



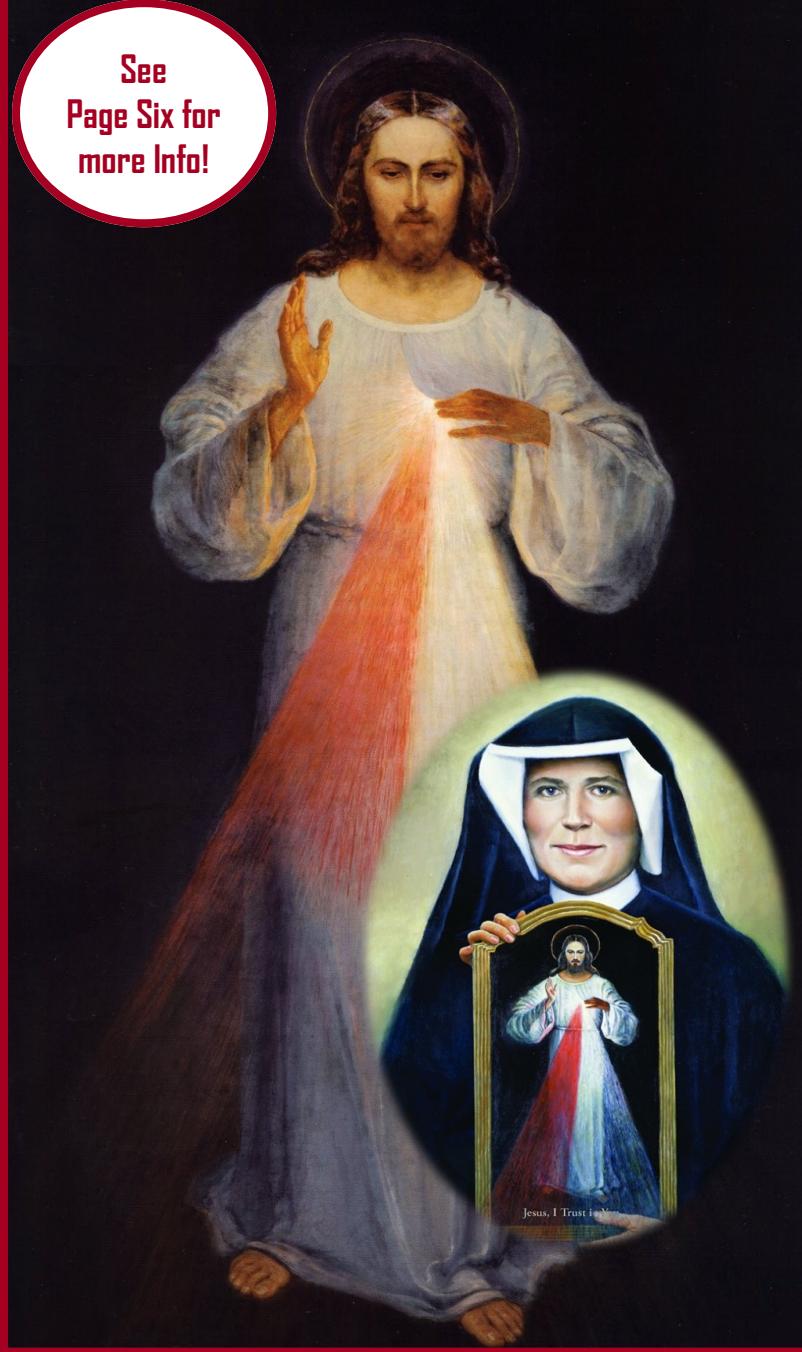
SAINT THERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

April 19, 2020 MINISTERED BY THE DISCALCED CARMELITE FRIARS Estab. 1924

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY (2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER)

See
Page Six for
more info!



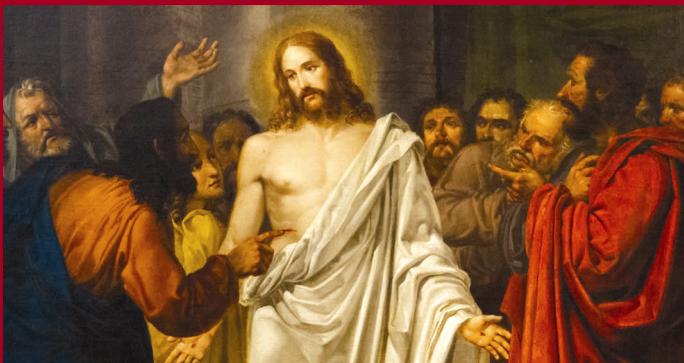
Beginning in February of 1931,

St. Faustina Kowalski, a Polish nun, reported receiving visitations from Jesus. One of the things He asked her for was that a painting be made of the vision of His Merciful Heart and that a Feast of Divine Mercy be established on the first Sunday after Easter. According to St. Faustina's diary, Our Lord promised that all those who would receive Him in Holy Communion and go to Confession on the Sunday after Easter (or as soon as is possible) "shall obtain the complete forgiveness of sins and punishment."

