

February 22, 2026



ST. RITA IN THE DESERT

Catholic Church

CLERGY

Pastor:

Rev. Alonzo Garcia
fralonzo@stritainthedesert.org

Deacon:

Ron Desmarais
deaconron@stritainthedesert.org

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

(Matthew 4:4)

"No sólo de pan vive el hombre, sino de toda palabra que sale de la boca de Dios." (Mateo 4:4)

Reflection:

As we enter the season of Lent, Jesus' time in the desert serves as a profound reminder of the spiritual strength that comes from relying on God's word. In this passage, Jesus shows us that true nourishment for our souls comes not just from physical sustenance, but from embracing the guidance and wisdom found in Scripture. During this Lenten journey, let us seek to strengthen our relationship with God by spending time in prayer, fasting, and reading the Bible, allowing His words to guide and sustain us through life's challenges.

Socratic Question:

How can this Lenten season help you deepen your reliance on God's word for guidance and strength?

Reflexión:

Al iniciar la Cuaresma, el tiempo que Jesús pasó en el desierto nos recuerda profundamente la fuerza espiritual que proviene de confiar en la palabra de Dios. En este pasaje, Jesús nos muestra que el verdadero alimento para nuestras almas no proviene solo de la sustancia física, sino de abrazar la guía y la sabiduría que se encuentran en las Escrituras. Durante este camino cuaresmal, busquemos fortalecer nuestra relación con Dios dedicando tiempo a la oración, el ayuno y la lectura de la Biblia, permitiendo que sus palabras nos guíen y sostengan en los desafíos de la vida.

Pregunta socrática:

¿Cómo puede esta temporada de Cuaresma ayudarte a profundizar tu confianza en la palabra de Dios para obtener guía y fortaleza?

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

9:00 am—1:00pm

*Office closed
12pm—1pm daily*

PARISH INFORMATION

COLLECTIONS | COLECTA



February 15, 2026

Offertory: \$7,121.94
Debt Reduction: \$5,944.00
Campus Maint: \$1,586.15

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

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secretary@stritainthedesert.org

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bulletin@stritainthedesert.org

Facilities Manager: Rob King
rob@stritainthedesert.org

Maintenance: Bill Cline

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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STAFF

Director of Religious Education: Geraldine Durman
dre@stritainthedesert.org

Youth Ministry: Carolyn Reynolds
msyouth@stritainthedesert.org
hsyouth@stritainthedesert.org

OCIA Coordinator: Michelle Quinn Crowley
ocia@stritainthedesert.org

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.

ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Music Ministry: Nancy Campman Crofts
music@stritainthedesert.org

Catholic Brotherhood Group: Jayme Kahle
jkahle25@gmail.com

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

Guild of St. Rita:
guild@stritainthedesert.org



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

February 22, 2026

“Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.” (Psalm 51)

Dear Parish Family and Friends,

The Lenten season has begun with the First Sunday of Lent, inviting us to renew our hearts and focus on conversion. On Ash Wednesday, we expressed our readiness for this sacred time by placing burned palms on our foreheads, symbolizing our commitment to turn from sin. These ashes are not just a church ritual; they remind us that each day offers opportunities to begin again. This may mean putting away our phones during dinner or reaching out in kindness to someone we might otherwise overlook. Lent calls Christians to engage in the spiritual struggle against the temptations of the flesh, the eyes, and the pride of life, as reflected in today's readings.

Building on this call to renewal, the first reading from Genesis illustrates how the fall entered the world. Adam and Eve did not possess sin as we understand it; instead, their choices brought about the consequences of the fall for themselves and for us. Eve stands before the tree, considering the forbidden fruit, as the serpent's words plant doubt in her mind. She sees the fruit is “good for food,” representing physical lust. It is “pleasing to the eyes,” symbolizing avarice, the desire to possess. It is “desirable for gaining wisdom,” reflecting pride, as she seeks to make herself equal to God. The serpent told Eve, “You will be like God.”

