Saint Therese Catholic Church 1100 East Alhambra Road, Alhambra CA 91801 (626) 282-2744 www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org May 2, 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



SAINT THERESE CARMELITE SCHOOL (626) 289-3364

Principal: Alma Cornejo X661

www.SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com principal@sainttheresecarmeliteschool.com

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

MASSES & CONFESSIONS

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. <u>And</u> Traditional Latin High Mass at 1:00 p.m.

Monday-Friday: 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). Monday, *Tuesday (in *Spanish) and

Thursday EVENINGS: Mass at 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.

SACRAMENTS:

Baptisms: Register online

Weddings: Register online at least six months in advance

Anointing: Call the office.





"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does He prunes so that it bears more fruit. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will much fruit, because bear without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; If...my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you" (John 15:2, 4-7).



You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit —fruit that will last and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. John 15:16

Christ is risen!

Dear Parishioners and Other Friends,

Continued blessings on you and your loved ones during this Easter Season! I hope and pray that you had a chance to experience something of the love of St. Joseph for you and your family, especially yesterday on the Feast of St. Joseph the

Worker. He really is the best human father for all of us, and all we need to do is to go to him and ask him for help and guidance and healing from our wounds—especially the wounds having to do with confusion and doubt and denial of our fundamental identity and security as sons and daughters of our Heavenly Father. And just a little heads up about further help and healing in that area: Mark your calendars for the Vigil of Pentecost on May 22, when we will have a special Vigil Mass at 7:00 p.m., with extra readings and prayer in preparation for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit!

Last week we were looking at the Good Shepherd and His calling of each of us by name, not only for our vocations in the Church as either consecrated single persons, consecrated male or female religious, married persons, or ministerial priests; but also how He calls us and guides us in everyday practical matters. Here are some guidelines for discerning how He is guiding us in decisions both large and small: (Taken from an article called *Discernment* by Dr. Peter Kreeft—available on his website, *peterkreeft.com*.) -**Fr. Thomas Koller, OCD**

- 1. Always begin with data, with what we know for sure. Judge the unknown by the known, the uncertain by the certain. Adam and Eve neglected that principle in Eden and ignored God's clear command and warning for the devil's promised "pig in a poke".
- 2. Let your heart educate your mind. Let your love of God educate your reason in discerning His will. Jesus teaches this principle in John 7:17 to the Pharisees. (if only certain Scripture scholars today would heed it!) They were asking how they could interpret His words, and He gave them the first principle of hermeneutics (the science of interpretation): "If your will were to do the will of my Father, you would understand my teaching." The saints understand the Bible better than the theologians, because they understand its primary author, God, by loving Him with their "whole heart and their whole mind".
- 3. Have a soft heart but a hard head. We should be "wise as serpents and harmless as doves," sharp as a fox in thought but loyal as a dog in will and deed. Soft-heartedness does not excuse soft-headedness, and hard-headedness does not excuse hard-heartedness. In our hearts we should be "bleeding-heart liberals" and in our heads "stuck-in-the-mud conservatives."
- 4. All God's signs should line up, by a kind of trigonometry. There are at least seven such signs: (1) Scripture, (2) Church teaching, (3) human reason—which God created, (4) the appropriate situation or circumstances—which He controls by His providence), (5) conscience, our innate sense of right and wrong, (6) our individual personal bent or desire or instincts, and (7) prayer. Test your choice by holding it up before God's face. If one of these seven voices says NO, don't do it! If none say NO, do it.
- 5. Look for the fruits of the Spirit, especially the first three: love, joy, and peace. If we are angry and anxious and worried, loveless and joyless and peaceless, we have no right to say we are sure of being securely in God's will. Discernment itself should not be a stiff, brittle, anxious thing, but—since it too is part of God's will for our lives—loving and joyful and peace -filled, more like a game than a war, more like writing love letters than taking final exams.



May 2, 2021 Page Three BRANCHES OF THE ONE WINE

The stories of the early Church that we hear from the Acts of the Apostles are instructive and inspiring. We learn how the community grew in their understanding of what it means to remain close to Jesus in the most challenging of situations. They lived in word and deed as Christ had taught and bore the fruit of their faith in their daily decisions, in small ways and in dramatic moments. Faced with Saul who had persecuted Christians but who now presented himself as a disciple, Barnabas took a risk in believing Saul's testimony. Through Barnabas, the community accepted Saul, with increasing numbers of people being led to a belief in Christ as a result. We, too, are called to live in word and deed, taking to heart Christ's command to love one another, even when it is challenging to do so. We may find inspiration in the way the early believers drew consolation from the Holy Spirit, finding wisdom and strength to keep the commandments and do what pleases God.

