

St. Therese Catholic Church

January 9, 2022

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—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



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

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 X112

After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, Heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form, like a dove. And a Voice came from Heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

—Luke 3:21-22

ST. THERESE CARMELITE SCHOOL

(626) 289-3364

www.SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com

Principal: Alma Cornejo X661

principal@saintthersecarmeliteschool.com



SACRAMENTS

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

FROM OUR PASTOR



**Blessed Feast of the Baptism of the Lord
Jesus Christ and continued Epiphany
blessings all the way to February 2nd!!!**

Do you know the day of your own Baptism?? (mine is July 19th). And do you celebrate it with family and friends?? If you don't, then this Feast of Jesus' Baptism won't mean much. He didn't let John baptize Him for His own sake, but to cleanse and free us from sin and death, and to give us access and intimacy with the Father in the Spirit as His beloved sons and

daughters. The more you and I appreciate, celebrate, live out our baptismal identity as beloved sons and daughters, the more we will experience this supernatural life that is already ours!!!

We want to make this mission statement from Encounter Ministries (held on Mondays from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., at St. Philip the Apostle Church in Pasadena) our own here at St Therese Church: **"Drawing from the riches of our Catholic identity [as beloved baptized daughters and sons who regularly experience their Father's love for them], we teach, equip, and activate disciples to demonstrate that love of the Father through His Son Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit."** In other words, we no longer have to settle for a natural life of "I need/want to do A, B, C, so that I can have X, Y, Z, and then one day, hopefully, I'll be loved and accepted and finally be somebody special." We can—right now—enjoy a supernatural relationship and intimacy with the Trinity, and from that, have a supernatural Joy and Peace, and from that, do all kinds of things that help others experience Jesus. "I already am totally special, and have/enjoy supernatural Peace, and then do things to release that same Peace of Jesus in others." (By the way, recently a young man shared with me that he was on the phone with his mother while driving up the 110 Freeway, and she was telling him about some of her usual chronic back pain. Right then and there, he trusted in his baptismal authority over disease and pain, and asked his mother if she would like some prayer for the pain. She said, "Yes, I believe that Jesus wants to help me!" And, so, he prayed with her in the Name of Jesus over the phone and her chronic pain went away. I can't remember if he said "completely away" or "almost completely away". Either way, she experienced a huge amount of relief, thanks to her son praying with her over the phone...in the Name of Jesus!

Here is another way of looking at our fundamental identity (from the Liturgy of the Hours' Morning Prayer antiphon of Epiphany): **"Today the Bridegroom claims His Bride, the Church, since Christ has washed her sins away in Jordan's waters; the Magi hasten with their gifts to the royal wedding; and the wedding guests rejoice, for Christ has changed water into wine, alleluia."** Did you catch that? Jesus, speaking through His Church's Liturgy, is saying, "My Baptism, My being honored by the Magi, and My changing water into wine at Cana... well, it's all about YOU and My desire to have YOU as My Bride, if you are willing! What do you say? Would you like a life with Me that will be better than the best marriage that you could possibly imagine, and a life that is meant to begin NOW, not just after this life?? Will you have Me as your Spouse?"

So, then, our identity is not only one of beloved daughters and sons, but *spouses* of the Blessed Trinity! Doesn't that send a thrill through your whole body?! It will if you allow yourself to trust that God doesn't lie, but wants you to take Him absolutely seriously, no matter what your gender, profession, age, or state in life might be!!!

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

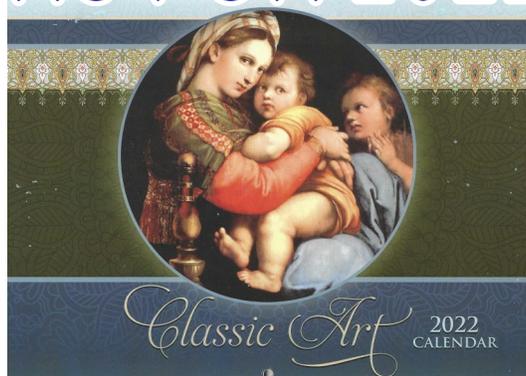
OFFICES TEMPORARILY CLOSED

Due to an increase in local Covid cases (including people who are associated with this office), we have made a decision to temporarily CLOSE the offices. This will last at least until January 18th but possibly longer, depending upon the situation at the time.

If you'd like to schedule Masses, request copies of sacramental certificates, or conduct any other church-related business, please call us at (626) 282-2744, ext. 0. Anything you need to pick up will be left on the TABLE TO YOUR LEFT. You may put anything you need to give us into the SLOT TO THE RIGHT OF THIS DOOR. Check our website for information about scheduling a funeral, a wedding, or a baptism. Thank you for your understanding... STAY SAFE!

