

March 15, 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
9:00 am—1:00pm

*Office closed
12pm—1pm daily*

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

"One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see." (John 9:25)

*"Una cosa sé: que yo era ciego y ahora veo."
(Juan 9:25)*

Reflection:

The story of Jesus healing the man born blind is a powerful testament to the transformative power of faith. The man's physical blindness was healed, but more importantly, he gained spiritual sight, recognizing Jesus as the light of the world. This encounter calls us to examine our own spiritual blindness, asking where we might be failing to see God's presence in our lives. During Lent, let us seek Christ's light to illuminate our path, revealing truth and guiding us toward deeper faith and understanding. Just as the blind man courageously shared his testimony, we too are invited to share how Christ has opened our eyes and transformed our hearts.

Socratic Question:

What areas of your life are you inviting Jesus to illuminate with His healing light during this Lenten season?

Reflexión:

El relato de Jesús sanando al ciego de nacimiento es un poderoso testimonio del poder transformador de la fe. La ceguera física del hombre fue sanada, pero más importante aún, él ganó vista espiritual, reconociendo a Jesús como la luz del mundo. Este encuentro nos llama a examinar nuestra propia ceguera espiritual, preguntándonos dónde podríamos estar fallando en ver la presencia de Dios en nuestras vidas. Durante la Cuaresma, busquemos la luz de Cristo para iluminar nuestro camino, revelando la verdad y guiándonos hacia una fe y comprensión más profundas. Así como el ciego valientemente compartió su testimonio, nosotros también estamos invitados a compartir cómo Cristo ha abierto nuestros ojos y transformado nuestros corazones.

Pregunta socrática:

¿En qué áreas de tu vida estás invitando a Jesús a iluminar con Su luz sanadora durante esta temporada de Cuaresma?

Source: *Truthly App*

PARISH INFORMATION

COLLECTIONS | COLECTA

March 08, 2026



Offertory: \$7,606.70
Rectory Debt: \$5,698.67
Campus Maint: \$819.00

Thank you for your support.
God bless you!

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

ST. RITA STAFF

(520) 762-9688

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Catholic Brotherhood Group: Jayme Kahle
jkahle25@gmail.com

Women's Bible Study: Irene Toews
irenetoews@cox.net

Guild of St. Rita:
guild@stritainthedesert.org

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

March 15, 2026

“I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life..” (cf. John 8:12)

Dear Parish Family and Friends,

This weekend’s Scriptures use the metaphors of sight, baptism, and blindness to highlight a powerful truth: genuine spiritual vision is often found where the world least expects it. These themes invite us to reflect on John’s Gospel and its significance for salvation history. Much like peeling an onion, exploring these readings reveals deeper layers of meaning. We are challenged to consider where spiritual blindness appears in our own lives and how we are being called to see with new eyes. The message is clear: true understanding comes from recognizing God’s work beyond outward appearances and allowing Him to remove whatever prevents us from seeing more clearly.

Continuing this theme, the book of Samuel provides another illustration of seeing beyond appearances. When Samuel goes to anoint the new king of Israel, he initially judges according to outward appearance rather than God’s heart. Jesse presents most of his sons to Samuel, leaving young David in the field tending the sheep. After God reminds Samuel that He does not see as humans see, Samuel asks if there are any other sons. Jesse then brings forward David, and as soon as he arrives, God commands Samuel to anoint him as king. David’s appearance was nothing extraordinary; he was younger and smaller than his older brothers, who were ready to fight for Israel. What made David different was his openness of heart to God. This story reminds us that God often sees value in those whom others overlook. His choice shows that what matters most is not outward strength or status, but a heart open to God’s call. For anyone who has ever felt unseen or unqualified, David’s example offers hope: God values each person’s heart and calls all of us to lives of purpose.

Similarly, in the Gospel account, the man born blind becomes a powerful witness to faith. Jesus’ actions of making mud and touching the man recall the Genesis account of God forming Adam from the earth. After placing the mud on the man’s eyes, Jesus tells him to wash in the pool of Siloam—ironically, the word Siloam means “to be sent.” The man born blind is thus sent to testify to the light of Christ.

In our own lives, we are also invited to share the light of Christ, even if our witness is not dramatic or public. Just as the once-blind man quietly lived at the edge of the community until he was called forward, we may witness to Christ through patience, forgiveness, or a simple word of kindness at the right moment. Our daily actions and attitudes can become a testimony that points others toward Christ’s love. When we allow God to touch and heal us, as He did the man born blind, our eyes are opened, our hearts are renewed, and we are sent to carry His light into our families, workplaces, and communities.

