

St. Therese Catholic Church

March 20, 2022

Ministered by the Discalced Carmelite Friars Est. 1924

510 North El Molino Street | Alhambra CA 91801 | (626) 282-2744 | www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org

We are challenged today to experience the mystery of God with the image of Moses and the burning bush—a God who answers all questions in a simple, bold manner. God tells Moses "I AM who AM," and "tell the Israelites I AM sent me to you" (Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15).



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

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

Parish Secretary: Denise McMaster-Holguin X223
denisekay@hotmail.com

Finance: Noralyn Cailan X228 / cailannocds@gmail.com

Music Director: Paula Grimm | pgrimm.dir@gmail.com

Respect Life Ministry: Catherine Contreras XI12

ST. THERESE CARMELITE SCHOOL

(626) 289-3364

www.SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com

Principal: Alma Cornejo X661

principal@sainttheresecarmeliteschool.com



SACRAMENTS

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

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Blessed Third Sunday of Lent, everyone!

I hope you received extra encouragement and refreshment from the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit and the Father by spending some extra time with St. Joseph yesterday and with St. Patrick last Thursday. Did you get a chance to stop by last Friday evening to taste some of the incredible food from our St. Joseph's Table?! THANK YOU to all those who helped prepare—and present!—the food!!! (The French say that you eat with your eyes. In other words, how you present the food is also very important!) THANK YOU also to each and every one of you for your extra prayers and/or financial help for our cloistered Carmelite Nuns down the street and for our school these past few weeks. Every little bit helps!

Reminder: this Friday, March 25th, is the Solemnity of the Annunciation, when the Word Became Flesh and Mary's "Yes!" to the Angel Gabriel allowed the Second Person of the Trinity, Jesus, to become fully one of us. **In honor of this Great Mystery of our Faith, we are allowed to eat meat this coming Friday (Canon Law No. 1251).** And so we will have another special Friday "Soup Night," just as we had last week to celebrate St Joseph—except this time with **meat dishes encouraged!** 🤗



The Gospel today is a clarion call to repentance FOR EVERYONE (beginning with us priests!). One of the most difficult things to repent of is unforgiveness and resentment, which is why we have two spiritual works of mercy addressing that issue: bearing wrongs patiently and pardoning all injuries. Here again are some misconceptions about forgiveness. If we can clear up these misconceptions, it will become much easier to forgive an enemy. (Think of all the injustice happening in Ukraine right now and the huge need to forgive there!)

- 1) If I forgive, I will become vulnerable to being hurt by this person all over again. (No, I can forgive and still be wise as a serpent about not being hurt again by this person.)
- 2) If I forgive, then I am condoning hurtful actions and saying it's OK to continue the injustice that was done to me. (No, by forgiving I am actually implying that something wrong was done to me.)
- 3) If I don't forgive, I will feel better, because at least I will be holding the other person accountable. (No, unforgiveness and anger actually make us feel worse, and both are bad for the heart, as research shows. So, I'm drinking my own poison by not forgiving, while expecting the other person to die from it! That makes no sense at all, right?)
- 4) If I forgive, then I will have to reconcile with the person who wronged me. (No, forgiveness involves only me and Jesus. Being reconciled involves me and the offender, and one or both parties may not be ready for that just yet.)
- 5) If I forgive, I need to feel like forgiving first. (No, I can decide to forgive even while still feeling all kinds of negative feelings toward the person who hurt me.)
- 6) If I forgive, then I can forget about it and move on. (No, I will still need to go to Jesus and grieve the damage that was done to me, the loss and pain it has cost me—even while forgiving the person who caused that loss and pain. Only then can I move on from being a survivor to becoming a thriver.)

Here is the most effective way to keep a plant of bitterness from taking root in our heart: Know that Jesus is not asking us to change our feelings, but to change our will, to do what is good for that person who hurt us, to pass on to him or her the forgiveness that we ourselves have received from the Lord. So, whenever you notice a hurtful memory or temptation to resentment beginning to appear, immediately begin to say this prayer until the temptation fades: (while breathing in) **"In Your Name, Lord Jesus"** (then, while breathing out), **"I choose to forgive you, (name of the person)"**. The temptation may come back in a few minutes, so start the prayer again. Jesus: **"No, Peter, not seven times, but seventy times seven times..."** (Matthew 18:22).

