

SAINT THERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

March 29, 2020

MINISTERED BY THE DISCALCED CARMELITE FRIARS

Estab. 1924

Be Calm and Carry on!

www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org



Your Carmelite Friars, Nuns, and Sisters LOVE you! We are PRAYING for you in these trying times. Know that Our Good and Loving Lord continues to watch over you and provide you with His never-ending graces. Please be patient and stay calm. He will see you through this current crisis and through all of life's troubles.

God is our refuge
and strength,
an ever-present
help in trouble.

PSALM 46:1

"FOR I KNOW THE PLANS
I HAVE FOR YOU,"
DECLARES THE LORD,
"PLANS TO PROSPER YOU
AND NOT TO HARM YOU,
PLANS TO GIVE YOU HOPE
AND A FUTURE."

JEREMIAH 29:11

"Pray, hope, and
don't worry.
Worry is useless.
God is merciful
and will hear
your prayer."

- Saint Padre Pio

But those who hope in the
LORD will renew their
strength. They will soar on
wings like eagles; they will
run and not grow weary, they
will walk and not be faint.

Isa 40:31

A MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP GOMEZ

The following is from Archbishop José H. Gomez regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19):

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

With the worldwide outbreak of Coronavirus, we are confronted once more with the fragility of our lives, and again we are reminded of our common humanity—that the peoples of this world are our brothers and sisters, that we are all one family under God. God does not abandon us; He goes with us even now in this time of trial and testing. In this moment, it is important for us to anchor our hearts in the hope that we have in Jesus Christ. Now is the time to intensify our prayers and sacrifices for the love of God and the love of our neighbor. Let us draw closer to one another in our love for Him, and rediscover the things that truly matter in our lives.

United with our Holy Father Pope Francis, let us pray in solidarity for our brothers and sisters here and around the world who are sick. Let us pray for those who have lost loved ones to this virus. May God console them and grant them peace. We pray also for doctors, nurses, and caregivers, for public health officials, and all civic leaders. May God grant them courage and prudence as they seek to respond to this emergency with compassion and in service to the common good. In this time of need, I invite all the faithful to seek together the maternal intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and I share this prayer with you:

HOLY VIRGIN OF GUADALUPE,

Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas.

We fly to you today as your beloved children.

We ask you to intercede for us with your Son,
as you did at the wedding in Cana.

Pray for us, loving Mother,

and gain for our nation and world,

and for all our families and loved ones,

the protection of your holy angels,

that we may be spared the worst of this illness.

For those already afflicted,

we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and

deliverance. Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable

and fearful, wipe away their tears and help them to trust

in you. In this time of trial and testing,

teach all of us in the Church to love one another

and to be patient and kind. Help us to bring the peace

of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.

We come to you with confidence,

knowing that you truly are our compassionate Mother,

health of the sick and cause of our joy.

Shelter us under the mantle of your protection,

keep us in the embrace of your arms,

help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus.



MAKING A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Pope Francis, Archbishop Gomez, and many bishops are encouraging us to deepen our love for the Eucharist during these difficult times when we are deprived of it. There is an ancient tradition in the Church of making a "Spiritual Communion." This began centuries ago when daily reception of the Eucharist was not allowed, and when some people could receive Holy Communion only once a year!

St. Alphonsus de Ligouri (1696-1787) wrote a very beautiful prayer for "Spiritual Communion" which you could pray every day:

"My Jesus, I believe that You are truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to possess You within my soul. Since I am unable now to receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as being already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You by sin. Amen."



CORONAVIRUS PLENARY INDULGENCE

The Vatican's Apostolic Penitentiary has granted a plenary indulgence for people with COVID-19, for those who care for them, and for those who pray for them. So all of us can all take part in this new plenary indulgence.

Plenary indulgences are a dogma of the Church and an ancient practice of the faithful. Plenary indulgences remit all temporal punishment due to sin, either for oneself or for a soul in purgatory. They must be accompanied by full detachment from sin.

