

December 21, 2025



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 | Sabado
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

CONFESION

Confesiones

SATURDAY | Sabado
3:30 pm—4:30 pm
In the church or by
appointment
En la iglesia o por cita



PARISH OFFICE

Horario de Oficina

MONDAY-WEDNESDAY | De
Lunes a Miércoles
8:30 am-4:00 pm

THURSDAY | Jueves
8:00 am-2:00 pm

FRIDAY | Viernes
9:00 am-1:00pm

*Office closed
12pm—1pm daily*

Closed - Dec 24th & 26th

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him."

(Matthew 1:24)

"Cuando José despertó, hizo lo que el ángel del Señor le había mandado."

(Mateo 1:24)

Reflection:

Joseph exemplifies unwavering trust and obedience. Despite his initial fears and uncertainties, he chooses to follow God's will with humility and courage. In this Advent season, may we learn from Joseph's example to embrace God's plans, even when they challenge our understanding. Let us open our hearts to God's promptings and find peace in His divine purpose for us.

Socratic Question:

Reflecting on Joseph's response, how might you embrace God's will more fully in your own life?

Reflexión:

José es un modelo de confianza y obediencia inquebrantables. A pesar de sus miedos e incertidumbres iniciales, elige seguir la voluntad de Dios con humildad y valentía. En esta temporada de Adviento, aprendamos del ejemplo de José a abrazar los planes de Dios, incluso cuando desafían nuestra comprensión. Abramos nuestros corazones a las inspiraciones de Dios y encontremos paz en Su propósito divino para nosotros.

Pregunta socrática:

Reflexionando sobre la respuesta de José, ¿cómo podrías abrazar la voluntad de Dios más plenamente en tu propia vida?

Source: *Truthly App*

PARISH INFORMATION

COLLECTIONS | COLECTA



December 14, 2025

Offertory: \$6,323.94

Rectory Debt: \$1,556.50

Lady of Guadalupe: \$213.00

Thank you for your support.
God bless you!

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

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 or click [HERE](#).



ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

• Fridays following 8am Mass for 1hr

• 1st Sunday of each month at 2:30-3:30pm in the John XXIII for 1hr



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.

ST. RITA STAFF

(520) 762-9688

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ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

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Catholic Brotherhood Group: Jayme Kahle jkahle25@gmail.com

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

Guild of St. Rita: guild@stritainthedesert.org

OFFICE OF THE PASTOR ~ OFICINA DE PASTOR

December 21, 2025

“The virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel.” (Matt 1:23)

Dear Parish Family and Friends,

As we celebrate the last Sunday of Advent, we see that the true God of Israel does, in fact, enter into the life of humanity. Specifically, God enters the life of Mary and Joseph. Having God enter into their own lives fundamentally changes their understanding and direction of the lives they knew. Do we want Jesus to really enter into our lives? Having God come into our lives is something we should seriously ponder and reflect on, because our lives will no longer be our own. When Jesus invades our lives, we will have some distressing experiences.

God desires to enter the life of the human family, and our readings point us to that reality. Emmanuel, God with us, is nothing small, as it indicates the divine presence of God among His people. While God is always present to us, there is always an uneasiness about it because we are not always in control. Considering the dream Joseph had and the profound confusion he had in taking Mary as his wife. Ironically, the angel points back to the prophets, recalling how God would send a Savior to save the world from their sins.

The good news is that God is always at work within our world and never ceases to invite us into His divine mystery. For our part, we must be willing to listen prayerfully to discern the direction God is moving us. Is God calling us to forgive someone we have not spoken to for some time? Is God calling us to be more dedicated to our family rather than our jobs? Knowing Jesus as Lord and Savior is about the movement of the human heart toward humility and obedience to God's loving invitation to move mountains and change hearts. May God be praised now and always!

