

May 17, 2026



# ST. RITA IN THE DESERT

## Catholic Church

### CLERGY

#### Pastor:

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

#### Deacon:

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

### THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

*"I am with you always, until the end of the age."  
(Matthew 28:20)*

*"Yo estaré con ustedes todos los días, hasta el fin del mundo."  
(Mateo 28:20)*

#### Reflection:

In this Gospel passage, Jesus gives His final instructions to the disciples before ascending to Heaven. He commands them to go forth, baptizing and teaching all nations. Though physically leaving them, He reassures them with the powerful promise of His enduring presence: "I am with you always." This promise offers us comfort and strength, reminding us that Jesus accompanies us in all circumstances, guiding and empowering us in our mission to share His love and truth. As we reflect on this, let us open our hearts to trust in His unending presence, especially when we face challenges in living out our faith.

#### Socratic Question:

How can you embrace the promise of Jesus' constant presence in your daily life and share His message with those around you?

#### Reflexión:

En este pasaje del Evangelio, Jesús da Sus instrucciones finales a los discípulos antes de ascender al cielo. Les pide que vayan, bauticen y enseñen a todas las naciones. Aunque físicamente los deja, les asegura con la poderosa promesa de Su presencia duradera: "Yo estaré con ustedes siempre." Esta promesa nos ofrece consuelo y fuerza, recordándonos que Jesús nos acompaña en todas las circunstancias, guiándonos y fortaleciéndonos en nuestra misión de compartir Su amor y verdad. Al reflexionar sobre esto, abramos nuestros corazones para confiar en Su presencia ilimitada, especialmente cuando enfrentamos desafíos en vivir nuestra fe.

#### Pregunta socrática:

¿Cómo puedes abrazar la promesa de la presencia constante de Jesús en tu vida diaria y compartir Su mensaje con los que te rodean?

Source: *Truthly App*

### 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

**Office Closed**

*Office Closed*

*12pm—1pm daily*

## PARISH INFORMATION

### COLLECTIONS | COLECTA

May 10, 2026



Offeratory: \$ 6,649.66  
Rectory Debt: \$ 477.00  
Campus Maint: \$ 199.60

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)

**Compliance:** Mary Morgan  
[compliance@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:compliance@stritainthedesert.org)

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

**Facilities Manager:** Norm Scheopner  
[maintenance@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:maintenance@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

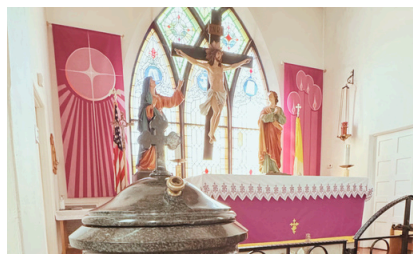
### MASS INTENTIONS AVAILABLE

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.



#### 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

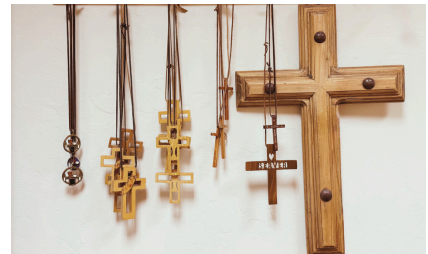


#### ANOINTING OF THE SICK

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

May 17, 2026

Dear Amazing Parishioners and Friends of St. Rita in the Desert,

Today, we celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The Ascension completes the sacred scripture of Jesus' life. In Acts, we read, "He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight" (Acts 1:9-11). The Gospel of Luke also tells us, "He led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up His hands, He blessed them. While He blessed them, He parted from them and was carried up into heaven" (Luke 24:50-53). All of scripture speaks of Jesus, who fulfilled all prophecy as He leaves this earth from the mountain and goes to His Father's throne.

