



## ***St. Rita in the Desert Catholic Church***

**Phone: (520) 762-9688**

**13260 E. Colossal Cave Road**

**Vail, AZ 85641**

**Website: [stritainthedesert.org](http://stritainthedesert.org)**

**August 31, 2025**

### **PASTOR**

Rev. Alonzo Garcia

### **DEACON**

Ron Desmarais

### **SECRETARY**

Mrs. Veronica Garcia

### **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

Ms. Barbara Scott

### **OFFICE HOURS | Horario de Oficina**

**Monday/ Lunes**—8:30 am-4:00 pm

**Tuesday/ Martes**—8:30 am-4:00 pm

**Wednesday/ Miércoles**—8:30 am-4:00 pm

**Thursday/ Jueves**—8:00 am-2:00 pm

**Friday/ Viernes**—**Closed**

Office closed 12:00 pm—1:00 pm daily

### **MASS SCHEDULE | Horario de Misas**

#### **SATURDAY/ Sábado**

**5:00 pm**—English

#### **SUNDAY/ Domingo**

**8:00 am**—English

**10:00 am**—English

**12:00 pm**—Spanish

### **DAILY MASS IN SHRINE | Misa Diaria en el Santuario**

**Monday to Friday / De Lunes a Viernes**

**8:00 am** —English

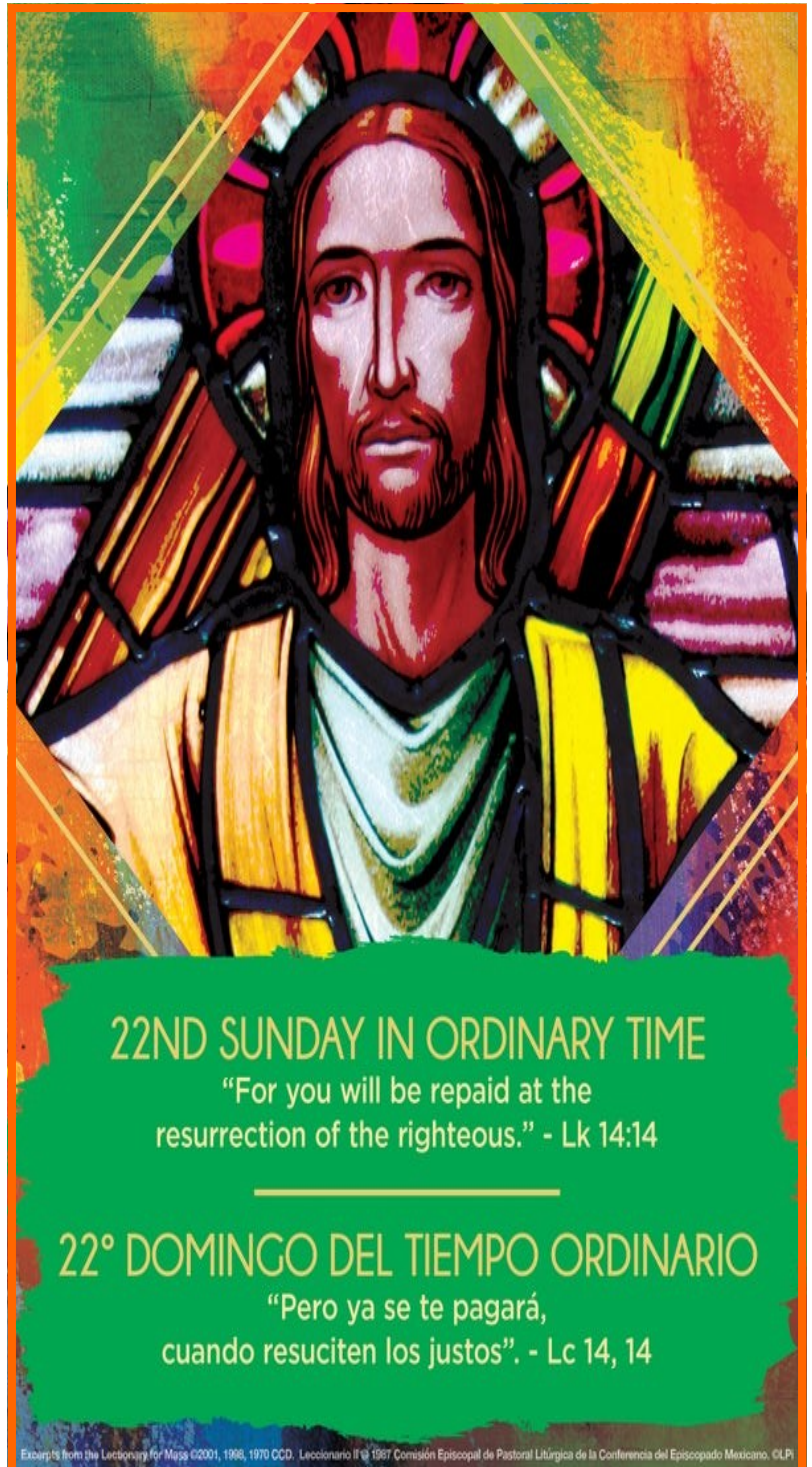
### **Confessions | Confesiones**

**Saturday | Sábado**

**3:30 pm—4:30 pm**

In the church or by appointment

En la iglesia o por cita



*Welcome to St. Rita in the Desert Catholic Church | Bienvenido a la Iglesia Católica de Santa Rita en el Desierto*



## MASS INTENTIONS INTENCIONES DE MISA

### Saturday August 30

5:00 pm † Phanxico Dinh  
† Lando Ahumada

### Sunday August 31

8:00 am St. Rita  
10:00 am (SI) James & Margaret Daly &  
Family  
(SI) Kiki & Annie Erhariefe  
12:00 pm (SI) Michael Ligon

### Monday September 1

8:00 am † Msgr. James Carini

### Tuesday September 2

8:00 am St. Rita

### Wednesday September 3

8:00 am St. Rita Office Staff

### Thursday September 4

8:00 am Men & Women in the Military

### Friday September 5

8:00 am (SI) Joy Elizabeth Toussaint



