# St. Therese Catholic Church

December 21, 2025 1100 East Alhambra Road, Alhambra CA 91801 (Office: 510 North El Molino Street) | (626) 282-2744 | www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org

## 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
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 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|stcreligioused7@gmail.com
**Music Director:** Charlotte Lansberg X 1+112 credochoir1@gmail.com

## ST. THERESE CARMELITE SCHOOL

**(626) 289-3364**
**www.SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com**
**Principal: Alma Cornejo X 1 + 661**
**principal@saintthereseccarmeliteschool.com**

## SACRAMENTS

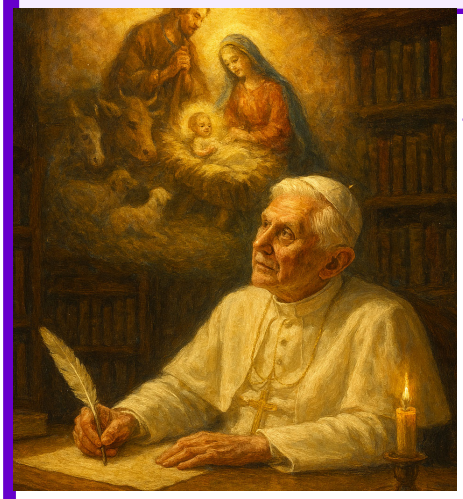
- **Baptisms: Register online**
- **Weddings: Register online at least six months in advance**
- **Anointing of the Sick: Call the office**

# PASTOR'S COLUMN

**Dear Parishioners of St. Therese,**

**May you and your families have a truly blessed rest of Advent and a *Merry Christmas* as we close this Jubilee Year of Hope! Let us now meditate on the words of Pope Benedict XVI from his Christmas message in 2008.**

**Fr. Peter Mary Vecellio, OCD**



**"The grace of God our Savior has appeared to all" (Tit.2:11, Vulgate)**

Dear Brothers and Sisters, In the words of the Apostle Paul, I once more joyfully proclaim Christ's Birth. Today "the grace of God our Savior" has truly "appeared to all!" This is what the Church celebrates today. The grace of God, rich in goodness and love, is no longer hidden. It "appeared," it was manifested in the flesh, it showed its face. Where? In Bethlehem. When? Under Caesar Augustus, during the first census. And who is the One who reveals it? A newborn Child, the Son of the Virgin Mary. In Him the grace of God our Savior has appeared. And so that Child is called Jehoshua, Jesus, which means: "God saves."

That is why Christmas is a feast of light. Not like the full daylight which illumines everything, but a glimmer beginning in the night and spreading out from a precise point in the universe: from the stable of Bethlehem, where the divine Child was born. Indeed, He is the Light itself, which begins to radiate, as portrayed in so many paintings of the Nativity. He is the light whose appearance breaks through the gloom, dispels the darkness, and enables us to understand the meaning and the value of our own lives and of all history. Every Christmas crib is a simple yet eloquent invitation to open our hearts and minds to the mystery of life. It is an encounter with the immortal Life which became mortal in the mystic scene of the Nativity: a scene which we can admire in countless churches and chapels throughout the world, and in every house where the name of Jesus is adored.

The grace of God has appeared to all. Jesus—the Face of the "God who Saves"—did not show Himself only for a certain few, but for everyone. Although it is true that in the simple and lowly dwelling of Bethlehem, few persons encountered Him, still He came for all: Jews and Gentiles, rich and poor, those near and those far away, believers and non-believers… for everyone! Supernatural grace, by God's will, is meant for everyone. Yet, each human person needs to accept that grace, to utter his or her own "yes" like Mary, so that his or her heart can be illumined by a ray of that divine light. It was a small community who welcomed the Incarnate Word that night—only Mary and Joseph, along with the shepherds (Luke 2:1-20), which made haste to adore the Child Jesus—a tiny community which represents the Church and all people of good will. Today too those who await Him, who seek Him in their lives, encounter the God who out of love became our Brother—all those who turn their hearts to Him, who yearn to see His face and to contribute to the coming of His Kingdom. They are the ones who see in Jesus the face of God and then set out again, like the shepherds of Bethlehem, renewed in heart by the joy of His love.

Brothers and sisters, the heart of the Christmas message is meant for everyone. Jesus was born for everyone and, just as Mary in Bethlehem offered him to the shepherds, so on this day the Church presents Him to all humanity, so that each person may come to know the power of God's saving grace, which alone can transform evil into good, which alone can change human hearts, making them oases of peace. May the many people who continue to dwell in darkness and the shadow of death (Luke 1:79) come to know the power of God's saving grace!

Dear brothers and sisters, today, the "grace of God our Savior has appeared" (Titus 2:11) in this world of ours, with all its potential and its frailty, its advances and crises, its hopes and travails. Today, there shines forth the Light of Jesus Christ, the Son of the Most High and the Son of the Virgin Mary: "God from God, light from light, true God from true God... For us men and for our salvation, He came down from Heaven..." Let us adore Him, this very day, in every corner of the world, wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a lowly manger. Let us adore Him in silence, while He, still a mere infant, seems to comfort us by saying: "Do not be afraid; I am God, and there is no other" (Isaiah 45:22). "Come to me, men and women, peoples and nations, come to me. Do not be afraid: I have come to bring you the love of the Father, and to show you the way of peace."