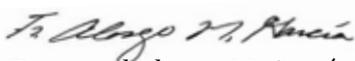
Reflecting further on these temptations, the Gospel shows Jesus being led by the Spirit into the desert, where, after fasting for forty days, He faces the same temptations described above. Unlike Eve, Jesus chooses to resist Satan's offers. When told, “Command that these stones become loaves of bread,” He rejects the temptation of the flesh, choosing His Father's will over personal comfort. The challenge to “throw yourself down from the temple” represents the pride of life, but Jesus refuses to seek glory or recognition. Finally, when shown all the kingdoms of the world, Jesus resists the lust of the eyes, countering the devil with the truth of the Law of Moses.

Drawing inspiration from Jesus' example in the desert, let us consider how we are called to resist temptation in our own lives. Jesus demonstrates that with trust in God, perseverance, and faithfulness, we can overcome desires that distract us from our true purpose. During this Lenten journey, I invite each of us to examine the temptations we face, draw on the strength of the Holy Spirit, and follow in Jesus' footsteps. May His example encourage us to choose what is good, even when it is difficult, and to trust that God's grace will sustain us.

We welcome our eighth bishop, Most Reverend James A. Misko, who now serves as our bishop. I was honored to participate in the ordination of Bishop Misko. I hope some of you were able to see the live stream of this beautiful and historic ceremony, and you would agree it was beautiful and reverent. Please pray that our loving God will bless Bishop Misko with wisdom, fortitude, and perseverance as he endeavors to pastor the Diocese of Tucson!

Lastly, next week we will show our Annual Catholic Appeal video, “This is the hour for love.” While the video will show our Apostolic Administrator, Bishop Gerald Kicanas, keep in mind that the appeal is very much needed. The appeal is diocesan-wide, and many have donated generously. Our shared goal for this year's appeal is \$48,524.00. The following week, we will have commitment weekend when we will ask all of our parishioners to prayerfully consider a generous donation. Any amount will be helpful to our seminarians, those in need, and grants for parishes throughout our diocese. God bless you for your generous consideration.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Reverend Alonzo M. García, Pastor



OFICINA DE PASTOR

22 de febrero de 2026

“Misericordia, Señor, hemos pecado.” (Salmo 50)

Estimada familia parroquial y amigos:

La Cuaresma ha comenzado con el Primer Domingo de Cuaresma, invitándonos a renovar nuestros corazones y a centrarnos en la conversión. El Miércoles de Ceniza, expresamos nuestra disposición para este tiempo sagrado al recibir cenizas en nuestras frentes, símbolo de nuestro compromiso de apartarnos del pecado. Estas cenizas no son solo un rito de la Iglesia; nos recuerdan que cada día ofrece oportunidades para comenzar de nuevo. Esto puede significar dejar a un lado nuestros teléfonos durante la cena o acercarnos con bondad a alguien a quien, de otro modo, podríamos pasar por alto. La Cuaresma llama a los cristianos a involucrarse en la lucha espiritual contra las tentaciones de la carne, los ojos y la soberbia de la vida, como se refleja en las lecturas de hoy.

Profundizando en este llamado a la renovación, la primera lectura del Génesis ilustra cómo la caída entró en el mundo. Adán y Eva no poseían el pecado como lo entendemos nosotros; más bien, sus decisiones trajeron las consecuencias de la caída para ellos y para nosotros. Eva está ante el árbol, considerando el fruto prohibido, mientras las palabras de la serpiente siembran la duda en su mente. Ve que el fruto es “bueno para comer”, lo cual representa la lujuria de la carne. Es “agradable a los ojos”, lo cual simboliza la avaricia y el deseo de poseer. Es “deseable para alcanzar la sabiduría”, lo cual refleja el orgullo al buscar hacerse igual a Dios. La serpiente le dijo a Eva: “Serán como Dios”.

