



SAINT THERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

May 17, 2020

MINISTERED BY THE DISCALCED CARMELITE FRIARS

Estab. 1924

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



“...I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate to be with you always... On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me. And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him” (John 14:16,21).



SIXTH SUNDAY OF *Easter*

MAY 17, 2020

A TIME OF TRANSITION, INSTABILITY, AND HOPE

Today's readings describe that period when the apostles are getting used to acting on their own. Acts describes the spreading of the word to Samaria, curing the sick, and their reception of the Holy Spirit. First Peter reminds us that our response to evil must be to do good and to speak of our hope with gentleness and reverence. The psalm is joyous with praise for God and a reminder of God's saving of those held captive in Egypt long, long ago. John talks not only about the Father and Jesus but also another Advocate, who will remain even when Jesus leaves. The readings also contain the promise of continued love and comfort. The readings today reflect a time of transition, instability, and hope, much like we are experiencing in these days of the pandemic.

WHEN YOU ARE MALIGNED

Each of the readings describes a time of transition and uncertainty. In Acts, the apostles are learning how to respond to those seeking to share in the joy of healing the sick and casting out unclean spirits. In First Peter, the new Christian community is reminded that they will be maligned. Their response to such suffering is shaped by Jesus' example of gentleness and reverence. The Gospel offers Jesus' words of consolation to those who are being left behind. All those who had lost Jesus once through crucifixion must prepare to lose him again. But this time they are promised that they will not be abandoned. They are left with the promise that Jesus' new commandments are the continuing guide to a life that, through death and resurrection, unites those who believe in Jesus, the Father, and the Spirit.

KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS

If keeping Jesus' commandments is the key to loving him, being loved by the Father, and accompanied by the Spirit, then what choice do we have but to keep his commandments? It seems simple, but unlike the commandments carried down the mountain by Moses, Jesus did not leave us with ten statements of conduct to guide our actions. Jesus left us with a much more complicated commandment, to love our neighbor as ourselves. This commandment requires that we first love ourselves as Jesus loved us. We must see in ourselves what Jesus saw in each one of us. Jesus saw that we too are made in the image and likeness of God and that we carry with us the fragility of our humanity. We must see that same Godliness and humanity in every person we encounter. It is not just ourselves we see in the face of our family, friends, acquaintances, and strangers. It is the face of God. We should act accordingly, especially during this pandemic.

TODAY'S READINGS

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17
Psalm 66:1-7, 16, 20
1 Peter 3:15-18
John 14:15-21

Jesus said, "If you love me
you will keep my commandments."

John 14:15

PRAYING THROUGH THE PANDEMIC - No. 2 of 4

Invitation to Prayer: Let us open our hearts to God’s Voice. In union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass through the whole world, we pray for all whose lives have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

A Reading from the First Letter of St. Peter (1:3-8): 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 as the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Litany of the Saints: God, Creator of all things, have mercy on us. Jesus, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us. Spirit of life and love, have mercy on us. Holy Trinity, one God, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.



Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us.
 Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us.
 Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us.
 Our Lady of Sorrows, pray for us.
 Our Lady of Perpetual Help, pray for us.



Holy Angels of God, pray for us.
 St. Michael, pray for us.
 St. Raphael, pray for us.
 St. Joseph, pray for us.
 St. Luke, pray for us.
 St. Vincent de Paul, pray for us.
 St. Agatha of Sicily, pray for us.
 St. Camillus de Lellis, pray for us.
 St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, pray for us.



St. Martin de Porres, pray for us.
 St. Brigid, pray for us.
 St. Joan of Arc, pray for us.
 St. Edmund, pray for us.
 St. Lucy of Syracuse, pray for us.
 St. Natalia, pray for us.
 St. Gregory the Great, pray for us.
 St. Bernardine of Siena, pray for us.

St. Angela Merici, pray for us.
 St. Peregrine, pray for us.
 St. Rita of Cascia, pray for us.
 St. Jude Thaddeus, pray for us.
 St. Elizabeth of Hungary, pray for us.

