

SAINT THERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

January 26, 2020 **MINISTERED BY THE DISCALCED CARMELITE FRIARS** Estab. 1924



Pastor: Fr. Philip Sullivan, OCD X222;
Associate Pastor: Fr. David Guzman, OCD X232;
Carmelite Vocation Director: Fr. Matthias Lambrecht, OCD X224

In Residence:
Fr. Albert Bunsic, OCD X335;
Fr. Donald Kinney, OCD (Chaplain for the Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles);
Bro. Jason Parrott, OCD (7th Grade Teacher)

Deacons: Deacon Joseph Mizerski X333;
Deacon Gilbert Vargas X333

NEW PARISHIONERS

Register in the office at 510 N. El Molino Street, Alhambra.

Office Hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm; from 2:00 to 5:00 pm; and from 6:00 to 8:00 pm (closed from 1:00 to 2:00 pm and from 5:00 to 6:00 pm).

The Eucharistic Adoration Chapel is open 24/7. An electronic key is needed from 5:00 pm to 6:00 am (available in the office for \$20).

SAINT THERESE CARMELITE SCHOOL (626) 289-3364

www.SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com

Principal: Alma Cornejo X661

Principal @sainttheresecarmelite.school.com

Chaplain: Fr. Matthias Lambrecht, OCD X224

See our VIDEOS on the School's Facebook page or on the Church's Website: > Our School > Videos



MASSES AND SERVICES

Monday-Saturday: 6:00 & 8:00 a.m.
Carmelite Cloister: 7:30 a.m.

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday: 7:30, 9:00, 11:00 a.m., & 5:00 p.m.
Latin High Mass: 1:00 p.m.

Confessions: Wed: 7:00-8:30 p.m.; Sat: 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Daily Rosary: Mon-Sat after the 8:00 a.m. Mass
Exposition/Benediction: Thursdays, 7:00-8:00 p.m.
First Friday: Mass and Confessions: 7:30 p.m.

Baptisms: Once a month on a Saturday

Weddings: Fill out an application (website or office) six months+ in advance

Holy Communion to the Sick: Fred & Margaret Padilla, (626) 282-0943

Anointing of the Sick: Call the office to schedule an appointment.

Parish Secretary:

Denise McMaster-Holguin X223
denisekay@hotmail.com

Annulments: Lorraine Mizerski X333
lmizerski@sbcglobal.net

Finance: Noralyn Cailan X228
cailannocds@gmail.com

Music Director:

Charlotte Lansberg
cjlansberg@choochoorecords.com

Respect Life Ministry / Vox Vitae:

Catherine Contreras X112;
cathycforlife@gmail.com

Cor Jesu Youth Ministry:

Fr. Matthias Lambrecht, OCD X224
frmatthias@sainttheresecarmeliteschool.com

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

(Grade School, Confirmation

for Youth & Adults, RCIA, and Liturgical Ministries): Call the main office



"Letting Go of the Past"

Let go of
the past so
that God
can open
the door to
your future.

Each time a new year begins, we always wish and pray for ourselves a better life ahead. To be able to achieve that, we know that we need to make some life changes. While there are situations outside us that we cannot change, there are things within us that we can. Many people, however, are unable to start off the year on the right foot—finishing the year without attaining any of their resolutions because of one thing: holding on to the past. There is a saying that goes, “Hindsight is 20/20.” But rather than using such an expression as an inspiration to “move on” after having an apparent understanding of the past, the “coulda, woulda, shoulda” becomes a heavy emotional and mental baggage to those who are unable to let go. Usually, these people cannot stop blaming themselves for the mistakes and bad choices they made. Fixating on the past makes us unable to realize the good things we have now. Sometimes, the good thing is right in front of us; yet, we do not see it. We cannot appreciate things for what they’re worth. How

we interpret our circumstances is far from what they actually are.

