

August 2, 2026



ST. RITA IN THE DESERT

Catholic Church

CLERGY

Pastor:

Rev. Alonzo Garcia
fralonzo@stritainthedesert.org

Deacon:

Ron Desmarais
deaconron@stritainthedesert.org

WEEKEND MASS

Horario de Misas

SATURDAY | Sábado

5:00 pm—English

SUNDAY | Domingo

8:00 am—English

10:00 am—English

12:00 pm—Spanish

WEEKDAY MASS

IN SHRINE | Misa

Diaria en el Santuario

MONDAY-FRIDAY |

De Lunes a Viernes

8:00 am—English

ADORATION

FRIDAY | Viernes

8:30 am—9:30 am

In the church or by
appointment

En la iglesia o por cita

CONFESSION

Confesiones

SATURDAY | Sábado

3:30 pm—4:30 pm

In the church or by
appointment

En la iglesia o por cita



PARISH OFFICE

Horario de Oficina

MONDAY-

WEDNESDAY | De

Lunes a Miércoles

8:30 am—4:00 pm

THURSDAY | Jueves

8:00 am—2:00 pm

FRIDAY | Viernes

CLOSED

Office closed

12pm—1pm daily

PARISH DIRECTORY



18TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

"They all ate and were satisfied." (Matthew 14:20)

"Todos comieron hasta saciarse." (Mateo 14:20)

Reflection:

In the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand, Jesus takes five loaves and two fish and feeds a multitude, demonstrating that His love and provision know no bounds. This miracle reveals the abundance of God's blessings and His deep care for our needs. It also invites us to trust in His ability to provide, even when resources seem scarce. Like the boy who offered his simple meal, we are called to offer what we have, however small, so that God can transform it to bless others abundantly. By sharing generously from what we possess, we become part of the miracle of God's providence.

Socratic Question:

In what ways can you offer what you have to be part of God's work and blessing in the lives of others?

Reflexión:

En el milagro de la multiplicación de los panes y los peces, Jesús toma cinco panes y dos peces para alimentar a una multitud, demostrando que su amor y providencia no tienen límites. Este milagro revela la abundancia de las bendiciones de Dios y su profundo cuidado por nuestras necesidades. También nos invita a confiar en su capacidad de proveer, incluso cuando los recursos parecen escasos. Como el niño que ofreció su sencilla comida, estamos llamados a ofrecer lo que tenemos, por pequeño que sea, para que Dios lo transforme y bendiga a los demás abundantemente. Al compartir generosamente lo que poseemos, nos convertimos en parte del milagro de la providencia de Dios.

Pregunta socrática:

¿De qué manera puedes ofrecer lo que tienes para ser parte de la obra y bendición de Dios en la vida de los demás?

Source: *Truthly App*

PARISH INFORMATION

MASS INTENTIONS INTENCIONES DE MISA

Saturday August 1

8:00 am

†Louise & Joe Moreno & Family

8:00 am

†Lahdi Family

Sunday August 2

8:00 am

SI Amy Goodsell

10:00 am

†José Arteaga, María Peña
Carmen, Victor, Armando Cancino

12:00 pm

Living & Deceased of St. Rita

Monday August 3

8:00 am

†James W. Logan
†Jeffrey Roberts
SI Goodsell Family

Tuesday August 4

8:00 am

SI Mickey Solorzano
†John Zubel

Wednesday August 5

8:00 am

First Responders

Thursday August 6

8:00 am

Men & Women in the Military

Friday August 7

8:00 am

St. Rita

COLLECTIONS | COLECTA

July 26, 2026



Offertory: \$6,883.15
Rectory Debt: \$558.00
Campus Maint: \$440.00

Thank you for your support.
God bless you!

<https://www.osvhub.com/stritainthedesert/giving/funds>

BULLETIN DEADLINE & QUESTIONS

Email bulletin request(s) to:

bulletin@stritainthedesert.org

By **10am** on the **Wednesday** before the *Sunday* you want it published.

HOMEBOUND EUCHARIST

If you have a family member or know of a parishioner in the St. Rita area in need of having the Eucharist brought to them regularly, please contact the Parish Office.

