

December 14, 2025



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

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

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-1:00 pm

Office closed

*12:00 pm—1:00 pm
daily*

ADORATION

FRIDAY | Viernes

8:30 am—9:30 am

In the church or by
appointment

En la iglesia o por cita

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*"Are you the one who is to come, or
should we look for another?" (Matthew
11:3)*

*"¿Eres tú el que ha de venir, o debemos
esperar a otro?" (Mateo 11:3)*

Reflection:

As we journey through Advent, John the Baptist's question invites us to reflect on our own expectations of Jesus. Are we open to recognizing Him as the true Messiah, or are we distracted by worldly desires? This Sunday calls us to embrace the joy and hope that come from a deepened relationship with Christ, who is indeed the One who fulfills all our hearts' longings.

Socratic Question:

How are you preparing your heart this Advent to recognize and welcome Jesus as the Messiah in your life?

Reflexión:

A medida que avanzamos en el Adviento, la pregunta de Juan el Bautista nos invita a reflexionar sobre nuestras propias expectativas de Jesús. ¿Estamos abiertos a reconocerlo como el verdadero Mesías, o nos distraen los deseos mundanos? Este domingo nos llama a abrazar la alegría y la esperanza que provienen de una relación más profunda con Cristo, quien es realmente el que cumple todos los anhelos de nuestros corazones.

Pregunta socrática:

¿Cómo estás preparando tu corazón este Adviento para reconocer y acoger a Jesús como el Mesías en tu vida?

Source: Truthly App

PARISH INFORMATION

COLLECTIONS | COLECTA



November 30, 2025

Offertory: \$6,940.00
Rectory Debt: \$1,727.00

Thank you for your support.
God bless you!

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

ST. RITA STAFF

(520) 762-9688

Administrative Assistant:
adminassist@stritainthedesert.org

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rob@stritainthedesert.org

Rob King

Maintenance:

Bill Cline

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 or click **HERE**.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STAFF

Director of Religious Education: Geraldine Durman
dre@stritainthedesert.org

Youth Ministry:
msyouth@stritainthedesert.org
hsyouth@stritainthedesert.org

Carolyn Reynolds

OCIA Coordinator:
ocia@stritainthedesert.org

Michelle Quinn Crowley

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Nancy Campman Crofts

Catholic Brotherhood Group:
jkahle25@gmail.com

Jayme Kahle

Women's Bible Study:
irenetoews@cox.net

Irene Toews

Guild of St. Rita:
guild@stritainthedesert.org



ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

- Fridays following 8am Mass for 1hr
- 1st Sunday of each month at 2:30-3:30pm in the John XXIII for 1hr



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

December 14, 2025

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor." (Luke 4:18)

Dear Parish Family and Friends,

Being prophetic in a time and place where you see the world around you falling apart is no easy task. Both the prophet Isaiah and John the Baptist, in their own times, faced an uphill battle with the hardness of heart of the people of Israel and never really saw the consolation the Lord promised. Moreover, both prophets were living in a time of corruption, hypocrisy, injustice, and sexual excess that corrupted the Nation of Israel to its core. As a result, they were divided and conquered and lost all hope.

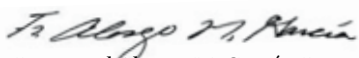
However, the prophets always pointed towards their consolation in some future time. For the prophet to believe this, they had to not only have a deep relationship with our Lord but also had to take a leap of faith to accept whatever comes from their preaching, good, bad, or indifferent. The prophet Isaiah never lived to see the birth of the Messiah, and John the Baptist needed assurances that Jesus was the foretold Messiah in Isaiah's prophetic words.

Despite the wars, injustices, malice, and evil we see all around us, we rejoice, for while we did not live in the days of the prophets, we can, in fact, see the fruits of their faith and their preaching. As we celebrate "Gaudete Sunday," we take some consolation in the fact that no matter how dark the human heart grows, or how far we are from God, He never gives up on us and is constantly seeking us out in the cold, desolate wastelands of life. Therefore, let us rejoice and be glad, for this is the day the Lord has made and it is a marvel in our eyes!

