

September 13, 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:



24TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

"Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive him? As many as seven times?" (Matthew 18:21)

"Señor, si mi hermano peca contra mí, ¿cuántas veces debo perdonarlo? ¿Hasta siete veces?" (Mateo 18:21)

Reflection:

In this Gospel passage, Jesus teaches us about the boundless nature of forgiveness through the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant. Peter asks Jesus how often he should forgive someone who sins against him, suggesting seven times. Jesus responds, "Not seven times, but seventy-seven times," illustrating that forgiveness should have no limits. The parable highlights the mercy we receive from God and the importance of extending that mercy to others. We are reminded that true forgiveness comes from recognizing the immense forgiveness God offers us and choosing to forgive others in turn, fostering peace and reconciliation in our relationships.

Socratic Question:

What are some of the challenges you face in forgiving others, and how can you overcome them to offer forgiveness more freely?

Reflexión:

En este pasaje del Evangelio, Jesús nos enseña sobre la naturaleza infinita del perdón a través de la Parábola del Siervo sin Piedad. Pedro pregunta a Jesús cuántas veces debe perdonar a alguien que peca contra él, sugiriendo siete veces. Jesús responde: "No solo siete veces, sino setenta veces siete," mostrando que el perdón no debe tener límites. La parábola destaca la misericordia que recibimos de Dios y la importancia de extender esa misericordia a los demás. Se nos recuerda que el verdadero perdón viene de reconocer el inmenso perdón que Dios nos ofrece y elegir perdonar a otros, fomentando la paz y la reconciliación en nuestras relaciones.

Pregunta socrática:

¿Cuáles son algunos de los desafíos que enfrentas al perdonar a los demás, y cómo puedes superarlos para ofrecer perdón más libremente?

Source: *Truthly App*

13260 E. Colossal Cave Road • Vail, Az 85641 • Tel (520) 762-9688 • stritainthedesert.org

PARISH INFORMATION

STAFF DIRECTORY

Parish Office

Administrative Assistant:
adminassist@stritainthedesert.org

Secretary:
secretary@stritainthedesert.org

Office Assistant:
officeassistant@stritainthedesert.org

Business Manager:
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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

September 06, 2026



Offertory: \$8,497.30
Rectory Debt: \$1,808.00
Campus Maint: \$421.20

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

September 13, 2026

*I give you a new commandment, says the Lord:
love one another as I have loved you.
(John 13:34)*

Dear Parish Family and Friends,

The Lord keeps placing the same word before us: **mercy**. We are not a parish of perfect people. We have failed one another, and we have failed ourselves. And still, the Father has been kind. He has forgiven us. This is at the heart of the Gospel.

Sometimes the last person we forgive is the one we see in the mirror. If that is you, remember this: you are not being asked to earn your way back into God's house. You already belong here. Lay the burden down. There is room in His heart—and there will be room in this church.

We have outgrown our walls on the weekends. That is not a complaint; it is a blessing that brings new challenges. Because of this growth, I am speaking with Bishop Misko about the possibility of assigning another priest to live and serve among us. We are prayerfully considering what his responsibilities to the parish would be, as well as our responsibilities to him. If the Lord provides this additional help, it could allow us to expand our Mass schedule, potentially offering Mass on Saturday at 5:00 p.m. and Sunday at 7:00, 9:00, 11:00 a.m., and 1:00 p.m. This would provide more opportunities for our growing parish family to worship together comfortably and prayerfully.

I invite you to attend a **Parish Town Hall on Wednesday, October 14, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the St. John XXIII Center**. I need not only your attendance, but also your voice. Please bring your hopes, questions, and concerns. This is your parish.

And while we discern what comes next for our parish, our **Harvest Festival is just over a month away**. Visit our parish website to learn more. Whether you can bake, greet, lend a hand, or simply come and enjoy the fellowship, please join us. Joy is also a kind of building.

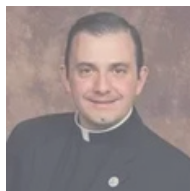
St. Rita knew the long road. May she walk it with us.

