

January 4, 2026



## CLERGY

### Pastor:

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

### Deacon:

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

9:00 am—1:00 pm

*Office closed*

*12pm—1pm daily*

# ST. RITA IN THE DESERT Catholic Church

## EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

*"They opened their treasures and offered  
him gifts of gold, frankincense, and  
myrrh." (Matthew 2:11)*

*"Abrieron sus cofres y le ofrecieron  
regalos de oro, incienso y mirra."  
(Mateo 2:11)*

### Reflection:

The visit of the Magi, guided by the star to Bethlehem, signifies the recognition of Christ by the Gentile world. Their gifts—gold, frankincense, and myrrh—each hold deep meaning, representing Christ's kingship, divinity, and eventual suffering. This act of homage reminds us that Christ is a gift for all people, transcending boundaries and inviting everyone into His light. As we reflect on this epiphany, let us consider the gifts we offer to Jesus. Are they worthy of a king? In our daily lives, let us strive to bring our best to Christ, knowing that our sincere offerings of love, faith, and service are precious to Him.

### Socratic Question:

In what ways can you bring your own gifts and talents to Jesus, offering them for His mission in your community and beyond?

### Reflexión:

La visita de los Magos, guiados por la estrella hacia Belén, representa el reconocimiento de Cristo por parte del mundo gentil. Sus regalos—oro, incienso y mirra—tienen un profundo significado, simbolizando la realeza, divinidad y futuro sufrimiento de Cristo. Este acto de homenaje nos recuerda que Cristo es un regalo para todos, trascendiendo fronteras e invitando a todos a su luz. Al reflexionar sobre esta epifanía, consideremos los regalos que ofrecemos a Jesús. ¿Son dignos de un rey? En nuestra vida diaria, esforcémonos por ofrecer lo mejor a Cristo, sabiendo que nuestras sinceras ofrendas de amor, fe y servicio son preciosas para Él.

### Pregunta socrática:

¿Cómo puedes ofrecer tus propios dones y talentos a Jesús, poniéndolos al servicio de su misión en tu comunidad y más allá?

Source: Truthly App

## PARISH INFORMATION

### COLLECTIONS | COLECTA



December 28, 2025

Offertory: \$5,207.00

Rectory Debt: \$4,020.00

Christmas Offertory:

\$14,613.00

Thank you for your support.

*God bless you!*

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

### ST. RITA STAFF

(520) 762-9688

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[adminassist@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:adminassist@stritainthedesert.org)

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Rob King

**Maintenance:**

Bill Cline

### 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 or click **HERE**.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STAFF

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

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

Carolyn Reynolds

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

Michelle Quinn Crowley

### ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

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

Nancy Campman Crofts

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

Jayme Kahle

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

Irene Toews

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



#### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

- Fridays following 8am Mass for 1hr
- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month at 2:30-3:30pm in the John XXIII for 1hr



#### 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 ~ OFICINA DE PASTOR

January 4, 2026

*“We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.” (Matthew 2:2)*

Dear Parish Family and Friends,

The light has shone in darkness has many deep and symbolic meanings as we come to the close of our Christmas celebration. Moreover, our readings for the Epiphany of the Lord reveal profound insights into who this infant Jesus Christ is, the Magi's response, and Israel's response. While there is a great richness in each of the texts, suffice it to say that the primary purpose is that the prophecy has come true, and our disposition of such a gift should be one of humility. As we reflect on Christ's gift, we can embody humility in our daily lives by prioritizing others' needs. For instance, parishioners could show humility by volunteering at local food banks or offering support to neighbors in need, which makes the light of Christ present in our communities.

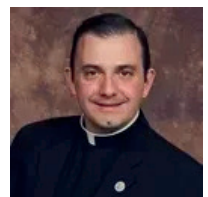
The final revelation for the nation of Israel and to all the nations is encapsulated in the Magi seeking out the foretold King of the Jews. This moment fulfills prophecies such as those found in Isaiah 60:1-6, which speak of nations and kings coming to the light and brightness of the dawn, bringing gifts and proclaiming the praise of the Lord. Additionally, the prophecy in Micah 5:2 is fulfilled, identifying Bethlehem as the birthplace of a ruler who will shepherd the people of Israel.