## Readings for the Week of August 31, 2025

**Sunday:** Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5 (1a)/Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a/Lk 14:1, 7-14

**Monday:** 1 Thes 4:13-18/Ps 96:1 and 3, 4-5, 11-12, 13/Lk 4:16-30

**Tuesday:** 1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Lk 4:31-37

**Wednesday:** Col 1:1-8/Ps 52:10, 11/Lk 4:38-44

**Thursday:** Col 1:9-14/Ps 98:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6/Lk 5:1-11

**Friday:** Col 1:15-20/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Lk 5:33-39

**Saturday:** Col 1:21-23/Ps 54:3-4, 6 and 8/Lk 6:1-5

**Next Sunday:** Wis 9:13-18b/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14-17 (1)/Phlm 9-10, 12-17/Lk 14:25-33

## Las lecturas de la semana del 31 de agosto de 2025

**Domingo:** Eclo 3, 17-18, 20, 28-29/Sal 14, 2-3, 3-4, 4-5 (1)/Heb 12, 18-19, 22-24/Lc 14, 1, 7-14

**Lunes:** 1 Tes 4, 13-18/Sal 95, 1 y 3, 4-5, 11-12, 13/Lc 4, 16-30

**Martes:** 1 Tes 5, 1-6, 9-11/Sal 26, 1, 4, 13-14/Lc 4, 31-37

**Miércoles:** Col 1, 1-8/Sal 51, 10, 11/Lc 4, 38-44

**Jueves:** Col 1, 9-14/Sal 97, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6/Lc 5, 1-11

**Viernes:** Col 1, 15-20/Sal 99, 1-2, 3, 4, 5/Lc 5, 33-39

**Sábado:** Col 1, 21-23/Sal 53, 3-4, 6 y 8/Lc 6, 1-5

**Domingo siguiente:** Sab 9, 13-18/Sal 89, 3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14-17 (1)/Flm 9-10, 12-17/Lc 14, 25-33

## CONTACT US

For a complete listing of contact information for all our organizations, please visit our website.

### stritainthedesert.org

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## DIOCESE OF TUCSON NEW OUTLOOK

The Diocese of Tucson invites you to stay in touch with the Church via your phone and/or email. Every week the diocese publishes the New Outlook, our local newsletter with links to news, events, and so much more! To sign up, you can text DOTNEWS to 84576 or go to <https://news.diocesetucson.org/subscribe>

## SAFE ENVIROMENT



### Important Telephone Numbers:

**911**

Child Protective Services: 1-888-SOS-CHILD (1-888-767-2445)

Adult Protective Services: 1-888-SOS-ADULT (1-888-767-2385)

Diocese of Tucson – Office of Child, Adolescent, and Adult Protection: 520-838-2315 or 520-838-2500

## ABOUT US

### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Every Friday after the 8:00am Mass for an hour; First Sunday of the month at 4:00 pm for an hour in the John XXIII.