God bless you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Very Reverend Alonzo M. García, Dean



13 de septiembre de 2026

*Les doy un mandamiento nuevo, dice el Señor:
que se amen los unos a los otros, como yo los he amado.
(Juan 13:34)*

Querida familia parroquial y amigos:

El Señor sigue poniendo ante nosotros la misma palabra: **misericordia**. No somos una parroquia de personas perfectas. Nos hemos fallado unos a otros y también nos hemos fallado a nosotros mismos. Y aun así, el Padre ha sido bondadoso. Nos ha perdonado. Esto está en el corazón del Evangelio.

A veces, la última persona a quien perdonamos es la que vemos en el espejo. Si ese es tu caso, recuerda esto: no tienes que ganarte el derecho de volver a la casa de Dios. Ya perteneces aquí. Deja esa carga. Hay lugar en su corazón, y también habrá lugar en esta iglesia.

Nuestra comunidad ha crecido y los fines de semana ya hemos superado la capacidad de nuestro espacio. Esto no es una queja; es una bendición que trae nuevos desafíos. Debido a este crecimiento, estoy hablando con el Obispo Misko sobre la posibilidad de asignar a otro sacerdote para que viva y sirva entre nosotros. Estamos considerando en oración cuáles serían sus responsabilidades con la parroquia, así como nuestras responsabilidades hacia él. Si el Señor nos brinda esta ayuda adicional, podríamos ampliar nuestro horario de Misas, posiblemente ofreciendo Misa el sábado a las 5:00 p.m. y los domingos a las 7:00, 9:00 y 11:00 a.m., y a la 1:00 p.m. Esto brindaría más oportunidades para que nuestra creciente familia parroquial pueda celebrar y orar unida con mayor comodidad y recogimiento.

Los invito a participar en una **reunión parroquial el miércoles 14 de octubre de 2026, a las 6:00 p.m., en el Centro St. John XXIII**. No solo necesito su presencia, sino también su voz. Por favor, vengan y compartan sus esperanzas, preguntas e inquietudes. Esta es su parroquia.

Y mientras discernimos lo que sigue para nuestra parroquia, falta poco más de un mes para nuestro **Festival de la Cosecha**. Visiten nuestro sitio web parroquial para obtener más información. Ya sea que puedan hornear, recibir a nuestros visitantes, ayudar donde se necesite o simplemente venir a disfrutar de la convivencia, los invitamos a acompañarnos. La alegría también es una manera de construir comunidad.

Santa Rita conoció bien los caminos largos y difíciles. Que ella camine con nosotros.

Que Dios los bendiga.

READINGS & OBSERVANCES

FIRST READING:

"Forgive your neighbor's injustice; then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven." (Sirach 28:2)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

"He pardons all your iniquities, heals all your ills." (Psalm 103:3)

SECOND READING:

"None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself." (Romans 14:7)

GOSPEL:

"Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive him? As many as seven times?" (Matthew 18:21)

Sunday, September 13

Sir 27:30—28:7 | Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12 | Rom 14:7-9 | Mt 18:21-35

Monday, September 14

Nm 21:4b-9 | Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38 | Phil 2:6-11 | Jn 3:13-17

Tuesday, September 15

1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a | Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5 | Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35

Wednesday, September 16

1 Cor 12:31—13:13 | Ps 33:2-3, 4-5, 12 and 22 | Lk 7:31-35

Thursday, September 17

1 Cor 15:1-11 | Ps 118:1b-2, 16ab-17, 28 | Lk 7:36-50

Friday, September 18

1 Cor 15:12-20 | Ps 17:1bcd, 6-7, 8b and 15 | Lk 8:1-3

Saturday, September 19

1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49 | Ps 56:10c-12, 13-14 | Lk 8:4-15

MASS INTENTIONS INTENCIONES DE MISA

Saturday September 12

5:00 pm

†Gloria Saari
SI George G. Jochum
Family

†Ed & Millie Goebel &
Deceased Family
Members

Sunday September 13

8:00 am

†Mike Murphy
Souls in Purgatory

10:00 am

All Past & Present
Members of the Altar
Society

12:00 pm

St. Rita

Monday September 14

8:00 am

†Anne Louise Riley

Tuesday September 15

8:00 am

SI Lazaro Hong

Wednesday September 16

8:00 am

First Responders

Thursday September 17

8:00 am

Men & Women in the
Military

Friday September 18

8:00 am

†Stan & Mary Ann
Douglass
SI David Hong

PARISH NEWS

Rectory Debt Payoff

As of Sunday, September 06, 2026

\$212,755 **\$345,000**
GOAL

149 **500**
FAMILY PLEDGED/DONATED GOAL

THE HARVEST JOURNAL

A Place for Everyone

Some will come for the music.

