

May 03, 2026



# ST. RITA IN THE DESERT

## Catholic Church

### CLERGY

**Pastor:**

Rev. Alonzo Garcia  
[fralonzo@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:fralonzo@stritainthedesert.org)

**Deacon:**

Ron Desmarais  
[deaconron@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:deaconron@stritainthedesert.org)

### 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

*"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)*

*"Yo soy el camino, la verdad y la vida. Nadie va al Padre si no es por mí." (Juan 14:6)*

**Reflection:**

In this powerful Gospel passage, Jesus reassures His disciples by revealing a profound truth about His identity. He invites us to place our trust in Him, not just as a guide, but as the very path to our eternal home with the Father. By understanding Jesus as the way, we are called to follow His teachings and love as He did. Recognizing Him as the truth, we are reminded to seek His wisdom in our lives. Embracing Him as the life, we find true fulfillment and joy in His presence. As we navigate our own journeys, how do we rely on Jesus, our ultimate guide, to lead us closer to God?

**Socratic Question:**

How can you trust Jesus more fully as the way, the truth, and the life in your everyday decisions?

**Reflexión:**

En este poderoso pasaje del Evangelio, Jesús tranquiliza a Sus discípulos revelando una profunda verdad sobre Su identidad. Nos invita a confiar en Él, no solo como guía, sino como el mismo camino hacia nuestro hogar eterno con el Padre. Al comprender a Jesús como el camino, estamos llamados a seguir Sus enseñanzas y amar como Él lo hizo. Al reconocerlo como la verdad, se nos recuerda buscar Su sabiduría en nuestras vidas. Al abrazarlo como la vida, encontramos verdadera satisfacción y alegría en Su presencia. Mientras navegamos por nuestros propios caminos, ¿cómo confiamos en Jesús, nuestro guía supremo, para acercarnos a Dios?

**Pregunta socrática:**

¿Cómo puedes confiar más plenamente en Jesús como el camino, la verdad y la vida en tus decisiones diarias?

Source: *Truthly App*

### 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

### CONFESSION

*Confesiones*

**SATURDAY** | Sábado

3:30 pm—4:30 pm

In the church or by appointment

En la iglesia o por cita

### 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*



### 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

**Office Closed**

*Office Closed*

*12pm—1pm daily*

## PARISH INFORMATION

### COLLECTIONS | COLECTA

April 26, 2026



Offeratory: \$8,202.40  
Rectory Debt: \$3,674.15  
Campus Maint: \$463.60

Thank you for your support.  
*God bless you!*

<https://www.stritainthedesert.org>  
select "Giving" and then "Online Giving"

### ST. RITA STAFF

(520) 762-9688

**Administrative Assistant:** Chris Metzger  
[adminassist@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:adminassist@stritainthedesert.org)

**Secretary:** Veronica Garcia  
[secretary@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:secretary@stritainthedesert.org)

**Business Manager:** Louise Azzopardi  
[businessmgr@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:businessmgr@stritainthedesert.org)

**Compliance:** Mary Morgan  
[compliance@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:compliance@stritainthedesert.org)

**Bulletin Editor:** Kathy Lockard  
[bulletin@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:bulletin@stritainthedesert.org)

**Facilities Manager:** Norm Scheopner  
[rob@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:rob@stritainthedesert.org)

**Maintenance:** Bill Cline

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STAFF

**Director of Religious Education:** Geraldine Durman  
[dre@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:dre@stritainthedesert.org)

**Youth Ministry:** Carolyn Reynolds  
[msyouth@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:msyouth@stritainthedesert.org)  
[hsyouth@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:hsyouth@stritainthedesert.org)

**OCIA Coordinator:** Michelle Quinn Crowley  
[ocia@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:ocia@stritainthedesert.org)

### ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

**Music Ministry:** Nancy Campman Crofts  
[music@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:music@stritainthedesert.org)

**Catholic Brotherhood Group:** Jayme Kahle  
[jkahle25@gmail.com](mailto:jkahle25@gmail.com)

**Women's Bible Study:** Irene Toews  
[irenetoews@cox.net](mailto:irenetoews@cox.net)

**Guild of St. Rita:**  
[guild@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:guild@stritainthedesert.org)

### BULLETIN DEADLINE & QUESTIONS

Email bulletin request(s) to:

[bulletin@stritainthedesert.org](mailto: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

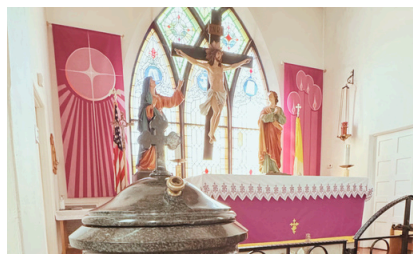
### MASS INTENTIONS AVAILABLE

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
- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month at 3-4pm in the John XXIII

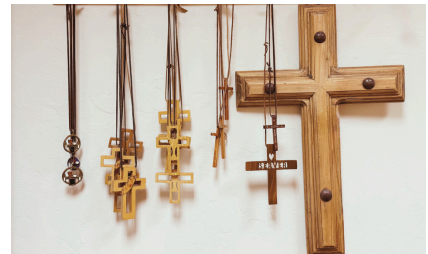


#### ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Every 1<sup>st</sup> Friday at 8am Mass

#### BAPTISMS

Visit [stritainthedesert.org](http://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.

## OFFICE OF THE PASTOR

May 3, 2026

Dear Amazing Parishioners and Friends of St. Rita in the Desert,

We continue celebrating Easter! The readings for the fifth Sunday offer rich images of the temple, priesthood, and mystical body of Christ—the living stones. Let's focus on becoming living stones, members of Christ's mystical body, not just at Mass, but in our daily lives at work, school, and home.

All of us have been chosen. When God created the universe, He foresaw each of us, called us by name, appointed us, and sent us to bring the Good News into a dark and broken world. We do so by recognizing the goodness God has instilled into us despite the fall of Adam and Eve. Of course, God has been working on the human heart and soul since the fall. God has gone above and beyond to bring us back to our origins of holiness. God did this by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, as the means of our redemption. Jesus not only showed the way to the Father, but He appointed us, anointed us, and sent us into the world. We have been empowered through the Sacraments Jesus left the Church.

As the mystical body of Christ, the Church, we are called to live a sacramental life in Christ! By word, acts, and love, we can sanctify the world we live in. When we consider how unstable our world is and how things change constantly, Jesus is the rock we can be assured of, the one who never changes and never stops forgiving or loving us. May our faith be strengthened by the Lord, and may our focus be upon Him as He leads us to become an amazing parish and amazing Catholic Christians.

In the spirit of new beginnings and community, I am happy to report that our parish has hired Mr. Norm Scheopner as our Maintenance Supervisor. Mr. Scheopner replaces our recent Maintenance Supervisor, Mr. Ron King. Mr. King has been a joy and a blessing to work with, and we thank him for his efforts in making St. Rita in the Desert Roman Catholic Community an amazing and orderly place to praise the Lord! Welcome, Norm, we look forward to welcoming you to our staff, and we know you will continue to make St. Rita in the Desert amazing!

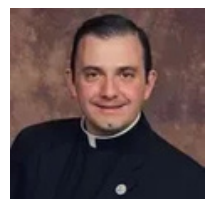
Thank you to St. Vincent de Paul for the wonderful steak dinner. It was a joy to see many parishioners and friends sharing this meal and supporting St. Vincent de Paul's mission to serve our parish and the Vail community. To help, consider volunteering, donating food, or giving financial support. For more information or to get involved, contact our parish office or visit our website. Thanks also to the Reynolds for providing memorable music and to everyone who made this event special.

Lastly, I would like to invite all our parishioners and parish friends to join us for the Italian dinner scheduled for Saturday, May 16, 2026, at 6:00pm. We will also have delicious Italian food, drinks, and entertainment. We will celebrate Fr. Stan, who will complete 55 years as a Roman Catholic Priest! This is certainly an amazing grace, and it is something to come and celebrate. Please stop by the Guild table and purchase your tickets as we celebrate Fr. Stan and raise funds to assist with our rectory payoff. God bless and keep you always! Peace and all Easter joy!

