Benedict on this season.**

"Advent, this powerful liturgical season that we are beginning, invites us to pause in silence to understand a Presence. It is an invitation to understand that the individual events of the day are hints that God is giving us, signs of the attention He has for each one of us. How often does God give us a glimpse of His love!

"To keep, as it were, an 'interior journal' of this love would be a beautiful and salutary task for our life! In the language of the ancient world, it was a technical term used to indicate the arrival of an official or the visit of the king or emperor to a province. However, it could also mean the coming of the Divinity that emerges from concealment to manifest Himself forcefully or that was celebrated as being present in worship.

"Christians used the word 'advent' to express their relationship with Jesus Christ: Jesus is the King who entered this poor 'province' called 'earth' to pay everyone a visit; He makes all those who believe in Him participate in His coming, all who believe in His presence in the liturgical assembly. The essential meaning of the word 'adventus' was: **God is here, He has not withdrawn from the world, He has not deserted us.** Even if we cannot see and touch Him as we can tangible realities, He is here and comes to visit us in many ways."



And, I would add, in this final year of Eucharistic Revival, that He especially comes to us in the Holy Eucharist every day! This is Our Lord's great coming right now that is ultimately a preparation for His final or Second Coming. Let us welcome Him into the warmth of our hearts in Holy Communion so that He too will welcome us into the warmth of His Heart at His final coming!

—Fr. Peter Mary

**NEW PARISH MINISTRY: DEUS VOCAT** Next Sunday, December 8, a parish representative from our new ministry, the *Deus Vocat Apostolate*, ("God is Calling")— will give a short announcement at the end of all the Masses. There will also be a table in front of the church at which you can sign up to pray for vocations and receive a handout. You will also have a chance to host the pilgrim statue of St. Therese for one-week's time. **For more information, call Francisco Alcala at (323) 497-4951 or Marcela Alcala at (626) 940-4899.**

**DEUS  
VOCAT**  
GOD IS CALLING

# ADVENT MISSION WITH FR. MATTHIAS (DECEMBER 9 - 12)



Please join us for this Advent Mission, led by **Fr. Matthias of the Immaculate Heart, OCD**, a former associate. The Mission theme is:

**“Overcoming Obstacles to Divine Intimacy—  
Inspired by St. Therese’s Final Passion”**

The Lord will surely grant great graces through this Parish Mission through the intercession of our patroness, St. Therese. The Mission will be held from **Monday evening, December 9, through Thursday evening, December 12**, per the following nightly **SCHEDULE**:



*“A God who became so small could only be mercy and love.”*

-St. Therese of Lisieux

- ◆ 6:00 p.m.: Holy Rosary
- ◆ **6:30 p.m.: Holy Mass with Mission Homily**
- ◆ **7:45 p.m.: Holy Hour & \*Confessions** (preceded by a brief guided meditation into silence)
- ◆ 8:45 p.m.: Conclusion with Benediction

**Special Notes:**

\*On Wednesday, December 11, Confessions will begin at 7:00 p.m., for which there will be several priests available.

On Thursday, December 12, the **Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe**, we will have a Rose Offering and Enrollment in the Brown Scapular.



## DON'T MISS OUT ON GETTING A "GALA OF ROSES" TICKET!

### SCHEDULE FOR THE EVENING

- 4:00 p.m. - Registration
- 4:30 p.m. - Cocktail Hour
- 5:30p.m. - Dinner,  
Dancing,  
and More!
- 9:30 p.m. - Closing

## ST. THERESE CHURCH 100TH ANNIVERSARY

1924-2024

# "Gala of Roses"



After a year of celebrating our hundredth year as a parish, we are preparing for the **CENTENNIAL FINALE, the "GALA OF ROSES" BANQUET** in the Mediterranean Ballroom at Brookside at the Rosebowl (1133 Rosemont Avenue, Pasadena) on **SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 2025!** Don't miss this fabulous Parish Party with your Parish family!

We will have a live band playing music that was popular during many of the decades of our Parish's existence. For the elderly and/or disabled, we will provide **shuttle service** from the parking lot to the Gala's entrance (at arrival only).

Tickets are **\$100 each** (\$1 for each year St. Therese Church in Alhambra has existed!). The deadline to purchase tickets is December 28 or until they are sold out. Tickets can be purchased after selected Masses, in the office during open hours, online by scanning this QR code or by going directly to the link on our website's homepage.



