

St. Therese Catholic Church

December 19, 2021 **Ministered by the Discalced Carmelite Friars** Est. 1924

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

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

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

...Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb" (Luke 1:41-42).



Fourth Sunday of Advent



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

Continued blessed watching and waiting for the Coming of the Lord—for all three Persons!!! (now, right in this moment especially, at the end of time/the end of our personal life on this planet, AND 2000 years ago in Bethlehem)!

Thank you to *Sanctitas* for hosting the Adoration of Jesus in our church two nights ago, especially for the young adults in our region. In five days it will be *Christmas Eve of the Year of Grace 2022*, and so we are getting ourselves ready to give our Lord a Christmas present—it is His Birthday after all! As with any gift selection, especially for THIS Person, we want to give something that will be really meaningful to HIM, right? Not just any old gift, nor something that we think is special, but a gift that HE thinks is special! Like Dani D'Angelo's gift in the story below (*see box below).



Of course, a gift He always thinks is wonderful is for each of us to pray with others, especially family members at home, even for physical healing. And don't worry if you don't see immediate results... Prayer is an art; you get better at it by practicing it more, like Michael Jordan shooting 500 free throws every day for years, until his free throw and jump shot success became legendary.

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

The Gift of Quitting by Dani D'Angelo

I began smoking in 1960 when I was just twelve years old. By sixteen, I was given permission to smoke in the house. I am one of those people who does things in excess, so it was not long before I was smoking two packs a day. In my forties, I got breast cancer and had a mastectomy. The first thing I wanted after surgery was a cigarette. During my entire hospital stay, I spent much of my time going downstairs and outside for cigarettes. I went through eight and a half grueling months of chemotherapy but still did not quit smoking.

When I was about forty-five, I had to get by on disability with no child support for my three children. Yet, somehow, I still found the money for my cigarettes. As Christmas approached, I was flat broke and very depressed. Fortunately, one of the local churches sponsored families for Christmas, and we were picked —so my children would have presents after all. I was extremely grateful, but I was still not in a festive mood. I did not have the heart for our traditional Advent preparations that year.

On Christmas morning, my little boy asked me what I was giving the Baby Jesus for His birthday. I was crushed as I had done nothing. I had not baked our customary birthday cake for Baby Jesus, nor had we stored up our good deeds to fill the manger with straw, like in years past.

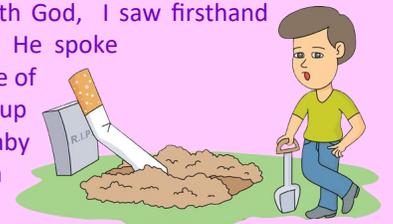
I felt bad, but the look on my son's face told me he felt worse. The next thing out of my mouth surprised even me. "I know!," I said impulsively. "I will give Baby Jesus my smoking habit. The whole thing: the cigarettes, the lighters, the cravings, the crabbiness, the ashtrays—everything about smoking is what I am giving to Baby Jesus."

He was delighted and ran to tell his sister. They were filled with such joy, while I sat stunned at what I had just done. I was obsessed with cigarettes, yet I had just told my son that I was giving up something as a gift to the Baby Jesus. Was I nuts? Could I do it? "No way," I thought. But I knew that to break such a promise to my son would haunt us both for years to come. I needed a miracle. "Look, Jesus," I prayed. "I am sorry for jumping the gun, but I made this promise to my child. Now I need you to help me keep it." Suddenly I was filled with a deep sense of sureness. The kids and I had a ball going from room to room collecting everything to do with cigarettes. There were packs hidden everywhere—five in the freezer alone!

We took the cigarettes, lighters, and ashtrays and either gave or threw them away. Then I went from room to room taking down curtains and cleaning them. I washed walls, ceilings, clothing, and everything else I could find—from Christmas morning until well into the new year. Each time I saw a smoker, I privately thanked God for taking away my habit. Then, I asked Him to do the same for the other person. I still do that to this day. I has been nine years and I have never had so much as a single craving since.

That was my Christmas miracle, and it changed my life completely. I learned that when we step out in faith, everything is possible with God, I saw firsthand what Jesus meant when He spoke

about having faith the size of a mustard seed. I gave up smoking as a gift to Baby Jesus but, in turn, it was a gift He gave to me.