EMERGENCY ANOINTING OF THE SICK

520-543-8415

MASS INTENTIONS AVAILABLE

In accordance with Canon 948, if any faithful would like the Mass to be offered for their individual intention only, please make your request at the Parish Office.



ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

- Fridays following 8am Mass for 1hr
- 1st Sunday of each month at 3-4pm in the John XXIII



ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Every 1st Friday at 8am Mass

BAPTISMS

Visit [stritainthedesert.org](https://www.stritainthedesert.org)
[LITURGY](#) [SACRAMENTS](#) [BAPTISM](#)
and complete the *Intent to Baptize*
Form



CONFIRMATION

Contact Youth Minister or OCIA director

MARRIAGE

Marriage arrangements must be made 4 months in advance. Visit <https://www.stritainthedesert.org/marriage> for more information.

READINGS & OBSERVANCES

FIRST READING:

"All you who are thirsty, come to the water!" (Isaiah 55:1)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

"The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs." (Psalm 145:16)

SECOND READING:

"Nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God." (Romans 8:39)

GOSPEL:

"They all ate and were satisfied." (Matthew 14:20)

Sunday, August 2

Is 55:1-3 | Ps 145:8-9, 15-16, 17-18 | Rom 8:35, 37-39 | Mt 14:13-21

Monday, August 3

Jer 28:1-17 | Ps 119:29, 43, 79, 80, 95, 102 | Mt 14:22-36

Tuesday, August 4

Jer 30:1-2, 12-15, 18-22 | Ps 102:16-21, 29, 22-23 | Mt 15:1-2, 10-14

Wednesday, August 5

Jer 31:1-7 | Jer 31:10-13 | Mt 15:21-28

Thursday, August 6

Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 | Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9 | 2 Pt 1:16-19 | Mt 17:1-9

Friday, August 7

Na 2:1, 3; 3:1-3, 6-7 | Dt 32:35-36, 39, 41 | Mt 16:24-28

Saturday, August 8

Hb 1:12-2:4 | Ps 9:8-13 | Mt 17:14-20

THIS WEEK

Religious Education

Registration continues Sunday after all Masses in the Verhagen Building.

Mandatory Parent Meeting:

Sunday August 2. Please bring required sacramental certificates to complete registration.

Classes begin **August 9.** Visit the parish website for full details [here](#).

Youth Ministry

Looking for a place to belong? St. Rita's new Youth Group begins this August! Join us for faith, friendship, and fun as we grow together in Christ. Bring a friend! Email Leah Sides: youthministry@stritainthedesert.org

Adult Formation

Take the First Step

If you've been considering becoming Catholic or completing your Sacraments, now is the perfect time to begin. OCIA offers a welcoming path to grow in faith alongside others on the same journey.

Inquiry Sessions begin **Sunday, August 16, at 11:30 a.m.** Visit: StRitaInTheDesert.org/Adult-Formation to learn more and submit an interest form.

Men's Prayer Group

Grow in your faith and strengthen your prayer life with the Men's Prayer Group, meeting **Mondays at 6:00 PM** in the **Oscar Romero Room**. The group is beginning a new Bible study, *The Adventures Revelation*: by Jeff Cavins. All men are welcome. **Questions?** Contact Jayme Kahle at (520) 664-4467 or jkahle25@gmail.com.

*For more announcements
please see our
FULL bulletin online.*

PARISH NEWS

Rectory Debt Payoff

As of Sunday, July 26, 2026

\$139,612 **\$345,000**
GOAL

147 **500**
FAMILY PLEDGED/DONATED GOAL

THE HARVEST JOURNAL

It Starts With One Person

Every tradition begins the same way—with one person willing to say, "I'll help."

The St. Rita Harvest Festival is being built by parishioners who are sharing their time and talents to create something special for our community. Some are planning, some are decorating, some are welcoming guests, and others will simply lend a hand where it's needed.

If you've been wondering how you can be part of this year's story, we'd love to have you join us.

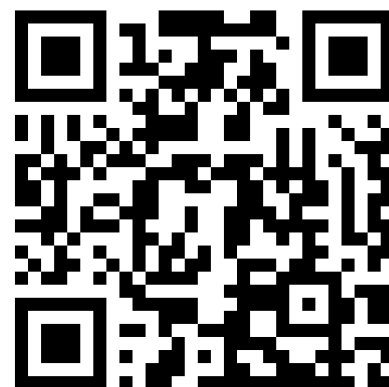
Because the best memories aren't just attended... they're created.

