

September 20, 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:



25TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

"The last will be first, and the first will be last." (Matthew 20:16)

"Los últimos serán primeros, y los primeros, últimos." (Mateo 20:16)

Reflection:

In this Gospel passage, Jesus tells the parable of the workers in the vineyard, illustrating the boundless generosity of God. The landowner pays all workers the same wage regardless of the hours they worked, which surprises those who labored longer. This story challenges our sense of fairness and invites us to see God's kingdom through the lens of grace rather than human merit. God's generosity doesn't conform to our expectations; instead, it reveals His love and desire for all to receive His blessings. As followers of Christ, we are called to rejoice in the grace given to others and trust in God's abundant providence for all.

Socratic Question:

How does reflecting on God's generosity change your perspective on fairness and gratitude when comparing yourself to others?

Reflexión:

En este pasaje del Evangelio, Jesús relata la parábola de los trabajadores en la viña, ilustrando la generosidad sin límites de Dios. El dueño paga lo mismo a todos los trabajadores, sin importar cuánto tiempo trabajaron, lo cual sorprende a aquellos que trabajaron más tiempo. Esta historia desafía nuestro sentido de justicia e invita a ver el reino de Dios a través del lente de la gracia en lugar del mérito humano. La generosidad de Dios no se ajusta a nuestras expectativas; más bien, revela su amor y deseo de que todos reciban sus bendiciones. Como seguidores de Cristo, estamos llamados a alegrarnos por la gracia otorgada a los demás y confiar en la providencia abundante de Dios para todos.

Pregunta socrática:

¿Cómo cambia tu perspectiva sobre la justicia y la gratitud al reflexionar sobre la generosidad de Dios cuando te comparas con los demás?

Source: Truthly App

PARISH INFORMATION

STAFF DIRECTORY

Parish Office

Administrative Assistant:
adminassist@stritainthedesert.org

Secretary:
secretary@stritainthedesert.org

Office Assistant:
officeassistant@stritainthedesert.org

Business Manager:
businessmgr@stritainthedesert.org

Compliance:
compliance@stritainthedesert.org

Bulletin & Web Editor:
bulletin@stritainthedesert.org

Facilities Manager:
maintenance@stritainthedesert.org

Religious Education

Director of Religious Education:
dre@stritainthedesert.org

Youth Ministry:
youthministry@stritainthedesert.org

OCIA Coordinator:
ocia@stritainthedesert.org

Parish Directory

COLLECTIONS | COLECTA

September 13, 2026



Offertory: \$6,700.29
Rector's Debt: \$510.00
Campus Maint: \$199.60

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

September 20, 2026

Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son. (Acts 16:14)

Dear Parish Family and Friends,

The Word of God this Sunday invites us to contemplate the breadth of the Father's mercy. His ways are not our ways; His thoughts are not our thoughts. For this we give thanks.

We are not parties to a contract. We are sons and daughters. When faith is reduced to what we believe we have earned, our life with God and with one another becomes a transaction. The Gospel will not allow that.

In the parable of the laborers, some enter the vineyard at dawn and some at the eleventh hour. The generosity of the householder does not change. Resentment appears when we measure only our own labor. Gratitude appears when we remember that we were called at all. May we rejoice that in God, justice and mercy are never opposed.

Parish Town Hall

Please join us on **Wednesday, October 14, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the St. John XXIII Center**. Kindly RSVP through the parish website so that adequate seating and refreshments may be prepared. The Google Meet link has been sent to registered parishioners and is also posted on the parish website.

Blue Mass

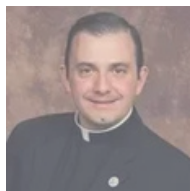
Please join us on **Tuesday, September 29, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the St. John XXIII Center**, on the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel. Police officers, firefighters, first responders, and sheriff's personnel are cordially invited, as are all the faithful who wish to pray on their behalf. We are honored to offer this Mass in thanksgiving for their service.