*We Wish You
A Blessed Christmas!*

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULES

Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession
 Wednesday, December 22: 8:00 p.m.

Masses for the Solemnity of Christmas

Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24:

- 1) 5:00 p.m. (Family Mass);
- 2) 7:30 p.m. (Simple Mass);
- 3) *10:30 p.m. (Traditional Choir)
 (*This is our "Midnight Mass")

(Carols will begin at approximately 10:00 p.m.)

Christmas Day, Saturday, December 25:

7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.
 and 1:00 p.m. Latin High Mass

Sunday, December 26, Feast of the Holy Family:

7:30, 9:00, 11:00 a.m.,
 1:00 p.m. Latin Mass And 5:00 p.m.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God:

New Year's Eve, Friday, December 31: 7:00 p.m. Vigil
 New Year's Day, Saturday, January 1: 10:00 a.m.



"LET EVERY BABY'S LIGHT SHINE" TREE



Please take a star from the “Let Every Baby's Light Shine” Christmas tree! Our

Vox Vitae teens worked hard to prepare the star ornaments on the tree in order to assist Los Angeles Pregnancy Services (LAPS). This pregnancy center has nine abortion businesses within one mile of it. Let us help them as they work to help the mothers in need!

Praised be Jesus Christ! **LAPS has saved over 135 babies from abortion this year!** As we joyfully prepare to celebrate the birth of Our Lord and Savior, let us also assist mothers who have said “Yes” to Life. The “Let Every Baby's Light Shine” Christmas tree has star ornaments on it, each of which has baby items written on it—items needed to help mothers who considered abortion, but instead said “Yes” to Life. **Please take a tag from the tree and purchase the listed items and then place them (unwrapped!) under the Christmas tree by the end of the year.** These items will then be delivered by Vox Vitae teens to LAPS the first week of the New Year. God bless you for caring!

COMFORT AND SALVATION

All of today's Scriptures seem to declare Christmas' "comfort and joy." Micah declares that, as small as Bethlehem is, the Child born there will bring peace that "shall reach to the ends of the earth." Hebrews proclaims that, despite pain and suffering, the "offering of the Body of Jesus Christ" saves us all. Mary, bearing the Christ Child within her, immediately, sets aside her own concerns and travels four days in haste, over dangerous terrain, from Nazareth to Ain-Karem, to assist her cousin Elizabeth. Then, just as David leapt and danced before the ancient Ark of the Covenant that bore precious signs of God's presence, so John leaps in Elizabeth's womb as Mary arrives, a living ark bearing God's living presence. Elizabeth joyfully greets Mary: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." She adds, "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." Likewise, we may dare hope to be "blessed" for "believing that what was spoken" to us "by the Lord"—Jesus' promise of mercy—will be fulfilled as we share God's mercy with everyone. To whom, or to what situation, do we need to bear Christ this Christmas? Indeed, throughout the year, how selflessly do we set our own concerns aside? How eagerly—"in haste"—do we, disregarding difficulties, traverse whatever dangerous terrain needs conquering to be of service to another?



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS



Christmas Flower Offering envelopes can be found in the pews. Please use one to make a donation to help us decorate the altar for the Christmas Masses. Your loved ones, living or deceased, who are enrolled on these envelopes will be remembered in a Mass celebrated on Monday evening, February 21, at 7:00 p.m.

SCHOOL NEWS

CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS VACATION:

The School is closed for the Christmas holidays until Monday, January 3.



Fasting from the Wound of Double-Mindedness

PAUSE TO HEAR GOD SPEAK:

"That person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord, since he is a man of two minds, unstable in all his ways."

James 1:7-8

"So submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you of two minds."

James 4:7-8

Today, I choose to fast from the wound of double-mindedness. Wherever you are right now, take a few seconds to look directly in front of you. Now, while still looking straight ahead, turn around and look behind you. It's impossible! You cannot look ahead and behind at the same time. Yet, this is what it feels like to be double-minded. The original Greek meaning of the term is "two selves" or "two souls." You might feel in and out, wanting and not wanting, committed and then hesitating, or wanting one thing and then another. This is an emotionally exhausting kind of confusion. We are in conflict with ourselves and unable to choose a direction. We feel unsteady. While the Scriptures encourage us to be steadfast, resolute, and to set our "face like flint" (Is 50:7), we are unable to pick a direction. Double-mindedness leaves us vulnerable to doubt and undercuts our faith. Now that we know how to recognize dm in our lives, let's take some time to reflect on how we can combat it.