# Financial Offerings

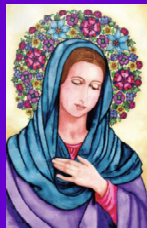


November 16 / 17, 2024

Unrestricted.....	\$12,266.00
Restricted .....	\$ 155.00
<b>T O T A L.....</b>	<b>\$12,421.00</b>

October 19 / 20 .....	\$22,771.00
October 26 / 27 .....	\$14,929.00
November 2 / 3 .....	\$25,871.00
November 9/10 .....	\$19,987.00

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



## "The Mystery of the Church" CLASSES

Due to Christmas and Stephen's schedule, THERE WILL BE **ONLY ONE CLASS FOR DECEMBER**. It will be **THIS TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3** (same time, same place: **7:30 to 9:00 p.m.**, in the Parish Meeting Room—we'll be back on track for January!) **The theme for December 3rd will be "THE CHURCH AND MARY."**

*"By reason of the gift and role of divine maternity, by which she is united with her Son, the Redeemer, and with His singular graces and functions, the Blessed Virgin is also intimately united with the Church. As St. Ambrose taught, the Mother of God is a type of the Church in the order of faith, charity, and perfect union with Christ. For in the mystery of the Church, which is Itself rightly called Mother and Virgin, the Blessed Virgin stands out in eminent and singular fashion as exemplar both of virgin and mother."* (From the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council)



**YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY**  
The next Cor Jesu Night will be on **Friday, December 13**, beginning at **6:30 p.m.**, in the Hall with a pizza social.

After, we will break up into four separate groups (Adults, Teens, Youth, Children) and then will come together again for Adoration in the Church (ending by 9:00 p.m.) We'll see you there!

## Ongoing Parish Ministries, Groups, and Devotions

**-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).

**—COR JESU YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY:** A group that serves our youth and their families by providing a monthly social/prayer ministry. Seel Fr. Robert for more info.

**-DETENTION MINISTRY:** A program for those 21 and older to visit youth in the Juvenile Detention Center 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 supports one another and their loved ones with same sex attraction, through discussion, prayer, fellowship, and sacrifice. Meets monthly within 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](mailto:EnCourage.LosAngeles@gmail.com); OR Courage LA for persons struggling with same sex attraction: [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. Come to the church **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. JOIN ANYTIME! If you have any questions, please contact Maru Lazatin at (626) 675-3080.

**-GPS (GPS-Guadalupe Pregnancy Services):** Assists mothers from "Pregnancy to Preschool." Call/Text: (626) 238-5476.

**—HEALING PRAYER MINISTRY:** Teams of trained lay people pray for your healing. Held after our Monday evening Mass. Also available: private in-person sessions, phone sessions, outside events. For more info, send an email to: [HpmStc1@gmail.com](mailto:HpmStc1@gmail.com). (**OFF on 12/23 and 12/30/24**).

**-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.**

**-LAY MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY:** An international association of lay people—married and single—whose members—adhering to the Charism of the Missionaries of Charity—make private vows of chastity, poverty, obedience, and wholehearted service to the poorest of the poor. Meets at STC every 3rd Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and prays the Rosary daily at 6:00 p.m. (virtually and at STC). Contact Alejandra Gomeztagle at (626) 630-8760.

**—REPARATION TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS:** A devotion for the purpose of making reparation to the Sacred Heart. It is held every Friday from 5:00 to 6:15 p.m. in the church.

**—RETROUVAILLE LOS ANGELES:** A Program to help couples in troubled marriages learn about the tools needed to get their marriages back on track through a combination of one weekend, follow-up sessions, and fellowship/enrichment presentations (held at St Therese). For more info, call (909) 900-5465 or go to [www.HelpOurMarriage.org](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org).

**—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 MINISTRY:** A group that works to serve God by serving the priests and families of St. Therese. The group also trains intercessors committed to serving St. Therese Church. 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 our parish community and for increase in vocations. For more info, call Lucy Marikian 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.

**YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN ONE OR MORE—OR ALL!—OF THESE GROUPS!**

# Blessed Season of Advent!



Dear St. Therese Parishioners,

With a grateful and joyful heart, I share that our beautiful school is flourishing thanks to your prayers, the time you devote to our school events, and your sacrificial giving. You help us in our mission to form souls for God. Every penny that you give is helping a child to read, write, and compute. Most importantly, every cent received helps our children know, love and serve God more and more. Thank you for faithfully supporting our school week after week.