The Magi, who were feared and respected, came bearing gifts for the newborn king. Most interesting about this scene is that as they came forward to give their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, they did so in humility—they knelt before the Lord. As we continue to journey in our faith and come before the Lord, what do we offer Him? Moreover, as the days grow darker, how can we become more like the infant child Jesus? Lastly, how can we bring our gifts to bear here in our homes and in our parish community to assist us in knowing and loving our Lord, and in learning and loving one another from the heart?

As the New Year begins, many make resolutions, changes, and adjustments in their daily lives. There is no difference for the pastor or the parish. I want to invite our parish family to help us make our liturgies unforgettable, reverent, and meaningful for our parishioners and visitors. If you are a current liturgical minister, lector, usher, EMHC, or would like to assist us in either of these ministries, we will have training for those ministries on **January 24, 2026**, here in the St. Pope John XXIII Center. We have broken them down into two-block sections so we can focus on two ministries at a time. Block One will begin from **9:00 am to 10:30 am**, and our focus will be on Lectors and Sacristans. Block Two will begin from **11:30 am to 1:00 pm**. Our focus will be on EMHC and Ushers. We ask that you stop by the sacristy and fill out a liturgical signup sheet. If you are a new volunteer, we invite you to take a volunteer signup letter to help you become compliant. Hope to see you there.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend Alonzo M. García, Pastor



## OFFICE OF THE PASTOR ~ OFICINA DE PASTOR

4 de enero de 2026

***“Hemos visto su estrella en el oriente y hemos venido a adorar al Señor.” (Mateo 2,2)***

Querida familia parroquial y amigos:

“La luz ha brillado en la oscuridad” tiene muchos significados profundos y simbólicos al llegar al final de nuestra celebración de la Navidad. Además, nuestras lecturas para la Epifanía del Señor revelan profundas enseñanzas sobre quién es el niño Jesús, la respuesta de los Magos y la respuesta de Israel. Aunque cada uno de los textos posee una gran riqueza, basta decir que el propósito principal es que la profecía se ha cumplido, y que nuestra actitud ante un don tan grande debe ser de humildad. Al reflexionar sobre el don de Cristo, podemos vivir la humildad en nuestra vida diaria poniendo las necesidades de los demás en primer lugar. Por ejemplo, los feligreses pueden demostrar humildad al ofrecerse como voluntarios en bancos de alimentos locales u ofreciendo apoyo a vecinos necesitados, haciendo así presente la luz de Cristo en nuestras comunidades.

La revelación final para la nación de Israel y para todas las naciones queda reflejada en los Magos que buscan al Rey de los judíos anunciado. Este momento cumple profecías como las que se encuentran en Isaías 60, 1-6, que hablan de naciones y reyes que caminan hacia la luz y el resplandor del amanecer, trayendo dones y proclamando la alabanza del Señor. Asimismo, se cumple la profecía de Miqueas 5, 2, que identifica a Belén como el lugar de nacimiento de un gobernante que pastoreará al pueblo de Israel.

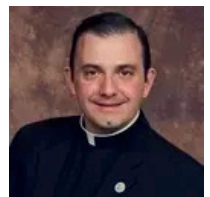
Los Magos, que eran temidos y respetados, llegaron llevando regalos para el rey recién nacido. Lo más interesante de esta escena es que, al presentar sus dones de oro, incienso y mirra, lo hicieron con humildad: se arrodillaron ante el Señor. Mientras continuamos nuestro camino de fe y nos presentamos ante el Señor, ¿qué le ofrecemos nosotros? Además, a medida que los días se vuelven más oscuros, ¿cómo podemos parecernos más al niño Jesús? Finalmente, ¿cómo podemos poner nuestros dones al servicio de nuestros hogares y de nuestra comunidad parroquial para ayudarnos a conocer y amar a nuestro Señor, y a aprender a amarnos unos a otros de corazón?

