

July 12, 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

15TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

"But the seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it." ~Matthew 13:23

"Pero la semilla sembrada en tierra buena es el que oye la palabra y la entiende." ~Mateo 13:23

Reflection:

The parable of the sower reminds us that our spiritual growth depends on the condition of our hearts. By nurturing a receptive and understanding heart, we allow God's word to take root and flourish, producing abundant fruit in our lives.

Socratic Question:

What steps can you take to cultivate a heart that is open and ready to embrace the teachings of Christ more fully?

Reflexión:

La parábola del sembrador nos recuerda que nuestro crecimiento espiritual depende de la condición de nuestros corazones. Al cultivar un corazón receptivo y comprensivo, permitimos que la palabra de Dios eche raíces y florezca, produciendo abundante fruto en nuestras vidas.

Pregunta socrática:

¿Qué pasos puedes tomar para cultivar un corazón que esté abierto y listo para abrazar las enseñanzas de Cristo más plenamente?

Source: *Truthly App*

PARISH INFORMATION

MASS INTENTIONS INTENCIONES DE MISA

Saturday July 11

5:00 pm

†Vito & Jenny Vilona

†Joan & Thomas Underwood

Sunday July 12

8:00 am

†Jimmy Murphy

10:00 am

†Michael Brown

12:00 pm

Living & Deceased of St. Rita

Monday July 13

8:00 am

†Antonio & Cruz Martinez

SI Robert Rapa

Tuesday July 14

8:00 am

First Responders

Wednesday July 15

8:00 am

St. Rita Parish Volunteers

Thursday July 16

8:00 am

†Mary Ann Douglass

Friday July 17

8:00 am

Men & Women in the Military

COLLECTIONS | COLECTA

July 05, 2026



Offertory: \$7,872.70
Rectory Debt: \$1,154.65
Campus Maint: \$234.80

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

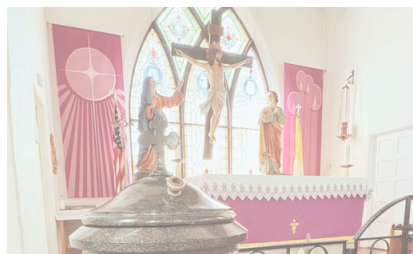
In accordance with Canon 948, if any faithful would like the Mass to be offered for their individual intention only, please make your request at the Parish Office.



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

July 12, 2026

***The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower.
All who come to Him will have life forever.***

Dear Parish Family and Friends,

Today's Scripture readings present valuable lessons for discipleship. While the imagery is agricultural, the message is clear: God's Word always fulfills its purpose. When the Lord speaks, His will is accomplished.

Throughout its history, Israel sought assurance in faith through both triumphs and trials on its journey with the Lord. We, too, are called to place our trust in God's Word, which is sent forth to bear abundant fruit. Like good soil, are we open to allowing that Word to take root and grow within us?

We can cultivate our hearts each day through prayer, acts of kindness and service, and by extending forgiveness to others. These simple yet meaningful practices make us more receptive to God's grace, allowing His Word to flourish and bear fruit in our lives.

Jesus also cautions us not to let the cares of this world give rise to fear, anxiety, or hopelessness. Instead, our hope rests firmly in God's promise of love, mercy, and faithfulness. He desires to redeem His people, and His Word invites us to receive that promise and produce the abundant fruits of authentic discipleship.

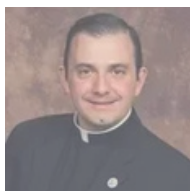
On a personal note, I am honored to serve as Dean of the Pima Eastside Deanery, fulfilling the responsibilities entrusted to me by Canon Law and Bishop Misko. This weekend, Bishop Misko has also asked me to install the new pastor of St. Pius X Parish during their 11:00 a.m. Mass. As a result, I will not be present for our 10:00 a.m. or 12:00 p.m. Masses.