St. Therese of the Child Jesus, pray for us.
 St. Teresa of Calcutta, pray for us.
 St. Francis of Assisi, pray for us.
 St. Rose of Lima, pray for us.
 St. John Paul II, pray for us.
 St. Padre Pio, pray for us.
 St. Teresa of Avila, pray for us.
 St. John of the Cross, pray for us.
 St. Anthony of Padua, pray for us.

St. Charles Lwanga & Companions, pray for us.
 St. Gemma Galgani, pray for us.
 St. John Baptiste de LaSalle, pray for us.
 St. Thomas Aquinas, pray for us.
 St. Catherine of Alexandria, pray for us.
 St. Juan Diego, pray for us.
 St. Cajetan, pray for us.
 St. Jane de Chantal, pray for us.

**All holy men and women, pray for us.
 Christ, hear us. Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.**

Concluding Prayer: O God, our rock of safety and our shelter in stormy times, listen to our cries and calm our fears. Help us to persevere through these difficult days with renewed faith, with trust in your compassionate care, and with the patience to hold on until a better day dawns. We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SUPPORT GPS... and THE CLOISTERED NUNS!

Dear St. Therese Parishioners,
 During the coronavirus stay-at-home mandate, GPS-Guadalupe Pregnancy Services, as an "essential service," needs your support now more than ever in order to continue to **provide life-affirming, compassionate care to mothers, babies, and their families.**



Since we are not able to distribute baby bottles as we normally do, please help GPS-Guadalupe Pregnancy Services in one of the following ways:

- Pick up a baby bottle from the porch at the Parish offices (510 N. El Molino St); fill it with coins and bills, and return it during daytime hours (ring the bell to let someone know you're placing it there).
- Donate online at <http://www.pregnancy-gps.org/Donate.html>
- Mail a check (made payable to GPS) to Guadalupe Pregnancy Services, Post Office Box 1192, Alhambra, CA 91802.

The Auxiliary for the Cloistered Carmelite Nuns would like to thank everyone who donated earlier this year to the Fr. Jerome Appeal for the support of our very special neighbors, the Discalced Carmelite Cloistered Nuns.

Your generous donations have totaled over \$18,000, all of which goes towards the support of the nuns. If you were unable to donate earlier and would like to donate now, that would be very appreciated. Just put your check in any envelope marked "Fr. Jerome Appeal" and send it to the Nuns' Monastery at 215 East Alhambra Road, Alhambra 91801.

God bless you!



ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY BABY SHOWER

These are the essential items of which we are running low:

FOR BABIES:

- Baby Shampoo and Wash
- Baby Lotion
- Diaper Rash Cream
- Cornstarch Baby Powder
- Baby Spoons/Forks
- Socks Boys/Girls (12/18 months)
- Clothing Girls (9/12/24 months)
- Clothing Boys (9/18 months)
- Wash Cloths / Bath Towels
- Diapers Size 4, 5 & 6
- Pull-ups Size 2T/3T
- Baby Wipes
- Baby Formula
- Baby Food Jars
- Toys



FOR MOMS:

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Deodorant
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Lotion
- Bar Soap
- Body Wash
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Dish Soap
- Detergent
- Cleaning Products
- Disinfectant Wipes
- Lysol
- Hand Sanitizer

Please bring your donations to the Parish Office during daytime hours and leave them on the porch. Ring the bell to let someone know you're leaving items there. Thank you!

FOOD PANTRY ITEMS:

- Cereal /Oatmeal
- Juice
- Canned Fruits & Vegetables
- Canned Meats & Fish
- Rice /Beans
- Snacks/Cookies



LIVE STREAMED DAILY MASSES!

JOIN US FOR OUR DAILY LIVE STREAMED MASSES!

