Ot. Therese Catholic Church December 11, 2022 Ministered by the Discalced Carmelite Friars Est. 1924

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



Third Sunday of Advent
(Gaudete Sunday)

Rejoice!

Gaudete means Joy!
We are joyful because
Our Lord is coming soon!

When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ, he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another? "Jesus said to them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at Me" (Matthew 11:2-6).

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 and 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. (Tuesday's evening Mass is in Spanish). Note: the daily 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Masses and the Sunday 11:00 a.m., Mass are all LIVE STREAMED on Facebook AND YouTube)

Rosary: Mon-Sat after 8:00 a.m. Mass

to 9:00 p.m.; Saturdays from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. and Sundays from Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Carmelite Nuns: 7:30 a.m., Mon.-Sat.

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, Bro. Jason Parrott,
OCD; and 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: Andrew Coyne | Andrew.Coyne1@gmail.com

Respect Life Ministry: Catherine Contreras X112

ST. THERESE CARMELITE SCHOOL

(626) 289-3364

www.SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com Principal: Alma Cornejo X661

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

A Letter from the Pastor

Blessed Watching and Waiting for the Coming of Jesus—in a special way on December 25th, at His Second Coming at the end of world and, most especially, NOW! ...at every moment and at every Eucharistic Sacrifice (Mass)!!!

Thank you to everyone who helped make yesterday's Guadalupe Festival and Thursday's Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception so special! We have another Solemnity this coming Wednesday, December 14: St John of the Cross, the co-founder

(along with St. Teresa) of us Discalced Carmelites! ..."One dark night, fired with love's urgent longings—ah, the sheer grace!—I went out unseen, my house being now all stilled." Too many people think of St. John as the Saint of the Dark Night, which is unfortunate, because it puts the emphasis on the negative side. He is much more the Saint of Mystical Love, and a wonderful guide in this Advent/Christmas season. He says that we need to be enkindled with urgent longings of love in order to go and meet Jesus, the Light Shining in the darkness. Advent is a perfect time of the year to ask our Lord for this gift of urgent longing (for what we already have: Jesus!), to help heal our minds in order to realize that Jesus the Light is already ours and we, his. As St. Paul says, "He delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the Kingdom of His beloved Son." That happened when we were baptized and then grew in intensity at our First Communion and Confirmation.

So, you and I are now priests, prophets, and kings in Jesus, THE Priest, Prophet, and King. How are you and I using that power and authority that He shares with us, especially at home, but also at work and in the marketplace, during this Advent Season?? (An example of someone doing that was here last Saturday at the Transformation Night talk and prayer ministry... This person invited a Muslim friend who had never been inside a Christian church to come to St. Therese Church. The person accepted the invitation and came and received prayer and encouragement to keep engaging Jesus).

Fraternally in Jesus and Mary and Joseph, Fr. Thomas

From Chapter Five of Be Transformed: The Healing Power of the Sacraments by Bob Schuchts | Final installment

One of the great joys in my life is seeing people receive deep healing and transformation and then seeing their increased freedom to yield to the Holy Spirit. Their lives and ministries are renewed, and they in tum touch many others. In my mind, consecrated religious are icons of the sacrament of Confirmation because they have fully dedicated their lives to share in Jesus' mission. The ones I have met over the years have been devoted men and women who have one thing in common: a heart to serve God and His people. But too often their hearts have also been deeply wounded and overlooked. Some of these wounds are quite debilitating, including the shame of sexual abuse, severe rejection and abandonment, and many other traumas, leaving a legacy of fear, confusion, and powerlessness. Many had not shared these hurts with anyone except their bridegroom, Jesus, and had grown weary.