Take time to ask yourself ...

When do I experience restlessness and conflict inside myself? How do I deal with being double-minded?



Pray slowly... Heavenly Father, In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I renounce double-mindedness and repent all the ways in which I have sinned because of it, particularly the ways in which I have not drawn closer to you and have been unstable in my love for you. I reject double-mindedness in every area of my life. I renounce any lies that I have come to believe, including lies such as "I can't make up my mind" or "It won't work out anyway." I renounce any companion emotions such as confusion. Send your Holy Spirit to speak the truth to my heart that I may have the "mind of Christ" (1Cor 2:16). Amen.

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

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.

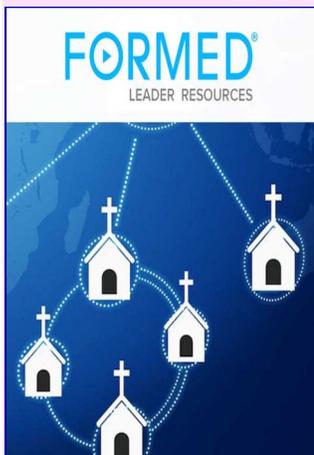


The totals for the weekend of December 11 / 12 will be available in the bulletin of December 26th.

November 13/14.....	\$28,916.00
November 20/21.....	\$17,923.00
November 27/28.....	\$13,078.00
December 4/5.....	\$17,540.00

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

FORMED: THE CATHOLIC FAITH ON DEMAND



Fr. Thomas has purchased 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 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!

"...BY THE HANDS OF ST. PAUL"

Luke gives us one more account of an outpouring of the Spirit, this time on twelve “disciples” at Ephesus in Acts 19. Many biblical scholars hold that these twelve were not actually Christians, but disciples of John the Baptist. Since they seem to have known little of Jesus, they may not actually have heard the Baptist himself, but only some of his followers who did not preach the same message as John. (John's preaching did mention Jesus and the Spirit.) When Paul realized the twelve men had not received or even heard of the Holy Spirit, he explained to them that John's baptism was preparatory to believing in Jesus. Then they were baptized, receiving the new birth in Christ. They had yet to have the Holy Spirit come upon them. It was when Paul laid his hands on them that the Spirit came upon them and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. It is clear that fr Luke, when the Spirit comes on people, there is a visible manifestation. Whether it be speaking in tongues, prophesying, praising, or preaching boldly, there always seems to be a verbal manifestation.

In Ephesus, as in every city he visited, Paul's pattern was to preach to Jews first, then to Gentiles. Luke makes the amazing statement that “this continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks” (Acts 19:10). If one were to ask how this could have happened in just two years, the next verses could be the answer: **“and God was doing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, so that even handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched his skin were carried away to the sick, and their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them”** (verses 11-12). this is the only reference in Acts to “extraordinary” miracles, and it gives insight into the meaning of the phrase “the hand of the Lord was with them” (Acts 11:21). This great evangelistic campaign, probably the greatest in the book of Acts, was characterized by power.

These extraordinary miracles continue today. I have witnessed them personally. I have seen people with necrotic tissue and destroyed limbs be completely healed. I have seen sight be restored to an eye that had no optic nerve, and I have seen miracles where the corneas and pupils of both eyes destroyed by muriatic acid were recreated and sight was restored. I have seen stroke victims be completely healed and paranoid schizophrenia be verifiably healed. In Mozambique God has raised people from the dead, causing whole villages to turn to Jesus, believe the Gospel, and receive Baptism (pp. 76-78).