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Very Reverend Alonzo M. García, Dean



## OFICINA DE PASTOR

3 de Mayo de 2026

Estimada familia parroquial y amigos:

¡Seguimos celebrando la Pascua! Las lecturas del quinto domingo nos ofrecen ricas imágenes del templo, del sacerdocio y del Cuerpo Místico de Cristo: las piedras vivas. Centrémonos en llegar a ser piedras vivas, miembros del Cuerpo Místico de Cristo, no solo en la Misa, sino también en nuestra vida diaria, en el trabajo, la escuela y el hogar.

Todos hemos sido elegidos. Cuando Dios creó el universo, previó a cada uno de nosotros, nos llamó por nuestro nombre, nos designó y nos envió a llevar la Buena Nueva a un mundo oscuro y herido. Lo hacemos reconociendo la bondad que Dios ha puesto en nosotros a pesar de la caída de Adán y Eva. Por supuesto, Dios ha estado obrando en el corazón y el alma humanos desde la caída. Ha ido más allá de todo para llevarnos de vuelta a nuestros orígenes de santidad. Dios lo hizo enviando a su Hijo, Jesucristo, como medio de nuestra redención. Jesús no solo nos mostró el camino al Padre, sino que también nos eligió, nos ungió y nos envió al mundo. Hemos sido fortalecidos por medio de los sacramentos que Jesús dejó a la Iglesia.

Como Cuerpo Místico de Cristo, la Iglesia, estamos llamados a vivir una vida sacramental en Cristo. Con nuestras palabras, acciones y amor, podemos santificar el mundo en el que vivimos. Al considerar lo inestable que es nuestro mundo y cómo todo cambia constantemente, Jesús es la roca segura, Aquel que nunca cambia y nunca deja de perdonarnos ni de amarnos. Que nuestra fe sea fortalecida por el Señor y que nuestra mirada esté fija en Él mientras nos guía para convertirnos en una parroquia ejemplar y en cristianos católicos ejemplares.

En el espíritu de nuevos comienzos y comunidad, me alegra informar que nuestra parroquia ha contratado al Sr. Norm Scheopner como Supervisor de Mantenimiento. El Sr. Scheopner reemplaza a nuestro reciente Supervisor de Mantenimiento, el Sr. Ron King. Ha sido una alegría y una bendición trabajar con el Sr. King y le agradecemos sus esfuerzos por hacer de la Comunidad Católica Romana St. Rita en el Desierto un lugar maravilloso y ordenado para alabar al Señor. ¡Bienvenido, Norm! Esperamos darte la bienvenida a nuestro equipo y sabemos que seguirás haciendo de St. Rita en el Desierto un lugar extraordinario.

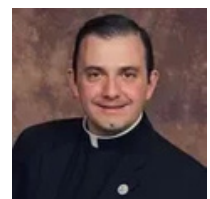
Gracias a San Vicente de Paúl por la maravillosa cena de bistec. Fue una alegría ver a tantos feligreses y amigos compartir esta comida y apoyar la misión de San Vicente de Paúl: servir a nuestra parroquia y a la comunidad de Vail. Para ayudar, considere ser voluntario, donar alimentos o brindar apoyo económico. Para más información o para participar, comuníquese con la oficina parroquial o visite nuestro sitio web. Gracias también a los Reynolds por la música memorable y a todos los que hicieron de este evento algo especial.

Por último, me gustaría invitar a todos nuestros feligreses y amigos de la parroquia a acompañarnos en la cena italiana programada para el sábado 16 de mayo de 2026 a las 6:00 p. m. Tendremos deliciosa comida italiana, bebidas y entretenimiento. Celebraremos al P. Stan, quien cumplirá 55 años como sacerdote católico romano. Esto es, ciertamente, una gracia maravillosa y algo digno de celebrarse. Por favor, pase por la mesa del Guild para comprar sus boletos mientras celebramos al P. Stan y recaudamos fondos para ayudar a liquidar la rectoría. ¡Que Dios los bendiga y los guarde siempre! ¡Paz y toda la alegría pascual!