She also related that Jesus told her, "*I am offering people a vessel with which they are to keep coming for graces to the fountain of mercy. That vessel is this image with the signature: 'Jesus, I trust in You.' The two rays denote Blood and Water. The pale ray stands for the Water which makes souls righteous. The red ray stands for the Blood which is the life of souls. These two rays issued forth from the very depths of My tender mercy when My agonized Heart was opened by a lance on the cross.*"

When Pope John Paul canonized Faustina in the year 2000, he proclaimed that **the Second Sunday of Easter would be known from then on as Divine Mercy Sunday**, thereby widely promoting the devotions associated with Faustina's visions.

"Jesus, I trust in You."



SECOND SUNDAY OF Easter

(OR SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY)
APRIL 19, 2020

**Jesus said to Thomas,
“Have you come to believe because you have seen me?
Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”**

John 20:29

BELIEVING IN THE RESURRECTION

The readings today describe how life was lived in communities formed not long after the death and resurrection of Jesus. Their focus is on communal life and the teachings of those who knew Jesus best, his apostles. The readings from First Peter and John both remind us that even among the apostles there is a tension between believing and seeing the reality of the resurrection. John tells of an apostle, Thomas, who refused to believe in the risen Christ until he had seen and touched his wounds. Jesus offers him the chance to do just that. Most of us are not in a position to demand such tangible proof from Jesus. But these stories are written so that we, who cannot see Jesus as his apostles did, can still come to believe and through that belief have life.

SEEING IS BELIEVING

In today's passage from Acts we read of an idealized version of what the first communities were like. People are devoted to the community, to teaching, breaking bread, and sacrifice. Many signs and wonders were done. First Peter offers a more realistic picture because time has passed and believers are still waiting. Faith is being tested by the passage of time and the suffering that is a part of life. In the Gospel, the disciples are consumed with recent events. That is all they can talk about. Poor Thomas misses the latest revelation, that is, the visit by the risen Jesus to the disciples in the locked room. He is angry and refuses to share in the excitement or even to believe it happened. So Jesus appears again, this time when Thomas is present. Jesus tells him to touch and feel the wounds so that Thomas can believe. Jesus then reminds Thomas and us that there is something more to believing than just the physical reality.

OR IS IT?

Too often we are more like Thomas than we might like to think. We are disturbed when we can't directly see or experience the results of our faith. We want some evidence for all the years of faith and struggle when there seems so little to show for our faith. The mistake that Thomas made and that we make is thinking that if we could just see some evidence that our faith makes a difference, then it would be easier to have faith. But it is not the evidence that makes faith possible. Thomas does not gain his faith because he puts his hands in Jesus' wounds. Thomas gains faith because Jesus comes back. Jesus comes back again and again and again. Jesus returns every time we ask for his presence in our life because Jesus never really leaves. Thomas had only to ask. We need only ask.



If you would like to receive the Sunday bulletin (and possibly other things) via a weekly E-Blast, please send your email address to the Parish Secretary, Denise McMaster-Holguin, at denisekay@hotmail.com.

READINGS FOR DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

First Reading—Acts 2:42-47: They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the Breaking of Bread and to the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their property and possessions and divide them among all, according to each one's need. Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to Breaking Bread in their homes. They ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart, praising God and enjoying favor with all the people. And every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24)

R. Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, His love is everlasting.

Let the house of Israel say, "His mercy endures forever." Let the house of Aaron say, "His mercy endures forever." Let those who fear the LORD say, "His mercy endures forever."

R. Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, His love is everlasting.

I was hard pressed and was falling, but the LORD helped me. My strength and my courage is the LORD, and He has been my Savior. The joyful shout of victory in the tents of the just.