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

Lenten Schedule

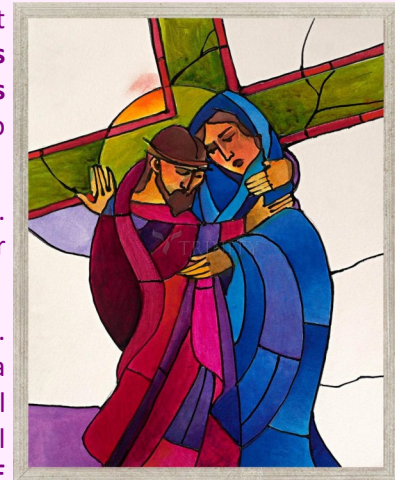
SOUP NIGHTS are being held in the Hall for the remainder of the Fridays in Lent between 5:30 and 7:00 p.m. The next one will be this Friday, March 25, and—as stated in Fr. Thomas’ letter on the preceding page—we will be allowed to eat meat as March 25th is a Feast (the Annunciation). If your family or your group would like to host / co-host a Soup Night (on April 1 or April 8,) please call the office.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS are held in the church every Friday during Lent at 7:00 p.m. Also, Saint Therese Carmelite School has the Stations every Friday during Lent after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

FAST AND ABSTINENCE: The next mandatory day of fast will be Good Friday, April 15. On that day, **FASTING** is obligatory for all Catholics ages 18 through 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to the full meal. The norms for **ABSTINENCE**

FROM MEAT are binding upon all Catholics from age 14 and up (no upper age limit). The reasons the Church prescribes fasting and abstinence are: as a sharing in Christ’s Passion and death, as an expression of inner conversion, and as a form of reparation for sin.

LENTEN MOVIE: All are invited to join us for a Saturday Night Movie on April 7 at 7:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall. We will serve pizza and light snacks. Free Admission! The featured movie is produced by Voice of the Martyrs and is called "Sabina: Tortured for Christ," a true story that takes place during the Nazi regime.



Easter Flower Offerings

Help us beautify the altar for Easter! Make an Easter Flower offering using one of the envelopes from the pews and tables. On the top line, write the name of a deceased loved one, and that person will be enrolled in a Memorial Mass offered on Friday, May 6, at 6:00 a.m. (an Easter weekday Mass after the Third Sunday of Easter).

Thank you for your generosity!



Easter Lily Sale

Saint Therese Carmelite School is selling Easter Lilies as a fundraiser, with the proceeds going towards the purchase of school materials and textbooks. The Easter Lily plant is a perfect gift to celebrate the renewal brought by Easter and the Spring season.



These plants (3 to 7 blooms on a 6” stem) are \$20 each and will be available for pick up on Palm Sunday after Mass and then at the school office until April 13th. **Order by April 1!**

Make your check payable to Saint Therese Carmelite School and enclose it in an envelope addressed to PSO, c/o Plant Sale Committee, 1106 East Alhambra Road. You may also pay with a debit or credit card by calling the school office at (626)289-3364 or by going to: <https://forms.gle/SsfMGYuYF3bFAnmV9>

THE ANNUAL "FR. JEROME APPEAL" FOR THE CLOISTERED CARMELITE NUNS



The Carmelite Monastery was instrumental in St. Therese Parish being established in Alhambra, and there has always been a special closeness and loving support between the Parish and the Nuns. To honor this, please help support our Cloistered Carmelite Nuns! All donations will help provide for their daily needs and the upkeep of their monastery. PINK ENVELOPES can be found on the tables by the church doors. May God bless and reward you for your generosity!

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.



March 12 / 13 , 2022
 Unrestricted..... \$18,322.00
 Restricted\$ 6,015.00
T O T A L.....\$24,337.00

February 12/13.....\$42,628.00
 February 19/20\$21,279.00
 February 26/27 \$14,410.00
 March 5/6 \$20,268.00

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

HELP FOR THE HOMELESS

Parishioners Rex & Karen Owens are in their third year of the five-year formation process to the permanent diaconate. This Lent the couples from their diaconate formation class are filling backpacks and shower bags with necessary hygiene items to hand out at a local homeless shelter. They are requesting your assistance with donations of travel-size items to be added to the bags. Specific items needed include:



Toothbrushes - Toothpaste - Shampoo - Conditioner - Body wash - Small face towel - Small sponge - Razor - Deodorant - Nail clippers - Nail files - Q-tips - Tweezers - Socks - Underwear - Granola bars (individually wrapped) - *Gift cards (*please contact Rex and Karen directly for donations of these)

Please make sure all items are TRAVEL-SIZE ONLY (larger items are not suitable for their needs). Please bring these items to the church by March 27 (boxes will be at each entrance for collection). If you have any questions, contact Rex at (323) 273-8825. God Bless!