Reflexionando aún más sobre estas tentaciones, el Evangelio muestra a Jesús guiado por el Espíritu al desierto, donde, después de ayunar cuarenta días, enfrenta las mismas tentaciones descritas anteriormente. A diferencia de Eva, Jesús decide resistir las ofertas de Satanás. Cuando le dice: “Manda que estas piedras se conviertan en panes”, Jesús rechaza la tentación de la carne y elige la voluntad de su Padre por encima de la comodidad personal. El desafío de “tirarte desde el templo” representa la soberbia de la vida, pero Jesús se niega a buscar gloria o reconocimiento. Finalmente, cuando se le muestran todos los reinos del mundo, Jesús resiste la tentación de los ojos y responde al diablo con la verdad de la Ley de Moisés.

Inspirándonos en el ejemplo de Jesús en el desierto, consideremos cómo estamos llamados a resistir la tentación en nuestras propias vidas. Jesús demuestra que, con confianza en Dios, perseverancia y fidelidad, podemos vencer los deseos que nos distraen de nuestro verdadero propósito. Durante este camino de la Cuaresma, invito a cada uno de nosotros a examinar las tentaciones que enfrentamos, a apoyarnos en la fuerza del Espíritu Santo y a seguir las huellas de Jesús. Que su ejemplo nos anime a elegir lo que es bueno, incluso cuando sea difícil, y a confiar en que la gracia de Dios nos sostendrá.

Damos la bienvenida a nuestro octavo obispo, el Reverendísimo James A. Misko, quien ahora ocupa el cargo. Tuve el honor de participar en la ordenación del Obispo Misko. Espero que algunos de ustedes hayan podido ver la transmisión en vivo de esta hermosa e histórica ceremonia y que coincidan en que fue bella y reverente. ¡Por favor, oren para que nuestro amoroso Dios bendiga al obispo Misko con sabiduría, fortaleza y perseverancia mientras pastorea la Diócesis de Tucson!

Por último, la próxima semana presentaremos el video de nuestra Campaña Católica Anual, “Este es el momento para amar”. Aunque en el video aparecerá nuestro Administrador Apostólico, el Obispo Gerald Kicanas, tengan en cuenta que la campaña es muy necesaria. La campaña es a nivel diocesano y muchos han donado generosamente. Nuestra meta compartida para la campaña de este año es de \$48,524.00. La semana siguiente tendremos el fin de semana de compromiso, cuando pediremos a todos nuestros feligreses que consideren en oración una donación generosa. Cualquier cantidad ayudará a nuestros seminaristas y a los más necesitados, así como a las parroquias de toda nuestra diócesis. Dios los bendiga por su generosa consideración.

Sinceramente en Cristo,

Reverendo Alonzo M. García, Pastor



GOSPEL MEDITATION

IN THE MATTHEW 5:17-37,

In the Gospel of Matthew, we witness Jesus being led by the Spirit into the desert to face temptation. During His 40 days of fasting, the devil tempts Jesus with easy solutions and worldly power. Jesus responds to each temptation with words from Scripture, demonstrating the power and authority of God's word over any worldly temptation. This passage reminds us that true strength and victory over temptation come from relying on God's truth. As we begin our Lenten journey, we are called to reflect on the areas of our lives where we may be tempted to seek comfort or power apart from God. Let us embrace this time to grow closer to Christ, trusting in His word to guide us through our own deserts and challenges.

Reflection Question:

In what ways can you use God's word as a source of strength and guidance when facing temptations or challenges in your life?

