

St. Therese Catholic Church

August 14, 2022 Ministered by the Discalced Carmelite Friars Est. 1924

510 North El Molino Street | Alhambra CA 91801 | (626) 282-2744 | www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org

*I have come to set
the earth
on fire*



...and how I wish it were already blazing! - Luke 12:49

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 daily 8:00 a.m., the Sunday 11:00 a.m., and the weekday 7:00 p.m. Masses are **LIVE STREAMED** on Facebook AND YouTube);

Rosary: Mon-Sat after 8:00 a.m. Mass

**Masses on Monday, *Tuesday (*Spanish),
Wednesday & Thursday EVENINGS at 7:00 p.m.**

First Friday Mass: 7:00 p.m.

CONFESSIONS (OUTSIDE)-Wednesdays from 8:00

to 9:00 p.m.; Saturdays from 3:00 to 6:30 p.m.

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

Carmelite Nuns: 7:30 a.m., Mon.-Sat.

OFFICE HOURS | CONTACTS

Monday – Friday: 9:00 am-1:00 pm; 2:00 pm-5:00 pm

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: Dcn Joseph Mizerski | Dcn Gilbert Vargas X333;

Annulments: Deacon Gilbert Vargas X333

Vocations: For the Archdiocese: (213) 637-7515

For the Carmelites: www.discalcedcarmelitefriars.com

Parish Secretary: Denise McMaster-Holguin X223
denisekay@hotmail.com

Finance: Noralyn Cailan X228 / cailannocds@gmail.com

Music Director: Paula Grimm | pgrimm.dir@gmail.com

Respect Life Ministry: Catherine Contreras XI 12

ST. THERESE CARMELITE SCHOOL

(626) 289-3364

www.SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com

Principal: Alma Cornejo X661

principal@sainttheresecarmeliteschool.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 of the Sick:** Call the office

A Letter from the Pastor

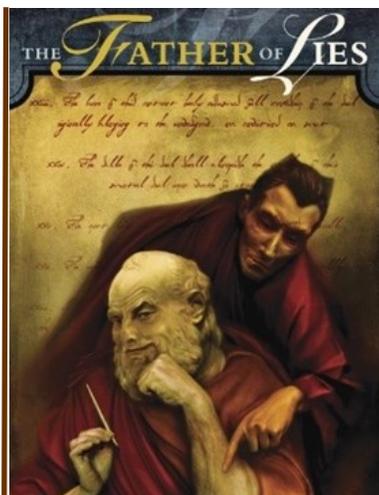
Blessed Twentieth Sunday of the Year, everyone!

Today is a very difficult Gospel: it sounds like Jesus wants to bring about division between families! But notice how it begins with Him talking about the desire of His heart, which is to set the earth on fire!!! "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!"

Did that ever happen? Absolutely! On the First Pentecost Sunday about 2000 years ago, when the Holy Spirit came to rest like a tongue of fire above the heads of each of the 120 or so disciples and of Jesus' Mother who were gathered in the Upper Room. And He is still continuing to set the earth on fire with the Holy Spirit of Fiery, Burning Love from the Trinity. And the result of that Divine Outpouring—not the cause but the *RESULT* of it!—will be that families will become divided, divided over the Person of Jesus, over the Outpouring of the Spirit, over the Love of the Father.

Some will want that, will accept Jesus and try to surrender their whole life to Him...and others won't. That is the wonderful and sad reality in this world. Let us continue to pray with patient endurance for unity and surrender to Jesus in all our families, even if it seems like it will never happen. "A slow cure is the best cure," says St. Francis de Sales.

In the box below, we continue to look at the gift of Baptism and the healing it brings. -Fr. Thomas, OCD



How do we keep from being deceived by the father of lies and losing sight of our true identity? St. Ignatius of Loyola provided a great tool for baptized believers to discern these spirits in his Spiritual Exercises. In the exercises, Ignatius identifies two opposing spirits that he says are always at work in our lives and in the world. He simply calls them the "good spirit" (which represents our hearts attuned to the Holy Spirit) and the "evil spirit" (which refers to our fallen human nature influenced by the father of lies).

