

St. Therese Catholic Church

Est. 1924

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

December 29, 2024 1100 East Alhambra Road, Alhambra CA 91801 | (626) 282-2744 | www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org

TODAY'S GOSPEL

The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple

After three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard Him were astounded at His understanding and His answers (Lk 2:46-47).



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 | stcreligioused7@gmail.com

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

Respect Life Ministry: Catherine Contreras X 1+112

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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,

I wish you a continued Blessed Christmas season and a Happy New Year! We look forward to the final event of our Centennial Year, the Gala of Roses at Brookside Country Club in Pasadena on Saturday, January 11. And remember, we have now begun the Jubilee Year of 2025 for the worldwide Church along with the Centenary Year of St. Therese's canonization. So the celebrations continue!

On this Feast of the Holy Family, I'd like to share a reflection from the great St. John Paul II:

—Fr. Peter Mary



“The Redeemer of the world chose the family as the place for His birth and growth, thereby sanctifying this fundamental institution of every society. The time He spent in Nazareth, the greater part of His life, continues to be shrouded in deep silence. Very little information about it has been passed on to us by the Evangelists. However, if we aspire to a deeper understanding of Jesus' life and mission, we must draw close to the mystery of the Holy Family of Nazareth to observe and listen. Today's liturgy offers us a providential opportunity to do so.

“For every believer, and especially for Christian families, the humble dwelling place in Nazareth is an authentic school of the Gospel. Here we admire, put into practice, the divine plan to make the family an intimate community of life and love; here we learn that every Christian family is called to be a small "domestic church" that must shine with the Gospel virtues. Recollection and prayer, mutual understanding and respect, personal discipline, community asceticism, and a spirit of sacrifice, work, and solidarity are typical features that make the family of Nazareth a model for every home.

“The Church relies especially on the witness and contribution of Christian families to fulfill her urgent mission. Indeed, in the face of the dangers and difficulties that beset the family institution, she invites families to have greater spiritual and apostolic boldness, knowing that the family is called to be "a sign of unity for the world" and thus to bear witness to "the Kingdom and peace of Christ, towards which the whole world is journeying (Familiaris Consortion, 48).”



NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE



Happy
New
Year!

Masses for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

New Year's Eve Vigil Mass

Tuesday, December 31: 7:15 p.m.

(This Mass—normally in Spanish—will be in English only)

Solemnity on Wednesday, January 1

10:00 a.m. and 7:15 p.m.

(NO WEDNESDAY CONFESSIONS!)

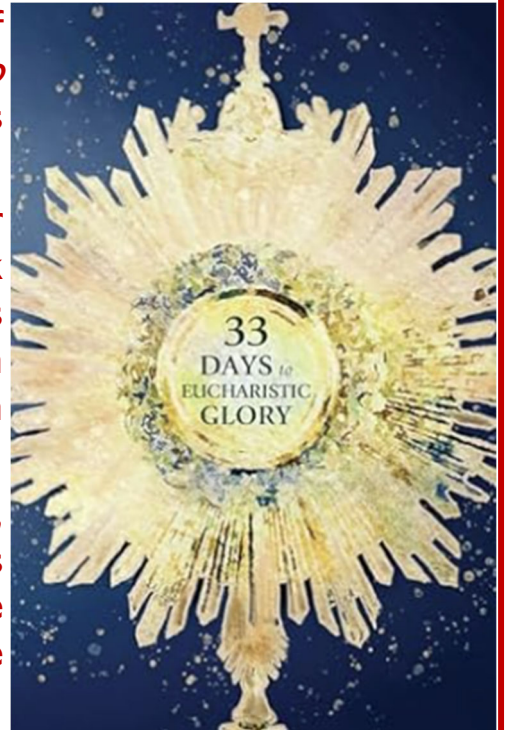
(No 6:00 or 8:00 a.m. Masses on New Year's Day)

PARISH CONSECRATION TO THE HOLY EUCHARIST

St. Therese Parish will give away free copies of Matthew Kelly's award-winning book, *"33 Days to Eucharistic Glory,"* after all of today's Masses (December 29).

Everyone is encouraged to join a family member or friend to read and discuss one chapter of this book each day (just two to three pages) beginning this Wednesday, January 1st. The goal is for each person to grow in faith and get closer to Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

After each of the Masses on Sunday, February 2, the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus, the priests will invite all those who would like to consecrate themselves to Jesus in the Eucharist to come forward and pray the consecration prayer.



