

# St. Therese Catholic Church

December 12, 2021 **Ministered by the Discalced Carmelite Friars** Est. 1924

510 North El Molino Street | Alhambra CA 91801 | (626) 282-2744 | [www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org](http://www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org)

## 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](http://www.discalcedcarmelitefriars.com)

**Parish Secretary:** Denise McMaster-Holguin X223

[denisekay@hotmail.com](mailto:denisekay@hotmail.com)

**Finance:** Noralyn Cailan X228 / [cailannocds@gmail.com](mailto:cailannocds@gmail.com)

**Music Director:** Paula Grimm | [pgrimm.dir@gmail.com](mailto:pgrimm.dir@gmail.com)

**Respect Life Ministry:** Catherine Contreras X112

**“Do not fear any illness or vexation, anxiety, or pain. Am I not here who am your Mother?**

**Are you not under my shadow and protection? Are you not in the folds of my mantle? In the crossing of my arms?”**

**-Our Lady at Guadalupe**

## 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**

## ST. THERESE CARMELITE SCHOOL

(626) 289-3364

[www.SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com](http://www.SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com)

**Principal:** Alma Cornejo X661

[principal@saintthersecarmeliteschool.com](mailto:principal@saintthersecarmeliteschool.com)



Third Sunday of Advent  
(Gaudete Sunday)

# Joy



Those whom the LORD has ransomed will return and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy; they will meet with joy and gladness, sorrow and mourning will flee

Isaiah 35:10



## SACRAMENTS

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

# FROM OUR PASTOR

Continued Advent blessings, and also especially today: Blessed Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, everyone! And Blessed Solemnity of St. John of the Cross on Tuesday! We are all delighted and grateful that the Catholic Market event a week ago went so well, and we are hoping to bring it back more often. We are also thanking the Trinity for the new Catholic Professionals group that meets on the second Saturday of the month.

To help stir up our hearts to greater hope and gratitude for how much our invisible family desires to help and protect and heal us, here are the words of Our Lady of Guadalupe to St. Juan Diego on December 9 and December 12, 1531, in Mexico City:

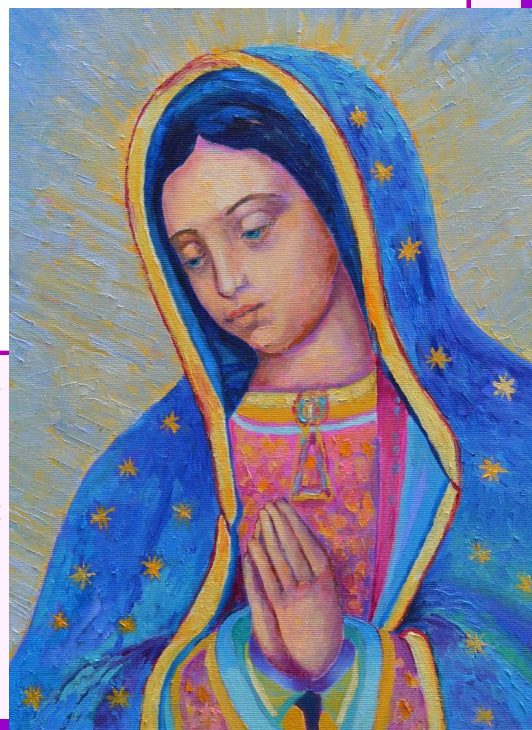
"Know, know for sure, my dearest, littlest, and youngest son, that I am the perfect and ever Virgin Holy Mary, Mother of the God of truth, through Whom everything lives, the Lord of all things near us, the Lord of Heaven and earth. I want very much to have a little house built here for me, in which I will show Him, I will exalt Him, and make Him manifest. I will give Him to the people in all my personal love, in my compassion, in my help, in my protection: because I am truly your merciful Mother, yours and all the people who live united in this land and of all the other people of different ancestries, my lovers, who love me, those who seek me, those who trust in me. Here I will hear their weeping, their complaints, and heal all their sorrows, hardships, and sufferings. And to bring about what my compassionate and merciful concern is trying to achieve, you must go to the residence of the Bishop of Mexico and tell him that I sent you to show him how strongly I wish him to build me a temple here on the plain; you will report to him exactly all you have seen, admired, and what you have heard.

