

March 08, 2026



ST. RITA IN THE DESERT

Catholic Church

CLERGY

Pastor:

Rev. Alonzo Garcia
fralonzo@stritainthedesert.org

Deacon:

Ron Desmarais
deaconron@stritainthedesert.org

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

"Whoever drinks the water I shall give, will never thirst." (John 4:14)

"El que beba del agua que yo le daré, no tendrá sed jamás." (Juan 4:14)

Reflection:

In this Gospel passage, Jesus offers the Samaritan woman "living water," symbolizing the grace and life He offers to each of us. This encounter reminds us that Christ seeks to meet us in our everyday moments, offering us something that will truly satisfy the deepest longings of our hearts. During this Lenten season, let us open our hearts to receive this living water, allowing it to refresh and renew us. As we experience God's grace, we are called to share the joy of this encounter with others, becoming vessels of hope and love in the world.

Socratic Question:

How can you become more open to receiving Christ's "living water" in your daily life, and how will you share it with others?

Reflexión:

En este pasaje del Evangelio, Jesús ofrece a la mujer samaritana "agua viva", simbolizando la gracia y la vida que Él ofrece a cada uno de nosotros. Este encuentro nos recuerda que Cristo busca encontrarse con nosotros en nuestros momentos cotidianos, ofreciéndonos algo que realmente satisfará los más profundos anhelos de nuestro corazón. Durante esta temporada de Cuaresma, abramos nuestros corazones para recibir esta agua viva, permitiendo que nos refresque y renueve. Al experimentar la gracia de Dios, estamos llamados a compartir la alegría de este encuentro con los demás, convirtiéndonos en vasos de esperanza y amor en el mundo.

Pregunta socrática:

¿Cómo puedes estar más abierto a recibir la "agua viva" de Cristo en tu vida diaria, y cómo la compartirás con los demás?

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

9:00 am—1:00pm

*Office closed
12pm—1pm daily*

PARISH INFORMATION

COLLECTIONS | COLECTA

March 01, 2026



Offertory: \$8,410.25
Rectory Debt: \$2,470.00
Campus Maint: \$698.60

Thank you for your support.
God bless you!

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

ST. RITA STAFF

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Women's Bible Study: Irene Toews
irenetoews@cox.net

Guild of St. Rita:
guild@stritainthedesert.org

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
[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

March 8, 2026

“Lord, you are truly the Savior of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again.” (cf. John 4:14–15, 42)

Dear Parish Family and Friends,

Imagine stepping outside in the Sonoran Desert on a blistering afternoon. The sunlight presses down—dry and relentless. The ground radiates heat through your shoes, and every breath reminds you how precious a simple drink of cool water can be. When we work, hike, or travel in the desert heat, we know how important it is to stay hydrated. This daily reality in our environment also connects to the larger themes found in Scripture.

Today’s readings, centered on travel, water, and the desert, echo the experiences of those of us living in the Sonoran Desert. When the heat reminds us of our thirst, we are left to ask: in the place where our deepest needs meet our greatest challenges, will God provide what we truly need?

For those in OCIA, these readings highlight both our need for water and Israel’s spiritual journey after leaving Egypt. The Israelites murmured against Moses for bringing them into the desert, fearing they would die from a lack of water. Moses knew the people might even stone him unless he acted. Turning to the Lord, Moses witnessed God provide water to quench their thirst. This story finds a striking parallel in today’s Gospel, when Jesus encounters the woman at the well.

Jesus and His disciples were not strangers to desert heat or the need for water. As they traveled through Samaria, they arrived in the town of Sychar at Jacob’s well. It was about noontime when the disciples left Jesus to buy food, leaving Him alone at the well. There He encountered a Samaritan woman and asked her for a drink of water.

This passage from the Gospel of John is rich in symbolism. In Scripture, wells are often places of encounter and even nuptial imagery, as seen in the stories of Isaac and Rebekah (Gen 24), Jacob and Rachel (Gen 29), and Moses and Zipporah (Exodus 2). Yet in this moment, Jesus reveals something even greater: He offers the living water that leads to eternal life.

Let us pause for a moment in silence. Reflect on how God meets our needs, just as He met the needs of the Israelites in the desert and the woman at the well. Take a moment to thank Him for the many ways He provides for you and for our parish community.