While the apostles of Jesus may have had fear, sadness, and doubt, the Lord Jesus promised them that He would be with them always. Just as the apostles struggled with uncertainty and change as they watched Jesus depart, we too may experience moments of worry, loneliness, or confusion in our own faith journeys. Yet, the Lord's promise remains for us as it did for them: He is with us always. Despite the human emotion of seeing Jesus depart from the mountain to the Father, there was work to be done from both heaven and earth. Jesus promised that He would send them the Advocate to empower them to go forth to baptize and teach all nations.

As we prepare for the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Sunday, where are we being called to teach and share the gospel of Jesus Christ in our lives? Parents, are you making time for prayer, devotion, and reflection in your homes? Husbands and wives, are you praying together and for each other? We have to make room for the coming of the Holy Spirit! One simple way to do this as a family is to set aside a moment each day to pray together, perhaps before dinner or before bedtime. Reading a passage from scripture as a family and talking about how it relates to your day can deepen your faith and strengthen your connection with each other. You might also consider creating a small prayer corner in your home with a candle or cross, where family members can gather for moments of reflection. It is this Holy Spirit that empowers us in ways beyond human understanding. Devoting more time to our faith, prayer, and the sacraments empowers us to become true disciples of our Lord!


Thank you, Saint Rita's Guild, and all who helped make our Italian Dinner a success! Congratulations to Fr. Stan in his 55 years as an ordained priest. We wish him all the best and many more years in the service of God and His people!

If you have not already seen it, I would like to point out the bulletin about St. Rita in the Desert's core values that we are using. These core values are what will make St. Rita in the Desert an amazing parish today and beyond. Please look them over and consider how you can become an amazing parishioner and friend as you strive to embody these principles here at the parish and beyond! Remember, with God, all things are possible!

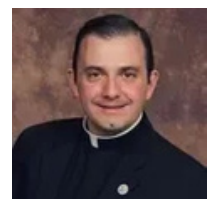
We are seeking a part-time receptionist to answer phones and take messages. If you are interested, please visit the Diocese of Tucson website, find the employment section, and submit your application online. Thank you for your interest.

Lastly, if you enjoy working with youth, high school age and up, please come and make an appointment with me to discuss your ideas and vision for what a vibrant youth group could look like here at St. Rita in the Desert Roman Catholic Church! Looking forward to having that conversation with you!

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Very Reverend Alonzo M. García, Dean



## OFICINA DE PASTOR

17 de Mayo de 2026

Estimada familia parroquial y amigos:

Hoy celebramos la Ascensión de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo. La Ascensión completa la Sagrada Escritura sobre la vida de Jesús. En los Hechos de los Apóstoles leemos: “Fue elevado mientras ellos miraban, y una nube lo ocultó de su vista” (Hechos 1:9-11). El Evangelio de Lucas también nos dice: “Después los llevó hasta cerca de Betania y, levantando sus manos, los bendijo. Y mientras los bendecía, se separó de ellos y fue llevado al cielo” (Lucas 24:50-53). Toda la Escritura habla de Jesús, quien cumplió toda profecía al dejar esta tierra desde el monte y dirigirse al trono de Su Padre.

Aunque los apóstoles de Jesús pudieron haber sentido temor, tristeza y duda, el Señor Jesús les prometió que estaría con ellos siempre. Así como los apóstoles lucharon con la incertidumbre y el cambio al ver partir a Jesús, también nosotros podemos experimentar momentos de preocupación, soledad o confusión en nuestro caminar de fe. Sin embargo, la promesa del Señor permanece para nosotros como permaneció para ellos: Él está siempre con nosotros. A pesar de la emoción humana al ver a Jesús partir del monte hacia el Padre, había una obra que debía realizarse tanto en el cielo como en la tierra. Jesús prometió que les enviaría al Defensor para fortalecerlos y que fueran a bautizar y enseñar a todas las naciones.