The conditions of an indulgence are: sacramental confession, reception of the Eucharist, and prayer for the intentions of the Pope, such as the recitation of the Creed, the Our Father, and the Hail Mary.

What is unusual about this Corona Virus Plenary Indulgence is the statement that the person praying for it **"has the will to satisfy these conditions as soon as possible,"** since it may not be possible for people to get to confession and receive the Eucharist for a long time.

A person can receive one Plenary Indulgence a day. It would be beautiful to offer this Indulgence every day for a different deceased person!

ST. THERESE AND FREQUENT COMMUNION

St. Therese's First Communion (May 8, 1894) when she was eleven was one of the great events of her life. Eleven years later in *Story of a Soul*, she wrote, "It was a kiss of love. I felt loved, and I said, 'Jesus, I love you, I give myself to you forever... That day... Jesus and Therese were no longer two. Therese had disappeared, like a drop of water which loses itself in the ocean. Jesus alone remained. He was the Master, the King."

St. Therese's First Communion set off a hunger for the Eucharist which lasted her whole life long. But receiving Communion in her day was rare. It depended on the permission of one's confessor. After her First Communion, a verse from St. Paul obsessed her: "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me" (Gal 2:20). Her desire for Communion kept intensifying, and her confessor gave her permission to receive it on all the great feast days. This was such a joy and privilege for her that she began writing down her Communion in a beige notebook which she kept. We still have this notebook. In it we find that she was able to receive the Eucharist 22 times in 16 months. On the evening before each Communion, her oldest sister, Marie, would prepare her carefully for the Mass the next day.

When St. Therese entered Carmel on April 9, 1888, at the age of 15, we might think that she would be able to receive the Lord every day. However, the prioress, Mother Marie de Gonzague, and the chaplain, Fr. Youf, were scrupulous about frequent Communion. The nuns were sometimes given permission to receive only once a month. St. Therese suffered greatly from this.

In 1897 when she was 24 and was dying of tuberculosis, she was no longer able to receive Holy Communion because of her vomiting, breathing difficulties, and weakness. This was a terrible agony for her, and she was greatly misunderstood by some sisters in the community because of it.

Her last Communion was on August 19, the feast of St. Hyacinthe. She offered it for the conversion of Fr. Hyacinthe Loyson, an ex-priest who was the cause of great scandal in France at the time. Most of the sisters would not even mention his name. But St. Therese kept an article in the newspaper about him and called him "my brother." His conversion preoccupied her all through her life in the monastery. She wanted to offer her last Communion for him.



In the infirmary before she died, she teased Mother Marie de Gonzague, "After my death, I'll get you to change your mind about Holy Communion." And that is just what happened. The scrupulous chaplain, Fr. Youf, died eight days after she did. The new chaplain succeeded in getting the prioress to let the nuns receive the Eucharist every day!

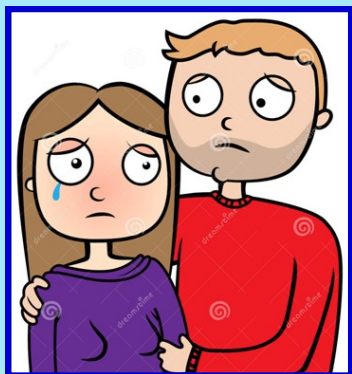
THE FOLLOWING ARE POSTPONED UNTIL AFTER THE PANDEMIC

POSTPONED

The following groups / ministries are **NOT meeting** during the pandemic until further notice:

- ✝ AGAPE LOVE SPIRITUAL READING GROUP
- ✝ AVILA YOUNG ADULTS
- ✝ BIBLE STUDY CATHOLIC KARATE
- ✝ CONSECRATION TO MARY
- ✝ COR JESU YOUTH MINISTRY
- ✝ DETENTION MINISTRY
- ✝ EnCOURAGE
- ✝ GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP
- ✝ INTERCESSORS FOR PRIESTS PRAYER GROUP
- ✝ KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
- ✝ LEGION OF MARY
- ✝ MEDITATION MONDAYS
- ✝ NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING
- ✝ RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
- ✝ RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY
- ✝ RISE MEN'S MINISTRY
- ✝ ROSARY MAKERS
- ✝ SOUP NIGHTS
- ✝ ST. JOSEPH PRAYER GROUP
- ✝ ST. VITUS DANCE ACADEMY OR PUBLIC DANCES