Our New Year in 2026 is rapidly approaching, and I would like to invite parishioners to consider serving as Liturgical ministers in your parish. Please consider where the Lord might be leading you to aid your parish family in entering the mysteries of the Divine Liturgy. We need sacristans for all our Masses. We also need ushers, lectors, and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion. Training dates and times are on the January calendar, and we welcome new parish members to attend the training sessions. The training date is January 24, 2026, and there are two sessions. More information will be forthcoming, and we ask that you pray and ask the Lord where He might need you to assist your fellow parishioners.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of our parish volunteers who have so lovingly taken the time to assist us with our Advent decorations. We could not have done this without the expertise of our Altar Society! We are so blessed to have so many talented and creative parishioners. Additionally, I would like to thank our Parish Knights of Columbus for putting out the lights on the fence and on the shrine. It took some planning and was a labor of love, but they managed to complete it! Thank you all very much for all you do! Let's all have a wonderful and hope-filled Christmas filled with life, love, and joy!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Alonso M. García
Reverend Alonzo M. García, Pastor



OFFICE OF THE PASTOR ~ OFICINA DE PASTOR

21 de diciembre de 2025

“La Virgen concebirá y dará a luz un hijo, y le pondrán por nombre Emmanuel.” (Mt 1,23)

Querida familia parroquial y amigos:

Al celebrar el último domingo de Adviento, vemos que el verdadero Dios de Israel entra realmente en la vida de la humanidad. En concreto, Dios entra en la vida de María y José. Tener a Dios tan cerca cambió por completo la manera en que ellos entendían su vida y la dirección que llevaban. Y nosotros, ¿queremos de verdad que Jesús entre en nuestras vidas? Dejar que Dios venga a nosotros es algo que vale la pena pensar y reflexionar seriamente, porque nuestra vida ya no será solo nuestra. Cuando Jesús irrumpre en nuestro corazón, también podemos atravesar momentos de confusión o de inquietud.

Dios desea entrar en la vida de la familia humana y nuestras lecturas nos recuerdan esta realidad. Emmanuel, “Dios con nosotros”, no es cosa pequeña. Es el signo de la presencia divina en medio de su pueblo. Aunque Dios siempre está con nosotros, a veces sentimos cierta inquietud porque no tenemos el control de todo. Basta ver el sueño que tuvo José y la confusión que sintió al tomar a María por esposa. Curiosamente, el ángel lo lleva de vuelta a las palabras de los profetas, recordándole que Dios enviaría un Salvador para liberar al mundo de sus pecados.

La buena noticia es que Dios siempre está actuando en nuestro mundo y nunca deja de invitarnos a entrar en su misterio divino. De nuestra parte, necesitamos escuchar con el corazón para discernir hacia dónde nos quiere conducir. ¿Nos está llamando Dios a perdonar a alguien con quien no hablamos desde hace tiempo? ¿Nos invita a dedicar más tiempo a la familia que al trabajo? Conocer a Jesús como Señor y Salvador es dejar que nuestro corazón avance en humildad y obediencia a la amorosa invitación de Dios para mover montañas y transformar corazones. ¡Alabado sea Dios ahora y siempre!

Nuestro Año Nuevo 2026 ya se acerca y quiero invitar a todos los feligreses a considerar servir como ministros litúrgicos en nuestra parroquia. Pregúntenle al Señor en qué área los está llamando para ayudar a su familia parroquial a entrar mejor en los misterios de la Sagrada Liturgia. Necesitamos sacristanes para todas las Misas. También necesitamos ujieres, lectores y ministros extraordinarios de la Sagrada Comunión. Las fechas y horarios de capacitación están en el calendario de enero y todos los nuevos miembros de la parroquia están invitados. La capacitación será el 24 de enero de 2026, con dos sesiones a elegir. Pronto daremos más información y les pedimos que oren y pregunten al Señor dónde los necesita.

Por último, quiero agradecer a todos nuestros voluntarios que con tanto cariño nos ayudaron con las decoraciones de Adviento. Sin la experiencia y la dedicación de la Sociedad del Altar, no lo habríamos logrado. ¡Somos muy bendecidos de tener tantos feligreses tan talentosos y creativos! También agradezco a nuestros Caballeros de Colón por poner las luces en la cerca y en el santuario. Fue un trabajo que requirió planeación y dedicación, pero lo lograron. ¡Muchas gracias a todos por todo lo que hacen! Que tengamos una Navidad llena de esperanza, vida, amor y alegría.

Sinceramente Suyo en Cristo,

Alonso M. García

Reverendo Alonzo M. García, Pastor



GOSPEL MEDITATION

IN THE GOSPEL PASSAGE...

