

January 25, 2026



CLERGY

Pastor:

Rev. Alonzo Garcia
fralonzo@stritainthedesert.org

Deacon:

Ron Desmarais
deaconron@stritainthedesert.org

WEEKEND MASS

Horario de Misas

SATURDAY | Sabádo
5:00 pm—English
SUNDAY | Domingo
8:00 am—English
10:00 am—English
12:00 pm—Spanish

WEEKDAY MASS

IN SHRINE
Misa Diaria en el
Santuario

MONDAY-FRIDAY |
De Lunes a Viernes
8:00 am —English

ADORATION

FRIDAY | Viernes
8:30 am—9:30 am
In the church or by
appointment
En la iglesia o por cita

CONFESION

Confesiones

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



PARISH OFFICE

Horario de Oficina

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

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

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

*Office closed
12pm—1pm daily*

ST. RITA IN THE DESERT

Catholic Church

FEAST OF THE CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL, APOSTLE

*"Follow me, and I will make you fishers
of men." (Matthew 4:19)*

*"Síganme, y los haré pescadores de
hombres." (Mateo 4:19)*

Reflection:

In this Gospel passage, Jesus calls His first disciples, Peter and Andrew, inviting them to leave behind their nets and follow Him. This call to discipleship is not just for them but extends to each of us. We are invited to respond to Christ's call by stepping out in faith and sharing His love and truth with others. Just as the first disciples were transformed from fishermen to fishers of men, we too are called to let our lives be changed and aligned with Christ's mission. Answering Jesus' call may lead us down paths we never expected, but it will always guide us towards a deeper relationship with Him. How is Jesus calling you today to become a "fisher of men"?

Socratic Question:

How can you respond to Jesus' call to become a "fisher of men" in your everyday life, & what changes might this require in your approach to relationships?

Reflexión:

En este pasaje del Evangelio, Jesús llama a Sus primeros discípulos, Pedro y Andrés, invitándolos a dejar sus redes y seguirlo. Esta llamada al discipulado no es solo para ellos sino que se extiende a cada uno de nosotros. Estamos invitados a responder al llamado de Cristo con fe, compartiendo Su amor y verdad con los demás. Así como los primeros discípulos fueron transformados de pescadores a pescadores de hombres, también nosotros estamos llamados a permitir que nuestras vidas se transformen y se alineen con la misión de Cristo. Responder al llamado de Jesús puede llevarnos por caminos que nunca esperábamos, pero siempre nos guiará hacia una relación más profunda con Él. ¿Cómo te está llamando Jesús hoy a ser un "pescador de hombres"?

Pregunta socrática:

¿Cómo puedes responder al llamado de Jesús a ser "pescador de hombres" en tu vida diaria, y qué cambios podría requerir esto en tu enfoque hacia las relaciones?

Source: *Truthly App*

PARISH INFORMATION

COLLECTIONS | COLECTA



January 18, 2026

Offertory: \$6,574.00

Debt Reduction: \$3,311.50

Campus Maintenance: \$2,169.55

Thank you for your support.
God bless you!

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

BULLETIN DEADLINE & QUESTIONS

Email bulletin request(s) to:

bulletin@stritainthedesert.org

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

HOMEBOUND EUCHARIST

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

EMERGENCY ANOINTING OF THE SICK

520-543-8415

MASS INTENTIONS AVAILABLE

In accordance with Canon 948, if any faithful would like the Mass to be offered for their individual intention only, please make your request at the Parish Office or click [HERE](#).



ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

- Fridays following 8am Mass for 1hr
- 1st Sunday of each month at 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.

ST. RITA STAFF

(520) 762-9688

Administrative Assistant: adminassist@stritainthedesert.org

Chris Metzger

Secretary: secretary@stritainthedesert.org

Veronica Garcia

Business Manager: businessmgr@stritainthedesert.org

Louise Azzopardi

Compliance: compliance@stritainthedesert.org

Mary Morgan

Bulletin Editor: bulletin@stritainthedesert.org

Kathy Lockard

Facilities Manager: rob@stritainthedesert.org

Rob King

Maintenance:

Bill Cline

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STAFF

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

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

OCIA Coordinator: Michelle Quinn Crowley ocia@stritainthedesert.org

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

OFFICE OF THE PASTOR ~ OFICINA DE PASTOR

January 25, 2026

“The Lord is my light and my salvation.” (Psalm 27:1)

Dear Parish Family and Friends,

“Those who have walked into darkness have seen a great light.” (Isaiah9:2) What a fantastic sense of hope, joy, and expectation that God would Himself walk with the Nation of Israel and be their light. If we look at the Gospel of Matthew, we see elements of fulfillment in Jesus’ revelation in Galilee. We can additionally see that our Psalm speaks of the Lord as being our light and our salvation. These scriptures not only recount historical promises but also provide a beacon of hope for our everyday challenges. When we face personal struggles or moments of uncertainty, these passages remind us that light will emerge, guiding us through our difficulties, just like the dawn after the darkest night. They inspire us to seek out those small yet profound moments of light in our daily lives, offering reassurance and strength to move forward.