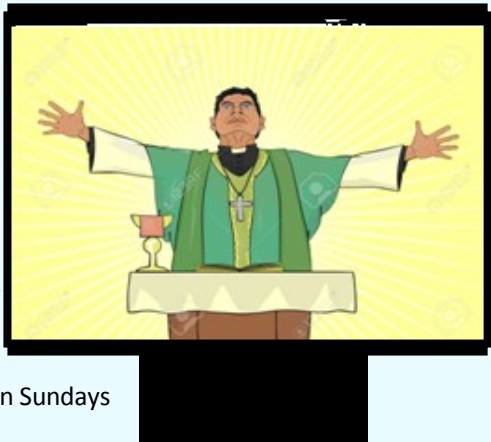
CHEER UP!
ALL OUR GROUPS
SHOULD BE BACK
IN ACTION SOON!
KEEP PRAYING!



"ATTENDING" MASS VIA TELEVISION

The Holy Sacrifice of Mass is the central act of worship in the Church, one which we are required to attend at least on Sundays to be a practicing Catholic. Now, however, through no fault of our own, we are deprived of that privilege of attending. We encourage you to "attend" Mass via one of the televised Masses on TV or the internet. Here are some options (**all Masses listed are celebrated in English only**):

- **Sacred Heart Retreat House** in Alhambra (the Carmelite Sisters) livestreams its Sunday Mass at 11:15 a.m. at <https://www.facebook.com/CarmeliteSisters>
- **Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels**: Sunday Mass at 10:00 a.m.; Weekday Masses: 12:10 p.m., <http://www.olacathedral.org/live/>
- **St. Edward the Confessor Parish** in Dana Point livestreams its 8:15 a.m. Monday through Saturday Mass at <http://stedward.com/stedcast/> It also streams Mass on Sundays at 9:00 a.m.
- **Holy Spirit Church** in Fountain Valley livestreams Mass at 8:00 a.m. Monday through Friday at <https://www.facebook.com/holyspiritfv> and on Sundays at 9:00 a.m.
- **St. Norbert Church** in Orange livestreams Mass at <https://www.facebook.com/stnorbertchurchorange/> at 5:00 p.m. Saturday and on Sundays at 10:30 a.m.
- **St. Philip Benizi Church** in Fullerton livestreams Mass at <https://www.facebook.com/st.benizi> Monday through Saturday at 8:30 a.m. and Sundays at 8:30 a.m.



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These days of being homebound are perfect to **BE FORMED IN YOUR FAITH!** Get the family together and watch a Catholic Family movie together! It's **FREE** for you, our parishioners! FORMED was designed to help us "Explore our Catholic Faith," "Explain our Faith Formation," and to "SHARE our Faith". To get started, go to our website's home page (center column), scroll down until you see **REGISTER NOW** in the logo, click on it, and it will take you to the FORMED website. Then click on "Find your Parish or Organization," enter St. Therese, Alhambra, and then your name and your email address. That's it! You will have access to hundreds of movies, audios, and books.

WATCH "Lectio: Salvation with Dr. Michael Barber"

At every Sunday Mass, Catholics confess that Jesus came down from heaven "for us men and for our salvation." But what does "salvation" mean?

Also, there is a wonderful and inspiring **40-day Lenten reflection app** that you can get sent daily to your phone. Look for the purple "Crown of Thorns" icon on the front page of Formed.com.

