

November 23, 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 | 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

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

12:00 pm—1:00 pm
daily

ADORATION

FRIDAY | Viernes

8:30 am—9:30 am

In the church or by
appointment

En la iglesia o por cita

SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING

*"Jesus, remember me when you come
into your kingdom." (Luke 23:42)*

*"Jesús, acuérdate de mí cuando llegues a
tu reino." (Lucas 23:42)*

Reflection:

In this poignant moment on the cross, we see the profound humility and faith of the repentant thief. Despite his past, he recognizes Jesus' kingship and seeks His mercy. This encounter is a powerful reminder that Christ's kingdom is not of this world, but of hearts transformed by grace. As we celebrate Christ the King, let us humbly invite Jesus to reign in our hearts, trusting in His infinite love and forgiveness.

Socratic Question:

What prevents us from fully recognizing and accepting Jesus' kingship in our own lives, and how might embracing His reign transform our hearts and our actions?

Reflect on this question and consider how openness to Christ's transformative power can influence your daily life and interactions with others.

Reflexión:

En este momento conmovedor en la cruz, vemos la profunda humildad y fe del ladrón arrepentido. A pesar de su pasado, reconoce la realeza de Jesús y busca Su misericordia. Este encuentro es un recordatorio poderoso de que el reino de Cristo no es de este mundo, sino de corazones transformados por la gracia. Al celebrar a Cristo Rey, invitemos humildemente a Jesús a reinar en nuestros corazones, confiando en Su amor y perdón infinitos.

Pregunta Socrática:

¿Qué nos impide reconocer y aceptar plenamente la realeza de Jesús en nuestras propias vidas, y cómo podría su reinado transformar nuestros corazones y nuestras acciones?

Reflexiona sobre esta pregunta y considera cómo la apertura al poder transformador de Cristo puede influir en tu vida diaria y en tus interacciones con los demás.

Source: *Truthly App*

PARISH INFORMATION

COLLECTIONS | COLECTA



November 16, 2025

Offertory: \$5,912.00
Campus Maint: \$1,741.81
Rectory Debt: \$3,376.00

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:
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rob@stritainthedesert.org

Rob King

Maintenance:

Bill Cline

BULLETIN DEADLINE

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.

ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

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

Youth Ministry:
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hsyouth@stritainthedesert.org

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irenetoews@cox.net

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Guild of St. Rita:
guild@stritainthedesert.org



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 and
complete the *Intent to Baptize*
Form



CONFIRMATION

Contact Youth Minister or OCIA director

MARRIAGE

Marriage arrangements must be made 4 months in advanc. Contact the parish office for details.

OFFICE OF THE PASTOR

November 23, 2025

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come!” (Mark 11: 9,10)

Dear Parish Family and Friends,

As the political climate here in the U.S. grows partisan amid the "No Kings" march, we have to ask: do we not have a King of Kings who rules over us? Of course, we do not have a human king, but we have a Spiritual and redemptive King who will someday come to judge the living and the dead.

Today is our last week of Cycle C in ordinary time, and the Church celebrates with imagery of kingship and covenant, which evokes marital relationships. King David succeeded King Saul. Those who followed King Saul had no one to lead them in Israel due to the factions among his sons. They came to King David and asked him to be their King. The dialogue between them was beautiful, speaking about being bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh. The statements made by the Israelites recall the Genesis account of Adam and Eve and their marriage bond. In a profound sense, King David was King not only of Judah but also of Israel. That is precisely why the Messiah comes from the Davidic line to fulfill the prophetic utterances handed down before and after King David.

However, our Gospel for this week is the crucifixion narrative, reminding us what Jesus endured as the King of the Jews on our behalf. Ironically, the Romans either were being disrespectful or they knew to some degree Jesus was someone special and they placed above His head, "This is the King of the Jews." What is so beautiful about the narrative is that the repentant thief, in his own way, recognized his guilt and sought forgiveness. Jesus promised him paradise today.