CHURCH CALENDARS FOR 2022

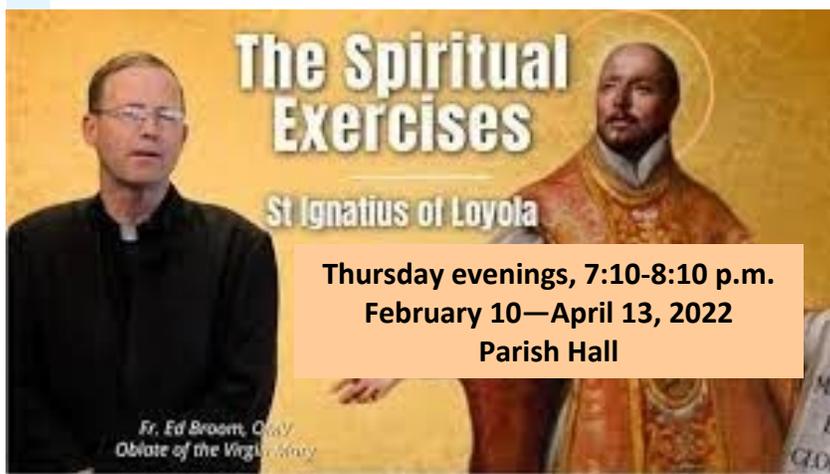
Thanks to the generosity of Pierce Brothers, Turner & Stevens Mortuary, we have received a limited supply of church calendars for 2022. You can find these on the tables in the church... PLEASE, one per family! If they have all been taken before you can pick one up, call the office (626-282-2744) to arrange for one to be left for you on the table on the front porch of the offices.



SPIRITUAL EXERCISES OF ST. IGNATIUS

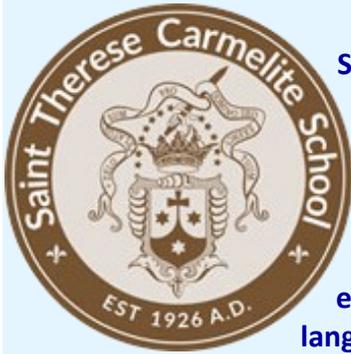
You are invited to attend this FREE ten-week course, conducted by Fr. Ed Broom. It will be held in our Parish Hall on Thursday evenings from **February 10 through April 13**

from **7:10 to 8:10 p.m.** each evening (following the 7:00 p.m. Mass). **You MUST pre-register** by sending an email to **StcLENT2022@gmail.com** (include your name and your phone number). If you don't have email, leave a voice mail with Maria Alejandra by calling (626) 282-2744, ext. 1—235.



SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

COME AND SEE WHAT OUR SCHOOL IS ABOUT!



Saint Theresse Carmelite School and the Carmelite friars invite you to attend the School's OPEN HOUSE on **Sunday, January 30th**. Start your tour in the Parish Hall anytime between the hours of **10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.** on that Sunday.

Saint Theresse Carmelite School, founded in 1926, is first and foremost a Catholic School, educating our students through the Catholic Classical model of education, which equips our students with the logic, critical thinking, and language skills necessary for them to succeed throughout their lives. In addition, they attend a weekly Mass, have monthly confession, and learn Spanish (TK-2nd Grade), Latin (3rd—8th Grade), Euclidean geometry, and fine arts. They can also participate in an all-School choir, CYO sports, and after-School care.

For more information, please visit their website at www.SaintTheresseCarmeliteSchool.com.

(626) 289-3364

admin@SaintTheresseCarmeliteSchool.com

Principal: Mrs. Alma Cornejo, ext. 661



FLYERS IN THE CHURCH

Please do NOT post or remove any flyers in the church without first getting permission by the Parish Staff or by Fr Thomas. For the second time, we have had some flyers removed from the vestibule that had been posted there by Fr. Thomas. No one has the right to do this; doing so is tantamount to destruction of property, which is a serious offense.

Your cooperation and respect will be much appreciated.

THEOLOGY OF THE BODY

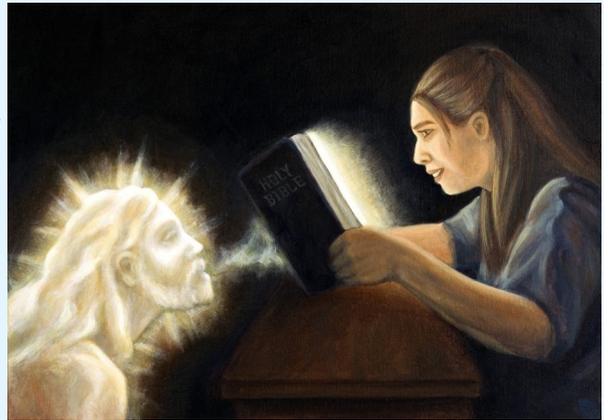
Everyone is invited to come and learn more about St. John Paul's Theology of the Body by attending this series (facilitated by Fr. Thomas). We meet on the SECOND and FOURTH Fridays of each month from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., in the Guadalupe Courtyard of the Parish Offices (NEXT is January 14). Included in the series is audio, video, and Power Point presentations, as well as discussion and prayer. You are also welcome to join us VIA ZOOM. **The Personal Meeting ID Number is 846 381 4560 and the Passcode is yaCsG6.**