LENTEN VIDEOS WITH FR. MATTHIAS Inspired by our Patroness, St. Therese of Lisieux



Sometime between Friday and Monday of each week during Lent, Fr. Matthias uploads a short video with a Lenten inspirational message from our patroness, St. Therese, onto the church's Facebook page and the home page of our website. These are inspired by the words of our patroness, St. Therese and include a weekly family challenge. To find our page on Facebook, go to FB and then search for ST. THERESE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH (make sure to "like" our page after you watch the video!).

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

"Embracing Mercy's Depths: Going Deeper into the Light of Divine Love."

As of now, the Pandemic is scheduled to be lifted on April 19. If this directive does not change, Fr. Robert Barcelos, OCD, will be here to celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday with us. The devotion will be held from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 19, and will include Confessions, Exposition and Holy Hour, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Benediction, and a conference by Fr. Robert.



FINANCIAL OFFERINGS *"...for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7)*

May God reward you!

Below you will find the total collections for the last few weekends.



March 14 / 15, 2020

Unrestricted.....	\$14,706.00
Restricted	\$ 1,103.00
T O T A L	\$15,809.00

February 15 / 16.....	\$12,734.00
February 22 / 23.....	\$22,852.00
February 29 / Mar. 1..	\$20,392.00
March 7 / 8.....	\$14,115.00

Check Users:
Please use a donation envelope in order to more easily credit your account.

Dear Parishioners,

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

I know that all of us are being challenged during this worldwide pandemic. Most apparent that these are strange days is that celebrating public Masses has been suspended—not only in our own Archdiocese but throughout our country and the world! However, just because we are not able to celebrate public Masses for you, St. Therese Church still has many operating costs. Therefore, we ask you not to forget us during this time, but instead continue to make your tithes and offerings to help us to meet our many expenses. You can do this by utilizing the online donation service, **FAITH DIRECT**, accessible from the home page of our website. You may also mail your donation to us (510 North El Molino Street, Alhambra 91801) or drop it in the mail slot to the right of the office door. We know that during hard times, tithing is usually the first expense people cut out. Our prayer, though, is that the generosity of our parishioners will see us through this crisis, and we'll be able to pay our bills and continue our mission during this very difficult period of history.



God bless each and every one of you,
Fr. Philip, Pastor



"CORONAVIRUS AND SITTING ALONE IN A ROOM"

By Bishop Robert Barron

Pascal, the great seventeenth-century philosopher, thought that most of us distract ourselves from what truly matters through a series of diversions. This idea has come to my mind a good deal in recent days as our entire country goes into shutdown mode due to the coronavirus. Shopping malls, movie theaters, restaurants, school campuses, sports stadiums, airports, etc.—the very places where we typically seek out fellowship and/or diversions—are all emptying out. Perhaps we could all think of this time as an invitation to some introspection.

Might I make a few suggestions? Get out your Bible and read one of the Gospels in its entirety—perhaps the Gospel of Matthew, which we are using for Sunday Mass this liturgical year. Read it slowly, prayerfully; use a good commentary if that helps.

Or practice the ancient art that has been recommended warmly by the last several popes—namely, *lectio divina*. This “divine reading” of the Bible consists in four basic steps: *lectio*, *meditatio*, *oratio*, and *contemplatio*. First, read the scriptural text carefully; second, pick out one word or one passage that specially struck you, and then meditate on it, like a ruminating animal chewing on its cud; third, speak to God, telling him how your heart was moved by what you read; fourth and finally, listen to the Lord, discerning what he speaks back to you. Trust me, the Bible will spring to life when you approach it through this method.

