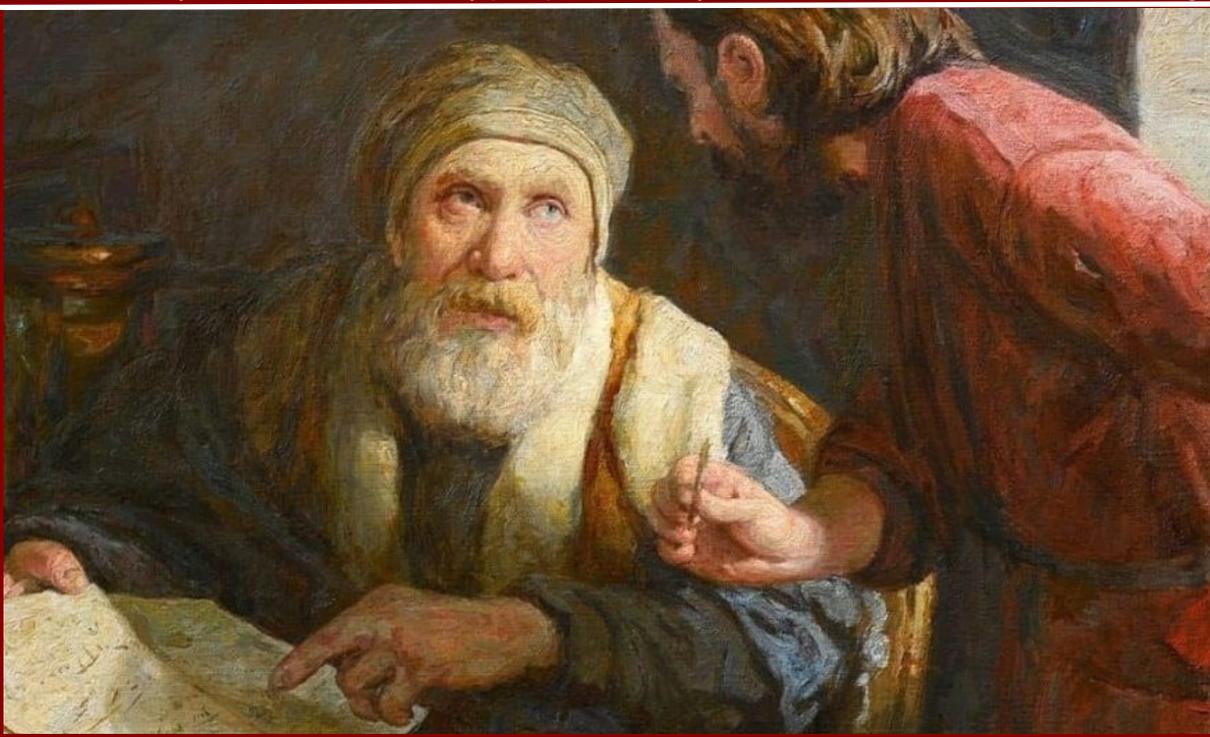


St. Therese Catholic Church

September 18 2022 Ministered by the Discalced Carmelite Friars Est. 1924
510 North El Molino Street | Alhambra CA 91801 | (626) 282-2744 | www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org

Jesus said to His disciples, "A rich man had a steward who was squandering his property. He summoned him and said, 'Prepare a full account of your stewardship... you can no longer be my steward.' The steward said to himself, 'I know what I shall do so that, when I am removed from the stewardship, they may welcome me into their homes.' He called in his master's debtors. To each he asked how much was owed to his master and then reduced the amount. The master commended that dishonest steward for acting prudently."
-Luke 16:1-8



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: Andrew Coyne | Andrew.Coyne1@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



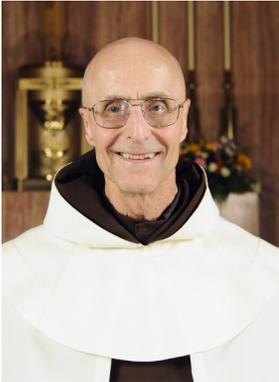
SACRAMENTS

- **Baptisms:** Register online
- **Weddings:** Register online at least six months in advance
- **Anointing of the Sick:** Call the office