We have a unique episode in the Acts of the Apostles today. A whole roomful of people are baptized with the Holy Spirit **before** they are baptized with water! In the passage, the Holy Spirit is described as having "fell" on them (Acts 10:44), which is characteristic of the way the Spirit works throughout the book of Acts: powerful and surprising. Though this "baptism" is not the normative way the New Testament describes baptism, it is still a good reminder today that the Holy Spirit is not controlled by whether or not we pour water, but rather that our sacramental signs reveal the presence of the Spirit at work among us. And we have a double reinforcement of how this work is accomplished from a Letter and a Gospel bearing John's name. It is love—self-sacrificing and self-giving love—that manifests the Spirit of Jesus in our midst. It is love that is the greatest of commandments. The Spirit is manifested equally through those who live in that love.

Few activities are as disappointing as cultivating garden plants, watering them, and ensuring that they receive sunlight and nutrients, only to receive one or two vegetables or flowers to show for all the effort. In today's Gospel, Jesus likens our relationship with Him to a plant with many branches. We, the branches, are called to remain so close to Jesus that we bear fruit, loving one another as Christ loves us. Jesus uses the metaphor of the vine and branches to describe how closely we are called to remain with Him—so close that we bear the fruit of His life and love in the way we live. When we do this, Jesus says, we give glory to God the Father, which Jesus did perfectly through His life, passion, death, and resurrection. Like plants that rely on the sun and nutrients from the soil, we rely on the Lord Jesus through whom we can do all for which we are called. Without the Lord, we can do nothing.

Not many of us, even when we meditate on the image of the vine and branches, stop to really think about how God "prunes" us. For some, there is the danger of thinking that we are already producing fruit the branc for the Kingdom, in deed and truth as John says, perhaps by raising who abides in a family, being active in our parish, and so on. But even those and I in him. branches which are bearing fruit, the Gospel tells us, can be a much fruit: pruned to produce still more. Saul, freshly "pruned" by his without conversion, arrives in Jerusalem and meets resistance. Since he can do had been persecuting Christians, this was only natural. But even after he is accepted and begins to bear fruit, he meets further adversity, and his letters are filled with many accounts of how his John 15 trials "pruned" him to produce greater fruit for the kingdom. Like him, as long as we remain in Christ we will continue to bear fruit and, when the will of the Father determines it is time to prune us, the strength of the true vine must enable us to endure it. Page Four

May 2, 2021

THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH



When Pope Francis first declared this to be the Year of St. Joseph, the news quickly spread. How this year may have been inspired is, perhaps, less well known. **Marian Father Donald Calloway,** author of **Consecration to St. Joseph**, said that although he heard the news with gratitude and awe, he was keenly aware of details that may have led to this historic declaration. Fr. Calloway revealed details of a letter he had sent in May 2019—hand-delivered by Bishop Héctor Zordán of Argentina—to Pope Francis, requesting that such a year be dedicated to St. Joseph.

"After writing the book, I became aware that the Church had never had a year dedicated to St. Joseph," Father Calloway explained. "I thought, 'The greatest saint after Our Lady, and we've never done something like this?' I was inspired to write to Pope Francis after first

writing to individual bishops asking that they consider dedicating a year to St. Joseph in their individual dioceses. I wrote the letter to the Pope on May 1, 2019, and then found out that a friend of mine was friends with a Bishop from Argentina who was scheduled to meet with the Pope the next day. "It was clear this was God working: I mean, what were the chances that I'd get the letter delivered by hand?"

Bishop Zordán confirmed that he delivered Fr. Calloway's letter to Pope Francis during his visit with the Pope in Argentina on May 2, 2019. Bishop Zordán said he was never contacted by the Pope about it, but knew Pope Francis would have at least read it. "Now, however, I believe we can intuit ... that the content of the letter contributed greatly to the convocation of the year dedicated to St. Joseph, which was announced by the Holy Father on December 8, 2020." Bishop Zordán said, "May God grant that in this Jubilee Year that the love for this great saint grow, so that we may be prompted to implore his intercession and imitate his virtues, as well as his zeal."