All these images of water point us back to Baptism. In Baptism we are renewed, reclaimed, and restored to the life of grace that comes from Jesus Christ. As His disciples today, we must ask ourselves: how are we living out this new life in Christ, and how are we sharing Him with our friends and neighbors?

I would also like to remind our wonderful parish community that today is **Commitment Sunday for the Annual Catholic Appeal**. I ask that you be as generous as possible. Last week we watched a message from our Apostolic Administrator, Bishop Kicanas, who reminded us that “This is the hour for love.” The Appeal supports many important ministries throughout the Diocese of Tucson that serve those in need.

I also mentioned that if each of our **1,200 registered parish families** gave the equivalent of giving up just eight Starbucks, we would reach our parish goal of **\$48,524.00**. That is about **\$42 per family**. I truly believe this amazing parish community can accomplish that goal. Will you join me in supporting the Annual Catholic Appeal? For with God, all things are possible.

Lastly, the Diocese of Tucson now has its eighth bishop. While Bishop Misko is becoming familiar with our diocese, I have been invited to resume my role as **Vicar Forane of the Pima East Vicariate**, offering spiritual and fraternal support to the priests of our vicariate and assisting the bishop with counsel when needed.

I also want to update you on our **new church project**. At this time, we do not yet have any concrete news from the Diocesan Building Committee or Bishop Misko, but once we meet with him we will keep you informed. Since 2022, we have been collecting funds dedicated to this future church. Our current balance is **\$153,366.69**. While there is still much work ahead, every contribution brings us closer to making our new parish church a reality. Thank you to everyone who has supported this effort. May the Lord continue to guide us on this journey.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Reverend Alonzo M. García, Pastor



OFICINA DE PASTOR

8 de marzo de 2026

“Señor, tú eres el Salvador del mundo. Dame de tu agua viva para que no vuelva a tener sed.” (Juan 4, 42. 15)

Estimada familia parroquial y amigos:

Imaginen salir al Desierto de Sonora en una tarde sofocante. El sol cae con fuerza—seco e implacable. El suelo irradia calor a través de los zapatos y cada respiración nos recuerda lo valioso que puede ser un simple vaso de agua fresca. Cuando trabajamos, caminamos o viajamos bajo el calor del desierto, sabemos lo importante que es mantenernos bien hidratados. Esta realidad diaria de nuestro entorno también nos ayuda a comprender mejor algunos temas importantes que encontramos en la Sagrada Escritura.

Las lecturas de hoy, centradas en el viaje, el agua y el desierto, reflejan muy bien la experiencia de quienes vivimos en el Desierto de Sonora. Cuando el calor nos recuerda nuestra sed, surge una pregunta importante: en el lugar donde nuestras necesidades más profundas se encuentran con nuestros mayores desafíos, ¿Dios nos dará lo que realmente necesitamos?

Para quienes están en OCIA, estas lecturas resaltan tanto nuestra necesidad de agua como el camino espiritual de Israel tras salir de Egipto. Los israelitas murmuraban contra Moisés por haberlos llevado al desierto, temiendo morir por falta de agua. Moisés sabía que el pueblo incluso podría apedrearlo si no hacía algo. Entonces acudió al Señor y Dios proveyó agua para saciar la sed del pueblo. Esta historia tiene un paralelismo muy claro con el Evangelio de hoy, cuando Jesús se encuentra con la mujer en el pozo.

Jesús y sus discípulos tampoco eran ajenos al calor del desierto ni a la necesidad de agua. Mientras viajaban por Samaria, llegaron al pueblo de Sicar, donde se encontraba el pozo de Jacob. Era alrededor del mediodía cuando los discípulos dejaron a Jesús en el pozo para ir a comprar comida. Allí, Jesús se encontró con una mujer samaritana y le pidió un poco de agua para beber. Este pasaje del Evangelio de San Juan está lleno de significado y simbolismo. En la Biblia, los pozos suelen ser lugares de encuentro, e incluso tienen un significado nupcial, como vemos en las historias de Isaac y Rebeca (Gn 24), Jacob y Raquel (Gn 29) y Moisés y Sefora (Ex 2). Pero en este momento Jesús revela algo aún mayor: El ofrece el agua viva que conduce a la vida eterna.

Hagamos una pequeña pausa en silencio. Pensemos en cómo Dios provee para nuestras necesidades, como lo hizo con los israelitas en el desierto y con la mujer en el pozo. Tomemos un momento para agradecerle por las muchas maneras en que cuida de nosotros y de nuestra comunidad parroquial.

