

SAINT THERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

December 20, 2020 MINISTERED BY THE DISCALCED CARMELITE FRIARS Estab. 1924

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: Deacon Joseph Mizerski X333;

Deacon Gilbert Vargas X333

Annulments: Lorraine Mizerski X333

Vocations:

For the Carmelites: www.discalcedcarmelitefriars.com

For the Archdiocese: (213) 637-7515

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SAINT THERESE CARMELITE SCHOOL

(626) 289-3364

Principal: Alma Cornejo X661



www.SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com
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See our VIDEOS on the School's Facebook page
or on the Church's website > Our School > Videos

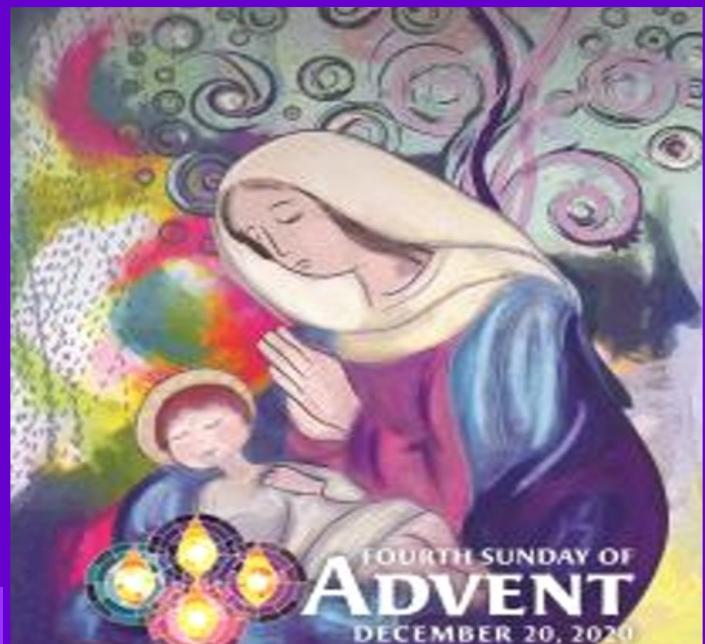
Fourth Sunday
Of Advent



Peace

And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the Child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

(Luke 1:35,38)



SACRAMENTS:

Baptisms: Register online

Weddings: Register online
at least six months in advance



New Parishioners: Welcome to St. Therese! Please register online: www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org

We have a mail drop in front of the office at 510 North El Molino Street. It is located on the right side of the door.

FROM FR. THOMAS, Pastor

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Confessions:

Tuesday & Wednesday, December 22 & 23:
Starting at 6:30 p.m. each night



Christmas Eve, December 24:

5:00 p.m. and *10:00 p.m.
(*Carols begin at 9:30 p.m.)

Christmas Day, December 25:

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

New Year's Eve, December 31:

6:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., and 7:30 p.m. Vigil

New Year's Day, January 1

(Feast of Mary, Mother of God):
10:00 a.m.

NOTE: Please check with the office or our website for any last-minute changes.

Dear St Therese Parishioners,

Receiving Holy Communion

The decision to offer Holy Communion at this time only on the hand is painful for all of us. However, it will end soon, please God! In the meantime, perhaps the following will help us all to trust that we are doing the right thing in following the lead of our Archbishop in his loving concern for his flock as the danger from the coronavirus continues to mount:

VATICAN CITY — December 12, 2020: The Secretary of the Congregation for Divine Worship wrote to a petitioner last month rejecting their appeal against the Bishop of Knoxville's decision to temporarily ban reception of Communion on the tongue because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The congregation "received and attentively studied [the] petition making recourse against the decision of Bishop Richard F. Stika to suspend reception of Holy Communion on the tongue at public Masses throughout the Diocese of Knoxville for the duration of the public health emergency caused by the coronavirus pandemic," Archbishop Arthur Roche wrote on November 13 to the petitioner, whose name has not been disclosed. Archbishop Roche, Secretary of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, cited a letter sent in August by the congregation's

Prefect, **Robert Cardinal Sarah**, in which the Cardinal wrote: "in times of difficulty (e.g. wars, pandemics), Bishops and Episcopal Conferences can give provisional norms which must be obeyed... These measures given by the Bishops and Episcopal Conferences expire when the situation returns to normal."