Some for the food.

Some for the Children's Village.

Others to wander the Harvest
Market...

...or simply enjoy an
evening with family and friends.

However you spend your time...

We hope you'll leave with a
smile...

...and a memory worth keeping.

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

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 or
secretary@stritainthedesert.org

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARE YOUR TALENT AT THE HARVEST FESTIVAL!

Calling all singers, musicians, dancers, cultural groups, and other family-friendly performers! Parishioners of all ages are invited to share their talents on the Harvest Festival Main Stage

October 23-24.

Interested in performing?

Contact Sarah:
liturgycommittee@stritainthedesert.org

Performance requests due September 23.

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!

Awards include

- Most Creative
- Best Saint
- Best Biblical Character
- Best Family/Group
- Best Homemade Costume

More contest details coming soon!



CASTING CALL: CONTESTANTS WANTED!

Think you know your **faith, family, or parish?** Step up and join our **Harvest Festival Game Shows!**

Now Casting:

- **Couples Challenge** – How well do you know your spouse or loved one?
- **Saintly Feud** – Parish-style team competition
- **Judeopardy** – Catholic trivia: Saints, Sacraments, Scripture, the Mass & Church History
- **Game Show Hosts** – Bring your best Steve Harvey or Alex Trebek!

Represent your family, ministry, or parish group and join the fun!

Interested in performing? Contact Sarah:
liturgycommittee@stritainthedesert.org

Sign up by September 23.

CHALKBOARD ARTIST NEEDED!

The Vineyard Retreat team is looking for a creative parishioner with chalkboard lettering/art skills to help design our menu board for the Harvest Festival. Interested in sharing your talent?

Contact the St. Rita Guild:
guild@stritainthedesert.org

CAMINANDO CON MARÍA LEGIÓN DE MARÍA

Primer domingo del mes
Después de la Misa de 12 p.m.
Salón Parroquial

Acompáñanos para un refrigerio y una charla sobre la fiesta de nuestra Santísima Virgen María que celebramos este mes.

¡Los esperamos!

BLUE MASS

Tuesday, September 29 • 5:30 PM

St. John XXIII Center

Join us for a special Mass honoring and praying for our **police, fire, and public safety personnel and their families** on the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel.

All are welcome!

WOMEN'S SCRIPTURE STUDY

Wednesdays

9am
Verhagen

For more information:
irenetoews@cox.net



Knights of Columbus®

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: **September 19-20**

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!

CONGRATULATIONS, KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 14230!

St. Rita's **Knights of Columbus Council 14230** has earned the **Star Council Award**, the Knights of Columbus' top international recognition for local councils. The award recognizes excellence in membership, faith formation, fraternal benefits, and charitable service.

Over the past year, our Knights raised **more than \$15,000** in support of local youth, mothers and families, seminarians, and other charitable programs.

Interested in joining the Knights?

Contact Antonio Mejia at

tiger8@icloud.com or

Grand Knight Gary Criscione at

garycriscione52@gmail.com.

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.

TUCSON ROADRUNNERS HOCKEY NIGHT

Saturday, October 3 • 7:00 PM

Tucson Convention Center

Join the Knights of Columbus Council #14230 for the Roadrunners' season opener and

First Responders & Public Safety Night!

Tickets: **\$26** — all fees & tax included.

Net proceeds benefit first responder & public safety charities.

