

October 11, 2026



ST. RITA IN THE DESERT

Catholic Church

CLERGY

Pastor:

Rev. Alonzo Garcia
fralonzo@stritainthedesert.org

Deacon:

Ron Desmarais
deaconron@stritainthedesert.org

WEEKEND MASS

Horario de Misas

SATURDAY | Sábado

5:00 pm—English

SUNDAY | Domingo

8:00 am—English

10:00 am—English

12:00 pm—Spanish

WEEKDAY MASS

IN SHRINE | Misa

Diaria en el Santuario

MONDAY-FRIDAY |

De Lunes a Viernes

8:00 am—English

ADORATION

FRIDAY | Viernes

8:30 am—9:30 am

In the church or by
appointment

En la iglesia o por cita

CONFESSION

Confesiones

SATURDAY | Sábado

3:30 pm—4:30 pm

In the church or by
appointment

En la iglesia o por cita



PARISH OFFICE

Horario de Oficina

MONDAY-

WEDNESDAY | De

Lunes a Miércoles

8:30 am—4:00 pm

THURSDAY | Jueves

8:00 am—2:00 pm

FRIDAY | Viernes

CLOSED

Office closed

12pm—1pm daily

NEED TO CONTACT US?

Scan Here:



28TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

"Many are invited, but few are chosen." (Matthew 22:14)

"Muchos son los llamados, pero pocos los escogidos." (Mateo 22:14)

Reflection:

In this parable of the wedding feast, Jesus tells us about a king who invites many guests to his son's wedding banquet. Some guests reject the invitation, while others mistreat the king's servants. Despite these refusals, the king extends the invitation to everyone found on the streets, filling the hall with both good and bad alike. The parable illustrates how God's invitation to His heavenly banquet is open to all, but it also emphasizes the necessity of a genuine response. This invitation calls us to embrace a life transformed by God's grace, symbolized by wearing the wedding garment. It challenges us to examine how we are responding to God's call and whether our lives reflect the readiness and transformation such an invitation demands.

Socratic Question:

How are you preparing yourself to accept God's invitation into His kingdom, and what changes in your life can reflect the joy and responsibility of being called to His banquet?

Reflexión:

En esta parábola del banquete de bodas, Jesús nos habla de un rey que invita a muchos invitados a la boda de su hijo. Algunos invitados rechazan la invitación, mientras que otros maltratan a los siervos del rey. A pesar de estas negativas, el rey extiende la invitación a todos los que se encuentran en las calles, llenando el salón con buenos y malos por igual. La parábola ilustra cómo la invitación de Dios a su banquete celestial está abierta a todos, pero también enfatiza la necesidad de una respuesta genuina. Esta invitación nos llama a abrazar una vida transformada por la gracia de Dios, simbolizada por el uso del vestido de bodas. Nos desafía a examinar cómo estamos respondiendo al llamado de Dios y si nuestras vidas reflejan la disposición y transformación que tal invitación demanda.

Pregunta socrática:

¿Cómo te estás preparando para aceptar la invitación de Dios a su reino, y qué cambios en tu vida pueden reflejar la alegría y responsabilidad de ser llamado a su banquete?

Source: Truthly App

PARISH INFORMATION

STAFF DIRECTORY

Parish Office

Administrative Assistant:
adminassist@stritainthedesert.org

Secretary:
secretary@stritainthedesert.org

Office Assistant:
officeassistant@stritainthedesert.org

Business Manager:
businessmgr@stritainthedesert.org

Compliance:
compliance@stritainthedesert.org

Bulletin & Web Editor:
bulletin@stritainthedesert.org

Facilities Manager:
maintenance@stritainthedesert.org

Religious Education

Director of Religious Education:
dre@stritainthedesert.org

Youth Ministry:
youthministry@stritainthedesert.org

OCIA Coordinator:
ocia@stritainthedesert.org

Parish Directory

COLLECTIONS | COLECTA

October 04, 2026



Offertory: \$8,173.99
Rectory Debt: \$1,293.00
Campus Maint: \$260.80

Thank you for your support.
God bless you!