Archbishop Roche interpreted this letter as saying the provisional norms can be "even clearly, as in this case, suspended for whatever time might be required, for reception of Holy Communion on the tongue at the public celebration of the Holy Mass."

"This Dicastery does hereby therefore act to confirm the decision of Bishop Stika and thereby rejects your petition seeking its modification," Archbishop Roche wrote. The rejection of the petition suggests a change in policy or rationale by the congregation.

In July 2009, during the swine flu pandemic, the congregation responded to a similar inquiry regarding the right to receive Communion on the tongue, recalling that the 2004 instruction *Redemptionis Sacramentum* "clearly stipulates" that each of the faithful always has the right to receive on the tongue, and that it is illicit to deny Communion to any of the faithful not impeded by law.

The 2004 instruction, issued on certain matters to be observed or to be avoided regarding the Most Holy Eucharist, noted that "each of the faithful always has the right to receive Holy Communion on the tongue, at his choice." Bishop Stika lifted the restriction on reception of Communion on the tongue in late November 2004. He had imposed it when he permitted the resumption of public Masses in the diocese at the end of May 2004.

"The decision to suspend the distribution of Holy Communion on the tongue was difficult for me and I understand the concern some of our clergy and laity had regarding my actions," Bishop Stika said on December 11, 2004. "However, we were in the early stages of the pandemic and dealing with much uncertainty. I felt I had the authority to make a conscientious decision for the safety of everyone—the laity and our clergy."

A Blessed Fourth Sunday of Advent to you!—Watching and Waiting for Jesus with Mary and Joseph's Help,

**Fr. Thomas, OCD
Pastor**

CHRISTMAS FLOWER ENVELOPES



Help us to decorate our "outdoor church" for Christmas by donating money for the poinsettias.

Envelopes can be found on the table in the area where Mass is celebrated.

A Mass of Thanksgiving will be offered on Tuesday, January 26, at 6:00 a.m., for all those whose names are written on the envelopes.

TODAY'S READINGS

"Where does God dwell?" is a question on the minds of many as we continue to adjust to the pandemic. In today's first reading (2 Samuel 7:1–5, 8–12, 14, 16), David wanted to build an ornate dwelling for the Ark of the Covenant, but God said, "No, that's not what I had in mind!" Have you ever been told to "think before you speak"? In the same reading, Nathan seems to have spoken too soon when he told David to do whatever he wanted about building a house for the Lord. He was being respectful to his king, and it sounded like a good idea. But later that night, the Lord gave him a message for David: the Lord did not need anyone to build Him a house; God would make David's house (in the sense of family or descendants) last forever. As a prophet Nathan was expected to speak for the Lord. When he finally listened to the Lord, he got the message right. And that can be a lesson to us. Instead of just thinking before we speak, it could be a good idea to pray before we speak.

How many times have we said something in anger—or selfishness, fear, or any strong feeling—that we wished we could take back? If we just think before we speak, we might just rationalize what we wanted to say in the first place. But if we take a little more time to bring our feelings to God—to ask for guidance and listen for what God would have us say—things might turn out a lot better. God can also surprise us if given the chance. The kingdom ("house") God was promising was not a political one, but a universal one. Jesus fulfills this promise as the Son of God who came to proclaim the Kingdom of God.

Jesus Himself prayed to the Father often in His life. We can do the same. We pray before meals, so why not pray before going to work? We can pray before making decisions about our family, getting engaged, taking a new job, buying a new house/car/HD-TV, etc. When a friend or relative needs someone to talk to, we can pray that we listen well and say what God needs our friend to hear. When we are sorry for hurting someone, we can pray for forgiveness and even listen to God to learn what we might do to make it up to them. If we have enough faith to let God guide our lives, let's take the time in prayer to listen for that guidance.

The reading from Romans (16:25–27) teaches us that God is present in the Word, and in Luke's Gospel passage today, Jesus is residing in the womb of Mary. We know that Jesus is present in the Holy Eucharist, as well as in the people gathered to worship Him. But no matter how one experiences the presence of Jesus, these days are challenging. In many places, only limited numbers continue to be allowed in church, while others are only able to worship via live stream. None of the pat answers to where God dwells really fit. We need to try and answer this with new eyes and ears and heart.