For Catholics, seeing things in light of our Faith is the way to move “past the past.” But it is something that the unbelievers of the Catholic Church and the unbelievers of God, the secular world, do not have. To John Calvin, for example, the person who founded Reformed Protestantism, one’s life was terrible because it was deserved. For him, God made two groups: the elect, chosen to show His mercy, and the damned, chosen to show His justice. It means that, according to him, if you are among the damned, you deserve it if someone hurt you. And worse, he said that God could do to you whatever pleased Him, because He is God, and what was to your disadvantage, could be advantageous to others. As for the unbelievers of God, they see things with their mere eyes, at face value alone. Some of them think that you have the right to hold on to your hatred and grudges against those who hurt you.

The secular world is about enjoying a hedonistic life. But it has many contradicting notions of how to live a good life. Its vision is clouded—the way it believes that forgiveness is conditional, that justice is eye-for-an-eye, and that people should do whatever they want. For example, the secular would reason that a woman should get an abortion if she thinks it would “undo” her mistake of getting pregnant. But sooner or later, that mother would realize that the act only did further irreparable damage, for it took an innocent baby’s life and wounded her soul with severe grief, which was not obvious to her before. Secular people might think that they are “free,” but without true faith, the world will only cause them more emotional and mental pain. If you are one of those who desire a better life, but continue to see things the way that unbelievers and the secular do, you will remain stuck in the past, unable to live peacefully.

St. Catherine of Siena often spoke about the “light of most holy faith” in her letters. The light of most holy faith is what opens “the eye of the mind,” according to St. Catherine. This light makes us see things through the eyes of God. Under the light of most holy faith, if you were to look at those who hurt you, injured you, humiliated you, or did you an injustice, you would be able to see that from past to present, it is still the hand of God that drives your life. He very well saw and knew what was done to you in the past. It’s just that He allowed it to happen to you because, for one, He is purifying something in your life. When you resolve to let go of the past is when your emotional wounds will start to heal.

Perhaps God is purifying you, but you have not realized it yet. If you are still suffering from a hurtful past, like when people you cared for left you and those you loved let you down, or you are unable to recover from painful events in your life, look at these things now in the light of faith and your mind will be opened. God must be showing you the areas of your life, such as your beliefs, values or actions, which need to be corrected and purified. Once you identify what those are, and work on amending them with due diligence, your intense grief will turn into an immense grace.

From www.TheBestCatholic.com

Whether our unhealed wounds are caused by others, or by our own doing, it is dangerous to remain attached to the past. That's because when people are depressed and regretful of the past, they are tempted to become slothful in attending to not only their physical needs, but also to their spiritual needs. Having a dull or non-existent prayer life and skipping the Sacraments of Confession and the Eucharist could result from a distressed emotional state. And without spiritual graces, a better life becomes unattainable.

In God, we find rest. But for some reason, we refuse to give to Him our heavy burdens and try to carry them ourselves. The evil in the world pulls us to sin and to despair, but the Cross lifts us up from sin and frees us from despair. God wants us to accept the hurts in our past and present and place them at the foot of His Cross. Can't get over losing a romantic relationship? It's possible that God was actually saving you. It could be that the person was going to cause you to lose your Faith or leave the Church. It does not mean that just because a person was Catholic, he or she was capable of helping you gain Heaven. Can't get over losing missed job opportunities? It could be that line of work and the people around you there would have led you to sin.

Should we trust in God even when things get bad? Yes, definitely! The Scriptures, Church Tradition, the wisdom of our Church Fathers, and the visions of the Saints to whom Jesus and the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared all declare that God is the Divine Master to Whom we must entrust everything. Why are some practicing Catholics, who regularly pray and receive the Sacraments, unable to let go of the past? At times, they miss the graces that God is offering them. There are always graces given through the Sacraments, if received with the right disposition; but if one's disposition is to hold on to the past, no improvement will be seen. As truly practicing Catholics, we must fix our gaze on God—believing that Our Heavenly Father has a plan in our lives now and in the future! *"For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, plans for your welfare and not for woe, so as to give you a future of hope. When you call me, and come and pray to me, I will listen to you. When you look for me, you will find me. Yes, when you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, and I will change your lot"* (Jer. 29:11).

To understand God's work of fulfilling His will in our lives, and to fight against the temptation of being stuck in our hurtful past, we must see through our hearts, following what St. Paul said: *"May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to His call, what are the riches of glory in His inheritance among the holy ones"* (Eph. 1:18).