As you can see, our parish Shrine and Center look very lovely this time of year, and I would like to acknowledge our parish Altar Society and our parish Knights of Columbus Council. They have been diligent in decorating to prepare us for the Season of Christmas. If you haven't noticed, we put some lights around our Shrine and placed some Christmas lights along the fence. The Shrine looks sharp against the backdrop of the night's darkness. We also want to thank the Reynolds family for putting up our Advent wreath. It is a joy to have so many involved in helping make our parish look festive and bright.

Lastly, I apologize for not getting the required financials to you in November. I admit I thought I had enough time, and bam, I ran out of time. However, the report is for your purposes and transparency, to inform you about where your generous donations help support the Mission of our parish family. I am ever grateful and humbled to be a member of such a generous community as St. Rita in the Desert! Thank you for all you do to help us make St. Rita's the best it can be! May the Lord richly bless you for all your support and prayers!

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Reverend Alonzo M. García, Pastor

14 de diciembre de 2025

"El Espíritu del Señor está sobre mí. Me ha enviado para anunciar la buena nueva a los pobres." (Lucas 4, 18)

Querida familia y amigos de la parroquia:

Ser profeta en un tiempo como el nuestro, cuando todo a nuestro alrededor parece desmoronarse, no es nada sencillo. Tanto el profeta Isaías como Juan el Bautista tuvieron que enfrentarse, en su momento, a la dureza de corazón del pueblo de Israel, y ninguno de los dos llegó a ver la consolación que Dios había prometido. Además, vivían rodeados de corrupción, hipocresía, injusticias y excesos, fenómenos que habían afectado profundamente a la nación. Por eso terminaron divididos, conquistados y sin esperanza.

Aun así, los profetas nunca dejaron de señalar hacia la esperanza futura. Para creer en esa promesa, ellos necesitaban una relación muy profunda con Dios y, además, dar un verdadero salto de fe, aceptando lo que viniera como resultado de su misión: que fuera bueno, difícil o indiferente. Isaías no llegó a ver el nacimiento del Mesías y Juan el Bautista necesitó la confirmación de que Jesús era, de verdad, el Mesías anunciado por Isaías.

Y aunque hoy vemos guerras, injusticias, maldad y tantas situaciones dolorosas, nosotros sí podemos alegrarnos, porque, aunque no vivimos en tiempos de los profetas, sí vemos los frutos de su fe y de su predicación. En este "Domingo de Gaudete", recordamos que, por más oscuro que se ponga el mundo o el corazón humano, Dios nunca se da por vencido con nosotros. Él siempre nos busca, incluso en los desiertos fríos y difíciles de la vida. Así que alegrémonos y demos gracias, porque este es el día que hizo el Señor y es una maravilla para nosotros.

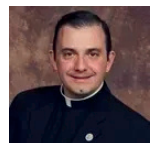
Como se habrán dado cuenta, nuestro Santuario y Centro parroquial están muy bonitos en esta temporada, y quiero agradecer de corazón a la Sociedad del Altar y a nuestro Consejo de Caballeros de Colón. Ellos se han encargado de decorar y de prepararnos para la Navidad. Si no lo han visto, pusimos luces alrededor del Santuario y en la cerca. De noche se ve precioso. También agradecemos a la familia Reynolds por montar nuestra Corona de Adviento. Es una alegría ver a tantas personas ayudando para que nuestra parroquia se vea festiva y llena de luz.

Por último, les ofrezco una disculpa por no haberles entregado los reportes financieros en noviembre. La verdad pensé que tenía tiempo suficiente y se me vino encima. Pero este informe es para ustedes, para que tengan claridad sobre cómo sus generosas ofrendas contribuyen a sostener la misión de nuestra parroquia. Me siento muy agradecido y bendecido por formar parte de una comunidad tan generosa como Santa Rita en el Desierto. ¡Gracias por todo lo que hacen para que nuestra parroquia siga creciendo y mejorando! Que el Señor los bendiga abundantemente por todo su apoyo y sus oraciones.

Sinceramente Suyos en Cristo,



Reverendo Alonzo M. García, Pastor



GOSPEL MEDITATION

IN THE GOSPEL PASSAGE...

