

August 16, 2026



ST. RITA IN THE DESERT

Catholic Church

CLERGY

Pastor:

Rev. Alonzo Garcia
fralonzo@stritainthedesert.org

Deacon:

Ron Desmarais
deaconron@stritainthedesert.org

WEEKEND MASS

Horario de Misas

SATURDAY | Sábado

5:00 pm—English

SUNDAY | Domingo

8:00 am—English

10:00 am—English

12:00 pm—Spanish

WEEKDAY MASS

IN SHRINE | Misa

Diaria en el Santuario

MONDAY-FRIDAY |

De Lunes a Viernes

8:00 am —English

ADORATION

FRIDAY | Viernes

8:30 am—9:30 am

In the church or by
appointment

En la iglesia o por cita

CONFESSION

Confesiones

SATURDAY | Sábado

3:30 pm—4:30 pm

In the church or by
appointment

En la iglesia o por cita



PARISH OFFICE

Horario de Oficina

MONDAY-

WEDNESDAY | De

Lunes a Miércoles

8:30 am—4:00 pm

THURSDAY | Jueves

8:00 am—2:00 pm

FRIDAY | Viernes

CLOSED

Office closed

12pm—1pm daily

NEED TO CONTACT US?

Scan Here:



20TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

*"Great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish."
(Matthew 15:28)*

*"¡Grande es tu fe! Que se cumpla lo que deseas."
(Mateo 15:28)*

Reflection:

In this Gospel passage, a Canaanite woman approaches Jesus, pleading for her daughter's healing. Despite initial hesitation, her unwavering faith and persistence move Jesus to grant her request. The Canaanite woman's story reminds us of the importance of perseverance and faith in prayer, even when answers seem delayed. Her determination and humility exemplify the trust we are called to have in Jesus, recognizing that His mercy extends beyond boundaries and divisions. Her faith invites us to approach God with confidence, assured that He listens to our deepest needs.

Socratic Question:

How can this woman's example inspire you to persevere in faith and trust, even when faced with challenges or apparent silence in your prayers?

Reflexión:

En este pasaje del Evangelio, una mujer cananea se acerca a Jesús, suplicando la curación de su hija. A pesar de la hesitación inicial, su fe inquebrantable y persistencia mueven a Jesús a conceder su petición. La historia de la mujer cananea nos recuerda la importancia de la perseverancia y la fe en la oración, incluso cuando las respuestas parecen tardar. Su determinación y humildad ejemplifican la confianza que estamos llamados a tener en Jesús, reconociendo que su misericordia se extiende más allá de las fronteras y divisiones. Su fe nos invita a acercarnos a Dios con confianza, asegurándonos de que escucha nuestras necesidades más profundas.

Pregunta socrática:

¿Cómo puede el ejemplo de esta mujer inspirarte a perseverar en la fe y la confianza, incluso cuando te enfrentas a desafíos o aparentes silencios en tus oraciones?

Source: Truthly App

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

PARISH INFORMATION

MASS INTENTIONS INTENCIONES DE MISA

Saturday August 16

10:00 am

SI Johnson Family

5:00 pm

SI George G. Jochum Family

Sunday August 17

8:00 am

United States Armed Forces

10:00 am

†Michael James Brown

12:00 pm

Living & Deceased of St. Rita

Monday August 18

8:00 am

†Friar Ed Sarrazin, OFM

Tuesday August 19

8:00 am

Men & Women in the Military

Wednesday August 20

8:00 am

St. Rita

Thursday August 21

8:00 am

First Responders

Friday August 22

8:00 am

World Peace

COLLECTIONS | COLECTA

August 09, 2026



Offertory: \$6,260.15
Rectorry Debt: \$1,352.00
Campus Maint: \$255.60

Thank you for your support.
God bless you!

<https://www.osvhub.com/stritainthedesert/giving/funds>

BULLETIN DEADLINE & QUESTIONS

Email bulletin request(s) to:

bulletin@stritainthedesert.org

By **10am** on the **Wednesday** before the *Sunday* you want it published.