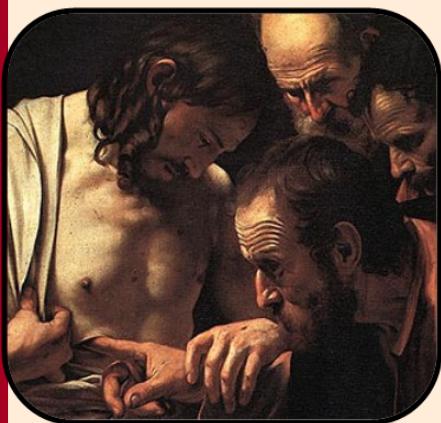
R. Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, His love is everlasting.

The stone, which the builders rejected, has become the cornerstone. By the LORD has this been done; it is wonderful in our eyes. This is the day the LORD has made; let us be glad and rejoice in it.

R. Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, His love is everlasting.

Second Reading—1 Peter 1:3-9: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in His great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in Heaven for you who, by the power of God, are safeguarded through faith, to a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the final time. In this you rejoice, although now for a little while you may have to suffer through various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold that is perishable, even though tested by fire, may prove to be for praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Although you have not seen Him, you love Him; even though you do not see Him now yet believe in Him, you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, as you attain the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Gospel—John 20:19-31: On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in His hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." Now a week later, His disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." Now, Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in His name.



Please continue to pray through April 21!



NOVENA TO ST. THERESE TO END THE CORONAVIRUS

Dear St. Therese of the Little Way, You bore so patiently the disappointments and troubles allowed by God, thus preserving in your soul an unchanging peace because you sought only God's Will.

Since your life began in Heaven, you have showered down countless blessings on this poor world and have been an instrument used by Our Divine Lord to work innumerable miracles.

With this in mind, we ask you to pray for us during this deadly pandemic so that, through you, God will heal those who are suffering from the virus, protect the healthy from contracting it, and end its scourge upon the world so that we will be able to once again worship Our Lord in the Mass and receive Him in Holy Communion.

We ask for complete conformity to God's will in this and in all the trials of life. Amen.

WORDS OF ST. THERESE: "I do not fear the trials of this earthly life, for even in the most bitter suffering, we can see that it is His loving hand which allows them. When we are expecting nothing but suffering, we are quite surprised at the least joy; and then suffering itself becomes the greatest of joys when we see it as a precious treasure."

"I do not intend to remain inactive in Heaven. I want to work for the Church and for souls. I have asked this of God and I am certain that He will grant my request. I will spend my Heaven doing good upon earth. This is not impossible since the Angels, though always enjoying the Beatific Vision, watch over us. No, I cannot be at rest until the end of the world."

CORONAVIRUS PLENARY INDULGENCE

The Vatican's Apostolic Penitentiary has granted a plenary indulgence for people with COVID-19, for those who care for them, and for those who pray for them. So all of us can all take part in this new plenary indulgence. Plenary indulgences are a dogma of the Church and an ancient practice of the faithful. Plenary indulgences remit all temporal punishment due to sin, either for oneself or for a soul in purgatory. They must be accompanied by full detachment from sin. The conditions of an indulgence are: sacramental confession, reception of the Eucharist, and prayer for the intentions of the Pope, such as the recitation of the Creed, the Our Father, and the Hail Mary. What is unusual about this CVP Indulgence is the statement that the person praying for it satisfies these conditions as soon as possible, since it may awhile before we can confess and receive the Eucharist.

A person can receive one Plenary Indulgence a day. It would be beautiful to offer this Indulgence every day for a different deceased person!

MAKING A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Pope Francis, Archbishop Gomez, and many bishops are encouraging us to deepen our love for the Eucharist during these difficult times when we are deprived of it. There is an ancient tradition in the Church of making a "Spiritual Communion." This began centuries ago when daily reception of the Eucharist was not allowed, and when some people could receive Holy Communion only once a year!

St. Alphonsus de Ligouri (1696-1787) wrote a very beautiful prayer for "Spiritual Communion" which you could pray every day:



"My Jesus, I believe that You are truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to possess You within my soul. Since I am unable now to receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as being already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You by sin. Amen."

LIVE STREAMED MASS FROM ST. THERESE CHURCH!

WE ARE NOW LIVE STREAMING THE HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS!

The Holy Sacrifice of Mass is the central act of worship in the Church, one which we, as practicing Catholics, have an obligation to attend on Sundays. Now, however, through no fault of our own, we have been deprived of that privilege of attending.

Since March 25, we have been **LIVE STREAMING** Mass every day of the week: **Mondays through Saturdays at Noon from the Adoration Chapel, and Sundays at 11:00 a.m. from the church** (this will continue throughout the quarantine).