### Anointing of the Sick:

Every First Friday at the 8:00 am Mass

### Baptisms:

Please visit our website under the tab LITURGY/SACRAMENTS and fill the *Intent to Baptize Form*.

### Confirmation:

Contact Youth Minister or OCIA coordinator

### Marriage:

Marriage arrangements must be made at least 4 months in advance. Contact the parish office.





## Mark your Calendars for the Arizona Rosary Celebration

Plan to attend the annual Arizona Rosary Celebration on Saturday, October 18, 2025, 10:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church located at 8650 N. Shannon Road, Tucson. The Most Reverend Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas, Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Tucson will preside. Pray the Holy Rosary before the Blessed Sacrament, participate in a Blessing Procession, enjoy the music of the choir, and listen to the words of our guest speaker, Father Emanuel Franco-Gomez, O. Carm, a priest with the Diocese of Tucson, known for his extensive study and devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe. Honor our Blessed Mother under her title, Our Lady of Guadalupe. All Catholic schools, parishes, organizations and groups are invited to participate. Pray for the success of the Arizona Rosary Celebration. For more information, contact Dave Chohon at 1945dwc@gmail.com or 520-539-5528.



## St. Vincent de Paul

Today we hear Jesus say to us, "...when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." With love for your neighbors who are poor, crippled, lame, or blind, your donations to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will help them realize that someone cares for them. For more information about becoming a member, call (520) 501-1386.



## Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The English Legion of Mary will be leading a Novena in honor of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary from August 30, 2025 to September 7, 2025. The Novena will begin at 6:30 pm and be held in the Shrine.

## Collection/Colecta

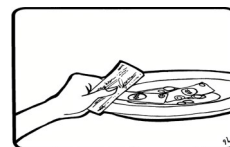
We would like to thank all of our parishioners and visitors for being generous with your donations. We depend on your generosity to meet the financial needs of our parish.

### SUNDAY OFFERING

**August 24, 2025**

Offertory: \$ 4,706.00

Online: \$ 2,311.60



**May God bless you for your continued support!**



The English Legion of Mary is sponsoring coffee & donuts in the Hall after the 8:00 am and 10:00 am Masses on September 7, 2025.



The Holy Bible is like a mirror before our mind's eye. In it we see our inner face. From the Scriptures we can learn our spiritual deformities and beauties. And there too we discover the progress we are making and how far we are from perfection.



~Pope St. Gregory I (540-604), Pope, Patron of musicians, Feast Day September 3

22<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME





Rachel's Vineyard (Tucson) – Are you a woman or man experiencing regret, grief, or sadness after an abortion? Come and receive God's love and mercy for emotional and spiritual healing on a Rachel's Vineyard retreat, Oct. 10-12, 2025. Visit: [www.rachelsvineyardtucson.org](http://www.rachelsvineyardtucson.org)

### Rekindle the Fires of Love for Christ Retreat

St. Francis de Sales is hosting a retreat entitled "Rekindle the Fires of Love for Christ". This will be held on **Saturday, September 13 from 8am to 4:50pm**. Lunch is included and there is no cost. Please call the office at St. Francis de Sales to register at 520-0885-5908 or use the QR code below. **Registration ends September 2.** Sessions include: Sessions include: Facing our world (With Christ all things are possible) Facing our world with the Triune God Men and Women of the Church (How we can serve the Church) People of God (How we serve those who serve the Church) Reconciliation (Right the relationship with God) The Great commission (We are His hands and His Feet) Memory Creation (Personal Commitment and Pictures) Attend 5:00 Mass



### GOSPEL MEDITATION

22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Luke 14:1, 7-14

Once I was invited to a group meeting with Pope Francis. Entering the room, I paused, eyeing the seats next to the Pope's fancy chair. Someone saw my paralysis and invited me to sit in the seat farthest from what I wanted. Hiding my disappointment, I sat. We waited. To our surprise, an aid pointed out that those seats were still empty and invited me and another to have them. We calmly but gleefully strode across the room and sat. Pope Francis entered, and we enjoyed two hours of amazingly uplifting conversation.

