



The Little Flower Weekly

The Official St. Therese Church Newsletter for the 2020 Pandemic



This Sunday, May 24th, we will celebrate the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they saw Him, they worshiped, but they doubted.

Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in Heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age" (Matthew 28:16-20).

Daily Live Streamed Mass Schedule



Sundays: 11:00 a.m. from the church
Monday through Saturday: Noon from the Adoration Chapel

The Masses are live on our **Facebook page** (see link below) at the times posted above, but can also be viewed there shortly afterwards at any time:

<https://www.facebook.com/stthereseoflisieuxalhambra>

Also, the Masses can now be viewed on our **YouTube channel** within a few hours after the Mass has aired:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnVT2tTus0wnxlypGOeuf0g/videos?view=0&sort=dd&shelf_id=1





Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Welcome to **The Little Flower Weekly**, the official St. Therese newsletter created just for the 2020 Pandemic quarantine! Let me know if there is any feature you would like to see here (besides things that wouldn't be in a normal bulletin).

As you've probably heard, President Trump announced that he wants the churches opened immediately. However, we still need to follow the Archbishop of the Los Angeles Archdiocese. Hopefully, he will now consider opening them. Continue to send him letters (at 3424 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles 90010); the more "squeaky wheels" he hears, the more he'll pay attention to them.

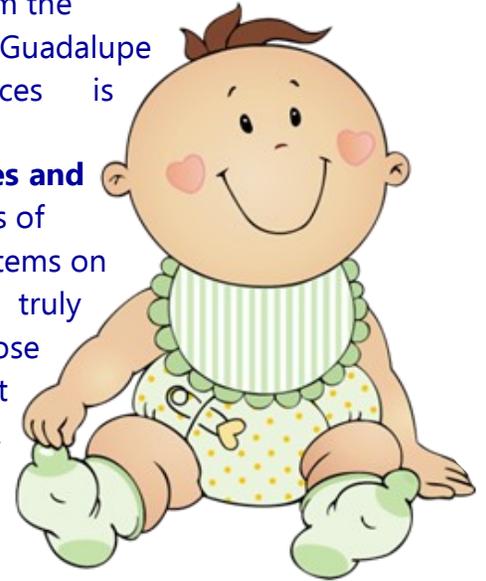
In the meantime, **if you'd like to share any photos** of what you've been doing to stay sane in these strange days, email them to me at denisekay@hotmail.com and they'll be posted here!

PRAYING THROUGH THE PANDEMIC: As usual, along with this newsletter, the bulletin was also included in this week's e-blast. It contains the third of four prayers ("Praying Through the Pandemic"). They're meant to be prayed in a group, but you can also use it for your private prayer. If you are quarantined with your family, it is a great means to bring everyone together to jointly ask God for an end to the spread of the virus and to the quarantine. It includes a "Litany of Intercession," to especially pray for everyone touched by "all things pandemic".

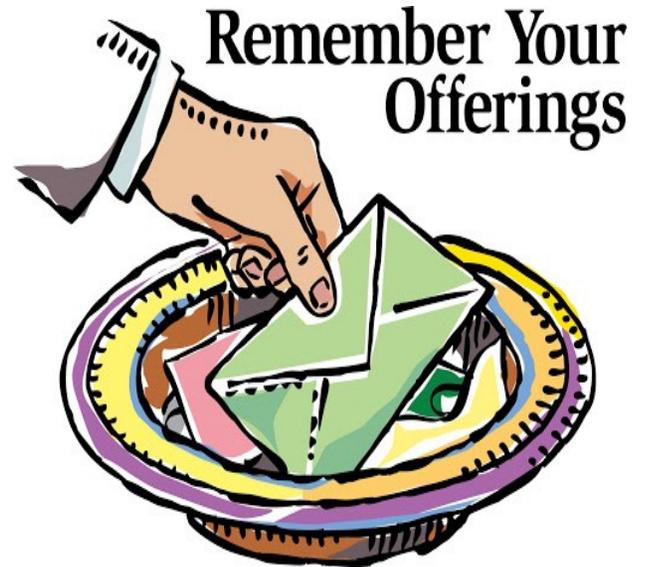


DONATIONS FOR BABIES AND THEIR MOMS:

As you can see from the bulletin, GPS—Guadalupe Pregnancy Services is seeking **donations of items for babies and moms** (see the lists of the most-needed items on Page Four). GPS truly appreciates those who have sent diapers by UPS... God bless you!



However, not too many other items have been left here. It's not too late! You can still bring these listed items (along with your filled baby bottles!) to the Parish office and leave them on the porch (ring the bell to let me know you're leaving them, so the items won't be left out too long!).