Our world indeed needs much light against the darkness of this present age. The darkness I speak of is the failure to dialogue, the idea that human beings can change the natural order, and perhaps the saddest part is that some would protect evil-doers and act as though they are righteous and doing ‘good.’ Our world has lost its way and is in chaos. What is equally disturbing is that some of our elected leaders are promoting such darkness and ignorance at the detriment of our children and youth. Yet, I wonder, how do you personally encounter this darkness in your own life? Where do you glimpse moments of light or hope, however small they may be? By sharing and reflecting on these questions, we can begin to turn what feels like a proclamation into a shared exploration toward understanding and change.

While many social activists would argue that we need to ‘change the world,’ they fall short of recognizing that change begins internally before it can change the world around us. What areas of darkness do we harbour in our hearts and minds? What relationships need healing and reconciliation to be free of anger, resentment, and bitterness? In a word, we cannot give what we do not have, and while we desire to help many, we are unable to do so until we first take stock of the broken areas in our lives and work to allow the love, grace, and light of Christ to heal us.

Finally, Jesus called His disciples to abandon their nets at the sea shore and to follow after Him. Perhaps we, too, can drop our net of entanglement in this world and see the hope of Jesus Christ’s transforming love enlighten us into a family of one mind, one heart, and one spirit? God knows, we cannot do this on our own, and we need the supernatural grace of Jesus in the Sacraments to illuminate our conscience. Hence, we are truly disciples of the light rather than pretenders, bringing about destruction, chaos, and darkness to our world. Choose and choose wisely.

I have some good news to report! We finally received three bids for the west and east parking lots for repair and resurfacing. We are working with one company, Bates, to determine the times of their arrival and work on each parking lot. The west parking lot, in front of the Shrine, will be closed as the crew works to remove part of the island and pave and add parking bays. You will have to enter off the east parking lot and park by the Verhegan building and the Center. Our east parking lot will also be worked on, but Bates will work on that after they finish the west parking lot. I know this is exciting and inconvenient for some, and we ask for your patience as we work through this process. More details to come, please stay tuned!

Lastly, as St. Rita in the Desert Roman Catholic parish community begins to expand, it has come to mind that there is no legacy foundation for our parish. Our parish has been here in Vail, Arizona, for 90 years, and we have no foundation or way to sustain ourselves and future generations. I was at a training with the Diocese of Tucson Catholic Foundation, and they spoke to us about endowments for the various parishes. As I write my pastoral letter, members of the finance committee, Board of Directors, and Building Committee will gather at the Diocese of Tucson to discuss how St. Rita in the Desert Roman Catholic parish community can set monies aside on our behalf and those of our children’s children. Once we gather more information, I would like to create The St. Rita in the Desert Legacy Fund. Funds would be set aside to help the parish today and in the future with various needs. Pray that we can make this a reality and grow our financial nest egg for the betterment of our parish and beyond. If you are familiar with this area and would like to offer suggestions, I would be most open to your assistance. Thank you and God bless!

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Reverend Alonzo M. Garcia, Pastor



OFFICE OF THE PASTOR ~ OFICINA DE PASTOR

25 de enero de 2026

“Aquel que es la Palabra se hizo hombre y habitó entre nosotros. A todos los que lo recibieron les concedió poder llegar a ser hijos de Dios.” (Juan 1:14a,12a)

Estimada familia parroquial y amigos:

Los que caminaban en tinieblas vieron una gran luz». (Isaías 9,2) ¡Qué maravilloso sentido de esperanza, gozo y expectativa encierra el hecho de que Dios mismo caminaría con la Nación de Israel y sería su luz! En el Evangelio de Mateo, vemos elementos de cumplimiento en la revelación de Jesús en Galilea. Además, vemos que nuestro Salmo habla del Señor como nuestra luz y salvación. Estas Escrituras no solo recuerdan promesas históricas, sino que también nos ofrecen un faro de esperanza para nuestros desafíos cotidianos. Cuando enfrentamos luchas personales o momentos de incertidumbre, estos pasajes nos recuerdan que la luz surgirá y nos guiará a través de nuestras dificultades, como el amanecer tras la noche más oscura. Nos inspiran a buscar esos pequeños pero profundos momentos de luz en nuestra vida diaria, brindándonos consuelo y fortaleza para seguir adelante.