"Know for sure I will appreciate it very much, be grateful, and reward you. And you? You will deserve very much the reward I will give you for your fatigue, the work and trouble that my mission will cause you. Now, my dearest son, you have heard my breath, my word; go now and put forth your best effort. Listen, put it into your heart, my youngest and dearest son, that the thing that disturbs you, the thing that afflicts you, is nothing. Do not let your countenance, your heart be disturbed. Do not fear this sickness of your uncle or any other sickness, nor anything that is sharp or hurtful. Am I not here, I, who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not the source of your joy? Are you not in the hollow of my mantle, in the crossing of my arms? Do you need anything more? Let nothing else worry you, disturb you. Do not let your uncle's illness worry you, because he will not die now. You may be certain that he is already well."

[And at that moment the uncle was restored to health, as they were to learn later.]

I ask Our Lady of Guadalupe to bless each one of you and your families, and to inspire you to get a copy of her image to put up in your home. She has healed many of her sons and daughters, simply through reverence for this greatest of all Marian images! (It is the only ongoing miraculous image on the planet, since it is made out of cactus fibers that should have rotted by 1581.)

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





# SAINT THERESE CARMELITE SCHOOL NEWS

**SEE'S CANDY ORDERS:** If you ordered See's Candy, you may pick up your orders at the School Office Monday through Thursday, December 13 through 16 (during their open hours).

**SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CONCERT** on Thursday, December 16, at 6:30 p.m., in the church. Please join us for a night of carols, hymns, and readings. We hope that our performance will inspire you with hope and joy as we await the Christmas season together.

**CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS VACATION:** The School will be closed for the Christmas holidays from Noon on Friday, December 17, through Sunday, January 2

**GET YOUR KIDS OUT OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND INTO ST. THERESE!** Call our School (626-289-3364) for information about the new diocesan \$50 million financial assistance for new families. Our School has openings in most grade levels from TK through 8th Grade; we will gladly give you a personalized tour! The classical curriculum, the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Carmelite Friars, present and active in our classrooms, weekly Masses, confessions, 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.



"I AM THE LORD, YOUR HEALER"  
EX 15:26

## Healing Service

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17

5:30PM - 8:30PM

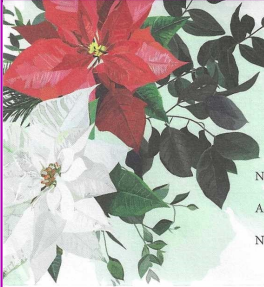
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## CHRISTMAS FLOWERS



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In Memory Of: \_\_\_\_\_

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

No. \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Christmas Flower Offering envelopes can be found in the pews. Please use one to make a donation to help us decorate the altar for the Christmas Masses.

Your loved ones, living or deceased, who are enrolled on these envelopes will be remembered in a Mass celebrated on Monday evening, February 21, at 7:00 p.m.

## "CHRISTMAS WITH THE CHOSEN: THE MESSENGERS"

Join us **TONIGHT, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12**, for this **Christmas Special** made by the creators of *The Chosen* and starring actors from *The Chosen*.

It will be shown in the parking lot (weather permitting) following the 5:00 p.m. Mass—at approximately 6:15 p.m. Before the movie, there will also be a Christmas Concert, followed by this special Christmas movie.



Christmas With The Chosen:  
The Messengers

Tickets are \$11 for adults and \$9 for youth and can be purchased at the event. For more information, call Matthew Ng at (951) 233-1012.

## "LET EVERY BABY'S LIGHT SHINE" TREE



The "Let Every Baby's Light Shine" Christmas tree is here!

Our Vox Vitae teens have been hard at work preparing the star ornaments to go on the tree to assist Los Angeles Pregnancy Services (LAPS). This pregnancy center has nine abortion businesses within one mile of it. Let us help them as they work to help the mothers!

Praised be Jesus Christ! **LAPS has saved over 135 babies from abortion this year!** As we joyfully prepare to celebrate the birth of Our Lord and Savior, let us also assist mothers who have said "Yes" to Life. The "Let Every Baby's Light Shine" Christmas tree has star ornaments on it, each of which has baby items written on it—items needed to help mothers who considered abortion, but instead said "Yes" to Life.