HOMEBOUND EUCHARIST

If you have a family member or know of a parishioner in the St. Rita area in need of having the Eucharist brought to them regularly, please contact the Parish Office.

EMERGENCY ANOINTING OF THE SICK

520-543-8415

MASS INTENTIONS AVAILABLE

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



ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

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



ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Every 1st Friday at 8am Mass

BAPTISMS

Visit stritainthedesert.org
[LITURGY](#) [SACRAMENTS](#) [BAPTISM](#)
and complete the *Intent to Baptize*
Form



CONFIRMATION

Contact Youth Minister or OCIA director

MARRIAGE

Marriage arrangements must be made 4 months in advance. Visit <https://www.stritainthedesert.org/marriage> for more information.

OFFICE OF THE PASTOR | OFICINA DE PASTOR

August 16, 2026

"O God, let all the nations praise you!" (Psalm 67:3)

Dear Parish Family and Friends,

National identity can be a powerful force when people work together toward a common purpose. Today's Scripture readings remind us that Israel, as God's chosen people, was called to bring faith, peace, and restoration to all nations.

At times, however, Israel lost sight of that mission and became more focused on self-preservation amid the struggles of disobedience and conflict. As a faithful Jew, Jesus witnessed this reality throughout His earthly life.

In today's Gospel, we encounter the moving story of the Canaanite woman who pleads with Jesus to heal her daughter. Although Jesus initially says that He was sent to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, her persistent faith moves Him to grant her request. This encounter reveals that Christ came not only for Israel, but for all nations and all peoples. May we, too, remain open to welcoming people of every culture as our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Please keep our parish Building Committee in your prayers as we meet with Bishop Misko and his team on **Thursday, August 20, 2026, at 10:45 a.m.** at the Chancery Office. During this meeting, we will present our recommendations and vision for our future parish church. The committee is chaired by **Mr. Tye Lockard**, with **Ms. Carol Wagner Williams** serving as Vice Chair. We pray that our plans will be well received so that we may continue moving forward with confidence.

St. Rita of Cascia, pray for us!

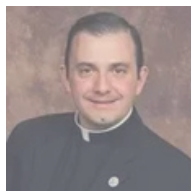
Thank you to all of our ministry leaders, ministry members, and parish volunteers who have registered for our spiritual ministry retreat. We look forward to gathering with you on **Saturday, August 22**. Registration begins at **8:30 a.m.**, followed by **Holy Mass at 9:00 a.m.**, and then our retreat in the parish hall.

Finally, our remaining debt on the parish rectory is **\$145,000**. Thank you to every family who has already contributed toward this important goal. We invite those who have not yet had the opportunity to prayerfully consider helping us eliminate this debt, as doing so is an important factor considered by the Diocese of Tucson Building Committee and Bishop Misko as they evaluate our readiness to build a new church.

If **350 families** each made a one-time gift of **\$425**, together we could eliminate the remaining balance. Thank you for your generosity and continued support of our parish mission.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Very Reverend Alonzo M. García, Dean



16 de agosto de 2026

"¡Oh Dios, que te alaben todos los pueblos!" (Salmo 67:4)

Estimada familia parroquial y amigos,

La identidad de un pueblo puede ser una gran fortaleza cuando todos trabajan unidos por un mismo propósito. Las lecturas de este domingo nos recuerdan que Israel, como el pueblo elegido de Dios, fue llamado a llevar la fe, la paz y la esperanza a todas las naciones.

Sin embargo, en algunos momentos de su historia, Israel perdió de vista esa misión y se centró más en su propia supervivencia, enfrentando dificultades por la desobediencia y los conflictos. Como judío, Jesús conoció muy bien esa realidad durante su vida terrena.

En el Evangelio de hoy nos relata un hermoso encuentro entre Jesús y una mujer cananea que le suplica la curación de su hija. Aunque al principio Jesús dice que fue enviado a las ovejas perdidas de la casa de Israel, la fe de aquella mujer conmueve Su corazón y Él concede la curación de su hija. Este pasaje nos recuerda que Cristo vino a salvar no solo a Israel, sino también a todos los pueblos y a todas las naciones. Que también nosotros permanezcamos abiertos para recibir y acoger a personas de todas las culturas como verdaderos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo.