Please keep Fr. Richard Rivera, Jr., and the parishioners of St. Pius X in your prayers, asking the Lord to bless them as they begin this new chapter together and continue to grow in faith.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Very Reverend Alonzo M. García, Dean



12 de julio de 2026

La semilla es la Palabra de Dios; Cristo es el sembrador. Todo el que viene a Él tendrá vida eterna.

Estimada familia parroquial y amigos:

Las lecturas de la Sagrada Escritura de este domingo nos ofrecen valiosas enseñanzas para nuestra vida como discípulos de Cristo. Aunque las imágenes provienen del trabajo del campo, el mensaje es muy claro: la Palabra de Dios siempre cumple su propósito. Cuando el Señor habla, su voluntad se realiza.

A lo largo de su historia, el pueblo de Israel aprendió a confiar en Dios tanto en los momentos de alegría como en los de dificultad. Nosotros también estamos llamados a confiar en la Palabra de Dios, que es enviada para dar fruto abundante. Como la buena tierra, ¿estamos dispuestos a dejar que esa Palabra eche raíces y crezca en nuestro corazón?

Podemos preparar nuestro corazón cada día por medio de la oración, las obras de caridad y servicio, y ofreciendo el perdón a los demás. Estas prácticas sencillas, pero llenas de significado, nos ayudan a recibir con mayor apertura la gracia de Dios, permitiendo que su Palabra florezca y dé fruto en nuestra vida.

Jesús también nos advierte que no permitamos que las preocupaciones de este mundo nos llenen de miedo, ansiedad o desesperanza. Nuestra esperanza está firmemente puesta en la promesa de Dios, quien nos ofrece su amor, su misericordia y su fidelidad. Él desea salvar a su pueblo, y su Palabra nos invita a recibir esa promesa y a dar los frutos abundantes de un auténtico discipulado.

En lo personal, me siento muy honrado de servir como Decano del Decanato del Este de Pima, desempeñando las responsabilidades que me han sido encomendadas por el Derecho Canónico y por el Obispo Misko. Este fin de semana, el Obispo Misko también me ha pedido presidir la instalación del nuevo párroco de la Parroquia San Pío X durante la Misa de las 11:00 a.m. Por esta razón, no podré estar presente en nuestras Misas de las 10:00 a.m. ni de las 12:00 p.m.

Les pido que mantengan en sus oraciones al Padre Richard Rivera, Jr., y a toda la comunidad de la Parroquia San Pío X, para que el Señor los bendiga mientras comienzan esta nueva etapa y continúan creciendo juntos en la fe.

READINGS & OBSERVANCES

FIRST READING:

"As the rain and the snow come down from heaven... so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me void." (Is 55:10-11)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

"The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest." (Ps 65:10b)

SECOND READING:

"I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us." (Rom 8:18)

GOSPEL:

"But the seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it." (Mt 13:23)

Sunday, July 12

Is 55:10-11 | Ps 65:10-14 | Rom 8:18-23 | Mt 13:1-23

Monday, July 13

Is 1:10-17 | Ps 50:8-9, 16-17, 21, 23 | Mt 10:34-11:1

Tuesday, July 14

Is 7:1-9 | Ps 48:2-8 | Mt 11:20-24

Wednesday, July 15

Is 10:5-7, 13b-16 | Ps 94:5-10, 14-15 | Mt 11:25-27

Thursday, July 16

Is 26:7-9, 12, 16-19 | Ps 102:13-21 | Mt 11:28-30

Friday, July 17

Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8 | Is 38:10-12, 16 | Mt 12:1-8

Saturday, July 18

Mi 2:1-5 | Ps 10:1-4, 7-8, 14 | Mt 12:14-21

THIS WEEK

Welcome Team

Potluck: **September 12th**

We look forward to seeing you

TODAY Sunday, July 12th

for Coffee & Pastries

After all masses

Outreach Ministry

July 11-12

Please use the **Yellow Outreach**

Envelope and place it in the

regular collection basket.

Your generous gift supports the Vail School District's:

- Annual School Supplies Backpack Program
- Meals to Grow (MTG) – providing weekend meals for more than 550 local students experiencing food insecurity each week.