Todas estas imágenes del agua nos llevan de nuevo al Bautismo. En el Bautismo somos renovados, reclamados y restaurados a la vida de gracia que viene de Jesucristo. Como discípulos de Cristo hoy, debemos preguntarnos: ¿cómo estamos viviendo esta nueva vida en Cristo y cómo la compartimos con nuestros amigos y vecinos?

También quiero recordar a nuestra querida comunidad parroquial que hoy es el Domingo de Compromiso con la Campaña Católica Anual. Les pido que sean lo más generosos posible. La semana pasada vimos un mensaje de nuestro Administrador Apostólico, el Obispo Kicanas, quien nos recordó que “esta es la hora del amor.” Esta campaña apoya muchos ministerios importantes que ayudan a los más necesitados en la Diócesis. También mencioné que si cada una de nuestras 1.200 familias parroquiales registradas aportara el equivalente a renunciar a solo ocho Starbucks, podríamos alcanzar nuestra meta parroquial de \$48.524,00. Eso es aproximadamente \$42 por familia. Yo realmente creo que esta increíble comunidad parroquial puede lograrlo. ¿Se unirán a mí para apoyar la Campaña Católica Anual? Porque para Dios todo es posible.

Por último, la Diócesis de Tucson ahora cuenta con su octavo obispo. Mientras el Obispo Misko se familiariza con nuestra diócesis, me han invitado a retomar mi función como Vicario Foráneo del Vicariato Pima Este, ofreciendo apoyo espiritual y fraterno a los sacerdotes de nuestro vicariato y asistiendo al obispo con consejo cuando sea necesario.

También quiero darles una actualización sobre nuestro proyecto para la nueva iglesia. En este momento todavía no tenemos noticias concretas del Comité Diocesano de Construcción ni del Obispo Misko, pero cuando tengamos una reunión con él les mantendremos informados. Desde el año 2022 hemos estado recaudando fondos para este futuro templo. Actualmente contamos con \$153.366,69. Aunque todavía hay mucho camino por recorrer, cada contribución nos acerca más a hacer realidad nuestra nueva iglesia parroquial. Gracias a todos los que han apoyado este esfuerzo.

Que el Señor continúe guiándonos en este camino.

Sinceramente en Cristo,

Reverendo Alonzo M. García, Pastor



GOSPEL MEDITATION

IN THE JOHN 4:5-42,

In the Gospel of John, the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well is a profound lesson in divine mercy and inclusivity. Jesus breaks social and cultural boundaries by speaking with the woman and offering her "living water," which represents the eternal life and grace He offers to all. This interaction invites us to reflect on our own lives and the barriers we might build — whether of misunderstanding, prejudice, or fear — and how Jesus calls us to break them down. As we journey through Lent, we are challenged to examine our hearts, seeking the transformative living water that Christ offers, and to extend this invitation of unconditional love to others as He did.

Reflection Question:

What barriers exist in your own life that prevent you from fully accepting and sharing the living water of Christ with others?

EN JUAN 4:5-42,

En el Evangelio de Juan, el encuentro entre Jesús y la mujer samaritana en el pozo es una lección profunda sobre la misericordia divina y la inclusión. Jesús rompe barreras sociales y culturales al hablar con la mujer y ofrecerle "agua viva", que representa la vida eterna y la gracia que Él ofrece a todos. Esta interacción nos invita a reflexionar sobre nuestras propias vidas y las barreras que podemos construir — ya sea de malentendido, prejuicio o miedo — y cómo Jesús nos llama a derrumbarlas. Mientras avanzamos en Cuaresma, se nos desafía a examinar nuestros corazones, buscando el agua viva transformadora que Cristo ofrece y extendiendo esta invitación de amor incondicional a los demás, tal como Él lo hizo.

Pregunta de reflexión:

¿Qué barreras existen en tu propia vida que te impiden aceptar y compartir plenamente el agua viva de Cristo con los demás?

A LENTEN INVITATION: CONNECT, SERVE, & STEWARD

Dear Parish Family,

During this **Lenten season**, we are called to reflect on how we use the gifts God has entrusted to us. One small way to practice stewardship is by **choosing the digital bulletin** when it works for you.

Printed copies will still be available for those who prefer them, but the digital option helps the parish **redirect resources toward ministries, outreach, and programs that serve our community**. Each year, printing costs about **\$12,000** — funds that can go further when we make thoughtful choices together.