Just go to our **Facebook page** at <https://www.facebook.com/stthereseoflisieuxalhambra> and scroll down until you see the most recent live streamed Mass. These Masses are being celebrated privately by our Carmelite Fathers at St. Therese Church (after the Mass airs, they are also posted on our website under **LIVE STREAMED MASSES**).



You can also "attend" the Mass with our neighbors, the Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles. They have a daily Mass **Monday through Saturday, which streams at 6:15 a.m. and Sundays at 11:15 a.m.**—at either <https://www.Facebook.com/CarmeliteSisters> OR at <https://www.instagram.com/carmelitesistersocd>.

P r a i s e G o d f o r H i s g o o d n e s s !

FORMED.COM: CATHOLIC MOVIES, BOOKS, AUDIO

Being confined to your home is the perfect opportunity to become **FORMED** in your Faith! Skip the Netflix series and, instead, get the family together to watch a Catholic Family movie! It's **FREE** for you, our parishioners! FORMED was designed to help us "Explore our Catholic Faith," "Explain our Faith Formation," and to "SHARE our Faith". To get started, go to our website's home page (center column), scroll down until you see **REGISTER NOW** in the logo, click on it, and it will take you to the FORMED website. Then click on "Find your Parish or Organization," enter St. Therese, Alhambra, and then your name and your email address. That's it! You will have access to hundreds of movies, audios, and books.

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EASTER WEEK RECOMMENDATIONS

Pray: Divine Mercy Chaplet

Watch: Divine Mercy with Father Michael Gaitley

Read: Secrets of Siena

"The harm that comes to souls from the lack of reading holy books makes me shudder... What power spiritual reading has to lead to a change of course, and to make even worldly people enter into the way of perfection." ~St. Padre Pio



FINANCIAL OFFERINGS

M a y G o d r e w a r d y o u !

Below you will find the total collections for the last few weekends.

"Every gift opens a heavenly door to the giver. By tithing, the loyalty of the people of God shall be put to the test. By this principle it shall be known who is for the kingdom of God and who is against it."

February 29 / Mar. 1...\$20,392.00

March 7 / 8.....\$14,115.00

March 14 / 15.....\$15,809.00

March 21 / 22.....\$ 362.00

Check Users:

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

Christus Nobiscum State! Christ is with us! Stand Firm!

DURING the reign of the Roman Emperor Justinian, A.D. 527, the city of Antioch was repeatedly shaken by violent earthquakes. People found no other means of safety than that of inscribing on their doors the words which were revealed to a faithful servant of God, "Christus nobiscum; State!," meaning "Christ is with us; stand firm!" All the houses whose doors bore this inscription are said to have been preserved from the ruin which threatened them, while the others were shattered and crushed. It is similar with those souls who love and serve God. In the midst of a Godless world, there is but one means of preservation from eternal ruin, one means of

perseverance in the great tribulation of life—faithful adherence to the Most Blessed Sacrament, to the God-Man concealed beneath the form of Bread and Wine. The words, "Jesus Christ is with me; stand firm," should be engraved in the heart of every Christian. Protected by this shield, the servants of God will remain firm in the Faith, even though all about them totter and fall. Our devotion to the Most Blessed Sacrament must be true and tender; it must show itself by our assisting at Holy Mass—not only on Sundays, but also on weekdays, as far as the duties of our state allow. Above all, our love for Jesus in the Holy Eucharist must manifest itself by frequent reception of Holy Communion, by visits to the "Prisoner in the Tabernacle," and by a penetrating faith in this Mystery of Love.

IF YOU DO NOT
STAND FIRM
IN YOUR FAITH,
YOU WILL NOT
STAND AT ALL.

Isaiah 7:9b, NIV

-By Fr. Lucas Etlin ("Holy Eucharist, Our All")

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY WITH FR. ROBERT

Our original plan was to have **Fr. Robert Barcelos, OCD**, join us here at St. Therese to lead us in the Divine Mercy devotion. However, because the quarantine is still in effect, Fr. Robert has instead taped His talk, "**Embracing Mercy's Depths: Going Deeper into the Light of Divine Love**," etc., which will be available on our website and on our Facebook Page (same page as the live streamed and recorded Masses) so that you may "attend" the service. We suggest that you watch it beginning at 3:00 p.m. (the Hour of Mercy) on **Sunday, April 19**. Of course, you will not be able to receive Holy Communion or go to Confession, but the plenary indulgence may be obtained when you receive those sacraments at the first available opportunity.