A \$20 donation helps provide 40 weekend meal bags.

Thank you for helping us care for our neighbors in the Greater Vail community through your generosity and compassion.

Adult Formation

Interested in Becoming Catholic?

Have you been thinking about becoming Catholic or learning more about the Catholic faith?

OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) Inquiry Sessions begin

Sunday, August 16, at 11:30 a.m. in the Verhagen Building, across from the St. John XXIII Center.

Learn more and submit an interest form at:

StRitaInTheDesert.org/Adult-Formation.

PARISH NEWS

Rectory Debt Payoff

As of Sunday, July 05, 2026

\$136,415 **\$345,000**
GOAL

147 **500**
FAMILY PLEDGED/DONATED GOAL

HARVEST FESTIVAL 2026

When Night Falls

Most festivals end when darkness arrives.

Ours is just getting started.

As evening settles across the parish grounds, thousands of lights will begin to glow.

Trees will shimmer.

Pathways will sparkle.

Families will wander through a landscape transformed.

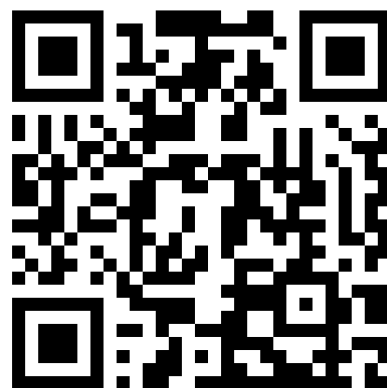
Welcome to the **Glow Garden**.

It's unlike anything we've attempted before. And we can't wait to share it with you.

Next week: Meet the people helping bring this vision to life.

Never Miss Our Bulletin!

Scan to view the expanded version:



GOSPEL MEDITATION

MATTHEW 13:1-23

Imagine yourself standing beside Jesus as He tells the parable of the sower. Visualize the sower casting seeds across different types of terrain. Reflect on the seeds that fall along the path, vulnerable to birds that quickly snatch them away. Imagine the seeds on rocky terrain, striving to grow but lacking depth, and those among thorns, choked by their surroundings. Finally, picture the seeds that fall on rich, fertile soil, thriving and producing a bountiful harvest.

In this story, Jesus invites us to see our hearts as the different types of soil. A heart hardened by indifference or distraction may struggle to let God's Word take root. A heart shallow in commitment might falter when challenges arise. A heart preoccupied with worldly anxieties may find it hard to focus on spiritual growth. Yet, a receptive, open heart can turn divine teaching into an abundant source of life and purpose.

As you meditate on this parable, ask yourself: What type of "soil" does my heart represent right now? How might I prepare my inner ground to be more fertile for God's Word, allowing it to grow deeper roots and bear fruit that lasts?

Socratic Reflection:

What specific changes can you make to cultivate your heart into fertile soil ready to receive and nurture God's Word more fully?

MATEO 13:1-23

Imagínate junto a Jesús mientras cuenta la parábola del sembrador. Visualiza al sembrador lanzando semillas por diferentes tipos de terreno. Reflexiona sobre las semillas que caen en el camino, vulnerables a los pájaros que rápidamente las arrebatán. Imagina las semillas en terreno rocoso, que luchan por crecer pero carecen de profundidad, y aquellas entre espinas, ahogadas por su entorno. Finalmente, visualiza las semillas que caen en tierra fértil, prosperando y produciendo una cosecha abundante.

En esta historia, Jesús nos invita a ver nuestros corazones como los diferentes tipos de suelo. Un corazón endurecido por la indiferencia o la distracción puede luchar para que la Palabra de Dios eche raíces. Un corazón con compromiso superficial podría tambalearse ante los desafíos. Un corazón preocupado por ansiedades mundanas puede encontrar difícil centrarse en el crecimiento espiritual. Sin embargo, un corazón receptivo y abierto puede convertir la enseñanza divina en una fuente abundante de vida y propósito.