Fr. Calloway said that "the letter to Pope Francis remained in my thoughts and prayers. I was getting contacted by people, asking if I had heard back from him; and I had to say "No"—but I was praying, praying, praying. All of a sudden, the announcement came on December 8, 2020, that there *would* be a Year of St. Joseph; they had to have been prepared for it, because the apostolic letter, *Patris Corde*, was well researched and well thought out. It is no small thing that the Holy Father declared it on the 150th anniversary of the declaration of St. Joseph as 'Patron of the Universal Church.'" Addressing some who expressed concern that making the declaration on December 8 took focus away from the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Fr. Calloway remarked, "This is where we must look to the example of the Holy Spouses, St. Joseph and Our Lady. To be honest, I believe it was for this very reason Pope Pius IX made the declaration on this date. They are a couple; their hearts are one. As he protected her during his earthly life, cherishes her and loves her, it is fitting that she places him before her on this day, offering her day for him. She lifts her husband up, in his headship—and how fitting that she glorified him on the day glorifying her."

Fr. Calloway concluded that it was due to how this declaration took place that led him to send yet another letter to Pope Francis in February of this year, asking him to declare January 23 as an obligatory "Memorial of the Holy Spouses, St. Joseph and Mary." "A lot of people are very worried about the various crises that are happening in the world when it comes to divorce rates and the breakdown of the family. Jesus Himself says the pure of heart will see God. We have to be honest with how degraded our society has become, how pornographic. Clarity of sight and discernment seem completely disoriented. Right now, many men are not seeing God, let alone His will, because they're impure—sexually impure, yes, but also spiritually and ideologically impure."

A Catholic convert and a priest for 17 years, Fr. Calloway believes the root of divisions in the Church are the consequence of this impurity—even and especially among men who pray and seek virtue: "Men have become inwardly focused and narcissistic—resulting in spiritual impotence. Their entire masculinity is undermined. It seems Satan is not worried about most men now, and that's a huge problem when the kids who grow up under them have families. If fathers of households have no spiritual power, their authority has been usurped. No wonder the family is falling apart! No wonder all this is happening in the Church and in the world. We have to get to the root of the problem, and St. Joseph is the man to do it! He is the model of the decisive man, a model of a masculine heart! His marriage to Our Lady is a clear example of how much she respects and uplifts him in this declaration on her solemnity. This feast is one that is critical for our times!"



Friday, May 14, at 6:00 p.m.

More info to come soon!

If your child (in First Grade+) has been baptized but has not yet received the Sacrament of First Holv Communion, and you'd like to enroll him or her in our preparation **classes**, please contact Denise Lopez at



Page Five

deniseclopez7@gmail.com. ALSO... If anyone is able to volunteer to help with this program, please contact Denise as well!

ave

- MONDAY MEDITATION NIGHTS: Join us every MONDAY evening to strengthen your faith! The schedule is as follows: 7:00 p.m.: Mass; 7:30-8:00 p.m.: Adoration; 8:00-8:30 p.m.: Teaching/ Meditation (indoors!)
- TUESDAY NIGHTS: Celebrated in SPANISH! Join us at 7:00 p.m. •
- THURSDAY NIGHTS: Join us every THURSDAY evening in HONOR OF ST. JOSEPH! The schedule is: 6:30 p.m.: Viewing of an Episode of The Chosen; 7:00 p.m.: Mass; 7:30-8:30 p.m.: Adoration
- FIRST FRIDAY MASS: Come and honor the Sacred Heart of Jesus by attending Mass at 7:00 p.m. on the • first Friday of each month. Next will be THIS FRIDAY, May 7th.
- SATURDAY NIGHT HEALING PRAYER: Join us LIVE OR via ZOOM for Fr. Thomas' HEALING PRAYER TRAINING. Training is held on Saturday nights from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. (join anytime during that time slot). Here is the link: https://zoom.us/j/91328296798?pwd=QzIIQ3ISMG5aK3k3 ZFJLN0gzaHVOdz09 The Meeting ID is 913 2829 6798, and the Passcode is UC3YxA.

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!