In this Gospel passage, John the Baptist sends his disciples to ask Jesus if He is the one they have been waiting for. Despite his imprisonment, John continues his mission, pointing others to Christ. Jesus responds by pointing to His works, which fulfill the prophecies of healing and liberation. As modern-day disciples, we are called to recognize the presence of Jesus in our lives and the world around us. Are we able to see the signs of His love and mercy, or do we let doubt overshadow our faith? This Advent, let us renew our commitment to seeking Christ and trusting in His promise of salvation.

Reflection Question:

In what ways can you become more attuned to recognizing the signs of Jesus' presence in your daily life during this Advent season?

EN ESTE PASAJE DEL EVANGELIO,

En este pasaje del Evangelio, Juan el Bautista envía a sus discípulos para preguntar a Jesús si Él es a quien han estado esperando. A pesar de su encarcelamiento, Juan continúa su misión señalando a otros hacia Cristo. Jesús responde señalando Sus obras, que cumplen las profecías de sanación y liberación. Como discípulos modernos, estamos llamados a reconocer la presencia de Jesús en nuestras vidas y en el mundo que nos rodea. ¿Podemos ver las señales de Su amor y misericordia, o dejamos que la duda opaque nuestra fe? Este Adviento, renovemos nuestro compromiso en buscar a Cristo y confiar en Su promesa de salvación.

Pregunta de reflexión:

¿De qué maneras puedes estar más atento para reconocer las señales de la presencia de Jesús en tu vida diaria durante esta temporada de Adviento?

DID YOU KNOW....

DECEMBER 14TH IS...

The Third Sunday of Advent is traditionally known as "Gaudete Sunday." The name "Gaudete" comes from the Latin word for "rejoice," which is the first word of the entrance antiphon for the Mass of this day: "Gaudete in Domino semper" ("Rejoice in the Lord always"). This Sunday marks a shift in the Advent season from a more penitential mood to one of joy and anticipation of the Lord's coming.

A fascinating aspect of Gaudete Sunday is the use of rose-colored vestments, a deviation from the usual violet of Advent. This color symbolizes joy and represents a lightening of the mood, as Christmas draws nearer. It signifies that the time of preparation is more than halfway through and encourages the faithful to rejoice and have hope in the coming of the Lord.

Historically, this day has been associated with a sense of community and festivity within the Church, where the faithful would take a momentary break from penitential practices to celebrate the joy of the coming Savior. It serves as a reminder that, amidst the waiting and preparation, the promise of Christ's light and love is ever-present.

Did you know that Pope Leo I (c. 400–461) is credited with instituting the Advent season with its current form during his papacy? By emphasizing the joyful anticipation of this Sunday, the Church encourages all to focus on the hope and light that Jesus brings into the world.

Source: *Truthly App*

WEEKLY CALENDAR, INTENTIONS, OBSERVATIONS & READINGS

MASS INTENTIONS INTENCIONES DE MISA

Sunday December 14

8:00 am

Living & Deceased of
Matturro & Morgan Families

10:00 am

†Otto Teiken

12:00 pm

Living & Deceased of St. Rita

Monday December 15

8:00 am

SI Mary Schmidt

Tuesday December 16

8:00 am

St. Rita

Wednesday December 17

8:00 am

†Benard & Olga Poluga

†Tim Hester

Thursday December 18

8:00 am

†Jack & Robert Solorzano

Friday December 19

8:00 am

†Ina Beal

Saturday December 20

5:00 pm

†Joseph & Josephine Ragucci

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

Sunday, December 14

3rd Sunday of Advent

Saint John of the Cross

8:00 am - Mass (English)

10:00 am - Mass (English)

12:00 noon - Mass (Spanish)

Monday, December 15

St. Valerian of Africa

8:00 am Mass (English)

8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

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

Tuesday, December 16

Haggai the Prophet (OT) & St. Adelaide

8:00 am Mass (English)

8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

Wednesday, December 17

Daniel the Prophet (OT)

8:00 am - Mass (English)

8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

Thursday, December 18

Malachi the Prophet (OT)

8:00 am Mass

8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

Friday, December 19

Pope St. Anastasius

8:00 am Mass

8:30 am Eucharist Adoration

Saturday, December 20

St. Philogonius of Antioch

5:00 pm - Mass (English)

READINGS & OBSERVANCES

FIRST READING:

"The desert and the parched land
will exult; the steppe will rejoice
and bloom." (Is 35:1)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