St. Rita, pray for us.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Very Reverend Alonzo M. García, Dean



20 de septiembre de 2026

Abre, Señor, nuestros corazones para que comprendamos las palabras de tu Hijo. (Hechos 16,14)

Queridos feligreses:

La Palabra de Dios de este domingo nos invita a contemplar la amplitud de la misericordia del Padre. Sus caminos no son nuestros caminos; sus pensamientos no son nuestros pensamientos. Por ello damos gracias.

No formamos parte de un contrato; somos hijos e hijas. Cuando la fe se reduce a lo que creemos haber merecido, nuestra vida con Dios y con los demás se convierte en una transacción. El Evangelio no permite esto.

En la parábola de los trabajadores, algunos entran en la viña al amanecer y otros a la hora undécima. La generosidad del dueño no cambia. El resentimiento aparece cuando medimos sólo nuestro propio trabajo. La gratitud surge cuando recordamos que fuimos llamados. Alégrense de que la justicia de Dios es misericordia.

Asamblea Parroquial

El miércoles 14 de octubre de 2026, a las 6:00 p.m., en el Centro San Juan XXIII. Se les pide que confirmen su asistencia en la página de la parroquia para preparar los asientos y los refrigerios. El enlace de Google Meet se envió a los feligreses registrados y está publicado en el sitio web.

Misa Azul

El martes 29 de septiembre de 2026, a las 5:30 p.m., en el Centro San Juan XXIII, durante la fiesta de San Miguel Arcángel. Quedan cordialmente invitados policías, bomberos, personal de emergencias y del sheriff, así como todos los fieles que deseen orar por ellos. Es un honor ofrecer esta Misa en acción de gracias por su servicio.

Santa Rita, ruega por nosotros.

READINGS & OBSERVANCES

FIRST READING:

"Seek the LORD while he may be found, call him while he is near." (Isaiah 55:6)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

"The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness." (Psalm 145:8)

SECOND READING:

"For to me, life is Christ, and death is gain." (Philippians 1:21)

GOSPEL:

"The last will be first, and the first will be last." (Matthew 20:16)

Sunday, September 20

Is 55:6-9 | Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18 | Phil 1:20C-24, 27a | Mt 20:1-16a

Monday, September 21

Eph 4:1-7, 11-13 | Ps 19:2-3, 4-5 | Mt 9:9-13

Tuesday, September 22

Prv 21:1-6, 10-13 | Ps 119:1, 27, 30, 34, 35, 44 | Lk 8:19-21

Wednesday, September 23

Prv 30:5-9 | Ps 119:29, 72, 89, 101, 104, 163 | Lk 9:1-6

Thursday, September 24

Eccl 1:2-11 | Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17bc | Lk 9:7-9

Friday, September 25

Eccl 3:1-11 | Ps 144:1b and 2abc, 3-4 | Lk 9:18-22

Saturday, September 26

Eccl 11:9-12:8 | Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17 | Lk 9:43b-45

MASS INTENTIONS INTENCIONES DE MISA

Saturday September 19

5:00 pm

SI George G. Jochum
Family

SI Ian & Michael Hong
†Jack & Robert Solorzano

Sunday September 20

8:00 am

St. Rita

10:00 am

SI Chris Frazier
SI Michael Hong

†Sharon Ault

12:00 pm

†Demetrio Ruiz
†Angela Valerio
SI Eduardo Escoto

Monday September 21

8:00 am

SI Brian Hong
†Teresa Desmarais

Tuesday September 22

8:00 am

SI Carolyn Brown

Wednesday September 23

8:00 am

Men & Women in the
Military

Thursday September 24

8:00 am

First Responders

Friday September 25

8:00 am

†Mary Ann Douglass
SI Seth Svob

PARISH NEWS

Rectory Debt Payoff

As of Sunday, September 13, 2026

\$213,265 **\$345,000**
GOAL

149 **500**
FAMILY PLEDGED/DONATED GOAL

THE HARVEST JOURNAL

The Little Things

It's rarely the big moments we remember most.