Les pido que oren por el éxito de la reunión del Comité de Construcción con el Obispo Misko y su equipo, que se llevará a cabo el **jueves 20 de agosto de 2026, a las 10:45 a.m.**, en las oficinas de la Diócesis. En esta reunión presentaremos nuestras propuestas para la construcción de nuestra nueva iglesia parroquial. El comité está presidido por el **Sr. Tye Lockard**, con la **Sra. Carol Wagner Williams** como vicepresidenta. Pedimos a Dios que nuestro proyecto sea bien recibido para poder seguir adelante con este importante paso.

¡Santa Rita de Casia, ruega por nosotros!

Muchas gracias a todos los coordinadores de ministerios, sus integrantes y los voluntarios que ya se han inscrito para nuestro retiro espiritual de ministerios. Comenzaremos con la **Santa Misa el sábado 22 de agosto a las 8:30 a.m. en el Centro**, seguida del retiro en el salón parroquial.

¡Esperamos con alegría compartir este tiempo con ustedes!

Nuestra deuda restante por la casa parroquial es de **\$145,000**. Agradecemos de corazón a todas las familias que ya han contribuido. Invitamos a quienes aún no lo han hecho a considerar, en oración, la posibilidad de ayudarnos a liquidar esta deuda, ya que es un factor importante que el Comité de Construcción de la Diócesis de Tucson y el Obispo Misko tomarán en cuenta al evaluar nuestra preparación para construir una nueva iglesia.

Si **350 familias** hicieran una aportación única de **\$425**, juntos podríamos cubrir el saldo restante.

READINGS & OBSERVANCES

FIRST READING:

"My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples." (Isaiah 56:7)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

"O God, let all the nations praise you!" (Psalm 67:4)

SECOND READING:

"For God delivered all to disobedience, that he might have mercy upon all." (Romans 11:32)

GOSPEL:

"O woman, great is your faith!" (Matthew 15:28)

Sunday, August 16

Is 56:1, 6-7 | Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 | Rom 11:13-15, 29-32 | Mt 15:21-28

Monday, August 17

Ez 24:15-23 | Dt 32:18-19, 20, 21 | Mt 19:16-22

Tuesday, August 18

Ez 28:1-10 | Dt 32:26-27ab, 27cd-28, 30, 35cd-36ab | Mt 19:23-30

Wednesday, August 19

Ez 34:1-11 | Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 | Mt 20:1-16

Thursday, August 20

Ez 36:23-28 | Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19 | Mt 22:1-14

Friday, August 21

Ez 37:1-14 | Ps 107:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 | Mt 22:34-40

Saturday, August 22

Ez 43:1-7ab | Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 | Mt 23:1-12

THIS WEEK

Religious Education

K-5th Grade, OCIV, & Confirmation

Sundays • 2-4pm

*Family Rosary: 3:30-4pm

Middle & High School RE

Wednesdays • 5-6:30pm

*Parents are kindly encouraged to join their children

Youth Group

Wednesdays • 6-8pm

Where: Mother Teresa room

Learn more at:

stritainthedesert.org/youth-ministry

Adult Formation

Sundays • 11:30 am

Where: Verhagen Building

Learn more at:

StRitaInTheDesert.org/Adult-Formation

Welcome Team

Potluck: Sept 12th

Women of the Way

Study Group

Wednesdays • 6 pm

Where: Oscar Romero Room

Questions? Email Jessica Floyd:

jbrink1130@gmail.com

Men's Prayer Group

Mondays • 6 pm

Where: Oscar Romero Room

Questions? Contact Jayme

Kahle at (520) 664-4467 or

jkahle25@gmail.com.

For more announcements

please see our

FULL bulletin online.



PARISH NEWS

Rectory Debt Payoff

As of Sunday, August 09, 2026

\$201,780

\$345,000
GOAL

149

500
FAMILY PLEDGED/DONATED GOAL



THE HARVEST JOURNAL

The Sound of Celebration

Every memorable festival has a soundtrack.

Children laughing.

Friends talking.