"The Lord gives sight to the blind;
the Lord raises up those who were
bowed down." (Ps 146:8)

SECOND READING:

"Be patient, brothers and sisters,
until the coming of the Lord." (Jas
5:7)

GOSPEL:

"Are you the one who is to come,
or should we look for another?"
(Mt 11:3)

Sunday, December 14

3rd Sunday of Advent

- **Saint John of the Cross**

Is 35:1-6a, 10 | Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10
| Jas 5:7-10 | Mt 11:2-11

Monday, December 15

- **St. Valerian of Africa**

Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a | Ps 25:4-5ab, 6
and 7bc, 8-9 | Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday, December 16

- **Haggai the Prophet (OT)**
- **St. Adelaide**

Zep 3:1-2, 9-13 | Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-
18, 19 and 23 | Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday, December 17

- **Daniel the Prophet (OT)**

Gn 49:2, 8-10 | Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8,
17 | Mt 1:1-17

Thursday, December 18

- **Malachi the Prophet (OT)**

Jer 23:5-8 | Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 |
Mt 1:18-25

Friday, December 19

- **Pope St. Anastasius**

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a | Ps 71:3-4a, 5-
6ab, 16-17 | Lk 1:5-25

Saturday, December 20

- **St. Philogonius of Antioch**

Is 7:10-14 | Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 | Lk
1:26-38

• *DIGITAL Users - Click on the Saint
above to learn more!*



DIOCESE OF TUCSON NEW OUTLOOK

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

HOW TO REPORT ABUSE



- Call **911** to make a police report.
- If the abuse happened in another state, call the Police or Sheriff's Office in the specific state.
- Call the Victim Assistance Program of the Diocese of Tucson at: 1(800)234-0344 and/or
- The Office of Child, Adolescent and Adult Protection at (520)838-2513.

HELPFUL WEBSITES

Diocese of Tucson:

<https://www.diocesetucson.org>

The New Outlook:

<https://news.diocesetucson.org>

News from the Vatican:

www.vaticannews.va

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops:

www.usccb.org

Office of Vocations:

<https://diocesetucson.org/vocations>

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- Click on **CONTINUE TO SIGN UP/LOGIN**
- Enter your email
- In “Join your Parish” enter **ST. RITA IN THE DESERT**
- Click **NEXT**
- Complete your information



Community Rewards Program

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

- Go to www.frysfood.com
- Select **Sign In** and sign in to your online account
- Click on **My Account**
- Select **Community Rewards**
- Click **Enroll Now**
- In the “Find an Organization” box, enter **St. Rita in the Desert**
- Click **Enroll**

PARISH MINISTRIES

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Altar Boys

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. We would love to have you. Every **2nd Tuesday of the month** at **2pm** in the parish hall.

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: Tues at 5 pm
Children's choir: Wed at 4 pm
Spanish choir: Thur 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! 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 (915) 539-0985

EXTERNAL MINISTRIES



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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) 501-1386

MARIAN BOOK CLUB

Every Thursday
4:30-6pm
Oscar Romero

All are welcome to join!

PARISH NEWS



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

ADVENT FOOD DRIVE

We invite you to bring non-perishable food donations to the narthex throughout Advent. Focus items this year include: Spaghetti sauce & noodles, spaghetti-O's, Canned fruit, chili, beef stew, beef soups and instant mashed potatoes.

We will also be supporting Vail Food Bank's weekend backpack program and are in need of individually wrapped snack cakes (Little Debbie or similar)

MUSIC MINISTRY

NATIVITY BLESSING AND CHRISTMAS CONCERT

December 19 at 6 pm.

The Manger's Miracle

Pope St. John XXIII Center
Reception to follow in the Hall

JOIN US!

MEMORIAL SERVICE - TED GOLEMBIEWSKI

*December 30th
10am in St. Rita Shrine*

You may remember him as Santa Claus at the Children's Christmas Eve Mass, as a dedicated volunteer at the yearly Festivals, as a volunteer at the Thanksgiving and Christmas food collections, or as a faithful Eucharistic Minister. In whatever capacity you knew him, you are welcome to join us in celebrating the life of this remarkable man. Thank you.

Valerie Golembiewski & family



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Green Angel Tree Envelopes due today.