It's the child chasing bubbles.

The friend you hadn't seen in years.

The laughter around a picnic table.

The lights dancing in the trees.

The unexpected conversation that lasts a little longer than planned.

Sometimes...
The little things become the biggest memories.

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

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 or
secretary@stritainthedesert.org

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

HELP BUILD OUR SILENT AUCTION!

We're collecting **new, unused items, gift cards, certificates, services & experiences** for the Harvest Festival Silent Auction.

Want to make a basket - we happily accept, but there is no obligation to. Individual donations are welcome—our Harvest Hall Team will create the themed packages.

DROP OFF: Parish Office through Friday, Oct. 16
SPECIAL COLLECTION: After Masses Sunday, Sept. 27

Ideas: Movie Night • BBQ • Coffee & Tea • Family Fun • Spa • Gardening • Pets • Holiday • Sports

Thank you for helping make our Harvest Festival Silent Auction a success!

CONGRATULATIONS, ST. RITA!

We are pleased to share that **St. Rita in the Desert** has been awarded an **OCP Parish Grant!**

Our parish was selected from among hundreds of applicants across the United States. The grant will help support our **new sound system**, enhancing our liturgies and the worship experience for our entire parish community.

We are grateful to **Oregon Catholic Press (OCP)** for this generous support and congratulate all who helped make this successful application possible.

Special thanks to Nancy CampmanCrofts for preparing and submitting the grant application, with assistance from Kathy Lockard, Chris Metzger, and Veronica Garcia in providing information, proofreading, and editing.

What a wonderful blessing for our parish!

ST. RITA IN THE DESERT



Parish Town Hall

Come. Listen. Speak.



DATE

Wednesday, October 14, 2026



TIME

6:00 p.m.



PLACE

St. John XXIII Center

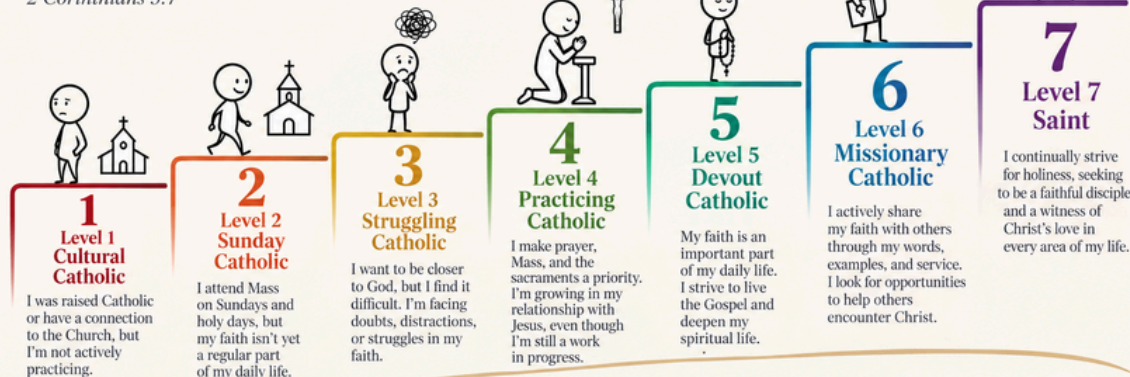
We have outgrown our weekend walls.

Your voice is needed.

13260 E. COLOSSAL CAVE ROAD, VAIL

Where Are You on Your Faith Journey?

*"For we walk by faith, not by sight."
 2 Corinthians 5:7*



No matter where you are, there is a next step.

ST. RITA IN THE DESERT

A COMMUNITY OF FAITH • A HOME FOR ALL

*"Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us."
 Hebrews 12:1*

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARE YOUR TALENT AT THE HARVEST FESTIVAL!

Calling all singers, musicians, dancers, cultural groups, and other family-friendly performers! Parishioners of all ages are invited to share their talents on the Harvest Festival Main Stage

October 23-24.