In this Gospel passage, we witness the profound faith and obedience of Joseph. Faced with a situation that could have led to doubt and fear, Joseph instead responds with trust in God's message delivered through the angel. His readiness to embrace God's plan, even when it defied social norms and personal expectations, teaches us about the essence of true faith. Joseph's decision to take Mary into his home signifies his deep love for God and for her. As we prepare for Christmas, this passage invites us to contemplate our own openness to God's will, asking ourselves if we are willing to act with such courage and faith when God calls us.

Reflection Question:

In what ways can you cultivate a spirit of readiness and trust to follow God's will, even when it contradicts social expectations or your own plans?

EN ESTE PASAJE DEL EVANGELIO,

En este pasaje del Evangelio, presenciamos la profunda fe y obediencia de José. Ante una situación que podría haber llevado a la duda y al miedo, José responde con confianza en el mensaje de Dios entregado a través del ángel. Su disposición para abrazar el plan de Dios, incluso cuando desafía las normas sociales y las expectativas personales, nos enseña sobre la esencia de la verdadera fe. La decisión de José de recibir a María en su hogar significa su profundo amor por Dios y por ella. Al prepararnos para la Navidad, este pasaje nos invita a contemplar nuestra propia apertura a la voluntad de Dios, preguntándonos si estamos dispuestos a actuar con tanto valor y fe cuando Dios nos llama.

Pregunta de reflexión:

¿De qué maneras puedes cultivar un espíritu de disposición y confianza para seguir la voluntad de Dios, incluso cuando contradice las expectativas sociales o tus propios planes?

DID YOU KNOW....

DECEMBER 21ST IS...

Part of the Advent season, the Church focuses on the Antiphon "O Oriens" in the O Antiphons, which are chanted during Vespers in the days leading up to Christmas. "O Oriens" translates to "O Rising Sun" or "O Dayspring," reflecting the anticipation of Christ as the Light of the World who dispels the darkness.

December 21 also marks the winter solstice in the Northern Hemisphere, the shortest day and longest night of the year. Historically, many cultures have celebrated this turning point as the promise of longer days and the renewal of light. The Church has beautifully intertwined this natural phenomenon with the spiritual theme of Advent, which anticipates the coming of Christ, the true Light.

Did you know that ancient Christians strategically placed the celebration of Christ's birth near this time to symbolize His coming as the Light during the darkest part of the year?

Source: *Truthly App*

WEEKLY CALENDAR, INTENTIONS, OBSERVATIONS & READINGS

MASS INTENTIONS INTENCIONES DE MISA

Sunday December 21

8:00 am - †Salvador Mabesa

10:00 am

†John Necas

†Henry A. LaRoque

12:00 pm

Living & Deceased of St. Rita

Monday December 22

8:00 am - St. Rita

Tuesday December 23

8:00 am - SI St. Anthony

Wednesday December 24

8:00 am

†Bruno & Emily Cwiak

†Scott Nielsen

4:00 pm

†Warren & Inez Crater

†Maria Raguucci

†Richard & Mary Ann

Kaniewski

6:00 pm - Parish of St. Rita

Thursday December 25

12:00 am - Parish of St. Rita

8:00 am

†Joan & Janet Pettit (sisters)

†Barbara Deyo

Friday December 26

8:00 am - †David Camacho

Saturday December 27

5:00 pm

†Geraldine Romano

†Joseph Azzopardi

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

Sunday, December 21

4th Sunday of Advent

8:00 am - Mass (English)

10:00 am - Mass (English)

12:00 noon - Mass (Spanish)

Monday, December 22

8:00 am Mass (English)

8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

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

Tuesday, December 23

8:00 am Mass (English)

8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

Wednesday, December 24

8:00 am - Mass (English)

8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

4pm - Christmas Eve Mass (Shrine & Center)

6pm - Family Mass

Thursday, December 25

12:00am - Midnight Mass - (Spanish)

8am - Nativity Mass (Shrine & Center)

Friday, December 26

Feast of Saint Stephen

8:00 am Mass

8:30 am Eucharist Adoration

Saturday, December 27

Feast of Saint John. Apostle & Evangelist

5:00 pm - Mass (English)

READINGS & OBSERVANCES

FIRST READING:

"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel." (Isaiah 7:14)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

"Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory." (Psalm 24:7)

SECOND READING:

"Through him we have received the grace of apostleship, to bring about the obedience of faith, for the sake of his name." (Romans 1:5)

GOSPEL:

"Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us.'" (Matthew 1:23)

Sunday, December 21

4th Sunday of Advent

Is 7:10-14 | Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 | Rom 1:1-7 | Mt 1:18-24

Monday, December 22

1 Sm 1:24-28 | 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8 | Lk 1:46-56

Tuesday, December 23

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 | Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14 | Lk 1:57-66

Wednesday, December 24

4pm Mass - Shrine & Cntr
2 Sm 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16 | Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 | Lk 1:67-79

6pm Mass

Is 62:1-5 | Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 | Acts 13:16-17, 22-25 | Mt 1:1-25

Thursday, December 25

Midnight Mass (Spanish)

Is 9:1-6 | Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 | Ti 2:11-14 | Lk 2:1-14

8am Nativity Mass - Shrine & Cntr
Is 52:7-10 | Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 | Heb 1:1-6 | Jn 1:1-18

Friday, December 26

Feast of Saint Stephen

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 | Ps 31:3-4, 6, 8, 16, 17 | Mt 10:17-22

Saturday, December 27

Feast of Saint John, Apostle & Evangelist

1 Jn 1:1-4 | Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 | Jn 20:1a, 2-8

PASTORAL CHRISTMAS LETTER

December 25, 2025

25 de diciembre de 2025

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light...” (Isaiah 9:1)

Dear Parish Family, and friends,

As we approach one of the most monumental events in the salvation of humanity, we cannot forget the darkness that once shrouded the world. Our ancient ancestors hoped beyond hope that peace, joy, and love would reign upon the darkness of the earth.

Ironically, the God of Israel would shatter that darkness in time by the birth of a child, His son, Jesus Christ! This child would become the mighty counselor, prince of peace, and the salvation of all nations. Jesus would usher in a new birth for humanity, making us all spiritual brothers and sisters.

Despite the challenges we face in the modern world of crime, war, abortion, and the darkness of men's hearts, our hope has come upon us and shed its light of hope, peace, and love upon an undeserving people.

May the gift of Jesus Christ, this Christmas, fill your hearts with peace, joy, and love as we gather to exchange gifts with each other. May this Christmas be ever brighter with the warmth of the love of Jesus now and always!

On Behalf of Deacon Ron Desmarais, his wife Paula, our Parish Staff, and all parish ministries, and in my own name, I wish to extend to you and your loved ones a most joyous and heartfelt Christmas!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Reverend Alonzo M. García, Pastor



“El pueblo que caminaba en tinieblas vio una gran luz...” (Isaías 9:1)

Estimada familia parroquial y amigos,

A medida que nos acercamos a uno de los eventos más monumentales en la salvación de la humanidad, no podemos olvidar la oscuridad que una vez envolvió al mundo. Nuestros antiguos antepasados esperaban más allá de toda esperanza que la paz, la alegría y el amor reinaran en la oscuridad de la tierra.

Irónicamente, el Dios de Israel rompería esa oscuridad con el tiempo por el nacimiento de un niño, ¡Su hijo, Jesucristo! Este niño se convertiría en el poderoso consejero, príncipe de paz y la salvación de todas las naciones. Jesús marcaría el comienzo de un nuevo nacimiento para la humanidad, haciéndonos a todos hermanos y hermanas espirituales.

A pesar de los desafíos que enfrentamos en el mundo moderno del crimen, la guerra, el aborto y la oscuridad de los corazones de los hombres, nuestra esperanza ha venido sobre nosotros y ha derramado su luz de esperanza, paz y amor sobre un pueblo que no lo merece.

Que el regalo de Jesucristo, esta Navidad, llene sus corazones de paz, gozo y amor mientras nos reunimos para intercambiar regalos entre nosotros. ¡Que esta Navidad sea cada vez más brillante con el calor del amor de Jesús ahora y siempre!

En nombre del diácono Ron Desmarais, su esposa Paula, nuestro personal parroquial y todos los ministerios parroquiales, y en mi propio nombre, ¡deseo extenderle a usted y a sus seres queridos una Navidad muy feliz y sincera!