Lastly, our **Annual Catholic Appeal** is progressing well, and I am grateful to all who have already given so generously. This weekend is an opportunity to make a commitment to the Appeal. Our parish goal is **\$48,524.00**, and I ask that you prayerfully consider giving whatever you are able. Our parish has been blessed in the past by grant funds raised through the Annual Catholic Appeal, which helped support security cameras, plumbing improvements, and a new air conditioning system for the shrine. I invite us to pay that generosity forward so that other parish communities may benefit just as we have. Thank you for your prayerful consideration, and may God bless you for your generosity.

May the Lord continue to guide us on our Lenten journey.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Reverend Alonzo M. García, Pastor



OFICINA DE PASTOR

15 de marzo de 2026

“Yo soy la luz del mundo, dice el Señor; el que me sigue tendrá la luz de la vida”. (Juan 8,12b)

Estimada familia parroquial y amigos:

Las lecturas de este fin de semana utilizan las imágenes de la vista, el bautismo y la ceguera para resaltar una verdad muy profunda: la verdadera visión espiritual muchas veces se encuentra donde el mundo menos lo espera. Estos temas nos invitan a reflexionar sobre el Evangelio de San Juan y su importancia en la historia de la salvación. Al profundizar en estas lecturas, descubrimos que tienen múltiples capas de significado. Se nos invita a preguntarnos dónde puede haber ceguera espiritual en nuestras propias vidas y cómo Dios nos está llamando a ver con nuevos ojos. El mensaje es claro: el verdadero entendimiento llega cuando aprendemos a reconocer la obra de Dios más allá de las apariencias y permitimos que Él quite todo aquello que nos impide ver con claridad.

Siguiendo este mismo tema, el libro de Samuel nos ofrece otro ejemplo de cómo mirar más allá de las apariencias. Cuando Samuel va a ungir al nuevo rey de Israel, al principio juzga según lo que ve a simple vista y no según el corazón de Dios. Jesé presenta a la mayoría de sus hijos, dejando al joven David en el campo cuidando las ovejas. Después de que Dios le recuerda a Samuel que Él no ve como los hombres ven, Samuel pregunta si hay otro hijo. Entonces Jesé manda llamar a David y, en cuanto llega, Dios le indica a Samuel que lo unja como rey. David no tenía nada extraordinario en su apariencia; era más joven y más pequeño que sus hermanos mayores, quienes parecían más preparados para luchar por Israel. Lo que hacía diferente a David era su corazón abierto a Dios. Esta historia nos recuerda que muchas veces Dios ve valor en quienes otros pasan por alto. Su elección nos enseña que lo más importante no es la fuerza ni el estatus exterior, sino un corazón dispuesto a escuchar el llamado de Dios. Para cualquiera que alguna vez se haya sentido ignorado o poco preparado, el ejemplo de David nos llena de esperanza: Dios valora el corazón de cada persona y nos llama a todos a vivir una vida con propósito.

De manera similar, en el Evangelio el hombre que nació ciego se convierte en un testigo poderoso de la fe. Las acciones de Jesús al hacer lodo y tocar los ojos del hombre nos recuerdan el relato del Génesis, en el que Dios formó a Adán del polvo de la tierra. Después de poner el lodo en sus ojos, Jesús le dice que vaya a lavarse al estanque de Siloé—y, curiosamente, la palabra Siloé significa “enviado”. De esta manera, el hombre que había nacido ciego es enviado a dar testimonio de la luz de Cristo.

En nuestras propias vidas, también estamos llamados a compartir la luz de Cristo, aunque nuestro testimonio no sea dramático ni público. Así como el hombre que antes era ciego vivía tranquilamente en los márgenes de la comunidad hasta que fue llamado, nosotros también podemos dar testimonio de Cristo con paciencia, con perdón o con una palabra de bondad en el momento oportuno. Nuestras acciones y actitudes diarias pueden convertirse en un testimonio que lleve a otros al amor de Cristo. Cuando permitimos que Dios nos toque y nos sane, como lo hizo con el hombre ciego, nuestros ojos se abren, nuestro corazón se renueva y somos enviados a llevar su luz a nuestras familias, lugares de trabajo y comunidades.

