

February 15, 2026



# ST. RITA IN THE DESERT

*Catholic Church*

## 6TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

*"Let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes,' and your 'No' mean 'No.'" (Matthew 5:37)*

*"Que tu 'Sí' sea 'Sí' y tu 'No' sea 'No.'" (Mateo 5:37)*

### Reflection:

In this passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus emphasizes the importance of sincerity and integrity in our words and actions. We are called to be truthful and straightforward, avoiding deception and duplicity. When our yes is truly yes, and our no is truly no, we reflect God's truth in our lives, building trust and authenticity in our relationships. As followers of Christ, let us strive to communicate honestly and live with integrity, ensuring our commitments are a reflection of our faith.

### Socratic Question:

How can you practice honesty and integrity in your daily conversations with others?

### Reflexión:

En este pasaje del Sermón de la Montaña, Jesús enfatiza la importancia de la sinceridad e integridad en nuestras palabras y acciones. Estamos llamados a ser veraces y directos, evitando el engaño y la duplicidad. Cuando nuestro sí es verdaderamente sí, y nuestro no es verdaderamente no, reflejamos la verdad de Dios en nuestras vidas, construyendo confianza y autenticidad en nuestras relaciones. Como seguidores de Cristo, esforcémonos por comunicar con honestidad y vivir con integridad, asegurando que nuestros compromisos sean un reflejo de nuestra fe.

### Pregunta socrática:

¿Cómo puedes practicar la honestidad e integridad en tus conversaciones diarias con los demás?

Source: *Truthly App*

## CLERGY

### Pastor:

Rev. Alonzo Garcia  
[fralonzo@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:fralonzo@stritainthedesert.org)

### Deacon:

Ron Desmarais  
[deaconron@stritainthedesert.org](mailto: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

## ADORATION

**FRIDAY** | Viernes

8:30 am—9:30 am

In the church or by  
appointment

*En la iglesia o por cita*



## PARISH OFFICE

*Horario de Oficina*

**MONDAY-  
WEDNESDAY** | De

Lunes a Miércoles

8:30 am—4:00 pm

**THURSDAY** | Jueves

8:00 am—2:00 pm

**FRIDAY** | Viernes

9:00 am—1:00pm

*Office closed  
12pm—1pm daily*

## PARISH INFORMATION

### COLLECTIONS | COLECTA



February 08, 2026

Offertory: \$5,887.15  
Debt Reduction: \$1,312.67

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:** Chris Metzger  
[adminassist@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:adminassist@stritainthedesert.org)

**Secretary:** Veronica Garcia  
[secretary@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:secretary@stritainthedesert.org)

**Business Manager:** Louise Azzopardi  
[businessmgr@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:businessmgr@stritainthedesert.org)

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[compliance@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:compliance@stritainthedesert.org)

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[bulletin@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:bulletin@stritainthedesert.org)

**Facilities Manager:** Rob King  
[rob@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:rob@stritainthedesert.org)

**Maintenance:** Bill Cline

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STAFF

**Director of Religious Education:** Geraldine Durman  
[dre@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:dre@stritainthedesert.org)

**Youth Ministry:** Carolyn Reynolds  
[msyouth@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:msyouth@stritainthedesert.org)  
[hsyouth@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:hsyouth@stritainthedesert.org)

**OCIA Coordinator:** Michelle Quinn Crowley  
[ocia@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:ocia@stritainthedesert.org)

### ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

**Music Ministry:** Nancy Campman Crofts  
[music@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:music@stritainthedesert.org)

**Catholic Brotherhood Group:** Jayme Kahle  
[jkahle25@gmail.com](mailto:jkahle25@gmail.com)

**Women's Bible Study:** Irene Toews  
[irenetoews@cox.net](mailto:irenetoews@cox.net)

**Guild of St. Rita:**  
[guild@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:guild@stritainthedesert.org)

### BULLETIN DEADLINE & QUESTIONS

Email bulletin request(s) to:

[bulletin@stritainthedesert.org](mailto: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 inquire **HERE**.



#### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

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



#### ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Every 1<sup>st</sup> Friday at 8am Mass

#### BAPTISMS

Visit [stritainthedesert.org](http://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

February 15, 2026

*“Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord!” (Psalm 119:1)*

Dear Parish Family and Friends,

The readings for the sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time invite us to reflect on the distinction between Divine Law—God’s unchanging commands guiding our relationship with Him—and Moral Law, which shapes our actions toward others through human reason and conscience. In recent decades, popular images of Jesus have at times oversimplified these concepts. When people depict Jesus and His teachings in ways that make His message seem easily adaptable to contemporary life, we may be tempted to overlook the depth and demands of the Gospel. However, such portrayals can distract us from the essence of His mission. Jesus came to fulfill the law and the prophets. He dedicated Himself to saving souls and leading them to the Father. As disciples, we ought to study His words and intentionally align our lives and choices with His teachings. Otherwise, the faith we profess can become merely surface-level interpretation lacking depth for His mission.

In contemporary society, outward displays of ethical or moral behavior can sometimes conceal inner corruption and malice. This contrast between visible morality and hidden wrongdoing, sometimes termed “pharisaic faith,” arises when external religiosity masks the absence of genuine inner transformation. Jesus calls us to move beyond appearances and embrace internal change if we are to be His disciples and share the Good News universally. Upon honest reflection, we recognize that we cannot achieve sainthood, morality, or ethical living on our own. We require the gifts and wisdom of the Holy Spirit. Let us actively seek this inner transformation, committing ourselves daily to reflect God’s love and presence authentically to those around us.

In a world often marked by conflict, confusion, and moral struggle, imagine sitting at the breakfast table. Your eyes rest on a headline in the newspaper that starkly reads of yet another conflict tearing lives apart. Amidst the clatter of dishes and the strains of family conversation, the world's turmoil feels more personal. This everyday scene prompts a deeper question: Are we dependent upon the power of Jesus' love and open to His Holy Spirit in our lives? When we look at our failings as the Body of Christ, we realize we have fallen short. Recognizing that we share in the brokenness of our world, can we choose to consciously and intentionally follow Jesus? We are not left to our own fallen human devices. Christ's love is our only salvation!

Our Lenten Season will begin soon, and now is the time for us to actively begin our Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Let us commit together to embracing these practices wholeheartedly as we prepare our hearts for Easter. On Ash Wednesday, we will have two Masses at 8:00am, one in the shrine and the other in the St. John XXIII Center. At 5:00pm, we will have Masses in the Shrine and the Center. Our last Mass of the day will be at 7:00pm in Spanish at the Center. As a note to parishioners, ashes will be distributed during the Masses. We invite you to join us in celebrating this opportunity to encounter Jesus Christ anew.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Reverend Alonzo M. García, Pastor



## OFICINA DE PASTOR

15 de febrero de 2026

***“Dichoso el que cumple la voluntad del Señor.” (Salmo 118:1)***

Estimada familia parroquial y amigos:

Las lecturas del Sexto Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario nos invitan a reflexionar sobre la diferencia entre la Ley Divina —los mandamientos inmutables de Dios que guían nuestra relación con Él— y la Ley Moral, que orienta nuestras acciones hacia los demás por medio de la razón y la conciencia. En las últimas décadas, algunas imágenes populares de Jesús han simplificado en exceso estos conceptos. Cuando presentamos a Jesús y sus enseñanzas como algo que puede adaptarse fácilmente a la mentalidad moderna, corremos el riesgo de perder de vista la profundidad y las exigencias del Evangelio. Sin embargo, esas interpretaciones pueden distraernos de la esencia de su misión. Jesús vino a dar cumplimiento a la ley y a los profetas. Se entregó por completo para salvar almas y conducirlos al Padre. Como discípulos, estamos llamados a estudiar sus palabras y a alinear intencionalmente nuestras vidas y decisiones con sus enseñanzas. De lo contrario, la fe que profesamos puede quedarse en lo superficial, sin la profundidad que su misión requiere.