Music filling the evening air.

This year's Main Stage is being designed to keep the celebration alive from opening until closing.

We're still putting the finishing touches on the entertainment lineup...

...and we can't wait to share it with you.

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



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

The Gospel today announces that *the kingdom of God and salvation are for all people*.

Did you know that the Society of St. Vincent de Paul serves everyone, regardless of their faith? A majority of those we serve are not Catholic, and yet we sit with them, provide some material help and pray with them. We let them know that they matter. We strive to see the face of Christ and be the face of Christ to all who call upon us.

GOSPEL MEDITATION

MATTHEW 15:21-28

In this passage, we encounter the Canaanite woman, an outsider in many respects, who approaches Jesus with urgency and faith. Her insistence, even in the face of initial rejection, demonstrates an unwavering belief in Jesus' power to heal. Jesus highlights the woman's faith, reminding us that genuine faith often requires patience and perseverance. This encounter teaches us that God's mercy and grace are available to all who seek Him sincerely, transcending divisions and preconceived notions. It challenges us to have a faith that is bold and unyielding, trusting in Jesus even when our prayers seem unanswered.

Socratic Reflection:

How can you develop a faith that perseveres, regardless of obstacles, and seeks God's mercy with confidence and humility?

MATEO 15:21-28

En este pasaje, encontramos a la mujer cananea, una forastera en muchos aspectos, que se acerca a Jesús con urgencia y fe. Su insistencia, incluso ante el rechazo inicial, demuestra una creencia inquebrantable en el poder de Jesús para sanar. Jesús destaca la fe de la mujer, recordándonos que la fe genuina a menudo requiere paciencia y perseverancia. Este encuentro nos enseña que la misericordia y gracia de Dios están al alcance de todos los que lo buscan con sinceridad, trascendiendo divisiones y nociones preconcebidas. Nos desafía a tener una fe audaz e inflexible, confiando en Jesús incluso cuando nuestras oraciones parecen no tener respuesta.

Pregunta Socrática:

¿Cómo puedes desarrollar una fe que persevera, sin importar los obstáculos, y busca la misericordia de Dios con confianza y humildad?

DID YOU KNOW...

20TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

On August 16, 1977, the world said goodbye to one of the most iconic figures in music history, Elvis Presley, who passed away at the age of 42. Known as the "King of Rock and Roll," Elvis had a profound impact on the music industry and popular culture, with his style, voice, and charisma capturing the hearts of millions around the globe. His legacy continues to influence musicians and enthusiasts even decades after his passing. Graceland, his home in Memphis, Tennessee, remains a popular pilgrimage site for fans worldwide, symbolizing the lasting impact of his contribution to music and culture.

This day serves as a reminder of how art and talent have the power to transcend time, shaping generations and inspiring creativity. As you reflect on influential figures like Elvis, consider how your unique gifts and talents might be used to enrich the lives of others. In what ways can you contribute positively to culture and community through your own passions?

via truthly app

SAINT SPOTLIGHT



ST. PIUS X

Feast Day: August 21st

Patronage: St. Pius X is the patron saint of pilgrims and First Communicants.

Story: St. Pius X was born Giuseppe Melchiorre Sarto in 1835 in Italy. He came from a humble background and was ordained a priest at a young age. Known for his pastoral care and influence in Church reforms, he rose through the ranks of the Church, eventually becoming the Bishop of Mantua and Patriarch of Venice. In 1903, he became Pope Pius X.

Pope Pius X is remembered for his emphasis on the Eucharist and liturgical reforms. He encouraged frequent reception of Holy Communion and lowered the age for First Communion, believing in the powerful grace of the sacrament. He also implemented reforms to improve Church music and liturgy, promoting a deeper sense of reverence and participation in the sacred rites.

Legacy: St. Pius X left a legacy of devotion to the Eucharist and liturgical renewal. His papal motto, "Restore all things in Christ," reflects his commitment to strengthening the Catholic Church and its teachings amid modern challenges. He is remembered for his humility, dedication to spiritual renewal, and desire to bring people closer to Christ through the sacraments.