Sinceramente en Cristo,



Muy Reverendo Alonzo M. García, Dean



## GOSPEL MEDITATION

### IN THE JOHN 14:1-12,

In this Gospel passage, Jesus speaks directly to the hearts of His disciples, encouraging them to trust in Him during times of uncertainty. By declaring, "I am the way and the truth and the life," Jesus assures us that following Him leads us to a profound relationship with God the Father. His words offer comfort and direction, reminding us that through Him, we can find the path to peace and fulfillment. Just as the disciples were invited to deepen their trust in Jesus, we too are called to turn to Him as our guide and foundation. How do you seek Jesus' direction in navigating the challenges you face today?

#### **Socratic Question:**

In what areas of your life can you more fully rely on Jesus as your way, your truth, and your life?

### EN JUAN 14:1-12,

En este pasaje del Evangelio, Jesús habla directamente al corazón de Sus discípulos, animándolos a confiar en Él en tiempos de incertidumbre. Al decir, "Yo soy el camino, la verdad y la vida," Jesús nos asegura que seguirlo nos conduce a una relación profunda con Dios Padre. Sus palabras ofrecen consuelo y dirección, recordándonos que a través de Él podemos encontrar el camino hacia la paz y la satisfacción. Así como los discípulos fueron invitados a profundizar su confianza en Jesús, nosotros también estamos llamados a acudir a Él como nuestra guía y fundamento. ¿Cómo buscas la dirección de Jesús para enfrentar los desafíos que enfrentas hoy?

#### **Pregunta Socrática en Español:**

¿En qué áreas de tu vida puedes confiar más plenamente en Jesús como tu camino, tu verdad y tu vida?

## DID YOU KNOW...

### 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

The Fifth Sunday of Easter continues the Church's joyful celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. During the Easter season, the liturgical readings focus on the growth and formation of the early Church and the teachings of Jesus that direct us toward living out the message of Easter in our daily lives.

#### **Historical Significance:**

The Gospel reading from John 14:1-12 features Jesus speaking to His disciples during the Last Supper. In this intimate setting, He prepares them for His departure and reassures them with the promise of a place in His Father's house. This passage has historically provided comfort to Christians throughout the centuries, especially during times of trial or uncertainty. It's a reminder of the eternal life we are promised through faith in Jesus.

#### **Reflection Question:**

How does the promise of Jesus preparing a place for us with the Father influence your understanding of hope and trust in His promises?

This Sunday reminds us of the continuity of Jesus' mission through the Church and the hope we have in His resurrection and eternal promises.

*via truthly app*

## WEEKLY CALENDAR, INTENTIONS, OBSERVATIONS & READINGS

### MASS INTENTIONS INTENCIONES DE MISA

*Saturday May 2*

**5:00 pm**

†Louisa & Joe Moreno &  
Family  
St. Rita

*Sunday May 3*

**8:00 am**

†Irene Estabalaya  
†Kathleen Conklin

**10:00 am**

†Jose Arteaga, Maria Pena  
Carmen, Victor, Armando  
Cancino

**12:00 pm**

Living & Deceased of St. Rita

*Monday May 4*

**8:00 am**

SI Renee Michel  
†James W. Logan  
†Jeffrey Roberts  
SI Judy Ann Roberts

*Tuesday May 5*

**8:00 am**

SI Anna Arrizon & Francisco  
Anaya

*Wednesday May 6*

**8:00 am**

†Louisa & Joe Moreno &  
Family

*Thursday May 7*

**8:00 am**

†Robert & Jack Zubel

*Friday May 8*

**8:00 am**

United States Armed Forces

### THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

*Sunday, May 3*

**5th Sunday of Easter**

- *Saints Philip and James*
- *Pope St. Alexander*

8:00 am - Mass (English)

10:00 am - Mass (English)

12:00 noon - Mass (Spanish)

3:00 pm - Shrine

*Monday, May 4*

- *St. Florian*

8:00 am Mass (English)

8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

6:00 pm Men's Group (Oscar  
Romero Room)

*Tuesday, May 5*

- *St. Angelus of Jerusalem*

8:00 am Mass (English)

8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

*Wednesday, May 6*

- *St. Dominic Savio*

8:00 am - Mass (English)

8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

9:00 am Women's Scripture

Study (Oscar Romero Room)

*Thursday, May 7*

- *St. Flavia Domitilla*

- *St. Rosa Venerini*

8:00 am - Mass (English)