Interested in performing?

Contact Sarah:
liturgycommittee@stritainthedesert.org

Performance requests due September 23.

SAINTS & FAITH-BASED COSTUME CONTEST

Come dressed as your favorite **saint, biblical figure, angel, or faith-inspired character** during the Harvest Festival!

Children, teens, adults, and families are invited to participate. Costumes may be homemade, traditional, simple, or creative. Participants may even be asked to share a fun fact about the person they portray!

Awards include

- Most Creative
- Best Saint
- Best Biblical Character
- Best Family/Group
- Best Homemade Costume

More contest details coming soon!



CASTING CALL: CONTESTANTS WANTED!

Think you know your **faith, family, or parish**? Step up and join our **Harvest Festival Game Shows!**

Now Casting:

- **Couples Challenge** – How well do you know your spouse or loved one?
- **Saintly Feud** – Parish-style team competition
- **Judeopardy** – Catholic trivia: Saints, Sacraments, Scripture, the Mass & Church History
- **Game Show Hosts** – Bring your best Steve Harvey or Alex Trebek!

Represent your family, ministry, or parish group and join the fun!

Interested in performing? Contact Sarah:
liturgycommittee@stritainthedesert.org

Sign up by September 23.

CHALKBOARD ARTIST NEEDED!

The Vineyard Retreat team is looking for a creative parishioner with chalkboard lettering/art skills to help design our menu board for the Harvest Festival. Interested in sharing your talent?

Contact the St. Rita Guild:
guild@stritainthedesert.org

CAMINANDO CON MARÍA LEGIÓN DE MARÍA

Primer domingo del mes
Después de la Misa de 12 p.m.
Salón Parroquial

Acompáñanos para un refrigerio y una charla sobre la fiesta de nuestra Santísima Virgen María que celebramos este mes.

¡Los esperamos!

BLUE MASS

Tuesday, September 29 • 5:30 PM

St. John XXIII Center

Join us for a special Mass honoring and praying for our **police, fire, and public safety personnel and their families** on the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel.

All are welcome!

WOMEN'S SCRIPTURE STUDY

Wednesdays

9am
Verhagen

For more information:
irenetoews@cox.net



Knights of Columbus®

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: **September 19-20**

Next Month: *October 3-4 & 17-18*

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!

CONGRATULATIONS, KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 14230!

St. Rita's **Knights of Columbus Council 14230** has earned the **Star Council Award**, the Knights of Columbus' top international recognition for local councils. The award recognizes excellence in membership, faith formation, fraternal benefits, and charitable service.

Over the past year, our Knights raised **more than \$15,000** in support of local youth, mothers and families, seminarians, and other charitable programs.

Interested in joining the Knights?

Contact Antonio Mejia at

tiger8@icloud.com or

Grand Knight Gary Criscione at

garycriscione52@gmail.com.

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.

TUCSON ROADRUNNERS HOCKEY NIGHT

Saturday, October 3 • 7:00 PM

Tucson Convention Center

Join the Knights of Columbus Council #14230 for the Roadrunners' season opener and

First Responders & Public Safety Night!

Tickets: **\$26** — all fees & tax included.

Net proceeds benefit first responder & public safety charities.

Purchase tickets after Mass at the Knights table in the courtyard. Cash, check, debit & credit accepted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VINE OF GRACE RETREAT MINISTRY

Eucharistic Adoration, Worship & Healing

All men and women throughout the Diocese are invited to an evening of Eucharistic Adoration, worship, and healing on

**Tuesday, September 22, from 6:30–8:30 PM at
St. Joseph Catholic Church
(215 S. Craycroft Rd., Tucson)**

Questions? Call Erin at (520) 631-1408 or visit
vineofgrace.org.

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

Holiday Shopping Boutique – **Vendors Wanted!**

St. Francis de Sales Parish will be hosting a Holiday Shopping Boutique on **December 5 and 6** and is looking for vendors!