Reflection Question: How can St. Pius X's passion for the Eucharist and liturgical renewal inspire you to deepen your own participation and understanding of the Mass and sacraments?

KIDS CORNER



Feast Day: August 21st

Who was St. Pius X?

St. Pius X is a special saint for people who go on pilgrimages and for kids who are preparing for their First Communion.

His Story:

St. Pius X was born with the name Giuseppe Sarto in Italy in 1835. He came from a simple family and became a priest because he loved helping people and teaching them about God. He was so good at his job that he eventually became the Pope — the leader of the Catholic Church!

When he was Pope, St. Pius X wanted everyone to be closer to Jesus, especially through Holy Communion. He thought that kids should be able to receive Jesus in the Eucharist at a younger age, so he changed the rules to make this possible. He also worked on making the Mass and church music more beautiful and easier for people to participate in.

His Legacy:

St. Pius X is remembered for helping people love Jesus more through the Mass and Communion. His famous saying was "Restore all things in Christ," which means he wanted everything in the Church to help people know and love Jesus better.

Question to Think About:

How can you learn from St. Pius X to love going to Mass and receiving Jesus in Holy Communion even more?

Source: *Truthly App*

KNIGHTS NEWS



Knights of Columbus®

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

After the 8 & 10 am masses
Mexican sweet bread after the 12:00 mass.

Proceeds will go towards the Coats for Kids project.

FARM FRESH EGG SALES RETURN

The Knights of Columbus will resume selling farm fresh eggs after all Masses on the **first and third weekends of each month.**

This Month: **August 15-16.**

Proceeds will support youth programs at St. Rita, including St. Joseph Youth Camp, altar server retreats, Religious Education scholarships, and our new Youth Ministry.

Thank you for supporting the youth of our parish!

ALUMINUM CAN RECYCLING

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

Please remember:

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

Need help?

Ask a Knight wearing a maroon council shirt.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

TALLERES DE ORACIÓN Y VIDA

¿Quieres aprender a conseguir silencio y paz?

Ven a vivir el **Taller de Oración y Vida**, donde aprenderás a orar paso a paso... y cuando todo permanezca en silencio, ¡Dios hablará!

Iniciamos: Lunes, 3 de agosto

Horario: 6:30–8:30 p.m.

Lugar:

Parroquia St. Rita en el Desierto
13560 E. Colossal Cave Rd.
Vail, AZ 85630

Información:

Información: Isabel Leon • (520) 551-3212

Trae tu Biblia, cuaderno y \$14 para adquirir tu material.

NEED A PLACE TO GATHER?

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

For availability and scheduling, contact the

Parish Office: 520-762-9688 |
secretary@stritainthedesert.org



ANNOUNCEMENTS

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

You don't have to walk through grief alone. Join Arista Healthcare's **Grief Support Group** on the **first Thursday of every month at 10:00 AM at 1636 N. Swan Rd., Suite 250, Tucson.** Open to anyone experiencing grief before, during, or after hospice care—you do not need to be an Arista patient or family member to attend.

Questions? Call (520) 333-0333.
www.aristahealthaz.com

STROKE SCAN SCREENING

Stroke Scan Plus will be at St. Rita in the Desert on **Saturday, September 12**, offering affordable vascular and organ ultrasound screenings. Early detection can help identify risk factors before symptoms appear.

Appointments are required. Call (832) 437-7355 to schedule your screening.