Mientras nos preparamos para la venida del Espíritu Santo en el Domingo de Pentecostés, ¿dónde estamos siendo llamados a enseñar y compartir el Evangelio de Jesucristo en nuestras vidas? Padres, ¿dedican tiempo a la oración, la devoción y la reflexión en sus hogares? Esposos y esposas, ¿oran juntos y el uno por el otro? ¿Debemos hacer espacio para la venida del Espíritu Santo! Una manera sencilla de hacerlo en familia es reservar un momento cada día para orar juntos, quizás antes de la cena o de acostarse. Leer un pasaje de la Escritura en familia y conversar sobre cómo se relaciona con su día puede fortalecer su fe y la conexión entre ustedes. También podrían considerar crear un pequeño rincón de oración en su hogar con una vela o una cruz, donde los miembros de la familia puedan reunirse para momentos de reflexión. Es este Espíritu Santo quien nos fortalece de maneras que trascienden el entendimiento humano. Dedicar más tiempo a nuestra fe, a la oración y a los sacramentos nos capacita para convertirnos en verdaderos discípulos de Nuestro Señor.

¡Gracias al Gremio de Santa Rita y a todos los que ayudaron a hacer de nuestra Cena Italiana un éxito! Felicitaciones al Padre Stan por sus 55 años como sacerdote ordenado. ¡Le deseamos lo mejor y muchos años más al servicio de Dios y de Su pueblo!

Si aún no lo han visto, quisiera señalar el boletín sobre los valores fundamentales de Sta. Rita en el Desierto que estamos utilizando. Estos valores fundamentales son los que harán de Sta. Rita en el Desierto una parroquia extraordinaria hoy y en el futuro. Por favor, revísenlos y consideren cómo pueden convertirse en feligreses y amigos ejemplares mientras se esfuerzan por encarnar estos principios aquí en la parroquia y más allá. ¡Recuerden que con Dios todo es posible!

Estamos buscando una recepcionista de medio tiempo para atender llamadas y tomar mensajes. Si están interesados, por favor visiten el sitio web de la Diócesis de Tucson, busquen la sección de empleos y envíen su solicitud en línea. Gracias por su interés.

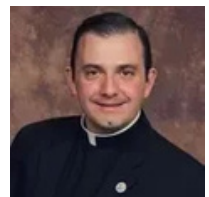
Por último, si disfrutan trabajar con jóvenes de edad preparatoria en adelante, por favor, vengan y hagan una cita conmigo para conversar sobre sus ideas y su visión de cómo podríamos tener un grupo juvenil vibrante y lleno de vida aquí en nuestra parroquia. ¡Espero con gusto tener esa conversación con ustedes!

Que el Señor continúe guiándonos en nuestro camino de Cuaresma.

Sinceramente en Cristo,



Muy Reverendo Alonzo M. García, Dean



### CELEBRATING 55 YEARS OF PRIESTHOOD — FATHER STAN

Father Stanley J. Szezapa, “Father Stan,” was ordained to the priesthood on **May 15, 1971** at St. Patrick Cathedral for the Diocese of Norwich, and celebrated his first Solemn Mass the following day at St. Bridgid Church.

Born June 8, 1943, in Hartford, CT, he attended St. Augustine School and Bulkeley High School before entering formation with the Jesuits in Lenox, MA. He continued his studies at St. Mary’s College in Orchard Lake, MI, the University of Detroit—earning a Master’s degree in Religious Studies with an emphasis in Liturgy—and SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary. He also completed 60 hours toward a Doctor of Ministry in Liturgy through Santa Clara University and Hartford Seminary.



Father Stan has served in seven parishes in Connecticut, including as pastor of three, and since retiring to Arizona in 2017, has assisted in five parishes, including St. Rita in Vail and San Martín de Porres in Sahuarita. Over the years, he has celebrated hundreds of baptisms, marriages, funerals, First Communions, anointings of the sick, and more than 50 Confirmations, while also helping guide two men toward the priesthood.

A former board member of the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions and member of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians, Father Stan has dedicated his life to the Church’s liturgical and pastoral mission. He credits his vocation to the influence of parish priests, Jesuit mentors, and his 5th grade teacher, Sr. Emily, who prayed for him faithfully.

“The Eucharist is central to my priesthood,” he shares, “but one of my greatest joys is celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation—witnessing God’s mercy transform lives.”