Jesus says this week to us: **"When you are invited, go and take the lowest place so that when the host comes to you he may say, 'My friend, move up to a higher position.' Then you will enjoy the esteem of your companions at the table" (Luke 14:10).** This is not about how to score free seat upgrades. Rather, it is a wise pattern for the whole of life. It is how to live free from the anxiety of constantly grasping for status and recognition.

Jesus perfectly embodies his seat-taking advice. He eschews his glorious throne for the lowest: death on a cross, that lonely chair we all deserve. In his resurrection, he calls us up higher to his marvelous banquet seats. This week, perhaps we should look for opportunities to choose the lowest seat. We'll be pleasantly surprised when we do.

— Father John Muir ©LPI

### Worldwide Marriage Encounter



"For every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted." Be humble in your marriage. Attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience on Aug 23-24, 2025 in Tucson, October 25-26, 2025 in Phoenix. Apply at [www.wwme.org](http://www.wwme.org) or call 520-661-3644

Diocese of Tucson - Alive in Christ

### Healing Through The Cross

Thursday September 11, 2025 at 6:45 PM

"The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God" -1 Corinthians 1:18



- Lively praise & worship
- Praise reports
- Prayers for your intentions
- Eucharistic Adoration



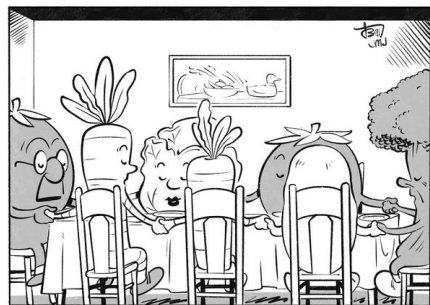
Fr Bala Kommathoti

Invite your family & friends!

**Our Lady of La Vang / St. Frances Cabrini**  
3201 E. Presidio Rd., Tucson

YouTube recording of this event will be available after September 15 at [TucsonCCR.org](http://TucsonCCR.org) website

"What did the vegetables say before they started praying?"



"Lettuce pray."



**FUN FACT!** Praying together is a beautiful part of Christian life. We can pray to thank God for His blessings, ask for His guidance in our lives, or just to spend time with Him.



### ALTAR FLOWER DONATIONS

*Please consider contributing to our fresh altar flowers. Cut out and put in collection basket or use envelopes that are in pews.*

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

Envelope #: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please print clearly**  
**Thank you for your generosity**



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

Living \_\_\_\_\_ Deceased \_\_\_\_\_

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

Requested by: \_\_\_\_\_

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

The stipend for a Mass intention is \$10. Two weeks advance notice is required. Please fill out this for and drop it in the collection basket or bring it to the parish office.



### Fry's Community Rewards Program Benefits St. Rita in the Desert

Do you shop at Fry's and have a VIP shopper's card? If so, please consider registering your card for the Fry's Community Rewards Program, and they will donate to St. Rita in the Desert.

1. Go to [www.frysfood.com](http://www.frysfood.com)
2. Select "Sign In," and sign in to your Fry's online account (or create an account).
3. Put the cursor on your name and click on "My Account".
4. On the left side select "Community Rewards".
5. On the Fry's Community Rewards Page, click "Enroll Now".
6. In the "Find an Organization" box, enter St. Rita in the Desert
7. In the search results look for St. Rita in the Desert; then click on "ENROLL".



The Knights of Columbus Patriotic Degree is collecting toiletries for the Veterans Administration in Tucson. The Veterans Administration will distribute toiletries to homeless veterans in Tucson. The toiletries we seek are any that you may have collected during the year, whether for business or pleasure, at hotels or motels.



The Welcome Team will be back with the next POTLICK on September 13 in the Hall after the 5 pm Mass. Come join us for a wonderful meal and fellowship with your family.

After all Masses on Sunday, September 14, the Welcome Team will sponsor our monthly dessert and coffee. It is another opportunity to spend time with friends and soon-to-be friends. Please join us!



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Saint Rita in the Desert, Vail, AZ

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## ST. RITA IN THE DESERT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

OFFICE OF THE PASTOR

*...With God, all things are possible! (Matt 19:26)*

August 30, 2025

*"Take my yoke upon you, says the Lord, and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart." (Matt 11:29ab)*

Dear Parish Family and Friends,

Knowing your own strengths and weaknesses can make you a well-rounded individual. There is wisdom in understanding this dynamic in the context of the Christian life. The scripture readings are all marked by imagery of humility and openness to the lowly of society. The Christian life is not about putting on airs and trying to impress, but it calls us to consider the deeper choices we make when it comes to the poor, weak, and immigrant.

