

St. Therese Catholic Church

February 5, 2023

Ministered by the Discalced Carmelite Friars

Est. 1924

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



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. and 7:00 p.m.
(Tuesday's evening Mass is in Spanish).

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

Note: the daily 8:00 a.m., the Monday evening 7:00 p.m.,
and the Sunday 11:00 a.m., Masses are all **LIVE**

STREAMED on Facebook AND YouTube)

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

CONFESSIONS (OUTSIDE)-Wednesdays from 8:00
to 9:00 p.m.; Saturdays from 3:00 to 6:00 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. 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 XI12

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



Letter from the Pastor

Blessed Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time!!!

Thank you to all of you who made the Candlemas celebration last Thursday evening extra beautiful!!! Jesus speaks of light again in today's Gospel, so here is a little story to encourage all of us—especially those of us who struggle to trust that Jesus is really at work in the middle of all the darkness:

TEENAGE WITNESS: A teenage girl named Anne got a summer job working as a maid in a big hotel on Cape Cod. Her job was to clean ten rooms every day. Over the summer, Anne met all kinds of interesting people, including a few celebrities. Of all the people she met, however, one stood out in her mind above all the others. She called him “Mr. Smith.” Mr. Smith showed up one weekend with a small leather travel bag. When Anne went to clean his room the next day, he stuck his head out of the door and said, “Forget about cleaning my room. Just give me a couple of clean towels.” The next two days he did the same thing. It wasn't until midweek that Mr. Smith allowed Anne to enter and clean. As she did, he talked to her and even helped her make the bed. On Saturday, Anne cleaned her usual ten rooms, including the room of Mr. Smith. After she finished, Anne was walking down the street on her way to 4:30 Mass. Suddenly a car pulled up; it was Mr. Smith. Did she want a ride home? She said she was going to church and would welcome a ride there. Once Anne was inside the car, Mr. Smith began bombarding her with questions. How often did she go to church? Why did she go, when lots of teenagers didn't? How good were the sermons? Did she receive Communion when she went?

When they arrived at the church, Mr. Smith surprised Anne by asking if he might attend Mass with her. She began to feel a little strange about his questions and his interest in the Mass. She felt even stranger when Mr. Smith knelt down inside the church, shut his eyes, and remained that way the rest of the Mass. When Mass ended, Mr. Smith did something even stranger. He got up and hurried outside the church, without even saying goodbye. The next day, when Anne went to clean his room, the little leather travel bag was gone. In its place was a small package with a note. She unfolded the note and read it. It went something like this:

“Dear Anne, The gift inside this box is for the beautiful thing you've done for me, without even knowing it. My marriage has been rather shaky lately—so much so that I finally told my wife that I was moving out for a few days to think things over. The more I thought, the more confused I got. Then you came along. Your beautiful faith in God touched me deeply. When I attended Mass with you, it was for the first time in ten years. During that Mass, God gave me an insight into my problem and the desire to stay with my wife. I'm going home grateful to God and grateful to you for being a shining light in a time when my world was very dark. I will never forget you for helping me rediscover my faith. -Mr. Smith.”

Inside the package was a gold chain with a beautiful gold cross attached to it. That story is a beautiful illustration of what Jesus meant in today's Gospel, when He said to His disciples: “You are the light of the world. Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Heavenly Father.”

May each of us follow that teenager's compelling witness this week and reach out to just two people who are not going to church and invite them to consider coming back.

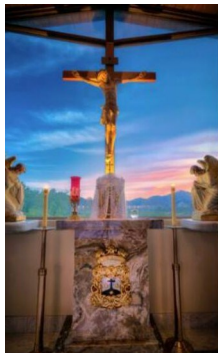
From Chapter Six of "Be Transformed: The Healing Power of the Sacraments" by Bob Schuchts (How Holy Orders Heals Wounds of Confusion) First Installment