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

BULLETIN DEADLINE & QUESTIONS

Email bulletin request(s) to:

bulletin@stritainthedesert.org

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

HOMEBOUND EUCHARIST

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

EMERGENCY ANOINTING OF THE SICK

520-543-8415

MASS INTENTIONS AVAILABLE

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



ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

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



ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Every 1st Friday at 8am Mass

BAPTISMS

Visit stritainthedesert.org
[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

October 11, 2026

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our hearts, so that we may know what is the hope that belongs to our call. (Ephesians 1:17-18)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today's readings offer encouragement. Isaiah envisions a feast for all, where death is overcome and every tear is wiped away. The psalm describes a table prepared for us. Saint Paul assures us that God will provide for our needs. Even in times of stress, God remains faithful.

The Gospel presents the feast as a wedding banquet, with everything prepared and a simple invitation: Come. Some decline, returning to their routines. One guest arrives without a wedding garment and is turned away. Many are called, but few are chosen. The garment represents a genuine acceptance of God's invitation. Our own efforts alone are insufficient, but grace offers us something new. Readiness means letting go of excuses and accepting the graces God offers us now.

This Wednesday, we will hold our **Parish Town Hall** to discuss the direction Bishop Misko has outlined for our parish. Moving forward is a shared responsibility, and I cannot do it alone. So far, only **36 parishioners** have registered. If you have not registered, please do so before Wednesday so that we can move forward together. Join us to learn more about what lies ahead and how each of us can participate. Please register through our parish website.

We will also launch an offertory program to help secure our future and share responsibility for maintaining our parish and campus. This is one practical way we can live out our shared stewardship. God provides for us, and He calls us to care together for what has been entrusted to us. Please come prepared to participate.

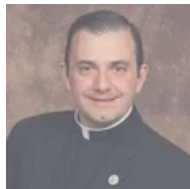
Between now and Wednesday, set aside old excuses and come prepared. The Lord has set the table; let us respond to His invitation.

May Our Lady and Saint Rita obtain for us the courage to say yes.

Peace and all good,



Very Reverend Alonzo M. García, Dean



11 de octubre de 2026

Que el Padre de nuestro Señor Jesucristo ilumine los ojos de nuestro corazón, para que comprendamos cuál es la esperanza a la que hemos sido llamados. (Efesios 1,17-18)

Queridos feligreses:

Las lecturas de hoy nos ofrecen aliento. Isaías contempla un banquete para todos, en el que la muerte es vencida y toda lágrima es enjugada. El salmo describe una mesa preparada para nosotros. San Pablo nos asegura que Dios proveerá para nuestras necesidades. Aun en tiempos de dificultad, Dios permanece fiel.

El Evangelio presenta el banquete como una fiesta de bodas, con todo preparado y una sencilla invitación: Vengan. Algunos rechazan la invitación y vuelven a sus quehaceres. Un invitado llega sin el traje de boda y es expulsado. Muchos son los llamados, pero pocos los escogidos. El traje representa una aceptación sincera de la invitación de Dios. Nuestros propios esfuerzos, por sí solos, no bastan, pero la gracia nos ofrece algo nuevo. Estar preparados significa dejar a un lado las excusas y aceptar las gracias que Dios nos ofrece ahora.

Este miércoles celebraremos nuestra Asamblea Parroquial para hablar sobre la dirección que el obispo Misko ha señalado para nuestra parroquia. Seguir adelante es una responsabilidad compartida, y no puedo hacerlo solo. Hasta ahora, solamente 36 feligreses se han inscrito. Si aún no se han inscrito, por favor háganlo antes del miércoles para que podamos avanzar juntos. Acompáñennos para conocer mejor lo que nos espera y cómo cada uno de nosotros puede participar. Por favor, inscríbanse a través del sitio web de nuestra parroquia.

También iniciaremos un programa de ofertorio para ayudar a asegurar nuestro futuro y compartir la responsabilidad de mantener nuestra parroquia y nuestro campus. Esta es una manera práctica de vivir nuestra corresponsabilidad. Dios provee para nosotros y nos llama a cuidar juntos lo que nos ha sido confiado. Por favor, vengan preparados para participar.

De aquí al miércoles, dejemos a un lado las viejas excusas y vengamos preparados. El Señor ha preparado la mesa; respondamos a su invitación.

Que Nuestra Señora y Santa Rita nos alcancen el valor de decir que sí.

