



SAINT THERESE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

May 3, 2020

MINISTERED BY THE DISCALCED CARMELITE FRIARS

Estab. 1924

"GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY"



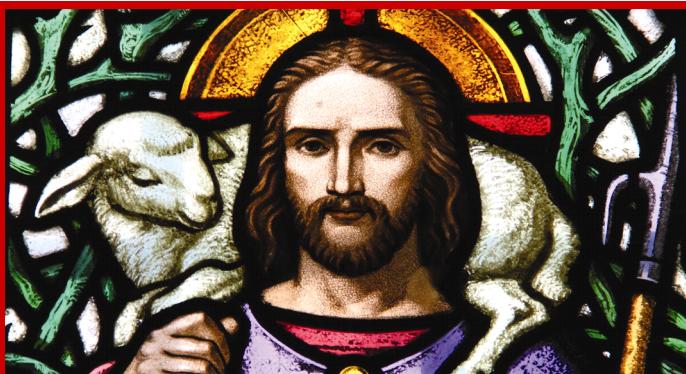
PRAYER TO JESUS, THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Faithful Shepherd, you are not a hireling who runs away at the sight of danger, but One whose fidelity was tested and proven on the wood of the Cross. Accept the gift of my gratitude for your marvelous care. Help all to hear and to faithfully follow your voice.

Watchful Shepherd, who protects the flock and searches tirelessly for those who wander from the fold, retrieve the lost and bring them home.

Tend and heal their wounds.

Good Shepherd, who lays down His Life for His sheep, nourish your people with the Bread of Life, that we may reflect your likeness and enjoy the spring of Living Water that never ends. Amen.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF Easter

MAY 3, 2020

The shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them.

John 10:3

THE ONE WHO KNOWS US BY NAME

Today's readings tell about the confusion and fear that followed Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. In Acts, the people ask, "What are we to do?" after they are reminded that they were part of the death of Jesus, who was Lord and Christ. In First Peter we are reminded of Jesus' innocence. He did nothing to deserve the suffering and death that he experienced for us. Both the psalm and First Peter introduce the image of Jesus as shepherd. John's Gospel talks about Jesus as shepherd but not in the usual way. We recognize this shepherd's voice because he calls each of us by name. The confusion and fear we too often feel is calmed by the voice of the One who knows us by name.

WHAT ARE WE TO DO?

The readings describe that time when confused and frightened followers of Jesus looked to the apostles to tell them what to do after the Crucifixion and Resurrection. The answer seems simple. They must believe that Jesus, whom they crucified, is both Lord and Christ, both God and human. They must acknowledge their complicity in his death and seek forgiveness. They must be baptized. In First Peter the standard for their behavior is Jesus' behavior. Jesus, though free from sin himself, bore our sins and returned no insult or threat. Peter introduces the image of the shepherd who is the guardian of us who have gone astray. The Gospel emphasizes not the shepherd's leadership but that we are called by name.

LISTEN FOR YOUR NAME

The emphasis in John's Gospel is not on the leadership of the shepherd. The focus is specifically on the voice of the shepherd. We listen for the shepherd who calls us by name. We are not called to follow passively. We are called to recognize our name when it is spoken. We are to listen so that we can hear the voice of the One who knows who we truly are—not the external, transient realities like "I am a doctor" or "I am a mother." Our real name known to our Creator is much more than the roles we fill or the work we do. If my name is who I truly am, then I must listen for the One who calls me "forgiven" and "merciful" and "beloved." For this is my true name. This is my true nature.

To receive the Sunday bulletin, etc., via a weekly E-Blast, please send your email address to the Parish Secretary, Denise McMaster-Holguin, at denisekay@hotmail.com.



TODAY'S READINGS

Acts 2:1, 4a, 36–41
Psalm 23:1–6
1 Peter 2:20b–25
John 10:1–10



PRAYING THROUGH THE PANDEMIC



Invitation to Prayer: During times of crisis, in moments of doubt, during periods of isolation, through seasons of uncertainty, we place our trust in our loving God. Let us open our hearts to God's Word. In communion with the saints, in union with Our Lord's suffering, and in solidarity with all people of good will, we pray for all whose lives have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

A Reading from Lamentations (3:7-26): My soul is deprived of peace, I have forgotten what happiness is; I tell myself my future is lost, all that I hoped for from the Lord. The thought of my homeless poverty is wormwood and gall; Remembering it over and over leaves my soul downcast within me. But I will call this to mind, as my reason to have hope: The favors of the Lord are not exhausted, His mercies are not spent; They are renewed each morning, so great is His faithfulness. "My portion is the Lord," says my soul; "therefore, will I hope in Him." Good is the Lord to one who waits for Him, to the soul that seeks Him; It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the Lord.