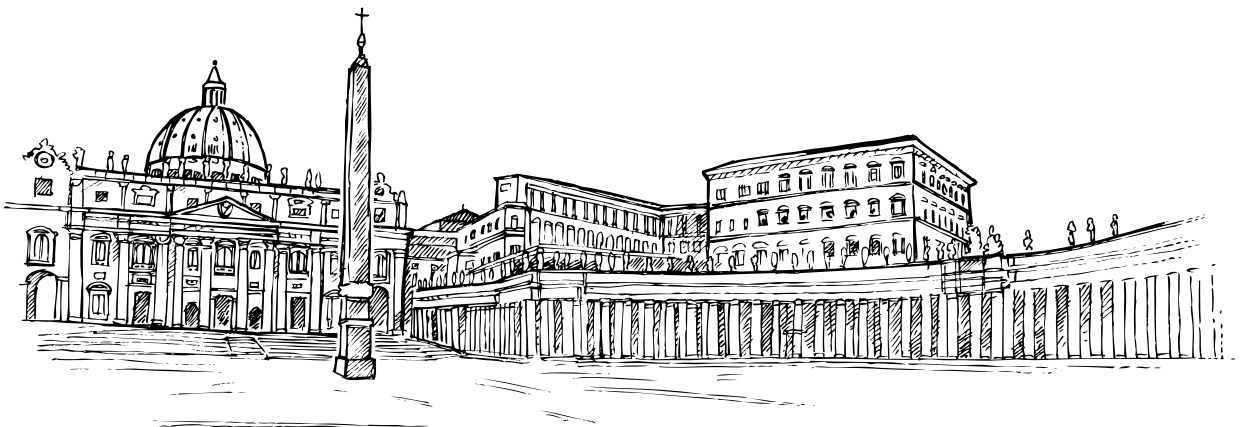
Rachel's Vineyard Retreat (Tucson) September 4–6, 2026

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

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

Call/Text: 520-743-6777.

helpourmarriage.org
RETRouvaille®
A LIFELINE FOR MARRIED COUPLES
No Marriage is BEYOND HOPE!
Try A RETROUVAILLE Weekend
Upcoming Weekend Tucson, AZ
September 11-13, 2026
Confidential Inquires:
520-762-4449
4003r@helpourmarriage.org
R.O.S.A. ~ Retrouvaille of Southern Arizona



SAINTS THIS MONTH

August 1

- [St. Alphonsus Liguori](#)
- [The Holy Maccabees \(OT\)](#)

August 2

- [St. Eusebius of Vercelli](#)
- [St. Peter Julian Eymard](#)

August 3

- [St. Lydia of Philippi](#)

August 4

- [Saint John Vianney](#)

August 5

- [Saint Mary Major](#)
- [St. Oswald of Northumbria](#)

August 6

- [Pope St. Hormisdas](#)

The [Transfiguration of the Lord](#) is also observed on August 6.

August 7

- [Pope St. Sixtus II and companions](#)
- [St. Cajetan](#)
- [St. Donatus of Arezzo](#)
- [St. Albert of Trapani](#)

August 8

- [St. Dominic de Guzman of Osma](#)

August 9

- [St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross](#)
- [St. Romanus of Rome](#)

August 10

- [St. Lawrence the Deacon](#)

August 11

- [Saint Clare of Assisi](#)
- [St. Tiburtius](#)
- [St. Susanna of Rome](#)

August 12

- [St. Jane Frances de Chantal](#)

August 13

- [Sts. Pontian and Hippolytus](#)
- [St. Cassian](#)

August 14

- [St. Maximilian Kolbe](#)
- [St. Eusebius of Rome](#)

August 15

- [St. Tarcisius](#)

August 15 is also the Solemnity of the [Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary](#).

August 16

- [St. Stephen of Hungary](#)
- [St. Roch](#)

August 17

- [St. Hyacinth of Poland](#)
- [St. Clare of Montefalco](#)

August 18

- [St. Helena](#)
- [St. Agapitus of Palestrina](#)

August 19

- [St. John Eudes, priest](#)
- [St. Magnus of Anagni](#)

August 20

- [St. Bernard of Clairvaux](#)
- [Samuel the Prophet \(OT\)](#)

August 21

- [Pope St. Pius X](#)

August 22

- [Sts. Timothy, Hippolytus, and Symphorian](#)

August 23

- [St. Rose of Lima](#)

August 24

- [St. Bartholomew, Apostle](#)
- [St. Emily de Vialar](#)

August 25

- [St. Louis of France](#)
- [St. Joseph Calasanaz](#)

August 26

- [Pope St. Zephyrinus](#)
- [St. Alexander of Bergamo](#)
- [The Priest Melchizedek \(OT\)](#)

August 27

- [St. Monica](#)

August 28

- [St. Augustine of Hippo](#)