READINGS & OBSERVANCES

FIRST READING:

"The LORD of hosts will provide for all peoples a feast of rich food and choice wines." (Isaiah 25:6)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want." (Psalm 23:1)

SECOND READING:

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13)

GOSPEL:

"Many are invited, but few are chosen." (Matthew 22:14)

Sunday, October 11

Is 25:6-10a | Ps 23:1-6 | Phil 4:12-14, 19-20 | Mt 22:1-14

Monday, October 12

Gal 4:22-24, 26-27, 31-5:1 | Ps 113:1b-5a, 6-7 | Lk 11:29-32

Tuesday, October 13

Gal 5:1-6 | Ps 119:41, 43-45, 47-48 | Lk 11:37-41

Wednesday, October 14

Gal 5:18-25 | Ps 1:1-4, 6 | Lk 11:42-46

Thursday, October 15

Eph 1:1-10 | Ps 98:1-6 | Lk 11:47-54

Friday, October 16

Eph 1:11-14 | Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 12-13 | Lk 12:1-7

Saturday, October 17

Eph 1:15-23 | Ps 8:2-7 | Lk 12:8-12

MASS INTENTIONS INTENCIONES DE MISA

Saturday October 10

5:00 pm

SI George G. Jochum Family

†Faustino Nuño y Familia

†Alfonzo Sevilla y Familia

Sunday October 11

8:00 am

†Charlie & Terry Twardy

10:00 am

†Michael James Brown

SI Carolyn Brown

SI Renee Desmarais

12:00 pm

Living & Deceased of St. Rita

Monday October 12

8:00 am

†Kevin Glaser

Tuesday October 13

8:00 am

†Dean Richins

SI Christian Renaud

Wednesday October 14

8:00 am

SI Seth Svob

SI Jessenia Caperon

†Julio Caperony

Thursday October 15

8:00 am

First Responders

†Emma & Tex Salazar

Friday October 16

8:00 am

Men & Women in the Military

†Marvin Quinn

PARISH NEWS

Rectory Debt Payoff

As of Sunday, October 04, 2026

\$217,724 **\$345,000**
GOAL

149 **500**
FAMILY PLEDGED/DONATED GOAL

THE HARVEST JOURNAL

Almost Time

Soon the tents will rise.

The lights will be switched on.

The first guests will arrive.

What began as an idea...

Has become the work of many hands and many hearts.

Thank you to every volunteer, sponsor, vendor, ministry, and parishioner helping make this year's Harvest Festival possible.

We'll see soon.

 **Friday, October 23 | 4-10 PM**
 **Saturday, October 24 | 2-10 PM**

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



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In today's Gospel we hear Jesus say:

"Many are invited, but few are chosen."

To give thanks for all that God has given to you, have you considered answering the call to help serve the poor by **joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul?**

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

ST. RITA IN THE DESERT

Parish Town Hall

Come. Listen. Speak.



DATE

Wednesday, October 14, 2026



TIME

6:00 p.m.



PLACE

St. John XXIII Center

*We have outgrown our weekend walls.
Your voice is needed.*



13260 E. COLOSSAL CAVE ROAD, VAIL

ST. RITA IN THE DESERT
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

HOW ARE YOU LIVING YOUR VOCATION?

*Our Catholic faith reminds us that holiness is not just a destination,
but a way of life — lived in love, in our daily responsibilities,
and in service to those God has entrusted to us.*



MY
RESPONSIBILITY
TO GOD

- Do I make time for prayer and Sunday Mass?
- Do I thank God for the gifts He has given me?
- Do I ask Him how He wants me to use those gifts?

*Lord, teach me
to serve You with
a generous heart.*



MY
RESPONSIBILITY
TO MY SPOUSE

- Do I give my spouse my time, attention, patience, and affection?
- Do I pray for — and with — my spouse?
- Do my words and actions help my spouse grow closer to God?

*Lord, help me love
as You love.*



MY
RESPONSIBILITY
TO MY CHILDREN
& FAMILY

- Am I teaching the faith not only with my words, but by my example?
- Do my children see me pray, serve, forgive, and participate in parish life?
- Am I showing them what it looks like to be part of the Body of Christ?

*Lord, make our home
a place of faith, love
and service.*



MY
RESPONSIBILITY
TO MY CHURCH

- Do I see St. Rita simply as the church I attend... or as a community to which I belong?
- Do I offer my time and talents as well as my treasure?
- When my parish needs helping hands, do I consider whether I might be one of the people God is asking to step forward?