HOLY LAND CRAFTS

Holy Land Crafts will be here this weekend to sell religious goods made in the Holy Land (wooden objects are made from olivewood).



Look for them outside the church after every Mass on Saturday evening and Sunday.

LOVE AND RESPONSIBILITY

LOS ANGELES

Vigil Mass with Fr. Thomas Koller

Join us for a special St. John Paul II centered Mass and Homily followed by fellowship and healing!

Saturday March 26, 2022 7:00 PM | St. Therese Catholic Church 1100 East Alhambra Road Alhambra, CA 91801

RSVP @ <https://linktr.ee/loveandresponsibilityla>



St. John Paul II centered Mass and Homily with Fr. Thomas Koller

Join us for our 2022 Kick-off Event! A very special Mass and Homily inspired by St. John Paul II's writings on "Love & Responsibility." Mass will be held on **Saturday, March 26, at 7:00 p.m., with Fr. Thomas Koller.** Immediately following Mass we will have fellowship in the Hall as well as an opportunity for healing from St. Therese's own Healing Prayer Ministry. We look forward to seeing you there!

To RSVP, go to:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/st-john-paul-ii-centered-mass-and-homily-tickets-291909377807>

ON Saturday March 26

St. Therese Catholic Church 1100 East Alhambra Road Alhambra, California

RSVP @ <https://linktr.ee/loveandresponsibilityla>



7:00pm Vigil Mass



8:15pm Fellowship & Healing Prayer Ministry

Fasting from the Sin of Judgment

PAUSE TO HEAR GOD SPEAK:

"Therefore, you are without excuse, every one of you who passes judgment. For by the standard by which you judge another, you condemn yourself, since you, the judge, do the very same things."

-Romans 2:1

"Stop judging by appearances, but judge justly." -John 7:24

Today, I choose to fast from the sin of judgment. Many men I know bear deep animosity toward their fathers. These feelings usually stem from the idea that their fathers were in some way cold, distant, hard, absent, mean, or even cruel. These men have been hurt by their fathers, and they judged their fathers for it. But by looking deeper into their fathers' own history, many of these men found compassion for the same father they hated.



It's pretty easy to judge the hearts and motivations of those around us. We look at their actions and decide (make a judgment) about them or their motives. Many of the men I mentioned eventually understood the deep pain and hurt their own fathers had endured, and they were moved from judgment to compassion. Their fathers' own pain had been the root of sinful behavior that, in turn, hurt their sons. Judgment is a sin that unfortunately encourages us to hang on to unforgiveness in our lives.



Take time to ask yourself...

- Who in my life have I judged and why?
- What do I believe about their motives toward me?

Pray slowly... Heavenly Father, In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I renounce judgment and repent all the ways in which I have acted out of it. I reject every form of judgment in my life. I ask you, Father, to forgive me. I forgive myself for my judgments. Holy Spirit, make me aware of any judgmental thoughts, feelings, and actions. Amen.

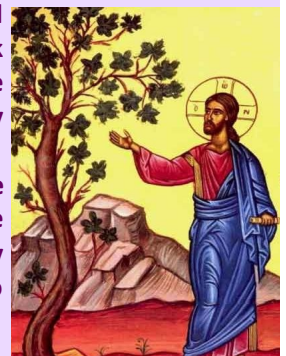
The above is taken from the book, *Lenten Healing*, by Ken Kniepmann—available for sale in the parish office.

BEARING FRUIT THIS LENT

As we get to the halfway point of Lent, we may be tempted to overconfidence: "The first three weeks weren't so hard. I can go a few more weeks without the things I gave up. And I've only committed a few sins; maybe I'll go to confession right before Easter." If so, it might be a good idea to look at the second reading and the Gospel. St. Paul says that anyone who is overconfident about their lack of sin "should take care not to fall" (1 Corinthians 10:12). He compares those people to the ones Moses brought through the desert. In fact, many were punished because they were tempted to follow false gods or to complain about the food and drink God provided them. Could the same thing happen to us?