If you are interested in becoming a vendor, please contact the Parish Office at 520-885-5908 or email office_mgr@sfdstucson.org.

We would love to have you join us for this fun holiday event!



worldwide marriage encounter

(MT 20) *“Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last.”*

We are called to give 100% in our marriage. Learn how to be the best spouse you can be by participating in a:

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience on:
November 7-8, 2026
March 6-7, 2027
in Phoenix.**

For more info go to:
wwme.org or call 520-661-3644

DISCALCED CARMELITE SECULARS — COME & SEE

Are you seeking a closer relationship with Jesus and a deeper prayer life? The Santa Cruz Community of Secular Discalced Carmelites invites you to learn about the Carmelite way of life and discern whether God may be calling you to this vocation as a lay person.

Visitors are welcome to attend their meeting **September 20th.**

For information or to reserve a space:
tucson.ocds.m@gmail.com | 520-704-5047

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

YOUR GENEROSITY IS ALREADY AT WORK

Funds received through the 2026 Annual Catholic Appeal are already being allocated to serve people, parishes, and ministries throughout Southern Arizona.

- \$400,000 toward the formation and support of our seminarians
- \$405,000 to Native American and other parishes with limited financial resources
- \$350,000 for outreach and assistance to individuals and families in need
- \$125,000 for the care of our retired priests
- \$80,000 to provide spiritual and pastoral care to men and women who are incarcerated
- \$2 million to diocesan ministries and services supporting Catholic schools, evangelization, formation, vocations, youth and young adults, and parish life throughout our Diocese

Another \$331,191 is needed so that our shared mission to provide spiritual, pastoral, and charitable care throughout Southern Arizona can be fully supported.

If you have an outstanding pledge, have not yet participated, or would like to make an additional gift, your participation still matters.

Give Today
www.cathfnd.org/aca



DRESSING WITH REVERENCE FOR MASS



*All Are
Welcome Here.*

ONE FAITH.
ONE FAMILY.
ALWAYS.

WHAT SHOULD I WEAR TO MASS? Dress with Reverence. Come Ready to Worship.

When we come to Mass, we enter the presence of Christ and gather to celebrate the Eucharist. Our clothing does not need to be expensive or formal, but it should reflect **modesty, dignity, and respect** for the sacredness of Mass.



APPROPRIATE FOR MASS

Modest • Respectful • Comfortable



- ✓ Clean, neat, and modest clothing
- ✓ Shirts and tops that cover the shoulders
- ✓ Dresses and skirts of modest length
- ✓ Slacks, khakis, jeans, or other neat long pants
- ✓ Modest traditional or cultural attire



PLEASE AVOID

Distracting • Revealing • Not for Mass



- ✗ Shorts
- ✗ Sleeveless, strapless, or spaghetti-strap tops and dresses
- ✗ Low-cut or excessively revealing clothing
- ✗ Beachwear or athletic/recreational attire
- ✗ Clothing with offensive or inappropriate words or images



YES, WE KNOW— IT'S ARIZONA!

Our climate can be hot, but modesty and comfort can go together. Lightweight fabrics, loose-fitting clothing, and breathable materials can help keep us cool while remaining appropriately dressed for Mass.



CHILDREN & TEENS

Parents, please help our young people understand that the way we dress for Mass is one way we show reverence for God, the Eucharist, and the sacred space we share.



A FINAL REMINDER

You don't need expensive or formal clothing to come to Mass.

**Come clean. Come modestly.
Come reverently.
Most of all, come ready
to worship God.**

"Our bodily demeanor (gestures, clothing) ought to convey the respect, solemnity, and joy of this moment when Christ becomes our guest."

— Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1387

GOSPEL MEDITATION

MATTHEW 20:1-16A

In this parable of the workers in the vineyard, Jesus invites us to explore the depth of divine generosity. The landowner's decision to pay each worker the same wage, regardless of the hours worked, challenges us to see beyond our human calculations of fairness. God's grace is not something to be earned; it is a free gift offered to all.