DO YOU PAY ARIZONA STATE TAXES? Would you like your taxes to help those in your community? You may receive a tax credit that is deducted from your taxable income by donating to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. If you file singly, you may donate any amount up to \$495. If filing married, you may donate any amount up to \$987. This same amount may also be donated to the school system. By January 31, 2026 you will receive a letter from our treasurer stating the amount you donated and the tax credit code needed to file correctly.

May God bless you for your generosity.

ST. RITA CHRISTMAS MARKET

Dec 20th & 21st

After each of the mass

Come to see if you can find that special last minute Christmas gift!

WELCOME SUNDAY

December 14th

After 8:00 am & 10:00 am Mass

Join us for Pastries &
Coffee in the Hall.

MEN'S GROUP

Mondays

6:00 pm

Oscar Romero Room

“Culture of Invitation” Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly



Knights of
Columbus®

JOIN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

FAITH • FAMILY • FRATERNITY • SERVICE

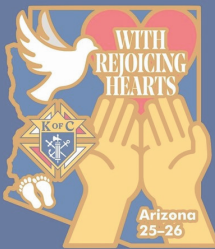
The Knights of Columbus is more than just a men's group.
We are a brotherhood of Catholic men committed to:

- Deepening faith through prayer, devotion and service.
- Supporting families and building community
- Defending life from conception through natural death
- Serving the Church and those in need

Be the man who invites.

Be the man who **answers**.

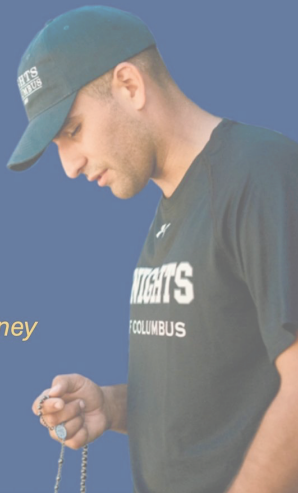
Become a Knight of Columbus!



Join us today!

www.kofc.org/join

Promo Code: **BlessedMcGivney**



Knights of
Columbus®

ANNUAL ART CONTEST

Art can be done at home or school

Judging will commence **December 21** at 11:29 a.m.
sharp at the Pancake Breakfast.

You must bring your art to Parish Hall 12/21
(Please bring no art before 0800 12/21 in Hall)
No Entry Fee, all welcome
three great FIRST place prizes!

Theme: **Christ is Christmas**

Best in Theme: Grade School (11"x17" poster)
Best in Theme: High School (11"x17" poster)
Best in Theme: Adult (Any Medium)

Visit stritainthedesert.org for details

TUCSON ROADRUNNERS

STAR WARS NIGHT

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31 @ 7:00 PM

The Tucson Roadrunners hockey team is partnering with the Knights of Columbus for a special fundraising night - Star Wars Night! This is typically one of the best attended games as many get dressed up as Star Wars characters for a fun evening.

Our St. Rita Knights are participating in this special event and have decided they will be donating all proceeds from the tickets sales to the Team AZ Special Olympics softball team. St. Rita has a Special Olympian who was selected to be on the team going to the US National games June 2026 in Minneapolis.

Our goal is to raise \$1,000 to help cover costs so these athletes can compete next year. There are tickets available in section 213 which is behind the goal. These tickets normally cost \$42.65 with all the taxes and fees.

The Knights can sell them to you for only \$25 which is over \$17 in savings. It's almost like BOGO (buy one, get one).

If you can't go but want to help, you can purchase a ticket and the Knights will be sure to provide it to the local S/O group so an athlete who can't afford it can attend the game.

If you have any questions, talk to any member of the St Rita Knights. You can call Wayne Glembin at (520) 449-7115 or email: gkcouncil14230@gmail.com.



Knights of
Columbus®

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Lady of the Sierras Shrine Annual Christmas Rosary & Mass

Friday, December 19, 2025

Location: La Purisima Retreat and Pilgrimage
Cntr, 10301 S. Stone Ridge, Hereford, AZ 85615

Reservations required, limited seating.