Letter from the Pastor

Greetings, everyone, and blessed 25th Sunday of the year! Please consider coming to the school benefit dinner and auction on September 30, and inviting as many others as you can, since this is our main school fundraiser of the year. Also, just a reminder that when Jesus praises the unjust steward in the Gospel, He is not praising stealing, but simply using and an “a fortiori” (from the greater to the lesser) argument: if even an unjust person can do well in terms of how shrewdly (clever as a serpent) he relates to other human beings, how much more are we Catholic Christians called to deal shrewdly/cleverly with the people in our sphere of influence!!! **And now I would like to turn this page over to our wonderful assistant,**

Fr. Bernard, who has some important news to share with you: -Fr. Thomas



Dear Parishioners, Although I hold each of you in thought and prayer, please pardon my general reaching out in print. As you read this letter, I will have started to resettle in my new assignment, which is our Carmelite Retreat House of “El Carmelo” in Redlands, California. Due to shortness of time, the busyness that comes with moving, and my own style concerning departure, I’ve declined invitations to a Parish “last meal” and also in informing many of you of my moving on.

Regarding my transfer, I did not ask for it. However, I did accept and welcomed it. I’ve come to a realization that I find myself getting more tired in the race with “Father Time.” Although I’m relatively in good health, my energy level has lessened noticeably. Since my Ordination, I’ve been involved in parish ministry for more than two decades and have thus come to accept the fact I am no longer a young, energetic priest.

Rewarding as parish ministry is, the downside is that the demands of this ministry involve a daily 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. commitment to the celebration of Masses, sick and hospital calls, the administering of the Sacraments, especially Confessions and funerals, teaching doctrines of our Catholic Faith, occasional spiritual direction, and the unavoidable business administration that is part of parish life.

My moving on does not imply I will be totally retired. With other Carmelite brethren at El Carmelo, I will be involved with our weekend retreats, which entail dedicated attention. But the ministry there will be simpler in focus, and the early part of each week will provide a change to “breathe out” and revitalize myself again for the next weekend.

Please know I will miss the beautiful people that form the Parish Community of St. Therese. I will miss my Carmelite family of Friars, Nuns, Sisters, our Secular Carmelites, and each of you, whose vocation—borrowing the words of our patroness—is the heart of Holy Mother Church. I will miss the Adoration Chapel, the heartbeat of our Parish. I will always cherish St. Therese Parish because I was ordained here. As a result, I will miss the daily high of celebrating Holy Mass at the altar in the “Person of Christ,” whose Heart, ever widely open, embraces us all in the Word, the Eucharist, and in Holy Communion.

Sincerely in Him, Fr. Bernard Perkins of the Holy Spirit, O.C.D.

“I thank all who have loved me in their hearts, with love and thanks from mine.”-Elizabeth Barrett Browning

ABIDING PRESENCE: How Holy Communion Heals Wounds of Abandonment

(From Chapter Four of *Be Transformed: The Healing Power of the Sacraments* by Bob Schuchts) | **5th installment**

After Jesus takes us, blesses us, and breaks us, He gives us as a gift to the Father for the good of others. His abiding presence flowing in and through our brokenness becomes a healing remedy to all we encounter. Individually and corporately, we become the living Body of Christ, bringing the reality of Jesus' presence to a hungry and lonely world. Taking, blessing, breaking, and giving—this is what it means for us to authentically celebrate Holy Communion with Jesus. Anything less is to fail to recognize Jesus' Body (1 Cor 11).

Examining ourselves through the mirror of Scripture (especially Acts 2 and 4 and 1 Corinthians 11), we can see how many of us remain far from living in the fullness of the Sacrament. But these Scriptures also provide hope for us and our communities. We, too, are invited into the same Holy Communion with Jesus and our communities. But first we must let go of possessing our false comforts. We are all prone, to one degree or another, to hold on to our life, our possessions, our time, and our energy. The inevitable fruit of this selfishness is disconnection and disunity. We see the evidence everywhere, with more than fifty thousand different Christian denominations divided over the name of Jesus. This lack of unity in the overall Body of Christ flows into every church community and family. Many of our churches, families, and communities look a lot like the rest of the world—disconnected and fragmented. No wonder there are so many lonely and lost people in the world and in our churches.