As these religious have entered into their healing journeys, it has had a profound effect in many of their ministries. With greater freedom in their hearts, they become capable of a deeper surrender to the Holy Spirit, which increases the anointing grace flowing through their charism. For one brother, his healing process has given him a new zeal in his gift of evangelization. He now sees healing as a central part of bringing others into a vital relationship with Jesus. For one religious sister, her personal transformation has been multiplied a hundredfold through her gift of speaking to people of all ages. Her words now communicate so much of the Holy Spirit's love and truth that her listeners receive healing as she delivers her message. For another group of sisters, their personal healing experiences have influenced the way they prepare students for the sacraments. Recently, I was invited to observe two of them offer a Confirmation retreat to about eighty ninth-graders. The students said they encountered the living God for the first time. Finally, they invited them into group and individual prayer experiences to encounter the risen Jesus. Many of the young people experienced healing of their wounds and came away with an increased capacity to receive an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of their Confirmation. Following the retreat with the sisters, I left yearning for their charism to spread throughout the Church, so that every person pre- paring to receive the sacrament of Confirmation would more fully experience "the same outpouring of the Holy Spirit as once granted to the apostles on the day of Pentecost" (CCC, 1302). Come Holy Spirit, let your fire fall! Can you imagine what might happen in our world if the majority of us who have already been baptized and confirmed in the Church would repent of our worldly power, control, and self-reliance and allow the Holy Spirit's power to be more fully perfected in our weakness? Let's take a moment now to ask the Holy Spirit to prepare our hearts for a greater outpouring of His presence. Remember, you are His anointed! NEXT WEEK WE BEGIN CHAPTER SEVEN ON HOW HOLY MATRIMONY HEALS WOUNDS OF FEAR.

December 11, 2022 Page Three



Saint Therese Carmelite School Faith & Academics & Virtue

What distinguishes classical education? -Leigh Lowe, Memoria Press speaker and classical curriculum consultant

In the traditional classical model, being "educated" means something objective. In classical education, content is not subject to whimsical standards or temporary fancies of the time. To have a true classical education, a student has learned Latin (and possibly Greek), has a thorough understanding of history and ancient cultures, and has read from the canon of Great Books broadly. A student who receives a classical education shares a common body of knowledge with his ancestors and is prepared to pass down that culture to future generations. Because he has learned what has already been said, the student is able to make meaningful comments about the modern era and participate in the Great Conversation—the ongoing dialogue about the best that's been thought and said.

Open House

Sunday, January 22 10 am-3 pm TK-8th Grade



Breakfast Sale Sunday, December 11, 8:30am-11am

Parishioners will be selling breakfast burritos on Sunday, December 11 to raise funds for a school playground. We appreciate your support of this fundraiser!

POKER DIGHT FUNDRAISER

SAINT THERESE CARMELITE SCHOOL

SATURDAY. FEBRUARY



All School Christmas Concert

and Pageant

Tuesday, December 20, 6:30 pm St. Therese Church

Please join us for a night of carols, hymns, and Scripture readings. We hope that our performance will inspire you with hope and joy as we await the Christmas season together.

> 1106 East Alhambra Road Alhambra, California 91801

Presentation on the Apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe Monday, December 12, immediately following the 8 am Mass

Mrs. Dora Olaiz will be giving a presentation on interesting facts known about the apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The presentation will take place in the church immediately following Mass.

All are welcome to attend.

(626) 289-3364 www.SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com Page Four **December 11, 2022**

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Raffle tickets can be purchased at either the School or the Parish Offices or after one of the Sunday.



December 11 2022

Opening Hymn:

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus Pew Missal #114

Responsorial Psalm 146 (145): 6-7, 8-9, 9-10



Lord, and come_ save Music: T. Marier (1912-2001) Copyright © 2021, Boston Boy Choir, Inc. Used by permission. Text: The Abbey Psalms and Canticles, Copyright © 2018, USCCB, Washington, D.C.

Offertory:

The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns Worship II #269

Communion:

Dear Maker of the Starry Skies Worship II #65

Closing Hymn:

O Come, O Come Emmanuel Worship II #195

Calling all young adults 18-35! Join fellow young adults and Pope Francis for a pilgrimage to Portugal for World Youth Day 2023 from July 30 to August 8. We're also visiting Fatima and the Eucharistic Miracle of Santarem. Cost will be approximately \$4,145 per roundtrip (includes airfare, transportation, and more). To register or for more information. contact Amv Rodriguez amytrodriguez01@gmail.com. To receive text or email updates, text "WYD2023" to 84576.

Mistletoe Sale

Boy Scout Troop 140 will be selling Fresh Mistletoe for their Annual Fundraiser. See them after all the Masses this weekend and next weekend (Dec. 10 & 11 and 17 & 18th). Your purchase helps support wholesome activities for boys!

ALL are invited to join Joe Campbell and Florence Goh for this interactive program series. It began on November 29 and continues every Tuesday from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., via ZOOM.

To register, click the link on the church website's homepage, which will take you to the registration site. After completing it, the ZOOM link will be emailed to you.



