

March 22, 2026



# ST. RITA IN THE DESERT

## Catholic Church

### CLERGY

**Pastor:**

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

**Deacon:**

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

### 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

*"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live.'" (John 11:25)*

*"Jesús le dijo: 'Yo soy la resurrección y la vida; el que cree en mí, aunque muera, vivirá.'" (Juan 11:25)*

**Reflection:**

In this powerful Gospel story, Jesus reveals Himself as the source of life and hope, even in the face of death. The raising of Lazarus demonstrates His authority over life and death, a foreshadowing of His own resurrection. We are invited to place our trust in Christ, who promises eternal life to all who believe in Him. As we journey through Lent, let this reading renew our hope and strengthen our faith. May we look beyond the trials of this world and set our gaze on the eternal life offered to us through Jesus, embracing His promise with open hearts.

**Socratic Question:**

How does Jesus' promise of eternal life change the way you face challenges and uncertainties?

**Reflexión:**

En esta poderosa historia del Evangelio, Jesús se revela como la fuente de vida y esperanza, incluso frente a la muerte. La resurrección de Lázaro demuestra su autoridad sobre la vida y la muerte, anticipando su propia resurrección. Estamos invitados a confiar en Cristo, quien promete vida eterna a todos los que creen en Él. Mientras avanzamos en Cuaresma, que esta lectura renueve nuestra esperanza y fortalezca nuestra fe. Miremos más allá de las pruebas de este mundo y fijemos nuestra mirada en la vida eterna que nos ofrece Jesús, abrazando su promesa con corazones abiertos.

**Pregunta socrática:**

¿Cómo cambia la promesa de vida eterna de Jesús la manera en que enfrentas los desafíos e incertidumbres?

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*

**Tuesday, March 24th**  
**Office will close early**  
**at 1100 am.**

## PARISH INFORMATION

### COLLECTIONS | COLECTA

March 15, 2026



Offertory: \$10,120.97  
Rectory Debt: \$5,978.60  
Campus Maint: \$1,560.55

Thank you for your support.  
*God bless you!*

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

### ST. RITA STAFF

(520) 762-9688

**Administrative Assistant:** Chris Metzger  
[adminassist@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:adminassist@stritainthedesert.org)

**Secretary:** Veronica Garcia  
[secretary@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:secretary@stritainthedesert.org)

**Business Manager:** Louise Azzopardi  
[businessmgr@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:businessmgr@stritainthedesert.org)

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

**Bulletin Editor:** Kathy Lockard  
[bulletin@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:bulletin@stritainthedesert.org)

**Facilities Manager:** Rob King  
[rob@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:rob@stritainthedesert.org)

**Maintenance:** Bill Cline

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STAFF

**Director of Religious Education:** Geraldine Durman  
[dre@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:dre@stritainthedesert.org)

**Youth Ministry:** Carolyn Reynolds  
[msyouth@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:msyouth@stritainthedesert.org)  
[hsyouth@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:hsyouth@stritainthedesert.org)

**OCIA Coordinator:** Michelle Quinn Crowley  
[ocia@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:ocia@stritainthedesert.org)

### ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

**Music Ministry:** Nancy Campman Crofts  
[music@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:music@stritainthedesert.org)

**Catholic Brotherhood Group:** Jayme Kahle  
[jkahle25@gmail.com](mailto:jkahle25@gmail.com)

**Women's Bible Study:** Irene Toews  
[irenetoews@cox.net](mailto:irenetoews@cox.net)

**Guild of St. Rita:**  
[guild@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:guild@stritainthedesert.org)

### BULLETIN DEADLINE & QUESTIONS

Email bulletin request(s) to:

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

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

### HOMEBOUND EUCHARIST

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

### EMERGENCY ANOINTING OF THE SICK

520-543-8415

### MASS INTENTIONS AVAILABLE

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



#### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

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



#### ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Every 1<sup>st</sup> Friday at 8am Mass

#### BAPTISMS

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



#### CONFIRMATION

Contact Youth Minister or OCIA director

#### MARRIAGE

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

## OFFICE OF THE PASTOR

March 22, 2026

***“I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will never die.” (cf. John 11:25a, 26)***

Dear Parish Family and Friends,

“The flesh is of no avail” (cf. John 6:63) reflects Jesus’ call to seek spiritual nourishment rather than relying solely on our physical existence. Our human nature struggles with temptations such as lust, gluttony, greed, envy, and jealousy. Yet the essential message remains: God offers hope and restoration, inviting us back into His likeness. Despite our fallen nature, God desires to restore us to the divine life lost at the Fall.