In the early Church, when people offered themselves to Jesus, they also offered everything that belonged to them. Their property and possessions were freely offered for the benefit of everyone in need. It was an integral part of their worship. In studying Church history, I discovered that this practice of sharing the necessities of life with one another continued for several hundred years. At their “love feasts,” they gave food and clothing to those in need and then delivered it to those in the surrounding regions. I doubt they rushed home to shop, lay on the couch to watch football, or spent their Sundays working in the yard. Instead, they went out together as one body in Christ—giving their time, energy, and possessions so that others could realize that God cared about them intimately and would “never leave or forsake them.” They incarnated the reality they had earlier received in Holy Communion—His Body and Blood remained in them, and they conveyed His Living Presence to the world around them. They became, in a very sacramental way, His broken Body and poured-out Blood for a hungry and thirsty world.

(This excerpt will continue in next week’s bulletin.)

I Corinthians 11:23-25

“For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “Take, eat; this is My body which is broken...”



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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.



September 10 / 11, 2022

**NOT AVAILABLE AT TIME
OF PRINTING... WILL BE IN
NEXT WEEK'S BULLETIN...**

August 13 / 14\$28,263.00
August 20 / 21\$21,238.00
August 27 / 28\$12,357.00
September 3 / 4.....\$14,904.00

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PROFESSIONAL CPA TO SPEAK



Donn Canzano, a certified professional accountant, as well as a former long-time member of St. Therese Church (who also served for many years on our Finance Council), will be coming to St. Therese to speak about tax-smart charitable contributions.

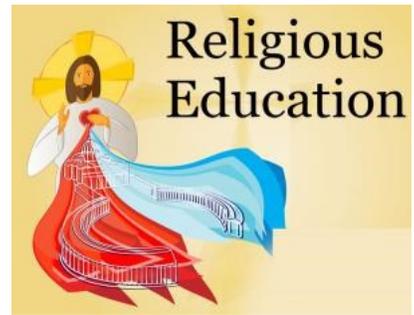
You can hear this talk on your choice of two different evenings: **Tuesday, September 20, or Wednesday, September 28—from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. each night in the Parish Hall**, including time for a Question and Answer session.

Donn tells us that using tax-smart ways to make contributions can help to bring in more donations for any cause. **Good planning can generate from twenty-five to fifty percent in savings to the taxpayer.** For instance, a donation of \$50,000 might only cost the donor \$25,000 to \$37,500. This would be a great way to enhance donations for our church or for Saint Therese Carmelite School. The savings will increase for persons with higher income who are in a position to make a substantial donation (\$25,000 or more). Donn says there are also special breaks for retirees and people with appreciated property, like stock or real estate.

Please consider joining us on one of those evenings!

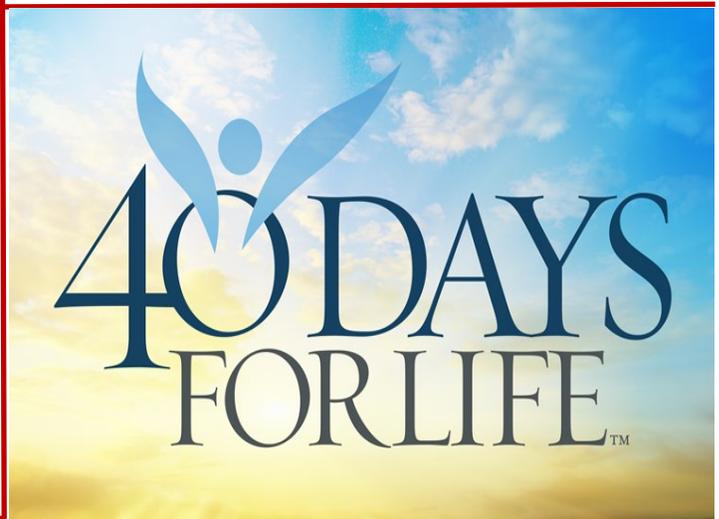
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

2022-2023 Religious Education classes will begin on **September 18 for elementary grades.... on September 22 or 23 (1st or 2nd year)**



for Youth Confirmation... and on September 21 or 24 (your choice) for RCIA and Adult Confirmation.