Purchase tickets after Mass at the Knights table in the courtyard. Cash, check, debit & credit accepted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VINE OF GRACE RETREAT MINISTRY

Eucharistic Adoration, Worship & Healing

All men and women throughout the Diocese are invited to an evening of Eucharistic Adoration, worship, and healing on

**Tuesday, September 22, from 6:30–8:30 PM at
St. Joseph Catholic Church
(215 S. Craycroft Rd., Tucson)**

Questions? Call Erin at (520) 631-1408 or visit
vineofgrace.org.



worldwide

marriage encounter

(MT 18) *“Jesus says we must forgive others seventy times seven times.”*

Learn how the gift of forgiveness and healing can strengthen your marriage by going on 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

DISCALCED CARMELITE SECULARS — COME & SEE

Are you seeking a closer relationship with Jesus and a deeper prayer life? The Santa Cruz Community of Secular Discalced Carmelites invites you to learn about the Carmelite way of life and discern whether God may be calling you to this vocation as a lay person.

Visitors are welcome to attend their meetings September 20th.

For information or to reserve a space:
tucson.ocds.m@gmail.com | 520-704-5047

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



CATHOLIC
FOUNDATION
FOR THE DIOCESE OF TUCSON

DRESSING WITH REVERENCE FOR MASS



*All Are
Welcome Here.*

ONE FAITH.
ONE FAMILY.
ALWAYS.

WHAT SHOULD I WEAR TO MASS?

Dress with Reverence. Come Ready to Worship.

When we come to Mass, we enter the presence of Christ and gather to celebrate the Eucharist. Our clothing does not need to be expensive or formal, but it should reflect **modesty, dignity, and respect** for the sacredness of Mass.



APPROPRIATE FOR MASS

Modest • Respectful • Comfortable



- ✓ Clean, neat, and modest clothing
- ✓ Shirts and tops that cover the shoulders
- ✓ Dresses and skirts of modest length
- ✓ Slacks, khakis, jeans, or other neat long pants
- ✓ Modest traditional or cultural attire



PLEASE AVOID

Distracting • Revealing • Not for Mass



- ✗ Shorts
- ✗ Sleeveless, strapless, or spaghetti-strap tops and dresses
- ✗ Low-cut or excessively revealing clothing
- ✗ Beachwear or athletic/recreational attire
- ✗ Clothing with offensive or inappropriate words or images



YES, WE KNOW— IT'S ARIZONA!

Our climate can be hot, but modesty and comfort can go together. Lightweight fabrics, loose-fitting clothing, and breathable materials can help keep us cool while remaining appropriately dressed for Mass.



CHILDREN & TEENS

Parents, please help our young people understand that the way we dress for Mass is one way we show reverence for God, the Eucharist, and the sacred space we share.



A FINAL REMINDER

You don't need expensive or formal clothing to come to Mass.

**Come clean. Come modestly.
Come reverently.
Most of all, come ready
to worship God.**

"Our bodily demeanor (gestures, clothing) ought to convey the respect, solemnity, and joy of this moment when Christ becomes our guest."

— Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1387

GOSPEL MEDITATION

MATTHEW 18:21-35

In this passage, Jesus uses the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant to teach us about the essence of mercy and forgiveness. This powerful story reminds us of the profound debt of sin that we have been forgiven through God's immense mercy. The servant's refusal to forgive a much smaller debt owed to him highlights our human tendency to hold grudges or seek retribution. Jesus challenges us to break this cycle by reflecting God's infinite mercy in how we forgive others. True forgiveness involves letting go of past hurts and choosing to show compassion, allowing love and reconciliation to flourish. As we meditate on this parable, let us open our hearts to the transformative power of forgiving as God forgives us.

Socratic Reflection:

How can recognizing the depth of God's forgiveness inspire you to extend greater mercy and compassion to those who have wronged you?

MATEO 18:21-35

En este pasaje, Jesús utiliza la Parábola del Siervo sin Piedad para enseñarnos sobre la esencia de la misericordia y el perdón. Esta poderosa historia nos recuerda la enorme deuda de pecado que Dios ha perdonado en su inmensa misericordia. La negativa del siervo a perdonar una deuda mucho menor muestra nuestra tendencia humana a guardar rencor o buscar venganza. Jesús nos desafía a romper este ciclo reflejando la misericordia infinita de Dios al perdonar a los demás. El verdadero perdón implica dejar atrás las heridas del pasado y elegir mostrar compasión, permitiendo que el amor y la reconciliación florezcan. Al meditar en esta parábola, abramos nuestros corazones al poder transformador de perdonar como Dios nos perdona.

