

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 | 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

CONFESSION
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
CLOSED

Office closed
12pm—1pm daily

NEED TO CONTACT US?
Scan Here:

26TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

"Truly, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you." (Matthew 21:31)

"En verdad, los publicanos y las prostitutas les llevan la delantera en el camino al Reino de Dios." (Mateo 21:31)

Reflection:
In this Gospel passage, Jesus tells the parable of two sons asked by their father to work in the vineyard. One son initially refuses but later goes, while the other agrees to go but does not. Jesus uses this story to illustrate that actions speak louder than words. It invites us to reflect on our own willingness to respond to God's call, not just with our words, but with our actions. The message is a reminder that true repentance and obedience are found in aligning our actions with God's will. Even those who may have strayed can choose to follow God truly if their hearts and actions reflect genuine change.

Socratic Question:
How do your daily choices reflect your commitment to aligning your life with God's will, and in what ways can you take meaningful action toward His call?

Reflexión:
En este pasaje del Evangelio, Jesús relata la parábola de los dos hijos a quienes su padre les pide trabajar en la viña. Uno inicialmente se niega pero luego va, mientras que el otro acepta ir pero no lo hace. Jesús utiliza esta historia para ilustrar que los hechos hablan más fuerte que las palabras. Nos invita a reflexionar sobre nuestra disposición para responder al llamado de Dios, no solo con palabras, sino con acciones. El mensaje es un recordatorio de que el verdadero arrepentimiento y obediencia se encuentran al alinear nuestras acciones con la voluntad de Dios. Incluso aquellos que se hayan desviado pueden elegir seguir a Dios de verdad si sus corazones y acciones reflejan un cambio genuino.

Pregunta socrática:
¿Cómo reflejan tus elecciones diarias tu compromiso de alinear tu vida con la voluntad de Dios, y de qué maneras puedes tomar acciones significativas hacia su llamado?

Source: ***Truthly App***

STAFF DIRECTORY

Parish Office

Administrative Assistant:
adminassist@stritainthedesert.org

Secretary:
secretary@stritainthedesert.org

Office Assistant:
officeassistant@stritainthedesert.org

Business Manager:
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Compliance:
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Bulletin & Web Editor:
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Facilities Manager:
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Religious Education

Director of Religious Education:
dre@stritainthedesert.org

Youth Ministry:
youthministry@stritainthedesert.org

OCIA Coordinator:
ocia@stritainthedesert.org

Parish Directory

COLLECTIONS | COLECTA

September 20, 2026

Offertory: $7,173.13
Rectory Debt: $2,558.50
Campus Maint: $1,927.35

Thank you for your support.
God bless you!

https://www.osvhub.com/stritainthedesert/giving/funds

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.



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.

September 27, 2026

My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me. (John 10:27)

Dear Parish Family and Friends,

A father instructs his sons to work in the vineyard. One refuses but later repents and goes; the other agrees but does not follow through. Discipleship, therefore, is not defined by our words but by our obedience after we have changed course.

Repentance is this act of turning. Humility begins with acknowledging when we have been like the second son. Saint Paul sets the standard: the mind of Christ, who emptied himself and became obedient. God does not judge us by our past intentions but by the path we choose today.

At St. Rita, our mission is to help people reach heaven. Let us live this out in the coming week. Take one step of commitment. If you have hesitated before, choose to act now. The Father continues to invite us.

As we begin our fall break, we are also experiencing transitions in our parish office. Ms. Louise Marie Azzopardi, who has faithfully served our parish for twenty years as both a volunteer and Business Manager, is preparing to retire. We are deeply grateful for her many years of dedicated service to St. Rita. She is currently training Mr. Chris Metzger, who has graciously accepted the Business Manager position. Ms. Priscilla Molinar will assume the role of Administrative Assistant. Ms. Azzopardi's retirement date has not yet been determined, but we will keep our parish community informed.