EN MATEO 5:17-37,

En el Evangelio de Mateo, vemos a Jesús siendo llevado por el Espíritu al desierto para enfrentarse a la tentación. Durante sus 40 días de ayuno, el diablo tienta a Jesús con soluciones fáciles y poder mundano. Jesús responde a cada tentación con palabras de las Escrituras, demostrando el poder y la autoridad de la palabra de Dios sobre cualquier tentación mundana. Este pasaje nos recuerda que la verdadera fuerza y la victoria sobre la tentación provienen de confiar en la verdad de Dios. Al comenzar nuestro camino cuaresmal, estamos llamados a reflexionar sobre las áreas de nuestra vida donde podemos sentirnos tentados a buscar consuelo o poder alejados de Dios. Abracemos este tiempo para acercarnos más a Cristo, confiando en Su palabra para guiarnos a través de nuestros propios desiertos y desafíos.

Pregunta de reflexión:

¿De qué maneras puedes usar la palabra de Dios como fuente de fuerza y guía cuando enfrentas tentaciones o desafíos en tu vida?

DID YOU KNOW....

FEBRUARY 22ND

George Washington's Birthday:

February 22nd is celebrated as the birthday of George Washington, the first President of the United States. Born in 1732, Washington is often referred to as the "Father of His Country" for his leadership during the American Revolutionary War and his role in drafting the Constitution. His birthday is widely recognized in the United States as a time to reflect on Washington's contributions to the nation's founding and his legacy of leadership, integrity, and national unity. The day was originally celebrated as a federal holiday on February 22nd but is now commonly observed as Presidents' Day on the third Monday in February, honoring all U.S. presidents.

Reflection Question:

How can reflecting on the leadership qualities of influential historical figures like George Washington inspire you to make a positive impact in your own community?

Source: *Truthly App*

WEEKLY CALENDAR, INTENTIONS, OBSERVATIONS & READINGS

MASS INTENTIONS INTENCIONES DE MISA

Saturday February 21

5:00 pm

†William Anna Mullady

†Dave Whaley

Sunday February 22

8:00 am

†Loretta Milo

†Victoria Panes

†Marcos Delgadillo Gamez &

†Elizabeth Obeso Garcia

10:00 am

SI Bob Necas

†Eliza Hinojosa

12:00 pm

Living & Deceased of St. Rita

Monday February 23

8:00 am

Men & Women in the Military

Tuesday February 24

8:00 am

†Stan Douglass

SI Mary Boyd

Wednesday February 25

8:00 am

St. Rita

Thursday February 26

8:00 am

†Bernard & Olga Poluga

†Maria Christina Galindo

Friday February 27

8:00 am

†Forrest & Regina Pettit

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

Sunday, February 22

6th Sunday of Ordinary

Time

- *St. Maximianus of Ravenna*

- *St. Margaret of Cortona*

8:00 am - Mass (English)

10:00 am - Mass (English)

12:00 noon - Mass (Spanish)

Monday, February 23

- *St. Polycarp*

- *St. Giuseppina Vannini*

8:00 am Mass (English)

8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

6:00 pm Men's Group (Oscar

Romero Room)

Tuesday, February 24

- *St. John Theristus*

8:00 am Mass (English)

8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

Wednesday, February 25

8:00 am - Mass (English)

8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

9:00 am Women's Scripture Study

(Oscar Romero Room)

Thursday, February 26

- *St. Faustinian*

8:00 am - Mass (English)

8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

Friday, February 27

- *St. Gregory of Narek*

- *St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows*

8:00 am Mass

8:30 am Eucharist Adoration

Saturday, February 28

- *St. Romanus of Condat*

5:00 pm - Mass (English)

source: young-catholics.com

READINGS & OBSERVANCES

FIRST READING:

"The serpent said to the woman, 'You certainly will not die!'" (Gen 3:4)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

"Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned." (Ps 51:3)

SECOND READING:

"For just as through the disobedience of one person the many were made sinners, so through the obedience of one the many will be made righteous." (Rom 5:19)

GOSPEL:

"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." (Mt 4:4)

Sunday, February 22

(First Sunday of Lent)

Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7 | Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17 | Rom 5:12-19 | Mt 4:1-11