Through this parable, Jesus teaches us that His kingdom operates on principles of grace and mercy rather than human achievement. As we meditate on this story, let us open our hearts to appreciate the boundless love God shows to all His children. Embrace the invitation to reflect this divine generosity in our lives by celebrating others' blessings.

Socratic Reflection:

In what ways can focusing on God's abundant grace help you let go of comparisons and embrace a more joyful and generous spirit?

MATEO 20:1-16A

En esta parábola de los trabajadores en la viña, Jesús nos invita a explorar la profundidad de la generosidad divina. La decisión del dueño de pagarle a cada trabajador el mismo salario, sin importar las horas trabajadas, nos desafía a ver más allá de nuestros cálculos humanos de justicia. La gracia de Dios no es algo que se gane; es un regalo gratuito ofrecido a todos. A través de esta parábola, Jesús nos enseña que su reino opera con principios de gracia y misericordia en lugar de logros humanos. Al meditar en esta historia, abramos nuestros corazones para apreciar el amor inmenso que Dios muestra a todos sus hijos. Abracemos la invitación a reflejar esta generosidad divina en nuestras vidas al celebrar las bendiciones de los demás.

Pregunta Socrática:

¿De qué manera enfocar la abundante gracia de Dios te puede ayudar a dejar de lado las comparaciones y abrazar un espíritu más alegre y generoso?

DID YOU KNOW...

25TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

On September 20, 1519, Ferdinand Magellan, the Portuguese explorer sailing under the Spanish flag, set out from Spain with a fleet of five ships on what would become the first successful attempt to circumnavigate the globe. This monumental journey changed the way people understood the world, revealing the vastness of the Earth and establishing the interconnectedness of its oceans and continents. Although Magellan himself did not complete the journey — he was killed in the Philippines in 1521 — one of his ships, the *Victoria*, returned to Spain in 1522 under the command of Juan Sebastián Elcano, completing the first round-the-world voyage.

This milestone in exploration expanded the horizons of human knowledge and marked an era of global exploration. It also had profound effects on trade, cultural exchange, and global geopolitics, setting the stage for the world as we know it today.

Reflect on how the spirit of exploration and discovery exemplified by Magellan's voyage can inspire us to seek understanding and connection beyond our familiar boundaries. What new avenues of learning and growth can you explore in your own life?

via truthly app

SAINT SPOTLIGHT



SAINT MATTHEW, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST

Feast Day: September 21

Patronage:

Saint Matthew is the patron saint of accountants, bankers, bookkeepers, tax collectors, and security guards.

Story:

Saint Matthew was one of the twelve apostles of Jesus and is traditionally considered the author of the Gospel of Matthew. Before following Jesus, he worked as a tax collector, a profession often looked down upon by Jewish society because it was associated with greed and collaboration with the Roman occupiers. Despite this, Jesus called Matthew to be an apostle, demonstrating His willingness to reach out to those considered outcasts.

Matthew's life dramatically changed after his encounter with Jesus. He followed Jesus, leaving behind his lucrative profession, and he hosted a meal where Jesus famously dined with tax collectors and sinners, emphasizing the importance of mercy over judgment. Matthew's Gospel highlights Jesus as the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies and presents the teachings and miracles of Jesus to a Jewish-Christian audience, emphasizing His role as the promised Messiah.

Legacy:

Saint Matthew's conversion from a tax collector to an apostle exemplifies the transformative power of Christ's call. His willingness to change his life so radically inspires countless people to embrace their own call from God, despite their pasts or perceived limitations. His Gospel has profoundly shaped Christian understanding of Jesus' life and mission, emphasizing forgiveness, compassion, and the incarnation of divine promises.

Reflection Question:

In what ways does the story of Saint Matthew inspire you to embrace transformation and seek God's call in your life, despite any past mistakes or societal judgments?

KIDS CORNER



Feast Day: September 21

Who was Saint Matthew?