*Lord, help me be
Your hands and feet
in our parish community.*

PERHAPS THIS WEEK,
THE ANSWER IS SIMPLE.

Our Harvest Festival needs many hands
to welcome our community.



A few
hours.



One
small job.



One
willing heart.

HARVEST FESTIVAL
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
OCTOBER 23 - 24



SCAN TO
SIGN UP



ST. RITA
IN THE DESERT
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Inspired by the USCCB Examination of Conscience for Married Persons.

*"As each one has received a gift,
use it to serve one another."
1 PETER 4:10*

MEALS TO GROW — VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Outreach needs a volunteer to help deliver **Meals to Grow** food bags to **Acacia Elementary** and **Old Vail Middle School** beginning **October 22**.

Just one hour Thursday mornings, partnered with another volunteer. **Truck or SUV helpful!**

To volunteer: outreach@stritainthedesert.org

BUILDING ON OUR PAST SECURING OUR FUTURE

Over the coming weeks, St. Rita will introduce our **Building on Our Past – Securing Our Future** program as we look toward the continued mission and ministries of our parish.

We ask each parish family to **prayerfully reflect on their participation** as we prepare for **Commitment Weekend, October 24-25**.

Questions? Please contact the Parish Office.

ST. RITA'S GUILD GIFT SHOP REOPENS!

October 18th | 9am-12:00 noon

Stop by and shop with us!

The Gift Shop will be open
on the **1st and 3rd Sunday**
of each month, from 9:00
AM-12:00 noon.

WELCOME TEAM POTLUCK

October 10th | 6pm

Welcome Team invites you to a
Costa Rican Dinner (**Free**)

We look forward to
seeing you there!

Donations go toward debt reduction

Coffee and Pastries
After all Masses, Sunday, **Oct 11**.

NEED A PLACE TO GATHER?

St. Rita Hall is available for
receptions, celebrations,
meetings, and other special
occasions. Seats up to 70
guests.

For availability: 520-762-9688
secretary@stritainthedesert.org

PARISH HARVEST FESTIVAL NEWS



YOU'RE INVITED!

Autumn Has Arrived!

23rd Annual St. Rita HARVEST FESTIVAL



FRI, OCT 23 | 4–10 PM
SAT, OCT 24 | 2–10 PM



St. Rita in the Desert
13260 E. Colossal Cave Road • Vail, AZ 85641

ADMISSION:
Adults (13+) — \$3
Children (3–12) — \$2
Under 3 — Free

- FOOD
- MUSIC
- GAMES
- SHOPPING
- FAMILY FUN



LEARN MORE

Come for the festival. Stay for the community.

SHRINE HOST VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Help us welcome Festival guests to the Shrine of Santa Rita!

We're looking for **volunteers** to simply welcome visitors, share our beautiful Shrine, and assist guests who wish to light a candle during the Harvest Festival.

No heavy lifting—just a warm welcome and a little of your time!
Interested? Email
festival@stritainthedesert.org

HELP BUILD OUR SILENT AUCTION

Donations needed for themed baskets:
BBQ, Italian, Wine, Coffee & Tea, Movie,
Spa, Garden & Tailgating.
New, unused items, gift cards,
services & experiences welcome!
DROPOFF: Parish Office through **Oct. 16**

Thank you for supporting our
Harvest Festival!

SAINTS & FAITH-BASED COSTUME CONTEST

Come dressed as your favorite saint, biblical figure, angel, or faith-inspired character during the Harvest Festival! Children, teens, adults, and families are invited to participate. Costumes may be homemade, traditional, simple, or creative. Participants may even be asked to share a fun fact about the person they portray!

HARVEST FESTIVAL NEEDS YOU!

Two hours can make a difference.
Pick a shift. Bring a friend.
Bring your spouse.
Volunteer as a family.

We have the plans.
We have the Festival.
Now we need the people.





Knights of Columbus®

MASS FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

St. Rita in the Desert Catholic Church
October 11, 2026 | 8:00 am

Contact: Jim Grayson
Email: rtl@stritainthedesert.org
Phone: (815) 546-4944



FARM FRESH EGG SALES RETURN

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

This Month: **October 17-18**
Next Month: *November 7-8 & 21-22*

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

Thank you for supporting the youth of our parish!

American Red Cross



Every 2 seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood.
Help save lives.

Give blood.