En la sociedad actual, las apariencias de conducta ética o moral a veces pueden ocultar luchas internas y debilidades. Este contraste entre una moral visible y una realidad interior distinta — lo que a veces se llama una fe “farisaica”— surge cuando la religiosidad externa no va acompañada de una verdadera transformación del corazón. Jesús nos llama a ir más allá de las apariencias y a permitir un cambio interior real si queremos ser sus discípulos y anunciar la Buena Nueva. Con una reflexión sincera, reconocemos que no podemos alcanzar la santidad ni vivir una vida moral auténtica por nuestras propias fuerzas. Necesitamos los dones y la sabiduría del Espíritu Santo. Busquemos activamente esa transformación interior, comprometiéndonos cada día a reflejar de manera auténtica el amor y la presencia de Dios ante los demás.

En un mundo marcado con frecuencia por el conflicto, la confusión y las luchas morales, imaginemos que estamos sentados a la mesa del desayuno y leemos un titular más sobre un nuevo conflicto que destruye vidas. Entre el ruido cotidiano del hogar, los problemas del mundo se sienten más cercanos y personales. Ese momento nos lleva a preguntarnos: ¿Dependemos verdaderamente del poder del amor de Jesús? ¿Estamos abiertos a la acción de su Espíritu Santo en nuestras vidas? Al mirar nuestras fallas como Cuerpo de Cristo, reconocemos que hemos quedado cortos. Al mismo tiempo, reconocemos que compartimos la fragilidad y las heridas de nuestro mundo. Pero no estamos abandonados a nuestras propias fuerzas. ¡El amor de Cristo es nuestra salvación!

Nuestro tiempo de Cuaresma comenzará pronto y ahora es el momento de iniciar, con mayor intención, nuestras prácticas cuaresmales de oración, ayuno y limosna. Comprometámonos juntos a vivirlas con generosidad mientras preparamos nuestro corazón para la Pascua.

El Miércoles de Ceniza tendremos dos Misas a las 8:00am, una en el Santuario y otra en el Centro San Juan XXIII. A las 5:00pm también habrá Misa en el Santuario y en el Centro. Nuestra última Misa del día será a las 7:00 pm, en español, en el Centro. Las cenizas se distribuirán durante las Misas. Los invitamos a acompañarnos en este inicio sagrado de la Cuaresma y a encontrarnos nuevamente con Jesucristo.

Sinceramente en Cristo,



Reverendo Alonzo M. García, Pastor



## GOSPEL MEDITATION

### IN THE MATTHEW 5:17-37,

In this part of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches us that He came not to abolish the law, but to fulfill it. He explains that true righteousness goes beyond mere external actions. Instead, it involves a sincere transformation of the heart. Jesus invites us to consider the deeper meaning of the commandments, calling us to live with genuine love and integrity. He emphasizes that our words and actions should align with the love and truth of God. By letting our "Yes" mean "Yes" and our "No" mean "No," we cultivate a life rooted in honesty and authenticity, reflecting God's goodness to all those we meet.

#### **Reflection Question:**

How can you ensure that your daily choices reflect the genuine love and integrity that Jesus calls us to live by?

### EN MATEO 5:17-37,

En esta parte del Sermón de la Montaña, Jesús nos enseña que Él vino no para abolir la ley, sino para cumplirla. Nos explica que la verdadera justicia va más allá de las acciones externas. En cambio, implica una transformación sincera del corazón. Jesús nos invita a considerar el significado más profundo de los mandamientos, llamándonos a vivir con amor e integridad genuinos. Él enfatiza que nuestras palabras y acciones deben alinearse con el amor y la verdad de Dios. Al dejar que nuestro "Sí" sea "Sí" y nuestro "No" sea "No," cultivamos una vida basada en la honestidad y la autenticidad, reflejando la bondad de Dios a todos los que encontramos.

#### **Pregunta de reflexión:**

¿Cómo puedes asegurarte de que tus elecciones diarias reflejen el amor genuino y la integridad a los que Jesús nos llama a vivir?

