

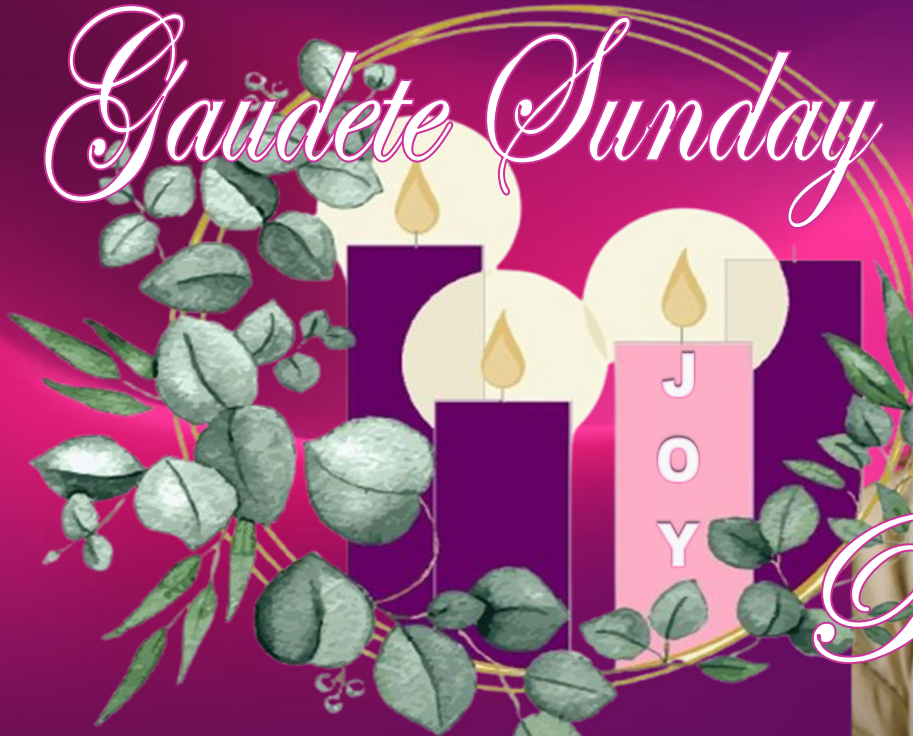
Est. 1924

St. Therese Catholic Church

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

December 15, 2024 1100 East Alhambra Road, Alhambra CA 91801 | (626) 282-2744 | www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org

Gaudete Sunday



Rejoice!



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 Busic, 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

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,



We Carmelites just celebrated the Solemnity of our Holy Father, St. John of the Cross. And to continue speaking of the deeply Marian character of Advent, I'd like to highlight St. John of the Cross' great devotion to Our Lady. It was said of him: "With the great devotion that he had for Our Lady, the Virgin, he took the habit of Carmel." He also credited Our Lady with saving him from drowning as a young boy. Once in Carmel, St. John deepened his devotion to Our Lady in the novitiate through praying the Little Office of Our Lady and an extra chanted Mass every day in honor of her. As was testified by a companion friar at his beatification process, "On all feasts of Our Lady, he celebrated the day with affection and joy of a unique devotion... He held a procession on the vigil of the feast being celebrated... On other festivities of Our Lady, representations and plays which depicted scenes of her life were acted out... He gave thanks to Our Lord for giving us the occasion to celebrate the feast of her name."

Throughout our Holy Father's life, while he was traveling or when saddened or weary, he would turn his thoughts to Mary or chant a hymn in her honor. As we know, John was imprisoned by his own brethren for around nine months. And while in prison, Our Lady appeared to him and said: "Son, be patient. Your troubles will soon be over and you will leave this prison, celebrate Mass, and be consoled." He famously escaped prison on her Feast, the Solemnity of the Assumption, August 15th, 1578.

St. John also carried on the Carmelite tradition of belief in Mary's Immaculate Conception: As he said: "Such was the prayer and work of Our Lady, the most glorious Virgin. Raised from the very beginning to this high state, she never had the form of any creature impressed in her soul, nor was she moved by any, for she was always moved by the Holy Spirit." In his books, namely *The Ascent of Mount Carmel*, *The Living Flame of Love*, and the *Spiritual Canticle*, he cites the Blessed Virgin as the model and fulfillment of spiritual growth. St. John of the Cross died at the stroke of midnight on a Saturday, which we know as the day traditionally devoted to Our Lady.