Al meditar en esta parábola, pregúntate: ¿Qué tipo de "tierra" representa mi corazón en este momento? ¿Cómo podría preparar mi terreno interior para ser más fértil para la Palabra de Dios, permitiendo que crezcan raíces más profundas y produzcan fruto duradero?

Reflexión:

¿Qué cambios específicos puedes hacer para cultivar tu corazón en tierra fértil, lista para recibir y nutrir la Palabra de Dios más plenamente?

DID YOU KNOW...

15TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

On July 12, 1536, Desiderius Erasmus, the Dutch Renaissance humanist and Catholic priest, passed away. Erasmus was one of the most prominent scholars of his time, known for his critical editions of the New Testament in Greek and Latin, which greatly influenced the field of biblical scholarship. While he never broke away from the Catholic Church, Erasmus' works helped set the stage for reform by encouraging a return to the original sources of Christian teaching and promoting the idea that theology should be rooted in a profound understanding of the Scriptures. His emphasis on education and critical thought was integral to the intellectual atmosphere of the Reformation and Counter-Reformation eras.

How does knowing about figures like Erasmus enrich your understanding of Church history and its development?

via truthly app

SAINT SPOTLIGHT



ST. KATERI TEKAKWITHA

Feast Day: July 14th

Patronage:

St. Kateri Tekakwitha is the patron saint of ecology and the environment, as well as Native American peoples.

Story: St. Kateri Tekakwitha, known as the "Lily of the Mohawks," was born in 1656 in present-day New York State. Her mother was a Christian Algonquin, and her father was a non-Christian Mohawk chief. At the age of four, a smallpox epidemic took the lives of her parents and brother, leaving her partially blind and her face scarred.

Despite these hardships, Kateri was drawn to the Christian faith. At the age of 19, she was baptized by a Jesuit missionary, taking the name Kateri in honor of St. Catherine of Siena. Following her conversion, she faced opposition and ridicule from her tribe, leading her to flee to a Christian community in Kahnawake, near Montreal, Canada.

In her new community, Kateri lived a life of deep prayer, penance, and devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. She took a private vow of chastity, dedicating herself entirely to Jesus. Kateri's profound faith, humility, and love for nature earned her a reputation for holiness. She died at the age of 24, and witnesses reported that the scars on her face disappeared after her death, leaving her radiant and beautiful.

Legacy: St. Kateri Tekakwitha's legacy is one of faith, courage, and devotion amidst adversity. Her life serves as a testament to the power of conversion and the beauty of living in harmony with God's creation. She was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI on October 21, 2012, becoming the first Native American saint. Her witness continues to inspire people around the world to cherish the environment and strive for holiness.

Reflection Question: How can St. Kateri Tekakwitha's example encourage you to live more fully in harmony with creation and pursue a deeper relationship with God?

KIDS CORNER



Feast Day: July 14th

Who was Saint Kateri Tekakwitha?

St. Kateri Tekakwitha is a special protector for people who care about the earth and nature, and she also looks after Native American people.

Her Story:

St. Kateri Tekakwitha was born a long time ago, around 1656, in what is now New York. Her mom believed in Jesus, but her dad didn't. When Kateri was little, she got very sick and lost her family. This made her eyesight poor, and she had scars on her face.

Even though she had difficult challenges, Kateri wanted to learn more about Jesus and became a Christian when she was 19. She chose the name "Kateri" after St. Catherine, a woman who loved God very much. People in her village didn't understand why she believed in Jesus, so she moved to a place near Montreal, Canada, where others shared her faith.

Kateri loved praying and being in nature. She promised to stay close to Jesus and not get married so she could focus on her faith. She died young, at 24, but afterward, people noticed something amazing—her face, once scarred, was now smooth and beautiful.

Her Legacy:

St. Kateri is remembered for her brave faith and her love for God's creation. She was made a saint in 2012, and her life inspires people to take care of the earth and grow closer to God.

Question to Think About: How can you be like St. Kateri by showing love and care for the people around you and the world we live in?