Benefits of the digital bulletin:

- Accessible anytime, anywhere
- Text can be enlarged for easier reading
- Easy to share with family and friends
-

If you need help accessing the bulletin digitally, **our staff and volunteers are happy to guide you.**

This Lent, consider this simple act of service as a way to live your faith generously and help our parish thrive.

St. Rita in the Desert Parish



<https://www.stritainthedesert.org/bulletin>

WEEKLY CALENDAR, INTENTIONS, OBSERVATIONS & READINGS

MASS INTENTIONS INTENCIONES DE MISA

Saturday March 07

8:00am

†Richard Reichley

5:00 pm

SI Cecilia Pham

SI Regina Ann Reichley

†Raeann Crandall Ruelas

Sunday March 08

8:00 am

†Patricia Rose Moreno

†Dee Pheiffer

†Paul Romanoski

10:00 am

†Frank Lozano

†Joe Azzopardi

12:00 pm

Living & Deceased of St. Rita

Monday March 09

8:00 am

† Antoni Kaminski

Tuesday March 10

8:00 am

† Louisa & Joe Moreno & Family

Wednesday March 11

8:00 am

Office Staff of St. Rita

Thursday March 12

8:00 am First Responders

Friday March 13

8:00 am

Men & Women in the Military

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

Sunday, March 08

Third Sunday of Lent

- **St. John of God**

8:00 am - Mass (English)

10:00 am - Mass (English)

12:00 noon - Mass (Spanish)

Monday, March 09

- **St. Frances of Rome**
- **St. Catherine of Bologna**
- **Forty Martyrs of Sebaste**

8:00 am Mass (English)

8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

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

Tuesday, March 10

- **Pope St. Simplicius**
- **St. John Ogilvie**

8:00 am Mass (English)

8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

Wednesday, March 11

- **St. Sophronius of Jerusalem**
- **St. Eulogius**

8:00 am - Mass (English)

8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

9:00 am Women's Scripture Study (Oscar Romero Room)

Thursday, March 12

- **St. Maximilian of Tebessa**
- **Pope St. Innocent I**

8:00 am - Mass (English)

8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

Friday, March 13

- **St. Sabinus of Hermopolis**
- **St. Christina of Persia**
- **St. Leander of Seville**

8:00 am Mass

8:30 am Eucharist Adoration

Saturday, March 14

- **St. Matilde**

5:00 pm - Mass (English)

READINGS & OBSERVANCES

FIRST READING:

"In their thirst for water, the people grumbled against Moses." (Ex 17:3)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

"If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts." (Ps 95:8)

SECOND READING:

"God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us." (Rom 5:8)

GOSPEL:

"Whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst." (Jn 4:14)

Sunday, March 08
(Third Sunday of Lent)

Ex 17:3-7 | Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 | Rom 5:1-2, 5-8 | Jn 4:5-42

Monday, March 09

2 Kgs 5:1-15ab | Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4 | Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday, March 10

Dn 3:25, 34-43 | Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 | Mt 18:21-35

Wednesday, March 11

Dt 4:1, 5-9 | Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20 | Mt 5:17-19

Thursday, March 12

Jer 7:23-28 | Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 | Lk 11:14-23

Friday, March 13

Hos 14:2-10 | Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17 | Mk 12:28-34

Saturday, March 14

Hos 6:1-6 | Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab | Lk 18:9-14

source: young-catholics.com

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

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

Curious about our choirs? Love to sing sacred music? Join us, our rehearsals are open to everyone!

Adult choirs (18+): Tues at 6:30 pm

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

Spanish choir: Wed 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

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

Right to Life

Email: rtl@stritainthedesert.org

Family Faith Formation

www.watch.formed.org

Vocations

Contact Mr. Adam LaGuardia: 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

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

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 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



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



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

Rectory Debt Payoff Update

As of Sunday, February 15, 2026

\$100,688 **\$345,000**
GOAL

75 **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

**Easter is just 27 days away!
Be part of our parish family's
exciting next chapter**



Scan to Pledge

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.

ALTAR SOCIETY QUILT RAFFLE

Last Chance — Quilt Raffle Drawing Today! Support the Pope John XXIII Center by entering the Altar Society's Quilt Raffle.

Tickets for the king-size quilt are \$5 each or 5 for \$20 and will be sold after all Masses today only.