Contact Monica at (520) 378-2950 or email:

office@ourladyofthesierras.org

Confessions: 6-7 pm

Rosary starts at 7:15 pm

followed by Holy Mass



★ RAFFLE FUNDRAISER ★ FOR SAN XAVIER MISSION RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

The SXM Religious Education Office received the donation of an Alan Marden framed print (pictured above) of the San Xavier Mission; #555/1,000.

Raffle tickets are on sale beginning October 13, and are available through the SXM Religious Education Office. Please call (520) 294-4639.

TICKET /\$10

DRAWING WILL OCCUR ON DECEMBER 21, AFTER THE 10 AM MASS | WINNERS NEED NOT BE PRESENT.



2026 CATHOLIC YOUNG WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Attend the GIVEN Forum
June 24-28, 2026 | Washington, DC

Receive a Mentor
1 year of dedicated, 1-on-1 mentorship

Launch an Action Plan
Discover and activate your gifts!

APPLY TODAY

[GIVENINSTITUTE.COM/LEADERSHIP-PROGRAM](https://giveninstitute.com/leadership-program)



RECEIVE THE GIFT THAT YOU ARE | REALIZE THE GIFTS YOU'VE BEEN GIVEN | RESPOND WITH THE GIFT ONLY YOU CAN GIVE

Catholic women (ages 21-35) are invited to...

APPLY TODAY!

giveninstitute.com/leadership-program

LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

GIVEN FORUM SPEAKERS



8 DAYS PILGRIMAGE TO MEXICO CITY

May 1 – 8, 2026

Visiting: Mexico City • Our Lady of Guadalupe
Puebla – Teotihuacan – Ocotlan – Taxco
Tlaxcala (the Lourdes of Mexico)

Cost: \$2699.

Guarantee your seat by January 20, 2026

For more information call 520.631.1408 or
visit: vineofgrace.org for brochure

LAST INFORMATION MEETING

Saint Joseph Church – Parish Office

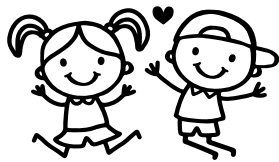
215 South Craycroft – Tucson

Sunday January 11, 2026 at 1:30 pm

SAINT SPOTLIGHT



KIDS CORNER



ST. PHILOGONIUS OF ANTIOCH

Feast Day: December 20th

Who was he?

St. Philogonius was a special friend of Jesus who lived a long time ago, around the year 300. He was a bishop, which is like being a really important teacher in the Church. He helped lead the Church in a town called Antioch, which was big and important back then!

What did he do?

St. Philogonius was known for being very smart and brave. He spent a lot of time teaching people about Jesus and making sure that everyone learned the right things about Him. Some people were confused about who Jesus was, but St. Philogonius helped clear things up, like when you solve a tricky puzzle!

Why is he special?

Even when things got tough and some people didn't agree with him, St. Philogonius stood up for what is true, just like a superhero stands up for what is right. He loved Jesus very much and showed others how to love and follow Him too.

Something to think about: St. Philogonius teaches us to be brave and strong in our faith. Remember, we can make a big difference by standing up for what is true and loving others just like Jesus does.

Question to ponder: How can you be brave like St. Philogonius and stand up for what you believe in?

ST. PHILOGONIUS OF ANTIOCH

Feast Day:

St. Philogonius of Antioch is commemorated on December 20th.

Patronage:

While specific patronage is not commonly attributed to St. Philogonius, he is revered as a model of pastoral care and a defender of orthodox faith.

Impact on the Church:

St. Philogonius was the bishop of Antioch during the early 4th century, a time marked by the Arian controversy. As a staunch defender of the Nicene Creed, he played a key role in upholding the orthodox teachings of the Church against Arianism, which denied the divinity of Christ.

Legacy:

Known for his eloquence and pastoral dedication, St. Philogonius' legacy is one of integrity and courage in the face of theological disputes. His leadership helped guide the Church of Antioch through challenging times, fostering unity and doctrinal clarity.

Reflection:

The life of St. Philogonius reminds us of the importance of steadfast faith and commitment to truth. In our own lives, let us strive to uphold and witness to the teachings of Christ with courage and compassion, seeking to bring peace and unity within our communities.



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: _____



Note: The Bulletin is printed for Sunday-Saturday
Mass intentions for Saturday are found accordingly.
Questions? email: bulletin@stritainthedesert.org