The beauty of our school is palpable in every corner! Our students are joyful, faith-filled, and charitable. They truly love learning and they value the Good, the True, and the Beautiful. Classical education, the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Carmelites present and active in our classrooms, bi-weekly Masses, confessions, adoration and benediction, and a strong religion program are some of the attributes that make our school special. We are blessed to have faculty members who are all knowledgeable in classical education and who all love and actively practice their faith.

Thank you for spreading the good news about our program. Our school has openings in most grade levels from TK 8th grade and we will gladly give you a personalized tour.

We are able to provide a solid Catholic program and a rigorous classical curriculum, which includes art and an all-school choir, thanks to your generosity. Please be assured of our gratitude and know that your intentions will be remembered in the daily prayers of the priests, faculty, and these little souls so close to God.

May God reward you,

*Mrs. Alina Cornejo*

## FUNERAL MASS FOR FR. ALBERT'S TWIN BROTHER, FRED BUNSIK



Fr. Albert invites you to attend the funeral Mass for his twin brother, **Fred Bunsik**, who died in Arizona last month.

It will be held at the Carmel of St. Teresa (the Carmelite Nuns' Monastery Chapel), at 215 East Alhambra Road, this **Monday, December 2nd, at 11:00 a.m.**

## SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is normally celebrated on December 8, but this year that date falls on the Second Sunday of Advent. Therefore, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has moved the feast day to **Monday, December 9**; it is still a **holy day of obligation to attend Mass**.

**Mass times will be as follows: 6:00 and 8:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.** (there is no vigil as the evening Mass on Sunday, December 8, is for the 2nd Sunday of Advent).

This special feast is the commemoration of the fact that Mary, *alone of all humans*, was conceived in the womb of her mother, St. Anne, without the stain of original sin on her soul. (Unfortunately, many people—even Catholics—still think the Immaculate Conception is when Jesus was conceived in the womb of the Blessed Virgin.)

Come join us in celebrating this special moment in the life of Mary, kept pure as she had been chosen before the world began to be *the first "tabernacle" of our Divine Savior*.



# "Let Me Introduce You..." By Fr. Stephen F. Watson OCD



You would have thought we were sophisticated literary people if you had been listening to us discuss Columbian Nobel Prize-winning author Gabriel Garcia Marquez's *Love in the Time of Cholera* while enjoying our chiles en nogadas. Rather than a river cruise on a steamboat, we journeyed down memory lane. I had not visited **Milton and Rosario Chow** for quite some time. This is their story.

Although born in Houston, Texas, Milton grew up in Nicaragua. His parents had emigrated there from China after the Chinese Communist Revolution. Milton and his two brothers helped his parents run the family business, a Cantonese-style Chinese restaurant in the capital city of Managua. I asked Milton if being Chinese in a Latin American country was difficult. "No," he simply said. The Chows were forced to emigrate again due to the revolution in Nicaragua in 1979-80. This time they settled in Alhambra when Milton was sixteen. He finished his secondary education at Mark Keppel High School and then

enrolled at Cal State LA, where he received a degree in accounting. He started his own business and has always worked for himself.

Rosario Muñoz was born in León, Guanajuato, Mexico. She is the firstborn of eight. She went to college there and earned a degree in social work. Her parents and some of her siblings were already living in Los Angeles. Using her vacation time, Rosario came to Los Angeles. She planned to then go to Hawaii with her sister, Estela. However, her plans changed when Estela, a student at UC Irvine, got accepted into a program in Barcelona. So instead, Rosario enrolled in the American Language and Culture Program at Cal State LA. (You can see the trajectory, right?) When her vacation was over, she asked for and received a three-month leave of absence from her job in Mexico. After those three months were over, but still wanting to make more progress in English, Rosario asked for *another* three months. When this request for more time was refused, she decided to stay in Los Angeles and continue her study of English.

Milton first saw Rosario at the Blue Swan Restaurant. It must have been love at first sight. He offered her his card and invited her to take his course in real estate, a novel approach to a first date. The encounter culminated in a happy marriage and two children, Michelle and Dennis. At the time, they were living on North Mission Drive, just up from Las Tunas. Rosario quit the job she had at Ford Motor and became a school mom. Michelle and Dennis attended St. Therese School. The Chows were involved in the School and Parish in those years. Michelle was a member of the cheerleader squad, which kept her mom busy. Rosario went back to work, this time for USC Hospital as a patient care coordinator. This made it possible for Michelle and Dennis to go to USC. Michelle, who is now married, works at Cedars-Sinai. Dennis is an architect working for the Wynn Group in Las Vegas.