Al comenzar el Año Nuevo, muchos hacen propósitos, cambios y ajustes en su vida diaria. No es diferente para el pastor ni para la parroquia. Quiero invitar a nuestra familia parroquial a ayudarnos a hacer que nuestras liturgias sean inolvidables, reverentes y significativas tanto para nuestros feligreses como para nuestros visitantes. Si actualmente es ministro litúrgico, lector, ujier, ministro extraordinario de la Sagrada Comunión (MESC), o si le gustaría colaborar en alguno de estos ministerios, tendremos una capacitación el **24 de enero de 2026**, aquí en el Centro San Papa Juan XXIII. Hemos dividido la capacitación en dos bloques para poder enfocarnos en dos ministerios a la vez. El Bloque Uno será de **9:00 a. m. a 10:30 a. m.**, y se centrará en Lectores y Sacristanes. El Bloque Dos será de **11:30 a. m. a 1:00 p. m.**, y se centrará en Ministros Extraordinarios de la Sagrada Comunión y Ujieres.

Les pedimos que pasen por la sacristía y completen una hoja de inscripción litúrgica. Si es un voluntario nuevo, lo invitamos a llevar una carta de inscripción para voluntarios para cumplir con los requisitos necesarios. Esperamos verlos allí.

Sinceramente Suyos en Cristo,

Reverendo Alonzo M. García, Pastor





## GOSPEL MEDITATION

### IN THE GOSPEL PASSAGE...

The Gospel of the Epiphany invites us into the journey of the Magi, those wise seekers who followed a distant star to find the newborn King. Their journey symbolizes the search for truth and the longing of every human heart to encounter the divine. Upon finding Jesus, they offer their treasures: gold for royalty, frankincense for divinity, and myrrh for suffering. These gifts reflect their recognition of who Christ truly is—King, God, and Savior. We, too, are called to seek Christ diligently, bringing the treasures of our hearts as offerings to Him. Let us consider what gifts we bring: are they tokens of our love, faith, and readiness to serve? The Magi's journey challenges us to move beyond our comfort, to seek and worship Him who desires to dwell with us.

#### Reflection Question:

What "stars" in your life might God be using to guide you closer to Him, and how can you respond with the same faith and dedication as the Magi?

### EN ESTE PASAJE DEL EVANGELIO,

El Evangelio de la Epifanía nos invita al viaje de los Magos, aquellos sabios buscadores que siguieron una estrella distante para encontrar al Rey recién nacido. Su viaje simboliza la búsqueda de la verdad y el anhelo del corazón humano por encontrarse con lo divino. Al encontrar a Jesús, ofrecen sus tesoros: oro por realeza, incienso por divinidad y mirra por sufrimiento. Estos regalos reflejan su reconocimiento de quién es realmente Cristo—Rey, Dios y Salvador. También nosotros estamos llamados a buscar diligentemente a Cristo, trayendo los tesoros de nuestro corazón como ofrendas para Él. Consideremos qué regalos llevamos: ¿son muestras de nuestro amor, fe y disposición para servir? El viaje de los Magos nos desafía a salir de nuestra comodidad, a buscar y adorar a Aquel que desea habitar con nosotros.

#### Pregunta de reflexión:

¿Qué "estrellas" en tu vida podría estar usando Dios para guiarte más cerca de Él, y cómo puedes responder con la misma fe y dedicación que los Magos?

## DID YOU KNOW....

### JANUARY 4TH IS...

The Feast of the Epiphany, often called "Three Kings' Day," has been celebrated in the Christian Church since at least the fourth century, making it one of the oldest Christian feasts. Initially, it was a more significant celebration than Christmas, encompassing not only the visit of the Magi but also the Baptism of Jesus and the Wedding at Cana—three manifestations of Christ's divinity.