8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

*Friday, May 8*

- *St. Victor Maurus of Milan*

- *Pope St. Boniface IV*

- *St. Magdalene of Canossa*

8:00 am - Mass

8:30 am Eucharist Adoration

*Saturday, May 9*

- *Isaiah the Prophet (OT)*

- *St. Pachomius*

5 pm - Vigil Mass (John XXIII)

source: [young-catholics.com](http://young-catholics.com)

### READINGS & OBSERVANCES

**FIRST READING:**

"They chose Stephen, a man filled with faith and the Holy Spirit." (Acts 6:5)

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

"Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you." (Ps 33:22)

**SECOND READING:**

"You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own." (1 Pt 2:9)

**GOSPEL:**

"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (Jn 14:6)

*Sunday, May 3*

Acts 6:1-7 | Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 | 1 Pt 2:4-9 | Jn 14:1-12

*Monday, May 4*

Acts 14:5-18 | Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16 | Jn 14:21-26

*Tuesday, May 5*

Acts 14:19-28 | Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21 | Jn 14:27-31a

*Wednesday, May 6*

Acts 15:1-6 | Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5 | Jn 15:1-8

*Thursday, May 7*

Acts 15:7-21 | Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10 | Jn 15:9-11

*Friday, May 8*

Acts 15:22-31 | Ps 57:8-9, 10 and 12 | Jn 15:12-17

*Saturday, May 9*

Acts 16:1-10 | Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5 | Jn 15:18-21

# PARISH MINISTRIES

## LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

### *Altar Server*

If your boy would like to become an Altar Boy, please review the [Altar Server Manual](#) together and complete the [Altar Server Application](#) online or email: [travis71durman@gmail.com](mailto:travis71durman@gmail.com)

### *Altar Society*

The St. Rita Altar Society is looking for volunteers to maintain the Altar in the Shrine and St. John XXIII. If you love to decorate or enjoy floral arrangements, we invite you to glorify the Lord by your creativity.

### *Eucharistic Ministry*

Interested in learning more about the role of an Extraordinary Minister or would like to be part of this vital ministry, Submit your [EOMHC Sign-up](#) form online.

### *Lectors*

Become a Lector. Submit your [Ministry Request form](#) online.

### *Music Ministry - Join Us!*

Love sacred music? Come sing or play!

**Adult choirs (18+):** Tues | 6:30 pm

**Youth choir (8-18):** Wed | 4:30 pm

**Spanish choir:** Wed | 6:15 pm

Play piano, guitar, flute or clarinet? - welcome!

### **Pianist Needed (Sat 5pm Mass):**

Mass music paused until filled. Stipend available.

**Coro español:** ¡Únete! Voz, guitarra y bajo bienvenidos.

### *Ushers*

Ushers play a pivotal role in our parish, not only aiding others but also serving as the welcoming face to newcomers. For our regular parishioners, they provide a sense of familiarity and continuity across all Masses. Submit your [Usher Sign-Up](#) form online.

## PARISH MINISTRIES

### *Outreach Ministry*

Join us as we provide support every week to our Meals to Grow Program, Food Bank and other critical human needs in our community. Email: [outreach@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:outreach@stritainthedesert.org)

### *Pastoral Council*

Currently on hold, seeking someone to assist in leading it. Contact front office if interested.

### *Porter's of St. Joseph*

Email: [porters@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:porters@stritainthedesert.org)

### *Right to Life*

Email: [rtl@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:rtl@stritainthedesert.org)

### *Family Faith Formation*

[www.watch.formed.org](http://www.watch.formed.org)

### *Vocations*

Contact Mr. Adam LaGuardia: [Vocations@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:Vocations@stritainthedesert.org)

### *Welcome Committee*

If you are interested in joining the Welcoming Team, submit your [Welcoming Team request form](#) online.

