

Saint Therese Catholic Church

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

May 16, 2021 **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

Vocations:

For the Carmelites: www.discalcedcarmelitefriars.com

For the Archdiocese: (213) 637-7515

Parish Secretary:

Denise McMaster-Holguin X223 denisekay@hotmail.com

Finance: Noralyn Cailan X228 / cailannocds@gmail.com

Music Director:

Charlotte Lansberg X226 / cjlansberg@gmail.com

Respect Life Ministry / Vox Vitae:

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 8:00 a.m. daily and the Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Masses are LIVE STREAMED on our Facebook

page AND on our YouTube channel).

Masses on Monday, *Tuesday (in *Spanish)

and Thursday EVENINGS: 7:00 p.m.

(these are also LIVE STREAMED)

CONFESSIONS on Saturdays from 3:00 to 6:30

p.m. and on Sundays from Noon to 1:00 p.m.



SAINT THERESE CARMELITE SCHOOL

(626) 289-3364

Principal: Alma Cornejo X661

www.SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com
principal@saintthersecarmeliteschool.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: Call the office.



While meeting with them, He enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for "the promise of the Father about which you have heard me speak; for John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." When they had gathered together, they asked Him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He answered them, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by His own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When He had said this, as they were looking on, He was lifted up, and a cloud took Him from their sight (Acts 1:4-9).



FROM THE PASTOR

Christ is risen and ascended!!!

Hello everyone, and blessed Solemnity of the Ascension of our Lord Jesus into Heaven!!! Jesus said that it is better for us if He goes, because then the Paraclete will come (Paraclete = the One Who calls others to His side, Who encourages us). How can it be better for us if He goes away and we can't see Him anymore?! Because He promised that if He goes away He will send another Paraclete Who will be with us ALWAYS, the Spirit of Truth (John 14:16-17). Here is St. Leo's commentary: "For such is the power of great minds, such is the light of truly believing souls, that they put unhesitating faith in what is not seen with the bodily eye; they fix their desires on what is beyond sight. Such fidelity could never be born in our hearts, nor could anyone be justified by faith, if our salvation lay only in what was visible. And so our Redeemer's visible presence has passed into the Sacraments. Our faith is nobler and stronger because sight has been replaced by a doctrine whose authority is accepted by believing

hearts, enlightened from on high. This faith was increased by the Lord's ascension and strengthened by the gift of the Spirit; it would remain unshaken by fetters and imprisonment, exile and hunger, fire and ravening beasts, and the most refined tortures ever devised by brutal persecutors. Throughout the world, women no less than men, tender girls as well as boys, have given their life's blood in the struggle for this Faith. It is a Faith that has driven out devils, healed the sick and raised the dead."

Next Sunday is Pentecost Sunday. There will be a special Vigil Mass at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 22, with extra readings to help highlight the presence and movement of the Lord Who is the Holy Spirit in salvation history. After the Mass there will be Adoration and Healing Prayer Ministry teams available in the church. If there are enough people interested in praying through the night, we will leave the church open. Fasten your seatbelts, because the Holy Spirit wants to renew the grace of your/my Confirmation, our personal Pentecost, and then, as in the Acts of the Apostles, move us out in faith and witness to the Lord Jesus and His Kingdom!!! Come Holy Spirit!!! Come Lord Jesus!!! Come Heavenly Father!!!

I encourage you to keep praying the Novena to the Holy Spirit in preparation for Pentecost. **Today, Sunday, May 16, is Day Three of the Novena:** "Thou, of all consolers best, visiting the troubled breast, dost refreshing peace bestow: The Gift of Piety - The gift of Piety begets in our hearts a filial affection for God as our most loving Father. It inspires us to love and respect, for His sake, persons and things consecrated to Him, as well as those who are vested with His authority, His Blessed Mother and the saints, the Church, and its visible Head the pope, our parents and superiors, our country and its rulers. He who is filled with the gift of Piety finds the practice of his religion not



a burdensome duty, but a delightful service. Where there is love, there is no labor. Let us pray: Come, O Blessed Spirit of Piety, possess my heart. Enkindle therein such a love for God, that I may find satisfaction only in His service, and for His sake lovingly submit to all legitimate authority. Amen. Our Father... Hail Mary... etc... (**For the complete Novena**, see the homepage of our website—center column—or pick up a copy at the church exits.) **Also in preparation for Pentecost are some points from the Decalogue (Ten Commandments) of Docility to the Holy Spirit:**