Monday, February 23

(St. Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr)

Lv 19:1-2, 11-18 | Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15 | Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday, February 24

Is 55:10-11 | Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19 | Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday, February 25

Jon 3:1-10 | Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19 | Lk 11:29-32

Thursday, February 26

Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25 | Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8 | Mt 7:7-12

Friday, February 27

Ez 18:21-28 | Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8 | Mt 5:20-26

Saturday, February 28

Dt 26:16-19 | Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8 | Mt 5:43-48

PARISH MINISTRIES

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Altar Server

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

Altar Society

The St. Rita Altar Society is looking for volunteers to maintain the Altar in the Shrine and St. John XXIII. If you love to decorate or enjoy floral arrangements, we invite you to glorify the Lord by your creativity.

Eucharistic Ministry

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

Lectors

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

Music Ministry

Curious about our choirs? Love to sing sacred music? Join us, our rehearsals are open to everyone!

Adult choirs (18+): Tues at 6:30 pm
Youth choir (8-18): Wed at 4:30 pm
Spanish choir: Wed at 6:15 pm

Do you play piano, guitar, flute or clarinet? We want to meet you!

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

Ushers

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

PARISH MINISTRIES

Outreach Ministry

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

Pastoral Council

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

Porter's of St. Joseph

Email: porters@stritainthedesert.org

Right to Life

Email: rtl@stritainthedesert.org

Family Faith Formation

www.watch.formed.org

Vocations

Contact Mr. Adam LaGuardia:
Vocations@stritainthedesert.org

Welcome Committee

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

Guild of St. Rita

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

Sewing Angels

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

Mujeres De Fe (Women of Faith)

Para mas Informacion
Coordinadora:
Gabriela Hrdlirka (915) 539-0985
gawoho@gmail.com

EXTERNAL MINISTRIES



Knights of Columbus®

Lead with Faith.
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Catholic Men 18+
visit our website:
<https://www.kofc14230.org> or
contact John Cuddy at:
john.cuddy@yahoo.com or
(978)382-0742



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



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



If you need assistance from St Vincent de Paul or want to join the ministry to help others, contact James Mahaffey at (520) 307-3411

Marian Book Club

Every Thursday
4:30-6pm
Oscar Romero

All are welcome to join!

Women's Scripture Study

Wednesday mornings
9 am
Oscar Romero Room
All women are welcome
irenetoews@cox.net

Rectory Debt Payoff Update

As of Sunday, February 15, 2026

\$88,156 **\$345,000**
GOAL

75 **500**
FAMILY PLEDGED/DONATED GOAL

We need your help! Until this phase is complete, we cannot seek Diocesan approval for a new church capital campaign. Let's come together as a faith family to make it happen

Easter is just 41 days away!
Be part of our parish family's exciting next chapter



Scan to Pledge

VISITA DE LA VIRGEN A LOS HOGARES

El grupo de la Legion de Maria les recuerda que Nuestra Santísima Madre quiere visitar sus hogares, para que sientan su protección y compañía, para que compartan con Ella las necesidades que tiene cada miembro de su familia, Ella quiere escuchar sus plegarias y llevarlas a su amado Hijo Jesus.

En el vestíbulo estarán algunos miembros del grupo de la Legion de Maria, para tomar sus datos y programar la visita. Gracias.

ALTAR SOCIETY QUILT RAFFLE

Support the purchase of a **new monstrance** for the Pope John XXIII Center by participating in the Altar Society's **quilt raffle!**

Tickets are available for the **king-size quilt** on display in the Narthex (108" x 108", 100% cotton, machine washable).

Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20 and will be sold after all Masses from February 8 through March 8. The drawing will be held after the 12:00 p.m. Mass on March 8. You do not need to be present to win.

Thank you for your generous support.



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Lent is a call to:

"Give alms for the poor"

Wherever you live in the parish, there are poor families within walking distance of your home. When in need, they call our help line. They are, in effect, calling you. Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please have them call our help line, so together we can help them and bring them God's love.