## DID YOU KNOW...

### FEBRUARY 15TH

#### **International Childhood Cancer Day:**

February 15th is recognized as International Childhood Cancer Day (ICCD). This day is dedicated to raising awareness about childhood cancer, supporting children and families affected by the disease, and advocating for improved access to treatment and care. Initiated by the international childhood cancer community, ICCD seeks to emphasize the importance of early diagnosis and the need for specialized medical treatment and psychological support for young patients. By recognizing this day, communities around the world aim to unite in solidarity, offering hope and support to those battling childhood cancer.

#### **Reflection Question:**

How can you support children and families facing challenges like childhood cancer in your community?

Source: *Truthly App*

# WEEKLY CALENDAR, INTENTIONS, OBSERVATIONS & READINGS

## MASS INTENTIONS INTENCIONES DE MISA

*Saturday February 14*

**5:00 pm**

†Loretta Milo

SI Ted & Valerie Golembiewski  
56 Wedding Anniversary  
SI Dee Mcelhose

*Sunday February 15*

**8:00 am**

†Elenora Pfeifer

**10:00 am**

†Loretta Milo

**12:00 pm**

SI Sandra Valdez

*Monday February 16*

**8:00 am**

Living & Deceased of St. Rita

*Tuesday February 17*

**8:00 am**

†Marco Antonio Huez

*Wednesday February 18*

**8:00 am**

Men & Women in the Military

**5:00 pm**

First Responders

**7:00 pm**

Living & Deceased of St. Rita

*Thursday February 19*

**8:00 am**

†Philip Pfeifer

*Friday February 20*

**8:00 am**

First Responders

## THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

*Sunday, February 15*

**6th Sunday of Ordinary**

**Time**

• *Sts. Faustinus and Jovita*

• *St. Onesimus*

8:00 am - Mass (English)

10:00 am - Mass (English)

12:00 noon - Mass (Spanish)

*Monday, February 16*

• *St. Juliana of Nicomedia*

8:00 am Mass (English)

8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

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

*Tuesday, February 17*

• *Seven Founders of the Order of Servites*

8:00 am Mass (English)

8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

*Wednesday, February 18*

**Ash Wednesday**

• *Bl. John of Fiesole (Fra Angelico)*

8:00 am - Mass (English)

8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

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

5:00pm - Mass (English)

7:00pm - Mass (Spanish)

*Thursday, February 19*

• *St. Conrad Confalonieri*

8:00 am - Mass (English)

8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

*Friday, February 20*

• *St. Leo of Catania*

8:00 am Mass

8:30 am Eucharist Adoration

*Saturday, February 21*

• *St. Peter Damian*

5:00 pm - Mass (English)

source: [young-catholics.com](http://young-catholics.com)

## READINGS & OBSERVANCES

**FIRST READING:**

"Before man are life and death, good and evil, whichever he chooses shall be given him." (Sir 15:17)

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

"Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord!" (Ps 119:1)

**SECOND READING:**

"Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him." (1 Cor 2:9)

**GOSPEL:**

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill." (Mt 5:17)

*Sunday, February 15*

**6th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Sir 15:15-20 | Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34 | 1 Cor 2:6-10 | Mt 5:17-37

*Monday, February 16*

Jas 1:1-11 | Ps 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76 | Mk 8:11-13

*Tuesday, February 17*

**The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order**

Jas 1:12-18 | Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19 | Mk 8:14-21

*Wednesday, February 18*

**Ash Wednesday**

Jas 1:19-27 | Ps 15:2-3a, 3bc-4ab, 5 | Mk 8:22-26

*Thursday, February 19*

Jas 2:1-9 | Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 | Mk 8:27-33

*Friday, February 20*

Jas 2:14-24, 26 | Ps 112:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 | Mk 8:34-9:1

*Saturday, February 21*

**St. Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor of the Church**

Jas 3:1-10 | Ps 12:2-3, 4-5, 7-8 | Mk 9:2-13

# PARISH MINISTRIES

## LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

### *Altar Server*

If your boy would like to become an Altar Boy, please review the [Altar Server Manual](#) together and complete the [Altar Server Application](#) online or email: [travis71durman@gmail.com](mailto:travis71durman@gmail.com)

### *Altar Society*

The St. Rita Altar Society is looking for volunteers to maintain the Altar in the Shrine and St. John XXIII. If you love to decorate or enjoy floral arrangements, we invite you to glorify the Lord by your creativity.

