

St. Therese Catholic Church

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

August 29, 2021 **Ministered by the Discalced Carmelite Friars** Est. 1924

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: Deacon Joseph Mizerski X333;

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

Organist: Ethan Williams / ethanFwilliams@gmail.com

Respect Life Ministry / Vox Vitae:

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 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).

Masses on Monday, *Tuesday (in *Spanish) & Thursday EVENINGS at 7:15 p.m.—preceded by a showing of The Chosen, Season 2, from 7:00 to 7:15 pm;

Mass on Wednesday at 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.



SAINT THERESE CARMELITE SCHOOL

289-3364

Principal: Alma Cornejo X661

www.SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com

principal@sainttheresecarmeliteschool.com

See our VIDEOS on the School's Facebook page

SACRAMENTS:

Baptisms: Register online

Weddings: Register online
at least six months in advance

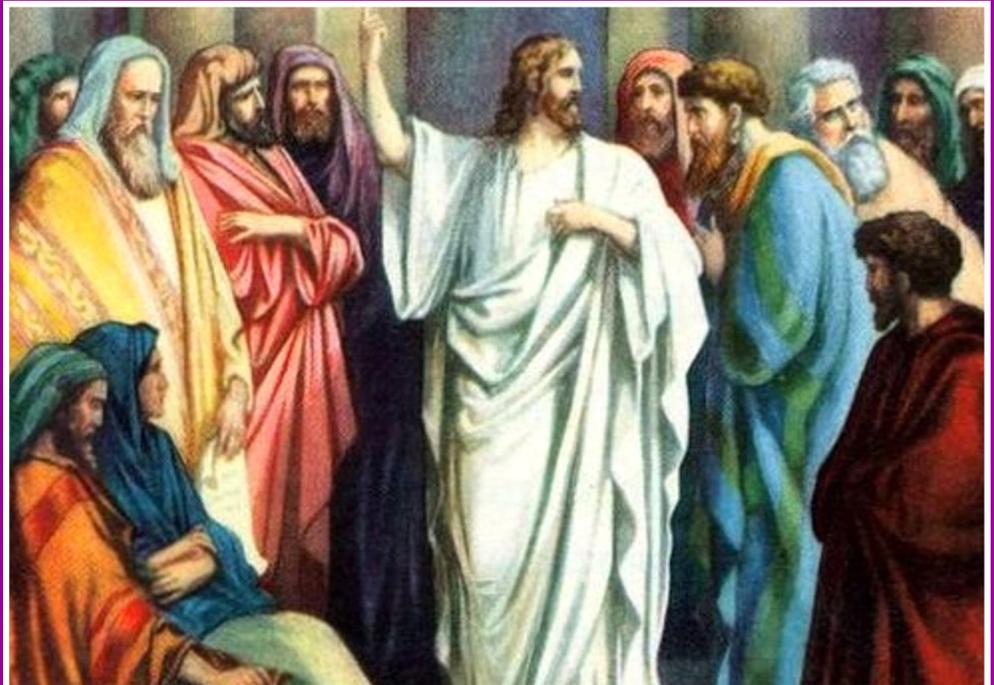
Anointing of the Sick: Call the office.



So the Pharisees and scribes questioned him, "Why do your disciples not follow the tradition of the elders but instead eat a meal with unclean hands?" He responded, "Well did Isaiah prophesy about you hypocrites, as it is written: 'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines human precepts.'

You disregard God's commandment but cling to human tradition"

(Mark 7:5-8).



FROM OUR FORMER PASTOR



Fr. Philip and his seminarian brothers hauling rocks to be used in the shrine

THIS IS FR. PHILIP'S HOMILY FROM SUNDAY, AUGUST 22, 2021: "THIS TIME FOR AFRICA!"

On Sunday, August 15, when we celebrated the Feast of the Assumption, we heard the reading from Chapters 11 and 12 of Revelation, concerning the Ark of the Covenant—described as “the Woman clothed with the Sun,” who is at war with the dragon! From the mouth of this dragon spewed water. The biblical Hebrew word used for “spewed water” is “*tohuwabohu*,” which means “without form and void” or “total chaos and utter confusion.” It was used to describe the state of the earth before creation. Remember, in the Old Testament, the Levite priest would carry the Ark of the Covenant out into battle. Revelation 12 also describes not only a New Ark but also a New Battle—a battle with the ancient serpent, the Devil. Like our ancestors, who understood well the necessity of the presence of God when fighting the Enemy, the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary reminds us of Mary’s presence as the New Ark. In other words, don’t try to go out to battle without the New Ark of the Covenant, Mary,

the Mother of God! Mary’s Offspring is at enmity with the offspring of the ancient serpent from Genesis 3:15. Mary, again and again and again, is pointing to her Son in His Resurrection and in His Ascension. Not only is she pointing to the Son, but she’s also pointing **US** to the Son, because she is the perfection we hope to achieve. The hope we all long for is to live in resurrected bodies for all eternity with our Resurrected Lord.