Does it make sense to you that, even though they were each baptized and given the gift of the Holy Spirit, both Margaret Sanger and Donna allowed the evil spirit to deceive them? I don't believe that either of these women actively set out to be accomplices of the evil spirit in stealing, killing, or destroying human life. Rather, like Eve, I believe they were first seduced and then deceived by the father of lies into believing that what they were doing was something good or at least necessary. Isn't that the case with us most of the time?

The evil spirit is obviously acting behind the scenes in the act of abortion (which is just a modern version of child sacrifice) as well as in the philosophies that undergird the culture of death. But they are certainly not the only manifestations of the evil spirit. Rejection, which is the fruit of sin, is all around us and inside us. Taking hold in us and in our relationships, the spirit of rejection chokes out the love Jesus promised us (Romans 5:12, John 10:10).

Whenever any aspect of our life, our joy, or our true identity is thwarted or aborted in some way, we can be assured that the enemy of our souls is working to plant seeds of rejection. The evil one, who is eternally rejected, seeks to bring us into his misery. When those seeds are received into the ground of our souls, eventually they become firm roots of rejection, effectively choking out the life God planted in us through Baptism (Matthew 12:22,37; 13:18-29).

The evil spirit, who is himself condemned, tries to bring us under the same condemnation so that we hate and reject ourselves (John 12:31,16:11). As Henri Nouwen observed, this is deadly to our spiritual life: "Self-rejection is the greatest enemy of the spiritual life because it contradicts the sacred voice that calls us the 'beloved.' Being the beloved constitutes the core truth of our existence." Donna knew what she did was wrong, but rather than trust in God's forgiveness as a beloved daughter, she felt like an outcast, forever condemned for her abortions. She came into agreement with the curses of the evil spirit by condemning and hating herself, reinforcing her already deep wound of rejection. The deception from the evil spirit led her to believe that God had rejected her. But Jesus makes it very clear that the Father does not condemn us or reject us: "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him" (John 3:17); "I ask, then, has God rejected His people? Of course not! ...For the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable" (Romans 11:1,29). God is not the one who condemns us; we condemn ourselves by staying in the darkness of our sin and denying His mercy (John 3:17-21; Romans 8:1,33-35). **This is why Baptism is one of God's primary weapons against the tactics of our adversary.**

(THIS EXCERPT WILL CONTINUE IN NEXT WEEK'S BULLETIN)

NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Saint Therese Carmelite School is excited to be welcoming our students back on **Wednesday, August 24** for another wonderful school year. We appreciate the support of all the parishioners that helps make our school a success. Please continue to pray for an effective and fruitful school year for our families, teachers, staff, and students.

PARKING LOT CLOSURES

On **August 20**, the parking lot will close from **1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** in order to accommodate the School's Back-to-School Picnic.

Beginning **August 24** and continuing **EVERY SCHOOL DAY WHILE SCHOOL IS IN SESSION**, the parking lot will close immediately **after the conclusion of the 8:00 a.m. Mass and remain closed until 5:00 p.m.** We appreciate your cooperation in keeping our children safe.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education classes will begin again on **September 18** for elementary grades... on **September 22** for Youth Confirmation... and on **September 21** for RCIA and Adult Confirmation.

To register, stop by the tables in/or in front of the Parish Hall after the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Masses today, **August 14**, or on **August 21 or 28**. Bring your checkbook for the fees and a copy of the enrollee's baptism certificate.



The Assumption

The Feast of the Assumption of Mary into Heaven is this Monday, August 15.



Although it is not a day of obligation this year because it falls on a Monday, you are encouraged to attend Mass to honor Our Blessed Mother.

Masses will be in the morning at 6:00 and 8:00 a.m., and in the evening at 7:00 p.m.



The Real St. Therese



We published installments from *The Passion of Therese of Lisieux* by Guy Gaucher from June to November 2021. This is the continuation from then.