SAVE THE DATES

May 16, 2026 - 6:00pm - 8:30pm

"La primavera in Umbria"

4-Course Italian Wine Dinner with DJ & Dancing

Fundraiser for Rectory Payoff and New Church

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

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

RIGHT TO LIFE

40 Days of Prayer

To end abortion in Tucson. Learn how you can impact the lives of the unborn in our community.

rtl@stritainthedesert.org

GUILD OF ST. RITA OF CASCIA

2nd & 4th Wednesdays

Each month at 6pm
Mother Theresa Room

Join us - all are welcome

guild@stritainthedesert.org

Pursuing the Virtues of the Spirit in Service to our Community of Faith

WOMEN OF THE WAY STUDY GROUP

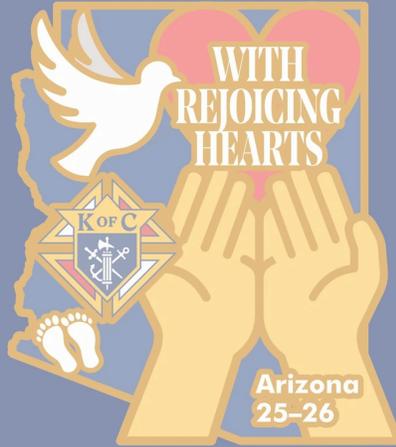
February 25th

6-8pm

Oscar Romero Room

For more information:
jbrink1130@gmail.com

*Prayerfully consider
joining the
Knights of Columbus!*



*Together,
we serve
With Rejoicing Hearts!*



One Year FREE online Membership
<https://www.kofc.org/join>
Promo Code: BlessedMcGivney



Arizona Knights of Columbus Charity Raffle – Starts This Weekend!

Don't miss your chance to win the
\$10,000 Grand Prize!

**Tickets are just \$5 each, 5 for \$20, or
the best value—30 for \$100.**

Every ticket makes a difference. Half of all proceeds raised by St. Rita Knights stay right here in our community. In 2026, funds will support St. Rita Parish and the Vail School District Transition from School to Work program, helping special-needs students prepare for life after high school.

Visit the Knights' table after all Masses near the parish hall to get your tickets. Thank you for your continued generosity and support!

For more information, contact Wayne Glembin at
(520) 449-7115 or gkcouncil14230@gmail.com

KNIGHTS FUNDRAISER FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Support a St. Rita Special Olympian competing with Arizona USA Softball at the Special Olympics USA Summer Games (June 20–26).

Pick up **farm-fresh eggs** for \$5/dozen and support a great cause.

Stop by the table to donate or learn more.

ST RITA LENTEN FISH AND CHIPS

February 27th

Join the Knights of Columbus
for a Fish Fry

4-8pm (Hall/Ramada)

Mark your calendar to join us throughout
Lent for Fish Fry Fridays on

March 13th

March 27th

ALUMINUM CAN RECYCLING

Aluminum cans may be dropped off in the recycling barrels next to the St. Vincent de Paul donation shed. Please note:

- **Aluminum cans only** (no glass, paper, metal cans, or trash)
- Please place cans in **secure, tied trash bags**
- **No clothing donations**—please take clothing to the Vail Resources Thrift Store across the street

If you have cans to donate but need assistance, please ask a Knight wearing a maroon council shirt for help.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PIMA- EAST LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES DATES

St. Pius X | March 09, 2026 | 6pm Confessions

St. Francis de Sales
March 11, 2026 | 9-11am & 6-8pm Confessions

St. Rita in the Desert | March 12, 2026
6pm Confessions

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

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

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

St. Joseph Parish (None scheduled this year)

St. Rita Parking Lot

The Seal Coat Project will begin on **Monday, February 22nd at 7am**. You will need to park at the North Lot parking lot if you will be on campus.