In many Christian traditions, especially within the Eastern Orthodox Church, the Epiphany is a time to bless water, recalling Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River. In Western Christianity, it primarily focuses on the visit of the Magi and is often associated with gift-giving, reflecting the gifts that the Wise Men brought to Jesus.

Customs and traditions can vary widely. In some cultures, Epiphany marks the end of the Christmas season, known as "Twelfth Night," and is celebrated with parades, feasts, and special pastries or cakes, like the "Roscón de Reyes" in Spanish-speaking countries. This cake often contains a small figure of the Christ Child, and whoever finds it is said to have blessings throughout the year.

Reflecting on these rich traditions and histories behind the Feast of the Epiphany, in what ways could you integrate its themes of revelation and gift-giving into your own spiritual practice?

Source: *Truthly App*

# WEEKLY CALENDAR, INTENTIONS, OBSERVATIONS & READINGS

## MASS INTENTIONS INTENCIONES DE MISA

### *Sunday January 4*

8:00 am

†Lt. Col. Stan Kwader

†Vittorio S. Matturro

10:00 am

†José Arteaga, María Peña

†Carmen, Victor, Armando  
Cancino

12:00 pm

Living & Deceased of St. Rita

### *Monday January 5*

8:00 am - SI Fr. Alonzo

### *Tuesday January 6*

8:00 am - First Responders

### *Wednesday January 7*

8:00 am - St. Rita

### *Thursday January 8*

10:00 am

Men & Women in the Military

### *Friday January 9*

8:00 am

St. Rita Office Staff

### *Saturday January 10*

5:00pm

†Richard Gorsuch

†Maria & Emmanuel Cauchi

## THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

### *Sunday, January 4*

#### ***Solemnity of the Epiphany***

8:00 am - Mass (English)

10:00 am - Mass (English)

12:00 noon - Mass (Spanish)

### *Monday, January 5*

#### ***Memorial of Saint John***

#### ***Neumann, Bishop***

8:00 am Mass (English)

8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

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

### *Tuesday, January 6*

#### ***Tuesday after Epiphany***

8:00 am Mass (English)

8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

### *Wednesday, January 7*

#### ***Wednesday after Epiphany***

8:00 am - Mass (English)

8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

### *Thursday, January 8*

#### ***Thursday after Epiphany***

8:00 am - Mass (English)

8:30 am Divine Mercy

Chaplet

### *Friday, January 9*

#### ***Friday after Epiphany***

8:00 am Mass

8:30 am Eucharist Adoration

### *Saturday, January 10*

#### ***Saturday after Epiphany***

5:00 pm - Mass (English)

## READINGS & OBSERVANCES

### FIRST READING:

"Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem!  
Your light has come, the glory of  
the Lord shines upon you." (Is  
60:1)

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

"Lord, every nation on earth will  
adore you." (Ps 72:11)

### SECOND READING:

"The Gentiles are coheirs,  
members of the same body, and  
copartners in the promise in  
Christ Jesus." (Eph 3:6)

### GOSPEL:

"They were overjoyed at seeing the  
star, and on entering the house  
they saw the child with Mary his  
mother." (Mt 2:10-11)

### *Sunday, January 4*

#### ***Solemnity of the Epiphany***

• *Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton*

• *St. Angela of Foligno*

Sir 24:1-4, 12-16 | Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 | Eph 1:3-6, 15-18 | Jn 1:1-18