Fr. Philip would like to convey his deep gratitude for all those who are continuing to support the Parish and School through your donations—either through the mail, dropped off through the office mail slot, or sent through Faith Direct. By the way, if you'd like to sign up for Faith Direct, just go to the homepage of our website (www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org) and click on the link located in the middle column. Fr. Philip prays that you will be blessed abundantly by God for your generosity!

In  Memory of
Crystal Sanchez
(1995-2020)

†MAY SHE REST IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST.

Some of you may have met Crystal, or at least have heard of her. She worked with parishioner Denise Lopez at Options United, a Crisis Call Center. As a Call Responder, Crystal guided hundreds of women and families to life-affirming clinics nationally and worldwide and, through her, **many babies were saved** and many moms were given the opportunity to hear the truth and feel compassion in a nonjudgmental way. During the beginning of her first year with Options United, Crystal felt a calling to enter the religious life as a Carmelite, but soon realized God had other plans for her. Her call, her mission, was to be a voice for the voiceless, so Crystal devoted her life to serving in the Pro-life movement.



Shortly after participating at the OnelifeLA March this past January, Crystal—only 25 years old—was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Seven days later she was rushed to the hospital where her life soon changed drastically. Crystal was incubated, put on life support, and soon lost the ability to speak and move. She offered all her sufferings and her entire life for the protection of life and the unborn. Soon, by the doctor's insistence, life support was removed but, by God's grace, she was able to breathe on her own.

When the Coronavirus hit LA, her parents were told that Crystal would be put in quarantine and hospice care and that, for Crystal's protection, their time with her would be coming to a "temporary" end. Her parents' deep faith in God allowed them to see what was happening, and they immediately took her home from the hospital, quarantining her there with her four siblings. They provided 24-hour care for her and witnessed her sanctification.



Crystal's cancer was never treated; the agony she endured and her inability to move or communicate was heroic to her entire family. She offered ALL, wasting nothing. Surrounded by virtual Masses, blessed with holy water and holy oil, and offering and receiving continuous prayers—even receiving a visit from Bishop David O'Connell—Crystal's mission was coming to an end. Ironically, her last shift with Options United was on January 22nd, the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade.

Her mother let us know that on the Friday before she died, Crystal was able to offer one more fast, something she had done for years for the unborn. Because her feeding tube was clogged, she was without food or water; in retrospect, her family realized that this was due to Crystal's prayer, "Lord, let me fast one more time, united with you, on the Friday before I die, for your children, the ones you have given to me".

Crystal breathed her last on Monday, May 18th, in the presence of her parents and siblings, surrounded by their love and prayers, before being taken into her Savior's arms.

Options United thanks you all for your prayers and support. Please remember Crystal's soul to the Lord and keep all her loved ones in your prayers.





Every May St. Therese Church has held a May Crowning in the church to honor Our Blessed Mother. As everyone knows, that's not going to be able to happen this year; however, that doesn't mean you can't have **YOUR OWN** May Crowning celebration before the end of the month!

Here's how you can plan a May Crowning in your own home or yard.

1. Find a statue of Mary. Hopefully, you have one in your home or yard. If not, you can find one online or borrow one from a friend or relative.
2. Make a crown using real or fake flowers (see a list of needed supplies and instructions at the top of column to the right).
3. Begin your ceremony with a Marian hymn. Good choices include:
 - *Immaculate Mary*
 - *On This Day, Oh Beautiful Mother*
 - *Hail, Holy Queen*
 - *Hail Mary, Gentle Woman*
4. Crown the Blessed Mother statue with the flower crown you created (if you have children, the oldest or youngest can be chosen to place the crown on the Mary's head). If you choose and you have the room, you may have a procession around your house or yard.
5. Pray the Rosary (or at least a decade or two).

HOW TO MAKE A CROWN FOR OUR LADY

Supplies Needed:

- A variety of artificial flowers (appropriately sized for the statue to be crowned)
- A cloth ribbon (enough to tie around the statue's head)
- Hot glue
- Scissors



Instructions:

Tie the ribbon around the statue's head and knot it in the back. Hot glue the flowers onto the ribbon, starting from the back and working to the front of the crown (note: you may use a bottle or bowl of similar size—instead of the statue—to hold the ribbon while you glue on the flowers. This will help you avoid getting glue on the statue.) Place the ribbon back on the statue's head occasionally to see how it's fitting.

CARE PACKAGE: If you are a grandparent, aunt, uncle, or godparent of a family with young children, consider sending them a "May Crowning" Care package to be used with their statue of Mary. Include materials to make a crown, information on how to pray the rosary, and a sweet treat for a little celebration following the ceremony.

SEND IN YOUR PHOTOS!

You're invited to take a photo of your statue crowned with the wreath you made (as well as any associated photos, i.e., your child putting the crown on Our Lady, etc.) and then send it to me (denisekay@hotmail.com), and the photos received will be featured in a future newsletter.