Today’s Scripture readings build on this theme with powerful images of dry bones coming to life. We are reminded that it is the Spirit who gives life. Though we experience death in the flesh, God raises us up through His Son, Jesus Christ.

In the prophet Ezekiel, God promises to open the graves of His people and bring them out, placing His Spirit within them so that they may live. This prophetic image points forward to the new life fully revealed in Christ.

In today’s Gospel, we encounter the story of Lazarus. Although Jesus knew of his illness, He delayed going to Bethany. When He arrives, Martha expresses both sorrow and deep faith: “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you.” Jesus assures her, “Your brother will rise,” to which she responds, “I know he will rise in the resurrection on the last day.”

Jesus then goes to the tomb. The stone is removed, and He calls Lazarus from death to life. In Hebrew, the word for tomb, *kever*, can also suggest a womb—an image of new life where there was once death.

When Lazarus emerges, still bound in burial cloths, Jesus says, “Untie him and let him go.” This moment reflects both deliverance and forgiveness, and points to the sacraments—especially Baptism and Reconciliation—which free us from sin and restore us as children of God.

While we may be tempted to rely on ourselves, we must remember: the flesh is of no avail. What matters is living in the Spirit. If we live only for the flesh, we gain what is temporary; but if we live by faith in the Spirit, we receive life both now and forever in God.

I would also like to express my gratitude to all who have contributed to our **Annual Catholic Appeal**. We are currently at **20%** of our goal, thanks to your generosity. If you have not yet given, I invite you to prayerfully consider joining your fellow parishioners in helping us reach our goal. With God, all things are possible!

Lastly, I thank our **Mary’s Rose Garden** team for their dedication in making the garden a place worthy of Our Blessed Mother. Our head gardener, Ms. Sherri Collins, has generously shared her time and talent, helping bring our Marian Rose Garden back to life. Thank you to Sherri and the entire team for the care and love you have given to Mary’s garden.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Reverend Alonzo M. García, Pastor



## OFICINA DE PASTOR

22 de marzo de 2026

***“Yo soy la resurrección y la vida, dice el Señor; el que cree en mí no morirá para siempre.”. (Juan 11, 25. 26)***

Estimada familia parroquial y amigos:

“La carne de nada sirve” (cf. Juan 6,63) refleja el llamado de Jesús a buscar el alimento espiritual, en lugar de depender solamente de lo material. Nuestra naturaleza humana lucha con tentaciones como la lujuria, la gula, la avaricia, la envidia y los celos. Sin embargo, el mensaje central permanece: Dios nos ofrece esperanza y restauración, invitándonos a volver a su imagen. A pesar de nuestra fragilidad, Dios desea restaurarnos a la vida divina que se perdió con la caída.

Las lecturas de hoy continúan este tema con imágenes muy poderosas, como la de los huesos secos que vuelven a la vida. Se nos recuerda que es el Espíritu quien da la vida. Aunque experimentamos la muerte en la carne, Dios nos levanta por medio de su Hijo, Jesucristo.

En el profeta Ezequiel, Dios promete abrir las tumbas de su pueblo y sacarlos de ellas, poniendo su Espíritu en ellos para que vivan. Esta imagen profética apunta a la vida nueva que se revela plenamente en Cristo.

En el Evangelio de hoy encontramos la historia de Lázaro. Aunque Jesús sabía de su enfermedad, no fue de inmediato a Betania. Cuando llega, Marta expresa tanto su dolor como su gran fe: “Señor, si hubieras estado aquí, mi hermano no habría muerto. Pero aún ahora sé que todo lo que pidas a Dios, Dios te lo concederá.” Jesús le dice: “Tu hermano resucitará,” y ella responde: “Sé que resucitará en la resurrección del último día.”