Blood Drive
**Saint Rita in the Desert
Church**

Bloodmobile
13260 E. Colossal Cave Place
Vail, AZ 85641

Sunday, October 11, 2026
7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The American Red Cross is busier than ever trying to alleviate the suffering of others.
One way that we do that is by making sure we have enough blood available...WE
CAN'T SAVE LIVES WITHOUT YOU!!

Please make your appointment TODAY!! Sponsor Code: saintrita



Fall into the habit of donating! Get a \$15 e-gift card
when you come to give blood Sept. 21-Oct. 15.



ARIZONA ROSARY CELEBRATION

Join Catholics from across Arizona for the annual Arizona Rosary Celebration honoring

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Saturday, October 17 • 10:00 AM–12:15 PM
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church
8650 N. Shannon Rd., Tucson

Bishop James Misko, Presider
Guest Speakers: Bishop Artur Bubnevych & Msgr.
James Patrick Shea

Free admission • All are welcome!

Can't Attend? Send Your Prayer Intentions

A prayer intention box is located at the back of the church for those unable to attend the Arizona Rosary Celebration. Place your intentions in the box, and **they will be included in the Rosary Celebration.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Season 2026-27

Celebrating 250 years of singing together as people. Two-time GRAMMY-nominated True Concord invites you to experience our 2026-27 season with the very best singers & instrumentalists from across the region and nation, coming together to move, enrich and inspire with glorious music.

AMERICAN CLASSICS AND CURRENTS

The Best of the Best in the American Choral Tradition

Friday, October 16, 4PM

St. Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church, Green Valley

Saturday, October 17, 4PM

Catalina Foothills H.S. Music Hall

Sunday, October 18, 3PM

Catalina Foothills H.S. Music Hall

CORPUS CHRISTI FALL ARTS & CRAFTS BOUTIQUE

Saturday, October 17 • 9:30 AM–6:00 PM

Sunday, October 18 • 8:30 AM–2:00 PM

Shop art, handmade crafts, baked goods, plants, and more, plus enjoy the Food Court and raffle.

All are welcome!

More information: cccctucson.org.



marriage encounter

"He dispatched his servants to summon the invited guests to the feast, but they refused to come." (MT 22)

God invites your marriage to be filled with His graces. Accept His invitation by participating in a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience** on:

November 7-8, 2026

March 6-7, 2027

in Phoenix.

For more info go to:

wwme.org or call 520-661-3644

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES RUMMAGE SALE

Come shop the Rummage Sale at St. Francis de Sales Parish and find lots of great items at great prices!

Thursday, October 22: 4:00–6:00 PM

Friday, October 23: 7:00 AM–1:00 PM

Saturday, October 24: 7:00 AM–12:00 PM

We will have a wide variety of items, including **furniture, clothing, household items, books, CDs, DVDs, tools, and much more!**

Bring your family and friends and come see what treasures you can find. There's something for everyone! **1375 S Camino Seco.**

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

YOUR GENEROSITY IS ALREADY AT WORK

Funds received through the 2026 Annual Catholic Appeal are already being allocated to serve people, parishes, and ministries throughout Southern Arizona.

- \$400,000 toward the formation and support of our seminarians
- \$405,000 to Native American and other parishes with limited financial resources
- \$350,000 for outreach and assistance to individuals and families in need
- \$125,000 for the care of our retired priests
- \$80,000 to provide spiritual and pastoral care to men and women who are incarcerated
- \$2 million to diocesan ministries and services supporting Catholic schools, evangelization, formation, vocations, youth and young adults, and parish life throughout our Diocese

Another \$331,191 is needed so that our shared mission to provide spiritual, pastoral, and charitable care throughout Southern Arizona can be fully supported.

If you have an outstanding pledge, have not yet participated, or would like to make an additional gift, your participation still matters.

Give Today

www.cathfnd.org/aca



GOSPEL MEDITATION

MATTHEW 22:1-14

The parable of the wedding feast reveals the boundless generosity of God, who invites all to share in the joy of His kingdom. The king's invitation going out to everyone from the streets signifies that God's grace is offered to all, beyond just those we might expect. Yet, the requirement for a wedding garment reminds us that responding to God's invitation requires our transformation and readiness to enter into His presence. It isn't enough to simply show up; we are called to prepare our hearts and lives, embodying the virtues and love that align with His kingdom. This meditation encourages us to consider how we are living in a way that reflects our embrace of God's gracious invitation.