For us, how do we allow Jesus to be King of our lives? Is Jesus the focus of our lives, and do we seek a deep, intimate relationship with our King? As we shift into Advent, the themes we encounter are light, hope, and the birth of the newborn King. Can we, this Advent, open ourselves to a deeper encounter with our Lord and welcome Him into our hearts so that He reigns in our homes to bring about peace, joy, and love? Come, Lord Jesus, come!

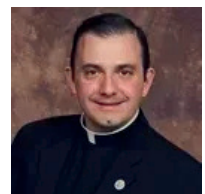
Thank you all for your kind attention to the changes taking place within the Sacred Liturgy. It is Sacred because it is Jesus Christ in our midst, and by His presence, He makes the Mass holy. Our Parish Leadership Team is prayerfully assisting me in bringing these essential reminders to our parish family, so that we may be a parish that prays unceasingly. Celebrating Mass with reverence and intention, the grace we receive from our worship helps transform us into an Amazing Parish. We recognize that this is a slight change, and as a team, we are prayerfully observing and exploring how to work out some of the kinks in this new process. Again, thank you, and let us become a parish family that prays unceasingly for one another!

Lastly, we will be celebrating Thanksgiving this Thursday. If you would like to bring any of your food items for a blessing before your celebrations, we will have a table in front of the altar where you can place them, and I will extend a blessing over them. I am thankful for all of you, and I wish you all the most wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Reverend Alonzo M. García, Pastor



23 de Noviembre de 2025

“¿Bendito el que viene en el nombre del Señor! ¿Bendito el reino que llega, el reino de nuestro padre David!” (Marcos 11, 9-10)

Querida familia parroquial y amigos,

A medida que el clima político aquí en los Estados Unidos se vuelve más partidista en medio de la marcha de “No Kings”, debemos preguntarnos: ¿acaso no tenemos un Rey de Reyes que reina sobre nosotros? Por supuesto, no tenemos un rey humano, pero sí tenemos un Rey espiritual y redentor que algún día vendrá a juzgar a los vivos y a los muertos.

Hoy celebramos la última semana del Ciclo C del Tiempo Ordinario y la Iglesia nos presenta imágenes de realeza y alianza que también evocan relaciones conyugales. El rey David sucedió al rey Saúl. Aquellos que habían seguido al rey Saúl quedaron sin líder en Israel debido a las facciones entre sus hijos. Acudieron al rey David y le pidieron que fuera su rey. El diálogo entre ellos fue hermoso, hablando de ser hueso de mis huesos y carne de mi carne. Las palabras pronunciadas por los israelitas recuerdan el relato del Génesis sobre Adán y Eva y su vínculo matrimonial. En un sentido profundo, el rey David fue rey no solo de Judá, sino también de Israel. Y es precisamente por eso que el Mesías proviene de la línea davídica, para cumplir las profecías transmitidas antes y después del reinado de David.

Sin embargo, nuestro Evangelio de esta semana es el relato de la crucifixión, que nos recuerda lo que Jesús soportó como Rey de los Judíos por nosotros. Los romanos, ya fuera por burla o porque reconocían, en cierta medida, que Jesús era alguien especial, colocaron sobre su cabeza la inscripción: “Este es el Rey de los Judíos.” Lo hermoso del relato es que el ladrón arrepentido, a su manera, reconoció su culpa y pidió perdón. Jesús le prometió el paraíso ese mismo día.

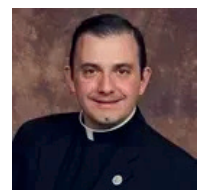
¿Qué hacemos nosotros para asegurarnos de que Jesús sea el Rey de nuestras vidas? ¿Es Jesús el centro de nuestra existencia? ¿Buscamos una relación profunda e íntima con nuestro Rey? Al entrar en el Adviento, los temas que encontramos son la luz, la esperanza y la llegada del Rey recién nacido. ¿Podemos, en este Adviento, abrirnos a un encuentro más profundo con nuestro Señor y recibirlo en nuestro corazón para que reine en nuestros hogares y traiga paz, alegría y amor? ¡Ven, Señor Jesús, ven!