Saint Matthew is special to people who work with numbers, like accountants and bankers, but also to those who sometimes feel left out or misunderstood.

His Story: Saint Matthew was one of Jesus' 12 closest friends, the apostles. Before he met Jesus, Matthew worked as a tax collector. This job was not very popular because tax collectors took money from people and sometimes weren't fair. People didn't trust them or like them very much. But when Jesus saw Matthew sitting at his tax booth, He called him to follow Him. Amazingly, Matthew got up right away and left his job to be with Jesus!

Matthew was so excited to follow Jesus that he invited Jesus to his house for dinner. Matthew also invited other tax collectors and people who needed to know about God's love. Some people didn't understand why Jesus would eat with people like tax collectors, but Jesus showed that everyone is important to God. Matthew later wrote one of the four Gospels in the Bible, telling the story of Jesus' life, His teachings, and His love for everyone.

His Legacy: Saint Matthew shows us that it doesn't matter what we've done in our past—Jesus loves us and calls us to follow Him. Even if others might not see the good in us, Jesus does. Matthew's life changed completely when he met Jesus, and he spent the rest of his life telling everyone about God's great love.

Question to Think About: How does Matthew's story teach us about Jesus welcoming everyone, even if others don't?

Source: *Truthly App*

SAINTS THIS MONTH

September 1

- [Joshua the Leader \(OT\)](#)

September 2

- [St. Brocard](#)

September 3

- [St. Gregory the Great](#)

September 4

- [Pope St. Boniface I](#)
- [St. Rosalia](#)
- [St. Rose of Viterbo](#)
- [Moses the Legislator and Prophet \(OT\)](#)

September 5

- [St. Teresa of Calcutta](#)

September 6

- [Zechariah the Prophet \(OT\)](#)

September 7

- [St. Regina](#)

September 8

- [The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary](#)

September 9

- [St. Peter Claver](#)

September 10

- [St. Nicholas da Tolentino](#)

September 11

- [Sts. Protus and Hyacinth](#)

September 12

- [The Most Holy Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary](#)

September 13

- [St. John Chrysostom](#)

September 14

- [Exaltation of the Holy Cross](#)

September 15

- [Our Lady of Sorrows](#)
- [St. Nicomedes](#)

September 16

- [Saints Cornelius and Cyprian](#)

September 17

- [St. Robert Bellarmine](#)
- [St. Hildegard of Bingen](#)

September 18

- [St. Joseph of Cupertino](#)

September 19

- [St. Januarius](#)

September 20

- [St. Andrew Kim Taegon, St. Paul Chong Hasang, and companions, Korean martyrs](#)

September 21

- [St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist](#)
- [Jonah the Prophet \(OT\)](#)

September 22

- [Sts. Maurice and the Theban Legion](#)

September 23

- [Saint Pius of Pietrelcina \(Padre Pio\)](#)
- [Pope St. Linus](#)
- [Sts. Zachary and Elizabeth](#) – or November 5

September 24

- [St. Pacifico of San Severino](#)

September 25

- [St. Fermin](#) – or July 7

September 26

- [Sts. Cosmas and Damian](#)
- [Gideon the Judge \(OT\)](#)

September 27

- [St. Vincent de Paul](#)

September 28

- [St. Lawrence Ruiz and companions](#)
- [St. Wenceslaus](#)
- [Our Lady Undoer of Knots](#)

September 29

- [Sts. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels \(FEAST\)](#)

September 30

- [St. Jerome](#)

All underlined text is clickable

[source: young-catholics.com](http://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
- Parish Leadership Team (PLT)



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 & Web 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 October 23-24, 2026

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
- Prizes
- Movie
- Family Activities

Hospitality - Welcome Team

Welcome every guest with a smile.

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

Creative Corner - Confirmation

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.