Socratic Reflection:

In what specific ways can you prepare your heart and life to embrace God's invitation fully, and how does this preparation reflect your commitment to living in His kingdom?

MATEO 22:1-14

La parábola del banquete de bodas revela la generosidad sin límites de Dios, quien invita a todos a compartir la alegría de Su reino. La invitación del rey a todos los que están en las calles significa que la gracia de Dios se ofrece a todos, más allá de solo aquellos que podríamos esperar. Sin embargo, el requisito del vestido de bodas nos recuerda que responder a la invitación de Dios requiere nuestra transformación y disposición para entrar en Su presencia. No basta con simplemente presentarse; estamos llamados a preparar nuestros corazones y vidas, encarnando las virtudes y el amor que están en consonancia con Su reino. Esta meditación nos anima a considerar cómo estamos viviendo de manera que refleje nuestra aceptación de la generosa invitación de Dios.

Pregunta Socrática:

¿De qué maneras específicas puedes preparar tu corazón y vida para aceptar plenamente la invitación de Dios, y cómo se refleja esta preparación en tu compromiso de vivir en Su reino?

DID YOU KNOW...

28TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

On October 11, 1962, the Second Vatican Council (Vatican II) was officially opened by Pope John XXIII. This ecumenical council is one of the most significant events in modern Church history, bringing about substantial developments in various areas of Church life. Vatican II aimed to address relations between the Roman Catholic Church and the modern world, embracing a spirit of renewal known as "aggiornamento."

Over the course of four sessions, from 1962 to 1965, the council produced comprehensive documents that covered topics such as the liturgy, the nature of the Church, the role of laity, religious freedom, and the Church's relationship with other religions and the secular world. One of the most immediate and noticeable changes was the promotion of the liturgy being said in the vernacular, making it more accessible to the lay faithful.

Vatican II marked a profound moment of reflection and renewal for the Church, emphasizing the universal call to holiness and encouraging active participation by all members of the Church. Its legacy continues to shape the Church's approach to evangelization and dialogue in the contemporary world.

via truthly app

SAINT SPOTLIGHT



ST. TERESA OF ÁVILA

Feast Day: October 15

Patronage:

St. Teresa of Jesus is the patron saint of headache sufferers, Spanish Catholic writers, and those seeking grace.

Story:

St. Teresa of Ávila was born in 1515 in Spain. She joined the Carmelite convent of the Incarnation at Ávila when she was around 20 years old. However, she found herself struggling between the comforts of convent life and a yearning for deeper spirituality. After experiencing a profound spiritual awakening, she dedicated herself to reforming the Carmelite order. Despite facing much resistance, she established several monasteries devoted to a renewed focus on prayer, simplicity, and strict rule.

Teresa was a mystic and had numerous mystical experiences, which she often shared in her writings. One of her most famous works, "The Interior Castle," describes the soul's journey towards God as a series of mansions, guiding readers toward deeper spiritual union.

Legacy:

St. Teresa's influence extended beyond her lifetime as she spearheaded a reform within the Carmelite order. She was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1970 due to her profound spiritual writings and insights, making her one of the first women to receive this title. Her emphasis on mental prayer has inspired countless souls to seek a transformative relationship with God.

Reflection Question:

How can the example of St. Teresa's devotion to prayer and simplicity inspire you to seek a deeper relationship with God, and what practical steps can you take to integrate more contemplative moments into your daily routine?

KIDS CORNER



Feast Day: October 15

Who was St. Teresa of Ávila?

St. Teresa is the special friend of people who have headaches, writers in Spain, and anyone who wants to grow closer to God.

Her Story:

St. Teresa of Ávila was born in Spain in 1515. As a young girl, she loved reading stories about heroes and saints who did amazing things for God. When she was about 20, she decided to join a special group called the Carmelites, where she could pray and live with other sisters who loved God, too. But Teresa noticed that her life in the convent was sometimes too comfortable, and she wanted to live more simply, focusing more on prayer and helping others.

After experiencing an amazing feeling of being very close to God, Teresa worked hard to help her group focus more on God. She traveled to start new places where people could pray and live simply. Even though some people didn't like her ideas at first, she trusted God and kept going.