Nuestro mundo, en verdad, necesita mucha luz frente a la oscuridad de esta época. La oscuridad de la que hablo es la incapacidad de dialogar, la idea de que los seres humanos pueden cambiar el orden natural y, tal vez, lo más triste, que algunos protejan a los malhechores y actúen como si fueran justos y estuvieran haciendo “el bien”. Nuestro mundo ha perdido el rumbo y está en el caos. Igualmente preocupante es que algunos de nuestros líderes electos promuevan tal oscuridad e ignorancia en detrimento de nuestros niños y jóvenes. Sin embargo, me pregunto: ¿cómo se enfrenta usted personalmente a esta oscuridad en su propia vida? ¿Dónde vislumbra momentos de luz o de esperanza, por pequeños que sean? Al compartir y reflexionar sobre estas preguntas, podemos comenzar a transformar lo que parece una proclamación en una exploración compartida hacia la comprensión y el cambio.

Si bien muchos activistas sociales argumentarían que necesitamos “cambiar el mundo”, se quedan cortos al no reconocer que el cambio comienza en el interior antes de poder transformar el mundo que nos rodea. ¿Qué áreas de oscuridad albergamos en nuestros corazones y mentes? ¿Qué relaciones necesitan sanación y reconciliación para liberarse de la ira, el resentimiento y la amargura? En pocas palabras, no podemos dar lo que no tenemos, y aunque deseamos ayudar a muchos, no podemos hacerlo hasta que primero hagamos un balance de las áreas rotas en nuestra vida y permitamos que el amor, la gracia y la luz de Cristo nos sanen.

Finalmente, Jesús llamó a sus discípulos a abandonar sus redes a la orilla del mar y a seguirlo. Tal vez nosotros también podamos soltar la red que nos enreda en este mundo y ver cómo la esperanza del amor transformador de Jesucristo nos ilumina para convertirnos en una familia de una sola mente, un solo corazón y un solo espíritu. Dios sabe que no podemos hacer esto por nuestra cuenta y que necesitamos la gracia sobrenatural de Jesús, en los Sacramentos, para iluminar nuestra conciencia. Así, somos verdaderamente discípulos de la luz y no simuladores que traen destrucción, caos y oscuridad a nuestro mundo. Elijan y elijan sabiamente.

¡Tengo buenas noticias que compartir! Por fin recibimos tres propuestas para la reparación y el reasfaltado de los estacionamientos oeste y este. Estamos trabajando con la empresa Bates para determinar los horarios de su llegada y de trabajo en cada estacionamiento. El estacionamiento oeste, frente al Santuario, estará cerrado mientras el equipo retira parte de la isleta y del pavimento y añade nuevos espacios de estacionamiento. Deberán ingresar por el estacionamiento este y estacionarse cerca del edificio Verhagen y del Centro. También se trabajará en el estacionamiento este, pero Bates comenzará allí una vez que termine con el estacionamiento oeste. Sé que esto es emocionante e inconveniente para algunos y les pedimos paciencia mientras avanzamos en este proceso. Pronto habrá más detalles. ¡por favor, estén atentos!

Por último, a medida que la comunidad parroquial católica romana de Sta. Rita en el Desierto comienza a expandirse; ha surgido la idea de que no existe una fundación de legado para nuestra parroquia. Nuestra parroquia ha estado aquí en Vail, Arizona, durante 90 años y no contamos con una fundación ni con una manera de sostenernos a nosotros mismos y a las futuras generaciones. Estuve en una capacitación con la Fundación Católica de la Diócesis de Tucson, donde nos hablaron sobre los fondos patrimoniales de las distintas parroquias. Mientras escribo esta carta pastoral, miembros del comité de finanzas, de la junta directiva y del comité de construcción se reunirán en la Diócesis de Tucson para dialogar sobre cómo la comunidad parroquial de Sta. Rita en el Desierto puede apartar fondos en beneficio nuestro y de los hijos de nuestros hijos. Cuando tengamos más información, me gustaría crear el Fondo Legado Sta. Rita en el Desierto. Los fondos se reservarán para ayudar a la parroquia, hoy y en el futuro, con diversas necesidades. Oremos para que podamos hacer realidad esto y fortalecer nuestro fondo financiero para el bien de nuestra parroquia y más allá. Si estás familiarizado con esta área y deseas ofrecer sugerencias, estaré muy abierto a tu ayuda. ¡Muchas gracias y que Dios los bendiga!