Finally, our parish must make important decisions about our future as we continue to outgrow our current space. We are working with the Diocese of Tucson and our Parish Leadership Team to discern how best to serve our growing parish family. Among the possibilities being considered are adding a **Sunday Mass at 5:00 p.m.** or adjusting the Sunday Mass schedule to **7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 1:00 p.m. (Spanish)**. No decision has been made. Either option would depend upon having an additional priest available to serve our parish.

Please join us for our **Parish Town Hall on Wednesday, October 14, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the St. John XXIII Center** to learn more about the challenges facing our growing parish and to share your questions, concerns, and hopes for our future. Please register through the parish website.

St. Rita, pray for us.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Very Reverend Alonzo M. García, Dean



27 de septiembre de 2026

Mis ovejas escuchan mi voz, dice el Señor; yo las conozco y ellas me siguen. (Juan 10:27)

Queridos feligreses:

Un padre pide a sus hijos que vayan a trabajar en la viña. Uno se niega, pero después se arrepiente y va; el otro acepta, pero no cumple. Por lo tanto, el discipulado no se define por nuestras palabras, sino por nuestra obediencia después de haber cambiado de rumbo.

El arrepentimiento es precisamente este acto de cambiar de rumbo. La humildad comienza cuando reconocemos que, en ocasiones, hemos sido como el segundo hijo. San Pablo nos muestra el camino: tener los mismos sentimientos de Cristo, quien se despojó de sí mismo y se hizo obediente. Dios no nos juzga por nuestras intenciones pasadas, sino por el camino que elegimos hoy.

En St. Rita, nuestra misión es ayudar a las personas a llegar al cielo. Vivamos esta misión durante la próxima semana. Demos un paso de compromiso. Si antes hemos dudado, decidamos actuar ahora. El Padre continúa invitándonos.

Al comenzar nuestras vacaciones de otoño, también estamos viviendo algunos cambios en nuestra oficina parroquial. La Sra. Louise Marie Azzopardi, quien ha servido fielmente a nuestra parroquia durante veinte años, tanto como voluntaria como Gerente de Negocios, se está preparando para jubilarse. Estamos profundamente agradecidos por sus muchos años de dedicación y servicio a St. Rita. Actualmente, está capacitando al Sr. Chris Metzger, quien amablemente ha aceptado el puesto de Gerente de Negocios. La Sra. Priscilla Molinar asumirá el cargo de Asistente Administrativa. Aún no se ha determinado la fecha de jubilación de la Sra. Azzopardi, pero mantendremos informada a nuestra comunidad parroquial.

Finalmente, nuestra parroquia debe tomar decisiones importantes sobre nuestro futuro a medida que seguimos superando la capacidad de nuestro espacio actual. Estamos trabajando con la Diócesis de Tucson y nuestro Equipo de Liderazgo Parroquial para discernir la mejor manera de servir a nuestra creciente familia parroquial. Entre las posibilidades que se están considerando se encuentran agregar una **Misa dominical a las 5:00 p.m.** o ajustar el horario de Misas dominicales a las **7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. y 1:00 p.m. (en español)**. No se ha tomado ninguna decisión. Cualquiera de estas opciones dependería de contar con un sacerdote adicional disponible para servir a nuestra parroquia.

Los invitamos a participar en nuestra **Asamblea Parroquial el miércoles 14 de octubre de 2026, a las 6:00 p.m., en el Centro San Juan XXIII**, para conocer más sobre los desafíos que enfrenta nuestra creciente parroquia y compartir sus preguntas, inquietudes y esperanzas para nuestro futuro. Por favor, regístrense a través del sitio web de la parroquia.

Santa Rita, ruega por nosotros.