To conclude, here are the words of **St. Catherine of Siena**: *"Prayer must not be far from you. Nay, on the due and ordered hours, so far as you can, seek to withdraw a little, to know yourself, and the wrongs done to God, and the largeness of His goodness, which has worked and is working so sweetly in you; opening the eye of your mind in the light of most holy faith, to behold how beyond measure God loves us; love which He shows us through the means of His Only Begotten Son."*



WOMEN'S RETREAT | NEW BIBLE STUDY

El Carmelo Women's Retreat March 13-15, 2020

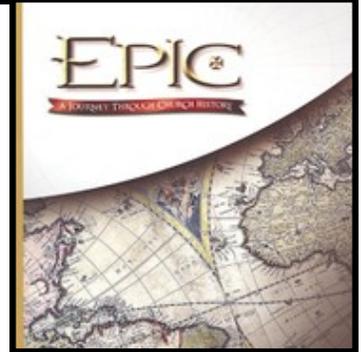


Join the women from St. Therese Church on March 13-15 for the annual silent retreat by our Carmelite Friars in Redlands (Fr. Thomas Reeves, Fr. Bernard Perkins and Bro. Juan de la Cruz). Rates are \$175 per person (shared room) or \$200 (single room).

The retreat includes private bath, buffet dining (staffed by the Oblatas de Santa Marta), conference talks, Holy Mass, reconciliation, and more. All this in an atmosphere of tranquility on the beautiful grounds of El Carmelo Retreat House.

Applications are available at the church entrances. Mail your \$50 nonrefundable deposit (check or money order made out to El Carmelo Retreat House) to Retreat Captain, Louisa Day 600 W. Gleason St., Monterey Park, CA 91754. Contact Louisa for more information at (323) 360-5186 or louisaeday@yahoo.com.

Discover the "Epic" Story of the Catholic Church!
Experience Church History from a Catholic Perspective!



As Catholics, we are heirs to a remarkable heritage. The history of our Faith is so much more than a list of facts and dates. It is a fascinating story of adventure, rebellion, tragedy, and triumph. A story 2,000 years in the making is described best by one word: Epic.

"Epic: A Journey through Church History" is a captivating and fast-paced look at the story of the Catholic Church. Beginning with the lives of the apostles all the way up to almost-present day, Epic takes the immense history of the Church and simplifies it into twelve, color-coded time periods. In the course of twenty sessions, participants learn about the major people, places, and events that comprise the captivating story of Christianity. This Study provides participants with an understanding of Church history that enables them to have a greater sense of meaning and identity as Catholics.

Join us for "Epic: A Journey through Church History" in the Parish Meeting Room beginning on January 29, at 7:00 p.m., and continuing every Wednesday. Program fee is \$30.00. For more information or to register for the study, contact Debbie Robles at 679-6370 or debrobles@me.com.

EXTRAORDINARY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS TO THE HOMEBOUND

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS TO BRING HOLY COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND!

We need YOU for this special ministry which brings Holy Communion to those unable to come to Mass!

You will be trained and commissioned for this holy work. You would need to go to the homes of parishioners ONLY once a month to once every two months. If you are interested, please contact Fred Padilla at 282-0943.



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.

NOTE: The second collection on the 2ND WEEKEND each month is for our School (next is February 8 / 9).



January 18 / 19, 2020

Unrestricted.....\$18,943.00
 Restricted\$ 1,210.00
T O T A L\$20,153.00

Christmas 2019..... \$15,511.00
 December 28 / 29..... \$15,189.00
 January 4 / 5..... \$13,373.00
 January 11 / 12..... \$16,336.00

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



STRE (Kindergarten through 8th Grade, including Eucharist Preparation): Classes are in session **TODAY**, Sunday, January 26.

CONFIRMATION (High School): Next classes for First Year (C1) are Sunday, February 2, at 9:00 a.m., and Tuesday, February 4, at 7:00 p.m. Classes for Second Year (C2) are in session **TODAY**, Sunday, January 26, and on Tuesday, January 28, at 7:00 p.m.

RCIA: For those wishing to become Catholic or to complete your Sacraments, join us! Classes are held in the Parish Meeting Room on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Upcoming dates are January 30 and February 6.