Consider what the dragon would be spewing from his mouth in today’s world. Maybe television, propaganda, politics, the World Wide Web, Twitter, Facebook—all those things. All of those are acceptable venues for the “*tohuwabohu*” to take place. Joseph Goebbels, the Minister of Propaganda for Hitler during World War II, said to “think of the press as a great keyboard,” on which the government could play anything it wanted, and everyone would have to listen. Those are scary words, especially when we think of all the ways that propaganda gets pushed on us today: cell phones, laptops, I-pads, computers, Satellite radios in our cars, etc. All that Goebbels had was the radio! Of that, he said, “We would not have been able to achieve so much, so quickly, without the radio.”

So, how do you fight the dragon (the Devil)? First, all things are possible with God. You see, the Eucharist prepares us not only to live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, but it also prepares us to lay down our lives as Eucharistic sacrifices to God the Father. *THAT’S* how we fight the dragon. We fight it dragon by bringing the Word of God Who became Flesh (the Eucharist) right to him! Not too long ago, I heard a bishop being interviewed who said, “We can’t weaponize the Eucharist.” What a dumb statement, considering that the Eucharist is the **only** weapon we have to fight the dragon! You fight the dragon by living a life according to the life of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. You die and you make a sacrifice to God, pleasing to Him in the Holy Eucharist. At the end of last week’s first reading from Revelation, a loud voice shouts out from Heaven: “...Victory, power, and empire to God and to His Christ.” That’s us. **WE WILL NOT BE DEFEATED BY THE ENEMY is the message of the Assumption. WE WILL NOT BE DEFEATED BY THE ENEMY is the purpose of the Eucharist.**

In today’s first reading we hear Joshua say, “Decide today whom you will serve.” He’s not making any plea to keep everybody on the same page. He’s saying, “Make a decision! Are you going to worship the gods of the Egyptians, even after being given the Promised Land that God provided?” Decide what you’re going to serve, and then serve. Decide whom you’re going to love, and then love. Decide what you’re going to die for, and then die for it. If it’s not God whom you serve, whom you love, and for whom you die, then I’m afraid you will come to a miserable end.

The people answered Joshua, “Far be it from us to forsake the Lord...” These are laughable words because we know the rollercoaster love that the Jews had for God throughout the Old Testament. We may feel a little frustration with these fickle Jews, but we, too, can become fickle in our love and service to God alone (*solo Dios basta*). Patriarchs, Judges, Kings, priests—and the common folk like you and me—can be fickle. God knew that this would happen to us,

too. That's why He gave us the holy Sacrament of Confession, to bring us back to that right relationship with God, so we could stand before the Lord in justice and receive the Holy Eucharist. We can still be fickle, but Confession and the Eucharist will always restore us to right relationship with God. It all makes sense once we see everything before us. **Decide today whom you're going to serve!** If it's not Jesus in the Eucharist, then what? If you're not willing to die for the Eucharist, what are you willing to die for? Those are questions you can ponder for the rest of your life.

King David says in the Psalm today, "Taste and see the goodness of the Lord". What was King David telling us when he said that? This Psalm seems to point our attention beyond the comforts of this world, beyond the kings of our own times, beyond the distractions of this world, and tells us to "taste" the Lord and "see" the Lord—the Eucharistic Lord. Otherwise, how else do you taste and see God, if not in the very presence of the Eucharist? Keep in mind that the bread of angels was not a concept invented by us Catholics. We first heard of it in the Book of Exodus in the Old Testament when God sent the people manna, the mysterious bread that came down from Heaven. Jesus says in today's Gospel, "I am the Bread come down from Heaven." Who tastes and sees the goodness of the Lord? Go look for yourself. It's the just! The just will taste and see God's goodness in the Holy Eucharist! ("Many are the troubles of the just one, but out of them all, the Lord will deliver him; the Lord is close to the brokenhearted.") The brokenhearted are those who turn to Him in Confession! Not everybody gets to taste and see the goodness of the Lord in the Holy Eucharist. Someone needs to remind some of the politicians of that fact! They're certainly not hearing it from our bishops or by many of our priests.