When her parents were still alive, Rosario and her siblings used to meet at their house every Sunday for dinner, like the Reagans on *Blue Bloods*. Her sister, Eugenia, worked for the Pasadena Police Department. Another of her sisters, Gabriela Mora, also had her children in St. Therese School. Her sister, Estela, lives on Almansor Street, and the Chows now live on North Duane Avenue—just a block east of their former home. Family gatherings, while less frequent, are still important. Milton is on dialysis now, which he is able to do at home. Now that Rosario's retired, she likes to go on pilgrimages and enjoy the get-togethers with her sisters.

It was a pleasure to have supper with the Chows. Michelle and her husband Mike were there that night, as well as Mike's parents, Fernando and Delia. A dear friend of the Chows, Mercedes, was also present. Her son went to our School and her brother, Felipe Andalon, was one of our School's teachers. We reminisced about the friendships of those years: the Delgados, the Smiths, the Stefeks, the Gómezes, the Setiadys, and more.

We concluded our dinner with delicious pistachio ice cream from Fosselman's Ice Cream Company, remembering that Jim and Kay Fosselman lived around the corner on Alahmar Street and were active parishioners back in the day. Sweet memories rekindle old friendships and keep our parish families praying together in faith and love.

The Chow Family is part of the rich 100-year history of St. Therese Parish.  
Let us all walk with St. Therese as we journey together in faith during our Centennial year.

# Mass Intentions

November 30—December 7, 2024

Saturday Evening:

5:00 p.m.: Nancy Ignatieff, RIP

Sunday

\*7:30 a.m.: Emily Goodwin, INT

7:30 a.m.: McAllister Family, INT

9:00 a.m.: Eutequia Advincula Deresma, RIP

11:00 a.m.: All Humanity & God's Creation, INT

1:00 p.m. (Latin): Laigo Family, INT

5:00 p.m.: Parishioners

Monday:

6:00 a.m.: Virginia Gerber, RIP

\*7:30 a.m.: Jose N. Vales, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Graciela Gonzalez, INT

7:15 p.m.: Johnathan Ceja, Birthday INT

Tuesday:

6:00 a.m.: Carmina Doria, Birthday INT

\*7:30 a.m.: Diane Hart & Siblings, INT

8:00 a.m.: Tingfang Wang, INT

7:15 p.m. (Span): Arnoldo Trejos Caldera, RIP

Wednesday:

6:00 a.m.: Humberto Perez, RIP

\*7:30 a.m.: Jean Rosenberger, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Julianna Torres, INT

Thursday:

6:00 a.m.: David Gerber, INT

\*7:30 a.m.: Roland De La Rosa, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Rhony Laigo, INT

First Friday:

6:00 a.m.: Fr. Raymond Bueno, OCD, INT

\*7:30 a.m.: Roland De La Rosa, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Ambrocio Santa Maria, RIP

**7:15 p.m.:** Sergio Rodriguez, INT

Saturday (Morning):

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

8:00 a.m.: Ambrosio Deresma, INT

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

\*Open to the public except on Sundays and some 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

## PILGRIMAGE TO PORTUGAL, SPAIN, FRANCE, AND ITALY

with Fr. Julius Ntalo, OCD:  
Join this 14-day pilgrimage from July 11 to 24, 2025, to all four countries listed above. For more info and to receive an itinerary, contact ABM Tours at 310-514-3323 or 408-903-6305 or maddatubeth2@gmail.com. See more info at abmtours.com.

## ST. TERESE PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO FRANCE

with Fr. Peter Mary & Fr. Robert from Sept 21 to Oct 3, 2025. For info, go to <https://prometours.com/sainttherese/> or contact ProRome Tours at (434) 953-1112 or office@prorome.com. **THIRTY-FIVE PARISHIONERS have already signed up!**

## FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT

*"The days are coming, says the LORD,  
when I will fulfill the promise  
I made to the house of Israel and Judah.  
In those days, in that time,  
I will raise up for David a just shoot;  
he shall do what is right and just in the land."*

- Jeremiah 33:14-15



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