CATHOLIC KARATE

Youth (Boys and Girls)! Learn to defend yourself and earn your black belt.

Classes on Thursdays (New session started January 9):

- New students and White Belts (ages 6-17): 5:15-5:55 pm
- Yellow Belts: 6:00-6:40 p.m.
- Orange & Above: 6:45-7:25 p.m.
- Men (Thursdays from Jan. 9 to Feb. 6): 7:30-8:10 p.m.—\$65 for the five Thursdays

Weekly Class Fees

- 1st Youth: \$10 per week
- 2nd Youth: +\$7 per week
- 3rd Youth: +\$7 per week
- Add'l Youth: +\$5 per week
- Registration Fee: \$5 each student



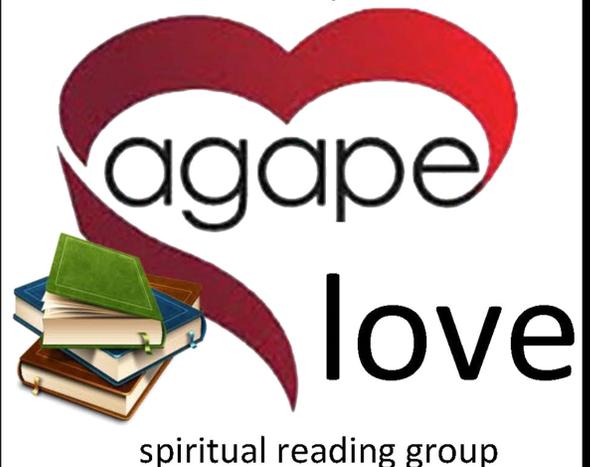
Questions? Email SenseiJohnWrot@gmail.com.

"AGAPE LOVE," A SPIRITUAL READING GROUP

Join our ongoing spiritual reading group, AGAPE LOVE, as we read through the book by Brant Pitre called, "Jesus and the Jewish Roots of Mary". Our reading has helped us discover many important truths about Mary's role in God's great plan for our salvation. Extra books are available for your when we meet. For your convenience, we have TWO scheduled choices to choose from: **Tuesday MORNINGS** from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. OR **Tuesday EVENINGS** from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Maria Alejandra de Jesus by email at ale3767@yahoo.com or by phone at 993-4236.

st. therese parish



BLOOD DRIVE TODAY!

The Alhambra Knights of Columbus Council 2431 and St. Therese Church will host a Blood Drive **TODAY, SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, between 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.**, in the Parish Hall (benefitting the patients of City of Hope).

No appointment necessary!

Please bring a valid photo ID or a passport to register. Donors must be in good health, with no cold or flu symptoms! Each participant will receive one In-N-Out gift card after donating blood. **God bless you for caring!**



Ongoing Events/Meetings

BIBLE STUDY: Classes meet at 7:00 p.m. on **Wednesdays** in the Parish Meeting Room **between September and June**. For more info, contact Debbie Robles at debrobles@me.com or at 679-6370.

CATHOLIC KARATE is for boys, girls, and men from 7 to 60. Learn self-defense, increased self-control, and confidence. For more info, contact John at SenseiJohnWrot@gmail.com.

CONSECRATION TO MARY: Follow-up group for those already consecrated to Jesus through His mother, the Mother of God. Meet at 6:30 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month. For more info, call Angela at (310) 701-8386.

DETENTION MINISTRY: If you're 21 or older, join us in visiting the youth (ages 8 to 18) in the Juvenile Detention Center in L.A. To sign up or for more info, call Sonia at (323) 724-6443.

EnCOURAGE: Standing fully by the teachings of the Church, we are a group of faithful Catholic parents who support one another and our loved ones with same sex attraction, through discussion, prayer, fellowship and sacrifice. Meet monthly in the LA Archdiocese with our chaplain in a safe confidential setting. For more info, contact your local chapter (**EnCourage for parents:** EnCourage.LosAngeles@gmail.com; **OR Courage LA for persons struggling with same sex attraction:** CourageCA.LosAngeles@gmail.com.).