Financial Offerings



December 14 / 15, 2024

Unrestricted.....	\$18,201.00
Restricted	\$ 269.00
TOTAL.....	\$18,470.00

November 16/17	\$12,421.00
November 23/24	\$17,177.00
Nov. 30 / Dec. 1	\$26,715.00
December 7 / 8	\$21,818.00

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The Holy Family: Our Model of Love and Holiness

Today, as we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family, the Scriptures invite us to reflect on the sacredness of family life and the virtues that sustain it. In the first reading, Sirach highlights the duty of honoring parents, a commandment that brings blessings of peace and long life. This respect reflects the divine order within families, where love and mutual care mirror God's relationship with us. Psalm 128 echoes this theme, blessing those who walk in God's ways with the joy of a flourishing family life. The Holy Family—Jesus, Mary, and Joseph—exemplifies this harmony. Their life was not free of hardship, yet their trust in God and love for one another gave them the strength to persevere, reminding us that holiness in family life comes from fidelity to God and selfless love for each other.



FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

St. Paul, in his letter to the Colossians, provides a blueprint for family life: compassion, kindness, humility, patience, and above all, love. These virtues allow families to reflect the peace of Christ in their homes, even amid daily challenges. The Gospel recounts an episode of misunderstanding between Mary, Joseph, and the young Jesus when He stayed behind in the Temple. Yet this moment also reveals their mutual love and trust. Jesus grew in wisdom and grace under their guidance, showing us the importance of nurturing children in faith and holiness. As we honor the Holy Family today, let us strive to make our own families places of love, respect, and forgiveness, where Christ is at the center, and His peace reigns. May we grow in holiness together, trusting that God's grace is sufficient for every challenge.

BUY A RAFFLE TICKET FOR A CHANCE TO WIN!



The Parish Offices is selling the Raffle Tickets during regular hours. Get yours and take a chance to win the 15"x22" framed and matted print of the original oil painting hanging in the main vestibule of our church—shown here. The winning name will

be drawn at the Gala of Roses dinner. You CAN'T win if you don't take a chance and buy a ticket! They are **\$5 each OR \$20 for FIVE tickets** (a \$5 discount).

HEALING PRAYER MINISTRY

The Healing Prayer Ministry, normally available after the 7:15 p.m. Mass on Monday evenings, will NOT be present on Monday, December 30th. HPM will return on Monday, January 6, 2025. Thank you for your understanding! God bless you!



From Today's First Reading

God sets a father in honor over His children; a mother's authority He confirms over her sons. Whoever honors his father atones for sins, and preserves himself from them.

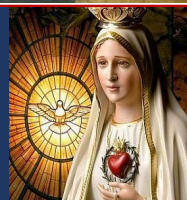
When he prays, he is heard; he stores up riches who reveres his mother. Whoever honors his father is gladdened by children, and, when he prays, is heard. Whoever reveres his father will live a long life; he who obeys his father brings comfort to his mother (Sirach 3:2-6).



FIRST SATURDAYS DEVOTION

to honor & make reparation to the

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY



Mark your calendar for our next First Saturdays Devotion on **January 4, 2025**, and join us that day for the Rosary and a 15-minutes meditation after the 8:00 a.m. Mass!

The Popes and Fatima: Pope Pius XII (Mar 2, 1876 – Oct 9, 1958), Papacy of 19 Years (1939-1958)

Pope Pius XII, whose Episcopal consecration took place on May 13, 1917, the date of Our Lady's first apparition at Fatima, did many things to help encourage devotion to Our Lady of Fatima. He was known as "the Pope of Fatima". He said, "The time for doubting Fatima has passed, the time for action is now."

In October of 1942, in response to a message given to him by Sister Lucy in 1940, Pope Pius XII consecrated the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, with a special mention of Russia.

Pius XII is the Pope of the Dogma of the Assumption, of the Queenship of Mary, of the Consecration of the human race and of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the Pope of the Holy Year and the Marian Year. It is important to stress this Marian dimension of Pius XII's Pontificate, because it serves to connect it, in a profound line of continuity, with the exquisitely Marian dimension of John Paul II's Totus Tuus.

The burial of Pope Pius XII took place on October 13, 1958, the anniversary of the last apparition in Fatima.

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



Carlos and Lourdes Bonilla are great-great-grandparents who have been married for fifty-nine years. This makes them sound ancient, but really, they are not, as I hope you realize in reading their story. They have lived on El Molino Street since 1979. In recent years, they started attending the 6:00 a.m. weekday Parish Mass, Monday to Friday.

Carlos and Lourdes are both from Guayaquil, Ecuador. Lourdes is the youngest of her family. Her brother Joseph, who is fifteen years older than Lourdes, had already emigrated to the United States and was living in New York. Lourdes' parents used to visit their son so often they acquired a permanent resident card, i.e., U.S. Green Card. When Lourdes graduated from high school in Guayaquil, her mother brought her to New York to live with her brother. She was already in love with Carlos and did not want to leave Ecuador. Nevertheless, she did come to the States for a year and acquired her Green Card. Much to the consternation of her mother who did not want her daughter to marry Carlos, Lourdes returned to Guayaquil.