FROM TODAY'S FIRST READING: A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; the rugged land shall be made a plain; the rough country, a broad valley. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken (Isaiah 40:3-5).



JESUS' GIFT FOR YOU...

Let's explore what St. Luke says about the gifts in his second volume, the book of Acts. Luke's record reinforces what Paul says about the gifts in his epistles, although there is a difference in emphasis. Paul and Luke look at the work of the Holy Spirit through two different lenses. While Paul focuses mostly on the Holy Spirit's inner work of sanctification and His role in relation to our new life in Christ, Luke focuses mostly on the Holy Spirit's bestowing of power for ministry. Our theology of the Holy Spirit is enriched when we allow both of these emphases to speak, rather than when we try to conform the Spirit's activity to only one or the other.



At the beginning of Acts, we find Jesus giving instruction to His disciples about the promised Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4-8). The disciples are operating in their own strength, but they will receive power from the Holy Spirit to be witnesses of the Gospel, testifying to all the known world, with miracles accompanying. Their commission has been enlarged, and they will carry it out filled with courage and zeal and all the gifts necessary to accomplish the task set before them.

Jesus' promise is fulfilled soon afterward, at Pentecost, when the 120 disciples are gathered in the Upper Room in Jerusalem (Acts 2:1-4). Some of those present—the apostles—had already received the Holy Spirit on the night of the resurrection, when Jesus breathed on them and said, "As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you... Receive the Holy Spirit" (John 20:21-22). For the others who had not been present that night, the Upper Room was their initial filling with the Spirit. The coming of the Spirit was marked by audiovisual phenomena: the sound of the blowing of a mighty wind (an audible experience), the fire that separated into what looked like tongues that came and rested on each of them (a visual experience), and the experience of speaking in languages they had not learned, as enabled by the Spirit. The overwhelming divine life and power brought by the Holy Spirit made the disciples appear as if they were drunk.

Peter addressed the crowd, explaining that the outpouring of the Spirit was the fulfillment of prophecy spoken by the prophet Joel (Acts 2:14; Joel 2:28-32). At the end of his Pentecost sermon, Peter gave the command to repent and be baptized in order to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. He concluded by saying that this gift is **"for you and for your children and for all who are far off—everyone whom the Lord our God calls to Himself"** (Acts 2:39), which means it was not just for those in the first generation of the Church.

*(From **The Spiritual Handbook**, pp 68-69—for sale in the Parish office)*

FORMED: THE CATHOLIC FAITH ON DEMAND



Fr. Thomas has purchased a subscription to the Catholic media website, *FORMED*, as a gift for Our Parish. PLEASE be sure to make use of it and share it with your family. This "True Catholic" streaming service has so much to offer for Catholics of all ages, and will bring you and your family closer to our Faith.

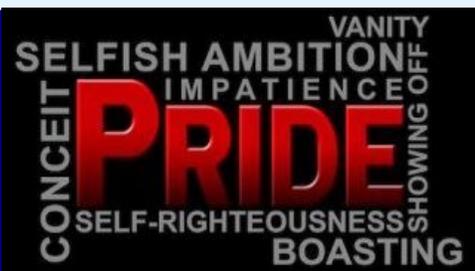
To get started, go to our website home page and scroll down to find the logo in the center column. Click on the image and then enter your name, your email address, a password, and your zip code—and get started enjoying movies, programs, talks, audio dramas, and popular e-books—all just a link away!

Fasting from the Sin of Pride

PAUSE TO HEAR GOD SPEAK:

"To believe one does not need
counsel is a great pride."
-St. Basil the Great

"He has shown might with his
arm, dispersed the arrogant
of mind and heart. He has
thrown down the rulers from their
thrones but lifted up the lowly."
-Luke 1:51-52



Today, I choose to fast from the sin
of pride. Wouldn't it be great to wake
up every morning and feel the love of
God penetrating every part of you,
knowing that He loves you to the core
of your being? I don't know about you,
but that's not exactly how it works for
me. Instead, it's all too easy to feel

alone. Rather than feeling like a beloved child, we feel like orphans who have to make our way in a hostile world. Our response to these deep feelings can be both powerful and destructive because of how quickly we replace the confidence that we long to receive from God with a shallow confidence in ourselves. Our thoughts, beliefs, and emotions tell us, "You don't need anybody," "You don't need help," and "You can do this on your own." Instead of depending on God, we depend on ourselves and our own strength.