### *Monday, January 5*

• *St. John Neumann*

• *St. Edward the Confessor*

1 Jn 3:22-4:6 | Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a | Mt  
4:12-17, 23-25

### *Tuesday, January 6*

• *St. André Bessette, religious*

• *St. Carlo da Sezze*

• *St. Raffaella of the Sacred Heart*

1 Jn 4:7-10 | Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8 | Mk  
6:34-44

### *Wednesday, January 7*

• *St. Raymond of Peñafort*

• *St. Lucian of Antioch*

• *St. Polieuto*

1 Jn 4:11-18 | Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 | Mk  
6:45-52

### *Thursday, January 8*

• *St. Severinus of Noricum*

• *St. Lawrence Giustiniani*

1 Jn 4:19-5:4 | Ps 72:1-2, 14 & 15bc, 17 |  
Lk 4:14-22

### *Friday, January 9*

• *St. Andrew Corsini*

• *Bl. Antony Fatati*

1 Jn 5:5-13 | Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 |  
Lk 5:12-16

### *Saturday, January 10*

• *Pope St. Agatha*

• *Bl. Pope Gregory X*

• *Pope St. Miltiades*

1 Jn 5:14-21 | Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 & 6a &  
9b | Jn 3:22-30

*Online viewers click on a Saint above!*



# PARISH MINISTRIES

## LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

### *Altar Boys*

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. We would love to have you. Every **2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month** at **2pm** in the parish hall.

### *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*

Curious about our choirs? Love to sing sacred music? Join us, our rehearsals are open to everyone! Adult choirs: Tues at 5 pm  
Children's choir: Wed at 4 pm  
Spanish choir: Thur at 6:15 pm  
Do you play piano, guitar, flute or clarinet? We want to meet you!

Coro español: ¡Queremos desarrollar nuestro coro! ¡Considere unirse a nosotros o volver a unirse a nosotros! ¡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! 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 (915) 539-0985

## 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) 501-1386

### MARIAN BOOK CLUB

Every Thursday  
4:30-6pm  
Oscar Romero

All are welcome to join!

## PARISH NEWS

### WINTER CLOTHES DRIVE

St. Rita with Vail Unified School District (VUSD) are asking for your help to provide Vail Children (K-12) winter clothing throughout the month of **January**.

Items Needed:

- Coats, Sweaters, Hoodies, Sweatshirts, Gloves
- Items should be NEW if possible. If Used, we ask that they are "Gently Used" & cleaned.
- Size(s): Children XS to Mens XXL

Please drop donations in the bins located in the **Narthex**. Items will be delivered to the VUSD weekly.

*Thank you for your support and generous donations.*

### CATHOLIC BROTHERHOOD

Join us as we begin a new 12 session series called ***The Sacrament of Charity***. Our study will discuss the Eucharist and Pope Benedict XVI's Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation Sacramentum Caritatis, The Sacrament of Charity.

January 12<sup>th</sup> in the Oscar Romero room  
6pm to 7:30 pm.

If you need further information and are interested in attending, please email Jayme Kahle at: [jkahle25@gmail.com](mailto:jkahle25@gmail.com)

### PRE-CANA MINISTRY

#### *Catholic marriage & Natural Family Planning Classes*

God is asking couples to increase their chance for a healthy, life-long marriage by receiving the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony in the Catholic Church!!

Your Parish Family wants you to have a forever marriage with God. The Pre-Cana ministry program will educate couples about Catholic Marriage & Natural Family Planning.

Classes in the Verhagen - 2026 schedule:

**Catholic Marriage Classes** - \$50/couple  
Saturdays: Jan 24<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>, Feb 7<sup>th</sup> | 2-4:30pm  
Wednesdays: Jan 28<sup>th</sup>, Feb 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> | 5-7:30pm

**NFP Class** - \$25/couple  
Saturday, Feb 14 | 1-4:30pm

Classes will not be offered again until Nov 2026.  
Email: [pre-cana@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:pre-cana@stritainthedesert.org)



### THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Today we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, where the Magi find the newborn king and offer him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

***Thanks to all of you,*** who like the Magi gave gifts and food to the families in need in our area. May your gifts bring them comfort and peace knowing that someone cares.

### WELCOME TEAM

All are invited to our Welcome Team **POTLUCK** on **January 10** after the 5 p.m. Mass! Bring a dish to share if you'd like, but your presence is what truly matters. We look forward to seeing you there!

Join us for Pastries and Coffee after all Sunday Masses on **January 11th** and make it a wonderful start to your Sunday!