READINGS & OBSERVANCES

FIRST READING:
"You say, 'The LORD's way is not fair!' Hear now, house of Israel: Is it my way that is unfair, or rather, are not your ways unfair?" (Ezekiel 18:25)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:
"Remember your mercies, O LORD." (Psalm 25:6)

SECOND READING:
"Have in you the same attitude that is also in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 2:5)

GOSPEL:
"Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you." (Matthew 21:31)

Sunday, September 27
Ez 18:25-28 | Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 | Phil 2:1-11 | Mt 21:28-32

Monday, September 28
Jb 1:6-22 | Ps 17:1bcd, 2-3, 6-7 | Lk 9:46-50

Tuesday, September 29
Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a | Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 4-5 | Jn 1:47-51

Wednesday, September 30
Jb 9:1-12, 14-16 | Ps 88:10bc-11, 12-13, 14-15 | Lk 9:57-62

Thursday, October 1
Jb 19:21-27 | Ps 27:7-8a, 8b-9abc, 13-14 | Lk 10:1-12

Friday, October 2
Ex 23:20-23 | Ps 91:1-2, 3-4ab, 4c-6, 10-11 | Mt 18:1-5, 10

Saturday, October 3
Jb 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17 | Ps 119:66, 71, 75, 91, 125, 130 | Lk 10:17-24

MASS INTENTIONS
INTENCIONES DE MISA

Saturday September 26
5:00 pm
SI George G. Jochum Family

Sunday September 27
8:00 am
SI Frazier-Frohlick Family

10:00 am
✝Jenny & Vito Vilona

12:00 pm
SI Johnson Family

Monday September 28
8:00 am
First Responders
SI Msgr. Cusack

Tuesday September 29
8:00 am
Men & Women in Law Enforcement
SI Anna Arrizon
✝Mike & Kathy Holguin
✝Diane Holguin

Wednesday September 30
8:00 am
Living & Deceased of St. Rita
✝Joe & Chris Darragh

Thursday October 1
8:00 am
Men & Women in the Military
SI Seth Svob

Friday October 2
8:00 am
SI Francisco & Maria Anaya
SI Seth Svob
✝Ralf & Jessie Garcia

PARISH NEWS

Rectory Debt Payoff
As of Sunday, September 20, 2026

$215,824 — $345,000 GOAL

149 — 500 FAMILY PLEDGED/DONATED GOAL

📖 THE HARVEST JOURNAL

Almost October
For months...

Ideas have become plans.

Plans have become projects.

Projects are becoming reality.

Soon the tents will rise.

The music will begin.

The lights will come on.

And another chapter in the story of St. Rita will be written.

We can't wait to share it with you on

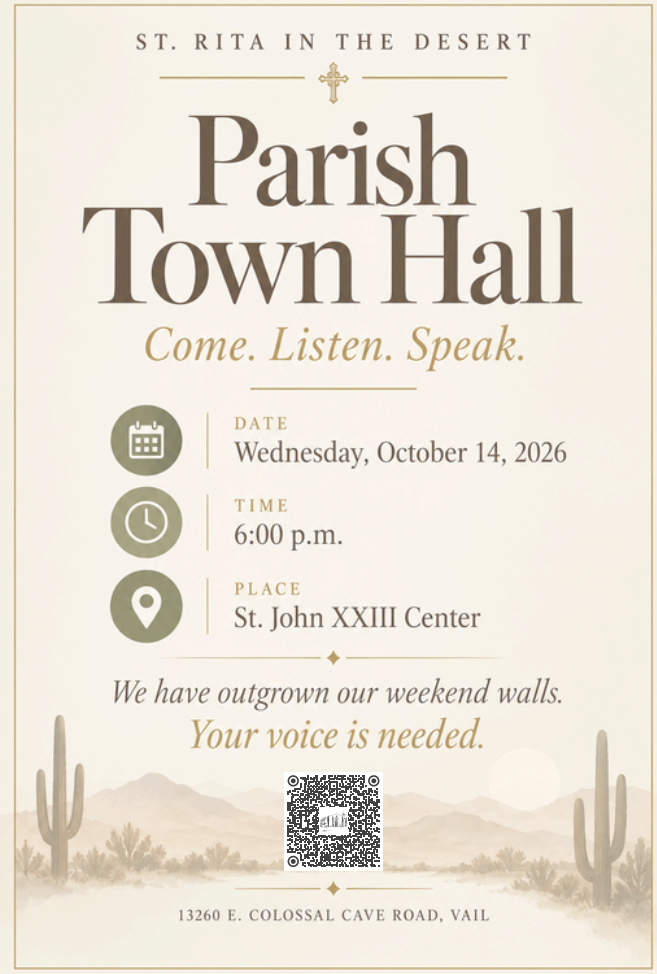
📅 **Friday, October 23 | 4–10 PM**
📅 **Saturday, October 24 | 2–10 PM**

📖 *Join us next Sunday for another page from The Harvest Journal.*

NEED A PLACE TO GATHER?