T H E R E S E ' S
ILLNESS: During the severe winter of 1896, the Prioress, Mother Marie de Gonzague, ordered Thérèse to use a foot-warmer heated by live coals to keep her warm. In November, when the

question was raised about Sister Thérèse's departure for a Carmel in Indochina, a Novena was begun to Blessed Theophane Vénard to obtain her complete cure. At the time, she was attending all the community exercises, even Matins. But, precisely during the Novena she started coughing again. "I've gone from bad to worse," Thérèse told Mother Agnes in May 1897. This corresponds with a letter of Sister Marie of the Eucharist to her father where she mentions having visited a sick nun in her cell who had been given a vesicatory the evening before.

At the beginning of Lent, a very weakened Thérèse tried to follow the community exercises to the limit of her strength. By the end of Lent, she fell seriously ill. This would have been at the beginning of April—symbolic because the first letter that mentions Thérèse's last illness was on April 4, Passion Sunday, and the anniversary of her first hemorrhage. Only this Passion was to last much longer than the first time. It would continue for one hundred and eighty days. From that date, Thérèse could no longer continue as if her illness did not exist. The sisters had grown accustomed to seeing her pale and hearing her long coughing fits. She would become more and more separated from community life—living in her cell and then in the infirmary. Her life as a Carmelite—at least exteriorly— would consist in being sick.

Let us now follow Thérèse in what she called her "giant's course": the last months of 1894 until April 1897. This period corresponds approximately with the first symptoms of her disease. During this thirty-month period, Thérèse's presentiments became a conviction: she was soon going to die. A series of important graces enabled her to climb a steep and rapid road. Immense desires were born within her. More and more she had but one goal: To love Jesus to folly, to make Him loved, to die of love for Him. From the end of 1894 to the beginning of 1895, she discovered the Scriptural basis for her Little Way, thanks to her sister Céline's notebook of biblical texts. Her basic intuitions confirmed by Scripture, Thérèse could now go forward.

What Are Spiritual Gifts?

"It is the Holy Spirit who bestows and directs gifts to the Church, the Bride of Christ. It is in fact He who raises up prophets in the Church, instructs teachers, guides tongues, works wonders and healings, accomplishes miracles, grants the discernment of spirits, assigns governance, inspires, counsels, distributes, and harmonizes every other charismatic gift. In this way, He completes and perfects the Lord's Church everywhere and in all things."

In these exuberant words of Novatian, a third-century Christian writer, we see a vision of the Church as alive with the constant working of the Holy Spirit through gifts distributed among the members. These words summarize well what Scripture teaches about the immense value of the spiritual gifts. The New Testament refers to the gifts of the Spirit in many passages, especially in the letters of St. Paul. He coins a term for them: "charism," meaning a gift freely bestowed. It is based on the word for "grace." Grace is the foundation of Christian life: God's favor freely bestowed on us in Christ, saving us from sin and death and giving us a share in His own divine life. A charism is what might be called a "gracelet," a droplet of the vast ocean of God's grace. It is a tangible expression of God's grace in a person's life in the form of a capacity to act in a way that surpasses human power.

Scripture uses a rich vocabulary to describe the charisms. In 1 Corinthians 12:1-7, St. Paul uses no less than five terms. He calls them "spiritual gifts" because they're given by the Holy Spirit. They are "charisms" because they are given freely. They are **"different kinds of service" because their purpose is to serve others.** They are "different kinds of working," because every time we use a gift, the Holy Spirit Himself is working through us. And they are "manifestations of the Spirit," because they make the presence of the Holy Spirit evident to others. The letter to the Hebrews uses yet another term: they are "distributions of the Holy Spirit" (Hebrews 2: 4), because the Spirit distributes them in different measure to different members of the Church.

St. Paul's strong emphasis on the close relationship between the gifts and the Holy Spirit shows that these gifts are not natural healing abilities, but supernatural abilities the Holy Spirit gives to enable believers to be instruments of God's love and power to others.

(Taken from *The Spiritual Gifts Handbook* by Randy Clark and Mary Healy, available in the Parish Office.)