Gracias a todos por su amable atención a los cambios que están teniendo lugar en la Sagrada Liturgia aquí en nuestra parroquia. Es Sagrada porque es Jesucristo en medio de nosotros y, por Su presencia, Él hace santa la Misa. Nuestro Equipo de Liderazgo Parroquial me está ayudando en oración para presentar estos recordatorios esenciales a nuestra familia parroquial, para que podamos ser una parroquia que ore sin cesar. Celebrar la Misa con reverencia e intención hace que la gracia que recibimos de nuestro culto nos ayude a transformarnos en una Parroquia Admirable. Reconocemos que este es un pequeño cambio y, como equipo, estamos observando y discerniendo, en oración, cómo resolver algunos detalles de este nuevo proceso. Nuevamente, gracias, y ¡sigamos convirtiéndonos en una familia parroquial que ora sin cesar unos por otros!

Por último, celebraremos el Día de Acción de Gracias este jueves. Si desean traer alguno de sus alimentos para una bendición antes de sus celebraciones, tendremos una mesa frente al altar donde pueden colocarlos y yo extenderé una bendición sobre ellos. Estoy agradecido por todos ustedes y les deseo un maravilloso y bendecido Día de Acción de Gracias.

Sinceramente Suyos en Cristo,

Reverendo Alonzo M. García, Párroco



GOSPEL MEDITATION

IN THE GOSPEL PASSAGE...

The Solemnity of Christ the King invites us to contemplate the mystery of Jesus' kingship. Unlike earthly rulers who seek power and dominion, Jesus reigns from the wood of the cross, offering Himself for our salvation. His kingdom is one of love, service, and truth. In the face of suffering and injustice, we might feel tempted to doubt His reign, yet the repentant thief teaches us that true power lies in surrendering to God's will and embracing His mercy.

Reflection Question:

As we reflect on this Gospel, let us ask ourselves: Do we allow Christ to be the ruler of our hearts and lives? And do we extend His reign by bringing His love and justice into our world?

EN ESTE PASAJE DEL EVANGELIO,

La Solemnidad de Cristo Rey nos invita a contemplar el misterio de la realeza de Jesús. A diferencia de los gobernantes terrenales que buscan poder y dominio, Jesús reina desde la madera de la cruz, ofreciéndose para nuestra salvación. Su reino es uno de amor, servicio y verdad. Frente al sufrimiento y la injusticia, podríamos sentir la tentación de dudar de Su reino, sin embargo, el ladrón arrepentido nos enseña que el verdadero poder reside en entregarse a la voluntad de Dios y abrazar Su misericordia.

Pregúntate:

Al reflexionar sobre este Evangelio, preguntémonos: ¿Permitimos que Cristo sea el gobernante de nuestros corazones y vidas? ¿Y extendemos Su reino llevando Su amor y justicia a nuestro mundo?



DID YOU KNOW....

THE SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING...

was instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1925 with the encyclical *Quas Primas*. This feast was a response to growing secularism and nationalism by reasserting the truth of Christ's sovereignty over all creation. Originally celebrated on the last Sunday of October, it was moved to the final Sunday of the liturgical year after the Second Vatican Council, highlighting Christ's ultimate reign at the end of time. This feast calls believers to recognize Christ's authority in our lives and the world, reminding us that His kingdom transcends earthly powers and invites all to share in His life-giving reign.

Source: *Truthly App*

CHURCH TRIVIA

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Welcome to our fun and informative Church Trivia! Test your knowledge and learn interesting facts about how we can all contribute to a reverent and welcoming atmosphere during Mass. See how many you can get right!