Let us go, then, brothers and sisters! Let us make haste, like the shepherds on that night in Bethlehem. God has come to meet us; He has shown us His face, full of grace and mercy! May His coming to us not be in vain! Let us seek Jesus, let us be drawn to His light which dispels sadness and fear from every human heart. Let us draw near to Him with confidence, and bow down in humility to adore Him. Merry Christmas to all! (Benedict XVI, 2008)

# Christmas Schedule

**Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)**
Wednesday, December 17: 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 20: 3:00–5:00 p.m.
Monday and Tuesday, December 22 and 23:
7:00—9:00 p.m.
**NO HEALING MINISTRY DECEMBER 22 AND 29**

**Weekday Masses Christmas Week:**
December 22 – December 24,
and December 26 and 27
**6:00 and 8:00 a.m.**

Monday Evening, December 22: **7:15 p.m.**
Tuesday Evening, December 23: **NO Mass**
Wed. Evening, Dec. 24: **No** Confessions

**Masses for the Solemnity of Christmas**
Christmas Eve, December 24:
5:00 p.m. and *Midnight
**Note**: *Choral Prelude at 11:30 p.m.

**Christmas Day, December 25:**
7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m.,
**+**11:00 a.m.,
and 1:00 p.m. Latin
High Mass
(NO 5:00 p.m. Mass
on Christmas Day)
**Note:** +Choral Prelude
at 10:45 a.m.

# BABY SHOWER

**For Moms/Babies**

**Your donations of the items listed below will greatly help the mothers and babies assisted by Guadalupe Pregnancy Services. A bassinet to collect the items is in the main vestibule of the church through this weekend.**

## ITEMS NEEDED:

**Diapers (sizes 4 and 6 ONLY), bilingual board books, adult bath towels (medium size), baby bath towels, baby bathtubs, infant/toddler toothpaste, Christmas toys (new), highchairs, strollers, swings, potty chairs, gift cards for food, and gift cards for furniture.**

# Financial Offerings

**This bulletin had to be submitted for printing before the weekend of December 13 / 14. The totals for that weekend will be published in the bulletin of December 28.**

| | |
|---|---|
| November 15 / 16 .... | $16,717.00 |
| November 22 / 23 .... | $15,307.00 |
| November 29 / 30 .... | $16,735.00 |
| December 6 / 7 ..... | $19,283.00 |

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

# RELICS TOUR T-Shirts on Sale for $25

If you were here at St. Therese Church this past October to venerate the relics of St. Therese, this is your chance to buy a T-shirt to remember the visit. **There are only THREE SIZES remaining: XL, XXL, and XXXL.** You can choose the **BEIGE** background with St. Therese as a 15-year old (with her hair worn up to look more mature in order to be accepted into the Carmel at that young age) OR the **BLACK** background with St. Therese in her habit. **These will make great LAST-MINUTE CHRISTMAS GIFTS!**

**Buy them in the church office during our open hours Monday through Friday.**

# "God With Us: The Promise Fulfilled"

Today, on this Fourth Sunday of Advent, we stand on the threshold of Christmas. **The candles of hope, peace, and joy are already burning, and now we light the candle of love**—a love that is not distant, but present, personal, and powerful. Our readings today remind us of one central truth: God keeps His promises. And the greatest promise of all is this: Immanuel—God with us.

**The Promise Foretold (Isaiah 7:10–14):** Isaiah speaks to a king in crisis, offering a sign from God: **"The Virgin will conceive and give birth to a Son, and will call Him Immanuel."** This was not just a word for Ahaz—it was a word for all generations. God's promise is not empty; it is anchored in His faithfulness. Think about that name: ***Immanuel.*** It means God is not far away, not watching from a distance, but stepping into our world. In a time of fear and uncertainty, God says, ***"I am with you."*** That same promise holds true for us today. Whatever your circumstances—joy or sorrow, clarity or confusion—***God is with you.***

**Prepare the Way (Psalm 24:1–6):** The Psalmist declares: "Lift up your gates…that the King of glory may enter." Advent is about preparation—not just decorating homes, but opening hearts. The earth belongs to the Lord, and so do we. But the psalmist asks: "Who may stand in His holy place?" Those with clean hands and pure hearts. This is not about perfection—it's about posture. **Are we willing to open the gates of our lives for the King of Glory? Are we making room for Christ, or are we crowded with worry, pride, and distraction?** Advent calls us to clear the way.

**The Promise Fulfilled (Romans 1:1–7 | Matthew 1:18–24**): Paul reminds us that the Good News is now revealed in Jesus Christ; and Matthew shows us how that promise unfolds. Yet when the angel spoke, Joseph obeyed. Obedience is rarely easy. It often means surrendering our plans for God's plan. But Joseph's "yes" allowed God's promise to come to life. What about us? Where is God asking for our trust today? Where is He calling us to say "yes," even when it's hard?