Jesús entonces va al sepulcro. QUITAN LA PIEDRA y Él llama a Lázaro a salir de la muerte a la vida. En hebreo, la palabra para sepulcro, *kever*, también puede entenderse como “vientre”, una imagen de vida nueva que surge donde antes había muerte.

Cuando Lázaro sale, todavía envuelto en las vendas, Jesús dice: “Desátenlo y déjenlo ir.” Este momento refleja liberación y perdón, y también nos recuerda los sacramentos—especialmente el Bautismo y la Reconciliación—que nos liberan del pecado y nos devuelven la vida como hijos de Dios.

Aunque a veces confiamos demasiado en nuestras propias fuerzas, debemos recordar: la carne de nada sirve. Lo que realmente importa es vivir en el Espíritu. Si vivimos solo para lo material, obtenemos algo pasajero; pero si vivimos por la fe en el Espíritu, recibimos vida ahora y para siempre en Dios.

También quiero agradecer de corazón a todos los que ya han contribuido a nuestra **Campaña Católica Anual**. Actualmente hemos alcanzado el **20% de nuestra meta**, gracias a su generosidad. Si aún no ha participado, lo invito a que lo considere en oración y se una a sus hermanos y hermanas para ayudarnos a alcanzar nuestra meta. ¡Para Dios todo es posible!

Finalmente, quiero agradecer a nuestro equipo del **Jardín de Rosas de María** por su dedicación a hacer de este espacio un lugar digno de nuestra Santísima Madre. Nuestra jardinera principal, la Sra. Sherri Collins ha sido muy generosa con su tiempo y talento, contribuyendo a que este jardín mariano vuelva a florecer. Gracias a Sherri y a todo su equipo por el amor y cuidado que han puesto en el jardín de María

Sinceramente en Cristo,



Reverendo Alonzo M. García, Pastor



## GOSPEL MEDITATION

### IN THE JOHN 11:1-45,

The story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead is a profound demonstration of His power over life and death, revealing His divine nature. When Jesus says, "I am the resurrection and the life," He invites us to believe in Him beyond what we can see with our eyes. This miracle is not just about bringing a man back to life; it's a sign pointing to the eternal life Jesus offers to all who believe. He calls us to trust in His timing and wisdom, even when faced with sorrow or uncertainty. As we reflect on this Lenten season, let us open our hearts to Jesus' life-giving presence and find hope in His promise of resurrection and new life.

#### Reflection Question:

In what areas of your life can you respond to Jesus' call to trust in His power and promise of new life, even amidst difficulties?

### EN JUAN 11:1-45,

La historia de Jesús resucitando a Lázaro es una profunda demostración de Su poder sobre la vida y la muerte, revelando Su naturaleza divina. Cuando Jesús dice: "Yo soy la resurrección y la vida", nos invita a creer en Él más allá de lo que podemos ver con nuestros ojos. Este milagro no solo trata de devolverle la vida a un hombre, sino que es una señal que apunta a la vida eterna que Jesús ofrece a todos los que creen. Nos llama a confiar en Su tiempo y sabiduría, incluso cuando enfrentamos tristeza o incertidumbre. Al reflexionar en esta temporada de Cuaresma, abramos nuestros corazones a la presencia vivificante de Jesús y encontremos esperanza en Su promesa de resurrección y vida nueva.

#### Pregunta de reflexión:

¿En qué áreas de tu vida puedes responder al llamado de Jesús para confiar en Su poder y promesa de nueva vida, incluso en medio de dificultades?

## CONFIRMATION TEEN RETREAT

On March 14, 2026, more than 200 teens from across the Diocese of Tucson gathered for one of three diocesan retreats offered this spring. Nineteen of our Confirmation students joined other young people at St. Francis de Sales for **The Disciple's Journey (El Camino del Discipulado) retreat**.