2. If the Holy Spirit is Hammering, it's Because There is a Problem Which is Boiling Over: When the Holy Spirit insists, it is because He is telling us that there is a wound: "Something is wrong! Open your eyes!" Any delay in welcoming His voice does serious damage to your spiritual life; every quick response to Him renews you and helps you to perceive even better His Light. But how often the Spirit hammers away, "Let go of that friendship!" "Leave that occasion of sin!" "Leave that vice alone!" Well, when the Spirit hammers, we need to listen and leave! (C.S. Lewis: ***"God whispers to us in our joys, and shouts to us in our pain."***) The Holy Father says in his encyclical, "Under the influence of the Spirit, we mature and become strong interiorly. The Spirit builds up our interior self, makes us grow and strengthens us."

3. The Secret of Joy is to Give Continual Joy to the Holy Spirit: But we have to begin concretely, in little things. Every act of humility, every act of generosity nourishes the joy that the Holy Spirit sows in us. When you have done a good deed—if you are not careful—you become a little proud. From now on, when you do a kind act, stop yourself and say, "Thank You, Holy Spirit! Again, again! Let's do it again!" You are saying in effect, "Continue to inspire me to do good, continue to place me in occasions to do something beautiful for You." The Holy Spirit is constantly at work, and we have to let Him work. The Holy Father says in Number 67 of his encyclical, ***"The joy that no one can take away is the gift of the Holy Spirit."***

4. The Holy Spirit Does Not Get Tired of Speaking to You, Teaching You, Forming You: What I mean to say is that the Holy Spirit is the Fidelity-Faithfulness of Love and uses the most simple means: inspirations, the advice of friends who love you, examples, testimonies (like in prayer groups), reading, encounters, things that just happen... The Holy Father says in Number 58, ***"The Holy Spirit is the never-ceasing Self-Giving of God."*** (**For the complete Decalogue, see the sheets at the church exits or on the homepage of our website.**)

Finally, here is a little story that demonstrates the workings of the Holy Spirit: ***THE BOY AND THE MAESTRO***—A mother bought tickets to a concert by Ignace Paderewski, the great Polish pianist. She took her five-year old son, hoping he'd be encouraged in his own efforts at music. Before it began, she met an old friend and got so involved talking with her that she failed to notice that her son had slipped away to do some exploring. When eight o'clock arrived, the lights dimmed, the audience hushed to a whisper, and the spotlight came on. Only then did the woman see her son—on the stage!—sitting on the piano bench, picking out "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." She gasped in disbelief. But before she could retrieve her son, Paderewski walked onto the stage. Walking over to the piano, he whispered to the boy, "Don't stop! Keep playing!" Then, leaning over the boy, Paderewski reached out his left hand and began to fill in the bass. A few seconds later, he reached around the other side of the boy, encircling him, and added a running obbligato. Together, the great maestro and the tiny five-year-old mesmerized the audience with their playing. When they finished, the audience broke into thunderous applause. Years later, almost all those present forgot the pieces that Paderewski played that night, but no one forgot "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star."

That image of the great maestro and the tiny five-year-old at the piano makes a beautiful image of the Holy Spirit and the Church. It makes a beautiful image of how the Holy Spirit unites with the Church, with each Church member, to make beautiful music.

Fraternally united in prayer for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit on you and all your loved ones and the whole parish,

Fr. Thomas of the Trinity, OCD

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Koller, OCD

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WORSHIP

ENCOUNTER THE POWER
& LOVE OF GOD



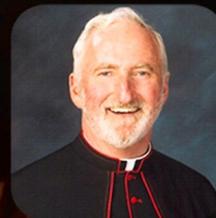
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The Precious Pearl: St. Rita of Cascia

FEAST DAY: MAY 22

High in the hills of the republic of Cascia, in a tiny Umbrian village called Roccaporena, Antonio and Amata Lotti were well-respected peacemakers. In 1381, they welcomed their only child, Margherita. In the local dialect, her name meant "pearl," but she was known simply as Rita. Baptized in the church of St. Augustine in Cascia, Rita became acquainted with the local Augustinian nuns of St. Mary Magdalene Monastery and was attracted to their way of life. But her parents arranged a marriage for her in order to provide safety and security, and so Rita obediently married Paolo Mancini with whom she had two sons.