1. Why is Sunday considered the first day of the week in the Christian tradition?

- A) Because it marks the first day of creation
- B) It's simply a tradition with no significant meaning
- C) Because it commemorates the Resurrection of Jesus Christ

2. What is the appropriate gesture when entering a Catholic Church?

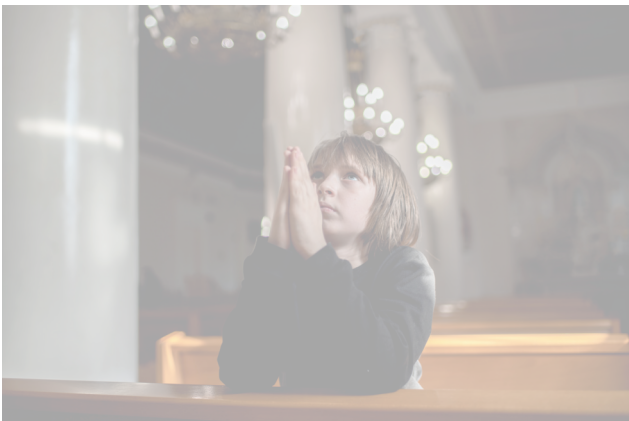
- A) Bow
- B) Genuflect towards the tabernacle
- C) High-five a friend

3. What type of attire is best suited for Mass?

- A) Casual beachwear
- B) Business casual or 'Sunday best' attire
- C) Pajamas

4. What is the appropriate stance for the laity during the Our Father at Mass?

- A) Hands clasped in prayer
- B) The orans position with hands raised
- C) Hands in pockets



5. Which of these is a good reason to leave Mass early?

- A) The sermon was long
- B) I have brunch plans
- C) An emergency

6. True or False: Wearing clothing with distracting slogans or images is okay for Mass.

7. Is it necessary to consider one's footwear for Mass?

- A) Yes, respectful and modest footwear is important
- B) No, any footwear is fine as long as it's comfortable

8. What is the purpose of attending a Saturday Vigil Mass?

- A) To fulfill the Sunday obligation when attending Mass on Sunday isn't possible
- B) To get Mass over with
- C) It's a special Mass only for holidays

Certainly! Here's a question addressing when it is appropriate to sit back down after Communion:

9. When is it appropriate to sit down after receiving Holy Communion during Mass?

- A) Immediately after receiving
- B) After the priest or deacon has placed the remaining consecrated hosts in the tabernacle
- C) As soon as you return to your pew, regardless of what's happening.

Find the answers on Page 13

WEEKLY CALENDAR, INTENTIONS, OBSERVATIONS & READINGS

MASS INTENTIONS INTENCIONES DE MISA

Sunday November 23

8:00 am

†Alice Szczapa

10:00 am

First Responders

12:00 pm

†Ruben Bermudez &

†Alba Bermudez

Monday November 24

8:00 am

†Stephan Belcamino

Tuesday November 25

8:00 am

†Joan & Janet Pettit (sisters)

†Moxey O'Donnell

Wednesday November 26

8:00 am

Living & Deceased of St. Rita

Thursday November 27

8:00 am

St. Rita Office Staff

Friday November 28

8:00 am

†Fr. José del Rosario

Gonzalez

Saturday November 29

5:00 pm

†Monica Dinh

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

Sunday, November 23

Solemnity of Christ the King

8:00 am – Mass (English)

10:00 am – Mass (English)

12:00 noon – Mass (Spanish)

Monday, November 24

Saint Andrew Dung-Lac &

Saint Chrysogonus

8:00 am Mass (English)

8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

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

Tuesday, November 25

Saint Catherine of Alexandria

& Saint Moses of Rome

8:00 am Mass (English)

8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

Wednesday, November 26

Saint Sylvester Gozzolini

8:00 am – Mass (English)

8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

Thursday, November 27

Saint Virgil of Salzburg

8:00 am Mass

8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

4:30 pm Legion of Mary

Friday, November 28

Saint Catherine Labouré

8:00 am Mass

8:30 am Eucharist Adoration

Saturday, November 29

Saint Radboud

5:00 pm – Mass (English)

READINGS & OBSERVANCES

FIRST READING:

"Then all the tribes of Israel came to David in Hebron and said: 'Here we are, your bone and your flesh.'" (2 Sam 5:1)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