Litany of Prayer: Jesus, the Healer: 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.



Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world, be near us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world, stay with us, O Lord.



Jesus, Word of God, have mercy on us.

Jesus, Child of Mary, have mercy on us.

Emmanuel, God-with-us, have mercy on us.

Jesus, Sacrament of God's love, have mercy on us.

Jesus, Good Shepherd, have mercy on us.

Jesus, Crucified and Risen, have mercy on us.

Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life, have mercy on us.

Jesus, Bread of Life, sustain us, O Lord.

Jesus, Cup of Salvation, sustain us, O Lord.

Jesus, Manna for exiles, sustain us, O Lord.

Jesus, Fount of Living Water, sustain us, O Lord.

Jesus, Bread of Solidarity, sustain us, O Lord.

Jesus, Food for the Hungry, sustain us, O Lord.

Jesus, Water for the Thirsty, sustain us, O Lord.

Jesus, Nourishment for the journey, sustain us, O Lord.

Jesus, Foretaste of the Heavenly Banquet, sustain us, O Lord. Jesus, Companion through life, save us, O Lord.

Jesus, Compassionate Healer, heal us, O Lord.

Jesus, Companion of the Sick, heal us, O Lord.

Jesus, Source of Transformation, heal us, O Lord.

Jesus, Hospitality for the stranger, heal us, O Lord.

Jesus, Advocate for the invisible, heal us, O Lord.

Jesus, Strength for the weary, heal us, O Lord.

Jesus, Rest for the exhausted, heal us, O Lord.

Jesus, Comfort for the Dying, heal us, O Lord.

Jesus, Courage for the fearful, save us, O Lord.

Jesus, Hope for the despairing, save us, O Lord.

Jesus, Shelter in the time of storm, save us, O Lord.

Jesus, Oasis in the desert, save us, O Lord.

Jesus, Light in our darkness, save us, O Lord.

Jesus, Lamp for our feet, save us, O Lord.

Jesus, River of divine mercy, save us, O Lord.

Jesus, Companion through life, save us, O Lord.

Christ Jesus, Alpha and Omega: We adore you, O Christ. Christ Jesus, Head of the Body, the Church: We praise you, O Christ. Christ Jesus, present with us always: We love you, O Christ.

Concluding Prayer: God of every age and place, during this time when the patterns of everyday life have been superseded by drastic measures and emergency directives, give us the grace to live each day as fully as possible and to spend more time with you in prayer. Give us patience when we grow restless. Give us determination to focus on everyday actions that contribute to the long-term good of all. We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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 at Guadalupe Pregnancy Services, 1168 San Gabriel Boulevard, Unit E, Rosemead, CA 91770 (Call or text (323) 360-5186 or call the Center at 872-2483).
- 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.

Note: Your donation is tax-deductible!



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 either the Parish Office, or drop off or mail to the Nuns' Monastery at 215 East Alhambra Road, Alhambra 91801. God bless you!



WHAT IS "PERFECT CONTRITION"?

Penance (or confession or reconciliation) is the sacrament by which we are forgiven any sins we have committed after baptism, especially our mortal sins, so called because they bring about a kind of spiritual death. The forgiveness of grave sins ordinarily requires the Sacrament of Penance. **However, what if we cannot get to confession as is happening right now because of the Pandemic?** When sacramental penance is unavailable, it is important to remember that "perfect contrition" (a spiritual gift from God wherein we are truly sorry because our sins have offended God and we intend to not commit sin again) "obtains the forgiveness of mortal sins" if it includes the firm resolution to have recourse to sacramental confession as soon as possible" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1452).