In the troubling political climate of the times, there was often open conflict between families. Paolo was the victim of one such conflict, and he was murdered when their sons were still young. The expectation of society at the time was that the boys should avenge the murder of their father to defend family honor. Rita, however, influenced by the peacemaking example of her parents, pledged to forgive her husband's killers. However, she faced a steep challenge in convincing her sons to do the same. Tradition has it that she often pointed out to them the image of the crucified Christ and the fact that He forgave those who killed Him. Within a year, however, both sons succumbed to a deadly illness, leaving Rita not only a widow, but also childless. Following these tragedies, Rita placed her trust in God, accepting them and relying on her deep faith to find her way. After eighteen years of marriage, Rita felt called to a second but familiar vocation: Religious life in the Augustinian convent.

But the sisters at St. Mary Magdalene Monastery were hesitant and refused her request. However, Rita asked for entry again, but the sisters even more firmly refused, citing that although Rita had forgiven her husband's killers, her family had not. There were members of the rival family in the convent; her presence would be detrimental to community harmony. And so, inspired by her three patron saints (St. Augustine of Hippo, St. Nicholas of Tolentine, and John the Baptist), Rita set out to make peace between the families. She went to her husband's family and exhorted them to put aside their hostility and stubbornness. They were convinced by her courage and agreed. The rival family, astounded by this overture of peace, also agreed. The two families exchanged a peace embrace and signed a written agreement, putting the vendetta to rest forever.

At the age of 36, Rita was finally accepted into the Augustinian convent, where she lived a regular life of prayer, contemplation, and spiritual reading, according to the Rule of Saint Augustine. For forty years she lived this routine lifestyle until Good Friday of 1442, fifteen years before her death, when she had an extraordinary experience. In contemplation before an image of Jesus that was very dear to her, the **Jesus of Holy Saturday** or, as it is also known, **the Resurgent Christ**, she was moved by a deeper awareness of the physical and spiritual burden of pain which Christ so freely and willingly embraced for love of her and of all humanity. With the tender, compassionate heart of a person fully motivated by grateful love, she spoke of her willingness to relieve Christ's suffering by sharing even the smallest part of His pain. Her offer was accepted, her prayer was answered, and Rita was united with Jesus in a profound experience of spiritual intimacy, a thorn from His crown penetrating her forehead. The wound it caused remained open and visible until the day of her death.

Toward the end of her life, Rita progressively weakened physically. Several months before her death, she was visited by a relative who asked if there was anything she could do for the ailing woman. Rita at first declined, but then made a simple request to have a rose from the garden of her family home brought to her. It was January, the dead of winter in the hills of Umbria, but upon her return home the relative passed Rita's family garden and found to her astonishment a single fresh rose in the snow-covered garden on an otherwise barren bush. She immediately returned to the convent where she presented the miraculous rose to Rita who accepted it with quiet and grateful assurance. During the four decades she spent in Cascia's convent, she had prayed for her husband Paolo, who had died so violently, and for her two sons, who had died so young. Because of the rose, Rita believed that they were all in Heaven. She now knew that she would soon be one with them again.

Rita died peacefully on May 22, 1457. An old and revered tradition records that the bells of the convent immediately began to peal—unaided by human hands—calling the people of Cascia to the doors of the convent, and

(See Page Seven for the conclusion to this article.)



BABY BOTTLES DONATIONS / BABY SHOWER GIFTS!

REMEMBER to bring the baby bottle (filled instead of empty!) you received last week back to Mass next weekend to turn it in. Also, if you forgot to bring a Baby Shower gift last week, you may turn it into the office this week. Here are the things that are most needed:

ITEMS NEEDED FOR BABIES: Baby shampoo and wash, baby lotion, diaper rash cream, cornstarch-based baby powder, Q-Tips, sippy cups, spoons/forks, socks for boys/girls (12-18 months), clothing, wash cloths and towels, diapers, sizes 3, 4, 5, 6 and pull-ups, sizes 2T/3T, wipes, formula, baby food jars, toys, books

ITEMS NEEDED FOR MOMS: Shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrush, lotion, facial moisturizer, bar soap, feminine hygiene products, dish soap, detergent, cleaning products