Moreover, if we are honest and aware, we must consider that we ourselves were once poor. We are rich in Christ's willingness to humble Himself to take on our flesh, carry His cross, and die for us! I recommend opening your Bibles and turning to Philippians 2:3-11, where you will find the humility God demonstrated by becoming like us in all things except pride, ego, and selfishness. Much of the human condition is illusion and make-believe nowadays, and it is evident in the weak lives we live because we fail to humble ourselves and work with our imperfections. Our evangelical zeal is more pompous and aligned with worldly and political ideologies that have nothing in common with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. These efforts stem from a sense of pride and power, rather than love, humility, and care for the human person.

Ironically, the lowly, bloodied, crucified Christ, the poorest of the poor, calls all His poor children around the table of reconciliation to share in the Eucharistic banquet so that one day we will be in glory forever. We all come to this feast as beggars, for we merit nothing from God, for all that we have is grace and gift. Do we have the humility of heart to work with our redeemer, or do we believe ourselves to be above all that and look down at our fellow parishioners, co-workers, and the lowly? We have all been called equally to the banquet feast of heaven and earth!

As many of you are aware, we are seeking a replacement for Mr. Ken Fiscella in the position of maintenance supervisor. His dedication to our parish family spans over twenty years, and that earns him the right to retire. If you're interested in helping us in this role, please come and discuss it with me. The position may be the perfect part-time opportunity for you!

Additionally, Ms. Jessica Reynolds' dedication to our music ministry over the past few years has been exceptional. Due to her new position at work, she needs to step down from her current role. While she is stepping down as music director, I hope that she continues to offer her voice in song with our congregation. I am currently reviewing applicants to determine the best candidate for our new choir director position. I will keep you posted.

Lastly, the OCIA process has begun, and I would like to ask our parishioners to join me in praying for a successful start. I am thankful to our OCIA team for their willingness to step up and help those come into the Catholic Church. Additionally, I am grateful to Mr. Anthony Maez for his assistance in taking on this monumental task. He did a fantastic job last year, and this year, he may or may not return due to a new promotion. We pray that the Holy Spirit will guide him in the decision he needs to make for himself, his family, and the OCIA team. Deacon Ron Desmarais has chosen to help the OCIA and share his knowledge and skills with the OCIA team and inquirers. I ask all our fellow parishioners to join me in prayer and support the OCIA team. Consider becoming a sponsor for these inquirers and help them on the journey of faith. You cannot teach faith, but it is caught by those who love the Lord and live their lives as an example of grace, mercy, and love. St. Rita of Cascia, pray for us!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend Alonzo M. García, Pastor





## ST. RITA IN THE DESERT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

OFFICE OF THE PASTOR

*...With God, all things are possible! (Matt 19:26)*

30 de agosto de 2025

*"Tomen mi yugo sobre ustedes, dice el Señor, y aprendan de mí, que soy manso y humilde de corazón." (Mateo 11:29ab)*

Estimada familia parroquial:

Conocer nuestras propias fortalezas y debilidades puede hacernos personas íntegras. Hay sabiduría en comprender esta dinámica en el contexto de la vida cristiana. Las lecturas de la Sagrada Escritura están marcadas por imágenes de humildad y apertura hacia los más humildes de la sociedad. La vida cristiana no se trata de aparentar ni de impresionar, sino que nos llama a considerar las decisiones más profundas que tomamos respecto a los pobres, los débiles y los inmigrantes.

Además, siendo honestos y conscientes, debemos reconocer que nosotros mismos alguna vez fuimos pobres. Hoy somos ricos en la disposición de Cristo para humillarse, tomar nuestra carne, cargar con su cruz y morir por nosotros. Les recomiendo abrir sus Biblias y dirigirse a Filipenses 2:3-11, donde encontrarán la humildad de Dios al hacerse semejante a nosotros en todo, excepto en orgullo, egoísmo y vanidad. Gran parte de la condición humana de hoy en día es ilusión y fantasía, y esto se refleja en la debilidad de las vidas que llevamos porque no logramos humillarnos ni trabajar con nuestras imperfecciones. Nuestro celo evangélico muchas veces se vuelve pomposo y se alinea con ideologías mundanas y políticas que no tienen nada que ver con el Evangelio de Jesucristo. Estos esfuerzos surgen del orgullo y del poder, más que del amor, la humildad y la atención a la persona humana.