MEDITATION MASS WITH FR. ROBERT ELIAS, OCD



On Monday, August 22, the Memorial of the Coronation of the Blessed Virgin, Fr. Robert Elias Barcelos will return to St. Therese on Mondays nights to celebrate his Meditation Masses at 7:00 p.m.



COME ON, JESUS, LIGHT OUR FIRE!

Tomorrow is the Solemnity of the Assumption. Mary stands with the “great cloud of witnesses” described in Hebrews: those who kept their eyes firmly fixed on Jesus. **We may not be thinking of Mary when we hear Jesus’ harsh words in today’s Gospel; but when she said “yes” to Gabriel, it carried the risk of the rejection and division that Jesus describes.** As the early Christians surely knew, to hold Jesus as the sole leader and perfecter of faith meant that you would likely find yourself divided from those in your household who held other beliefs. This occurrence is not unknown in our own time and place, and many of us surely know a household divided on the issue of religion, even if the divisions are occurring solely through indifference. A life of faith lived to the full will likely eventually call on us to separate ourselves somehow, so we will also one day join the great cloud of witnesses.

Prophets have been described as being on fire with God’s message. Today, that fire in Jeremiah has to keep burning in the bottom of a muddy cistern. The rulers of his own people (including Judah’s king, Zedekiah) have placed him there for speaking an unpopular, if truthful, message to them. His own leave him there, mired in the mud, to starve and die. It takes a foreigner, an outsider, to convince Judah’s king that Jeremiah ought to be rescued, his life spared to continue as God’s prophet. As so often happens in the lives of the prophets, the help and saving power of God are shown through unexpected people in unexpected ways. We can often find ourselves mired in mud of one sort or another. Do we truly have the fire of God’s message in us, so that we can look for our rescue from places we might not expect?

A generation or two ago, these Summer Sundays in Ordinary Time would have been known as “Sundays of Pentecost.” Though we may no longer use that name for these Sundays, the underlying reality is the same. The fire that Jesus speaks about today is the blaze of the Spirit. **The fire He spoke about when He told His followers they were light for the world was the flame of the Spirit lighting the lamp of discipleship.** It takes courageous disciples to allow the blazing fire of which Jesus speaks into their lives, to allow its light, warmth, and even cleansing to work in them and through them. Though we may not want to think about the heat of the Spirit’s fire on a summer Sunday, **that Spirit is always with us, burning within.**



FINANCIAL OFFERINGS

May God reward you for giving from your heart! Below you will find the total collection for last weekend, as well as for the previous four weekends. Note: There is a second collection on the 2ND WEEKEND OF EACH MONTH for our School.

August 6 / 7, 2022



Unrestricted..... \$11,548.00
Restricted\$ 3,232.00
T O T A L.....\$14,780.00

July 9/10\$22,082.00
July 16/17\$ 8,686.00
July 23/24\$16,119.00
July 30/31\$22,082.00

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

Fasting from the Wound of Bitterness

PAUSE TO HEAR GOD SPEAK:

“Love alone makes heavy burdens light and bears in equal balance things pleasing and displeasing. Love bears a heavy burden and does not feel it, and love makes bitter things tasteful and sweet.”

-Thomas à Kempis

“See to it that no one be deprived of the grace of God, that no bitter root spring up and cause trouble,

Today, I choose to fast from the sin of bitterness. When you eat a bitter food, it often leaves a sour look on your face. Emotional bitterness has the same effect on our insides. It poisons our hearts and gives life an “unpalatable” taste. We can be bitter toward others as well as toward ourselves. In both cases, bitterness has one outcome: destruction! If we are routinely sarcastic, harsh, and hostile, we should check for bitterness. If we constantly criticize the failings or shortcomings of ourselves or others, bitterness probably has a hold in our lives. The Scriptures refer to bitterness as a root, meaning that it is unseen. When we allow bitterness to take root in our lives, we often blame those around us for our circumstances, rather than take responsibility for the way we handle them.



**IF ONLY
SARCASM
BURNED
CALORIES**

TAKE TIME TO ASK YOURSELF:

- Who am I bitter toward (sarcastic, hostile, harsh)?
- What in my life has feelings of bitterness?