Father Stan’s spirituality was deeply shaped by his time with the Jesuits. He holds great admiration for Pope Francis and St. Oscar Romero, and his visits to Haiti have also left a lasting impact.

Reflecting on his journey, Father Stan says simply: “I was called to be a priest, and after many years of discernment, I said yes.” His personal motto: “*God writes straight with crooked lines.*”

*We give thanks to God for 55 years of faithful priestly service!*

## WEEKLY CALENDAR, INTENTIONS, OBSERVATIONS & READINGS

### MASS INTENTIONS INTENCIONES DE MISA

*Saturday May 16*

**5:00 pm**

Fr. Stan 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

*Sunday May 17*

**8:00 am**

†John B. Morgan

†Stan & Gail Zubel

Fr. Stan 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**10:00 am**

†Louisa & Joe Moreno & Family

Fr. Stan 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**12:00 pm**

Living & Deceased of St. Rita

*Monday May 18*

**8:00 am**

Poor Souls in Purgatory

*Tuesday May 19*

**8:00 am**

†Richard Bartz

*Wednesday May 20*

**8:00 am**

SI Joan Fitzgerald

*Thursday May 21*

**8:00 am**

SI Gail Daily

*Friday May 22*

**8:00 am**

First Responders

### THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

*Sunday, May 17*

**Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord**

- *St. Paschal Baylon*

8:00 am - Mass (English)

10:00 am - Mass (English)

12:00 noon - Mass (Spanish)

3:00 pm - Shrine

*Monday, May 18*

- *Pope St. John I*

- *St. Felix of Cantalice*

8:00 am Mass (English)

8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

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

*Tuesday, May 19*

- *Pope St. Peter Celestine V*

- *St. Ivo of Kermartin*

8:00 am Mass (English)

8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

*Wednesday, May 20*

- *St. Bernardine of Siena*

- *St. Aurea of Ostia*

8:00 am - Mass (English)

8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

9:00 am Women's Scripture

Study (Oscar Romero Room)

*Thursday, May 21*

- *St. Christopher Magallanes and Companions, Mexican martyrs*

- *St. Eugene de Mazenod*

8:00 am - Mass (English)

8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

*Friday, May 22*

- *St. Rita of Cascia*

- *St. Julia of Corsica*

8:00 am - Mass

8:30 am Eucharist Adoration

*Saturday, May 23*

- *St. John the Baptist de Rossi*

5 pm - Vigil Mass (John XXIII)

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

### READINGS & OBSERVANCES

**FIRST READING:**

"He was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight." (Acts 1:9)

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

"God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord." (Ps 47:6)

**SECOND READING:**

"He put all things beneath his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church." (Eph 1:22)

**GOSPEL:**

"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations." (Mt 28:19)

*Sunday, May 17*

Acts 1:1-11 | Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9  
| Eph 1:17-23 | Mt 28:16-20

*Monday, May 18*

Acts 19:1-8 | Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab | Jn 16:29-33

*Tuesday, May 19*

Acts 20:17-27 | Ps 68:10-11, 20-21 | Jn 17:1-11a

*Wednesday, May 20*

Acts 20:28-38 | Ps 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab | Jn 17:11b-19

*Thursday, May 21*

Acts 22:30; 23:6-11 | Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 | Jn 17:20-26

*Friday, May 22*

Acts 25:13b-21 | Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab | Jn 21:15-19

*Saturday, May 23*

Acts 28:16-20, 30-31 | Ps 11:4, 5, 7 | Jn 21:20-25

# 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 - Join Us!*

Love sacred music? Come sing or play!

**Adult choirs (18+):** Tues | 6:30 pm

**Youth choir (8-18):** Wed | 4:30 pm

**Spanish choir:** Wed | 6:15 pm

Play piano, guitar, flute or clarinet? - welcome!

### **Pianist Needed (Sat 5pm Mass):**

Mass music paused until filled. Stipend available.