Paradójicamente, el Cristo humilde, ensangrentado y crucificado, el más pobre entre los pobres, convoca a todos sus hijos necesitados a la mesa de la reconciliación para compartir en el banquete eucarístico, de modo que un día estemos en la gloria para siempre. Todos llegamos a este banquete como mendigos, pues no merecemos nada de Dios, ya que todo lo que tenemos es gracia y don. ¿Tenemos la humildad de corazón para colaborar con nuestro Redentor, o creemos estar por encima de todo y miramos con desprecio a nuestros hermanos de parroquia, compañeros de trabajo y a los más humildes? ¡Todos hemos sido llamados por igual al banquete del cielo y de la tierra!

Como muchos de ustedes saben, estamos en la búsqueda de un reemplazo para el Sr. Ken Fiscella en el puesto de supervisor de mantenimiento. Su dedicación a nuestra familia parroquial por más de veinte años le da el derecho a retirarse. Si alguien está interesado en ayudar en este cargo, los invito a conversar conmigo. ¡Puede que sea la oportunidad de medio tiempo perfecta para usted!

Asimismo, la dedicación de la Srta. Jessica Reynolds a nuestro ministerio de música durante los últimos años ha sido excepcional. Debido a su nuevo puesto de trabajo, debe dejar su actual rol en el ministerio. Aunque se retira como directora de música, espero que siga compartiendo su hermosa voz cantando con nuestra congregación. Actualmente me encuentro evaluando candidatos para elegir a la persona más idónea para el puesto de nuevo director del coro. Los mantendré informados.

Por último, ha comenzado el proceso de OCIA, y me gustaría pedir a nuestros feligreses que se unan a mí en oración por un inicio exitoso. Estoy agradecido con nuestro equipo de OCIA por su disposición a ayudar a quienes desean entrar en la Iglesia Católica. También le agradezco al Sr. Anthony Maez su apoyo al asumir esta gran tarea. El año pasado hizo un trabajo fantástico, y este año puede que regrese si su trabajo se lo permite. Oramos para que el Espíritu Santo lo guíe en la decisión que deba tomar para sí mismo, su familia y el equipo de OCIA. El diácono Ron Desmarais ha decidido colaborar con OCIA y compartir su conocimiento y habilidades con el equipo y los interesados. Pido a todos nuestros feligreses que se unan en oración y apoyen al equipo de OCIA. Consideren ser padrinos de estos interesados y ayudarlos en su camino de fe. La fe no se enseña; se transmite a través de quienes aman al Señor y viven sus vidas como ejemplo de gracia, misericordia y amor.

¡Santa Rita de Casia, ruega por nosotros!

Sinceramente Suyo en Cristo,

Reverendo Alonzo M. García, Pastor





*Saint Rita*

*Woman of Virtue &  
Patron Saint of the Impossible*

**WOMEN'S RETREAT**

**SAINT RITA IN THE DESERT**

**PARISH HALL**

**13260 E COLOSSAL CAVE RD - VAIL, AZ 85641**

**SATURDAY - SEPTEMBER 27, 2025**

**8:30 AM COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP + 9:00 AM RETREAT BEGINS**

**4:45 PM RETREAT CONCLUDES**

**LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED! BEVERAGES AND SNACKS ARE INCLUDED.**

Through St. Rita's trials, difficulties, and disappointments, God used her in remarkable ways! Her heartbreaking circumstances led her to a life of prayer and helped her to become a holy woman. She is a beautiful example of love & forgiveness, faith, humility & obedience, sacrifice & service, patience & hope, trust & perseverance! Ladies, you are invited to come on retreat to explore St. Rita's many virtues and discover how you are called to grow in and emulate her many noble qualities! The day will include fellowship, praise & worship, teaching, healing prayers and Holy Spirit power.

**TO REGISTER: online at [www.vineofgrace.org](http://www.vineofgrace.org) or call: 520.631.1408**

**Cost is free and a love offering will be requested on retreat!**

**Space is limited! Invite a friend!**

 *Vine of Grace Retreat Ministry*