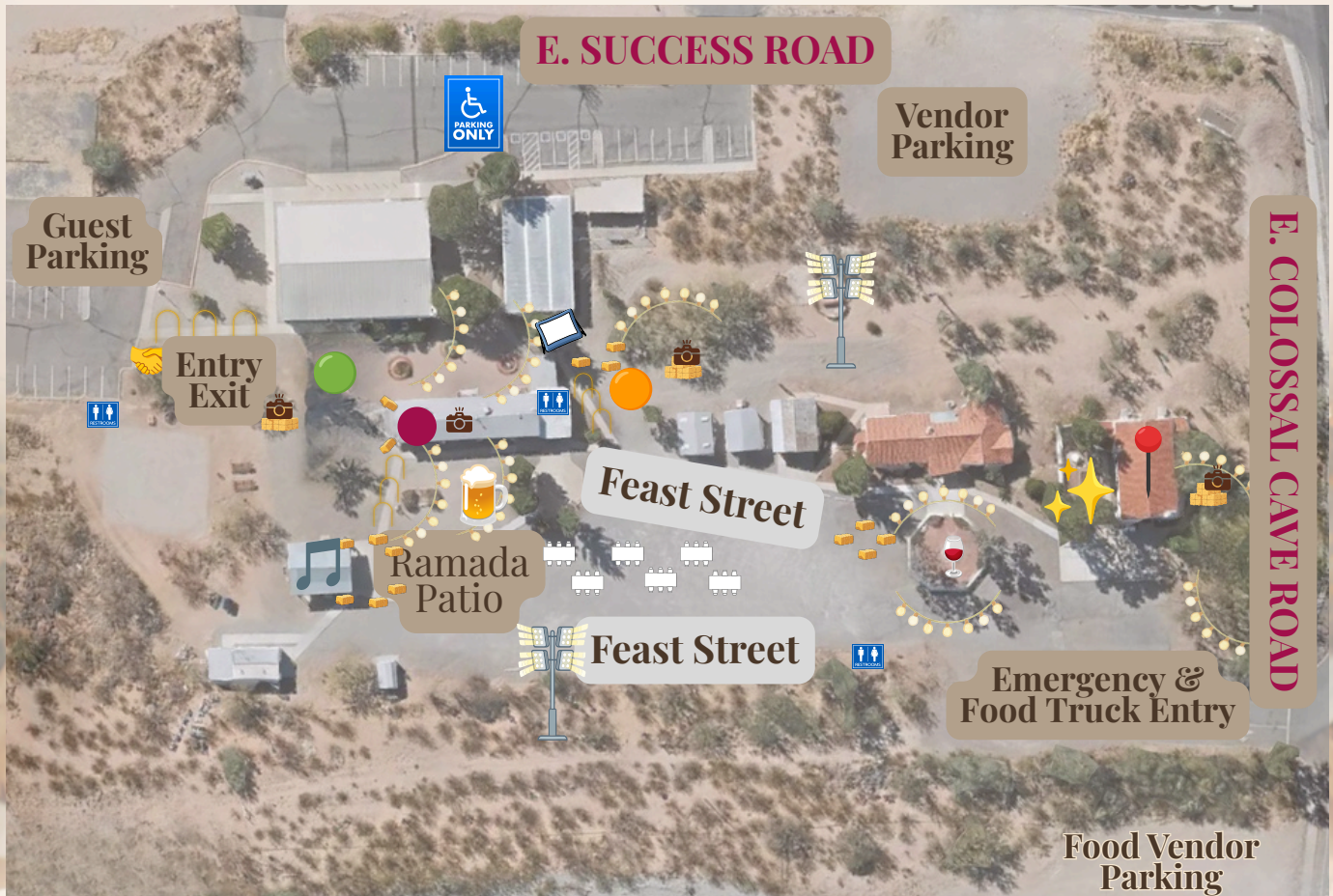
One Experience. One Team. One Amazing Festival.

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

Historic Shrine
Built in 1935

Restrooms

Photo Op

Your Parish. Reimagined.
Imagine helping bring this vision to life.

St. Rita Harvest Festival • Version 5.0 • September 2026