### *Eucharistic Ministry*

Interested in learning more about the role of an Extraordinary Minister or would like to be part of this vital ministry, Submit your [EOMHC Sign-up](#) form online.

### *Lectors*

Become a Lector. Submit your [Ministry Request form](#) online.

### *Music Ministry*

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

**Adult choirs (18+):** Tues at 6:30 pm  
**Youth choir (8-18):** Wed at 4:30 pm  
**Spanish choir:** Wed at 6:15 pm

Do you play piano, guitar, flute or clarinet? We want to meet you!

Coro español: ¡Queremos desarrollar nuestro coro! ¡Considere unirse a nosotros o volver a unirse a nosotros!  
¡Voz, guitarra y bajo bienvenidos!

### *Ushers*

Ushers play a pivotal role in our parish, not only aiding others but also serving as the welcoming face to newcomers. For our regular parishioners, they provide a sense of familiarity and continuity across all Masses. Submit your [Usher Sign-Up](#) form online.

## PARISH MINISTRIES

### *Outreach Ministry*

Join us as we provide support every week to our Meals to Grow Program, Food Bank and other critical human needs in our community. Email: [outreach@stritainthedesert.org](mailto: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](mailto:porters@stritainthedesert.org)

### *Right to Life*

Email: [rtl@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:rtl@stritainthedesert.org)

### *Family Faith Formation*

[www.watch.formed.org](http://www.watch.formed.org)

### *Vocations*

Contact Mr. Adam LaGuardia:  
[Vocations@stritainthedesert.org](mailto: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](mailto:guild@stritainthedesert.org)

### *Sewing Angels*

All are welcome to join. Meet us in the church hall every Wednesday from 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

### *Mujeres De Fe (Women of Faith)*

Para mas Informacion  
Coordinadora:  
Gabriela Hrdlirka (915) 539-0985  
[gawoho@gmail.com](mailto:gawoho@gmail.com)

## EXTERNAL MINISTRIES



### **Knights of Columbus®**

Lead with Faith.  
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Serve Others.  
**Defend Your Values.**  
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**Catholic Men 18+**  
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<https://www.kofc14230.org> or  
contact John Cuddy at:  
[john.cuddy@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://RachelsVineyard.org)



**THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

If you need assistance from St Vincent de Paul or want to join the ministry to help others, contact James Mahaffey at (520) 307-3411

### **Marian Book Club**

Every Thursday  
4:30-6pm  
Oscar Romero

All are welcome to join!

### **Women's Scripture Study**

Wednesday mornings  
9 am  
Oscar Romero Room  
All women are welcome  
[irenetoews@cox.net](mailto:irenetoews@cox.net)

## Rectory Debt Payoff Update

As of Sunday, February 8, 2026

\$82,212

**\$345,000**  
GOAL

75

**500**  
FAMILY PLEDGED/DONATED GOAL

**We need your help!** Until this phase is complete, we cannot seek Diocesan approval for a new church capital campaign. Let's come together as a faith family to make it happen

Easter is just 48 days away!  
Be part of our parish family's exciting next chapter



Scan to Pledge

### VISITA DE LA VIRGEN A LOS HOGARES

El grupo de la Legion de Maria les recuerda que Nuestra Santisima Madre quiere visitar sus hogares, para que sientan su proteccion y compania, para que compartan con Ella las necesidades que tiene cada miembro de su familia, Ella quiere escuchar sus plegarias y llevarlas a su amado Hijo Jesus.

En el vestibulo estaran algunos miembros del grupo de la Legion de Maria, para tomar sus datos y programar la visita. Gracias.

### BLACK & INDIAN MISSION COLLECTION

Sunday, February 22nd

There will be a 2nd Collection to support "Building Our Mission to the Missions," please take an envelope in the Narthex on your way out to donate

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Sunday, February 15th

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

*Join the Knights in the Hall!*

### ST. RITA GUILD

Sunday, February 15th

Gift shop will be open 9:00 am until noon.