Throughout the day, the teens prayed Morning Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours, heard inspiring talks from members of the Diocesan Youth Ministry Leadership Council, participated in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, enjoyed fellowship over lunch, created meaningful art projects, and celebrated Mass with Father Manu Franco, O.Carm.



Each participant received a wooden cross with a heart, symbolizing their call to discipleship and the invitation to know Jesus personally and enter into a loving relationship with Him. Every teen was also gifted a new Bible, generously provided by the Diocese of Tucson.

Additional retreats at St. Anthony of Padua in Casa Grande and St. Cyril of Alexandria in Tucson will welcome more than 500 teens throughout the diocese. ***Let us keep all these young people in our prayers as they continue their journey of faith.***

# WEEKLY CALENDAR, INTENTIONS, OBSERVATIONS & READINGS

## MASS INTENTIONS INTENCIONES DE MISA

*Saturday March 21*

**5:00 pm**

†Louisa & Joe Moreno & Family

†Robert Sanders

*Sunday March 22*

**8:00 am**

†John Wegener

†Mark Bodnar

**10:00 am**

†Bob Necas

**12:00 pm**

Living & Deceased of St. Rita

*Monday March 23*

**8:00 am**

†Frederick Brodhagen

*Tuesday March 24*

**8:00 am**

†Louisa & Joe Moreno & Family

*Wednesday March 25*

**8:00 am**

First Responders

*Thursday March 26*

**8:00 am**

SI United States Armed Forces

*Friday March 27*

**8:00 am**

Men & Women in the Military

## THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

*Sunday, March 22*

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

• *St. Paul of Narbonne*

• *St. Lea of Rome*

8:00 am - Mass (English)

10:00 am - Mass (English)

12:00 noon - Mass (Spanish)

*Monday, March 23*

• *St. Turibius of Mongrovejo*

8:00 am Mass (English)

8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

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

*Tuesday, March 24*

• *St. Oscar Romero*

• *St. Catherine of Sweden*

8:00 am Mass (English)

8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

*Wednesday, March 25*

**The Annunciation of the Lord**

• *St. Dismas*

• *St. Quirinus*

• *St. Lucy Filippini*

• *Bl. Placido Riccardi*

8:00 am - Mass (English)

8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

9:00 am Women's Scripture Study (Oscar Romero Room)

*Thursday, March 26*

• *St. Castulus*

8:00 am - Mass (English)

8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

*Friday, March 27*

• *St. Rupert of Salzburg*

8:00 am Mass

8:30 am Eucharist Adoration

*Saturday, March 28*

• *St. Castor of Tarsus*

5:00 pm - Mass (English)

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

## READINGS & OBSERVANCES

**FIRST READING:**

"I will open your graves and have you rise from them..." (Ez 37:12)

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

"Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD; LORD, hear my voice!" (Ps 130:1)

**SECOND READING:**

"The Spirit of God dwells in you." (Rom 8:9)

**GOSPEL:**

"Jesus told her, 'I am the resurrection and the life...'" (Jn 11:25)

*Sunday, March 22*

**(Fifth Sunday of Lent)**

Ez 37:12-14 | Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 | Rom 8:8-11 | Jn 11:1-45

*Monday, March 23*

Dan 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 | Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 | Jn 8:1-11

*Tuesday, March 24*

Num 21:4-9 | Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21 | Jn 8:21-30

*Wednesday, March 25*

**The Annunciation of the Lord**

Is 7:10-14; 8:10 | Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11 | Heb 10:4-10 | Lk 1:26-38

*Thursday, March 26*

Gen 17:3-9 | Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 | Jn 8:51-59

*Friday, March 27*

Jer 20:10-13 | Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7 | Jn 10:31-42

*Saturday, March 28*

Ez 37:21-28 | Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13 | Jn 11:45-56

# PARISH MINISTRIES

## LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

### *Altar Server*

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

### *Altar Society*

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

### *Eucharistic Ministry*

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

### *Lectors*

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

### *Music Ministry*

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](mailto:outreach@stritainthedesert.org)