Father Knows Best was a popular television show of my earliest memories. Championing traditional values, the show symbolized the American culture in which I was raised in the late 1950s and early 1960s. This excerpt from the book of Sirach (3:2-5) highlights the virtues of honor and respect for authority: “For the Lord sets a father in honor over his children and confirms a mother's authority over her sons. Those who honor their father atone for sins; they store up riches who respect their mother. When they pray, they are heard”

During my formative years, these words of wisdom from Sirach matched the world I experienced around me. I was taught to reverence God and honor his ordained authority. Expectations and roles, following this God-given order, remained clear at home, at church, and at school. Certainly not everyone lived these ideals perfectly in the 1950s, but the value of honoring authority remained unquestioned throughout the culture in most environments. Inside and outside the family, neither disrespect nor rebellion was tolerated, meeting with firm discipline whenever the boundaries of honor were violated. Among the Catholic faithful, the pope, bishops, and priests represented the hierarchy of authority, and thus garnered the highest honor and respect in our communities. (Continues weekly)

Women's Silent Retreat at El Carmelo

Please join the women of St. Therese Church for a Lenten Retreat at beautiful El Carmelo Retreat House in Redlands (926 East Highland Avenue) from **March 10 through 12**. **The retreat theme is "Peace and Mercy"**. The Single Room Rate is \$250 per person and the Double Room Rate (shared room) is \$220 per person. This year's Retreat Team consists of:



El Carmelo Retreat House
Redlands, California

"Peace & Mercy"
March 10 - 12

Fr. Gerald Werner, OCD, Superior | Fr. Robert Barcelos, OCD, Retreat Director
Fr. Jose Luis Ferroni, OCD | Fr. Bernard Perkins, OCD

Applications can be found at the church entrances. **For more information, please contact the Retreat Captain, Louisa Day, at (323) 360-5186.**

2022 Church Donation Report

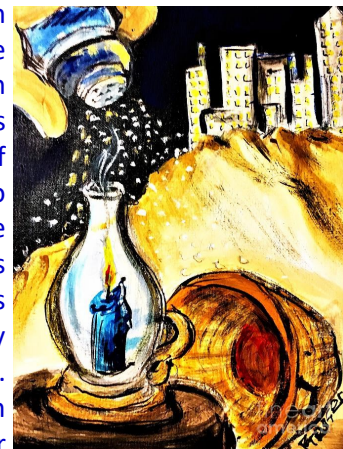


If you would like to receive an end-of-year report showing your donations for the year 2022, please send an email requesting it to 2022DonationStatement@gmail.com.

Learning How to Be Church

Following last week's passage from Matthew with the Beatitudes, today we continue Jesus' Sermon on the Mount with His images of salt, light, and a city. Jesus moves from describing the core identity of the community He has gathered to considering its impact on the world. He wanted His community not just to claim its identity, but to live it out. He wanted His community to journey with Him, to fully learn what this might mean.

For us, being salt for others may mean engaging and enriching the lives of our neighbors. Being light may mean illuminating and addressing the world's systems that sustain social sins of violence, racism, and vast inequalities of wealth and opportunity. Being a city set high may mean holding to high standards of transparency, respect, and care for each other. Like Jesus' first followers, we are invited to travel the difficult and joy-filled road of learning and re-learning how to be the Church.



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.



January 28 / 29, 2023

Unrestricted..... \$11,393.00
Restricted \$ 220.00
T O T A L.....\$11,613.00

Dec. 31 / Jan. 1 \$20,193.00
January 7 / 8 \$13,656.00
January 14 / 15 \$22,298.00
January 21 / 22 \$17,605.00

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



Saint Therese Carmelite School

Faith Academics Virtue

The Importance of Classical TK-2nd Excerpts from "Gravitas: The Lost Art of Taking School Seriously"
by Cheryl Lowe

We would do well to focus on the primary stage in order to see how we can improve instruction and build a better foundation for the trivium that follows. Having taught everything from phonics to Caesar, I can affirm that the skills acquired in the beginning years are of vital importance to the later years. If you are a high school teacher you probably experience every day the results of inattention to basic skills in K-2. Our students will not achieve the excellence we desire unless we come to a better appreciation of the primary school and recognize that life-long habits are formed there, good and bad.