Pregunta Socrática:

¿Cómo puede el reconocimiento de la profundidad del perdón de Dios inspirarte a extender mayor misericordia y compasión a quienes te han hecho daño?

DID YOU KNOW...

24TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

On September 13, 1814, the Battle of Baltimore during the War of 1812 inspired Francis Scott Key to write a poem that would become "The Star-Spangled Banner." As the British forces attacked Fort McHenry, Key observed the bombardment from a ship in the harbor. Despite the intense conflict, the American flag remained flying over the fort by morning, symbolizing resilience and triumph. Moved by this sight, Key penned a poem titled "Defence of Fort M'Henry," which was later set to music and became the national anthem of the United States.

This historical moment not only marked an American victory in the War of 1812 but also gave birth to a powerful symbol of national pride and unity. The anthem reflects a deep sense of perseverance and hope, echoing themes of courage in the face of adversity.

Consider how the enduring spirit of perseverance celebrated in "The Star-Spangled Banner" can inspire individuals and communities to strive for resilience and unity in the face of challenges today. How can you embody this spirit in your own life and actions?

via truthly app

SAINT SPOTLIGHT



SAINTS CORNELIUS, POPE, AND CYPRIAN, BISHOP

Feast Day: September 16

Patronage:

Saint Cornelius is the patron saint of cattle. Saint Cyprian is the patron saint of North Africa and people with epilepsy.

Story:

Saint Cornelius became the Bishop of Rome (the Pope) in 251 AD, during a time of great turmoil and persecution of Christians. His papacy was marked by controversy over how to deal with Christians who had lapsed in their faith during periods of persecution and later sought reconciliation with the Church. Cornelius upheld the practice of offering forgiveness and allowing re-entrance into the Church after appropriate penance.

Saint Cyprian was the Bishop of Carthage, a prominent theologian, and writer. He supported Pope Cornelius in the debate on how to treat lapsed Christians and emphasized the importance of unity and the Church's authority. Cyprian's writings contributed significantly to early Christian thought and the understanding of ecclesiastical governance and unity.

Both saints were martyred for their faith during the persecutions: Cornelius was exiled and died in 253 AD, while Cyprian was beheaded in the same year.

Legacy:

Saints Cornelius and Cyprian are remembered for their leadership and dedication to Church unity and forgiveness. They faced immense challenges with courage and compassion, offering guidance that reinforced the importance of mercy and reconciliation. Their steadfast faith amid persecution and their commitment to unity in the Church remain influential in Christian theology.

Reflection Question:

How can the examples of Saints Cornelius and Cyprian inspire us to practice forgiveness and seek unity, especially when faced with disagreements or misunderstandings within our communities?

KIDS CORNER



Feast Day: September 16

Who was Saints Cornelius and Cyprian?

Saint Cornelius helps protect cattle, and Saint Cyprian is a special friend to people from North Africa and those with epilepsy.

Their Story: A long time ago, around 251 AD, Saint Cornelius became the Pope, the leader of all the Catholics. During his time, it was very dangerous to be a Christian because many people didn't like them, and they were often in hiding. Some Christians were very scared and stopped going to Church, but they wanted to come back later. Pope Cornelius thought it was important to welcome them back and forgive them after they said sorry.

Saint Cyprian was the Bishop in a place called Carthage. He was like a teacher and wrote many important things about God. He supported Pope Cornelius and agreed with him about forgiving people who made mistakes. Both Cornelius and Cyprian loved the Church a lot and worked hard to keep Christians together and strong. Unfortunately, both of them were very brave and died because of their faith, becoming saints.

His Legacy: Saints Cornelius and Cyprian taught us the importance of being forgiving and staying united as friends and family in faith. Even when times were tough, they cared for their Christian brothers and sisters and did everything they could to help them stick together and love each other as a community.

Question to Think About: When you have a disagreement with a friend, how can you be like Saints Cornelius and Cyprian by forgiving and making up to stay united?