(To read the full article, go to: <https://www.wordonfire.org/resources/article/the-coronavirus-and-sitting-quietly-in-a-room-alone/26865/>)

Mass Intentions

**For the Week of
March 28 through April 4, 2020**

Saturday:

5:00 p.m.: D. K. Allison, INT

Sunday

*7:30 a.m.: Robert and Linda Hopkins, INT

7:30 a.m.: Mother Brenda Marie, OCD, INT

9:00 a.m.: Virgie Russell, RIP

11:00 a.m.: Otto & Martha Lacayo, Anniversary INT

1:00 p.m.: (Latin): Parishioners

5:00 p.m.: Roland de la Rosa, RIP

Monday:

6:00 a.m.: Andrew & Lupe Cano, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: John Okamoto, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Mildred McCafferty, RIP

Tuesday:

6:00 a.m.: Haschem Devin Hussein, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Mother Brenda Marie, OCD, INT

8:00 a.m.: Henry Guanzon, RIP

Wednesday

6:00 a.m.: John Lawrence Hoelscher, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Mother Brenda Marie, OCD, INT

8:00 a.m.: Mariano V. Dy, RIP

Thursday:

6:00 a.m.: Angelica Medina-Salinas, Birthday INT

*7:30 a.m.: Mother Brenda Marie, OCD, INT

8:00 a.m.: Nora Dean Hoelscher, RIP

Friday:

6:00 a.m.: Mariano V. Dy, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Angelle Francisce & Karina Therese Laigo, INT

8:00 a.m.: Harold Jay Hoelscher, RIP

7:30 p.m.: Carmina & Julius Doria, INT

Saturday:

6:00 a.m.: Rhony Laigo, INT

*7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Community

8:00 a.m.: Annette Saucillo, INT

***The Mass at the Cloistered Nuns' Chapel is CLOSED to the public during the Corona Virus Pandemic.**

NOTICE RE MASS INTENTIONS:

Although Mass is currently not public, the Carmelite Fathers are celebrating private Masses for the above intentions.

FLORAL DEDICATIONS

When the church reopens, there will be lilies on the altar through May 3. However, you may make a Floral Dedication for May 10 or after.

To arrange for a dedication in someone's honor, for a special occasion, or in memory of a loved one, contact Giovanna at 281-9049. Bouquets are \$50+ each.

Outside the Parish

Pilgrimage to the Most Blessed Sacrament Shrine, Hanceville, Alabama, on **July 21 - 28**, with a visit to EWTVN! Enjoy Mother Angelica's little piece of heaven. More info : Albert & Mary Helen Estrada (626) 285-6687 (space is limited).

Carmelite Pilgrimage for the 20th Anniversary of the liturgical feast of Divine Mercy on **September 6 - 18, 2020**, to Lithuania, Poland & Prague, Czech Republic, led by a Carmelite Friar (TBA). Includes: Medieval Vilnius: Ostra Brama, Hill of Crosses, Our Lady of Siluva, Poland: Sokolka-2008 Eucharistic Miracle, Lichen Stary-Largest Basilica in Poland, Glogowiec-Birthplace of St. Faustina, Czestochowa, Kracow; Wadowice-birthplace of Pope St. John Paul II, Lagiewniki-Divine Mercy Shrine, Convent of Sisters of Mercy & Sanctuary of Divine Mercy, Tatra Mountains in Zakopane-Fatima Shrine, Old World Prague: City Tour, Church of Our Lady Victorious, Infant Jesus of Prague. Cost: \$3995 from LAX (based on double room occupancy). Includes: R/T air from LAX w/airport taxes. Land travel by Luxury Coach, 3 & 4 Star Hotels, Breakfast/Dinner Daily, Guided Tours, All Entrance Fees, Daily Holy Mass. For more information contact: Louisa (323) 360-5186 or Jack (323) 403-8768 - St. Olav Travel - <https://stolavtravel.com>.

Personal Ads

Lady would like to buy your unused portable heater. If you have one to spare, please call Irene at 213-247-5734.

UNFURNISHED ROOM FOR RENT in Rosemead apartment to a clean, quiet person. Shared bathroom & kitchen. \$630/mo., incl. utilities. Prefer woman but must be non-smoker/non-drug user. Call Rosa at 756-2072.

LADY SEEKS TO RENT a studio or 1-BR apt. Good-paying, quiet tenant. Can pay up to \$750/mo, plus a \$500 security deposit. Call Irene at 627-1899.