In today's Gospel (Luke 1:26–38), when the Angel Gabriel appears to Mary and says, "Hail, Mary, full of grace..." Luke says that she "was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be." She asks, "How can this be?"

After this event, the pregnant Virgin Mary traveled into the hill country to be with her cousin Elizabeth; an older, wiser, mentor—a mother figure. She spent three months there, reflecting and preparing for the birth of her Child.

In this final week of Advent, take a few moments to find a Gabriel/Mary or an Elizabeth/Mary moment and read the Christmas readings again to see what you might have overlooked, and to find a new way for Christ to dwell in you.



THURSDAY NIGHTS FOR YOUR SOUL!

CANDLELIGHT MASS, ADORATION, AND
VIEWING OF AN EPISODE OF THE CHOSEN

Join your Parish Community every Thursday evening to refresh your soul! The schedule is as follows:

7:00 p.m.: Mass

7:30 p.m.: Adoration

8:00 p.m.: Viewing of Episode Five of *THE CHOSEN*

DRESS WARM!
BRING A LAP BLANKET!

Episode Five: “The Wedding Gift” - Mary is looking for 12-year-old Jesus in the streets of Jerusalem. Joseph finds Him in the Temple, and Mary asks Jesus to help them “get through all this” as He matures into His spiritual destiny. Eighteen years later, Mary goes to Cana to help Dinah, an old family friend, prepare for her son’s wedding. Simon goes home and tells his wife he has left his nets to follow Jesus; to his surprise, she is happy to hear this. Simon and Andrew join Jesus and the other disciples as they go to Cana to attend the wedding. The wedding runs out of wine, and Mary asks Jesus to intervene. Jesus, after some initial resistance, fulfills her request and changes the water to wine, knowing that He is now inaugurating the public part of His ministry. Thomas, the man who provided the wine, is puzzled by what he has seen, and Jesus tells Thomas to meet Him in Samaria in 12 days. Meanwhile, Nicodemus doesn’t get the answers he’s been looking for from John the Baptist.



PRAYER CORNER

Prayer is following your God-given attractions with a childlike heart.
-St. Frances de Sales

An Example of this: While praying the Rosary, you become aware you that you don't feel like saying any more words; you just want to listen and ponder.

So, you stop talking and you ask your Guardian Angel to finish saying the words of the Rosary for you.

You can also watch *The Chosen* on YouTube.com.

THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

Pope Francis has dedicated the year from December 8, 2020, to December 8, 2021, to St. Joseph. December 8, 2020, was the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of St. Joseph as the Patron of the Universal Church, as well as the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady. Along with the holy year, the Apostolic Penitentiary also issued a decree granting special indulgences for the duration of the special year, which is “to perpetuate the entrustment of the whole Church to the powerful patronage of the Custodian of Jesus.”

During this period, the faithful will have the opportunity to commit themselves “with prayer and good works, to obtain, with the help of St. Joseph, head of the heavenly Family of Nazareth, comfort and relief from the serious human and social tribulations that besiege the contemporary world today.” The decree signed by Cardinal Mauro Piacenza, the Major Penitentiary of the Apostolic Penitentiary, and the Regent, Fr. Krzysztof Nykiel, notes that devotion to St. Joseph has grown extensively throughout the history of the Church, “which not only attributes to him high reverence after that of the Mother of God, but has also given him multiple patronages. St. Joseph, an authentic man of faith, invites us to rediscover our filial relationship with the Father, to renew fidelity to prayer, and to listen and correspond with profound discernment to God’s will.” Therefore, the gift of an indulgence granted through a decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary by mandate of the Holy Father “will be of great benefit to the perfect attainment of the appointed purpose.”

Amid the ongoing Covid-19 health crisis, the gift of **the plenary indulgence is also extended to the sick, the elderly, the dying, and all those who for legitimate reasons are unable to leave their homes**, if they are detached from any sin and have the intention of fulfilling, as soon as possible, the three usual conditions and recite an act of piety in honor of St. Joseph, offering to God the pains and hardships of their lives.