### *Guild of St. Rita*

Volunteers manage our beautiful Gift shop, plan our St. Rita's feast day celebration & host many other parish events as requested. Join us every **2nd & 4th Wed** of the month | **6pm** | Mother Teresa Rm | Email: [guild@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:guild@stritainthedesert.org)

### *Sewing Angels*

All are welcome to join. Meet us in the church hall every **Wednesday** from **9:30 am - 12:30 pm**

### *Mujeres De Fe (Women of Faith)*

Para mas Informacion Coordinadora: Gabriela Hrdlirka (915) 539-0985 [gawoho@gmail.com](mailto:gawoho@gmail.com)

## EXTERNAL MINISTRIES



### **Knights of Columbus**

Lead with Faith.  
Protect your Family.  
Serve Others.  
Defend Your Values.  
**BECOME A KNIGHT**

### **Catholic Men 18+**

visit our website: <https://www.kofc14230.org> or contact John Cuddy at: [john.cuddy@yahoo.com](mailto:john.cuddy@yahoo.com) or (978)382-0742



El praesidium de St.Rita se llama "Maria Puerta del Cielo" y se reúne los Martes a las 6:00 de la tarde en el salon Oscar Romero, o puedes contactar a Sandra (520)395-7225 or email: [legiondemaria@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:legiondemaria@stritainthedesert.org)



### **Rachel's VINEYARD**

Healing the pain of abortion - one weekend at a time

If you are interested in getting more information and/or registering for a Retreat Weekend, please call (520) 743-6777 or visit [RachelsVineyard.org](http://RachelsVineyard.org)



### **THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

If you need assistance from St Vincent de Paul or want to join the ministry to help others, contact James Mahaffey at (520) 307-3411

### **MARIAN BOOK CLUB**

Every **Thursday**  
**4:30-6pm**  
Oscar Romero

All are welcome to join!

### **WOMEN'S SCRIPTURE STUDY**

**Wednesday mornings 9 am**  
Oscar Romero Room  
All women are welcome  
[irenetoews@cox.net](mailto:irenetoews@cox.net)

# Rectory Debt Payoff Update

As of Sunday, April 26, 2026

\$124,838

**\$345,000**  
GOAL

145

**500**  
FAMILY PLEDGED/DONATED GOAL

**We need your help!** Until this phase is complete, we cannot seek Diocesan approval for a new church capital campaign. Let's come together as a faith family to make it happen

**Be part of our parish family's exciting next chapter**



Scan to Pledge



Come Visit our Lady of the Desert Marian Rose Garden for prayer or Meditation.

Consider becoming a volunteer to revitalize our church grounds. If interested, please contact the office for more information.

## SAVE THE DATES

**May 16, 2026 - 6:00pm - 8:30pm**

*"La primavera in Umbria"*

4-Course Italian Wine Dinner with DJ & Dancing

*Fundraiser for Rectory Payoff and New Church*

**May 22, 2026 at 5:30pm - 8:00pm**

Solemnity of St. Rita of Cascia  
Mass, Procession and Picnic



*Tickets on sale now after mass or use the QR code here*

*Volunteers Needed - Contact [guild@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:guild@stritainthedesert.org)*

## VISITA DE LA VIRGEN A LOS HOGARES

El grupo de la Legion de Maria les recuerda que Nuestra Santísima Madre quiere visitar sus hogares, para que sientan su protección y compañía, para que compartan con Ella las necesidades que tiene cada miembro de su familia, Ella quiere escuchar sus plegarias y llevarlas a su amado Hijo Jesus.

En el vestíbulo estarán algunos miembros del grupo de la Legion de Maria, para tomar sus datos y programar la visita. Gracias.

## WOMEN'S SCRIPTURE STUDY

Wednesdays at 9 AM in the Verhagen Building. All women are welcome—bring a friend!

Currently studying The Great Adventure Bible Timeline with Jeff Cavins, journeying from Genesis through Exodus and Leviticus.

Join our warm and welcoming group!

## FR. STAN CELEBRATION

**Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> - 5pm Mass**

Join us as we celebrate Fr. Stan's 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination & after mass, as our guest of honor at the Italian Dinner hosted by the Guild

**Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> - 8am Mass**

Join us as we celebrate at mass & after mass, as our guest of honor at the Knights Pancake Breakfast

## RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

**Sunday, May 10**

And Mother's Day Roses

Register for Blood Donation online with Red Cross to get preferred time, walk ins welcome if space available.