December 11, 2022 Page Five

Scripture Meditation



Today's messages from Isaiah (prophetic ancestor of John the Baptist and Jesus of Nazareth) and James (spiritual offspring of John and Jesus) both

have messages that resonate

across the five centuries that separate them: hope in the coming power and presence of God. Isaiah was attempting to comfort and encourage the people of Israel in geographic and spiritual exile. Their exile will end, Isaiah says, with God's presence shown forth through spectacular occurrences in nature. James likewise has a community in need of encouragement and hope, since they despair over the delayed parousia, the final coming of God in glory.

In the meantime, James urges patient endurance. Until Jesus returns, they ought to persist without complaint, with the lives of the prophets as their guide. Then will come the time of sight, and healing, and life and ... Good News for the poor!

James wrote to a community experiencing hardship, like the exiled Israelites in today's first reading. Isaiah and James exhort people to trust that they will see God's presence in their midst once again, so be patient. Patience means accepting suffering and delay without becoming angry or upset. Praying for this virtue each day, sometimes often throughout the day, does help. Breathe in the Spirit of God and say, "Give me patience, Lord." Then exhale anger, upset, and impatience. Staring at a garden won't make a shoot spring up any faster; however, giving thanks for the seed, the water, the soil, and the Giver of all life can deepen our trust that the garden will grow.

The Power of Prop

Fundamentalists, Pentecostals charismatics believe supernatural nature of signs and wonders, gifts of the Spirit, miracles and healings recorded in the Bible. But when it comes to the operation of the gifts today, there is disagreement regarding three gifts in particular: prophecy, word of knowledge, and word of wisdom. Pentecostals and charismatics understand these gifts in a more supernatural manner, while other Protestants both fundamentalists and liberals—understand them in a more naturalistic manner.

Fundamentalists and liberals interpret the gift of prophecy to refer to preaching or teaching. Testament usage, however, shows that there is a distinction between prophecy, on the one hand, and preaching and teaching, on the other. Both preaching and teaching usually involve a prepared and planned message (Acts 5:42; 1 Timothy 4:13, 5:17), whereas prophecy involves a spontaneous word spoken under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (Acts 19:6, 21:9-11; 1 Corinthians 14:29-32). There is no basis for thinking that this distinction has disappeared. To prophesy is to give a message to a person or group that will comfort, build up, warn, or encourage them. But this message is not based on a natural ability. No, prophecy is more. It

may include bringing the message to someone who, in the natural, you PROPHECY did not realize needed to be encouraged, edified, or comforted. Or it may be a message that has a supernatural ability to convey exactly what the person needs to It is also possible for a prophecy be directive predictive.



The above is taken from The Spiritual Handbookwhich is available for sale in the office.

JANCIAI

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.**



December 3 / 4, 2022

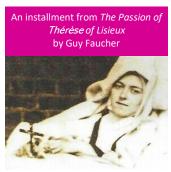
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CHECK USERS: Please use a donation envelope in order to more easily credit your account.

Page Six December 11, 2022

The Real St. Therese



On the 28th of May 1879, although Therese was running a temperature, a sister asked her to do some painting, as a distraction. Some days before her cousin's Veiling Day, Therese spoke with her, but it was about this time, at the end

of May, that she was relieved of her care of the novices. Therese also already given up going to the choir at the end of April. Sister Genevieve wrote: "After June 15, we can be sure that she no longer went down to the refectory. It was in May also that Therese had to give up going to community exercise or recreation!"

This gradual withdrawal from community life is easily explained when one realizes to what extent she was forcing herself to keep going during this period. Sr. Genevieve continues, "The last day that she could stand on her feet she came to the evening recreation. She sat on her heels next to me. She whispered to me: 'I have come near you so that you can guard me. I feel that I have not the strength to carry on a conversation. Look as if you are talking to me so that others won't come to speak to me. I do feel so sick, but I don't want to tell Mother Agnes yet, she would worry so much! Last evening it took me more than half an hour to get up to my cell, I had to sit down on almost every step of the stairs to get my breath. When I finally reached the cell, I had to make an unbelievable effort to undress. I thought at the time that I would never make it . . . if you only knew how powerless we can become through illness!"

Gradually, she entered into an even greater solitude. She continued to recite alone her "little Offices of the Dead," to sew, and go from her cell to the garden when the weather was fine. The frequent coughing spells do not seem to have caused hemoptysis in May. The nuns, seeing her walking in the cloisters, thought that, with treatment, rest, and spring sunshine, Sister Therese would soon return to community life. She herself was not under this illusion.