Source: *Truthly App*

ANNOUNCEMENTS



marriage encounter

Summer is a great time to get your marriage in shape!

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is better than any weekend getaway you can plan. Time with your spouse on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend is an investment that will pay dividends.

Sign up for an upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience:

July 11-12, 2026, in Phoenix

For more info go to: wwme.org or call 520-661-3644

Early registration is highly recommended.



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Today we hear Jesus tell us:

"Whoever gives a cup of cold water to one of these least of my brethren, that you do unto me."

We have served over 140 families this year (many of them more than once). Without your support this would be impossible.

KNIGHTS BABY BOTTLE DRIVE

Have you picked up your baby bottle yet?

There's still time to participate! Simply take a bottle after Mass, fill it with change, cash, or a check (payable to Knights of Columbus), and return it to a Knight by **August 2nd**.

Together, we can make a lasting difference for REACHOUT Women's Center.



ALUMINUM CAN RECYCLING

Recycle your aluminum cans in the collection barrels next to the St. Vincent de Paul donation shed.

Please remember:

- Aluminum cans only (no glass, paper, steel cans, or trash)
- Place cans in securely tied bags
- No clothing donations—please take clothing to the Vail Resources Thrift Store across the street

Need help? Ask a Knight wearing a maroon council shirt.

NEED A PLACE TO GATHER?

St. Rita Hall is available for receptions, luncheons, showers, anniversaries, birthdays, funeral receptions, business meetings, and other special occasions. Seats up to **70 guests**.

For availability and scheduling, contact the Parish Office:
520-762-9688 | secretary@stritainthedesert.org

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - FAMILY OF THE MONTH

The Knights of Columbus Council 14230 is proud to recognize parish families whose faith, service, and dedication strengthen our parish community. Through their involvement in ministry, volunteer service, and commitment to living the Gospel, these families exemplify Christian discipleship.



June 2026 – Mr. & Mrs. Antonio & Maria Mejia

May 2026 – Mr. & Mrs. Thad & Gloria Baker

April 2026 – Mr. & Mrs. Jayme & Karen Kahle

Congratulations to the **Kahle Family**, also honored as the **2026 Family of the Year** by the Knights of Columbus Council 14230. Thank you to each of these families for your faithful witness and generous service to our parish.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Rachel's Vineyard Retreat (Tucson) September 4-6, 2026

If the emotional and spiritual wounds of a past abortion have left you feeling isolated or strained in your faith, you do not have to carry that burden alone.

Sign up now for a confidential, supportive retreat open to men and women. Discover hope, healing, and renewal. Visit www.rachelsvineyardtucson.org.

Call/Text: 520-743-6777.



St. Joseph Catholic Church – SANCTUARY 215 South Craycroft – Tucson

Evening of Eucharistic Adoration, worship, & healing for all men & women throughout the Diocese.

TUESDAY EVENING
JULY 21, 2026
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Questions: call Erin at 520.631.1408
www.vineofgrace.org

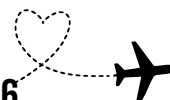


**ARE YOU
FOLLOWING US?**
click here



12-DAY PILGRIMAGE TO POLAND & EASTERN EUROPE

NOVEMBER 3-14, 2026



Join us as we visit **Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Krakow, Wadowice, Auschwitz, Czestochowa, and Warsaw** while deepening our faith and exploring our Catholic heritage.

All-Inclusive Cost: \$4,649

Includes airfare, hotels, taxes, daily breakfast, most dinners, motor coach transportation, tour guide, admission fees, and gratuities.

Only a few seats remain! Registration deadline: **July 15.**

For a brochure, itinerary, or more information, call 520-631-1408 or visit www.vineofgrace.org.



No Marriage is BEYOND HOPE!

Try A RETROUVAILLE Weekend

Upcoming Weekend Tucson, AZ

September 11-13, 2026

Confidential Inquires:

520-762-4449

4003r@helpourmarriage.org

R.O.S.A. ~ Retrouvaille of Southern Arizona