One form of overconfidence is rejecting what we learned as children. We may think, "I'm old enough to decide if I should go to church" or "I can take care of myself now; I don't need God's help." If these sound familiar because you have thought that way yourself, Paul has a warning. His analogy of the Rock following the Hebrews in the desert refers to God's constant presence to the people. In the same way, God is present to us today. But just as God was not pleased with those in the desert, God may not be pleased with us if we continue to ignore Him.

That brings us to the Gospel. In the parable of the fig tree, the owner is not pleased—the tree has not produced any fruit. Unlike the fig tree, God would be happy with any fruit we produce. We could be generous to the poor, we could fight for the unborn child's right to life, or we could simply teach our children how to pray. Like the owner of the fig tree, God is patient, but we only have so much time. So when do you plan to bear fruit?



Mass Intentions

Quiet Listening Prayer

March 19 to March 26, 2022

Saturday evening:

5:00 p.m.: Perfecto Cendana, RIP

Sunday:

*7:30 a.m.: Ricardo L. Alfonso, RIP

7:30 a.m.: Parishioners

9:00 a.m.: Maria Patricia Faustino, RIP

11:00 a.m.: Peter Grimm, Birthday INT

1:00 p.m.: Michael Matthew J. Schmitt, RIP

5:00 p.m.: Alice Uy & Bob Bitler, INT

Monday:

6:00 a.m.: All Souls in Purgatory

*7:30 a.m.: Orlando Piol Vales, INT

8:00 a.m.: Marietta Okamoto, RIP

7:00 p.m.: Cleo Cunanan & Alan Matuti, INT

Tuesday:

6:00 a.m.: Guadalupe Daniel Ayala, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Sr. Elizabeth, OCD, INT

8:00 a.m.: Anthony Brajkovich, RIP

7:00 p.m.: Arthur Lowenberg, RIP

Wednesday:

6:00 a.m.: Denise Ayala, INT

*7:30 a.m.: Sr. Elizabeth, OCD, INT

8:00 a.m.: Fidelina Adan, RIP

7:00 p.m.: Marietta Okamoto, RIP

Thursday:

6:00 a.m.: Lisa Lim and Pinky Calte, INT

*7:30 a.m.: Nancy Smith, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Socorro Hernandez, Birthday INT

7:00 p.m.: Juana de la Cruz, OCD

Friday:

6:00 a.m.: Moses Goh, INT

*7:30 a.m.: Xuan-Thi Hat, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Daniel Yan, Birthday INT

Saturday Morning:

*7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Community

8:00 a.m.: Fr. Godfrey Chandya, OCD, Birthday INT

***Held at the Cloistered Carmelite Chapel,
215 E Alhambra Road, Alhambra, California.**

**The Chapel is open to the public
every day except Sunday.**

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).

FROM THE LIVING FLAME OF LOVE

By St. John of the Cross

Because of the refined quality and purity of these delicate and sublime anointings and shadings of the Holy Spirit, neither the soul nor its director understands them; only He who bestows them in order to be more pleased with the soul comprehends them. Individuals can with the greatest ease disturb and hinder these anointings by no more than the least act they may desire of their memory, intellect, or will; or by making use of their senses, appetite, and knowledge, or their own satisfaction and pleasure. This is all seriously harmful and a great sorrow and pity... Although this damage is beyond anything imaginable, it is so common and frequent that scarcely any spiritual director will be found who does not cause it in souls God is beginning to recollect in this manner of contemplation. How often is God anointing a contemplative soul with some very delicate unguent of loving knowledge, serene, peaceful, solitary, and far withdrawn from the senses and what is imaginable, as a result of which it cannot meditate or reflect on anything, or enjoy anything heavenly or earthly (since God has engaged it in that lonely idleness and given it the inclination to solitude), when a spiritual director will happen along who, like a blacksmith, knows no more than how to hammer and pound with the faculties. Since hammering with the faculties is this director's only teaching, and he knows no more than how to meditate, he will say: "Come, now, lay aside these rest periods, which amount to idleness and a waste of time; take and meditate and make interior acts, for it is necessary that you do your part; this other method is the way of illusions and typical of fools" (Stanza III, Nos. 41, 43).