**Prayer for the Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Lord, thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ—Immanuel. Help us to trust you like Joseph, to prepare our hearts like the Psalmist, and to rejoice in your faithfulness like Isaiah. May your love fill us and overflow to others—especially this last week of Advent. Amen.

**Advent is not passive waiting but active hope**. The promise has been fulfilled: God is with us. So let us open our hearts and welcome the King of Glory. And as we do, may His presence turn fear into peace, despair into hope, and isolation into love.

# Saint Therese Carmelite School

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## Open House

**Sunday, January 25, 10:00 am-3:00 pm**

**TK-8th Grade**

1106 East Alhambra Road
Alhambra, California 91801

(626) 289-3364
www.SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com

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

"The grace from the Flame of Love of My Mother's Immaculate Heart will be to your generation what Noah's Ark was to his generation."

**Tasteless Meals—Exchanging Taste for the Salvation of Souls: Sometimes, the small, everyday things are the greatest tests of how much we are really willing to sacrifice in love for others.**

**March 21, 1964:** After some difficult days of fasting, the Lord Jesus gave fresh life to my soul. I began to eat, but I took no pleasure. A long time ago, the Lord had asked me to abstain from food for the pleasure it provides, but to take it only for my body's nourishment. My children provide me with an abundance of food. I always take what they previously gave me and do not eat what they recently cooked. At lunch, the Lord Jesus assured me of His presence and said:

> ***"Think of Me, My little sister. How rare it is that a fresh soul has come to Me which, rather than having had a taste of sin, had a taste of Me. May our souls be in harmony. Offer this to Me. Taking your food without any taste is a sacrifice from your heart which is tasty for Me. In this way, our hands gather in unity. Is it not true that you also find this wonderful?"***

**Reference:** Building on Solid Rock Flame of Love Retreats Session 4 at https://flameoflove.us/building-on-solid-rock/ (with quotes from *The Spiritual Diary of Elizabeth Kindelmann).*

**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 7:00 p.m. For more info, please contact Maru Lazatin at (626) 675-3080.

# Mass Intentions

**December 20—December 27, 2025**

**Saturday Evening:**
5:00 p.m.: Carmen M. Diaz, RIP

**Sunday:**
*7:30 a.m.: Cloist'd Nuns C-mas Novena 5 (for Friends and Benefactors of Carmel)
7:30 a.m.: Michael A. Cheah & Family, INT
9:00 a.m.: Christine Arlene Sia, INT
11:00 a.m.: Christian Joshua Ng, INT
1:00 p.m.: (Latin): Gabriel Avalos, RIP
5:00 pm: Lupe Cano, RIP

**Monday:**
6:00 a.m.: Fr. Bernard Perkins, OCD, B-Day INT
*7:30 a.m.: Cloist'd Nuns C-mas Novena 6
8:00 a.m.: Ellena Cheah Wong, INT
7:15 p.m.: Fr. Bernard Perkins, OCD, B-Day, and Andrew Gonzalez, INT

**Tuesday:**
6:00 a.m.: Augustine Go, RIP
*7:30 a.m.: Cloist'd Nuns C-mas Novena 7
8:00 a.m.: Nilda Lacangan, B-Day INT
**7:15 p.m.: NO MASS! (intention to 12/22)**

**Wednesday—Christmas Eve:**
6:00 a.m.: Mary DeSantis, RIP
*7:30 a.m.: Cloist'd Nuns C-mas Novena 8
8:00 a.m.: Lourdes Lao, INT
5:00 p.m. Helga Ellena Cheah Wong, INT
+ 6:00 p.m.: Pacifico & Flaviana Lim, RIP
12 AM: Thompson Family | Christina Torres, INT

**Thursday—Christmas Day:**
7:30 a.m.: Reyes Family, INT
9:00 a.m.: Rodolfo Aguilar, RIP
+ 9:30 a.m.: Cloist'd Nuns C-mas Novena 9
11:00 a.m.: Cheah and Go Families, INT
1:00 p.m.: Therese Hong Nguyen, RIP

**Friday:**
6:00 a.m.: Christmas Novena No. 1
*7:30 a.m.: Kin Cheah, INT
8:00 a.m.: Flavell Rodriguez, B-day INT

**Saturday Morning**
*7:30 a.m.: Alhambra Cloistered Carm. Nuns
8:00 a.m.: Francis Goh, INT

**+ NOTE: The Masses at the Nuns' chapel (marked with +) are NOT open to the public on either Christmas Eve or Christmas Day (and never on Sunday).**

# Pilgrimages

**SEATS ARE FILLING FAST FOR THE PILGRIMAGE TO EASTERN EUROPE** (Poland, Croatia, Medjugorje, etc.) with Carmelite friar **Fr. Matthias Lambrecht, OCD, from September 3 to September 16, 2026, for $5,450 per person.** For more information, see the itinerary on the home page of our website or contact the Tour Leader, Beth Maddatu, at maddatubeth2@gmail.com or (408)903-6305.

# Personal Ad

**FEMALE ROOMMATE WANTED** to share 2-bedroom house in Alhambra. Shared bathroom and kitchen privileges. Call Ms. Cruz for more details at (626) 492-8438.

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