St. Rita Hall is available for receptions, luncheons, showers, anniversaries, birthdays, funeral receptions, business meetings, and other special occasions. Seats up to **70 guests**.

For availability and scheduling, contact the Parish Office: 520-762-9688 or secretary@stritainthedesert.org





BLUE MASS

Tuesday, September 29 • 5:30 PM
St. John XXIII Center

Join us for a special Mass honoring and praying for our **police, fire, and public safety personnel and their families** on the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel.

All are welcome!

BUILDING ON OUR PAST SECURING OUR FUTURE

Over the coming weeks, St. Rita will introduce our **Building on Our Past – Securing Our Future** program as we look toward the continued mission and ministries of our parish.

We ask each parish family to **prayerfully reflect on their participation** as we prepare for **Commitment Weekend, October 24–25.**

Questions? Please contact the Parish Office.

ST. RITA'S GUILD GIFT SHOP REOPENS!

October 4th | 9am–12:00 noon

Stop by and shop with us!

The Gift Shop will be open on the **1st and 3rd Sunday** of each month, from 9:00 AM–12:00 noon.

WELCOME TEAM POTLUCK

October 10th | 6pm

Welcome Team invites you to a Costa Rican Dinner (***Free***)

We look forward to seeing you there!

Donations go toward debt reduction.

PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY

Sunday, September 27

Please join us in praying for **Fr. Alonzo and our retired priests,** and take a moment to thank them for their faithful service to the Church and our parish community.



CHALKBOARD ARTIST NEEDED!

Help create the Vineyard Retreat menu board for our Harvest Festival!
Have lettering or chalk-art skills?
Share your talent!
guild@stritainthedesert.org

HELP BUILD OUR SILENT AUCTION

Donations of new, unused items, gift cards, certificates, services & experiences are needed!

DROP OFF: Parish Office through **Oct. 16**

SPECIAL COLLECTION:
After Masses Sept. 27
Thank you for supporting our Harvest Festival!

SAINTS & FAITH-BASED COSTUME CONTEST

Come dressed as your favorite saint, biblical figure, angel, or faith-inspired character during the Harvest Festival!
Children, teens, adults, and families are invited to participate.
Costumes may be homemade, traditional, simple, or creative.
Participants may even be asked to share a fun fact about the person they portray!

Two hours can make a difference.
Pick a shift. Bring a friend.
Bring your spouse.
Volunteer as a family.

HARVEST FESTIVAL NEEDS YOU!

We have the plans.
We have the Festival.
Now we need the people.

Our Festival teams have been working for months to create a wonderful weekend for our parish and community. Now we have reached the point where we need more hands to make it happen.

You don't have to plan an event.
You don't have to volunteer all weekend.
You just need to give us a couple of hours.

Knights of Columbus®

MASS FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

St. Rita in the Desert Catholic Church
October 11, 2026 | 8:00 am

Contact: Jim Grayson
Email: rtl@stritainthedesert.org
Phone: (815) 546-4944

FARM FRESH EGG SALES RETURN

The Knights of Columbus will resume selling farm fresh eggs after all Masses on the **first and third weekends of each month.**

Next Month: **October 3-4 & 17-18**

Proceeds will support youth programs at St. Rita, including St. Joseph Youth Camp, altar server retreats, Religious Education scholarships, and our new Youth Ministry.

Thank you for supporting the youth of our parish!

American Red Cross

Every 2 seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood.
Help save lives.

Give blood.

Blood Drive
Saint Rita in the Desert Church

Bloodmobile
13260 E. Colossal Cave Place
Vail, AZ 85641

Sunday, October 11, 2026
7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The American Red Cross is busier than ever trying to alleviate the suffering of others. One way that we do that is by making sure we have enough blood available...WE CAN'T SAVE LIVES WITHOUT YOU!!