The winner will be drawn after the **12:00 p.m. Mass today**. You do not need to be present to win.

Thank you for your generous support.



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Announcing a new program: Feeding America

The Diocese of Tucson & the Diocese of Phoenix are joining together with Safeway/Albertson stores & the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to help feed the poor & the needy. Beginning the first week in March there will be a box in each participating store that will allow you to buy items you may donate to provide food for those in need. The contents of the box will be picked up by one of our members and placed in our pantry. This will be a huge help in feeding the families who call our help line. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated.

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 go on sale 4/11-4/12/2026 weekend
Volunteers Needed - Contact guild@stritainthedesert.org

GUILD OF ST. RITA

2nd & 4th Wednesdays | 6pm

Pursuing the Virtues of the Spirit
in Service to our
Community of Faith

Mother Theresa Room

Join Us! All Are Welcome!

guild@stritainthedesert.org

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Sunday, March 15th

Join us for coffee & donuts
after 8 & 10am mass

Join the Knights in the Hall!

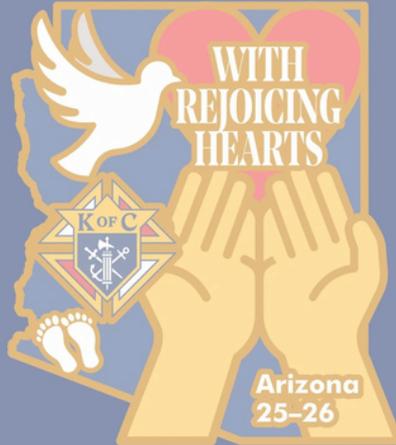
Stations of the Cross at 6:30 pm every Friday during Lent

WELCOME TEAM

March 8th

Invites you to join us
for Pastries
& Coffee
after all the Masses

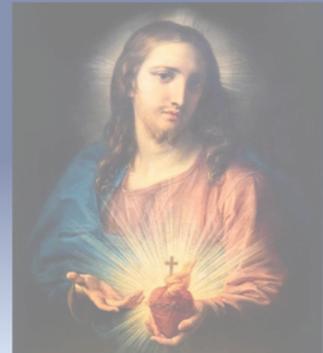
Prayerfully consider
joining the
Knights of Columbus!



Together,
we serve
With Rejoicing Hearts!



One Year FREE online Membership
<https://www.kofc.org/join>
Promo Code: BlessedMcGivney



Arizona Knights of Columbus Charity Raffle – Starts This Weekend!

Don't miss your chance to win the
\$10,000 Grand Prize!

**Tickets are just \$5 each, 5 for \$20, or
the best value—30 for \$100.**

Every ticket makes a difference. Half of all proceeds raised by St. Rita Knights stay right here in our community. In 2026, funds will support St. Rita Parish and the Vail School District Transition from School to Work program, helping special-needs students prepare for life after high school.

Visit the Knights' table after all Masses near the parish hall to get your tickets. Thank you for your continued generosity and support!

For more information, contact Wayne Glembin at
(520) 449-7115 or gkcouncil14230@gmail.com

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.

ST RITA LENTEN FISH AND CHIPS

March 13th

Join the Knights of Columbus
for a Fish Fry

4-7pm (Hall/Ramada)

Mark your calendar to join us throughout
Lent for Fish Fry Fridays on

March 27th

ALUMINUM CAN RECYCLING

Aluminum cans may be dropped off in the recycling barrels next to the St. Vincent de Paul donation shed. 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

PIMA- EAST LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES DATES

St. Pius X | March 09, 2026 | 6pm Confessions

St. Francis de Sales
March 11, 2026 | 9-11am & 6-8pm Confessions

St. Rita in the Desert | March 12, 2026
6pm Confessions

Our Mother of Sorrows
March 18, 2026 | 6pm Confessions

St. Cyril
March 24, 2026 | 6:00pm Confessions

Corpus Christi
April 01, 2026 | 6:00pm Confessions

St. Joseph Parish (None scheduled this year)



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 or call/ Text to 520-743-6777.



We have a priest from the Diocese of Tucson that will be joining Catholic Mission Trips, Inc with teens, young adults, and seminarians from our area. We ask that you consider 'Offering Up' your Lenten Sacrifice into almsgiving/ donations to send the Priest and the building materials for natural disaster help. For more information please visit Catholicmissiontrips.net or call 703-957-9313.

Diocese of Tucson Renewal Committee Listening in Lent.