In today's second reading, St. Paul is talking about wives being subordinate to their husbands, right? No! He's talking about the Church being subordinate to Christ the Lord. Just as a wife is under the same order as her husband, so is the Church under the same order as her Bridegroom, Jesus Christ. What is the order of Jesus Christ if not the Eucharist?! Sometimes, subordinate, or "sub-ordered," is translated as "submission," where a wife is under the same mission as her husband, or the Church is under the same mission as Jesus Christ the Bridegroom. What is the mission of the Church? It's to expand right devotion of the Holy Eucharist, to expand our love of the Holy Eucharist, to expand the very Eucharist itself to the whole world. In 1923, when the Irish missionaries came to Alhambra to found St. Therese Parish, what did they want to accomplish? They wanted to create a church wherein the Sacrifice of the Eucharist could be celebrated at Holy Mass, adored in the Blessed Sacrament, and received in Holy Communion. Did you know that Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration was started here at St. Therese in 1988—the first church in this Archdiocese to do so? The mission and the order of the Church is that of the Holy Eucharist. It doesn't change whether you're on this continent or in Africa—or anywhere else in the world.

Today's Gospel in the Sixth Chapter of John illustrates for us an anticlimactic finale. Why is it anticlimactic? Because everybody just walks away. Jesus just spent the last five weeks teaching us about the Holy Eucharist. He said, **"Unless you eat my Flesh and drink my Blood, you will not have life within you"**—you will not have the promise of eternal life. Again, the Mission of the Church is the Mission of the Eucharist—the mission we've been hearing about for the last five weeks. If we look at all the readings this weekend as pointing to and referring to the Eucharist, we will see clearly that St. Paul is saying that ALL of us—not just wives to their husbands—must be subordinate, "under the same order"—just as the Church (the Bride) must be under Christ (the Bridegroom). **THINK ABOUT IT!**

For five weeks, we have been listening to the Bread of Life Discourse. Now we come to the final and dramatic scene in which we see Jesus' followers walk away from Him. Seven years ago, I reformed our School because it was "feckless and reckless"—like many Catholic schools around the world today. It was NOT teaching right devotion of the Blessed Sacrament; it was NOT teaching the catechism properly; it was NOT bringing its students or faculty to a better awareness of the Holy Eucharist—all things necessary in order for them to love and serve Jesus. That serving of Jesus will ultimately take us to our martyrdom in the Holy Eucharist. The main tenet of our reform was a greater devotion to our Lord in His Holy Eucharist. Many said about the changes, "This is hard; who can accept it?" Many murmured and many walked away. They returned to their former way of life. However, we now have a School that is totally focused on one Mission, the Holy Eucharist, the Bread of Life, the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. Take it or leave it. "Decide today whom you will serve" (Joshua 24:1).



Bro. Andrew, OCD, and Bro. Peter Kato, OCD



Some of the Carmelite Community in Uganda (in front of the St. Joseph House)

As I happily served the good people of St. Therese Parish as your pastor, now I serve the Carmelite Order as the Regional Superior of the Carmelite Mission in Uganda (as well as the Rector of the Ugandan seminarians). And as we worked so hard together to reform the School, now let's do it again to build up the Ugandan Mission! Whereas this mission of St. Therese is nearly 100 years old, our Mission in Uganda is only 20 years old. Whereas we have over 50 friars in our Mother Province here, we have only 15 in Africa. But we're growing! As the Churches here in the U.S. are managing the decline of Catholicism, in Africa we are experiencing an explosion of vocations! Five of our seven seminarians are studying Philosophy and Theology in Nairobi, Kenya. It costs about \$700 a month for each man to go through that formation.

In addition, we're expanding Carmel with new properties. We just bought a house we named in honor of St. Joseph, and now we're looking to purchase more property so we can build a retreat house. Just as the missionaries scouted out property in 1923 to found St. Therese Church, so am I scouting out properties in Uganda.