Registration forms are on our website. Fill the appropriate form(s) out and bring to the office during our open hours. Also bring your checkbook to pay the fees and a copy of each



GIVE AN HOUR IN DEFENSE OF LIFE!



Pasadena's Forty Days of Life will start their peaceful prayer and fasting vigil on **Wednesday, September 28, and continue until November 6.** We ask that you try to spend some time with us at the Pasadena Planned Parenthood facility, while praying to end abortions there. Their busiest days for abortion are Tuesdays. If you are able, please join us anytime Monday through Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Let's pray that ALL abortions be stopped.

Pasadena 40 Days for Life:

**Vigil location: Pasadena Planned Parenthood
1045 N Lake Avenue, Pasadena, California**

Vigil Hours: Monday-Friday 9AM-5PM—or on your own time

For questions, contact Rose Curiel at (323) 528-8094 or indigorose40daysforlife@gmail.com. Learn more at www.40daysforlife.com/pasadena

A Spiritual Bouquet to Our Lady of Fatima

The Five First Saturdays Devotion Continues



Since we started the Five First Saturdays Devotion over four months ago in May, many parishioners have made the commitment and completed this devotion. We will continue this First Saturday Devotion here in St. Therese, so that more Spiritual Bouquet offerings can be made to honor Our Lady's request at Fatima.

Next weekend, September 24 and 25, after all the Masses, we will be outside the church to provide the Spiritual Bouquet packet to all those who are interested; this packet includes an offering form and various devotional materials. For those who have completed the five consecutive First Saturdays, we encourage you to continue this devotion as a great spiritual practice; we can provide you with a new offering form.

Why Five First Saturdays? - Our Lady's Promise: "I promise to assist at the hour of death with all the graces necessary for the salvation of their souls...all those who for five months, on the first Saturday, go to Confession, receive Communion, say five decades of the Rosary, and keep me company for fifteen minutes meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary, with the purpose of making reparation to me" (Our Lady of Fatima to Sister Lucia, December 10, 1925).

The Five First Saturdays devotion stimulates the spirit of reparation; it instills a tender love for the holy Sacraments of Confession and the Holy Eucharist. It nurtures a holy affection for the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Rosary. Above all, it is an excellent means to maintain one's soul in the state of grace while immersed in the daily spiritual battles.

This Devotion is so necessary in this time... When the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to the three shepherd children at Fatima over a century ago, she asked that certain devotions be followed in order to bring peace to the world. The most well-known of her requests is for the consecration of Russia to her Immaculate Heart. But her request for the Five First Saturdays devotion has been forgotten by many; some Fatima experts called this devotion the "unfulfilled part of the Fatima message." After all, wars are still going on, and the culture of vice and sin remains unabated. To console Our Lady and help fulfill her requests and promise of peace, we have to start living the Fatima message, particularly participating in the Five First Saturdays devotion. Let us not delay in observing this devotion for it too gives us hope for eternal salvation. **If you have any questions, please contact Maria Alejandra at (626) 993-4236.**

The Clever Crook in Today's Gospel

The parable in today's Gospel is another one with a surprise ending. The crooked steward is commended by his master for being prudent, or clever, trying to protect himself. Jesus did not condone dishonesty. He just is making the point that he wants us to be just as clever in serving the Lord. Let's look at the first two readings and how they challenge us to do more. The reading from Amos talks about those "who trample upon the needy and destroy the poor" (Amos 8:4). The challenge here is to ask yourself, "What do I do for the poor?" If all you can think of is to throw some change in the monthly collection for the poor, you're not being very clever. Most parishes have organizations to help the needy and are happy to get volunteers. Imagine what you would do to help someone you loved who was laid off or on disability leave. Do you love Jesus enough to help the poor in His name? Do you ever think of praying for the poor? Not just a quick response to one of the Prayers of the Faithful for the homeless, but actually taking time to pray for those who are unemployed or with jobs that don't pay enough to support a family.