FOOD ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE MOMS' PANTRIES: Cereal/oatmeal, canned fruits and vegetables, rice/beans, snacks/cookies



VIRTUAL PRESENTATION ON FAITH, FAMILY, AND FINANCIAL SECURITY

Van Mueller presents

Faith, Family and Financial Security



The Knights of Columbus will host a virtual/on-line presentation titled, "Faith, Family and Financial Security," with Van Mueller as the speaker. If interested, please register on line at the following link:

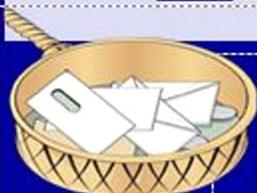
<https://vanmueller.com/kofc-registration/> If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Storey at 716-0638 or Jeffrey.storey@kofc.org.

FINANCIAL OFFERINGS

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!



May 8 / 9, 2021	
Unrestricted.....	\$10,173.00
Restricted	\$ 3,797.00
TOTAL	\$13,970.00

April 10 / 11.....	\$46,798.00
April 17 / 18	\$11,183.00
April 24 / 25.....	\$24,007.00
May 1 / 2.....	\$16,135.00

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

Mass Intentions

May 15 through May 22, 2021

Saturday:

5:00 pm: Mother's Day Novena 6

Sunday

*7:30 a.m.: All Souls, RIP

7:30 am: Mother's Day Novena 7

9:00 a.m.: Ruben Aguirre, RIP

11:00 a.m.: McAllister Family, INT

1:00 p.m.: Ursulina Aquino, RIP

5:00 p.m.: Parishioners

Monday:

6:00 a.m.: Mother's Day Novena 8

*7:30 a.m.: Mary Esther Victor, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Roseann Seiller, INT

Tuesday:

6:00 a.m.: Teddy Yang, INT

*7:30 a.m.: Mary Esther Victor, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Mother's Day Novena 9

7:00 p.m. (Span): Jackie Johnson, INT

Wednesday:

6:00 a.m.: Nicholas & Christina Yang, INT

*7:30 am: Mary Esther Victor, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Maria Guadalupe Hernandez, B-Day INT

Thursday:

6:00 a.m.: Ellena Cheah Wong, INT

*7:30 am: Maria de la Luz Davidson, B-Day INT

8:00 a.m.: Maria Concepcion Aguilar, RIP

7:00 p.m.: Raymond Toohey, INT

Friday:

6:00 a.m.: Victoriail Sandoval, RIP

*7:30 am: Mary Esther Victor, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Maryanne Losorelli, INT

Saturday:

*7:30 am: Carmelite Community

8:00 a.m.: Gabriella Lacayo, INT

*Held at the Carmelite Chapel,

215 East Alhambra Road

***OPEN TO THE PUBLIC! (Mon-Sat.)**

LIVE STREAMED MASSES:

8:00 a.m. Daily Mass (Monday—Saturday),

11:00 a.m. Sunday Mass and **7:00 p.m.**

Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evening

Masses (and any other special evening Masses)

are all live streamed on Facebook AND

YouTube (for those not attending)—links on

our website's home page (top left column).

St. Rita—conclusion to Page Five

announcing the triumphant completion of a life faithfully lived. The nuns prepared her for burial and placed her in a simple wooden coffin. A carpenter, partially paralyzed by a stroke, said, "If I were well," he said, "I would have prepared a place more worthy of you." With those words, he was healed!—Rita's first miracle! He then fashioned an elaborate coffin—one durable enough to hold her body for several centuries; however, she was never buried in it. So many people came to look upon the gentle face of the "Peacemaker of Cascia," that her burial had to be delayed. It was clear that something exceptional was occurring as her body seemed to be free from decay. It is *still* incorrupt today, though now in a glass-enclosed coffin in the basilica of Cascia in Italy.

(Taken from the book, "*The Precious Pearl*," by Fr. Michael DiGregorio, OSA.)

PRAYER TO ST. RITA: St. Rita, come to my aid! Beautiful rose born from the Savior's thorns, lead me far from anger and hate; guide my heart on peaceful paths with charity to all. Helper, healer, holy friend, hear my petition (make request). To Christ take this prayer, for He is my Lord, my God, my All, my hope in despair, my strength when afraid. St. Rita, answer my call. Amen.



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