Conditions for the plenary indulgence: The plenary indulgence is granted to the faithful under the usual conditions—1. Sacramental confession, 2. Eucharistic Communion, and 3. Prayer for the Pope’s intentions—to those who, with a spirit detached from any sin, participate in the Year of St. Joseph in any of the following:

- Meditate for at least 30 minutes on the Lord’s Prayer;
- Take part in a Spiritual Retreat of at least one day that includes a meditation on St. Joseph;
- Perform a spiritual or corporal work of mercy in honor of St. Joseph;
- Recite the Holy Rosary in his honor and seeking his intercession;
- Entrust one’s daily activity to the protection of St. Joseph;
- Invokes the intercession of St. Joseph for the unemployed so they can find dignifying work;
- Recite the Litany to St. Joseph or any other prayer to St. Joseph proper to the other liturgical traditions, for the persecuted Church and for the relief of all Christians suffering all forms of persecution;
- Recite any legitimately-approved prayer in honor of St. Joseph, especially on March 19 or May 1.

CONSECRATE YOURSELF TO ST. JOSEPH

Join other parishioners in preparing to make a **CONSECRATION to St. Joseph!** Come to the **final meeting date, December 22**, at either **10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. OR 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.** The meetings are held in the **GUADALUPE COURTYARD** in the offices (enter through the door by the Adoration Chapel on the parking lot side). **The CONSECRATION will take place on the Feast of the Holy Family, December 27, 2020, at the 9:00 a.m. Mass.** The book’s title and author are: **CONSECRATION TO ST. JOSEPH: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father** by Fr. Donald H. Calloway, MIC. Purchase it as either a Kindle or a paperback book from Amazon (just do a search above title and author). **For any questions, please contact Maria Alejandra at 993-4236.**



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 previous four weekends.

NOTE: There is a second collection on the 2ND WEEKEND each month for our School.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!



December 5 / 6, 2020

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Unrestricted..... | \$13,212.00 |
| Restricted | \$ 1,479.00 |
| T O T A L | \$14,691.00 |

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| November 7 / 8..... | \$29,349.00 |
| November 14 / 15..... | \$11,536.00 |
| November 21 / 22..... | \$19,595.00 |
| November 28 / 29..... | \$12,058.00 |

Check Users:

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

ORDER YOUR TAMALES!

This is your last reminder pre-order tamales for pick-up **after the 9:00 a.m. Mass on Christmas Eve.** To place your order, please call Maria Alejandra at 993-4236.



All proceeds will benefit Saint Therese Carmelite School!

FOOD COLLECTION TODAY!

SUNDAY, December 20!

Please bring DONATIONS OF NON-PERISHABLE FOOD (cans, boxes, etc.) AND TURKEYS OR HAMS to the **Parish Hall TODAY, Sunday, December 20**, after any of the Masses. On December 21, volunteers will use them to create food packages, which will be distributed for those in need for their Christmas dinners.



God bless you for giving others a Merry Christmas!

CHRISTMAS NOVENA OF MASSES

The Carmelite Friars will offer a Novena of Masses for Christmas, beginning on December 26 and continuing through January 3, for all those enrolled. To enroll, please send a check with the notation CHRISTMAS NOVENA, along with the names of

those you would like to enroll—living or deceased—written on an envelope or on an enclosed piece of paper. If you are enrolling friends or family who are living, you may give them your own Christmas card with the message inside:



December 26, 2020—January 3, 2021

You have been enrolled in a Christmas Novena of Masses at St. Therese Church in Alhambra.