"Be still and know that I am God!" - Psalm 46:11.

Make your Lent the best ever! Joyfully praise the Lord and pray for all your intentions. Hear Erin Blanchette give insights on how to listen to the Lord, then worship Him in Eucharistic Adoration. Come at **6:30 pm** on **Thursday, March 12, 2026**, to **St Margaret Mary Alacoque**, 801 N. Grande., Tucson.

St. Rita's Outreach Ministry

Supporting the **Vail Food Bank's Weekend Meals to Grow Program**: Over 550 students in the Vail School District are food insecure every weekend

Your **\$20** donation purchases Ramen & granola bars to supplement 40 weekend meal bags

Please use the **YELLOW** Envelopes & Place in the **REGULAR** Collection basket

With Grateful Hands & Hearts--
Your Outreach Ministry Team



Jesus told the Samaritan woman at Jacob's Well that that whoever shall drink from the water I will give will not thirst again. Let Jesus fill your thirst for a blessed marriage by participating in an upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience on **May 30-31, 2026** in Tucson **July 11-12, 2026** in Phoenix. For more info go to: wwme.org or call 520-661-3644



St. Rita in the Desert - Lenten Food Drive

We're collecting the following items to help our neighbors: *cooking oil, jelly, canned tuna, & canned chicken*

† Your Support is a Blessing †

In this season of sacrifice and charity, your contributions will provide essential nourishment to those in our community struggling with food insecurity. With requests for assistance rising, your generosity will help sustain our outreach efforts well into the year.

Donate Today & Share the Love of Christ
Together, we can ensure that no one in our community goes hungry.

PLEASE RETURN BAG BY: *Sunday, April 11th*

"For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat..." - Matthew 25:35

SAINT SPOTLIGHT



SAINT FRANCES OF ROME

Feast Day: March 9th

Patronage:

Saint Frances of Rome is the patron saint of motorists and widows.

Story: Saint Frances of Rome was born in 1384 in Rome, Italy, to a noble family. From a young age, Frances wanted to dedicate her life to God, aspiring to become a nun. However, her family arranged her marriage to Lorenzo Ponziani, a wealthy nobleman. Despite her initial resistance, she accepted her marriage as God's will and committed herself to her family and faith.

Frances and Lorenzo had a loving marriage, blessed with children. She balanced her responsibilities as a wife and mother while dedicating herself to charitable works. During a time of plague and poverty in Rome, Frances turned her home into a hospital, caring for the sick and feeding the poor.

After the death of her husband and children, Frances founded the Oblates of Mary, a group of religious women who lived a life of prayer and service without taking formal vows. She was known for her humility, compassion, and spiritual wisdom. It is said that she had visions, including one of her guardian angel, who helped guide her in her charitable missions.

Legacy: Saint Frances of Rome's legacy is one of deep faith, selfless service, and extraordinary compassion. She is remembered for her unwavering commitment to God's will, even amid personal tragedy and societal upheaval. Her life exemplifies how one can merge contemplative prayer with active service to others. Canonized in 1608, she is a model of spiritual fortitude and charitable love that continues to inspire many.

Reflection Question: How can Saint Frances of Rome's example of balancing devotion and service inspire you in your daily life to serve others while staying deeply connected to your faith?

KIDS CORNER



Feast Day: March 9th

Patronage:

Saint Frances of Rome is the special saint for people who drive cars and those who are widows (meaning their husbands have passed away).

Story:

Saint Frances of Rome was born a long time ago in 1384 in a big city called Rome, in Italy. As a little girl, Frances really wanted to be a nun because she loved God so much. But her family had other plans, and she got married to a nice man named Lorenzo. Frances trusted God's plan and focused on being a loving wife and mother.

Frances was very kind and always helped others. When many people got sick and needed help, she turned her home into a place where they could get better and have food. Frances was like a super-helper! Even when she faced sadness, like losing her husband and children, she stayed strong and helped even more.

Frances started a group of women called the Oblates of Mary, who prayed together and helped others even if they weren't official nuns. People loved Frances because she was so caring and wise. She even had special visions of her guardian angel!

Legacy:

Saint Frances of Rome is remembered for her huge heart and helping hands. She showed people how to pray and serve others at the same time. Her life reminds us that helping others is a wonderful way to show love to God.

Question to Ponder:

How can you find ways to help others and show kindness just like Saint Frances of Rome did?

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: _____