Source: *Truthly App*

SAINTS THIS MONTH

September 1

- [Joshua the Leader \(OT\)](#)

September 2

- [St. Brocard](#)

September 3

- [St. Gregory the Great](#)

September 4

- [Pope St. Boniface I](#)
- [St. Rosalia](#)
- [St. Rose of Viterbo](#)
- [Moses the Legislator and Prophet \(OT\)](#)

September 5

- [St. Teresa of Calcutta](#)

September 6

- [Zechariah the Prophet \(OT\)](#)

September 7

- [St. Regina](#)

September 8

- [The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary](#)

September 9

- [St. Peter Claver](#)

September 10

- [St. Nicholas da Tolentino](#)

September 11

- [Sts. Protus and Hyacinth](#)

September 12

- [The Most Holy Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary](#)

September 13

- [St. John Chrysostom](#)

September 14

- [Exaltation of the Holy Cross](#)

September 15

- [Our Lady of Sorrows](#)
- [St. Nicomedes](#)

September 16

- [Saints Cornelius and Cyprian](#)

September 17

- [St. Robert Bellarmine](#)
- [St. Hildegard of Bingen](#)

September 18

- [St. Joseph of Cupertino](#)

September 19

- [St. Januarius](#)

September 20

- [St. Andrew Kim Taegon, St. Paul Chong Hasang, and companions, Korean martyrs](#)

September 21

- [St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist](#)
- [Jonah the Prophet \(OT\)](#)

September 22

- [Sts. Maurice and the Theban Legion](#)

September 23

- [Saint Pius of Pietrelcina \(Padre Pio\)](#)
- [Pope St. Linus](#)
- [Sts. Zachary and Elizabeth](#) – or November 5

September 24

- [St. Pacifico of San Severino](#)

September 25

- [St. Fermin](#) – or July 7

September 26

- [Sts. Cosmas and Damian](#)
- [Gideon the Judge \(OT\)](#)

September 27

- [St. Vincent de Paul](#)

September 28

- [St. Lawrence Ruiz and companions](#)
- [St. Wenceslaus](#)
- [Our Lady Undoer of Knots](#)

September 29

- [Sts. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels \(FEAST\)](#)

September 30

- [St. Jerome](#)

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



Build Something They'll Remember

Choose One Experience. Make a Difference.

Our Harvest Festival is returning with a new vision—and a new way of serving.

We've listened to the feedback from past festivals. Instead of asking a few volunteers to carry the entire festival, we're inviting many parishioners to help create **one unforgettable experience**.

Choose One Experience. Join One Team. Help Build Something They'll Remember.

Children's Village - Confirmation

Magical fun for our youngest guests.

- Games
- Pumpkin Patch
- Prizes
- Family Activities

Hospitality - Welcome Team

Welcome every guest with a smile.

- Information
- Guest Welcome
- Volunteer Check-In
- Floater

Creative Corner - Confirmation

Hands-on fun for all ages.

- Face Painting
- Hair Tinsel
- Henna
- Crafts

Harvest Market - Altar Society

Support our vendors and artisans.

- Vendor Check-In
- Hospitality
- Market Support

Vineyard Retreat - Guild

Create a relaxing gathering space.

- Hospitality
- Décor
- Guest Experience

Harvest Beer Garden - Knights

Help serve our adult guests.

- Hospitality
- Entry
- Setup
- Cleanup

Main Stage - Liturgical Ministry

Keep the entertainment running smoothly.

- Performer Hospitality
- Stage Crew
- Seating
- Setup

Glow Garden - Marian Garden Chair

Help create the festival's evening magic.

- Lighting & Décor
- Lanterns
- Guest Experience

Logistics & Setup - Facilities

The team behind the scenes.

- Tents
- Tables & Chairs
- Signage
- Site Setup/Teardown
- Cleanup

There Is a Place for You.

Whether you have an hour, a weekend, or a special talent to share, we'd love to welcome you to the Harvest Festival Team.

Help us build something our parish—and our community—will remember.

One Experience. One Team. One Amazing Festival.

Click [HERE](#) to Learn
More About the Harvest
Festival Team



See the Vision

Each experience is planned and led by its own dedicated volunteer team.



- Children's Village
- Creative Corner
- Harvest Hall

- 🎵 Main Stage
- 🤝 Entry | Hospitality

- Harvest Market
- 🌟 Glow Garden

- 🍷 Vineyard Retreat
- 🍺 Beer Garden

Your Parish. Reimagined.

Imagine helping bring this vision to life.