"I rejoiced when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD.'" (Ps 122:1)

SECOND READING:

"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation." (Col 1:15)

GOSPEL:

"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." (Lk 23:42)

Sunday, November 23

Solemnity of Christ the King

2 Sam 5:1-3 | Ps 122:1-5 | Col 1:12-20 | Lk 23:35-43

Monday, November 24

Saint Andrew Dung-Lac & Saint Chrysogonus

Dan 1:1-6, 8-20 | Dan 3:52-56 | Lk 21:1-4

Tuesday, November 25

Saint Catherine of Alexandria & Saint Moses of Rome

Dan 2:31-45 | Dan 3:57-61 | Lk 21:5-11

Wednesday, November 26

Saint Sylvester Gozzolini

Dan 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28 | Dan 3:62-67 | Lk 21:12-19

Thursday, November 27

Saint Virgil of Salzburg

Dan 6:12-28 | Dan 3:68-74 | Lk 21:20-28

Friday, November 28

Saint Catherine Labouré

Dan 7:2-14 | Dan 3:75-81 | Lk 21:29-33

Saturday, November 29

Saint Radboud

Dan 7:15-27 | Dan 3:82-87 | Lk 21:34-36



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:

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



Community Rewards Program

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.

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 office.

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 Ministry

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 Hrdlicka
(915) 539-0985

EXTERNAL MINISTRIES



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Lead with Faith.
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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 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 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.



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



MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT

ST. RITA MUSIC MINISTRY

Bulletin Editor Interviews Mrs. Nancy CampmanCrofts, St. Rita Music Ministry Director

Purpose and Mission? Music ministry enhances the worship experience through music, leading the congregation in song to foster deeper faith and unity. Participation through music promotes “the full, conscious, and active participation” of the congregation using music to glorify God, proclaim the Word and help individuals grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

How and when the ministry began? Singing at Catholic mass goes w-a-y back. Before Gregorian chant, Jesus sang psalms at Passover/the last supper when He instituted the mass (Matt 26:30; Mark 14:26). Sacred singing goes back to our Jewish roots.

Scripture or church teaching? USCCB published Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship which states, “One of God’s greatest gifts to us, his creation, was the gift of song. In words and music, our ancestors in faith—Moses, David, Deborah, Paul, St. Gregory—have taught us how to revel in God’s infinite love, proclaim his glory, give thanks for his abounding generosity, and plead for mercy and forgiveness.” In Sept 2019, Pope Francis wrote “I recommend that you help the whole people of God to sing with conscious and active participation in the liturgy. This is important: closeness to the people of God.”

Role of prayer? St. Augustine is credited with saying, “He who sings, prays twice.” The most important elements of the mass, the Mass Propers, are to be sung always. Most of our hymns and songs derive from scripture. So literally we sing prayers.

Saints, devotion, or traditions? St. Cecelia, St. Gregory (Pope / Gregorian chant), St. Blaze (throat ailments)

What called you to serve in this ministry? I left St. Rita’s in 2024 to sing at several other Tucson churches before serving as the Pray 2X Teen Choir Director at Our Mother of Sorrows in Tucson. When I heard of the opening, the opportunity to return to St. Rita’s felt like coming home.

Responsibilities? Selecting liturgically relevant music for our English and Spanish Sunday mass, Holy Days of Obligation and other celebrations as directed. Preparing and directing the English adult and children’s choirs, as well as leading and playing guitar for the Spanish choir.

Ministry Operations? Members/volunteers:
Adult choirs=12 | Children’s choir=10 members | Spanish = 3

Training & Preparation? Our music ministers love to sing and play at church; we feel called to lend our time and talents to praise Jesus Christ in the mass.