Volunteer opportunities are available on our website.

Join us next Sunday for another page from The Harvest Journal.

Never Miss Our Bulletin!

Scan to view the expanded version:



GOSPEL MEDITATION

MATTHEW 14:13-21

As Jesus feeds the five thousand, we witness a powerful sign of His compassion and the abundance of God's kingdom. Despite the initial scarcity, Jesus multiplies the loaves and fishes, teaching us that when we place our trust in God, our limitations become opportunities for His grace to flourish. This miracle encourages us to open our hearts and hands to those in need, trusting that God can multiply our efforts. Imagine the crowd's amazement and gratitude as they received more than enough. Likewise, God invites us to see beyond our limitations and believe in His capacity to work wonders through our willingness to share and serve.

Socratic Reflection:

How can you be more attentive to the needs around you and participate in God's work of abundance and generosity?

MATEO 14:13-21

Al alimentar a los cinco mil, Jesús nos muestra un poderoso signo de su compasión y la abundancia del reino de Dios. A pesar de la escasez inicial, Jesús multiplica los panes y los peces, enseñándonos que cuando confiamos en Dios, nuestras limitaciones se transforman en oportunidades para que su gracia florezca. Este milagro nos anima a abrir nuestros corazones y manos a quienes lo necesitan, confiando en que Dios puede multiplicar nuestros esfuerzos. Imagina la sorpresa y gratitud de la multitud al recibir más de lo suficiente. De igual manera, Dios nos invita a ver más allá de nuestras limitaciones y creer en su capacidad de obrar maravillas a través de nuestra disposición a compartir y servir.

Pregunta Socrática:

¿Cómo puedes estar más atento a las necesidades a tu alrededor y participar en la obra de abundancia y generosidad de Dios?

DID YOU KNOW...

18TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

On August 2, 1776, most of the delegates of the Continental Congress signed the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia. While July 4, 1776, marks the day when the Declaration was formally adopted, it was on August 2nd that most of the signatories actually signed the document. This day is significant because it marked the formal commitment of the American colonies to seek independence from British rule, which would eventually lead to the establishment of the United States.

This act of courage and conviction by the signers serves as a powerful reminder of the pursuit of freedom and justice. Reflecting on this moment in history, consider how acts of bravery and belief in a greater good have the power to change the course of history. How do stories like these inspire us to stand for what is right and just in our own lives today?

via truthly app

SAINT SPOTLIGHT



ST. DOMINIC

Feast Day: August 8th

Patronage:

St. Dominic is the patron saint of astronomers and the Dominican Republic.

Story: St. Dominic was born in Caleruega, Spain, around 1170. He was known for his deep intellect and compassionate nature from an early age. As a young man, Dominic studied theology and became a priest. During his travels in France, he encountered the Albigensian heresy, a movement promoting beliefs contrary to the Church's teachings. Driven by a desire to bring people back to the true faith, Dominic embarked on a mission of preaching and teaching.

In 1216, he founded the Order of Preachers, known as the Dominicans. The order focused on education, preaching, and living a life of poverty. Dominic believed that a well-educated clergy was essential for effectively spreading the Gospel and countering heresies. His dedication to truth, compassion, and prayer left a profound impact on the Church.

Legacy: St. Dominic's legacy is marked by his foundational role in establishing the Dominicans, whose members continue to serve the Church worldwide through preaching, teaching, and academic pursuits. His emphasis on education, truth, and poverty as means to effectively share the Gospel has influenced countless generations. The Dominicans are renowned for their contributions to theology and philosophy, producing influential figures like St. Thomas Aquinas. Dominic's life reminds us of the power of faith coupled with reason and the importance of engaging with the world to bring people closer to God.

Reflection Question: In what ways can you, like St. Dominic, use your gifts and talents to bring people closer to the truth of the Gospel and respond to the challenges of today's world?

KIDS CORNER



Feast Day: August 8th

Who was St. Dominic?

St. Dominic is the special saint for people who study the stars (astronomers) and for the Dominican Republic.