Carlos was the brother of Lourdes' best friend and classmate since kindergarten. What do you do when your mother does not want you to marry the one you love? You elope. *"One dark night, fired with love's urgent longings—ah, the sheer grace!—I went out unseen, my house being now all stilled..."* -St. John of the Cross. Lourdes and Carlos went out of Guayaquil to a quiet village where they found an understanding priest. (It sounds like Ramona and Alejandro from the famous story Ramona.) Lourdes was twenty and Carlos, twenty-four. They had the first three of their four daughters while still in Ecuador. The first two are twins, Lourdes and Lorena. The third daughter is Pilar. (I love that name because it makes me think of Pilar, the intelligent and clever sister of Ignacio in *The Cypresses Believe in God* by Jose Maria Gironella.)

In 1969, Carlos and Lourdes moved to Los Angeles with their three girls. Lourdes' brother, who had also moved to Los Angeles, got Carlos a job at United Artist Records. After some years, he became a bus driver for RTD which then became MTA. Lourdes got a job with Tobias Kotzen Clothing Company. They lived on Fedora Street in the area now designated as Koreatown. Then, in 1979, pregnant with their fourth daughter, Lourdes went house hunting. She found the perfect house on El Molino Street, perfect because it was so close to St. Therese Church. Without even looking at it himself, Carlos bought it. Karla, their fourth daughter, was born soon after. All four daughters went to St. Therese School and San Gabriel Mission High School.

The girls are all married and have blessed their parents with five grandsons and five granddaughters. A great-grandson and great-granddaughter also descend from the elopers. And then there is a great-great-grandson. Now, you might have to noodle this around a bit because, as I said above, Carlos and Lourdes are by no means ancient. It might be an Ecuadoran thing, but the Bonillas tend to fall in love and marry young. (But, if I may interject, it sure is better than dilly-dallying when it comes to love and marriage.)

Carlos and Lourdes have a strong devotion to the Sacred Heart, whose image hangs in the entranceway of their house, an image given to Lourdes by her father. This is in keeping with the historic consecration of Ecuador on March 25, 1874, conducted by order of the country's president, thus making it the first country consecrated to the Sacred Heart. Since Perpetual Adoration began at St. Therese, Lourdes has gone every week for her hour of adoration, first on Wednesdays and now on Thursdays. She also attends our St. Joseph devotion on Wednesdays. Lourdes and Carlos are Lay Missionaries of Charity. Every day their lay community prays the Rosary together. In 2021, Carlos and Lourdes went to the Holy Land with Fr. John Hopkin, the spiritual director of the community. Lourdes says it was one of the highlights of her life.

El Molino Street has been the home of many parish families. The Raymond and Maria Chavez family—who had ten children!—lived down the street from the Bonillas. The Martinez family, whom we wrote about a couple of weeks ago, lived across the street and up a block. The Centola family of eight children lived on El Molino Street just a few houses from the church. The Ayusos, the Koesters, the Casinos, the Aguirres, the Craigs, the Torreses, the Cullens, and the Woods did, too (I'm sure I've missed a few other families). It seems fair that we end this year-long column on El Molino Street, right where St. Therese Catholic Church is situated.

The Bonilla 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

December 28—January 4

Saturday Evening:

5:00 p.m.: Christmas Novena 3

Sunday

- *7:30 a.m.: Rory Putman, INT
- 7:30 a.m.: Christmas Novena 4
- 9:00 a.m.: Goh & Cheah Families, INT
- 11:00 a.m.: Linda Kay Hesse, RIP
- 1:00 p.m. (Latin): Parishioners
- 5:00 p.m.: Esther Goldstein, RIP

Monday:

- 6:00 a.m.: Christmas Novena 5
- *7:30 a.m.: Roland De La Rosa, RIP
- 8:00 a.m.: Rutillo Pasok, RIP
- 7:15 p.m.: Roland De La Rosa, RIP

Tuesday—New Year's Eve:

- 6:00 a.m.: Mary DeSantis, RIP
- *7:30 a.m.: Lim Hoa Hun, RIP
- 8:00 a.m.: Christmas Novena 6
- 7:15 p.m.: Arnolde Trejos Caldera | Roland DeLaRosa RIP (IN ENGLISH)

Wednesday—Feast of Mary, Mother of God:

- 7:30 a.m.: Angelina Brajkovich, RIP
- 10:00 a.m.: Cailan Family, INT
- 7:15 p.m.: Christmas Novena 7

Thursday:

- 6:00 a.m.: Christmas Novena 8
- *7:30 a.m.: Sr. Kim Marie, OCD, INT
- 8:00 a.m.: Joel V. Cailan, RIP

First Friday:

- 6:00 a.m.: Liam Cox, Birthday INT
- *7:30 a.m.: Christmas Novena 9
- 8:00 a.m.: Ebner Sobalvarro, INT
- 7:15 p.m.: Karina Laigo, INT

Saturday (Morning):

- *7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Nuns' Community
- 8:00 a.m.: Nicanor Pabines, RIP

***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.



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