Mass Intentions

For the Week of
December 19 through December 26, 2020

Saturday:

5:00 p.m.: Camille Macedonio, RIP

Sunday

- *7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Nuns Christmas Novena 9
- 7:30 a.m.: Cheah & Goh Families, INT
- 9:00 a.m.: Parishioners
- 11:00 am: Janet & Joe Hermes, INT
- 1:00 p.m.: (Latin): Michael Malone, INT
- 5:00 p.m.: Virgilio Lopez, B-day INT

Monday:

- 6:00 a.m.: Goh & Cheah Families, INT
- *7:30 a.m.: Sr. Teresita, OCD, B-day INT
- 9:00 a.m.: The Unborn, INT

Tuesday:

- 6:00 a.m.: Fr. Bernard Perkins, OCD, B-Day INT
- *7:30 a.m.: Grace Lowenberg, INT
- 9:00 a.m.: New Grandbaby of Florence Goh, INT

Wednesday:

- 6:00 a.m.: Jane Jani Widjaja, RIP
- *7:30 am: Doc Hart, RIP
- 9:00 a.m.: Augustine Goh, INT

Thursday:

- 6:00 a.m.: Ellena Cheah, INT
- *7:30 a.m.: Alhambra Carmelite Friars, INT
- 9:00 a.m.: Vales & Cailan Families, INT

Thursday, Christmas Eve:

- 5:00 p.m. Francisco Goh, INT
- 10:00 p.m.: Thompson Family, INT

Friday, Christmas Day:

- 7:30 a.m.: McAllister Family, INT
- 9:00 a.m.: Therese Hong Nguyen, RIP
- *9:30 a.m. (Cloister): George & Yolanda Rossy, INT
- 11:00 a.m.: Otto Lacayo & Family, INT
- 1:00 p.m. (Latin): Manuel "Jun" Tuan, INT

Saturday:

- *7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Community
- 9:00 a.m.: 1) Victoriano Seguerra, RIP
- 2) Kin Cheah, INT

*Held at the Carmelite Chapel,
215 East Alhambra Road
(CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC)

LIVE STREAMED MASSES:

9:00 a.m. Daily Mass (Monday–Saturday) and 11:00 a.m. Sunday Mass are both live streamed on Facebook AND YouTube (for those not attending).

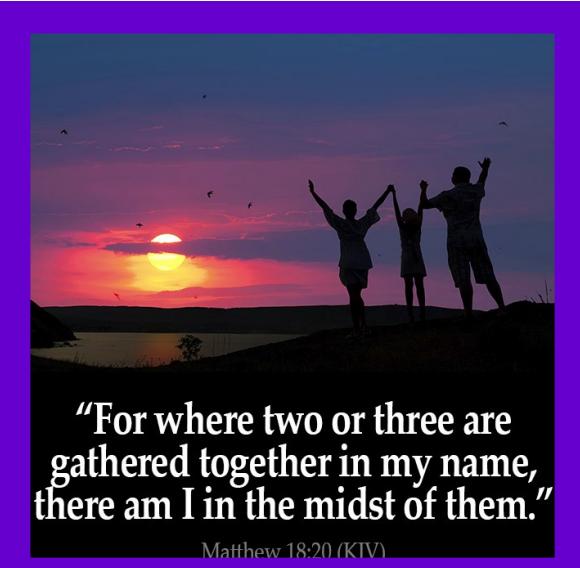


Feast of Faith

When Pope Benedict XVI visited the United States in 2008, tens of thousands gathered in Yankee Stadium to celebrate the Eucharist with him. What made them different from all the other excited crowds who have assembled there through the years? When they began to sing together, to listen together, to pray together, they ceased to be a crowd, and became a liturgical assembly. It was not where they were but what they did that set them apart.

The Gospels speak of many instances when Jesus prayed alone to His Father. But Jesus also put a special value on communal prayer. "Where two or three are gathered together in my name," He told His disciples, "there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20). Jesus gave His own mission to His followers, sending them forth to do everything He did: to heal, to teach, to proclaim the Kingdom.

Jesus wants us to meet God in and through each other. So the Christian community continues to gather, Sunday after Sunday. When we get up on Sunday morning and come to Mass, we respond to Jesus' invitation, and we express our trust in His promise that whenever we come together, He comes, too.



"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

Matthew 18:20 (KJV)

INFORMATION PAGE

Bulletin Number: 513863

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SOFTWARE

MS Pub 2002
Adobe 6.0.
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HP OfficeJet Pro 8600 series

TRANSMISSION TIME

Tuesday, 12/15/2020 – 5:00 PM

BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY:

12/20/2020

NUMBER OF PAGES SENT

1 Through 8

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
REDUCE TO 500 DURING PANDEMIC!**