¡FELIZ NAVIDAD!

Sinceramente Suyo en Cristo,



Reverendo Alonzo M. García, Pastor





DIOCESE OF TUCSON NEW OUTLOOK

The Diocese of Tucson invites you to stay in touch with the Church via your phone and/or email. Every week the Diocese publishes the *New Outlook*, our local newsletter with links to news, events, and so much more! To sign up: text **DOTNEWS** to **84576** or go to <https://news.diocesetucson.org/subscribe>

HOW TO REPORT ABUSE



- Call **911** to make a police report.
- If the abuse happened in another state, call the Police or Sheriff's Office in the specific state.
- Call the Victim Assistance Program of the Diocese of Tucson at: 1(800)234-0344 and/or
- The Office of Child, Adolescent and Adult Protection at (520)838-2513.

HELPFUL WEBSITES

Diocese of Tucson:

<https://www.diocesetucson.org>

The New Outlook:

<https://news.diocesetucson.org>

News from the Vatican:

www.vaticannews.va

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops:

www.usccb.org

Office of Vocations:

<https://diocesetucson.org/vocations>

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- Enter your email
- In “Join your Parish” enter **ST. RITA IN THE DESERT**
- Click **NEXT**
- Complete your information



Do you shop at Fry's and have a VIP shopper's card? If so, please consider registering your card for the Fry's Community Rewards Program, and they will donate to St. Rita in the Desert.

- Go to www.frysfood.com
- Select **Sign In** and sign in to your online account
- Click on **My Account**
- Select **Community Rewards**
- Click **Enroll Now**
- In the “Find an Organization” box, enter **St. Rita in the Desert**
- Click **Enroll**

PARISH MINISTRIES

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Altar Boys

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

Altar Society

The St. Rita Altar Society is looking for volunteers to maintain the Altar in the Shrine and St. John XXIII. If you love to decorate or enjoy floral arrangements, we invite you to glorify the Lord by your creativity. We would love to have you. Every **2nd Tuesday of the month** at **2pm** in the parish hall.

Eucharistic Ministry

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

Lectors

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

Music Ministry

Curious about our choirs? Love to sing sacred music? Join us, our rehearsals are open to everyone! Adult choirs: Tues at 5 pm Children's choir: Wed at 4 pm Spanish choir: Thur at 6:15 pm Do you play piano, guitar, flute or clarinet? We want to meet you!

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

Ushers

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

PARISH MINISTRIES

Outreach Ministry

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

Pastoral Council

Currently on hold, seeking someone to assist in leading it. Contact front office if interested.

Porter's of St. Joseph

Email: porters@stritainthedesert.org

Right to Life

Email: rtl@stritainthedesert.org

Family Faith Formation

www.watch.formed.org

Vocations

Contact Mr. Adam LaGuardia: Vocations@stritainthedesert.org

Welcome Committee

If you are interested in joining the Welcoming Team, submit your [Welcoming Team request form](#) online.

Guild of St. Rita

Volunteers manage our beautiful Gift shop, plan our St. Rita's feast day celebration & host many other parish events as requested. Join us! Email: guild@stritainthedesert.org

Sewing Angels

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

Mujeres De Fe (Women of Faith)

Para mas Informacion
Coordinadora:
Gabriela (915) 539-0985

EXTERNAL MINISTRIES



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contact John Cuddy at:
john.cuddy@yahoo.com or
(978)382-0742



El praesidium de St.Rita se llama "Maria Puerta del Cielo" y se reune los Martes a las 6:00 de la tarde en el salon Oscar Romero, o puedes contactar a Sandra (520)395-7225 or email: legiondemaria@stritainthedesert.org



Rachel's VINEYARD

Healing the pain of abortion - one weekend at a time

If you are interested in getting more information and/or registering for a Retreat Weekend, please call (520) 743-6777 or visit RachelsVineyard.org



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

If you need assistance from St Vincent de Paul or want to join the ministry to help others, contact James Mahaffey at (520) 501-1386