His Story:

St. Dominic was born around the year 1170 in a place called Caleruega in Spain. Even as a young boy, he was very smart and kind. When he grew up, he became a priest and traveled to different places to help people learn about Jesus. One day, he met some people who had different ideas about God, and he wanted to help them understand the truth.

St. Dominic started a new group called the Dominicans. They focused on teaching, preaching (talking to people about God), and living simply without owning much stuff. He knew that by learning a lot, they could help more people know Jesus better.

His Legacy:

Because of St. Dominic, the Dominicans have helped many people all over the world learn about God. They have schools and teach about how faith and reason can work together. St. Dominic showed us that knowing the truth and helping others is really important.

Question to Think About:

How can you use the things you're good at to help others learn about Jesus?

Source: *Truthly App*

KNIGHTS NEWS

Installation of Officers

Saturday, **August 8th**
after the 5pm mass
All are invited to attend.

You are invited

Farm Fresh Egg Sales Return

The Knights of Columbus will resume selling farm fresh eggs after all Masses on the **first and third weekends of each month.**

This Month: **August 1-2 & 15-16.**

Proceeds will support youth programs at St. Rita, including St. Joseph Youth Camp, altar server retreats, Religious Education scholarships, and our new Youth Ministry.

Thank you for supporting the youth of our parish!

KNIGHTS BABY BOTTLE DRIVE

Have you picked up your baby bottle yet?

There's still time to participate! Simply take a bottle after Mass, fill it with change, cash, or a check (payable to Knights of Columbus), and return it to a Knight by **August 2.**

Together, we can make a lasting difference for REACHOUT Women's Center.



**Knights of
Columbus®**

Red Cross Blood Drive – August 9

Give the gift of life by donating blood at the **Red Cross Blood Drive** on Sunday, **August 9.** Your donation can make a lifesaving difference for someone in need.

Special August Offer: Those who donate blood, platelets, or AB Elite plasma **August 1–31, 2026**, will receive a **\$20 Amazon.com Gift Card** by email.

* For details, visit RedCrossBlood.org/August.

Thank you for supporting this important ministry of service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In the Gospel, Jesus says:

“There is no need for them to go away; give them some food yourselves.”

and taking the five loaves and two fish, he blest them and gave them to the disciples to feed the crowd. Know that your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to help those living in poverty touches many lives just like the loaves and fishes.

ALUMINUM CAN RECYCLING

Recycle your aluminum cans in the collection barrels next to the St. Vincent de Paul donation shed.

Please remember:

- Aluminum cans only (no glass, paper, steel cans, or trash)
- Place cans in securely tied bags
- No clothing donations—please take clothing to the Vail Resources Thrift Store across the street

Need help?

Ask a Knight wearing a maroon council shirt.

NEED A PLACE TO GATHER?

St. Rita Hall is available for receptions, luncheons, showers, anniversaries, birthdays, funeral receptions, business meetings, and other special occasions. Seats up to **70 guests**.

For availability and scheduling, contact the
Parish Office: 520-762-9688 |
secretary@stritainthedesert.org

Women of the Way Study Group

Beginning August 12

Join us **Wednesdays at 6:00 PM** in the **Oscar Romero Room** for *Footprints of God* by Stephen Ray. This free study is available through FORMED, courtesy of St. Rita in the Desert. All women are welcome! Questions? Email Jessica Floyd: jbrink1130@gmail.com

Thank you for helping foster a spirit of reverence as we celebrate the Eucharist together.

Music Ministry Next Week's Music

Antiphon - "Look to your covenant, O Lord..."

Offer: Be Still and Know That I Am God #527

Comm: Miracle of Grace #334

Send: Though the Mountains May Fall #451



ANNOUNCEMENTS

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

You don't have to walk through grief alone. Join Arista Healthcare's **Grief Support Group** on the **first Thursday of every month at 10:00 AM at 1636 N. Swan Rd., Suite 250, Tucson.** Open to anyone experiencing grief before, during, or after hospice care—you do not need to be an Arista patient or family member to attend.

Questions? Call (520) 333-0333.
www.aristahealthaz.com



Rachel's Vineyard Retreat (Tucson) September 4-6, 2026

If the emotional and spiritual wounds of a past abortion have left you feeling isolated or strained in your faith, you do not have to carry that burden alone.