April 24 / 25, 2021 Unrestricted...... \$23,025.00 Restricted\$ 982.00 TO TAL\$24,007.00

March 27 / 28	\$12,043.00
April 3 / 4	\$22,145.00
April 10 / 11	\$46,798.00
April 17 / 18	\$11,183.00

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

FOR MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND:

BABY BOTTLES DISTRIBUTION / BABY SHOWER!

GPS-Guadalupe Pregnancy Services Volunteers will be outside the church distributing **Baby Bottles NEXT WEEKEND (Mother's Day weekend), May 8 and 9.** Please take a bottle and use it like a piggy bank to collect coins, cash, or checks. Your donations help support the life-affirming services of GPS: parenting, personal development, and spiritual enrichment programs for pregnant mothers and mothers with infants and toddlers. Every Bottle Counts! We will collect them on the weekend of May 22 and 23.

ALSO NEXT WEEKEND, please bring a Baby Shower Gift for Baby and Mom! We will have a crib outside the church for you to place the gifts. Here are things we need:

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

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS TO HOST SILVER ROSE / PRAY THE ROSARY



The Alhambra Council of the Knights of Columbus will be hosting the Silver Rose at the 9:00 a.m. Mass NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 9. The Silver Rose is a symbol of the devotion the Knights of Columbus have for Our Lady of Guadalupe (their patroness) and her patronage for the unborn. A recitation of the Holy Rosary for the unborn will follow the Mass.

ENROLLMENT IN OUR MOTHER'S DAY NOVENA

If you wish to enroll someone (or yourself) in our Mother's Day Novena of Masses (May 10-18), pick up a card from the tables near the doors and return the offering envelope by Mother's Day. The card is for you to send to the enrolled person to let her know you are thinking of her.



ass Intentions May 1 through May 8, 2021

Saturday: 5:00 pm: Sr. Isabelle, OCD, INT Sunday *7:30 a.m.: Mary Esther Victor, RIP 7:30 am: Parishioners of St. Therese 9:00 a.m.: Oralia Mendoza, INT 11:00 a.m.: Christina Martinez, INT 1:00 p.m.: Erick Gilberto Arenas, RIP 5:00 p.m.: Bolivar Jordán, RIP

Monday:

6:00 a.m.: Antonio C. Cailan, B-Day INT *7:30 a.m.: Erlinda & Cecilio Reves, RIP 8:00 a.m.: Damaris Shower, RIP 7:00 p.m.: Roland De La Rosa, RIP

Tuesday:

6:00 a.m.: Alex, Lauren, & Emily Cheah, INT *7:30 a.m.: Mary Esther Victor, RIP 8:00 a.m.: Lorraine Mizerski, B-Day INT Wednesday:

6:00 a.m.: Emily and Lauren Cheah, INT *7:30 am: John Hummel RIP

8:00 a.m.: Virginia Johnson & Cathy Michero, RIP Thursday:

> 6:00 a.m.: Kim Ki Chul, RIP *7:30 am: Mary Lou Workman, RIP 8:00 a.m.: Liz Young, RIP 7:00 p.m.: Raymond Toohey, INT

Friday: 6:00 a.m.: Park Ho Soon Maria, RIP *7:30 am: Sr. Anna, OCD, INT

8:00 a.m.: Angelle Francisse & Karina Therese INT

Saturday: *7:30 am: Carmelite Community 8:00 a.m.: Doctors, Nurses, & Their Families 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).

The Homily

Feast of Faith

The ambo. or pulpit, is a special place — it is the place for God's word. That is why it is n 0 normally used for all the



Page Seven

spoken words of the Mass, even important words like the collects and the blessing. The ambo is only used for the Scripture readings, and for the homily and the Prayers of the Faithful.

The homily is part of the Liturgy of the Word. It flows from the readings we have just heard, and helps us to understand the way in which God is speaking to us today. The homily is not a lecture, a catechism lesson, or a speech. It is more like an exhortation; it has an urgency about it, for it calls us to find ourselves in the Scripture, to live the faith we profess, to see our world by the light of the Gospel.

The homily, in itself a response to God's word, demands a response from us. There are many styles of preaching and many ways to respond to the Scriptures. But whether the homily is weak or strong, an open ear and an open heart can find in it an abundance of spiritual nourishment.

SEEKING SOMEONE TO SHARE APT on North Lake in Pasadena, convenient to bus lines and stores. Priv. room w/ shared bath. \$850/ month, plus utilities. Call Pam at 797-8717.