Special events? Christmas, Holy Week, Easter, Holy Days of Obligation



Ministry Operations cont.:

Rehearsal schedule:

Adults: Tues at 5 pm in the John XXIII Center, Sun arrive 7 am
Children: Wed 4:00 pm in the John XXIII Center, Sun arrive 9:45 am
Spanish: Thurs at 6:15 pm in the John XXIII Center, Sun arrive 11:05 am

Ways ministry serves the parish? We provide the music at mass

What blessings have you seen come from the ministry’s work? Fellowship, improved music skills and confidence. Personally, stronger connection to Jesus Christ, stronger prayer of the mass, tangible awareness of the Holy Spirit.

Volunteer qualities you look for? We love to sing OR play our instruments: woodwind, guitar, piano, or strings. If a volunteer can read music, that’s all the better!

Encouragement Opportunities? Most of our English Adult members are older adults, we need younger people. Children’s choir will expand in 2026, anyone between 8 and 18 is invited to join! We have an immediate need for more Spanish members – piano, guitar, and vocalists!

Goal? Grow choir participation by at least 33% in 2026 & develop leaders.

Upcoming? CHRISTMAS singers! We have two, 4 pm Christmas eve masses and two, 8 am Christmas Day masses. Singing in the Shrine is a spiritual experience!

Spiritual Moment? The adult choir practiced in the Shrine when the confirmation prep class took place in the John XXIII Center. We rehearsed Hosea with piano, vocals & violin. The harmonies were incredible. Everyone could feel the Holy Spirit! This description doesn’t do the experience justice. It was a sacred moment that brought tears to my eyes. I’ll never forget the experience.

Parish support? If it’s within your means, consider allocating just \$5/month to music ministry – offsets choir sheet music photocopying.

Ministry loves? The people! The fellowship!

What you should know? We are not classically trained musicians. We are people who love sacred music. We are called to share the Word through our music.

Prayer Intentions you’d like for your ministry? Growth!



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

ADVENT FOOD DRIVE

Begins Sunday, November 30, 2025

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)

O glorious St. Rita,



*patroness of those in desperate situations,
you who were richly endowed with all graces and blessings from
heaven, look with compassion upon my trials and sorrows.*

*You who shared in the sufferings of Christ
and endured adversity with unwavering faith,
intercede for me that I may find strength in my own challenges.
Help me to remain steadfast and patient,
knowing that God's love will never abandon me.*

*Holy St. Rita, you who manifested great love and forgiveness
in the face of life's trials, assist me in my needs and present my
petition to the Lord, with the assurance that all things work for
good for those who love God.*

*Grant me the grace to imitate your virtue and example,
that I may glorify God with my life.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

MUSIC MINISTRY

CALLING ALL CHRISTMAS SINGERS!

NATIVITY BLESSING AND CHRISTMAS CONCERT

December 19 at 6 pm.

This year's theme, The Manger's Miracle!

We'll rehearse the concert pieces at the end of our regularly scheduled choir rehearsals.

Adult choirs: Tuesday ~6pm
Children's choirs: Wednesday ~5pm

JOIN US!



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

ANGEL TREE BEGINS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2025

Today as we celebrate Christ the King, may we open the door of our heart so wide that we may listen to the voice of Jesus calling us to help build his kingdom here on earth.

Next Sunday the **ANGEL TREE** will go up with the names of the children (birth through high school) of all the families we have visited in the past year.

Last year was very successful, with over 80 children's name on the tree, so we plan to repeat the process. **Green Envelopes** will hang on the tree and the number of children in the family will be posted on the envelope.

We ask that you provide a \$25 gift card for each child. Place them in the envelope, seal it and put it in the box provided in the Narthex no later than:

Sunday, December 14th

May God bless you for your generosity.



worldwide
marriage encounter

**"And exactly as you would
want people to treat you,
treat them also the same."**

Learn how your spouse would like to be treated on the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experiences on February 14-15, 2026 in Phoenix or April 18-19, 2026 in Tucson.