"O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a Fount of Mercy for us, I trust in You."

Mass Intentions

April 18 through April 25, 2020

Saturday:

- 7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Community
 Noon: 1) Ruth Laigo; 2) Novena to End Pandemic No. 6;
 3) Beatriz de Castro, RIP

Divine Mercy Sunday

- *7:30 a.m.: Novena to End Pandemic No. 7
 11:00 a.m.: 1) Parishioners
 2) Alexander, Lauren, Ellena Cheah, INT;
 3) Richard & Patricia LaHood, INT;
 4) Rodolfo Claparols, RIP; 5) Fr. Matthias, OCD, INT

Monday:

- *7:30 a.m.: Angie Young, RIP
 Noon: 1) Novena to End the Pandemic No. 8;
 2) Roy Schneider, RIP

Tuesday:

- *7:30 a.m.: Fr. Philip Sullivan, OCD, INT
 Noon: 1) Novena to End the Pandemic No. 9;
 2) Isidra Soto, RIP

Wednesday

- *7:30 a.m.: Fr. David Guzman, OCD, INT
 Noon: 1) Charlie Aguilar, RIP;
 2) Mary Sheridan, RIP

Thursday:

- *7:30 a.m.: Joseph Dampf, RIP
 Noon: 1) Remi C. Encinas, RIP;
 2) Joanne Goodwin, INT

Friday:

- *7:30 a.m.: Fr. Albert Bunsic, OCD, INT
 Noon: 1) Giselle Natalia B. Colet, RIP;
 2) Mary Sheridan, RIP

Saturday:

- *7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Community
 Noon: 1) Kuo-Shang, Yu-Mei, Tai-Seng, RIP
 2) Javier Uribe, RIP

*All Masses, including the Masses at the Cloistered Nuns' Chapel, are CLOSED to the public during the Coronavirus Pandemic.

NOTICE RE MASS INTENTIONS:

Rest assured that, although Mass is currently not being celebrated publicly, the Carmelite Fathers are celebrating private Masses for all the above Mass intentions. When Mass is concelebrated, each priest offers the Mass for a separate intention. Thus you see that each of the Masses offered in the church has more than one Mass intention (one for each priest present).

Outside the Parish

Carmelite Pilgrimage for the 20th Anniversary of the liturgical feast of Divine Mercy on **September 6 - 18, 2020**, to Lithuania, Poland & Prague, Czech Republic, led by a Carmelite Friar (TBA). Includes: Medieval Vilnius: Ostra Brama, Hill of Crosses, Our Lady of Siluva, Poland: Sokolka-2008 Eucharistic Miracle, Lichen Stary-Largest Basilica in Poland, Glogowiec-Birthplace of St. Faustina, Czestochowa, Kracow; Wadowice -birthplace of Pope St. John Paul II, Lagiewniki-Divine Mercy Shrine, Convent of Sisters of Mercy & Sanctuary of Divine Mercy, Tatra Mountains in Zakopane-Fatima Shrine, Old World Prague: City Tour, Church of Our Lady Victorious, Infant Jesus of Prague. Cost: \$3995 from LAX (based on double room occupancy). Includes: R/T air from LAX w/airport taxes. Land travel by Luxury Coach, 3 & 4 Star Hotels, Breakfast/Dinner Daily, Guided Tours, All Entrance Fees, Daily Holy Mass. For more information contact: Louisa (323) 360-5186 or Jack (323) 403-8768 - St. Olav Travel - <https://stolavtravel.com>.

HELP FOR MARRIAGES: 82% of marriages that complete the nine-month *Retrouvaille* (REH-tro-v-eye) program are still together five years later? For questions or registration, call 909-900-5465 or visit www.HelpOurMarriage.com. Confidential!

You are invited to join Fr. Joe Joseph's Pilgrimage to SWITZERLAND, GERMANY, THE NETHERLANDS BELGIUM, including the OBERAMMERGAU-PASSION PLAY from **SEPT. 2-14, 2020** Contact Bernadette at bcorp1114@gmail.com or 323-547-6618 /323-344-1548.

PILGRIMAGE TO THE SHRINE OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT, HANCEVILLE, ALABAMA, AND EWTN (JULY 23-30). Mother Angelica answered the call to build Nino Divino a temple. Enjoy talks, a healing service, and daily Mass with the friars and cloistered nuns; spend a day at EWTN and more! Space is limited. SIGN UP by contacting Albert and Mary Helen Estrada at remembertoptl@sbcglobal.net.