### ALTAR SOCIETY

**2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the Month**

**2pm**

Parish Hall

Join Us!

### MARIAN BOOK CLUB

**Thursdays**

**4:30-6pm**

Oscar Romero Room

All are welcome to join!

### WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

**Begins January 14th**

**6-8pm**

Oscar Romero Room

For more information:  
[jbrink1130@gmail.com](mailto:jbrink1130@gmail.com)



### “Culture of Invitation” Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly



Knights of  
Columbus®

### JOIN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

FAITH • FAMILY • FRATERNITY • SERVICE

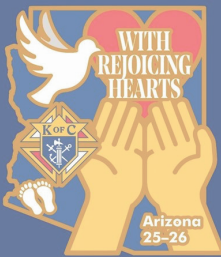
The Knights of Columbus is more than just a men's group.  
We are a brotherhood of Catholic men committed to:

- Deepening faith through prayer, devotion and service.
- Supporting families and building community
- Defending life from conception through natural death
- Serving the Church and those in need

Be the man who invites.

Be the man who **answers**.

Become a Knight of Columbus!



Join us today!

[www.kofc.org/join](http://www.kofc.org/join)

Promo Code: *BlessedMcGivney*



### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BASKETBALL FREE THROW

Jan 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026

*After each of the mass*

St Rita's Knights of Columbus  
Basketball Free Throw Championship  
Official Division ages 9-14  
St. Rita's Qualifying Round for  
District | State | Regional | National

Open Division: All other athletes, all ages, do  
NOT advance to District – Parish Bragging Rights Only!

### TUCSON ROADRUNNERS

*STAR WARS NIGHT*

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31 @ 7:00 PM

The Tucson Roadrunners hockey team is partnering with the Knights of Columbus for a special fundraising night – Star Wars Night! This is typically one of the best attended games as many get dressed up as Star Wars characters for a fun evening.

Our St. Rita Knights are participating in this special event and have decided they will be donating all proceeds from the tickets sales to the Team AZ Special Olympics softball team. St. Rita has a Special Olympian who was selected to be on the team going to the US National games June 2026 in Minneapolis.

Our goal is to raise \$1,000 to help cover costs so these athletes can compete next year. There are tickets available in section 213 which is behind the goal. These tickets normally cost \$42.65 with all the taxes and fees.

The Knights can sell them to you for only \$25 which is over \$17 in savings. It's almost like BOGO (buy one, get one).

If you can't go but want to help, you can purchase a ticket and the Knights will be sure to provide it to the local S/O group so an athlete who can't afford it can attend the game.

If you have any questions, talk to any member of the St Rita Knights. You can call Wayne Glembin at (520) 449-7115 or email: [gkcouncil14230@gmail.com](mailto:gkcouncil14230@gmail.com).



Knights of  
Columbus®



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### TRUE CONCORD VOICES & ORCHESTRA

Featuring True Concord Choir, Chamber Players  
& Will Liverman, baritone

#### *Music of the Pioneers*

In partnership with Tucson Desert Song Festival

Selections from Copland's Old American Songs,  
the Sacred Harp Tradition, Stephen Foster songs,  
classic Hymns & African American Spirituals

Friday, January 16, 2026 | 4pm – Valley  
Presbyterian Church, Green Valley

Saturday, January 17, 2026 | 4pm – Catalina  
United Methodist Church, Tucson

Sunday, January 17, 2026 | 3pm – Catalina  
Foothills H.S. Music Hall, Tucson

### SINGLE CATHOLIC WOMEN 20-35

Franciscan Sisters invite you to an  
in-person & on-line  
Discernment Event designed for you.

Discover your calling and purpose.

Visit <https://fscc-calledtobe.org> or  
contact Sr. Julie Ann 920-323-9632.



### 8 DAYS PILGRIMAGE TO MEXICO CITY

May 1 – 8, 2026

Visiting: Mexico City • Our Lady of Guadalupe  
Puebla – Teotihuacan – Ocotlan – Taxco  
Tlaxcala (the Lourdes of Mexico)  
Cost: \$2699.