### *Pastoral Council*

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

### *Porter's of St. Joseph*

Email: [porters@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:porters@stritainthedesert.org)

### *Right to Life*

Email: [rtl@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:rtl@stritainthedesert.org)

### *Family Faith Formation*

[www.watch.formed.org](http://www.watch.formed.org)

### *Vocations*

Contact Mr. Adam LaGuardia: [Vocations@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:Vocations@stritainthedesert.org)

### *Welcome Committee*

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

### *Guild of St. Rita*

Volunteers manage our beautiful Gift shop, plan our St. Rita's feast day celebration & host many other parish events as requested. Join us every **2nd & 4th Wed** of the month | **6pm** | Mother Teresa Rm | Email: [guild@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:guild@stritainthedesert.org)

### *Sewing Angels*

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

### *Mujeres De Fe (Women of Faith)*

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

## EXTERNAL MINISTRIES



### Knights of Columbus®

Lead with Faith.  
Protect your Family.  
Serve Others.  
Defend Your Values.

### BECOME A KNIGHT

**Catholic Men 18+**

visit our website:

<https://www.kofc14230.org> or

contact John Cuddy at:

[john.cuddy@yahoo.com](mailto:john.cuddy@yahoo.com) or

(978)382-0742



El praesidium de St.Rita se llama "Maria Puerta del Cielo" y se reúne los Martes a las 6:00 de la tarde en el

salon Oscar Romero, o puedes contactar a Sandra (520)395-7225 or email:

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

org



### Rachel's VINEYARD

Healing the pain of abortion - one weekend at a time

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



### THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

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

### *Marian Book Club*

Every **Thursday**

**4:30-6pm**

Oscar Romero

All are welcome to join!

### *Women's Scripture Study*

**Wednesday mornings 9 am**

Oscar Romero Room

All women are welcome

[irenetoews@cox.net](mailto:irenetoews@cox.net)

# Rectory Debt Payoff Update

As of Sunday, February 15, 2026

\$105,994

**\$345,000**  
GOAL

110

**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 20 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.



## THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

The Gospel today, challenges us to see and believe the signs of grace in our lives: joy, peace, forgiveness, mercy, and kindness. Your gifts help us bring much needed blessings to those who are suffering. In years past we have served 150 families during a fiscal year. We are now 6 months into our fiscal year and we are approaching 130 families served already. So you can see that the need is great and we are so appreciative of your donations.

**REMINDER:** Steak Fry | Apr 25 | Tickets on sale after all masses Mar 14 & 15 | \$25 Steak | \$10 Sloppy Joe

## 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

*Tickets go on sale 4/11-4/12/2026 weekend*  
*Volunteers Needed - Contact [guild@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:guild@stritainthedesert.org)*

## A LENTEN INVITATION

During Lent, we reflect on how we use God's gifts. Choosing the **digital bulletin** when possible is a simple way to support our parish, allowing more resources to go toward ministries and outreach. Thank you for your generosity.



<https://www.stritainthedesert.org/bulletin>

## ST. RITA MARIAN ROSE GARDEN

Would you like to help keep our Marian Rose Garden looking glorious?

Contact the office for more information.

## PARISH RUMMAGE SALE

**April 18, 8am-1pm**

Mark your calendars!

*Volunteers Welcome - Contact: [christie.isabel@gmail.com](mailto:christie.isabel@gmail.com)*

## FRIDAYS DURING LENT

**Stations of the Cross**  
March 27 & April 3 | 6:30pm

**Knights Fish & Chips**  
March 27 | 4-7pm

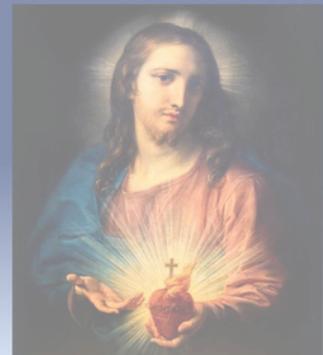
Prayerfully consider  
joining the  
Knights of Columbus!