Sinceramente en Cristo,

Alonso M. García

Reverendo Alonso M. García, Pastor



2026 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

Dear Parishioners,

Welcome to the 2026 Annual Catholic Appeal!

The Catholic Foundation is grateful for your commitment to this important work. Each Year, the Appeal succeeds because of you. We are inspired by your generosity and honored to work along side you to support our community.

Our theme this year, ***"This is the hour for love,"*** is both a reminder and challenge. Parishioners across the Diocese are invited to put love into action: forming seminarians, caring for those in need, strengthening Catholic schools, and supporting parish ministries.

Together, we will ensure that the mission of the Church continues to flourish throughout our Diocese. Thank you for your support and generosity jump starting this year's Catholic Appeal.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Reverend Alonzo M. García, Pastor



2026 Annual Catholic Appeal Prayer

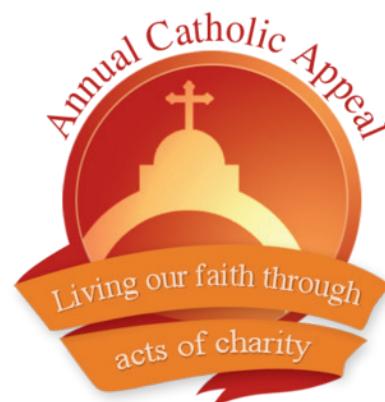
God our Father, we thank You for Your many blessing;
For our lives, for the gifts and talents You have given us.

As we turn our hearts towards You and work together
to strengthen the foundation of your Church, remind us
that this is indeed the hour for love.

Called together by the power of the Holy Spirit,
We rely on Your guidance and bounty. Open our ears to
hear Your Word. Open our eyes to see the needs around us.
Open our minds to know Your will. Open our hearts in generosity.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.



CAMPAÑA CATÓLICA ANUAL 2026

Querida familia parroquial y amigos:

¡Bienvenidos a la Campaña Católica Anual 2026!

La Fundación Católica agradece sinceramente su compromiso con esta importante misión. Cada año, la Campaña es un éxito gracias a ustedes. Nos inspira su generosidad y es un honor caminar junto a ustedes para apoyar a nuestra comunidad.

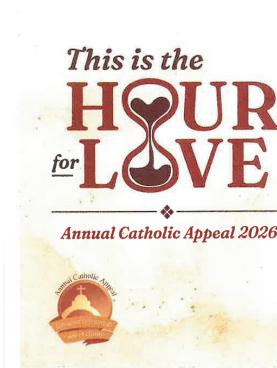
El lema de este año, **“Este es el tiempo del amor”**, es a la vez un recordatorio y un llamado. Invitamos a los feligreses de toda la Diócesis a poner el amor en acción: formando a los seminaristas, ayudando a quienes más lo necesitan, fortaleciendo nuestras escuelas católicas y apoyando los ministerios parroquiales.

Juntos, aseguraremos que la misión de la Iglesia siga creciendo y dando fruto en toda nuestra Diócesis. Gracias por su apoyo y generosidad al dar inicio a la Campaña Católica Anual de este año.

Sinceramente Suyo en Cristo,



Reverendo Alonzo M. García, Pastor



Oración de la Campaña Católica Anual 2026

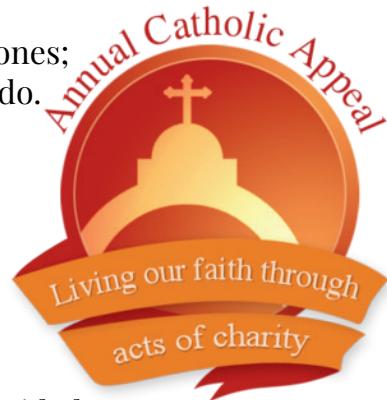
Dios Padre nuestro, te damos gracias por tus muchas bendiciones; por nuestra vida y por los dones y talentos que nos has regalado.

Al volver nuestro corazón hacia Ti y trabajar juntos para fortalecer los cimientos de tu Iglesia, recuérdanos que verdaderamente este es el tiempo del amor.

Llamados a la unidad por el poder del Espíritu Santo, confiamos en tu guía y en tu abundancia. Abre nuestros oídos para escuchar tu Palabra. Abre nuestros ojos para ver las necesidades de quienes nos rodean. Abre nuestra mente para conocer tu voluntad. Abre nuestro corazón a la generosidad.

Te lo pedimos por Jesucristo, nuestro Señor.

Amén.