MARIAN BOOK CLUB

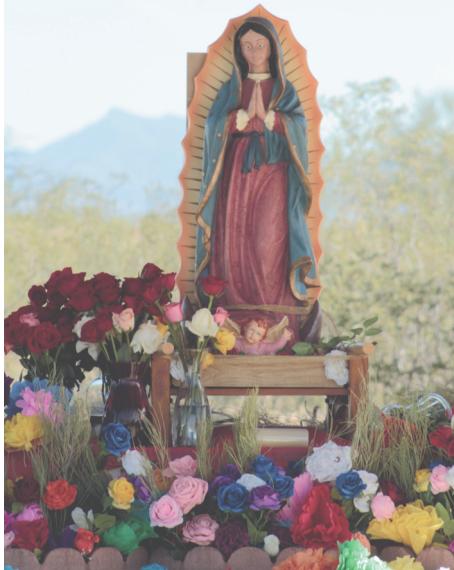
Every Thursday
4:30-6pm
Oscar Romero

All are welcome to join!

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CELEBRACION



Our Lady of Guadalupe



Our many thanks to **St. Rita's Maria Puerta del Cielo** (*Spanish Legion of Mary*), the countless volunteers, dancers, musicians & parishioners who helped make this year's celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe a success.

PARISH NEWS



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

ADVENT FOOD DRIVE

We invite you to bring non-perishable food donations to the narthex throughout Advent. Focus items this year include: Spaghetti sauce & noodles, spaghetti-O's, Canned fruit, chili, beef stew, beef soups and instant mashed potatoes.

We will also be supporting Vail Food Bank's weekend backpack program and are in need of individually wrapped snack cakes (Little Debbie or similar)

PRE-CANA MINISTRY

*Catholic marriage &
Natural Family Planning Classes*

God is asking couples to increase their chance for a healthy, life-long marriage by receiving the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony in the Catholic Church!!

Your Parish Family wants you to have a forever marriage with God. The Pre-Cana ministry program will educate couples about Catholic Marriage & Natural Family Planning.

Classes in the Verhagen - 2026 schedule:

Catholic Marriage Classes - \$50/couple
Saturdays: Jan 24th & 31st, Feb 7th | 2-4:30pm
Wednesdays: Jan 28th, Feb 4th & 11th | 5-7:30pm

NFP Class - \$25/couple
Saturday, Feb 14 | 1-4:30pm

Classes will not be offered again until Nov 2026.
Email: pre-cana@stritainthedesert.org

MEMORIAL SERVICE - TED GOLEMBIEWSKI

December 30th
10am in St. Rita Shrine

You may remember him as Santa Claus at the Children's Christmas Eve Mass, as a dedicated volunteer at the yearly Festivals, as a volunteer at the Thanksgiving and Christmas food collections, or as a faithful Eucharistic Minister. In whatever capacity you knew him, you are welcome to join us in celebrating the life of this remarkable man. Thank you.

Valerie Golembiewski & family



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In today's Gospel, we hear that Jesus will be named Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." The mystery of the birth of Jesus is supremely a mystery of love. All the members of the St. Rita in the Desert Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul wish each of you a Christmas filled with love and a new year full of many blessings.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BASKETBALL FREE THROW

Jan 18th

After each of the mass

Official Division ages 9-14

Qualifying round for District | State
Regional | National

Open Division - All other athletes
Bragging Rights Only

KNIGHTS PANCAKE BREAKFAST

December 21st

After All Masses

In the Hall
& view the
Annual Art Contest

MEN'S GROUP

Mondays

6:00 pm

Oscar Romero Room

“Culture of Invitation” Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly



Knights of
Columbus®

JOIN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

FAITH • FAMILY • FRATERNITY • SERVICE

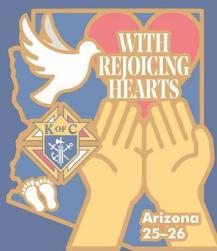
The Knights of Columbus is more than just a men's group. We are a brotherhood of Catholic men committed to:

- Deepening faith through prayer, devotion and service.
- Supporting families and building community
- Defending life from conception through natural death
- Serving the Church and those in need

Be the man who invites.

Be the man who **answers**.

Become a Knight of Columbus!



Join us today!

www.kofc.org/join

Promo Code: **BlessedMcGivney**



Knights of Columbus® ANNUAL ART CONTEST

ART JUDGING TODAY

11:29 a.m. sharp at the Pancake Breakfast.