St. Thomas Aquinas calls pride "the love of one's own excellence" (Summa, II:II:162). The loud, bombastic egotist is an obvious caricature of a person, but pride is equally at home inside our quiet piety, false humility, and self-reliance. You can see pretty quickly why St. Gregory the Great, and St. Thomas Aquinas after him, considered pride to be the queen of all vices. Let's take a few minutes to see the ways in which we let pride into our lives as we try to save ourselves instead of trusting ourselves to God.

Take time to ask yourself ... In what ways am I prideful? How does my pride affect my view of God?

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



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 1 / 2 , 2022	
Unrestricted.....	\$1,640.00
Restricted	\$ 5,000.00
TOTAL.....	\$6,640.00

December 4/5.....	\$17,540.00
December 11/12	\$31,382.00
December 18/19	\$26,602.00
December 25/26	\$24,261.00

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

Mass Intentions

January 8 to 15, 2022

Saturday evening:

5:00 p.m.: Eliseo Tan, RIP

Sunday:

*7:30 a.m.: Xuan Mao Thi Nhu, RIP

7:30 a.m.: Parishioners

9:00 a.m.: Alicia Guadalupe Ortega, RIP

11:00 a.m.: Sisi Shum, RIP

1:00 p.m.: Gabriel Avalos, RIP

5:00 p.m.: McAllister Family, INT

Monday:

6:00 a.m.: Luisa Lapidario, INT

*7:30 a.m.: Alvin Cailan, B-Day INT

8:00 a.m.: Rosie Zamora, RIP

7:00 p.m.: Donor's Intention

Tuesday:

6:00 a.m.: Valerie Miranda, INT

*7:30 a.m.: Aurora Garcia, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Maria Elena Arando Paredes, RIP

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

Wednesday:

6:00 a.m.: Souls in Purgatory

*7:30 a.m.: Emma Lowenberg, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Isabelle Romero, RIP

7:00 p.m.: John Torres, RIP

Thursday:

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

*7:30 a.m.: Peace in All Humanity

8:00 a.m.: Therese H. Nguyen, B-Day INT

7:00 p.m.: Souls in Purgatory

Friday:

6:00 a.m.: The Ramirez Family, INT

*7:30 a.m.: Dec'd Religious, Relatives, and Beneficiaries of the Discalced Carmelite Order

8:00 a.m.: In Honor of St. Jude

for the Souls in Purgatory, RIP

Saturday Morning

*7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Community

8:00 a.m.: Stephanie Zamora, INT

***Held at the Cloistered Carmelite Chapel, 215 E Alhambra Road, Alhambra, California
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Monday through Saturday**

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 Living Flame of Love*

By St. John of the Cross

(Guidance = "God, You I Dance," for entering into contemplative prayer).

Therefore, directors should not impose meditation on persons in this state, nor should they oblige them to make acts or strive for satisfaction and fervor. Such activity would place an obstacle in the path of the principal agent who, as I say, is God, who secretly and quietly inserts in the soul loving wisdom and



knowledge, without specified acts; although sometimes He makes specific ones in the soul for a certain length of time. Thus individuals also should proceed only with a loving attention to God, without making specific acts. They should conduct themselves passively, as we have said, without efforts of their own but with the simple, loving awareness, as when opening one's eyes with loving attention.

Since God, then, as the Giver communes with individuals through a simple, loving knowledge, they also—as the receivers—commune with God through a simple and loving knowledge or attention, so knowledge is thus joined with knowledge and love with love. The receiver should act according to the mode of what is received, and not otherwise, in order to receive and keep it in the way it is given. For, as the philosophers say: "Whatever is received is received according to the mode of the receiver." It is obvious that if persons do not lay aside their natural active mode, they will not receive that good except in a natural mode; thus they will not receive it, but will remain only with their natural act. For the supernatural does not fit into the natural mode, nor does it have anything to do with it. If individuals should, then, desire to act on their own through an attitude different from the passive loving attention we mentioned, in which they would remain very passive and tranquil without making any act unless God would unite himself with them in some act, they would utterly hinder the goods God communicates supernaturally to them in the loving knowledge. This loving knowledge is communicated in the beginning through the exercise of interior purgation, in which the individual suffers, as we said, and afterward in the delight of love (Stanza III, Nos. 33-34).

Deaths

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

† Miguel Fernandez

† Chee-Ling Woo

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For further information, please call the Parish Office.



HAVE YOU REMEMBERED YOUR PARISH OR SCHOOL IN YOUR WILL OR TRUST?

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