Speaking of prayer, our second reading also challenges us to do more. St. Paul recommends prayers for "kings and for all in authority" (1 Timothy 2:2). It's easy to pray for friends and family; how much time do we give to prayers for government



leaders and executives? Even the leaders with whom we disagree could use more guidance from the Holy Spirit. St. Paul reminds us that God wants everyone to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4)—sinners as well as saints, terrorists and embezzlers, atheists and agnostics. I'll bet you don't spend much time praying for the "bad guys." Yet Jesus said, "Love your enemies. Pray for those who hurt you" (Matthew 5:44). I can't say I've ever heard anyone say that was their favorite Bible passage.

But if Jesus expects more from those who love Him, who are we to let Him down?

The Real St. Therese



This is the latest installment from Guy Faucher's book, *The Passion of Therese of Lisieux*

The sisters who asked Therese to compose verses for various occasions were not able to know that they were thereby forcing the saint, at a crucial time in her life, to cast her interior fire into a ridiculous mold. The result, which seemed to them "delightful" or "sweet," because Therese couched her thoughts in the pious religious clichés of her day, in reality concealed burning confidences. Therese never lied, and at each stage of her interior adventure, she put her whole heart and soul into these verses. To the sisters, who were in admiration of her poetical talents, "To die of love" may have seemed simply a pious allegory. But the one who wrote it meant it literally. The facts we shall now relate prove it. Far from disregarding these poetical efforts, we attach great importance to them. These verses hold secrets that we can decipher, thanks to the historical evidence. If we read them in the order in which they were written, we can follow the Theresian ascent, her aspiration towards death, that is, towards Divine Life. When Marie Guerin entered Carmel, she was placed under her cousin's direction. The latter gave her a little poem which, in fact, was a program of life worthy of an experienced Carmelite. We hear in it, above all, the voice of Therese: "Jesus, in Carmel I wish to live, since your love has called me to this oasis. There, I wish to follow you, to love you, and to die." In October, an unexpected event crowned Therese's joy: the prioress, Mother Agnes, "gave" her a spiritual brother, Abbe Maurice Belliere, a seminarian. One of her great and seemingly impossible desires was fulfilled: to have a priest for a brother. Overjoyed, she immediately wrote a prayer of thanksgiving and petition for her brother: "O Jesus, I thank you for granting one of my greatest desires: to have a brother, a priest and an apostle... You know, Lord, that my one ambition is to make you known and loved; now my desire will be realized." Sister Marie of the Sacred Heart received a poem from her. When she read it at the time, did she see the secret contained in the last verse? "To contemplate your glory, I know I must pass through fire, And I choose for my Purgatory Your burning love, O Heart of my God. My exiled soul, on leaving this life, would want to make an act of perfect love. And then, taking flight to its heavenly Fatherland, enter your Heart, without any detour!"

(Continues next week)

Not So Rare Gifts



Many of us Catholics still think of the gifts of the Holy Spirit as very rare graces only seen in the lives of some great saints, but which ordinary folks neither expect nor seek. Although charisms never disappeared from the life of the Catholic Church, for a long time they were neglected in both theology and practice. Gifts like prophecy, visions, words of knowledge, and healing were viewed as extraordinary phenomena that occur only in the lives of unusually prayerful people. They were not seen as necessary to the life or mission of the Church.

But this was a category mistake. In fact, charisms are not gifts for personal spiritual enrichment, but for the building up of the Body of Christ. In theological terms, they do not belong primarily under the heading of *mystical theology*, but rather of *ecclesiology* (understanding of the Church). As Catholic teaching has strongly reaffirmed since Vatican Council II, charisms are not only legitimate, but also structurally necessary to the Church. The Church has two complementary dimensions: the charismatic and the institutional. The charismatic is the Holy Spirit's distribution of charisms among all the faithful, at His own initiative; and the institutional is the Church's hierarchical leadership structure. As St. John Paul II affirmed, these two dimensions are "co-essential" to the very nature of the Church. Both are ways that the Holy Spirit is at work in the Church. Neither Scripture nor the teaching of the Catholic Church gives any grounds for thinking that the spiritual gifts should be rare.