Sign up now for a confidential, supportive retreat open to men and women. Discover hope, healing, and renewal. Visit www.rachelsvineyardtucson.org.

Call/Text: 520-743-6777.



STROKE SCAN SCREENING

Stroke Scan Plus will be at St. Rita in the Desert on **Saturday, September 12**, offering affordable vascular and organ ultrasound screenings. Early detection can help identify risk factors before symptoms appear.

Appointments are required. Call (832) 437-7355 to schedule your screening.

DIOCESE OF TUCSON - ALIVE IN CHRIST

Charismatic Healing Mass

Fr Binu Rathappillil, Presiding Celebrant

When: **Thursday August 13, 2026, 6:30 pm**

Where: **St. Margaret Mary Alacoque**

Catholic Church 801 N. Grande Ave, Tucson

"Great crowds came to him, having with them the lame, the blind, the deformed, the mute, and many others...and he cured them"

~Matthew 15:30

- Lively Praise & Worship
- Praise reports & prayers for all your intentions
- Special prayers for healing



No Marriage is BEYOND HOPE!

Try A RETROUVAILLE Weekend

Upcoming Weekend Tucson, AZ

September 11-13, 2026

Confidential Inquires:

520-762-4449

4003r@helpourmarriage.org

R.O.S.A. ~ Retrouvaille of Southern Arizona



SAINTS THIS MONTH

August 1

- [St. Alphonsus Liguori](#)
- [The Holy Maccabees \(OT\)](#)

August 2

- [St. Eusebius of Vercelli](#)
- [St. Peter Julian Eymard](#)

August 3

- [St. Lydia of Philippi](#)

August 4

- [Saint John Vianney](#)

August 5

- [Saint Mary Major](#)
- [St. Oswald of Northumbria](#)

August 6

- [Pope St. Hormisdas](#)

The [Transfiguration of the Lord](#) is also observed on August 6.

August 7

- [Pope St. Sixtus II and companions](#)
- [St. Cajetan](#)
- [St. Donatus of Arezzo](#)
- [St. Albert of Trapani](#)

August 8

- [St. Dominic de Guzman of Osma](#)

August 9

- [St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross](#)
- [St. Romanus of Rome](#)

August 10

- [St. Lawrence the Deacon](#)

August 11

- [Saint Clare of Assisi](#)
- [St. Tiburtius](#)
- [St. Susanna of Rome](#)

August 12

- [St. Jane Frances de Chantal](#)

August 13

- [Sts. Pontian and Hippolytus](#)
- [St. Cassian](#)

August 14

- [St. Maximilian Kolbe](#)
- [St. Eusebius of Rome](#)

August 15

- [St. Tarcisius](#)

August 15 is also the Solemnity of the [Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary](#).

August 16

- [St. Stephen of Hungary](#)
- [St. Roch](#)

August 17

- [St. Hyacinth of Poland](#)
- [St. Clare of Montefalco](#)

August 18

- [St. Helena](#)
- [St. Agapitus of Palestrina](#)

August 19

- [St. John Eudes, priest](#)
- [St. Magnus of Anagni](#)

August 20

- [St. Bernard of Clairvaux](#)
- [Samuel the Prophet \(OT\)](#)

August 21

- [Pope St. Pius X](#)

August 22

- [Sts. Timothy, Hippolytus, and Symphorian](#)

August 23

- [St. Rose of Lima](#)

August 24

- [St. Bartholomew, Apostle](#)
- [St. Emily de Vialar](#)

August 25

- [St. Louis of France](#)
- [St. Joseph Calasanaz](#)

August 26

- [Pope St. Zephyrinus](#)
- [St. Alexander of Bergamo](#)
- [The Priest Melchizedek \(OT\)](#)

August 27

- [St. Monica](#)

August 28

- [St. Augustine of Hippo](#)

August 29

- [Passion of St. John the Baptist](#)
- [St. Sabina of Rome](#)

August 30

- [St. Pammachius](#)
- [Sts. Felix and Adauctus](#)

August 31

- [St. Raymond Nonnatus](#)
- [St. Nicodemus](#)
- [St. Joseph of Arimathea](#) – or March 17