## WELCOME TEAM

**No Welcome Team Potluck in May**

We look forward to seeing you Sunday, May 10th for Coffee & Pastries After all masses



Knights of Columbus®

# A New Beginning...

## Join the Knights of Columbus FREE MEMBERSHIP\*

For new online membership applications  
submitted the entire month of April

\*for 1-year of online membership, regular dues are \$30/year thereafter.

Visit [kofc.org/joinus](http://kofc.org/joinus)



Enter code

**BLESSEDMCGIVNEY**

### PANCAKE BREAKFAST

May 17th *(Pancake Breakfast)*

Mark your calendars and join the  
Knights for Breakfast



### KNIGHTS BABY BOTTLE DRIVE

Begins May 2, 2026

Support REACHOUT Women's Center by helping us  
surpass last year's success!

1. Pick up a bottle after Mass starting May 2
2. Fill with change, cash, or checks (payable to Knights of Columbus)
3. Return by **June 13** to a representative at the door

### KNIGHTS FUNDRAISER FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Support a St. Rita Special Olympian competing with  
Arizona USA Softball at the Special Olympics USA  
Summer Games (June 20-26).

Pick up **farm-fresh eggs** for \$5/dozen and support a  
great cause.

*Stop by the table to donate or learn more.*

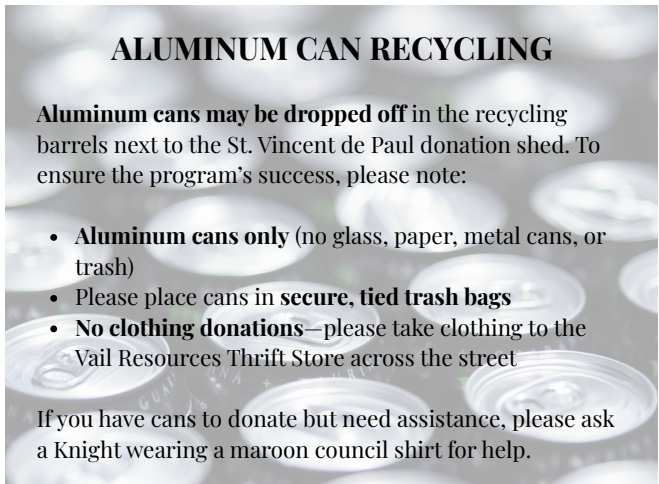


### ALUMINUM CAN RECYCLING

Aluminum cans may be dropped off in the recycling  
barrels next to the St. Vincent de Paul donation shed. To  
ensure the program's success, please note:

- **Aluminum cans only** (no glass, paper, metal cans, or trash)
- Please place cans in **secure, tied trash bags**
- **No clothing donations**—please take clothing to the Vail Resources Thrift Store across the street

If you have cans to donate but need assistance, please ask  
a Knight wearing a maroon council shirt for help.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**ARE YOU  
FOLLOWING US?**  
*click here*



Rachel's Vineyard (Tucson) - Let Jesus Christ set you free from the emotional and spiritual pain of a past abortion at a co-ed Rachel's Vineyard retreat in Tucson, **May 15-17, 2026**. Visit: [www.rachelsvineyardtucson.org](http://www.rachelsvineyardtucson.org) or call/ Text to 520-743-6777.

### **PILGRIMAGE TO EASTERN EUROPE**

12 Days NOVEMBER 3 - 14, 2026

*Prague • Vienna • Budapest • Krakow • Auschwitz •  
Czestochowa • Warsaw • Wadowice*

With Vine of Grace Retreat Ministry  
& Fr. Bala Kommthoti

**Pilgrimage Informational Meetings**  
Please RSVP for meeting at 520.631.1408

**Sunday, May 17** - St. Helen of the Cross Catholic Church  
PARISH HALL at **10:15a** 205 West 8th Street - Eloy

Printable brochures & information: [vineofgrace.org](http://vineofgrace.org)



### **worldwide marriage encounter**

It is time to get your marriage in shape! Worldwide Marriage Encounter is better than any college course. In just one short weekend, you can learn a technique for communication that will keep your marriage on the right track to be healthy. Sign up for an upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience

**May 30-31, 2026, in Tucson**

**July 11-12, 2026, in Phoenix**

For more info go to: [wwme.org](http://wwme.org) or call 520-661-3644

*Early registration is highly recommended.*

## **GIFT SHOP**

*Last Chance Before Summer Closure!*

The Gift Shop will be open TODAY  
Sunday, May 3 | 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

This is the final Sunday it will be open until September—don't miss it!