Boys Basketball Team 3-0



The boys are off to a fantastic season! They are currently undefeated, having won games against 3 local schools. We look forward to the rest of their season. Go, Saints!



Did You Miss Our Open House?



You can still tour our school! Visit SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com/schedule-a-tour to schedule a visit and begin the admissions process.

1106 East Alhambra Road
Alhambra, California 91801

Support our Student Bake Sales!

Today, Sunday, February 5, the 3rd/4th Grade class will be hosting a treat sale after many of the Masses.

We appreciate your support of their sale!



(626) 289-3364

www.SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com

"The Flame of Love" Sessions



For all those interested—including those who have not attended any of our previous sessions—**we will continue to meet every Monday.** You may attend either in the afternoon or in the evening. The afternoon session is held in the Avila Room in the Parish Offices from Noon to 2:00 p.m.; and the evening session is held in the Parish Hall from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. The Flame of Love books are available for sale in the parish offices for \$10 each. If you have any questions or want more information, please call Maria Alejandra at (626) 282-2744. When the recording comes on, enter 1 + 235.



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The Real St. Therese



An installment from
*The Passion of Thérèse of
Lisieux* by Guy Faucher

On September 2, 1897, Therese fancied some roast meat and soup, but she ate the meat with distaste. She preferred a chocolate eclair which she had unexpectedly asked for. Sister Genevieve had passed on her chicken, and on the 16th, some artichokes that Mme. Guerin had brought along specially. In that late Summer, Therese showed interest in the fruit and flowers. On August 11th she still had enough strength to weave two crowns out of cornflowers for the Virgin of the Smile. It was also for Mary that she wrote four lines in ink with a trembling hand—they were the last lines that she was ever to write.

On Friday, September 10, Dr. de Corniere made his first visit since he had gone away and said he was “puzzled” by her physical state. The following day, her condition deteriorated.

The beginning of the end (17 - 30 September) - A. The continued deterioration of the left lung: “This is a bad sign,” said Dr. de Corniere when he saw the recurrence of swelling in Therese's feet on September 12. On the 14th, he gave her about fifteen days to live. This time he was right; she was so weak that when the strong Sister Aimee of Jesus lifted her up in her arms while the bed was being remade, it was feared she would die. Yet, until the very end, Therese was to baffle everyone. On the afternoon of Saturday, September 18, she had a new lease on life. She showed interest in the altar cloth that Sister Genevieve was embroidering beside her bed. She admired the bright red Virginia creeper that was climbing up above the chestnut trees. She was pleased when she saw her features reflected in the chalice of Father Denis who celebrated his first Mass there on September 19.

The next day, Mother Marie de Gonzague was asked to come and see the patient's extreme thinness. She was very shocked and said: “Who is this little girl who is so thin?” Therese, who could still joke, replied, “A skeleton.” However, the following day she asked: “What is this agony? It seems to me I'm in it all the time!” These days brought with them intense suffering and a crisis caused by the extreme difficulty she had in breathing. The escalation continued, with the tuberculosis attacking the remaining part of the left lung. Therese could only express herself by signs. The doctor could not understand how she was still living. On the Sunday before she died, she said: “My life hangs only on a thin thread.” How could she in fact live on when her lungs were gone? She was heard to cry out, “Mama! Earth's air is denied me; when will God grant me the air of heaven?” This time she had indeed reached the end of the road.

"John the Plunger"

The power and gifts of the Holy Spirit became manifest in Jesus' public ministry. It began when Jesus Himself was filled with the Holy Spirit at His baptism in the Jordan River. John the Baptist had appeared in the desert, calling the people to repentance and baptizing them as a sign of cleansing from sin. John did not seek



to draw attention to himself but to the One who was to come. He cried out, “I baptize you with water, but He who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire” (Luke 3:16).

