



SAINT THERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

May 24, 2020

MINISTERED BY THE DISCALCED CARMELITE FRIARS

Estab. 1924

CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF THE ASCENSION



The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they saw Him, they worshiped, but they doubted. Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in Heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age" (Matthew 28:16-20).



ASCENSION OF THE *Lord*

MAY 24, 2020

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19

MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS

Today we celebrate the ascension of Jesus into heaven, his departure after the Crucifixion, the Resurrection, and all the appearances to the disciples. Acts and Ephesians look back at the time just before Jesus leaves and then at its immediate aftermath, still trying to understand what has happened and what is expected of those who were left behind. The readings remind us that the disciples are still not certain what all this means to them. But one thing is certain: Jesus is gone and they are struggling with what to do next. Matthew tells us that even as they believed in Jesus, they doubted. Jesus responds to their doubt with a call to work. He tells them to “make disciples of all nations.”

UP, UP AND AWAY

The reading from Acts gives us a pretty complete description of the Ascension. Jesus was lifted up and taken from their sight but not before the disciples ask lots of questions about what will happen. The disciples are still thinking that the kingdom of Israel will be restored. Jesus answers them with a promise of power from the Holy Spirit and a commission that they be witnesses not just to Israel but to the ends of the earth. But the disciples are still thinking small. Jesus knows that the meaning of his death and resurrection is not small. Ephesians offers a glimpse of the great gifts of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection. The disciples cannot even imagine what this means for them as they stand staring into the sky. Jesus tells them one more time that their work is to tell everyone about his life and work, to baptize them, and to teach them his commandments.

NEVER CAN SAY GOOD-BYE

The disciples still thought this was just about their life and their world. They are reminded by Jesus that what they have lived through with him, his life, death, and resurrection, is greater and more far-reaching than they can yet imagine. This is not just about the kingdom of Israel. This is about all nations. This is not just about witnessing in Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria. This work will take them to the ends of the earth. It is an enormous undertaking that we and the disciples have been given. It seemed impossible to the disciples then and it seems impossible to us now. But it is not. It is possible because we are not alone in this work. Jesus is with us not for a day or a week or even our lifetime. Jesus is with us always, until the end of the age.

TODAY’S READINGS

Acts 1:1–11
Psalm 47:2–3, 6–9
Ephesians 1:17–23
Matthew 28:16–20

PRAYING THROUGH THE PANDEMIC - No. 3 of 4

Let Us Pray: 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 John (3:14,16): Beloved: We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers and sisters. Whoever does not love remains in death. The way we came to know love was that He laid down His life for us; so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If someone who has worldly means sees a brother or sister in need and refuses to offer compassion, how can the love of God remain in that person? Children, let us love not in word or speech, but in deed and truth.

Litany of Intercession (when prayed with a group, “Lord, hear our prayer” or another response may be added).

For researchers working to develop vaccines,
For staff and medical personnel working in hospitals,
For paramedics, ambulance drivers, and all first responders,
For doctors and nurses working with coronavirus patients,

For active-duty military and for reservists called to serve,
For all who care for nursing home residents,
For psychologists, social workers, and hospital chaplains,

 For people with COVID-19, especially the seriously ill,
For seniors and those who are especially vulnerable,
For people in countries lacking sufficient resources,

For friends and loved ones who are unable to be together,
For people who are feeling isolated, alone, or anxious,
For troubled families who find this lockdown very difficult,

For federal, state, and local leaders of government,
For the staff of FEMA & other emergency response agencies,
For public health officials working to keep people informed,

For all those struggling with financial hardship, 
For small businesses struggling to stay afloat,



For all government leaders,
For all students studying at home,
For working parents with children at home,
For employees who are working remotely,

For those in essential positions,
For mail carriers, delivery services, and drivers,
For staff who clean and sanitize buildings,

For cooks and bakers who provide meals,
For volunteers who work with the homeless
For people who share their resources, 

For pastors and parish staff members,
For all who find ways to provide pastoral care,
For those not following “stay at home” directives,

For those whose behavior puts others at risk,
For patience during this long stay-at-home,

For the courage to focus on long-term goals. 
For faith communities, to gather once again.
We pray through Christ our Lord.



Concluding Prayer: Loving and faithful God, we turn to you in our doubt, our disbelief, our fear. So much is unknown to us and the future is uncertain. We feel helpless, alone, and worried. Fill us with the courage to face whatever happens and the common sense to follow public health directives until the threat of the disease is diminished, friends and loved ones are able to reunite, people get back to work, and communities of faith gather once again to sing your praise. We pray through Christ our Lord.

SUPPORT GPS!

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 CLOISTERED NUNS

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 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

FOOD PANTRY ITEMS:

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



LIVE STREAMED DAILY MASSES!

We **LIVE STREAM** 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).

To view, just go to our **Facebook page** at <https://www.facebook.com/stthereseoflisieuxalhambra> and scroll down until you see the most recent live streamed Mass (see a red box that says, "Live"). You can easily access it from the Home Page of our website (just click on the word Facebook in the right column, and it will take you to our page—no need to be a Facebook member). Sometime after the Masses air, you can access them from our website (link: **LIVE STREAMED MASSES**) **AND** from our **YouTube Channel**. Go to the YouTube app on your Smart TV's and search for St. Therese Roman Catholic Church. Click on that and then choose the Mass for the day and watch it on a **big screen TV**.