Por último, nuestra **Campaña Católica Anual** sigue avanzando bien y estoy muy agradecido con todos los que ya han dado con tanta generosidad. Este fin de semana es una oportunidad para asumir un compromiso con la campaña. Nuestra meta parroquial es de **\$48,524.00** y les pido que consideren en oración dar lo que les sea posible. En el pasado, nuestra parroquia ha sido bendecida con fondos provenientes de esta campaña, los cuales ayudaron a instalar cámaras de seguridad, mejorar la plomería y reemplazar el sistema de aire acondicionado del santuario. Los invito a que también nosotros apoyemos ahora para que otras parroquias puedan beneficiarse como nosotros lo hemos hecho. Gracias por su consideración y que Dios bendiga su generosidad.

Que el Señor continúe guiándonos en nuestro camino de Cuaresma.

Sinceramente en Cristo,



Reverendo Alonzo M. García, Pastor



GOSPEL MEDITATION

IN THE JOHN 9:1-41,

In the Gospel of John, the story of Jesus healing the man born blind challenges us to reflect on the nature of spiritual sight versus physical sight. While the man received physical sight from Jesus, his greater gift was the ability to see with the eyes of faith. This Gospel passage calls us to examine our own lives and consider where we might be spiritually blind. Are there areas where we fail to recognize Christ's presence, overlook acts of love, or ignore opportunities for growth in faith? Jesus invites us to open our eyes to see the world as He does, filled with compassion and truth. As we journey through Lent, let us pray for the grace to truly see, that we may understand and participate more fully in God's work around us.

Reflection Question:

What aspects of your life might be spiritually blind, where you need the light of Christ to bring understanding and clarity?

EN JUAN 9:1-41,

En el Evangelio de Juan, la historia de Jesús sanando al ciego de nacimiento nos desafía a reflexionar sobre la naturaleza de la vista espiritual versus la vista física. Aunque el hombre recibió la vista física de Jesús, su mayor regalo fue la capacidad de ver con los ojos de la fe. Este pasaje del Evangelio nos llama a examinar nuestras propias vidas y considerar en qué podríamos estar espiritualmente ciegos. ¿Hay áreas donde fallamos en reconocer la presencia de Cristo, pasamos por alto actos de amor o ignoramos oportunidades de crecimiento en la fe? Jesús nos invita a abrir nuestros ojos para ver el mundo como Él lo hace, lleno de compasión y verdad. Mientras avanzamos en Cuaresma, pidamos la gracia de ver realmente, para que podamos comprender y participar más plenamente en la obra de Dios a nuestro alrededor.

Pregunta de reflexión:

¿Qué aspectos de tu vida podrían estar espiritualmente ciegos, donde necesitas la luz de Cristo para traer comprensión y claridad?

A LENTEN INVITATION: CONNECT, SERVE, & STEWARD

Dear Parish Family,

During this **Lenten season**, we are called to reflect on how we use the gifts God has entrusted to us. One small way to practice stewardship is by **choosing the digital bulletin** when it works for you.

Printed copies will still be available for those who prefer them, but the digital option helps the parish **redirect resources toward ministries, outreach, and programs that serve our community**. Each year, printing costs about **\$12,000** — funds that can go further when we make thoughtful choices together.

Benefits of the digital bulletin:

- Accessible anytime, anywhere
- Text can be enlarged for easier reading
- Easy to share with family and friends
-

If you need help accessing the bulletin digitally, **our staff and volunteers are happy to guide you**.

This Lent, consider this simple act of service as a way to live your faith generously and help our parish thrive.

St. Rita in the Desert Parish



<https://www.stritainthedesert.org/bulletin>

WEEKLY CALENDAR, INTENTIONS, OBSERVATIONS & READINGS

MASS INTENTIONS INTENCIONES DE MISA

Saturday March 14

5:00 pm

SI United States Armed Forces

†Helen Rose Conklin

†Elena Estrada

Sunday March 15

8:00 am

†Bernie & Fred Schwartz

†Terry Belschner

10:00 am

SI Donna Sue Olson

†Louisa & Joe Moreno & Family

12:00 pm

Living & Deceased of St. Rita

Monday March 16

8:00 am

Men & Women in the Military

Tuesday March 17

8:00 am

St. Patrick

Wednesday March 18

8:00 am

First Responders

Thursday March 19

8:00 am

St. Rita

Friday March 20

8:00 am

SI Fr. Alonzo Garica

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

Sunday, March 15

Fourth Sunday of Lent

- *St. Clement M. Hofbauer*
- *Pope St. Zachary*

8:00 am - Mass (English)

10:00 am - Mass (English)

12:00 noon - Mass (Spanish)

Monday, March 16

- *Sts. Hilarius and Tatianus*

8:00 am Mass (English)

8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

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

Tuesday, March 17

- *Saint Patrick*
- *St. John Sarkander*
- *St. Joseph of Arimathea*

8:00 am Mass (English)