The meaning of the word “baptize” is key to understanding John's message. Long before it became a Christian word, baptize was an ordinary Greek word. It meant to “plunge into water, immerse, soak, drench.” To his contemporaries, the title “John the Baptist” literally meant “John the Plunger.” His message was, in effect, **“I am plunging you into the Jordan River as a sign of repentance, but this is only a preparation for the far greater immersion the Messiah will give you. He is going to plunge you into the Holy Spirit. He is going to inundate you with the very life of God!”**

John was surprised when Jesus Himself came to him to be baptized (Matthew 3:14). As the Son of God, Jesus was sinless; He did not need to repent for anything. Why, then, did He undergo John's baptism? It was Jesus' way of totally accepting the Father's plan: that He would be counted among sinners and would bear the penalty for sin. In humility, Jesus chose to be in solidarity with sinners, knowing that his decision would lead to the cross.

As soon as Jesus came up from the water, the Holy Spirit descended on Him “in bodily form, like a dove” (Luke 3:22). He would baptize people in the Spirit because He Himself had been baptized in the Spirit. At the same moment, God's voice was heard from Heaven: **“You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”**

Mass Intentions

February 4, 2022—February 11, 2023

Saturday evening:

5:00 p.m.: Elayne Hoh, INT

Sunday:

*7:30 a.m. (Carmel): All Humanity, INT

7:30 a.m.: Parishioners

9:00 a.m.: Steven Jay Smuckler, RIP

11:00 a.m.: Mika Mendez, INT

1:00 p.m.: Marilyn & Josef Blunsch, RIP

5:00 p.m.: Aidan Kruz, INT

Monday:

6:00 a.m.: Francis Sy, Sr., Birthday INT

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

8:00 a.m.: Stefan Hendra Rahardja, RIP

7:00 p.m.: Neal Parker, RIP

Tuesday:

6:00 a.m.: Madison Magee, RIP

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

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

7:00 p.m.: Stefan Hendra Rahardja, RIP

Wednesday:

6:00 a.m.: Ruth Laigo, Birthday INT

*7:30 a.m.: Sarah, James, Jim, Jr., Bobby Bria, RIP

8:00 a.m.: David Salgado, RIP

7:00 p.m.: Stefan Hendra Rahardja, RIP

Thursday:

6:00 a.m.: Stefan Hendra Rahardja, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Grace Lowenberg, INT

8:00 a.m.: Sebastian Goh, Birthday INT

7:00 p.m.: Jim Tierney, RIP

Friday:

6:00 a.m.: Gonzalo Torres, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Fr. Daniel McSweeney, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Jay Shower, RIP

7:00 p.m.: Angel Avalos, RIP

Saturday Morning:

*7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Community

8:00 a.m.: Bro. Jason Parrott, OCD, INT

*Held at the Cloistered Carmelite Chapel.

The Carmel's Chapel is open
to the public every day except
Sundays and major holidays.

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. Monday evening Mass are live streamed on Facebook AND YouTube. Links to those two sites are on our website's home page (in the top left column).

Quiet Listening Prayer

The Interior Castle: The Fourth Mansion

By St. Teresa of Avila

"Anyone who is conscious that this is happening within himself should give God great praise, for he will be very right to recognize what a favor it is; and the thanksgiving which he makes for it will prepare him for greater favors. One preparation for listening to Him, as certain books



tell us, is that we should contrive, not to use our reasoning powers, but to be intent upon discovering what the Lord is working in the soul; if His Majesty has not begun to grant us absorption, I cannot understand how we can cease thinking in any way which will not bring us more harm than profit, although this has been a matter of continual discussion among spiritual persons. For my own part, I confess my lack of humility, but their arguments have never seemed to me good enough to lead me to accept what they say" (3, 4).

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support one another and our loved ones who have same sex attraction, and gender confusion, through discussion, prayer, fellowship and sacrifice. Meetings are held monthly with our chaplain in a safe confidential setting. You don't have to make this journey alone. Go to the website, www.couragerc.org or contact your local chapter:

EnCourage (for parents):

EnCourage.LosAngeles@gmail.com

EnCourage (for Spanish speakers):

EnCourageLatino.LosAngeles@gmail.com

Courage LA (for persons who

struggle with SSA or gender confusion):

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