**Coro español:** ¡Únete! 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 every **2nd & 4th Wed** of the month | **6pm** | Mother Teresa Rm | 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.  
**Protect your Family.**  
Serve Others.  
**Defend Your Values.**  
**BECOME A KNIGHT**

### **Catholic Men 18+**

visit our website: <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, May 10, 2026

\$127,055.53

**\$345,000**  
GOAL

145

**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

Be part of our parish family's exciting next chapter



Scan to Pledge



Come Visit our Lady of the Desert Marian Rose Garden for prayer or Meditation.

Consider becoming a volunteer to revitalize our church grounds. If interested, please contact the office for more information.



## 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.

## ST. RITA'S GUILD

May 22, 2026  
5:30pm - 8:00pm

Solemnity of St. Rita of Cascia  
Mass, Procession and Picnic

## ST RITA IN THE DESERT - CORE VALUES

OUR AMAZING PARISH!

**Why do we exist?**

*To help people get to heaven*

**What we do?**

*Through our Catholic faith we form disciple of Christ*

**How do we behave?**

*Contagious Joy*

*Enduring Faith*

*Humble Service*

**How will we succeed?**

*Cultivating a culture of stewardship*

*Activate parish leaders*

*Future forward facilities*

*Ministries for all generations*

## SHRINE PARKING LOT

Shrine Parking Lot

**CLOSURE**

Wednesday-Friday  
May 27-29th

Use back parking lot!



Knights of Columbus®

# A New Beginning...

## Join the Knights of Columbus FREE MEMBERSHIP\*

For new online membership applications  
submitted the entire month of April

\*for 1-year of online membership, regular dues are \$30/year thereafter.

Visit [kofc.org/joinus](http://kofc.org/joinus)



Enter code

**BLESSEDMCGIVNEY**

### PANCAKE BREAKFAST

**TODAY!**

**May 17th** (*Pancake Breakfast*)

Mark your calendars and join the  
Knights for Breakfast



### KNIGHTS BABY BOTTLE DRIVE

Begins **May 2, 2026**

Support REACHOUT Women's Center by helping us surpass last year's success!

1. Pick up a bottle after Mass starting May 2
2. Fill with change, cash, or checks (payable to Knights of Columbus)
3. Return by **June 13** to a representative at the door

### 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.*

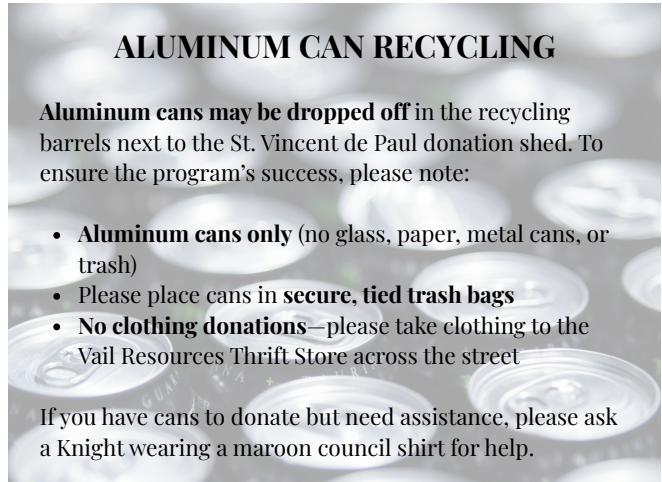


### ALUMINUM CAN RECYCLING

Aluminum cans may be dropped off in the recycling barrels next to the St. Vincent de Paul donation shed. To ensure the program's success, 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



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](http://www.rachelsvineyardtucson.org) or call/ Text to 520-743-6777.