FIRST FRIDAY MASS: Held every First Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP: This group (originally formed in honor of Patricia Bordonaro) is for those grieving a loved one—no matter how long or for whom. We meet in the Parish Offices from **2:30 to 4:00 p.m. on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of each month. The next meetings will be February 12 and 26.**

INTERCESSORS FOR PRIESTS PRAYER GROUP: Join us in the Avila Room in the Parish Offices to pray for priests every **Thursday at 8:00 p.m.** (following Benediction in the church). For more info, call Blanca at 281-7070.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: For Catholic men (18 or over) looking to strengthen their faith through serving the Church & community. Call the Alhambra Grand Knight, Frank Bodeman, at (888) 869-3124.

LEGION OF MARY: The object of the Legion is the glory of God through the holiness of its members developed by prayer and active cooperation. Winter Meetings are Tuesdays at 4:00 p.m., in the Parish Offices (Lisieux Room).

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING: For info on Church teaching about openness to life, contact Jack & Katrina Crow at 292 -1906 or katrina.fcp@gmail.com for **English OR** Martha Lacayo for **Spanish** at 372-0808 or Martha.fcp@gmail.com. Introductory sessions to the Creighton Model FertilityCare System/NaproTechnology are normally on the 3rd Saturday of the month. Please contact one of them to register for the classes.

RISE MEN'S MINISTRY: All men who have made the challenge at www.MenRiseUp.org are encouraged to join us on **Saturday mornings for the Rosary at 6:45 a.m., followed by a video and discussion from 7:00 to 7:30 a.m.** in the Parish Meeting Room. For questions, contact Greg Keller at greglks@yahoo.com.

ROSARY MAKERS: Help make rosaries to be sent to Catholics in third-world countries. Sessions are held on Mondays at 6:00 p.m. in the Avila Room of the Parish Offices. For more info, call Maria Alejandra at 993-4236.

ST. JOSEPH PRAYER GROUP: Come to the church every **Wednesday at 6:15 p.m.** to pray for peace and justice issues in our community and around the world. For more info, call Lucy at 281-3706.

Mass Intentions

**For the Week of
January 25 through February 1, 2020**

Saturday:

5:00 p.m.: Karl Fisher & Family, INT

Sunday

*7:30 a.m.: Injo Tek Hok & Lan Injo, RIP

7:30 a.m.: Parishioners

9:00 a.m.: Emma & Emilio Sirias, RIP

11:00 a.m.: Daisy Torres, RIP

1:00 p.m.: (Latin): Deputy Joseph Solano, RIP

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

Monday:

6:00 a.m.: Patrick McAllister, INT

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

8:00 a.m.: Manik Kavukchyan, RIP

Tuesday:

6:00 a.m.: Nicolas & Christina Yang, INT

*7:30 a.m.: Rhony Laigo, INT

8:00 a.m.: Carl Gockerell, RIP

Wednesday:

6:00 a.m.: Frances Mies, RIP

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

8:00 a.m.: William C. Grimm, RIP

Thursday:

6:00 a.m.: Fr. Matthias, OCD, INT

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

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

Friday:

6:00 a.m.: Daniel Shearer, RIP

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

8:00 a.m.: Robert & Gertrude Storey, RIP

Saturday:

6:00 a.m.: Angelina Brajkovich, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Community

8:00 a.m.: Monica Johnson & Family, INT

*Held at the Carmelite Chapel, 215 East Alhambra Road. Open to the public except on Sundays and holidays.

Floral Dedications

This week's dedication is:

† In Loving Memory
of
Ida Moretti



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

Outside the Parish

Pilgrimage to the Most Blessed Sacrament Shrine, Hanceville, Alabama, on **July 21 - 28, 2020**, with a visit to EWTN! 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, Krakow; 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>

Lectors

Saturday

5:00 p.m. Marta Timar

Sunday

7:30 a.m. Jackie Johnson / Rex Owens

9:00 a.m. Rosa Natividad

11:00 a.m. Sarah Halpin / Jason Perez

5:00 p.m. To Be Decided

Personal Ads

Do your out-of-town guests need a place to stay? AirBnB Private Suite w/private bath in Monterey Park is offered by a St. Therese parishioner. Special discount available. Go to www.airbnb.com/rooms/32517189.

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.