8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

Wednesday, March 18

(St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Doctor of the Church)

- *Saint Cyril of Jerusalem*
- *St. Anselm of Lucca*

8:00 am - Mass (English)

8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

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

Thursday, March 19

(St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary)

- *Saint Joseph, Husband of Mary*

8:00 am - Mass (English)

8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

Friday, March 20

- *St. John Nepomucen*

8:00 am Mass

8:30 am Eucharist Adoration

Saturday, March 21

- *St. Nicholas of Flüe*

5:00 pm - Mass (English)

READINGS & OBSERVANCES

FIRST READING:

"The LORD said to Samuel: 'Do not judge from his appearance... Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the LORD looks into the heart.'" (1 Sm 16:7)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

"The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want." (Ps 23:1)

SECOND READING:

"Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth." (Eph 5:8-9)

GOSPEL:

"One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see." (Jn 9:25)

Sunday, March 15

(Fourth Sunday of Lent)

1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a | Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 | Eph 5:8-14 | Jn 9:1-41

Monday, March 16

Is 65:17-21 | Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b | Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday, March 17

Ez 47:1-9, 12 | Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9 | Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday, March 18

Is 49:8-15 | Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18 | Jn 5:17-30

Thursday, March 19

2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16 | Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 | Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22 | Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

Friday, March 20

Wis 2:1a, 12-22 | Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23 | Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday, March 21

Jer 11:18-20 | Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12 | Jn 7:40-53

source: young-catholics.com

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

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

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 every **2nd & 4th Wed** of the month | **6pm** | Mother Teresa Rm | 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 Hrdlirka (915) 539-0985 gawoho@gmail.com

EXTERNAL MINISTRIES



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Catholic Men 18+

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) 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

Rectory Debt Payoff Update

As of Sunday, February 15, 2026

\$100,016

\$345,000
GOAL

108

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 20 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 Santísima Madre quiere visitar sus hogares, para que sientan su protección y compañía, 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 vestíbulo estarán algunos miembros del grupo de la Legion de Maria, para tomar sus datos y programar la visita. Gracias.



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In today's Gospel, Jesus gives sight to the blind man. Through grace we are also transformed to cure our blindness in order to see the Face of Christ in the poor and needy. Hopefully, we will then be the Face of Christ to those who are so much in need of hope.

Your gift to our society helps us bring joy, peace, forgiveness, mercy and kindness to the hurting hearts of those who call us for assistance.

REMINDER: Steak Fry | Apr 25 | Tickets on sale after all masses Mar 14 & 15 | \$25 Steak | \$10 Sloppy Joe

ST. RITA GUILD GIFT SHOP

March 15, 9am-12pm

Please visit us at the Gift Shop located on the westside of the St. Rita Shrine

SAVE THE DATES

May 16, 2026 - 6:00pm - 8:30pm
"La primavera in Umbria"
4-Course Italian Wine Dinner with DJ & Dancing
Fundraiser for Rectory Payoff and New Church

May 22, 2026 at 5:30pm - 8:00pm
Solemnity of St. Rita of Cascia
Mass, Procession and Picnic

Tickets go one sale 4/11-4/12/2026 weekend
Volunteers Needed - Contact guild@stritainthedesert.org

FRIDAYS DURING LENT

Stations of the Cross | **March 20 & 27 | 6:30pm**

Soups | **March 20 | 5:30-6:15pm**

Knights Fish & Chips | **March 27 | 4-7pm**

ST. RITA MARIAN ROSE GARDEN



Would you like to help keep our Marian Rose Garden looking glorious?

Contact the office for more information.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Sunday, March 15th

Join us for a Full Pancake Breakfast after 8 & 10am mass

Join the Knights in the Hall!



Winners: Tony and Hilda Szwast. Our thanks to all those who supported the Altar Society Quilt Raffle.

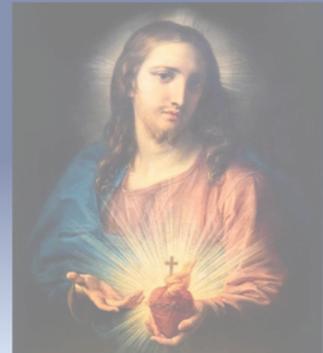
*Prayerfully consider
joining the
Knights of Columbus!*



*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 gkcouncil14230@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

March 27th

Join the Knights of Columbus
for a Fish Fry

4-7pm (Hall/Ramada)

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

PIMA- EAST LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES DATES

Our Mother of Sorrows
March 18, 2026 | 6pm Confessions

St. Cyril
March 24, 2026 | 6:00pm Confessions

Corpus Christi
April 01, 2026 | 6:00pm Confessions



Rachel's Vineyard (Tucson) - Let Jesus Christ set you free from the emotional and spiritual pain of a past abortion at a co-ed Rachel's Vineyard retreat in Tucson, **May 15-17, 2026**. Visit: www.rachelsvineyardtucson.org or call/ Text to 520-743-6777.