Her Legacy:

Teresa is famous for her beautiful writings about how people can grow closer to God. She wrote about imagining our hearts like a castle with many rooms, each one bringing us closer to God. Today, Teresa is remembered as a teacher who helps people learn how to pray and feel God's love in their hearts.

Question to Think About:

How can St. Teresa's love for prayer inspire you to spend more time talking to God, and what's one thing you could do to make prayer a bigger part of your day?

Source: *Truthly App*

SAINTS THIS MONTH

October 1

- [St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus \(Thérèse of Lisieux\)](#)

October 2

- [Holy Guardian Angels](#)

October 3

- [St Candidus of Rome](#)

October 4

- [Saint Francis of Assisi](#)

October 5

- [Bl. Francis Xavier Seelos](#)
- [St. Faustina Kowalska](#)

October 6

- [St. Bruno](#)
- [Bl. Marie-Rose Durocher](#)

October 7

- [Our Lady of the Rosary](#)
- [Pope St. Mark](#)

October 8

- [St. Pelagia](#)

October 9

- [St. Denis](#)
- [St. John Leonardi](#)
- [St. John Henry Newman](#)
- [Abraham the Patriarch \(OT\)](#)

October 10

- [St. Francis Borgia](#)
- [St. Paulinus of York](#)

October 11

- [St. John XXIII, pope](#)
- [St. Philip the Deacon](#)

October 12

- [Bl. Carlos Acutis](#) (to be canonized in 2025)

October 13

- [St. Theophilus of Antioch](#)

October 14

- [Pope St. Callistus I](#)

October 15

- [Saint Teresa of Avila](#)

October 16

- [St. Hedwig](#)
- [Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque](#)

October 17

- [St. Ignatius of Antioch](#)
- [Hosea the Prophet \(OT\)](#) or July 4

October 18

- [St. Luke, Evangelist](#)

October 19

- [Saints John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues and Companions, Canadian Martyrs](#)
- [St. Paul of the Cross](#)
- [Joel the Prophet \(OT\)](#) or July 13

October 20

- [St. Acca of Hexham](#)

October 21

- [St. Gaspare de Bufalo](#)
- [St. Hilarion](#)

October 22

- [Pope St. John Paul II](#)

October 23

- [St. John of Capistrano](#)
- [St. Severinus Boethius](#)

October 24

- [St. Anthony Mary Claret](#)

October 25

- [Sts. Crispin and Crispinian](#)

October 26

- [St. Cedd](#)

October 27

- [St. Frumentius](#)

October 28

- [St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles](#)

October 29

- [St. Narcissus of Jerusalem](#)

October 30

- [St. Germanus of Capua](#)
- [St. Alphonse Rodriguez](#) – or Oct 31

October 31

- [St. Quentin](#)
- [St. Alphonse Rodriguez](#) – or Oct 30

All underlined text is clickable

source: young-catholics.com

PARISH CONNECTIONS



CONTACT US

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



WORSHIP

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



SACRAMENTS

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



GROW IN FAITH

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



GET INVOLVED

- Ministry Directory
- Music Ministry
- Parish Leadership Team (PLT)



PRAYER & CARE

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



STEWARDSHIP

- Online Giving
- Parish Support
- Reserve a Legacy Bench



NEW TO ST. RITA?

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



STAY INFORMED

- Calendar
- Weekly Bulletin
- Website

STAFF DIRECTORY

Parish Office

Administrative Assistant:
Chris Metzger

Secretary:
Veronica Garcia

Office Assistant:
Priscilla Molinar

Business Manager:
Louise Azzopardi

Compliance:
Mary Morgan

Bulletin & Web Editor:
Kathy Lockard

Facilities Manager:
Norm Scheopner

Maintenance:
Bill Cline

Religious Education

Director of Religious Education:
Geraldine Durman

Youth Ministry:
Leah Sides

OCIA Coordinator:
Michelle Quinn Crowley

Parish Directory



Campus Map



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

ST. RITA IN THE DESERT



Welcome to the Harvest Festival!

We're glad you're here. Explore, eat, play & enjoy the Festival!



- Children's Village Beer Garden
- Harvest Hall Main Stage
- Harvest Market Glow Garden
- Vineyard Retreat Hospitality
- Historic Shrine Built in 1935
- Restrooms
- Photo Op

Welcome to St. Rita in the Desert
Come for the Festival. Stay for the community.

We're so glad you're here.



*Good Food
 Great People
 Brighter Together*