The seminarians and I all live on a farm. The brothers are always telling me, "Father, we need more farmland." When I arrived in Uganda last November, I discovered our little farm had 15 goats, so I asked the brothers, "**Brothers, why do we have SO MANY goats?**" "**Father, we eat the goats!**" "**But, brothers,**" I said, "**we already had seven pigs, and now we have eight piglets!**" "**Father, we're going to eat the pigs.**" We already had 100 chickens, but Bro. Daudi recently brought home 300 chicks! "**300 chicks! Why, Bro. Daudi?**" "**Father, we eat the chickens!**" And then there are the turkeys. Don't get me started on the turkeys! They don't like me—and I don't like them! In December, I'll be coming around to see which of them will get to have Christmas dinner with us! In the U.S., you go to grocery stores for your food; in Uganda, families rely on livestock and crops to provide their daily bread. It's definitely a different world!

In Uganda, no one knows anything about Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, but they will after we build a Shrine to her—which, by the way, is going to cost **\$50,000**. Here at St. Therese, you walk across our parking lot and see kids playing basketball with scapulars coming out of their shirts. In Uganda, they have no concept of what the Brown Scapular is! But with your help, I'm going to change that!

Besides tuition and living costs for the seminarians, expanding the Carmel with new property, and building the Shrine and grotto to Our Lady of Mount Carmel, we also need money to repair and maintain our monastery, to build an indoor kitchen (at an estimated cost of **\$15,000**), and to construct a borehole (a type of well for water). We have not yet determined the price of that.

Sometimes I get asked, especially by my family, "Is Uganda safe?" (I have to be really careful how I answer my mom when *she* asks that question!) Well, is Los Angeles safe? Is the United States of America safe, especially while dealing with a pandemic? Is Seattle safe? Portland? Like everywhere, there are safe areas—I guess. However, danger should not keep us from entering into the mission of Jesus Christ and fulfilling our love and devotion of the Holy Eucharist.

In the Spring of 2016 in Yemen, four Missionary of Charity sisters were among the 16 people killed by the horrific act of terrorists who raided a nursing home run by the Missionaries. A priest was also kidnapped from there and kept prisoner for many months. However, years before that happened, in 1998, three Missionary of Charity sisters were killed at the hands of terrorists, but Mother Teresa and her Sisters did not consider leaving Yemen. Yes, a mission can be dangerous, but that doesn't keep us from serving them. Can you imagine if Damien of Molokai said, "Well, I'll go serve the lepers—but doesn't that seem a *little dangerous?*" Perhaps you yourselves have to go to work and get on the 405 or some other freeway. Isn't that a little dangerous? Raising a family in this crazy world also seems to me to be a little dangerous. But neither of those things keeps you from going to work or from raising your families, does it? What is our mission in the Catholic Church? There is really only one, and that is to spread love and devotion to the Holy Eucharist—to live for, to serve, and to die for Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

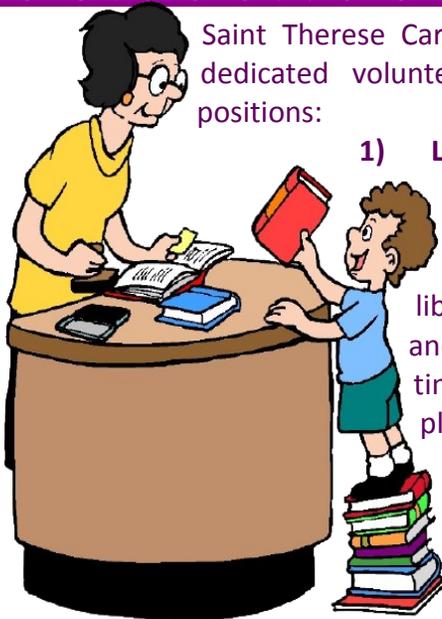
I miss you all very much, but oceans cannot keep us separated when we are united in the Holy Eucharist.

Fr. Philip of Our Lady of Guadalupe
The Missionary Man

Thank you to all who attended the Paint 'N Pinot fundraiser, bought a Uganda T-shirt, and/or donated to the Uganda Mission at last weekend's Masses. Over **\$28,000** was raised to help support our Carmelite Mission in Uganda! God bless each of you for caring! Donations may still be made via the envelopes in the pews (with green printing and a mailing address).