All underlined text is clickable

source: young-catholics.com

PARISH CONNECTIONS



CONTACT US

- **Main Office** - (520)762-9688
- **Office Hours**
 - Mon-Wed: 8:30 am-4:00 pm
 - Thur: 8:00 am-2:00 pm
 - Fri: CLOSED
 - Daily: Closed: 12pm-1pm
- **Staff Directory**



WORSHIP

- **Mass Times**
 - M-F (Shrine) - 8am
 - Sat (St. John XXIII) - 5pm
 - Sun (St. John XXIII) - 8am | 10am | Noon (Sp)
- **Confession**
 - Sat (St. John XXIII) - 3:30p-4:30p
- **Adoration**
 - Fri (Shrine) 8:30a-9:30a
 - 1st Sunday of each month (St. John XXIII): 3-4pm



SACRAMENTS

- Baptism
- Marriage
- Anointing
 - Every 1st Friday at 8am Mass
- Funerals



GROW IN FAITH

- OCIA | Adult Formation
- Children's Formation ~ *coming soon*



GET INVOLVED

- Ministry Directory



PRAYER & CARE

- Prayer Requests (online)
- Request a Mass Intention (online) ~ *coming soon*
- Pastoral Care



STEWARDSHIP

- Online Giving
- Parish Support
- Reserve a Legacy Bench



NEW TO ST. RITA?

- Join St. Rita Parish
- New to the Catholic Faith



STAY INFORMED

- Calendar
- Weekly Bulletin
- Website

STAFF DIRECTORY

Parish Office

Administrative Assistant:
Chris Metzger

Secretary:
Veronica Garcia

Office Assistant:
Priscilla Molinar

Business Manager:
Louise Azzopardi

Compliance:
Mary Morgan

Bulletin Editor:
Kathy Lockard

Facilities Manager:
Norm Scheopner

Maintenance:
Bill Cline

Religious Education

Director of Religious Education:
Geraldine Durman

Youth Ministry:
Leah Sides

OCIA Coordinator:
Michelle Quinn Crowley

Parish Directory



Campus Map



All underlined text is clickable. Can't find what you're looking for? Visit stritainthedesert.org or contact the Parish Office.

ST. RITA IN THE DESERT



Build Something They'll Remember

Choose One Experience. Make a Difference.

Our Harvest Festival is returning with a new vision—and a new way of serving.

We've listened to the feedback from past festivals. Instead of asking a few volunteers to carry the entire festival, we're inviting many parishioners to help create **one unforgettable experience**.

Choose One Experience. Join One Team. Help Build Something They'll Remember.

Children's Village

Magical fun for our youngest guests.

- Games
- Pumpkin Patch
- Prizes
- Family Activities

Hospitality

Welcome every guest with a smile.

- Information
- Guest Welcome
- Volunteer Check-In
- Floater

Creative Corner

Hands-on fun for all ages.

- Face Painting
- Hair Tinsel
- Henna
- Crafts

Harvest Market

Support our vendors and artisans.

- Vendor Check-In
- Hospitality
- Market Support

Vineyard Retreat

Create a relaxing gathering space.

- Hospitality
- Décor
- Guest Experience

Harvest Beer Garden

Help serve our adult guests.

- Hospitality
- Entry
- Setup
- Cleanup

Main Stage

Keep the entertainment running smoothly.

- Performer Hospitality
- Stage Crew
- Seating
- Setup

Glow Garden

Help create the festival's evening magic.

- Lighting & Décor
- Lanterns
- Guest Experience

Logistics & Setup

The team behind the scenes.

- Tents
- Tables & Chairs
- Signage
- Site Setup/Teardown
- Cleanup

There Is a Place for You.

Whether you have an hour, a weekend, or a special talent to share, we'd love to welcome you to the Harvest Festival Team.

Help us build something our parish—and our community—will remember.

One Experience. One Team. One Amazing Festival.



Scan to Learn More
About the Harvest
Festival Team

See the Vision

Each experience is planned and led by its own dedicated volunteer team.



Orange circle icon: Children's Village
Beer glass icon: Beer Garden

Purple circle icon: Creative Corner
Musical note icon: Main Stage

Green circle icon: Harvest Market
Yellow star icon: Glow Garden

Wine glass icon: Vineyard Retreat
Handshake icon: Hospitality

Your Parish. Reimagined.

Imagine helping bring this vision to life.