First, it helps to know that "contrition" comes from Latin and means "to grind into small pieces." In the Christian life, we talk about contrition as a kind of spiritual pulverizing, a breaking of our hard, stony hearts by sorrow when we have lost the grace of God and our own innocence. We should emphasize that we cannot produce contrition by our natural human efforts: It arises from supernatural charity, and is a gift from God. Contrition is voluntary, meaning it is something deliberate that involves a movement of our will. Contrition is not primarily a feeling or emotion; instead it is principally an active turning (conversion) of our will away from sin and toward God.

Perfect Contrition is also 1) Supernatural, 2) Supreme, and 3) Universal. In this context "**Supernatural**" means our contrition comes from the grace of God: We are sorry because we love God, not only because we are afraid of going to Hell, or dismayed by the inherent ugliness of sin, or disappointed in ourselves! "**Supreme**" means we are sorry because we know God is the highest good, and that sin, because it offends and separates us from Him, is the worst evil. It also means we deliberately reject sin more than we reject anything else, and choose God in preference to everything. Finally our contrition, to be perfect, must be "**Universal**," meaning it must apply to ALL our mortal sins, without exception. Even if we cannot remember each one of our sins at the moment, universal contrition is possible because we can still, in an instant, by God's grace, despise everything that is not pleasing to God. Our contrition is universal if we would reject every sin out of love for God, and forgive everyone who has sinned against us, regardless of whether we can, at the moment, actually recall every sin of ours or every person we ought to forgive.

PRAY WITH US DURING OUR LIVE STREAMED DAILY MASSES!

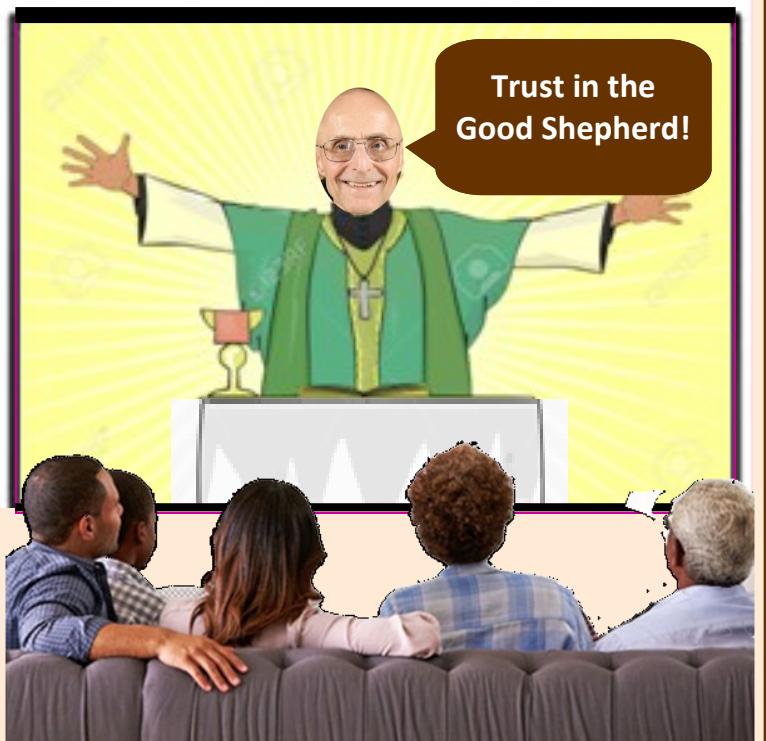
**JOIN US FOR OUR
DAILY LIVE STREAMED
MASSES!**

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/stthereseflisieuxalhambra> 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

"...for God loves a cheerful giver"
(2 Corinthians 9:7)

May God reward you!

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

April 18 / 19, 2020

Unrestricted.....	\$19,030.00
Restricted.....	<u>\$ 2,280.00</u>
TOTAL.....	\$21,310.00

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

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

Dear Parishioners, We are **OVERWHELMED** by your generosity! Thank you! And thank God for you! Thank you for your sacrifices and your goodness. May He continue to bless, protect, and guide you in every moment of your lives. Until we meet again, we love you and we pray for you always!



"Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for **God** loves a cheerful giver" (Corinthians 9:6-8).



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."

MOTHER'S DAY NOVENA OF MASSES

The Carmelite Friars will be celebrating a Novena of Masses for mothers from Monday, May 11 through Tuesday, May 19.