For more information go to: wme.org
or call 520-661-3644

ALTAR SOCIETY

Volunteers Needed

Meet us in the Parish Hall
every 2nd Tuesday of the
Month at **2p.m.**

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Annual Grocery Gift Card
Collection begins Nov 1 - Dec
12 to feed our Vail Families
during the holiday Season

**Local Safeway, Fry's & Walmart
Grocery store gift cards \$15-\$30
or monetary donations welcome**

Please return donation in the
Yellow Outreach Envelope

“Culture of Invitation” Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly



Knights of
Columbus®

JOIN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

FAITH • FAMILY • FRATERNITY • SERVICE

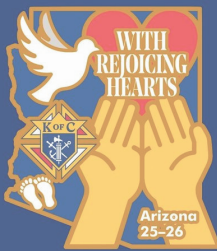
The Knights of Columbus is more than just a men's group.
We are a brotherhood of Catholic men committed to:

- 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**.

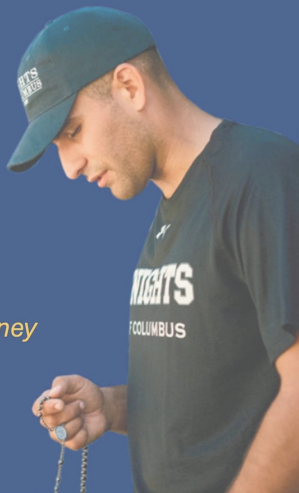
Become a Knight of Columbus!



Join us today!

www.kofc.org/join

Promo Code: *BlessedMcGivney*



Knights of
Columbus®

ANNUAL ART CONTEST

Begins **December 1, 2025**
Art can be done at home or school

Judging will commence **December 21** at
11:29 a.m. sharp at the Pancake
Breakfast.

Theme: **Christ is Christmas**

Best in Theme: Grade School
Best in Theme: High School
Best in Theme: Adult

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 Glembin at (520) 449-7115 or email at gkcouncil14230@gmail.com.



Knights of
Columbus®

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

"AND TOTO TOO: THE WIZARD OF OZ AS A SPIRITUAL ADVENTURE."

December 2nd 3rd & 4th
9:00am - 10:30am
6:00pm - 7:30pm

St. Francis de Sales
Church Gym
1375 S. Camino Seco, Tucson

Fr. Nathan Castle, O.P.,
Advent Parish Mission

JOIN US!

Annual Catholic Appeal

Learn more about the Appeal at
www.cathfnd.org/aca



TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. C - Sunday is the first day of the week because it commemorates the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, the pivotal event of our faith. It's known as the Lord's Day and sets the tone for the entire week with praise and thanksgiving.
2. B - Genuflect towards the tabernacle as a sign of reverence to the presence of Christ in the Eucharist
3. B - Dressing in business casual or your 'Sunday best' shows reverence and respect for the sacredness of the Mass.
4. A - Hands clasped in prayer. The orans position is traditionally reserved for the priest during liturgical celebrations.
5. C - Emergencies are understandable, but otherwise, it's respectful to stay until the final blessing.
6. False. It's best to wear simple and modest clothing, free of distracting logos or messages, to maintain the focus on worship.
7. A - Respectful and modest footwear complements the reverent spirit of Mass.
8. A - The Saturday Vigil Mass allows Catholics to fulfill their Sunday obligation, particularly if attending on Sunday isn't possible. It anticipates the Sunday celebration of the Resurrection of Christ.
9. B - It is customary to wait until the priest or deacon has placed the remaining consecrated hosts in the tabernacle before sitting. This is a communal way of showing reverence and unity until the Blessed Sacrament is reserved.

Source: Truthly App



RAFFLE FUNDRAISER FOR SAN XAVIER MISSION RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

The SXM Religious Education Office received the donation of an Alan Marden framed print (pictured above) of the San Xavier Mission; #555/1,000.

Raffle tickets are on sale beginning October 13, and are available through the SXM Religious Education Office. Please call (520) 294-4639.

TICKET /\$10

DRAWING WILL OCCUR ON DECEMBER 21, AFTER THE 10 AM MASS | WINNERS NEED NOT BE PRESENT.