**Please take a tag from the tree and purchase the listed items and then place them (unwrapped!) under the Christmas tree by the end of the year.** These items will then be delivered by Vox Vitae teens to LAPS the first week of the New Year. God bless you for caring!

# SCHOOL'S CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Saint Therese Carmelite School and the Carmelite Friars invite you to join them for the annual SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CONCERT! It will be held in the church this **Thursday, December 16, at 6:30 p.m.** It will be an evening of carols, hymns, and readings. We hope that our performance will inspire you with hope and joy as we await the Christmas season together.



## Fasting from the Wound of Confusion

**PAUSE TO HEAR GOD SPEAK:**

"He is not the God of disorder [confusion] but of peace."  
-1 Corinthians 14:33

"But if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and he will be given it."  
-James 1:5

Today I choose to fast from the wound of confusion. The story of Adam and Eve gives us the perfect analogy to understand our sin. In Genesis, the fruit that Adam and Eve eat represents sin. If our own sin is fruit, it also grows on a tree, and that tree has roots. Our sin is a reaction to something that happens deeper inside of us—as our roots. These roots are made up of our experiences, emotions, beliefs, and thoughts and are separate from God’s love and care for us. Let’s take a moment to zero in on this idea by looking at the wound of confusion. Using our tree analogy, we can see that confusion is a primary root of the sin of sloth. In other words, sloth is our reaction to being confused. If you’ve ever been sure you should make a right turn while driving, only to find out you really should have turned left, that is confusion. Confusion happens inside us—it is a disorientation of our minds, emotions, or

hearts. It might feel to you like you have a thick fog in your head. It might also feel like a rapid back-and-forth in your thoughts. We just can’t figure out the right direction or the right thing to do. Confusion will keep us from making a decision or lead us toward a bad decision. Confusion is at the root, but sloth is the fruit. Working with the reflection below, take a few moments to ponder the presence of confusion in your life.

Take time to ask yourself... What types of thoughts and feelings tend to confuse me?  
How do I react when I experience confusion?

Pray slowly... Heavenly Father, In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I renounce confusion and repent all the ways in which I have sinned because of it, particularly the ways in which I have rejected your wisdom and peace. I reject every form of confusion in my life. I renounce any lies I have come to believe, including lies such as, "I don't know what to do," "I'll make a mistake," or "I don't know where to turn." Send your Holy Spirit to heal, restore, and transform me. Amen.

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

# 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.



December 4 / 5, 2021  
Unrestricted..... \$15,666.50  
Restricted .....\$ 1,873.50  
**T O T A L.....\$17,540.00**

November 6 / 7.....\$16,829.00  
November 13/14.....\$28,916.00  
November 20/21.....\$17,923.00  
November 27/28.....\$13,078.00

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



# THEOLOGY OF THE BODY SERIES

JOHN PAUL II

Man and Woman  
He Created Them



A Theology of the Body

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.

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! For those who would prefer, you are also welcome to join us VIA ZOOM. **The Personal Meeting ID Number is 846 381 4560 and the Passcode is yaCsG6.**

## REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS...

Today is known as Gaudete—Rejoice—Sunday; the day's Latin nickname is taken from today's ancient official Entrance Antiphon, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near." The optional rose vestments—reminiscent of winter's early morning skies as the solstice draws near, the festal organ music, the floral arrangements, all these ancient traditions, together with the antiphon, are meant to anticipate, in sight and sound, the soon-to-break-upon-us Christmas joy. How well today's scriptures illustrate the struggle between Advent's contrasting moods: "joyful expectation" in light of Christ's nativity, and "serious repentance" inspired by John the Baptist's preaching, reminding us that Christ's next coming—at death or at the end of time—will be for judgment as well as redemption.

Joy and exultation ring through the first reading, as Zephaniah's ancient messianic prophecy pictures God "rejoicing over us with gladness, renewing us in His love, singing joyfully because of us, as one sings at festivals." This joyful God is not distant: the prophet declares twice that God "is in your midst." Zephaniah so trusts this joyful God's love for us that he declares our deliverance "a done deal": both from inward fear and guilt—"the Lord has removed the judgment against you"—and from external threats: "He has turned away your enemies." The Responsorial Psalm, from Advent's principal prophet, Isaiah, echoes an exultant joy that should prompt us to be "confident and unafraid," "for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel." Paul likewise exhorts the Philippians—and us—to joy, to a kindness that should be evident to all, to prayer free from anxiety, serene and thankful.