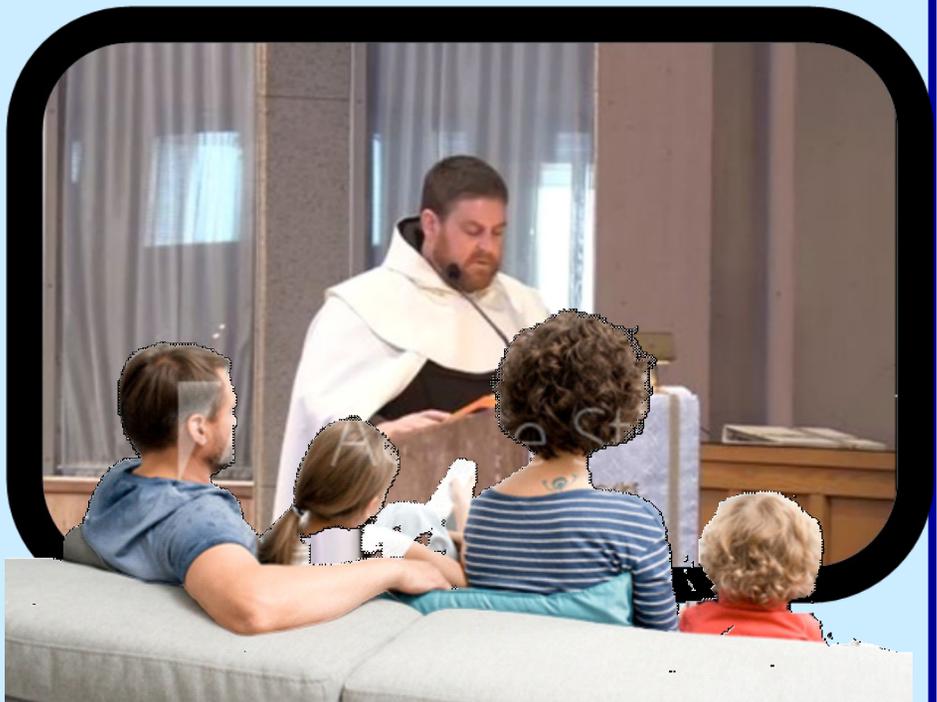
The Holy Sacrifice of Mass is the central act of worship in the Church, one which we, as practicing Catholics, have an obligation to attend on Sundays. Now, however, through no fault of our own, we have been deprived of that privilege of attending.

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>.



FINANCIAL OFFERINGS

May God reward you!

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

April 25 / 26, 2020

Unrestricted.....	\$ 7,204.00
Restricted.....	\$ 50.00
TOTAL.....	\$ 7,254.00

March 14 / 15.....	\$15,809.00
March 21 / 22.....	\$ 362.00
April 11 / 12.....	\$50,020.00
April 18 / 19.....	\$21,310.00

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

Thank you to all who sent donations to our School in response to my letter asking for financial help on its behalf. We are so blessed to have such caring, loving parishioners. We are continuing to keep you in our daily thoughts and prayers. Please hang in there... there is a light at the end of the tunnel!

God bless and protect each of you!

~Fr. Philip and the Discalced Carmelite Community





PRAYER TO ST. THERESE TO END THE PANDEMIC

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."

Stay with me, Lord, for I desire to love You very much, and always be in Your company. Stay with me, for as poor as my soul is, I want it to be a place of consolation for You, a nest of love. Stay with me, Jesus, for it is getting late and the day is coming to a close, and life passes; death, judgment, eternity approaches. It is necessary to renew my strength, so that I will not stop along the way and for that, I need You.

It is getting late and death approaches, I fear the darkness, the temptations, the dryness, the cross, the sorrows. O how I need You, my Jesus, in this night of exile! Stay with me tonight, Jesus, in life with all its dangers. I need You. Let me recognize You as Your disciples did at the breaking of the bread, so that the Eucharistic Communion be the Light which disperses the darkness, the force which sustains me, the unique joy of my heart.

Stay with me, Lord, because at the hour of my death, I want to remain united to You, if not by communion, at least by grace and love. Stay with me, Jesus, I do not ask for divine consolation, because I do not merit it, but the gift of Your Presence, oh yes, I ask this of You!

Stay with me, Lord, for it is You alone I look for, Your Love, Your Grace, Your Will, Your Heart, Your Spirit, because I love You and ask no other reward but to love You more and more. With a firm love, I will love You with all my heart while on earth and continue to love You perfectly during all eternity. Amen.