Because of the pandemic, we **CANNOT PROVIDE CARDS**; however, you may send in the names of those whom you would like to include in the Masses, along with a donation as a Mass offering. Mail to MOTHER'S DAY NOVENA, 510 North El Molino Street, Alhambra 91801 OR make a donation by Faith Direct and email the names to denisekay@hotmail.com. Then just send your mom, etc., your own cards, making this notation on each:

"Your intentions have been entered into a Novena of Masses offered by the Carmelite Friars of St. Therese Church in Alhambra, CA."

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

Mass Intentions

May 2 through May 9, 2020

Saturday:

*7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Community

Noon: 1) Wendy Lu & Family, INT;

2) Sr. Mary Anna Larkin OCD, RIP 3) Fr. Albert Bunsic OCD, INT

Sunday:

*7:30 a.m.: Sr. Teresita, OCD, INT

11:00 a.m.: 1) Robert & Linda Hopkins, INT

2) Antonio Cailan, INT

3) Damaris Shower, RIP;

4) Patricia Juarez, INT; 5) Parishioners

Monday:

*7:30 a.m.: Fr. Matthias Lambrecht, OCD INT

Noon: 1) Mary DeSantis, RIP

2) Missionaries of Charity Sisters in Alhambra, INT

Tuesday:

*7:30 a.m.: John Hummel, RIP

Noon: 1) Anoush Karaghanyan, RIP

2) Mary Sheridan, RIP

Wednesday:

*7:30 a.m.: Chiara Zino, B-day INT

Noon: 1) Noah Herrera, B-day INT

2) Ashley Hall, INT

Thursday:

*7:30 a.m.: Sr. Anna, OCD, INT

Noon: 1) Richard Gutierrez, INT

2) Bernadette & Steven Brunaczki, INT

Friday:

*7:30 a.m.: Sr. Teresita, OCD, INT

Noon: 1) Dorothy Irene Kraus, RIP

2) Erick Lopez, Sr., B-day INT

Saturday:

*7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Community

Noon: 1) Kuo-Shang, Yu-Mei, and Tai-Seng, RIP

2) John Wrotniewski, B-day INT

3) Donna Spencer, INT

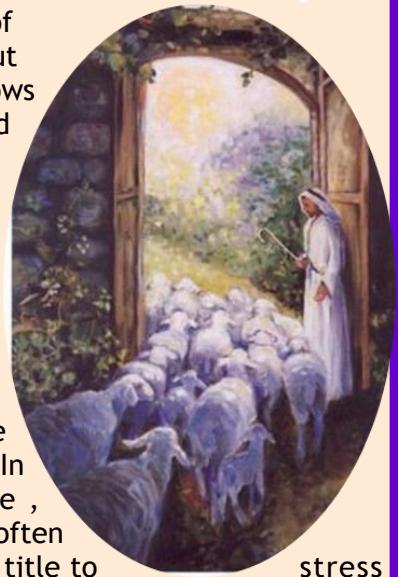
*All Masses, including the Masses at the Cloistered Nuns' Chapel, are **CLOSED** to the public during the Coronavirus Pandemic.

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).

Jesus the Gatekeeper

Of all the images of Jesus throughout the ages, what shows His tenderness and compassion more than the Good Shepherd? Even before Jesus' time, the image of a shepherd was used to describe the tenderness and provident care God shows us. In the Bible, "shepherd" was often used as a political title to stress a king's obligation to provide for his subjects. The title connoted concern for and dedication to others. The image of the shepherd also expresses great authority. The entire Good Shepherd discourse in John 10:1-21 continues the theme of critique on the Pharisees at the end of Chapter 9. Nourishing the flock means that the Shepherd must protect them from heresy, ever ready to defend the sheep from marauders. The shepherd's rod is a defensive weapon against wild animals, while the staff is a supportive instrument symbolizing care and loyalty.



Before we consider the significance of the sheep gate, let us recall that in ancient Israel, the gates of Zion symbolized the very idea of entrance into God's presence. When Isaiah speaks of the day of universal peace, he describes it as a time when God's "gates shall stand open constantly; day and night they shall not be closed" (Isaiah 60:11). Likewise, the altar of holocausts was placed not within the tabernacle, but "in front of the entrance of the Dwelling of the meeting tent" (Exodus 40:6).

Christ is the fulfillment of all these expectations: He is the door through which we have "access to the Father" (Ephesians 2: 18). He is the "new and living way" (Hebrews 10:20).