August 29

- [Passion of St. John the Baptist](#)
- [St. Sabina of Rome](#)

August 30

- [St. Pammachius](#)
- [Sts. Felix and Adauctus](#)

August 31

- [St. Raymond Nonnatus](#)
- [St. Nicodemus](#)
- [St. Joseph of Arimathea](#) – or March 17

All underlined text is clickable

source: young-catholics.com

PARISH CONNECTIONS



CONTACT US

- **Main Office** - (520)762-9688
- **Office Hours**
 - Mon-Wed: 8:30 am-4:00 pm
 - Thur: 8:00 am-2:00 pm
 - Fri: CLOSED
 - Daily: Closed: 12pm-1pm
- **Staff Directory**



WORSHIP

- **Mass Times**
 - M-F (Shrine) - 8am
 - Sat (St. John XXIII) - 5pm
 - Sun (St. John XXIII) - 8am | 10am | Noon (Sp)
- **Confession**
 - Sat (St. John XXIII) - 3:30p-4:30p
- **Adoration**
 - Fri (Shrine) 8:30a-9:30a
 - 1st Sunday of each month (St. John XXIII): 3-4pm



SACRAMENTS

- Baptism
- Marriage
- Anointing
 - Every 1st Friday at 8am Mass
- Funerals



GROW IN FAITH

- OCIA | Adult Formation
- Children's Formation ~ *coming soon*



GET INVOLVED

- Ministry Directory
- Music Ministry



PRAYER & CARE

- Prayer Requests (online)
- Request a Mass Intention (online) ~ coming soon
- Pastoral Care



STEWARDSHIP

- Online Giving
- Parish Support
- Reserve a Legacy Bench



NEW TO ST. RITA?

- Join St. Rita Parish
- New to the Catholic Faith



STAY INFORMED

- Calendar
- Weekly Bulletin
- Website

STAFF DIRECTORY

Parish Office

Administrative Assistant:
Chris Metzger

Secretary:
Veronica Garcia

Office Assistant:
Priscilla Molinar

Business Manager:
Louise Azzopardi

Compliance:
Mary Morgan

Bulletin Editor:
Kathy Lockard

Facilities Manager:
Norm Scheopner

Maintenance:
Bill Cline

Religious Education

Director of Religious Education:
Geraldine Durman

Youth Ministry:
Leah Sides

OCIA Coordinator:
Michelle Quinn Crowley

Parish Directory



Campus Map



All underlined text is clickable. Can't find what you're looking for? Visit stritainthedesert.org or contact the Parish Office.

ST. RITA IN THE DESERT



Build Something They'll Remember

Choose One Experience. Make a Difference.

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

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

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

Children's Village - Confirmation

Magical fun for our youngest guests.

- Games
- Pumpkin Patch
- Prizes
- Family Activities

Hospitality - Welcome Team

Welcome every guest with a smile.

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

Creative Corner - Vacant

Hands-on fun for all ages.

- Face Painting
- Hair Tinsel
- Henna
- Crafts

Harvest Market - Altar Society

Support our vendors and artisans.

- Vendor Check-In
- Hospitality
- Market Support

Vineyard Retreat - Guild

Create a relaxing gathering space.

- Hospitality
- Décor
- Guest Experience

Harvest Beer Garden - Knights

Help serve our adult guests.

- Hospitality
- Entry
- Setup
- Cleanup

Main Stage - Liturgical Ministry

Keep the entertainment running smoothly.

- Performer Hospitality
- Stage Crew
- Seating
- Setup

Glow Garden - Marian Garden Chair

Help create the festival's evening magic.

- Lighting & Décor
- Lanterns
- Guest Experience

Logistics & Setup - Facilities

The team behind the scenes.

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

There Is a Place for You.

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

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

One Experience. One Team. One Amazing Festival.

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

See the Vision

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



🍷 Children's Village
🍺 Beer Garden

🎵 Creative Corner
🎵 Main Stage

🌿 Harvest Market
🌟 Glow Garden

🍷 Vineyard Retreat
🍷 Hospitality

Your Parish. Reimagined.

Imagine helping bring this vision to life.