But then John the Baptist cries out on Jordan's bank: Repent! Prepare for a Messiah whose baptism "with the Holy Spirit and fire," unlike John's water baptism, will utterly transform its recipients. His winnowing fan will clear away the dead wood, bundling wheat and burning chaff in unquenchable fire. If this is going to be "good news" for us, then well might we, like the crowds, tax collectors, and soldiers who first heard John, ask

"What should we do?" When John responds to the people then, and to us today, the answer, while supremely challenging, is almost surprisingly simple. Nobody is ordered to abandon the place in which their personal life's journey or the realities of a history beyond their control have put them. God saves us not despite or apart from our real-life circumstances but in them and through them. Our call now is to practical, generous charity: we are to share clothing and food; practice justice and professional and personal integrity; and be honest toward others and with ourselves. Such is the teaching of the Messiah that John heralded.



# Mass Intentions

December 11—December 18, 2021

## Saturday:

5 p.m. Alicia María Guadalupe Ortega RIP

## Sunday

\*7:30 am: Carm Nuns Christmas Novena 2  
7:30 a.m.: Joseph & Belen Africa, RIP  
9:00 a.m.: Fr. Philip Sullivan, OCD, INT  
11:00 a.m.: McAllister Family, INT  
1:00 p.m.: Souls in Purgatory  
5:00 p.m.: Therese Hong Nguyen Fam INT

## Monday:

6 a.m.: Gabriel Anyanwu & Family INT  
\*7:30 am: Carm Nuns Christmas Novena 3  
8:00 a.m.: Peter Arcaro, RIP  
7:00 p.m.: Rosa Fagundes, RIP

## Tuesday:

6:00 am: Carmelite Family, INT  
\*7:30 am: Parents of Deacon Joe and  
Lorraine Mizerski, RIP  
8:00 a.m.: David Holman B-day INT  
7 pm: Mary Rose Go & Patrick Rosal, INT

## Wednesday:

6:00 a.m.: Michael & Alexander Cheah INT  
\*7:30 am: Carm Nuns Christmas Novena 4  
8:00 a.m.: Maria Elena Paredes, RIP  
7:00 p.m.: St. Jude for Souls in Purgatory

## Thursday:

6:00 a.m.: Florence Hutchinson, RIP  
\*7:30 am: Carm Nuns Christmas Novena 5  
8:00 a.m.: Esteban Family, INT  
7:00 pm: Fr. James Zakowicz, OCD RIP

## Friday:

6:00 a.m.: Maria Elena Paredes, RIP  
\*7:30 am: Carm. Nuns Christmas Nov. 6  
8:00 a.m.: Bernie & Kay Tittmann,  
54th Anniversary INT

## Saturday:

\*7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Community  
8:00 a.m.: James Arakawa, RIP

\*Held at the Cloistered Carmelite  
Chapel, 215 E Alhambra Rd  
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC Mon.-Sat.

## 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

FROM THE WAY OF PERFECTION

By St. Teresa of Avila

The will is the one that is captive here. If there is some sorrow that can be experienced while in this state, that sorrow comes from a realization that the will must return to the state of being free. The intellect wouldn't want to understand more than one thing; nor would the memory want to be occupied with anything else. Persons in this prayer see that only this one thing is necessary, and everything else disturbs them. They don't want the body to move because it seems they would thereby lose that peace; thus they don't dare stir. It pains them to speak; in their saying "Our Father" just once a whole hour passes. They are so close that they see they are understanding as though through signs. They are within the palace, near the King, and they see that He is beginning to give them here His kingdom. It doesn't seem to them that they are in the world, nor would they want to see or hear about anything other than their God. Nothing pains them, nor does it seem anything ever will. In sum, while this prayer lasts they are so absorbed and engulfed with the satisfaction and delight they experience within themselves that they do not remember there is more to desire; they would eagerly say with St. Peter: "Lord, let us build three dwelling places here. (Chapter 31, No. 3).



# Personal Ads

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