**THE SOCIETY OF  
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

***THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!***

*Your generosity knows no bounds! In these past few months we have seen how much you truly love the poor and the needy. Ash Wednesday and the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday collections were the highest we have ever received. Your support of our Pantry was equally impressive, and finally your support for our recent Steak Fry was wonderful as well. Be assured that all the monies we have received will go directly to those in need in our area. We could not do this important work without your continued generosity.*



Diocese of Tucson

It's Faithful Friday! And we are so excited to bring you something new 🙌 Our very own Bishop of Tucson launched a podcast called Being Church with Bishop Misko. Let's walk together while we grow in...

facebookapp

## SAINT SPOTLIGHT



### SAINT DAMIEN OF MOLOKAI

**Feast Day:** May 10th

**Patronage:**

Saint Damien of Molokai is the patron saint of people suffering from leprosy, those with HIV/AIDS, and outcasts.

**Story:** Saint Damien, born Joseph De Veuster in Belgium in 1840, was a Catholic priest of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. Inspired by the missionary call, he volunteered to serve in the Hawaiian Islands, and in 1873 he moved to the leper colony on the island of Molokai. At that time, leprosy (Hansen’s disease) was a feared and misunderstood illness, and those afflicted were isolated from society.

Father Damien dedicated his life to serving the lepers, building houses, schools, and churches, and tending to both their physical and spiritual needs. His compassion and dedication earned him great love among the people he served. In 1885, he himself contracted leprosy but continued his work until his death in 1889.

**Legacy:** Saint Damien’s legacy is one of selfless service and solidarity with the marginalized. Canonized in 2009 by Pope Benedict XVI, he stands as a powerful example of Christ-like compassion, showing the world the dignity and love owed to every person, no matter their circumstances. Today, his work serves as an inspiration to those who minister to people suffering from illness and social stigma.

**Reflection Question:** How can Saint Damien’s example challenge us to reach out to those who are marginalized and isolated in our own communities?

### KIDS CORNER



**Feast Day:** May 10th

**Who He Helps:** Saint Damien of Molokai is the special friend of people who have leprosy, people with HIV/AIDS, and anyone who feels like an outsider or outcast.

**Story:** Saint Damien was born as Joseph De Veuster in Belgium in 1840. He grew up wanting to help others, and when he became a priest, he was sent to the Hawaiian Islands. In 1873, he volunteered to live on the island of Molokai, where people with leprosy were sent because others were afraid of the disease.

Father Damien spent his life helping the people on Molokai. He built homes, schools, and churches, and he didn’t just take care of their illnesses—he loved them and called them his family. After many years, he got leprosy too, but he didn’t stop helping others until he died in 1889.

**Why He’s Important:** Saint Damien showed us that everyone deserves love and care, no matter what. He is remembered for showing amazing kindness and bravery, and he inspires us to help people who feel alone or are left out. In 2009, the Church declared him a saint because of how he lived like Jesus.

**Question for You:** How can you be more like Saint Damien by helping someone who feels left out or alone?

Source: *Truthly App*

# DONATIONS



## RECTORY DEBT PAYOFF

The Building Committee would like to invite all our parishioners to assist us with paying off the debt of our parish rectory. Please complete information and place in collection basket or bring to the office.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_



## CAMPUS MAINTENANCE

Please consider contributing to our Campus Maintenance. Please complete information and place in collection basket or bring to the office.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_



ONLINE DONATIONS: [HTTPS://WWW.OSVHUB.COM/STRITAINTHEDESERT/GIVING/FUNDS](https://www.osvhub.com/stritainthedesert/giving/funds)



## ALTAR FLOWER DONATIONS

Please consider contributing to our fresh altar flowers. Please complete information and place in collection basket or bring to the office.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_



## REQUEST A MASS INTENTION

The stipend for a Mass intention is \$10. **Two Week advance notice** is required. Please complete information and place in collection basket or bring to the office. **PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**

Mass for: \_\_\_\_\_

Living  Deceased

Mass Date/Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Requested By: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