PRAY SLOWLY:

Heavenly Father, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I renounce bitterness in my life and repent all the ways I have sinned because of it. I reject every form of bitterness in my life. I ask you, Father, to forgive me, and I forgive myself for my bitter heart and actions. Holy Spirit, make me aware of any bitter thoughts, feelings, and actions. Amen.

The above is taken from the book, *Lenten Healing*, by Ken Kniepmann—available for sale in the parish office.

Mass Intentions

August 13 to 20, 2022

Saturday Evening:

5:00 p.m.: Gabriel Anyanwu & Family, INT

Sunday:

*7:30 a.m.: Sr. Mary Lilia Flores, RIP

7:30 a.m.: Parishioners

9:00 a.m.: Joe Shinn, RIP

11:00 a.m.: Charlie Tittmann, 15th Birthday INT

1:00 p.m.: Celso Aquino, INT

5:00 p.m.: Hannah Scherer, INT

Monday:

6:00 a.m.: Scholastica Keimon, INT

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

8:00 a.m.: Mary DeSantis, RIP

7:00 p.m.: Lacha Kayavane, RIP

Tuesday:

6:00 a.m.: Mary Miller, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Valerio Cueto, INT

8:00 a.m.: Richard Caldwell, RIP

7:00 p.m.: Sr. Enedina Cuevas, RIP

Wednesday:

6:00 a.m.: Tom S. Miller, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Sr. Kim Marie, OCD, INT

8:00 a.m.: McAllister Family, INT

7:00 p.m.: Paul Morrow, RIP

Thursday:

6:00 a.m.: Duane Kleven, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Patricia Carranza Martinez, B-day INT

8:00 a.m.: Elvia Hernandez, B-day INT

7:00 p.m.: Aaron Estrada, B-day INT

Friday:

6:00 a.m.: Esther Acuna Garcia, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Sr. Kim Marie, OCD, INT

8:00 a.m.: Maria Luisa Palacios, RIP

Saturday Morning:

*7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Community

8:00 a.m.: Virginia Hirat-Ireland, INT

*Held at the Cloistered Carmelite Chapel,
215 East Alhambra Road,
Alhambra, California.

The Carmel Chapel is open to the public every day except Sundays.

LIVE STREAMED MASSES:

The 8:00 a.m. Daily Mass (Monday—Saturday), the 11:00 a.m. Sunday Mass, and the 7:00 p.m. weekday Masses are live streamed on Facebook AND YouTube (for those unable to attend due to illness, etc.). Links to those two sites are on our website's home page (in the top left column).

Quiet Listening Prayer

From The Way of Perfection St. Teresa of Avila

Oh, God help me!
What a pity to have so unawakened a faith that we never come to understand fully the certainty of both punishment and reward! As a result, it is good, daughters,



that you understand what you are asking for in the Our Father so that if the Eternal Father should offer it to you, you will not scoff at it. And consider very carefully whether what you ask for is good for you; if it isn't, don't ask for it, but ask His Majesty to give you light. For we are blind and feel loathing for the food that will give us life; we want the food that will bring us death. And what a death! So dangerous and so everlasting! Well, Jesus says that we may recite these words in which we ask for a kingdom like His to come within us: "Hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come within us" (Chapter 30, Nos. 3-4).

Outside the Parish

Carmelite Pilgrimage with FR. RAYMOND BUENO, OCD, to the Marian Shrines of Wisconsin on October 5-12. \$3,295 (double room occupancy) includes round-trip non-stop AA flights from LAX, land travel by deluxe coach, 3*/4* hotels with private bath/daily breakfast/dinner, all touring, daily Mass. \$200 Early bird Discount by May 15th. Add \$450 for single room occupancy. For details, call Louisa & Jack Day at (323) 360-5186 or (323) 403-8768

14-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land (September 28 to October 11, 2022, led by Fr. Darrin Merino, CMF, for \$4,989). For more information, contact Parishioners Albert and Mary Helen Estrada at (626) 285-6687 or remembertoptl@sbcglobal.net.

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