PRAYER OF ST. PADRE PIO AFTER HOLY COMMUNION

**(May be used as a
Spiritual Communion)**

Stay with me, Lord, for it is necessary to have You present so that I do not forget You. You know how easily I abandon You.

Stay with me, Lord, because I am weak and I need Your strength, that I may not fall so often.

Stay with me, Lord, for You are my life, and without You, I am without fervor.

Stay with me, Lord, for You are my light, and without You, I am in darkness.

Stay with me, Lord, to show me Your will.

Stay with me, Lord, so that I hear Your voice and follow You.

Stay with me, Lord, if You wish me to be faithful to You.



Mass Intentions

Scripture Reflection

May 16 through May 23, 2020

Saturday:

- *7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Community
- Noon: 1) Mother's Day Novena 6;
- 2) Mark & Wieslaw Adamowicz, RIP 3) Eulogio Diaz, RIP

Sunday:

- *7:30 a.m.: Sr. Elizabeth, OCD, INT
- 11:00 a.m.: 1) Caroline DiMaio, B-day INT
- 2) Easter Flower Memorial
- 3) John Michael C. Luciano, RIP
- 4) Yvonne & Ann Skeen, RIP; 5) Mother's Day Novena 7

Monday:

- *7:30 a.m.: Sr. Elizabeth, OCD INT
- Noon: 1) Mother's Day Novena 8
- 2) Tom Tomanek, RIP

Tuesday:

- *7:30 a.m.: Sr. Elizabeth, OCD INT
- Noon: 1) McAllister Family, INT
- 2) Mother's Day Novena 9

Wednesday:

- *7:30 a.m.: Sr. Elizabeth, OCD INT
- Noon: 1) Ellena Cheah, INT
- 2) Sr. Mary Anna Larkin, OCD, RIP

Thursday:

- *7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Nuns in Alhambra, INT
- Noon: 1) In Honor of Our Lady of Mt Carmel
- 2) Mary Frances Magana, INT

Friday:

- *7:30 a.m.: Mary Anne Losorelli, INT
- Noon: 1) Mary DeSantis, RIP
- 2) Gabriella Lacayo, INT

Saturday:

- *7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Community
- Noon: 1) Edgar Efrain, B-day INT
- 2) Emma Cox, Birthday INT
- 3) Augustin Juarez, 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).

THE REASON FOR OUR HOPE: "What is the reason for your hope?" Imagine somebody coming up to you and asking you that question. Not "What are you hoping for?" or "What are you hoping to do?" No, this isn't about our desires for possessions or aspirations for life, it's "**Why** do you hope?"

Today, Peter tells us that we ought to be ready to give an answer to this question. Truth be told, few of us spend a lot of time thinking about why we hope. Luckily, the Scriptures today give us our answers. We hope, because Christ suffered for us, in order that we might come to God. We hope because we know that, in the Spirit, God grants us another Advocate through Christ to remain with us always. No matter what we might hope for, whatever we might hope to do, we must always first know and proclaim the reason for our hope: the presence of God in Christ, with us, through the power of the Spirit. Alleluia!

St. Rita of Cascia (1381-1457)

If you're ever in Philadelphia on May 22, forget parking anywhere near St. Rita's shrine. Cars line the streets and fill the medians as throngs pack a candlelight vigil and six Masses, honoring this patroness of lost causes, hopeless situations, and—as her statue in countless churches built by twentieth-century immigrants testifies—difficult marriages, troubled homes, and alienated children.

Wise people warn, "Be careful what you pray for." St. Rita prayed, "Divine Savior, let me suffer like you!" Obedient to parents who refused her wish to become a nun, Rita married a man who returned her devotion with twenty years of abuse. When enemies murdered him, Rita's two sons swore revenge. Paintings depict her pointing the angry boys toward Christ crucified, whom she begged to restrain them. Within the year, both sons died.

Alone now, Rita went to the convent but was refused entrance. The nuns feared violence, since one of them was related to the murderer. Rita arranged peace between the families, made vows, and became much sought after as a counselor and intercessor for her last forty years on earth—and ever since in Heaven.