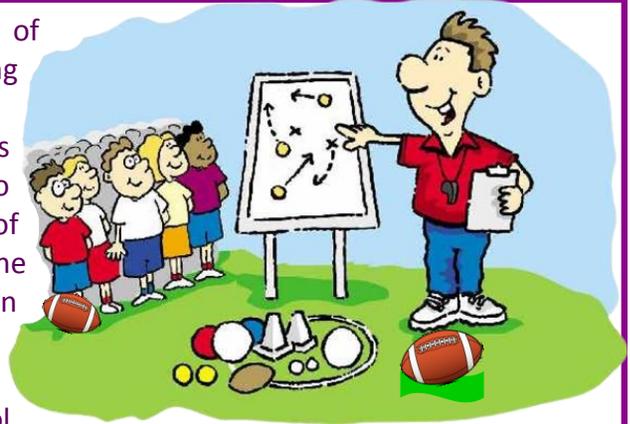
OUR SCHOOL IS SEEKING VOLUNTEERS!

Saint Therese Carmelite School is in need of dedicated volunteers to fill the following positions:



1) LIBRARIAN: The school is seeking a librarian to supervise the cataloging of the books currently in the library. If you are a librarian and can give an hour of your time per week or biweekly, please contact the school office (289-3364).

2) FOOTBALL COACH: Football season is here! Our young football players are in need of a coach. Please contact the school office (289-3364) if you can volunteer your time to this noble cause.



PRAY FOR UNBORN BABIES!

Join other committed Catholics in praying in front of the Planned Parenthood “clinic” at 1045 North Lake Avenue, Pasadena. There is always someone there on **Tuesdays and Fridays from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.** praying the Rosary and Divine Mercy chaplet. Your witness and prayers could save an innocent life and/or change hearts! This is not a political issue; this is a human rights issue. Until we protect the dignity of the most vulnerable, how can we stand up for other human right violations and injustices? For more info, call Maria Alejandra at 993-4236.



EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

ATTENTION: All Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (at the altar and to the homebound):

There will be a meeting at **7:30 p.m. this Tuesday, August 31**, for all Extraordinary Eucharistic

Ministers—both new and established. Please meet at the picnic tables in front of the Parish Hall.



THE REAL ST. THERESE

“I have seen a saint die, yes, I who am speaking to you, and it is not as one imagines. It is not as we read about in books. One must stand firm, for one feels the soul’s armor crack”

The above quote was made by George Bernanos about St. Therese. He was a French author whose works were greatly influenced by the life and writings of St. Therese. As early as 1913, he mentioned her in an article he wrote, and her presence was discovered in his works of both fiction and non-fiction—from 1913 until the last book he was working on when he died in 1948. Her message of childhood and her “little way” had become Bernanos' own.

This week we are beginning a new feature in the bulletin, called **“The Real St. Therese,”** in which we will publish information about our patroness to help you to know her better...to help you to develop a spiritual relationship with her. These excerpts will come from a book titled, ***The Passion of St. Therese of Lisieux***, by Guy Gaucher, translated by Carmelite Sister Anne Marie Brennan, OCD.



Dinner & Auction Evening Masses



Modern Cocktail Society

The Discalced Carmelite Friars of St. Therese invite everyone to attend Saint Therese School's annual event, **The Little Way Dinner and Benefit Auction**, on **Friday, October 1**, at Almansor Court in Alhambra. **This year's recipients of the Lantry Award will be parishioners Dr. Bernhard and Mrs. Kay Tittmann.**

The event includes cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, a three-course dinner, both silent and live auctions, and dancing to the **live band, Modern Cocktail Society**. To purchase a ticket or make a donation, go to <https://one.bidpal.net/stcsauction/welcome>.

Please note that the evening Masses on **Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday will not begin until 7:15 p.m.**, as each will be preceded by a showing of a portion of Season Two of *The Chosen*.



DO YOU LIKE TO SING? REGISTRATION FOR RELIGIOUS ED

Then consider joining our 11:00 a.m. Mass Choir!

Choir Rehearsals will begin again on Wednesday, **September 1**, and continue **every FIRST and THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH** from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

These rehearsals are held in the choir room in the church basement (enter through the side door on the parking lot side of the church—near the Adoration Chapel—and go DOWN the stairs. Turn right at the bottom of the steps).

An interview is required for new members. For more information, email the choir director, **Paula Grimm**, at pgrimm.dir@gmail.com.



RELIGIOUS ED FOR YOUR CHILD!

Registration will take place at the picnic tables in front of the Hall **T O D A Y**, **SUNDAY, August 29**, and **NEXT Sunday, September 5 (after the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Masses)**—for both Elementary Grades 1—8 AND for Confirmation classes for High School students. Registration forms will be available then; but you can **download one from our website** (find it under the link, **Religious Ed**). **Please also bring a copy of your child's baptism certificate (and a First Communion certificate for those who have already received AND your checkbook to pay the fees).**



The first session will be Sunday, September 12, which will include attendance at the 9:00 a.m. Mass, followed by class until 11:45 a.m. You will receive the full schedule at registration.