—Fr. Peter Mary

CHRISTMAS NOVENA OF MASSES



Our annual Christmas Novena of Masses will be celebrated daily from **December 26 through January 3** for all those enrolled—living or deceased. **Christmas greeting cards and offering envelopes are available on the tables by the church exits.** The cards are to give to your loved ones to let them know you enrolled them. Return the offering envelope with your donation in the collection at Mass or mail them or drop them off at the office.

If you are enrolling someone who is deceased, you may separate the card from the offering envelope and leave the card on the table. Please do not take them if you are not going to use them, as they cost us approximately \$1 each, and we can use any leftovers next year.

FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS



The ALTAR SOCIETY asks for your help in purchasing Christmas Flowers to decorate the church for the Christmas holidays. Flower offering envelopes can be found in your envelope packets OR you can pick them up from the pews.

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"



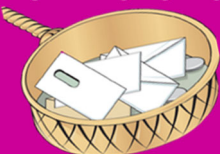
After a year of celebrating our hundredth year as a parish, we are preparing for the **CENTENNIAL FINALE, the "GALA OF ROSES" BANQUET** in the Mediterranean Ballroom at Brookside at the Rosebowl (1133 Rosemont Avenue, Pasadena) on **SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 2025!** Don't miss this fabulous Parish Party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



Financial Offerings



November 30 / December 1, 2024

Unrestricted.....	\$15,785.00
Restricted	\$10,930.00
T O T A L.....	\$26,715.00

November 2 /3	\$25,871.00
November 9/10	\$19,987.00
November 16/17	\$12,421.00
November 23/24	\$17,177.00

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order to more easily



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Faith Academics Virtue

Deeply rooted in Carmelite spirituality, Saint Theresse Carmelite School, united with our parents who are the primary educators of their children, seeks to form students in faith, academics, and virtue through a Classical education.



Open House

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26

10 AM-3 PM

TK-8TH GRADE



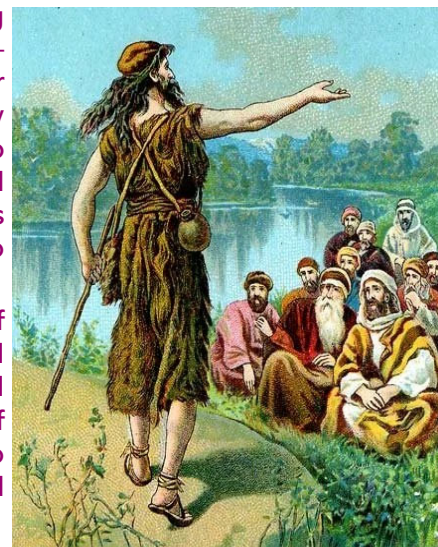
1106 EAST ALHAMBRA ROAD, ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91801

Scripture Reflection: Rejoicing in the Lord's Nearness

The readings for Gaudete Sunday call us to a spirit of rejoicing and hope. Zephaniah's words invite us to "shout for joy" because the Lord is in our midst, bringing salvation and dispelling fear. The prophet envisions a time when God Himself will rejoice over His people with gladness, renewing them in His love. This promise speaks to the heart of Advent: the anticipation of God's presence among us, fulfilled in Jesus Christ. As we await the celebration of His birth, we are reminded that God is not distant but comes close, offering joy and renewal to a weary world.

In the Gospel, John the Baptist tells the crowd to prepare for the coming of the Messiah through acts of repentance and charity. His practical advice—sharing with the needy, acting justly, and living humbly—reminds us that our joy in the Lord must be expressed through love for one another. John's fiery message may seem daunting, but it's grounded in the hope of the One who baptizes with the Holy Spirit and fire, transforming hearts and making all things new. This transformation allows us to live out the call of St. Paul in his letter to the Philippians: To rejoice always, to pray without ceasing, and to cast our anxieties upon God, who grants us peace beyond all understanding.

As we light the third candle of Advent, let us rejoice in the nearness of Christ. Like the people who heard John the Baptist, we are called to respond to God's love with open hearts and active faith. Isaiah reminds us to sing and shout, for the "Holy One of Israel" is among us. Let this week be a time of joyful preparation—not only for Christmas but for the coming of Christ into our hearts and lives. May we embrace His presence, live out His love, and allow His peace to guard our hearts as we await the fullness of His kingdom.