## PILGRIMAGE TO EASTERN EUROPE

12 Days NOVEMBER 3 - 14, 2026

Prague • Vienna • Budapest • Krakow • Auschwitz • Czestochowa • Warsaw • Wadowice

With Vine of Grace Retreat Ministry  
& Fr. Bala Kommathoti

**Pilgrimage Informational Meetings**  
Please RSVP for meeting at 520.631.1408

**Sunday, May 17** – St. Helen of the Cross Catholic Church  
PARISH HALL at **10:15a** 205 West 8th Street – Eloy

Printable brochures & information: [vineofgrace.org](http://vineofgrace.org)



## worldwide marriage encounter

It is time to get your marriage in shape! Worldwide Marriage Encounter is better than any college course. In just one short weekend, you can learn a technique for communication that will keep your marriage on the right track to be healthy. Sign up for an upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience

**May 30-31, 2026, in Tucson**

**July 11-12, 2026, in Phoenix**

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

*Early registration is highly recommended.*



## THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



*Today as we celebrate the feast of the Ascension, we are reminded that Christ's saving work on earth continues through his disciples and now through us. Is there a family you know needs assistance? Are you being called to serve them in a special way? The laborers are few but the needy are many! Please pray and search your heart to see if God is calling you into a deeper relationship with Him by serving the poor.*



**ARE YOU FOLLOWING US?**  
*click here*



### Diocese of Tucson

It's Faithful Friday! And we are so excited to bring you something new 🙌 Our very own Bishop of Tucson launched a podcast called Being Church with Bishop Misko. Let's walk together while we grow in...

[facebookapp](#)



## SAINT SPOTLIGHT



### SAINT RITA OF CASCIA

**Feast Day:** May 22nd

**Patronage:**

Saint Rita is the patroness of impossible causes, difficult marriages, and abused wives.

**Story:** Saint Rita was born in 1381 in Roccaporena, Italy. From a young age, she desired to become a nun, but she was instead married to a harsh and abusive husband. Despite his cruelty, Rita remained patient and kind, ultimately inspiring her husband to change his ways. Tragically, he was murdered due to a long-standing family feud. Rita's sons wanted to avenge his death, but she prayed fervently that they would be prevented from committing such a sin, even if it meant they would die. Both sons died of natural causes before they could act on their vengeance.

After their deaths, Rita entered the Augustinian convent in Cascia, where she lived a life of prayer and service. One day, while meditating on the Passion of Christ, she miraculously received a wound on her forehead, resembling the stigmata of Christ's crown of thorns. Rita lived the rest of her life with this wound, accepting it as a sign of sharing in Christ's suffering. She died in 1457, and her life became a powerful testament to God's ability to transform suffering into grace.

**Legacy:** Saint Rita's life is a profound example of perseverance, forgiveness, and faith. She turned personal tragedies into opportunities to grow in holiness, offering her sufferings to God. Her trust in divine providence and her unwavering dedication to prayer make her a model of hope for those facing seemingly impossible situations. Her intercession continues to be sought by many who are in desperate need of peace and reconciliation.

**Reflection Question:** How does the example of Saint Rita challenge you to transform your own difficulties into opportunities for spiritual growth and trust in God's plan?

### KIDS CORNER



**Feast Day:** May 22nd

**Who She Helps:** Saint Rita is a special friend to people who are facing really tough problems, have difficult family situations, or need help finding peace.

**Story:** Saint Rita was born a long time ago in Italy, in a small village. Ever since she was a little girl, she wanted to become a nun, which means someone who dedicates their whole life to God. But instead, her parents arranged for her to get married. Her husband wasn't very kind and often treated her poorly, but Rita stayed patient and loving, praying for him every day. Because of her kindness, her husband eventually changed and became a better person!

Sadly, he was hurt by some other people because of a family disagreement. Rita's two sons were very angry and wanted to do something mean back, but she prayed really hard that they wouldn't. Her prayers worked in ways she couldn't have planned, and both sons were prevented from doing something wrong.

After that, Rita finally got to join the convent and became a nun. One day, she was praying and thinking about how much Jesus loved us that He died on the cross. Suddenly, she felt a pain on her forehead like Jesus' crown of thorns, and a mark appeared there. It was a special sign of her closeness to Jesus.

**Why She's Important:** Saint Rita teaches us to never give up, even when things seem really tough. She shows us how important it is to forgive others, to pray without losing heart, and to always trust God. When things are difficult, we can ask for her help and remember her story.

**Question for You:** How can Saint Rita's example help you turn your problems into chances to trust God more and become a better person?

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: \_\_\_\_\_