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 27–May 13, 2020

Unrestricted.....	\$23,927.00
Restricted.....	<u>\$20,921.00</u>
TOTAL.....	\$44,848.00

March 16-22.....	\$ 362.00
Mar 23-Apr 12.....	\$50,020.00
April 13-19.....	\$21,310.00
April 20-26.....	\$ 7,254.00

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!

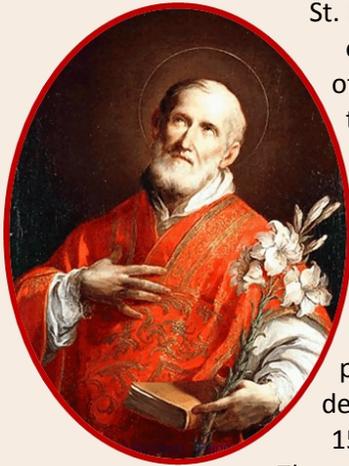
God bless and protect each of you!

~Fr. Philip and the Discaled Carmelite Community



SAINT OF THE WEEK—ST. PHILIP NERI (Feast Day: May 26)

Born on July 21, 1515, in Florence Italy; Died on May 26, 1595, in Rome; Canonized in 1622



St. Philip Neri was an Italian priest and mystic, as well as the founder of the **Congregation of the Oratory** (now the Institute of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri, a congregation of secular priests called “Oratorians”). In 1533, at the age of 18, he went to San Germano to assist his uncle in his business. Soon after arriving there, however, he had a religious conversion. From then onward, he no longer cared for the things of the world, and decided to move to Rome. There he tutored, studied, and undertook many charitable works. At that time in Rome—and in many parts of Europe—the people were abandoning the Church, but Philip resolved to be an “apostle of joy.” He drew many people to Christ—especially the young—and brought them back to receiving frequent confession and Communion. He did this by his sincere interest in their problems, his prayerful example, and his gentle humor. In 1548 he founded a society of laymen dedicated to the care of the poor, convalescents, and pilgrims. After his ordination in 1551, he moved to the ecclesiastical community at San Girolamo della Carità in Rome.

There he held religious conferences that became so popular that a large room was built over the church nave to accommodate his audiences. This room was called the “Oratory,” and became a place where devotional, charitable, and recreational activities took place, including musical performances (hence “oratorio”), and was well known for its joyful atmosphere of service and liturgy.

Philip was rector of the Church of San Giovanni in Rome from 1564 to 1575. In 1575 Pope Gregory XIII granted him St. Maria in Vallicella, where he established the Institute of the Oratory. A house was built there for the priests of his order, and Philip—elected provost of the congregation in 1577—resided there from 1583 until his death in 1595. Although he helped influence Pope Clement VIII to absolve King Henry IV of France from excommunication, he normally had little to do with contemporary political events. Noted for his personal spirituality, he underwent numerous ecstatic religious experiences, and many miracles were attributed to him. Philip Neri challenges each of us to begin improving both the Church and the world by changing ourselves with unending joy.

PRAYER OF ST. PADRE PIO: 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. 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.

Mass Intentions

Scripture Reflection

May 23 through May 30, 2020

Saturday:

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

Sunday:

- *7:30 a.m.: Lorraine Mizerski, Birthday, and Deacon Joe Mizerski, INT
- 11:00 a.m.: 1) Alexander, Lauren, & Ellena Cheah, INT
- 2) Eleanor Vargas & Peter Abraham, RIP
- 3) Enrica Yan, Birthday Intention
- 4) Parishioners; 5) Luisa Lapidario, INT

Monday:

- *7:30 a.m.: Ana Sun, INT
- Noon: 1) Fr. Ed Broom, INT
- 2) Leo Henry Tittmann, 8th Birthday INT

Tuesday:

- *7:30 a.m.: Ana Sun, INT
- Noon: 1) Leuteria Manuntag Sacramento, RIP
- 2) Patrick Hew, RIP

Wednesday

- *7:30 a.m.: Genoveva Millado, RIP
- Noon: 1) Cesar Torres, RIP
- 2) Jordan Hall, INT

Thursday:

- *7:30 a.m.: Genoveva Millado, RIP
- Noon: 1) Paz Casino, RIP
- 2) Clarita Esperanza, RIP

Friday:

- *7:30 a.m.: Sr. Cecelia, OCD, INT
- Noon: 1) Salvador Edward Zavala, RIP
- 2) Consuelo Nogal, RIP

Saturday:

- *7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Community
- Noon: 1) Karina Therese Laigo, INT
- 2) Edgar Lopez, RIP
- 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).

"PUSHED" OUT ON MISSION

There is a delightful character in the original Dr. Dolittle Tales called the "Pushmi-Pullyu." It is a beast with two identical halves, with a head at each end. No matter which direction the beast walks, one end is the "push me" and the other is the "pull you." Today's feast is a bit like that in the life of the Church.



In the book of the Acts of the Apostles, it is the ascension of Christ that calls for the Holy Spirit, which consequently sends or "pushes" the Church out on its mission. This is the message that we hear from the angels today as they tell the friends of Jesus not to look up into the clouds, but to get busy. It is the message of Jesus Himself in Matthew's Gospel, as He sends them out to baptize.

He also tells them, "I am with you always, until the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). And it is this message, confident in faith that Jesus has ascended to shouts of joy, that "pulls" us along to our final destiny. The life of the faithful disciple, sent into the world on mission, will one day know the same risen, ascended glory.