BUY A RAFFLE TICKET FOR A CHANCE TO WIN! →

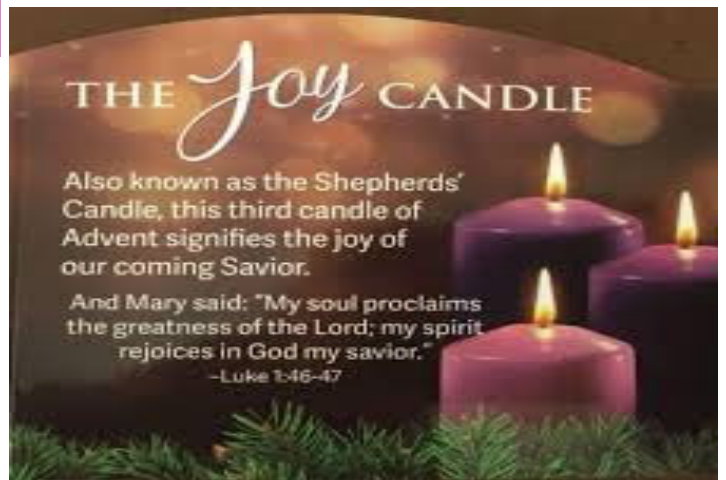


Buy your Raffle Tickets to win the above picture (a 15x22" framed and matted print of the original oil painting hanging in the main vestibule of our church) after any of our weekend Masses (along with the Gala of Roses tickets for our centennial finale on January 11th).

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, after the 7:15 p.m. Mass, will **NOT be present on Monday, December 23, or Monday, December 30th.** HPM will return on Monday, January 6, 2025. Thank you for your understanding! God bless you!



What is . . . Gaudete Sunday?



The Church began calling the third Sunday of Advent "Gaudete Sunday" very early in its

history, around the fourth or fifth century, when the season of Advent itself was first established as a period of preparation for Christmas.

"Gaudete" (gow-duh-tay) is Latin for "Rejoice" and is taken from the first word of the Introit prayer used on this Sunday Mass. This Sunday marks a shift in the tone of Advent from a more penitential focus to a joyful anticipation of Christmas, hence the use of the word "Rejoice". To symbolize this change, the priest wears rose-colored vestments instead of purple as on the other Sundays of Advent.

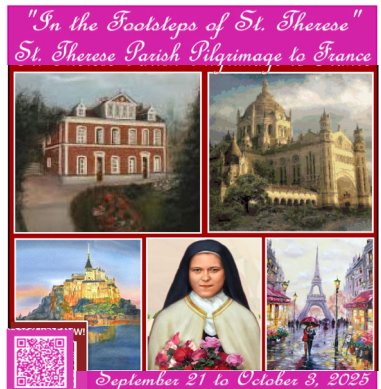
JOIN OUR PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO FRANCE NEXT OCTOBER

TWELVE DAYS! September 21 through October 3, 2025

**Chaplains: Fr. Peter Mary Vecellio
Fr. Robert Elias Barcelos**

Join two or our friars and a group of fellow parishioners for this pilgrimage to the home country of our patroness. Three nights in Lourdes, one night in Dijon, five nights in Lisieux, and one night in Paris—with day trips to Mont Saint-

Michel, Alençon, Caen, and Langrune. Daily Mass will be celebrated! The cost is \$3,530 per person, not including airfare, which will be secured soon. For more info and to receive an itinerary, call ProRome Tours at (434) 953-1112, E-mail their office@prorome.com, or go to their website at www.prorometours.com/sainttherese/ (you may also click the link on our website home page (right column)).



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



"Amazing," "awesome," "the greatest," "100%..." These were some of the responses I got from the children in our School's kindergarten and transitional kindergarten (T-K) religion class when I asked them to describe their teacher, Mrs. Kachirisky. One five-year-old said, "She is the best teacher I ever had," as if he's had a lot of teachers. I went there looking for Vanessa Kachirisky, a teacher's aide for the 2nd grade class and the religion teacher for the weekly class mentioned above, the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS). It is used to assist our youngest students in learning about liturgy and scripture. It was my first time visiting the classroom where the teaching takes place, which is called "the Atrium." This is the story of **John and Vanessa Kachirisky**.

John Kachirisky is the son of Juan Kachirisky, who was born in a Russian-speaking community in the Valle de Guadalupe in Baja, California. (The story of the Russian emigres who went to Baja, Mexico, at the beginning of the 20th century is interesting, but there is not enough space here for that story.) His mother, Teresa, is from Nayarit. Vanessa Moreno, the daughter of Frank and Pauline, is descended from a long line of Mexican-Americans. Her father Frank is a Vietnam Vet.