GOSPEL MEDITATION

IN THE MATTHEW 4:12-23,

Jesus begins His public ministry with a powerful invitation: "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." This call marks the beginning of a profound transformation for Peter and Andrew. They leave behind everything familiar—their work, their routine, their security—to embrace a new and unknown journey with Christ. The Gospel challenges us to consider what it means to truly follow Jesus. It's a call to be open to conversion, to allow Christ to work within us, and to courageously step out of our comfort zones. When we follow Jesus, He reshapes our hearts and directs us towards a mission that extends beyond ourselves. Our talents and lives are now intertwined with bringing His love and light to others. Reflecting on this passage, we recognize that following Christ might require us to make sacrifices, but it also brings us the deepest fulfillment and joy, as we become instruments of His mission.

Reflection Question:

What familiar "nets" in your life might Jesus be asking you to leave behind to follow Him more closely and become a "fisher of men"?

EN MATEO 4:12-23,

Jesús inicia Su ministerio público con una poderosa invitación: "Síganme, y los haré pescadores de hombres." Este llamado marca el comienzo de una transformación profunda para Pedro y Andrés. Dejan atrás todo lo familiar—su trabajo, su rutina, su seguridad—para embarcarse en una nueva y desconocida jornada con Cristo. El Evangelio nos desafía a considerar lo que realmente significa seguir a Jesús. Es un llamado a estar abiertos a la conversión, a permitir que Cristo trabaje dentro de nosotros, y a salir valientemente de nuestra zona de confort. Cuando seguimos a Jesús, Él moldea nuestros corazones y nos guía hacia una misión que va más allá de nosotros mismos. Nuestros talentos y vidas ahora se entrelazan con el llevar Su amor y luz a los demás. Reflexionando sobre este pasaje, reconocemos que seguir a Cristo puede requerir sacrificios, pero también nos brinda el más profundo cumplimiento y alegría, al convertirnos en instrumentos de Su misión.

Pregunta de reflexión:

¿Qué "redes" familiares en tu vida podría estar pidiéndote Jesús que dejes atrás para seguirlo más de cerca y convertirte en un "pescador de hombres"?

DID YOU KNOW....

JANUARY 25TH

Marks the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul the Apostle. This day commemorates the transformative event when Saul of Tarsus, a fierce persecutor of Christians, encountered the risen Christ on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:1-19). This powerful conversion not only changed Saul's life—turning him into Paul, a fervent apostle, and missionary—but also significantly impacted the growth of early Christianity as he became one of its greatest evangelists and writers of numerous New Testament letters.

The Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul traditionally concludes the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which begins on January 18. This ecumenical observance emphasizes prayer and efforts toward unity among all Christians, inspired by Paul's message that the body of Christ is one (1 Corinthians 12:12-27).

Source: *Truthly App*

WEEKLY CALENDAR, INTENTIONS, OBSERVATIONS & READINGS

MASS INTENTIONS INTENCIones DE MISA

Sunday January 25

8:00 am
SI Sides Family
†Paul Kerchum

10:00 am
†Raymond Janousek
†Paul Foran
†Paul Kerchum

12:00 pm
Living & Deceased of St. Rita

Monday January 26

8:00 am
†Alexandria Hegel

Tuesday January 27

8:00 am
†Jerry Blankenship
†John Zubel

Wednesday January 28

8:00 am
†Emory & Greer Hegel

Thursday January 29

8:00 am - SI Kevin Zubel

Friday January 30

8:00 am
†Stan Douglass

Saturday January 31

5:00 pm
†Bart Finken
†Brian Ward
†William Lebarge
SI Cecilia Pham

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

Sunday, January 25 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

- The Conversion of Saint Paul
- St. Ananias of Damascus (who baptized St. Paul)

8:00 am - Mass (English)
10:00 am - Mass (English)
12:00 noon - Mass (Spanish)

Monday, January 26

- Saints Timothy and Titus
- St. Paula of Rome

8:00 am Mass (English)
8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet
6:00 pm Men's Group (Oscar Romero Room)

Tuesday, January 27

- Saint Angela Merici
- Pope St. Vitalian

8:00 am Mass (English)
8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

Wednesday, January 28

- Saint Thomas Aquinas

8:00 am - Mass (English)
8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

8:00 am - Mass (English)
8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

Thursday, January 29

- St. Constantius of Perugia
- Sts. Papias and Maurus
- St. Sulpicius Severus

8:00 am - Mass (English)
8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

Friday, January 30

- St. Martina
- St. Hyacintha Marescotti

8:00 am Mass
8:30 am Eucharist Adoration

Saturday, January 31

- Saint John Bosco
- St. Marcella
- Bl. Ludovica Albertoni

5:00 pm - Mass (English)

READINGS & OBSERVANCES

FIRST READING:

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone." (Isa 9:1)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear?" (Ps 27:1)