### WOMEN OF THE WAY STUDY GROUP

February 25th

6-8pm  
Oscar Romero Room

For more information:  
[jbrink1130@gmail.com](mailto:jbrink1130@gmail.com)

### ALTAR SOCIETY QUILT RAFFLE

Support the purchase of a **new monstrance** for the Pope John XXIII Center by participating in the Altar Society's **quilt raffle!**

Tickets are available for the **king-size quilt** on display in the Narthex (108" x 108", 100% cotton, machine washable).

Tickets are **\$5 each or 5 for \$20** and will be sold after all Masses from February 8 through March 8. The drawing will be held after the 12:00 p.m. Mass on March 8. You do not need to be present to win.

*Thank you for your generous support.*



### THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

IN THE GOSPEL TODAY, JESUS SAYS,

*"Whoever fulfills and teaches these commands shall be great in the kingdom of God."*

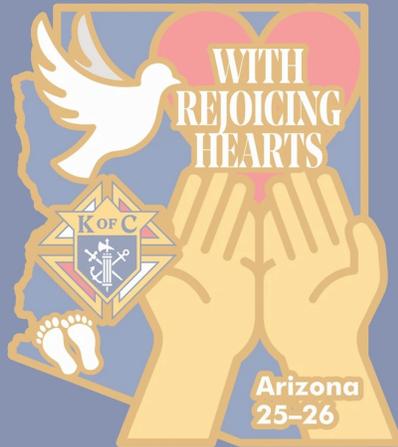
By your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul you are indeed putting your faith into action as you fulfill the commands of Jesus.

### ST. RITA RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Sunday, February 22nd

Please stop by to donate blood and help those in the Tucson Community

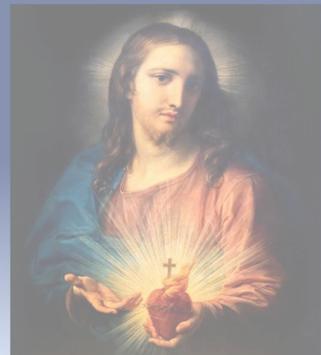
*Prayerfully consider  
joining the  
Knights of Columbus!*



*Together,  
we serve  
With Rejoicing Hearts!*



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



## **Arizona Knights of Columbus Charity Raffle – Starts This Weekend!**

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

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

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

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

For more information, contact Wayne Glembin at  
(520) 449-7115 or [gkcouncili4230@gmail.com](mailto:gkcouncili4230@gmail.com)

## **KNIGHTS FUNDRAISER FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS**

Support a St. Rita Special Olympian competing with Arizona USA Softball at the Special Olympics USA Summer Games (June 20–26).

Pick up **farm-fresh eggs** for \$5/dozen and support a great cause.

*Stop by the table to donate or learn more.*

## **ST RITA LENTEN FISH AND CHIPS**

**February 18th**

Join the Knights of Columbus on  
**Ash Wednesday**  
for a Fish Fry

**4-8pm (Hall/Ramada)**

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

**February 27th**

**March 21st**

**March 27th**

## **ALUMINUM CAN RECYCLING**

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

- **Aluminum cans only** (no glass, paper, metal cans, or trash)
- Please place cans in **secure, tied trash bags**
- **No clothing donations**—please take clothing to the Vail Resources Thrift Store across the street

If you have cans to donate but need assistance, please ask a Knight wearing a maroon council shirt for help.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Diocese of Tucson - Alive in Christ

**Preparing Your Heart for Lent**  
Thursday February 19<sup>th</sup> | 6:30pm

*“Create In Me a Clean Heart, O God, and  
Renew a right Spirit Within Me”*  
- Psalms 51:10

St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Catholic Church  
801 N. Grande Ave, Tucson Arizona

Make your Lent the best ever! Joyfully praise the Lord, pray for all your intentions, receive insights on how Lent can renew your spiritual life, and worship our Lord in Eucharistic Adoration. Join Fr Vincent Odoh. Hosted by the Diocese of Tucson Renewal Committee.