Vanessa describes herself and John as "cradle Catholics." They went to the same high school in Pico Rivera: El Rancho High School. (John lettered in baseball four straight years.) After graduation, they started dating. However, John joined the Navy over that summer. They must have fallen head over heels in love in the brief time they were dating because they stayed committed to their relationship for the next eight years. John was stationed in San Diego, although he was deployed twice for six months each time. Meanwhile, Vanessa went to California State University, Fullerton, where she earned a degree in Child and Adolescence Education. Their long eight-year courtship was hard, but they proved their dedication and faithfulness to each other. The day of their wedding came at last in 2004. John and Vanessa were married at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, which is only a couple of miles from where they graduated from high school.

The newlyweds bought a home in Glendora and became parishioners of St. Dorothy Parish. John went into law enforcement as a California Highway Patrolman, and Vanessa continued working in special education in Rowland Heights Unified School District. A year into the marriage, they had their first baby, Luke. Vanessa stopped teaching and focused on learning how to be a full-time mom. Five more babies followed. John became interested in Catholic apologetics and began learning more about the Faith. This journey led the Kachiriskys to the Traditional Latin Mass at St. Therese Church, which they began attending in 2011. Encouraged by Fr. Philip Sullivan, the Kachiriskys enrolled their children in St. Therese Carmelite School in 2016. Vanessa says her children have grown in faith, love, discipline, and structure.

Luke graduated from high school this past year and is now attending the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy on Long Island. Their second born, Hannah, is a high school senior at St. Lucy's Priory High School and hopes to be a pre-med student in college. Their other daughter, Katia, just started her freshman year at St. Lucy's. The three younger boys are in our Parish School: Jude, a 7th grader, Johnny, a 4th grader, and Fulton, a 2nd grader.

John is now with the Santa Ana Police Department and serves as the Union President of the Santa Ana Police Officer Association. He is an advocate for justice for all those sworn and unsworn employees of the Santa Ana Police Department. It was when their sixth child started school here that Vanessa was hired as a teacher's aide and is presently assigned to the Second Grade. She says it is a blessing to be so close to our Catholic Faith and to her youngest children. Being at the School, she says, gives her the chance to give something back from the graces her family has received. *"We continue our journey on our Little Way, to fight the good fight and win the unperishable crown of Heaven!"*



A drawing of Fr. Steve interviewing Mrs. Kachirisky, created by one of the children

The Kachirisky 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 14—December 21, 2024

Saturday Evening:

5:00 p.m.: Teresa Marquez, RIP

Sunday

*7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Nuns' Christmas Novena 1

7:30 a.m.: Michael Alexander Cheah, INT

9:00 a.m.: Marietta Okamoto, RIP

11:00 a.m.: Ronnie Munoz, RIP

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

5:00 p.m.: Deacon Alfred Rios, RIP

Monday:

6:00 a.m.: Guillermo Escobar, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Nuns' Christmas Novena 2

8:00 a.m.: Ezekiel Rueff, Birthday INT

7:15 p.m.: James Widanta, INT

Tuesday:

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

*7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Nuns' Christmas Novena 3

8:00 a.m.: Bernie & Kay Tittmann, 57th Anniv.

7:15 p.m. (Span): Julia Lopez, RIP

Wednesday:

6:00 a.m.: Roland De La Rosa, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Nuns' Christmas Novena 4

8:00 a.m.: Christian Joshua Ng, INT

Thursday:

6:00 a.m.: Staff of Medical Allied Career Ctr, INT

*7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Nuns' Christmas Novena 5

8:00 a.m.: Roland De La Rosa, RIP

Friday:

6:00 a.m.: Fr. Jan Lundberg, Birthday INT

*7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Nuns' Christmas Novena 6

8:00 a.m.: Virgilio Lopez (102nd Birthday), RIP

Saturday (Morning):

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

8:00 a.m.: Jorge Luis Pinedo Martinez, RIP

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

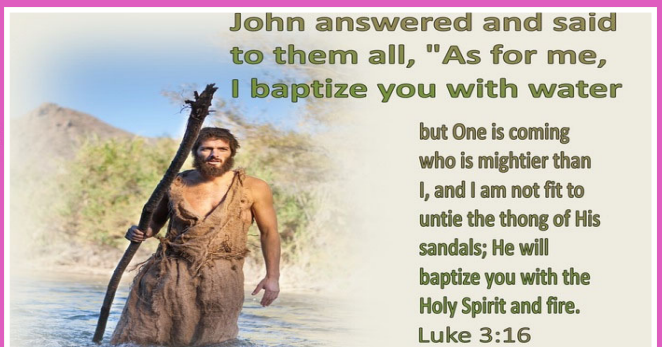
*Open to the public except on Sundays and some holidays.

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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