We have a priest from the Diocese of Tucson that will be joining Catholic Mission Trips, Inc with teens, young adults, and seminarians from our area We ask that you consider 'Offering Up' your Lenten Sacrifice into almsgiving/ donations to send the Priest and the building materials for natural disaster help. For more information please visit Catholicmissiontrips.net or call 703-957-9313.

HAND CARVED IN BETHLEHEM

Please visit the table of hand-carved religious items (*Nativity sets, rosaries, statues, crucifixes, and more*) **after all Masses** the weekend of **March 21-22**.

Ayman Khair represents Christian families from the Holy Land who rely on selling these beautiful olive wood carvings for their livelihood. Due to the conflict in the Middle East, tourism has stopped, leaving many families without income.

Your support helps these Christian artisans continue their centuries-old tradition and remain in the Holy Land. Thank you for your generosity.

St. Rita's Outreach Ministry

Supporting the **Vail Food Bank's Weekend Meals to Grow Program**: Over 550 students in the Vail School District are food insecure every weekend

Your **\$20** donation purchases Ramen & granola bars to supplement 40 weekend meal bags

Please use the **YELLOW** Envelopes & Place in the **REGULAR** Collection basket

With Grateful Hands & Hearts--
Your Outreach Ministry Team



"The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want."

Let the Lord be the shepherd of your marriage. Attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience on May 30-31, 2026 in Tucson, July 11-12, 2026 in Phoenix. For more info go to: wwme.org or call 520-661-3644



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 PATRICK

Feast Day: March 17th

Patronage:

Saint Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland and is also invoked as a patron for engineers and against snakes.

Story: Saint Patrick was born in Roman Britain in the late 4th century. At the age of 16, he was captured by Irish pirates and taken as a slave to Ireland, where he tended sheep for six years. During his captivity, Patrick turned earnestly to God in prayer, strengthening his faith. One night, he had a dream in which God told him to escape, which he did, returning to his family.

After returning home, Patrick felt called to return to Ireland, not as a slave, but as a missionary. He studied at a monastery in what is now France and was eventually ordained a priest and later a bishop. Patrick returned to Ireland, where he tirelessly preached the Gospel, converted many to Christianity, and established churches and schools. He is credited with using a shamrock to explain the concept of the Holy Trinity.

Legacy: Saint Patrick is widely celebrated for bringing Christianity to Ireland. His mission effectively transformed the religious landscape of Ireland, turning it into a stronghold of Christianity. Patrick's life is a testament to the power of faith, forgiveness, and resilience. Despite the hardships and challenges he faced, he remained steadfast in his mission. Today, his legacy is celebrated each year on March 17th, known as St. Patrick's Day, marked by parades and celebrations of Irish culture around the world.

Reflection Question: What does Saint Patrick's life teach us about the power of faith and forgiveness, especially when faced with our own challenges?

KIDS CORNER



Feast Day: March 17th

Patronage:

Saint Patrick is the special saint for Ireland, people who work as engineers, and, fun fact, he's also known for helping keep snakes away!

Story:

A long time ago, in the late 4th century, Saint Patrick was born in a place called Roman Britain. When he was 16, something scary happened—he was captured by pirates and taken to Ireland to be a shepherd. During this time, Patrick prayed a lot, and his love for God grew stronger. After six years, he had a dream that told him to escape, so he did and safely made it back home to his family.

Patrick felt called to go back to Ireland, not as a slave, but to tell people about Jesus. He studied hard, became a priest, and finally a bishop. When he returned to Ireland, he traveled all over, teaching people about God's love. Patrick is remembered for using a shamrock, a little green plant with three leaves, to explain the Holy Trinity—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Legacy:

Saint Patrick is super famous for bringing Christianity to Ireland and teaching many people about Jesus. Because of his work, Ireland became a strong Christian country. Every year on March 17th, people celebrate Saint Patrick's Day with parades and fun activities to remember him and celebrate Irish culture. Patrick's story is all about having strong faith, forgiving others, and being brave even when things are tough.

Question to Ponder:

What can you learn from Saint Patrick about trusting God and being brave when facing your own challenges?

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: _____