Confirmation classes will be held on **Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.** Volunteer teachers will be Joe Campbell and Mary Rose and Florence Goh.

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 21 / 22, 2021
 Unrestricted..... \$11,693.00
 Restricted\$ 375.00
T O T A L\$12,068.00

July 24 / 25.....\$16,878.00
 July 31 / Aug 1.....\$27,753.00
 August 7 / 8\$12,277.00
 August 14 / 15\$24,941.00

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

Mass Intentions

August 28 through September 4, 2021

Saturday:

5 p.m.: Ethan Alejandro Arenas, B-Day INT

Sunday

*7:30 am: Joseph Can & Maria Hai Dang, RIP

7:30 a.m.: Erick & Shenly Lopez, 42nd Anniv

9:00 a.m.: Jaime Doria, RIP

11:00 a.m.: Heather Brajkovich, RIP

1:00 p.m.: Parishioners

5:00 p.m.: Jamie Arakawa, RIP

Monday:

6:00 a.m.: Trong Van Le, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Mother Brenda Marie, OCD, INT

8:00 a.m.: Rosalina Gramajo, RIP

7:00 p.m.: Omar Guijarro, INT

Tuesday:

6:00 a.m.: Rosalina Gramajo, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Fr. Huy, INT

8:00 a.m.: Gabriel Anyanwu & Family INT

7:00 p.m.: (Span): Hector Reyes, INT

Wednesday:

6:00 am: Nien Nguyen, INT

*7:30 am: Abigail Cox, B-Day INT

8:00 am: Peter Kretschmer, 25th B-Day INT

7:00 pm: St. Therese School Faculty, INT

Thursday:

6:00 a.m.: Rosalina Gramajo, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Mother Brenda Marie, OCD, INT

8:00 a.m.: Daisy Thompson, INT

7:00 p.m.: Joanna Guijarro, INT

First Friday:

6:00 a.m.: Rosalina Gramajo, RIP

*7:30 am: Sr. Mary, OCD, B-Day INT

8:00 a.m.: Josie Villacorta, RIP

7:00 p.m.: Ethan Guijarro, INT

Saturday:

*7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Community

8:00 a.m.: Nicole Tittmann, B-Day INT

*Held at the Cloistered Carmelite

Chapel, 215 E Alhambra Rd

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. weekdays 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 ASCENT OF MT CARMEL

by St. John of the Cross

(Book 2, Chapter 14, Nos. 1-3)

As for the first sign, it should be known that there are two reasons almost comprised in one for requiring spiritual persons to give up the imaginative way, or sensory meditation, when they are unable to meditate or derive satisfaction from it, and enter the way of the spirit, which is the contemplative way.

First, because these persons have been granted all the spiritual good obtainable through discursive meditation on the things of God. An indication of this is their inability to make discursive meditation as before or derive from it any new satisfaction or pleasure. For previously they had not yet arrived at the spirituality that was in store for them.

Ordinarily, as often as individuals receive some profitable grace, they experience—at least spiritually—gratification in the means through which the grace is obtained. If this is not received, there will rarely be profit; neither will they find in the cause of that former gratification the support and satisfaction they did before when they received grace through that means. This agrees with what the philosophers hold: *What is savory nourishes and fattens. Hence, holy Job asks: Could one perchance eat the unsavory that is not seasoned with salt?* [Job 6:6]. Here we have the cause of the person's inability to consider and meditate as before: the lack of savor and benefit derived by the spirit from this exercise.

OUTSIDE THE PARISH

Ignatians West is looking for mature adults with some free time. They will match your interests and talents with the needs of children, adults and seniors in a variety of non-profit settings (schools, food pantries, hospitals, social service centers) 1 or 2 days a week. In addition to service, Ignatians West volunteers meet monthly to reflect in the Ignatian tradition. Check us out at www.ignatianswest.org or on Facebook. You can make a difference in the life of another! For more information, contact Anne Hansen at (310) 338-2358 or ahansen@ignatianswest.org

DEATHS

Please pray for the repose of the soul of:

† Paula Bradley

(Call the office for the location/date of the funeral.)

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For further information, please call the Parish Office.



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