Bring your art to Parish Hall 12/21
(Please bring no art before 0800 12/21 in Hall)
No Entry Fee, all welcome
three great FIRST place prizes!

Theme: **Christ is Christmas**

Best in Theme: Grade School (11"x17" poster)
Best in Theme: High School (11"x17" poster)
Best in Theme: Adult (Any Medium)

Visit stritainthedesert.org for details

TUCSON ROADRUNNERS

STAR WARS NIGHT

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31 @ 7:00 PM

The Tucson Roadrunners hockey team is partnering with the Knights of Columbus for a special fundraising night - Star Wars Night! This is typically one of the best attended games as many get dressed up as Star Wars characters for a fun evening.

Our St. Rita Knights are participating in this special event and have decided they will be donating all proceeds from the tickets sales to the Team AZ Special Olympics softball team. St. Rita has a Special Olympian who was selected to be on the team going to the US National games June 2026 in Minneapolis.

Our goal is to raise \$1,000 to help cover costs so these athletes can compete next year. There are tickets available in section 213 which is behind the goal. These tickets normally cost \$42.65 with all the taxes and fees.

The Knights can sell them to you for only \$25 which is over \$17 in savings. It's almost like BOGO (buy one, get one).

If you can't go but want to help, you can purchase a ticket and the Knights will be sure to provide it to the local S/O group so an athlete who can't afford it can attend the game.

If you have any questions, talk to any member of the St Rita Knights. You can call Wayne Glebin at (520) 449-7115 or email: gkCouncil14230@gmail.com.



**Knights of
Columbus®**

ANNOUNCEMENTS



GIVEN
2026 CATHOLIC
YOUNG WOMEN'S
LEADERSHIP
PROGRAM

Attend the GIVEN Forum
June 24-28, 2026 | Washington, DC

Receive a Mentor
1 year of dedicated, 1-on-1 mentorship

Launch an Action Plan
Discover and activate your gifts!

APPLY TODAY
giveninstitute.com/leadership-program

RECEIVE THE GIFT THAT YOU ARE REALIZE THE GIFTS YOU'VE BEEN GIVEN RESPOND WITH THE GIFT ONLY YOU CAN GIVE

Catholic women (ages 21-35) are invited to...

APPLY TODAY!
giveninstitute.com/leadership-program

LEADERSHIP PROGRAM GIVEN FORUM SPEAKERS



St. Andrew's Concert Series
Present the return engagement of the noted European organist
Attila Ádám Honti



Sunday, January 4, 2026 at 2:00PM
St. Andrew the Apostle Church
800 Taylor Drive, Sierra Vista, AZ 85635
For more information please call (520) 226-5574
There is no charge to attend this concert. A freewill offering will be accepted.



8 DAYS PILGRIMAGE TO MEXICO CITY
May 1 – 8, 2026
Visiting: Mexico City • Our Lady of Guadalupe
Puebla – Teotihuacan – Ocotlán – Taxco
Tlaxcala (the Lourdes of Mexico)
Cost: \$2699.

Guarantee your seat by January 20, 2026
For more information call 520.631.1408 or
visit: vineofgrace.org for brochure

LAST INFORMATION MEETING
Saint Joseph Church – Parish Office
215 South Craycroft – Tucson
Sunday January 11, 2026 at 1:30 pm

SAINT SPOTLIGHT



KIDS CORNER



SAINT JOHN THE APOSTLE

Feast Day:
December 27

Who Was He?

Saint John was one of Jesus' best friends and one of the Twelve Apostles. He was very close to Jesus and even took care of Mary, Jesus' Mother, after Jesus went to Heaven.

What Did He Do?

John followed Jesus and learned from Him. He wrote parts of the Bible, like the Gospel of John, where he shared many amazing stories about Jesus and His love for us all.

Why Is He Special?

Saint John is special because he showed us how to be good friends and love others. His stories in the Bible teach us about God's great love. John is the patron saint of friendship and love.

Something to Think About:

Saint John's life was all about love and friendship. Think of how you can be a loving and caring friend today, just like him!

Question to Ponder:

How can you show love to your family and friends, just like Saint John showed love to Jesus?

SAINT JOHN THE APOSTLE

Feast Day:
December 27

Patronage:

Saint John is the patron saint of love, loyalty, friendships, and authors. His life and writings continue to inspire these virtues.