**YOUR CAR WILL BE TOWED
AT OWNER'S EXPENSE!**

Parking lot will open again on **Wednesday, February 25th**. Thank you for your cooperation during this time.



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



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



February | March Concerts

I Dream a World

Featuring True Concord Choir, Orchestra, Tucson Girls Chorus & Jeffrey Biegel, piano

Friday, February 27 | 4pm
Valley Presbyterian Church, Green Valley

Saturday, February 28 | 4pm
Catalina Foothills H.S. Music Hall, Tucson

Sunday, March 1 | 3pm
Catalina Foothills H.S. Music Hall, Tucson



*"This is my beloved Son,
with whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him."*

Learn how to truly listen to your spouse on the upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experiences Experience on May 30-31, 2026 in Tucson.

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



St. Rita in the Desert - Lenten Food Drive

We're collecting the following items to help our neighbors: *cooking oil, jelly, canned tuna, & canned chicken*

† **Your Support is a Blessing** †
In this season of sacrifice and charity, your contributions will provide essential nourishment to those in our community struggling with food insecurity. With requests for assistance rising, your generosity will help sustain our outreach efforts well into the year.

Donate Today & Share the Love of Christ
Together, we can ensure that no one in our community goes hungry.

PLEASE RETURN BAG BY: *Sunday, April 11th*

"For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat..." - Matthew 25:35

SAINT SPOTLIGHT



SAINT POLYCARP

Feast Day: February 23rd

Patronage:

Saint Polycarp is the patron saint of earaches and dysentery. He is also revered as a significant figure among early Christian martyrs and church leaders.

Story: Saint Polycarp was born around the year 69 AD and was a disciple of Saint John the Apostle. He became the Bishop of Smyrna (modern-day İzmir, Turkey) and was a crucial link between the Apostolic Age and the emerging structure of the early Church. Known for his deep faith and wisdom, Polycarp was instrumental in combating early heresies and was a strong advocate for maintaining the teachings of the Apostles.

His strong leadership and teachings inspired many to hold steadfast to the Christian faith. Polycarp is best remembered for his martyrdom. During a period of intense Christian persecution, Polycarp was arrested and given the choice to renounce his faith or face execution. He famously refused, saying, "Eighty-six years have I served Him, and He has done me no wrong. How can I blaspheme my King and Savior?" Polycarp was burned at the stake for his unwavering faith, becoming one of the revered early Church martyrs.

Legacy: Saint Polycarp's life and martyrdom left a profound legacy on the early Christian Church. His steadfast faith and leadership in the face of persecution continue to inspire Christians throughout the ages. His martyrdom is one of the earliest recorded, providing a significant example of courage and faithfulness.

Reflection Question: In what areas of your life are you called to stand firm in your beliefs, even when facing pressure or challenges?

KIDS CORNER



Feast Day: February 23rd

Patronage:

Saint Polycarp is the special saint people pray to if they have earaches or stomach troubles.

Story:

A long, long time ago, around the year 69 AD, a boy named Polycarp was born. He was friends with Saint John, who was one of Jesus' Apostles! Polycarp grew up learning about Jesus and decided to help spread His message of love to others. He became a bishop, which means he was a Church leader, in a place called Smyrna (now known as Turkey).

Polycarp was known for being very kind and wise. He taught people to follow Jesus' teachings and stand up for what's right. One day, some people who didn't like Christians wanted him to say he didn't believe in Jesus anymore. But Polycarp was very brave and refused to change his mind, even if it meant he might get hurt. He loved Jesus so much that he chose to stay true to his faith, and he is remembered as a hero for it.

Legacy:

Saint Polycarp showed courage by staying strong in his trust in God, even when things got tough. People look up to him because he stood up for what he believed in and didn't give up on his faith in Jesus.

Question to Ponder:

Can you think of times when it's important to stand up for what you believe in, even if it's hard?

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: _____