SECOND READING:

"I urge you, brothers and sisters...that there be no divisions among you." (1 Cor 1:10)

GOSPEL:

"Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." (Mt 4:19)

Sunday, January 25

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Isa 8:23-9:3 | Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 | 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17 | Mt 4:12-23

Monday, January 26

Memorial of Saints Timothy and Titus, Bishops
2 Tim 1:1-8 or Titus 1:1-5 | Ps 96:1-3, 7-8, 10 | Mk 3:22-30

Tuesday, January 27

2 Sam 6:12b-15, 17-19 | Ps 24:7-10 | Mk 3:31-35

Wednesday, January 28

Memorial of Saint Thomas Aquinas, Priest & Doctor of the Church
2 Sam 7:4-17 | Ps 89:4-5, 27-30 | Mk 4:1-20

Thursday, January 29

2 Sam 7:18-19, 24-29 | Ps 132:1-5, 11-14 | Mk 4:21-25

Friday, January 30

2 Sam 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17 | Ps 51:3-7, 10-11 | Mk 4:26-34

Saturday, January 31

Memorial of Saint John Bosco, Priest
2 Sam 12:1-7a, 10-17 | Ps 51:12-17 | Mk 4:35-41

PARISH MINISTRIES

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Altar Boys

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

Altar Society

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

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.
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 or
(978)382-0742



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



Rachel's VINEYARD

Healing the pain of abortion - one weekend at a time

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



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

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

MARIAN BOOK CLUB

Every Thursday
4:30-6pm
Oscar Romero

All are welcome to join!

Rectory Debt Payoff Update

As of Sunday, January 18, 2026

\$78,004

\$328,000

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 69 days away!
Be part of our parish family's exciting next chapter



Scan to Pledge

2026 CHOIR SCHEDULE

Adult Choir (18+) – Tuesdays, 6:30 PM, John XXIII Center 60–90 min rehearsals. New time welcomes working adults.

Youth Choir (ages 8–18) – Wednesdays, 4:30 PM, John XXIII Center New members welcome!

Spanish Choir / Coro en Español – Miércoles a las 6:15 p.m. en el Centro Juan XXIII. ¡Todos son bienvenidos! Si te gusta cantar o tocar guitarra o piano (en español o bilingüe), anímate a venir a uno o dos ensayos y ver si este coro es para ti.

Pianist Needed – Accompanist for Wednesday rehearsals; easy–moderate sight-reading of familiar Mass music.

SHARE YOUR FAITH!

Experienced God's Grace or special blessing?

We invite you to share a brief testimony to be published in our bulletin & inspire fellow parishioners with your story of a blessing, answered prayer or a moment you felt God's presence.

Email your story to bulletin@stritainthedesert.org

Every story matters!

ALTAR SOCIETY

Sunday, January 25th

after 8, 10 & 12 noon mass

Coffee & Donuts
All are Welcome
donations accepted
but not required

WINTER CLOTHES DRIVE

St. Rita with Vail Unified School District (VUSD) are asking for your help to provide Vail Children (K-12) winter clothing throughout the month of **January**.

Items Needed:

- Coats, Sweaters, Hoodies, Sweatshirts, Gloves
- Items should be NEW if possible. If Used, we ask that they are "Gently Used" & cleaned.
- Size(s): Children XS to Mens XXL

Please drop donations in the bins located in the **Narthex**. Items will be delivered to the VUSD weekly.

Thank you for your support and generous donations.



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In this Sunday's Gospel, we find that Jesus

“...went around all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness among the people.”

During this month we were able to proclaim the good news to over 20 families that included several hungry children.

WOMEN OF THE WAY STUDY GROUP

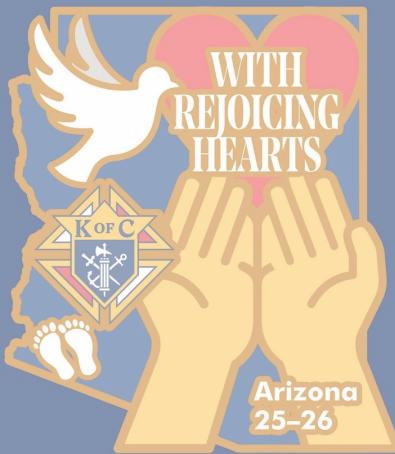
January 28th

6-8pm

Oscar Romero Room

For more information:
jbrink1130@gmail.com

*Prayerfully consider
joining the
Knights of Columbus!*



*Together,
we serve
With Rejoicing Hearts!*



ALUMINUM CAN RECYCLING

Aluminum cans may be dropped off in the recycling barrels next to the St. Vincent de Paul donation shed. To ensure the program's success, 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.