Another source of misunderstanding is that many Catholics have heard that seeking spiritual gifts is risky. Some may call to mind the warnings of saints and spiritual writers to be wary of supernatural manifestations since they might lead to pride, or we might be deceived by the devil. St. John of the Cross, for example, points out these dangers in his classic work *The Ascent of Mount Carmel*.

There is a vast difference, however, between a caution against the misuse of God's gifts and an outright rejection of them. It is a mistake to think St. John rejects the spiritual gifts: "John is motivated not by a desire to 'squench' the charismatic gifts of the Spirit but to assure their authentic exercise... Does John of the Cross condemn the exercise of the charismatic gifts? No, he doesn't! On the contrary, he gives much helpful advice about how they should be exercised so they effectively accomplish the purpose for which God gives them.

The above is taken from *The Spiritual Handbook*—
which is available for sale in the office.

Mass Intentions

September 17 to 24, 2022

Saturday Evening:

5 pm: Sr. Carmela of the Bl. Sacrament, OCD, INT

Sunday:

*7:30 a.m.: Lilian V. Arevalo, INT

7:30 a.m.: Delia Chavez Vargas, RIP

9:00 a.m.: Michael Anthony Odonon, INT

11:00 a.m.: Tony & Pat Woo, RIP

1:00 p.m.: Peter Hiep Dao, RIP

5:00 p.m.: Parishioners

Monday:

6:00 a.m.: Leonard Taufik Solichin, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Delia Chavez Vargas, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Connie Lim, Birthday INT

7:00 p.m.: Juana Soliz Hernandez, RIP

Tuesday:

6:00 a.m.: Park Ho Soon Maria, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Felix & Emily Chan, 50th Anniv INT

8 a.m.: Albert & Mary Helen Estrada, Anniv INT

7:00 p.m.: Juana Soliz Hernandez, RIP

Wednesday:

6:00 a.m.: Gloria Cueto, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Yolanda & George Rossy, Anniv. INT

8:00 a.m.: Basilia & Miguel Cailan, RIP

7:00 p.m.: Juana Soliz Hernandez, RIP

Thursday:

6:00 a.m.: Danilo P. Buenavente, RIP

*7:30 a.m.: Maria Mai Ninh, RIP

8:00 a.m.: Gerardo Adan, RIP

7:00 p.m.: Criselda Samiley, Birthday INT

Friday:

6:00 a.m.: Virgil Motta, Birthday INT

*7:30 a.m.: Victoria Limon, Birthday INT

8:00 a.m.: Serra Grimm, 7th Birthday INT

Saturday Morning:

*7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Community

8:00 a.m.: Esperanza Estrada, RIP

***Held at the Cloistered
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**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).

Outside the Parish

Want to keep the romance alive? The Worldwide Marriage Encounter experience is for married couples to reconnect privately. The experience allows you to create a dialogue with each other and with God, to create a higher and broader understanding of what it means to be married. The next Encounter will be October 14-16 at Mater Dolorosa in Sierra Madre. To register, contact Cameron & Barbara Troxell at (909) 938-2682 and leave a message. For more info, go to www.SacramentalLove.com.

Fr. Godfrey Chandya, OCD, will lead a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and to Rome/Assisi on Oct. 3 to 14, 2022, for \$4000 each. Included are air, hotels, bus, tour guides, all meals in Jerusalem and breakfasts and dinners in Italy. Call or send a test via WhatsApp to 626-818-2937 or email ximegabella@yahoo.com.

Carmelite Pilgrimage to the Marian Shrines of Wisconsin on October 5-12. **NEW RATE:** \$2,995 (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. 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 remembertoatl@sbcglobal.net.

Deaths

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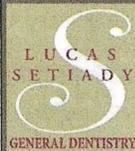
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Lector & Parishioner

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