Guarantee your seat by January 20, 2026  
For more information call 520.631.1408 or  
visit: [vineofgrace.org](http://vineofgrace.org) for brochure

#### LAST INFORMATION MEETING

Saint Joseph Church – Parish Office  
215 South Craycroft – Tucson  
Sunday January 11, 2026 at 1:30 pm

Diocese of Tucson - Alive in Christ

### Charismatic Healing Mass 2026

Thursday January 15, 2026 at 6:30 PM

"Jesus went around to all the towns and villages, teaching in  
their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and  
curing every disease and illness." - Matt 9:35



- ❖ Lively Praise & Worship
- ❖ Praise reports & prayers for all your intentions
- ❖ Anointing of the sick



Fr Bala Kommathoti

Invite your family and friends

St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Catholic Church  
801 N. Grande Ave, Tucson

YouTube recording of this event will be available after  
January 19 at [TucsonCCR.org](http://TucsonCCR.org) website



## SAINT SPOTLIGHT



### ST. POLIEUTO

**Feast Day:** January 7

**Patronage:** Soldiers, converts

**Story:**

St. Polieuto, also known as St. Polyeuctus, was a Roman soldier serving in Armenia during the reign of Emperor Valerian. He was a close friend of Nearchus, a devout Christian. Inspired by his friend's unwavering faith, Polieuto converted to Christianity, even though he knew it would attract the ire of the Roman authorities. Despite threats and persecution, Polieuto remained steadfast in his new faith.

His courage was profoundly tested when the authorities demanded he renounce Christianity and return to paganism. Polieuto not only refused but also destroyed imperial edicts and idols, openly defying the emperor's orders. For his boldness and commitment to Christ, Polieuto was martyred around the year 259 AD.

**Legacy:**

St. Polieuto's story of conversion and martyrdom demonstrates incredible faith and courage. He is remembered for his willingness to sacrifice earthly power and friendship for the love and truth of Jesus Christ. His witness inspired many, including his friend Nearchus, to remain true to the Christian faith regardless of the cost.

**Reflection Question:**

How can St. Polieuto's example encourage us to remain faithful to our beliefs amidst challenges and pressures from the world around us?

By reflecting on the life of St. Polieuto, we are reminded that true conversion is marked by a willingness to embrace the challenges that come with living a Christian life. Now, consider this: What steps can you take to strengthen your faith and live more boldly for Christ?

Source: *Truthly App*

### KIDS CORNER



**Feast Day:** January 7

**Patron Saint of:**

Soldiers & people who become Christians

**Story:** A long time ago, in a place called Armenia, there was a brave Roman soldier named Polieuto. He wasn't a Christian at first, but he had a very good friend named Nearchus who believed in Jesus. Because of Nearchus, Polieuto learned about Jesus and how much God loves us all. He was so touched by this new understanding that he decided to become a Christian too!

Even though it was against the rules for soldiers to be Christians, Polieuto knew it was the right thing to follow Jesus. When he was asked to stop being a Christian, Polieuto refused because his love for Jesus was so strong. He even showed how much he loved Jesus by standing up to the authorities and choosing his faith over everything else. Sadly, he was punished for this, but he went to heaven and became a saint because he was so brave.

**Legacy:** St. Polieuto reminds us that sometimes standing up for what we believe in isn't easy, but it's always important. He teaches us that being faithful and loving Jesus is worth everything.

**Reflection Question:** Can you think of a time when you had to stand up for what you believed in, even if it was hard? How can you be brave like St. Polieuto in your everyday life?

Remember, just like St. Polieuto, when we do what's right because of our love for Jesus, we inspire others to do the same! Now, what does being courageous in your faith look like to you?

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_



Note: The Bulletin is printed for Sunday-Saturday  
Mass intentions for Saturday are found accordingly.  
Questions? email: [bulletin@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:bulletin@stritainthedesert.org)