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](mailto: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

**March 27th**

Join the Knights of Columbus  
for a Fish Fry

**4-7pm (Hall/Ramada)**

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

**Fridays of Lent at 6:30pm**

Soup available on alternate  
Fridays of Fish & Chips

## 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. Cyril  
March 24, 2026 | 6:00pm Confessions  
Corpus Christi  
April 01, 2026 | 6:00pm Confessions



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



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](http://Catholicmissiontrips.net) or call 703-957-9313.

### HAND CARVED IN BETHLEHEM

Please visit the table of hand-carved religious items (*Nativity sets, rosaries, statues, crucifixes, and more*) after all Masses the weekend of **March 21-22**.

Ayman Khair represents Christian families from the Holy Land who rely on selling these beautiful olive wood carvings for their livelihood. Due to the conflict in the Middle East, tourism has stopped, leaving many families without income.

*Your support helps these Christian artisans continue their centuries-old tradition and remain in the Holy Land. Thank you for your generosity.*

### St. Rita's Right to Life Ministry

Join us with former Planned Parenthood manager, now 40 Days for Life Outreach Director, **Ramona Trevino** as she shares her inspiring story of faith, redemption & the power of prayer on **Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup> | 9:30am** across from Planned Parenthood - 2255 N. Wyatt

Families, friends & churches can participate. No experience needed - just come & pray. Sign up at: [www.40daysforlife.com](http://www.40daysforlife.com)

*Your Right to Life Ministry Team*



*"I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."*

Do you believe that Jesus is the Lord of your marriage? Bring God into your marriage by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience on May 30-31, 2026 in Tucson, July 11-12, 2026 in Phoenix. For more info go to: [wwme.org](http://wwme.org) or call 520-661-3644



### 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 OSCAR ROMERO

**Feast Day:** March 24th

**Patronage:**

Saint Oscar Romero is often associated with social justice and the poor, reflecting his advocacy for peace and his dedication to justice and the rights of the marginalized.

**Story:** Saint Oscar Romero was born on August 15, 1917, in Ciudad Barrios, El Salvador. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1942 and became Archbishop of San Salvador in 1977. During a time of great civil unrest and oppression in El Salvador, Archbishop Romero became known for his outspoken advocacy for human rights, social justice, and the dignity of the poor. He used his homilies and radio broadcasts to speak against violence and injustice, urging peace and reconciliation. On March 24, 1980, while celebrating Mass at the chapel of the Divine Providence Hospital, he was assassinated by a government-aligned death squad, becoming a martyr for his faith and principles.

**Legacy:** Saint Oscar Romero's commitment to justice, peace, and the dignity of the oppressed has left a lasting impact on the Church and the world. He was beatified on May 23, 2015, and canonized on October 14, 2018, by Pope Francis. His life and witness continue to inspire those committed to social justice and in advocating for the rights and dignity of all people.

**Reflection Question:** In what ways can we individually and collectively work towards justice and peace in our communities, inspired by the example of Saint Oscar Romero?

### KIDS CORNER



**Feast Day:** March 24th

**Patronage:**

Saint Oscar Romero is a special friend to people who care about fairness and helping others, especially those who are poor or treated unfairly.

**Story:**

Saint Oscar Romero was born in El Salvador, a country in Central America, in 1917. He became a priest and later an important church leader called an archbishop. He lived at a time when there was a lot of fighting and unfairness in his country. Saint Oscar Romero spoke out bravely against these wrongs because he believed everyone should be treated fairly. He used his voice to help the poor and to say that hurting others was wrong. Sadly, he was killed while saying Mass in 1980 because he stood up for what was right. Many people see him as a hero because he tried to make the world a better place.

**Legacy:**

Saint Oscar Romero is remembered for his courage to speak out for what is right. He showed us that even one person can make a difference by standing up for love, peace, and fairness. The Church honors him as a saint because of his faith and dedication.

**Question to Ponder:**

How can we be brave like Saint Oscar Romero and help make sure everyone is treated with love and fairness in our own schools and neighborhoods?

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: \_\_\_\_\_