**Knights of
Columbus®**

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).

Help make a difference after Mass!
Roadrunners jersey raffle (\$5 or 5 for \$20) are available.

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

Stop by the table to donate or learn more.

OUR SINCERE THANKS

Because of your support after Mass, we are thrilled to share that Tucson Roadrunners hockey tickets are **sold out!**

Thank You

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES HEALTH FAIR

Wednesday, February 4 from 9am-3pm

Guest speakers begin at 9:00 a.m.

Clinical testing for Alzheimer's.

Seating is limited. NO COST to anyone.

1375 S Camino Seco.

RUMMAGE SALE

Thursday, February 5 from 4-6pm

Friday, February 6 from 7am-1pm

&

Saturday, February 7 from 7am-12pm

See more details on our website at
sfdstucson.org

SINGLE CATHOLIC WOMEN 20-35

Franciscan Sisters invite you to an
in-person & on-line
Discernment Event designed for you.

Discover your calling and purpose.

Visit <https://fscc-calledtobe.org> or
contact Sr. Julie Ann 920-323-9632.



8 DAYS PILGRIMAGE TO MEXICO CITY

May 1 – 8, 2026

Visiting: Mexico City • Our Lady of Guadalupe

Puebla – Teotihuacan – Ocotlan – Taxco

Tlaxcala (the Lourdes of Mexico)

Cost: \$2699.

Guarantee your seat by January 20, 2026

For more information call 520.631.1408 or

visit: vineofgrace.org for brochure

LAST INFORMATION MEETING

Saint Joseph Church – Parish Office

215 South Craycroft – Tucson

Sunday January 11, 2026 at 1:30 pm

CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC CHURCH

Saturday, February 7, 2026
8am Mass to 3pm closing

Women's Ministry
2026 Annual Retreat

**LIVE IT! Be the Attitude:
Women Living the Beatitudes Today**

Come explore living the way of true
happiness - the Way of Jesus

Guest Speaker: Kristin Van Tilborg
(A favorite guest speaker)

\$25.00 Tickets available after each mass until
February 1st. Contact the parish office to register.
Scholarships are available at registration.

Cash | Checks | Credit Cards Accepted

SAINT SPOTLIGHT



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

Feast Day: January 28

Patronage:

St. Thomas Aquinas is the patron saint of universities, students, and scholars.

Story:

Born in 1225 in Italy, St. Thomas Aquinas was a Dominican friar and an immensely influential philosopher and theologian. Despite being nicknamed the "Dumb Ox" due to his quiet nature, Thomas was brilliant and dedicated to seeking truth. His most famous work, the **Summa Theologica**, is a comprehensive exploration of theology, reasoning, and the relationship between God and humankind, demonstrating the harmony of faith and reason.

Legacy:

St. Thomas Aquinas's synthesis of Aristotelian philosophy with Christian theology laid the groundwork for much of Western thought, ensuring that faith and reason are seen as complementary rather than opposing. His teachings continue to guide the Church's understanding of faith, morality, and the nature of God.

Reflection Question:

In what ways can you integrate faith and reason in your daily life, following St. Thomas Aquinas's example?

KIDS CORNER



Feast Day: January 28

Patronage:

He is the patron saint of students and schools.

Story:

St. Thomas Aquinas was born in Italy and became a Dominican friar. People called him the "Dumb Ox" because he was quiet, but he was actually really smart! Thomas loved asking big questions about God and the world. He wrote many books to help people understand God better, just like a superhero who knows a lot of answers!

Legacy:

His ideas helped shape what we learn about God and how we should live our lives. Even today, people read his books to understand their faith and make good choices.

Question to Ponder:

If you could sit down with St. Thomas and ask him any question about God, what would you ask?

Source: *Truthly App*

EDITOR'S NOTE

Dearest Reader,

I hope this finds you well. One of my favorite daily practices is listening to the Daily Exegesis from Logical Bible Study on the Hallow app. I find it incredibly informative. By focusing on the literal sense of Scripture—what the author intended and how the original audience would have understood it—it consistently deepens my faith.

The Catholic Church teaches that understanding the literal sense of Scripture is the essential foundation before exploring its deeper spiritual meanings. I find this approach especially meaningful. It often leads me to ask “why” and to explore Scripture more deeply, sometimes down unexpected paths. While faith can be complex and challenging, I have come to see that this is part of its beauty.

This past week, I found myself wanting a clear overview of the Bible to help me focus on specific topics for further study. I compiled the following list in the hope that it will not only serve as a helpful guide for me, but also for others who enjoy exploring Scripture more deeply.