(From *The Spiritual Handbook*, pp 76-78, for sale in the Parish office)



Mass Intentions

December 18–December 25, 2021

Saturday:

5:00 p.m.: Annette & Pablo Saucillo INT

Sunday

*7:30 a.m.: Carm Nuns Christmas Novena 7
 7:30 a.m.: Paul & Elena Saucillo, INT
 9:00 a.m.: John Benedict Odonon, B-Day INT
 11:00 a.m.: Bessie Lahoz, B-Day INT
 1:00 p.m.: Skylar Villareal, INT
 5:00 p.m.: Parishioners

Monday:

6:00 a.m.: Fr. Jan Lundberg, B-Day INT
 *7:30 a.m.: Virgilio Lopez, B-Day INT
 8:00 a.m.: Maria Concepcion Aguilar
 7:00 p.m.: Setiawan Lay, RIP

Tuesday:

6:00 a.m.: Maria Elena Paredes, RIP
 *7:30 a.m.: Sr. Teresita, OCD, B-Day INT
 8:00 a.m.: Tomas & Zeferina Gonzalez, RIP
 7:00 p.m.: Magdalena Gomez, RIP

Wednesday:

6:00 a.m.: Fr. Bernard Perkins, B-Day INT
 *7:30 a.m.: Fr. Bernard Perkins, B-Day INT
 8:00 a.m.: Christian Joshua Ng, INT
 7:00 p.m.: Lopez, Mena, Zavala Families INT

Thursday:

6:00 a.m.: Augustine Goh, RIP
 *7:30 a.m.: Carm Nuns Christmas Novena 8
 8:00 a.m.: Philip Yan, RIP
 7:00 p.m.: Kyle Dennison, INT

Christmas Eve (Friday):

6:00 a.m.: Francis Goh, INT
 *7:30 a.m.: Carm. Nuns Christmas Nov. 9
 8:00 a.m.: Losorelli Family, INT
 5:00 p.m.: Christina Torres, INT
 7:30 p.m.: Fr. Joseph Clauss, RIP
 10:30 p.m.: Thompson Family, INT

Christmas Day (Saturday):

7:30 a.m.: Therese Hong Nguyen & Family INT
 *9:30 a.m.: Carmelite Community/
 Arenas-Ortega Family
 9:00 a.m.: Thompson Family, INT
 11:00 a.m.: Cailan Family, INT
 1:00 p.m.: (Latin): Archbishop Jose Gomez, INT
 5:00 p.m.: No Mass

*Held at the Cloistered Carmelite Chapel,
 215 E Alhambra Rd
 OPEN TO THE PUBLIC Mon.-Sat.

LIVE STREAMED

MASSES:

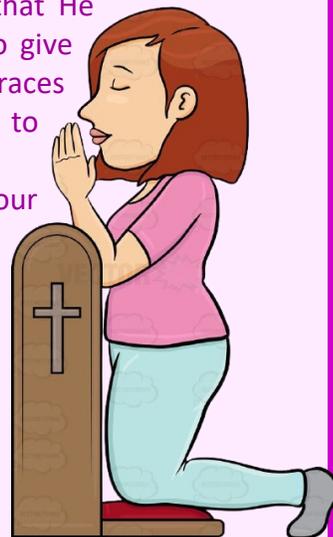
The 8:00 a.m. Daily Mass (Monday—Saturday), the 11:00 a.m. Sunday Mass, and the 7:00 p.m. weekday Masses are live streamed on Facebook AND YouTube (for those unable to attend due to illness, etc.).

Links to those two sites are on our website's home page (in the top left column).

Quiet Listening Prayer

When you come to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass during the rich, beautiful days of Christmas, here are some tips for a deeper encounter with the Lord Jesus:

- 1) Remind yourself that He is always trying to give you gifts and graces and, especially, to give you Himself;
- 2) Your job is try your best to receive what He is trying to give you;
- 3) Say to Him, "Lord, please help me to receive all that You want to give me right now";
- 4) During the times of silence in the Mass, just try gently breathing out more deeply from your diaphragm/belly and then breathing in slowly the Holy Name of Jesus;
- 5) If that is a total struggle and not at all enjoyable, then go to some other form of prayer that you like during the silence, e.g., after Communion, open up the missal and go back to the Mass readings and slowly start reading one of them again, until your heart engages with a particular word or phrase; or slowly begin praying a decade of the Joyful Mysteries, without worrying about whether you finish it or not.



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