Story:

Saint John the Apostle, son of Zebedee and Salome, was one of Jesus' Twelve Apostles and the brother of James the Greater. Known as one of the "Sons of Thunder," John had a unique and intimate relationship with Jesus. He was present at the Transfiguration and stood by the Cross, where Jesus entrusted him with the care of His Mother, Mary. Renowned for his devotion, John preached the Gospel and bore witness to Christ throughout his life.

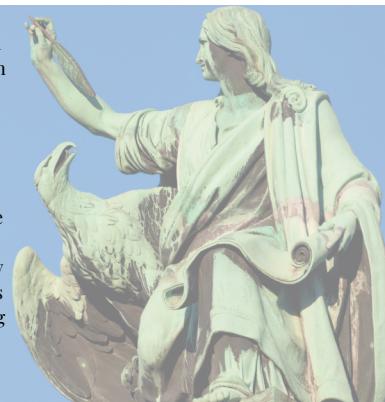
Legacy:

Tradition attributes to John the authorship of the Gospel of John, three Epistles, and the Book of Revelation — all of which highlight his deep theological insights and emphasis on love and truth. John's Gospel is unique in its portrayal of Jesus as the "Word made flesh" and contains profound discourses on divine love. Believed to have lived to an old age in Ephesus, John is celebrated as the Apostle who did not die a martyr but endured persecution and exile for his faith.

Reflection Question:

How can you share the love of Christ, as St. John did, in your daily interactions with others?

Saint John the Apostle is often symbolically represented by an eagle in Christian art & symbolism. The eagle is used to represent John because his Gospel soars to great theological heights, emphasizing the divine nature of Christ and His heavenly origins. Just as an eagle can fly higher than other birds, John's writings lift our understanding to the profound mysteries of Jesus' divinity.



Source: *Truthly App*

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

DEAREST READER,

I want to take a moment to sincerely thank you for the love, support, and understanding you have shown me as I have taken on the role of your new bulletin editor.

As I celebrate the printing of my ninth bulletin, it feels like the right time to introduce myself and share a bit more of my story, so you can get to know me better.



Though I am new to the parish, I am a “cradle Catholic” who fell away from the Church nearly 30 years ago. I was called home in late February 2025—though I stubbornly resisted for several months before daring to step into any church (the fear of God’s wrath is very real!). My first Mass at St. Rita was on June 7, 2025, when a fellow parishioner invited me to attend with her. I said yes, and from that moment on, St. Rita has felt like home.

For months, I prayed and asked God how I could best serve His Church. By July, I felt the answer clearly: the bulletin. On October 26th you received the very first bulletin I created.

As someone who loves Catholic history, art, and apologetics, I realized my skills as a graphic designer—learned, not taught—could be put to good use. My hope is that this work brings joy to my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. I pray daily that the bulletin might help renew faith, spark curiosity, and encourage a deeper desire to grow in our Catholic faith.

One thing parishioners might not realize is how much time and research goes into preparing the bulletin each week. As soon as one issue goes to print, work on the next begins. As a volunteer, I am deeply grateful for the gifts God has given me and for the joy I find in learning as I go. As a “revert” to the faith, I still ask many “but why?” questions—and researching the answers and sharing them with you through the bulletin fills my heart in ways words can hardly express.

If there is one thing I hope you know as you read the bulletin each week, it is that your feedback means a great deal to me. Please don’t hesitate to email me with your thoughts or suggestions. And to those who choose to read the bulletin online, thank you for helping our parish reduce the costs of paper, toner, and electricity. It is my hope to reduce these costs by 30% in the coming year.

Outside of parish life, I enjoy traveling with my husband and our youngest son. I also love woodworking and occasionally demolishing parts of our house—only to rebuild them. I tried to make that sound romantic, but my husband would likely call it chaos (though he always seems pleased with the final result).

Thank you for allowing me to serve our parish in this small but meaningful way. Please keep me in your prayers, as I keep each of you in mine.

Sincerely,

Kathy L. Cockard

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: _____



Note: The Bulletin is printed for Sunday-Saturday
Mass intentions for Saturday are found accordingly.
Questions? email: bulletin@stritainthedesert.org