NATIONAL Eucharistic Revival

Eucharistic Revival

Kindle your living, loving relationship with
Jesus Christ.

Learn More at:
<https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/>

PIMA EAST VICARIATE PENANCE SCHEDULE

ADVENT: November 30, 2025

Confession Time

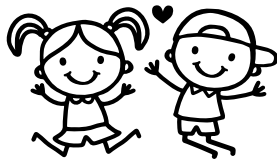
Our Mother of Sorrows	12/3 ~ 6pm
St. Rita in the Desert	12/4 ~ 6pm
Pius X Catholic Community	12/9 ~ 6pm
St. Cyril's of Alexandria	12/9 ~ 6:30pm
Corpus Christi	12/17 ~ 6pm
St. Frances de Sales	12/18 ~ 9-11am 4:00pm 6-8pm

St. Joseph Catholic Church | No Confessions for December

SAINT SPOTLIGHT



KIDS CORNER



One inspiring saint whose feast day falls during this week is St. Catherine Labouré, celebrated on November 28. As a young nun, she experienced several visions of the Blessed Virgin Mary in 1830, through which she was entrusted with the mission of spreading devotion to the Miraculous Medal. St. Catherine listened to Mary and prayed for everyone by spreading the Miraculous Medal, which became a sign of God's love.

St. Catherine Labouré inspired:

1. **Youthful Witness:** St. Catherine was in her early twenties when she received her visions, which shows kids that they are never too young to be called by God for a special purpose.
2. **Courage and Faith:** Despite facing doubts from others, Catherine remained faithful to her mission, encouraging children to trust in God's plans for them even when it seems difficult.
3. **Miraculous Medal:** The story of the Miraculous Medal introduces kids to the idea of tangible signs of faith and Mary's intercession. It's a beautiful way to teach them about the power of devotion and prayer.

Sunday Activity

Make a Medal: Parents provide materials for kids to create their own paper medals, encouraging them to decorate them with symbols of their faith, such as a cross or a heart.

Kids Reflection Question

How can you show your love for Jesus and Mary like St. Catherine did?

Prayer

"Dear St. Catherine, help me to be brave and loving like you. Show me how to listen to Mary and share God's love with the world. Amen."

Parent's Note: This approach can help children find a personal connection with St. Catherine Labouré and be inspired to live out their faith courageously. What creative ways can you think of to help further engage their interest in saints like St. Catherine?

SAINT CATHERINE LABOURÉ

Feast Day: November 28

Patronage: Miraculous Medal

Early Life and Call:

St. Catherine Labouré was born on May 2, 1806, in a small village in Burgundy, France. From a young age, she demonstrated a deep devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Catherine entered the Daughters of Charity in Paris in her early twenties, inspired by a desire to serve God and the poor.

Apparitions and Mission:

In 1830, while a novice at the convent on the Rue du Bac, Catherine experienced several apparitions of the Virgin Mary. During these encounters, Mary asked her to have a medal struck according to a design she revealed. This medal, known today as the Miraculous Medal, became a symbol of Mary's intercession and God's grace, spreading swiftly throughout the world.

Challenges and Humility:

Despite experiencing these extraordinary visions, Catherine remained quietly obedient to her superiors and did not seek attention or recognition. She kept her identity as the visionary a secret for most of her life, choosing instead to live in humble service, working with the elderly and the infirm.

Legacy and Impact:

St. Catherine's humble acceptance of her mission and her profound trust in God's providence inspire Christians to remain faithful to their own callings, regardless of recognition. The Miraculous Medal has been attributed to numerous conversions and healings, serving as a reminder of Mary's continuing care for her children and her role in leading them to Christ.

Canonization:

St. Catherine Labouré was canonized by Pope Pius XII on July 27, 1947. Her incorrupt body remains a place of pilgrimage at the Chapel of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in Paris.

Reflection Questions:

How can St. Catherine's life inspire us to embrace our own divine missions with humility and faith?

In what ways can devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary deepen our relationship with Christ and support us in our spiritual journey?

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: _____



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