## February | March Concerts

### *I Dream a World*

Featuring True Concord Choir, Orchestra, Tucson Girls Chorus & Jeffrey Biegel, piano

**Friday, February 27 | 4pm**  
Valley Presbyterian Church, Green Valley

**Saturday, February 28 | 4pm**  
Catalina Foothills H.S. Music Hall, Tucson

**Sunday, March 1 | 3pm**  
Catalina Foothills H.S. Music Hall, Tucson



**GATHER WITH US AS WE KICK OFF  
OUR 40 DAYS OF PRAYER  
TO END ABORTION IN TUCSON**

- Meet passionate pro-life individuals
- Learn how you can impact the lives of the unborn in our community
- Understand the joys & challenges while praying to end abortion during the vigil

**RECEIVE FREE POSTERS,  
PRO-LIFE MATERIALS & SIGN  
UP FOR VIGIL HOURS**



**JOIN US  
SUNDAY,  
FEBRUARY 15TH,  
2026 @4PM**

**ON THE SIDEWALK  
ACROSS FROM  
PLANNED  
PARENTHOOD**  
2255 N. WYATT DR  
TUCSON, AZ



40daystucson@gmail.com



@40DaysTucson



40 Days for Life Tucson



**worldwide  
marriage encounter**

*“Just so, your light must shine before others,  
that they may see your good deeds and glorify  
your heavenly Father.”*

Let the light of your marriage sacrament shine for all. Make your light shine brightly by attending the next Worldwide Marriage Experience on May 30-31, 2026 in Tucson.

For more info go to: [wwme.org](http://wwme.org)  
or call 520-661-3644



**THE SOCIETY OF  
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

## St. Rita in the Desert - Lenten Food Drive

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

### † Your Support is a Blessing †

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

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

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

*“For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat...” – Matthew 25:35*

## SAINT SPOTLIGHT



### SAINT PETER DAMIAN

**Feast Day:** February 21st

**Patronage:**

Saint Peter Damian is the patron saint of those suffering from insomnia and is also invoked against headaches.

**Story:** Saint Peter Damian was born around 1007 in Ravenna, Italy. He became an orphan at a young age and was raised by his older brother. Recognizing Peter's exceptional intellect and faith, another brother, a priest, took him in and ensured he received a proper education. Peter developed a deep love for learning and spirituality. He entered the Benedictine monastery of Fonte Avellana, where he embraced a life of simplicity, prayer, and study.

Peter's dedication to the monastic life and reform of the Church led him to become a prominent figure in the 11th century. He was appointed as a cardinal by Pope Stephen IX and served as a papal legate, working to address issues of corruption and moral laxity within the Church. Peter was known for his writings and teachings, particularly his theological and spiritual works, which emphasized penance, humility, and the importance of aligning one's life with the teachings of Christ.

**Legacy:** Saint Peter Damian is remembered as a reformer and advocate for ecclesiastical and spiritual renewal. His insistence on moral integrity and discipline in both the clergy and laity had a lasting impact on the Church. He was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1828 by Pope Leo XII, recognizing his significant contributions to theology and church reform.

**Reflection Question:** How does the life and work of Saint Peter Damian inspire you to pursue integrity and renewal in your own life and within your community?

### KIDS CORNER



**Feast Day:** February 21st

**Patronage:**

Saint Peter Damian is the special saint for people who have trouble sleeping and for those with headaches!

**Story:**

Saint Peter Damian was born a very long time ago, around the year 1007, in Italy. He lost his parents when he was young, but his big brother took care of him. Peter was super smart and loved learning, so another brother, who was a priest, helped him go to school.

When Peter grew up, he decided to become a monk, which meant he lived with other men who loved God and wanted to do good things. They spent their days praying, learning about God, and helping others. Peter was very wise, so he wrote books to teach people about living a good, honest life. He also worked with the Pope to help fix problems in the Church and make sure everyone was living according to Jesus' teachings.

**Legacy:**

Saint Peter Damian is remembered as a smart and kind person who helped the Church become better and stronger. He taught people how to live the way God wants and made a big difference in making things right.

**Question to Ponder:**

How can Saint Peter Damian's story inspire you to be honest and help your community be a better place?

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: \_\_\_\_\_