Humbly yours,

Kathy Lockard

OLD TESTAMENT

Pentateuch (The Law)

Genesis — Creation, the fall, the flood, and God’s covenant with Abraham and his descendants.

Exodus — God frees Israel from slavery in Egypt and gives the Law through Moses.

Leviticus — Laws for worship, sacrifice, and holy living.

Numbers — Israel’s journey through the wilderness and their struggles with faith.

Deuteronomy — Moses’ final speeches reviewing God’s law and covenant.

HISTORICAL BOOKS

Joshua — Israel enters and settles the Promised Land.

Judges — Cycles of sin, oppression, repentance, and deliverance by judges.

Ruth — A story of loyalty and redemption leading to King David’s lineage.

1 Samuel — The rise of Israel’s monarchy; Saul and the calling of David.

2 Samuel — David’s reign as king, triumphs and failures.

1 Kings — Solomon’s reign and the division of the kingdom.

2 Kings — Decline of Israel and Judah, ending in exile.

1 Chronicles — A priestly retelling of Israel’s history focusing on David.

2 Chronicles — The kings of Judah and the importance of faithful worship.

Ezra — The return from exile and rebuilding of the Temple.

Nehemiah — Rebuilding Jerusalem’s walls and restoring the community.

Tobit — A faithful family, divine guidance, and God’s healing.

Judith — God saves Israel through the courage of a faithful woman.

Esther — God protects His people through Queen Esther.

1 Maccabees — Jewish revolt against Greek oppression and Temple restoration.

2 Maccabees — Martyrdom, resurrection hope, and God’s justice.

WISDOM & POETRY

Job — Faithfulness amid suffering and the mystery of God's ways.

Psalms — Prayers and hymns of praise, lament, and thanksgiving.

Proverbs — Practical wisdom for righteous living.

Ecclesiastes — Reflections on life's meaning and human limitations.

Song of Songs — Poetic celebration of love and covenant.

Wisdom — God's wisdom, justice, and the destiny of the righteous.

Sirach (Ecclesiasticus) — Moral teachings for daily life and faithfulness.

PROPHETS

Major Prophets

Isaiah — Judgment, hope, and the promise of the Messiah.

Jeremiah — Calls to repentance before the fall of Jerusalem.

Lamentations — Grief and hope after Jerusalem's destruction.

Baruch — Encouragement and hope for exiles seeking God.

Ezekiel — God's glory, judgment, and promise of restoration.

Daniel — Faithfulness under persecution and God's ultimate victory.

Minor Prophets

Hosea — God's faithful love despite Israel's unfaithfulness.

Joel — Call to repentance and promise of God's Spirit.

Amos — Justice, righteousness, and care for the poor.

Obadiah — Judgment against pride and betrayal.

Jonah — God's mercy extends to all nations.

Micah — Justice, humility, and the coming ruler from Bethlehem.

Nahum — God's judgment on oppression and evil.

Habakkuk — Trusting God amid confusion and injustice.

Zephaniah — The Day of the Lord and restoration.

Haggai — Rebuilding the Temple and renewing faith.

Zechariah — Messianic hope and future restoration.

Malachi — Faithfulness, true worship, and preparation for the Messiah.

NEW TESTAMENT

The Gospels

Matthew — Jesus as the promised Messiah and King.

Mark — Jesus the suffering Servant and Son of God.

Luke — Jesus the Savior for all people, rich in compassion.

John — Jesus as the Word made flesh, revealing God's love.

History

Acts of the Apostles — The early Church and the spread of the Gospel.

Pauline Letters

Romans — Salvation through faith in Christ.

1 Corinthians — Church unity, morality, and spiritual gifts.

2 Corinthians — Strength through weakness and true apostleship.

Galatians — Freedom in Christ, not the Law.

Ephesians — The Church as the Body of Christ.

Philippians — Joy and humility in Christ.

Colossians — Christ's supremacy over all creation.

1 Thessalonians — Hope in Christ's return.

2 Thessalonians — Perseverance and readiness.

1 Timothy — Guidance for Church leadership.

2 Timothy — Faithfulness amid suffering.

Titus — Sound teaching and Christian living.

Philemon — Forgiveness and Christian brotherhood.

Catholic Letters

Hebrews — Christ as the perfect High Priest.

James — Faith lived out through good works.

1 Peter — Hope amid persecution.

2 Peter — Growth in holiness and truth.

1 John — God is love; live in truth.

2 John — Faithfulness to Christ's teaching.

3 John — Hospitality and Church leadership.

Jude — Guarding the faith against false teaching.

Apocalyptic

Revelation — Christ's ultimate victory and the new heaven and earth.

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