No Cross... No Resurrection

NOTE: Over the last several months, we have been publishing the contents of the book, *Lenten Healing*, by Ken Kniepmann (available for sale in the church office). This is the final reflection from that book:

My hope is that this fast becomes a way of life for you. What we have done is to fast from the things in our life that move us away from God and away from our true happiness. Like a drug addict, we receive momentary relief from pain when we live in our sins and wounds—but no freedom and no resurrection in life.

Most of us would like to have resurrection. Yet, we shy away from the Cross, which is the only way to get to resurrection. Take everything that you have uncovered in these meditations—sins, wounds, hurts, and painful memories. Take some extra time to ask God to speak to the things that are most broken in your life. Allow God to heal and restore them. My prayer is that you will have the courage to crucify everything in your life that is not of God.

TAKE TIME TO ASK YOURSELF... What sin or wound do I most need to release to God? What causes me to resist?

PRAY SLOWLY... In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I crucify the sin of sloth; I crucify the sin of pride; I crucify the sin of envy, I crucify the sin of greed; I crucify the sin of gluttony; I crucify the sin of anger; I crucify the sin of lust. Jesus, I renounce confusion and place it before your feet at the Cross; I renounce abandonment, shame, hopelessness, fear, rejection, and powerlessness, and I place them all at your feet.

"Is this not, rather, the fast that I choose: releasing those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke; setting free the oppressed, breaking off every yoke? Then you shall break forth like the dawn, and your wound shall quickly be healed; your vindication shall go before you, and the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard" (Isaiah 58:6,8).

From Lenten Healing—for sale in the parish office.

Mass Intentions

December 10 - December 17, 2022

Saturday Evening:

5:00 p.m.: Fr. John Hopkins, Birthday INT Sunday:

*7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Nuns' Christmas Novena for Living/Dead Members of Carm. Aux. and Friends and Benefactors of the Monastery, #3

7:30 a.m.: Alex Cheah, INT 9:00 a.m.: Ruben Ruvalcaba, INT

11:00 a.m.: Mary Rose Go & Patrick Rosal INT 1:00 p.m.: Alicia Maria Guadalupe Ortega RIP

5:00 p.m.: Parishioners Monday:

6:00 a.m.: Isaias R. Diokno, INT
*7:30 a.m.: Marietta Okamoto, RIP
8:00 a.m.: Gonzalo & Daisy Torres, RIP
7:00 p.m.: Gabriel Anyanwu & Family, INT
Tuesday:

6:00 a.m.: Ellena Cheah, INT

*7:30 a.m.: Deceased Religious, Relatives, and
Benefactors of the Carmelite Order, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Gabriel Anyanwu & Family, INT

7:00 p.m.: Shirley Sullivan, RIP

Wednesday:
6:00 a.m.: David Holman, Birthday INT
*7:30 a.m.: Gloria Donovan, RIP
8:00 a.m.: Mary Helen Estrada, Birthday INT
7:00 p.m.: Shirley Sullivan, RIP

Thursday:
6:00 a.m.: Alex Cheah, INT
*7:30 a.m.: Marietta Okamoto, RIP
8:00 a.m.: McAllister Family, INT
7:00 p.m.: Thanh T. & Linda D., Birthday INT
Friday:

6:00 a.m.: Alex Cheah, INT 7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Nuns' Christmas Novena #4

8:00 a.m.: Gordon Thomas and
Maria & Zoilo Mauriz, RIP
7:00 p.m.: Julia Lopez, 100th Birthday INT
Saturday Morning:

*7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Community 8:00 a.m.: Bernie & Kay Tittmann, 55th Anniv.

*Held at the Cloistered Carmelite Chapel; open to the public every day, except Sundays.

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).

Quiet Listening Prayer

FROM THE DARK NIGHT By St. John of the Cross



On that glad night in secret, for no one saw me, nor did I look at anything with any other light or guide than the one that burned in my heart.

This guided me more surely than the light of noon to where He was awaiting me—Him I knew so well—there in a place where no one appeared.

O guiding night! O night more lovely than the dawn! O night that has united the Lover with His beloved, transforming the beloved in her Lover.

Deaths

Please pray for the repose of the soul of:

+ Marie Ryan

(wife of Phil Ryan | Alumna of St. Therese School)

Note: Marie's funeral will be held at St. Therese in January; the date and time will be posted later

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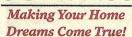
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