Please make your appointment TODAY!! Sponsor Code: saintrita

Fall into the habit of donating! Get a $15 e-gift card when you come to give blood Sept. 21-Oct. 18.

TUCSON ROADRUNNERS HOCKEY NIGHT

Saturday, October 3 • 7:00 PM
Tucson Convention Center

Join the Knights of Columbus Council #14230 for the Roadrunners' season opener and

First Responders & Public Safety Night!
Tickets: **$26** — all fees & tax included.
Net proceeds benefit first responder & public safety charities.

Purchase tickets after Mass at the Knights table in the courtyard. Cash, check, debit & credit accepted.

ARIZONA ROSARY CELEBRATION

Join Catholics from across Arizona for the annual Arizona Rosary Celebration honoring

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Saturday, October 17 • 10:00 AM–12:15 PM
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church
8650 N. Shannon Rd., Tucson

Featuring guest speaker **Most Rev. Arthur Bubnevych & Monsignor James Patrick Shea**

Free admission • All are welcome!

DIVORCE SUPPORT GROUP

Divorced? You don't have to walk through it alone.

Our Mother of Sorrows (OMOS) is offering **The Catholic's Divorce Survival Guide**, a 12-week support program grounded in Catholic teaching.

Mondays, September 28–December 14
6:30–8:00 PM • $25 per person
Includes the *Personal Survival Guide* and all program materials.

For information or counseling, contact **Hank Krzysik** at (520) 747-1321 or dchnank@omosparish.org.

No childcare available.

worldwide marriage encounter

(MT 21) "Complete my joy by having the same understanding, holding to the same charity, being of one mind, with the same sentiment."

Strengthen, renew, and rekindle your marriage sacrament by attending the:

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience on:
November 7-8, 2026
March 6-7, 2027
in **Phoenix**.

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

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

Holiday Shopping Boutique – **Vendors Wanted!**

St. Francis de Sales Parish will be hosting a Holiday Shopping Boutique on
December 5 and 6
and is looking for vendors!

If you are interested in becoming a vendor, please contact the Parish Office at 520-885-5908 or email office_mgr@sfdstucson.org.

We would love to have you join us for this fun holiday event!

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

YOUR GENEROSITY IS ALREADY AT WORK
Funds received through the 2026 Annual Catholic Appeal are already being allocated to serve people, parishes, and ministries throughout Southern Arizona.

· $400,000 toward the formation and support of our seminarians
· $405,000 to Native American and other parishes with limited financial resources
· $350,000 for outreach and assistance to individuals and families in need
· $125,000 for the care of our retired priests
· $80,000 to provide spiritual and pastoral care to men and women who are incarcerated
· $2 million to diocesan ministries and services supporting Catholic schools, evangelization, formation, vocations, youth and young adults, and parish life throughout our Diocese

Another $331,191 is needed so that our shared mission to provide spiritual, pastoral, and charitable care throughout Southern Arizona can be fully supported.

If you have an outstanding pledge, have not yet participated, or would like to make an additional gift, your participation still matters.

Give Today
www.cathfnd.org/aca

CATHOLIC FOUNDATION
FOR THE DIOCESE OF TUCSON

GOSPEL MEDITATION

MATTHEW 21:28-32

In the parable of the two sons, Jesus challenges us to examine the sincerity of our actions compared to our words. The first son, though initially disobedient, ultimately does his father's will, while the second son, despite agreeing outwardly, fails to follow through. This story highlights the importance of authentic living, where our actions genuinely reflect our inner convictions and our commitment to God. True conversion is not merely about verbal affirmation but is demonstrated through concrete actions that align with the Gospel. Jesus' teaching invites us to move beyond lip service and embrace a life of integrity and purpose, consistently seeking to fulfill God's will in our everyday choices.

Socratic Reflection:

How can you ensure that your actions reflect your true commitment to following Christ, and what steps can you take to strengthen the alignment between your words and deeds?

MATEO 21:28-32

En la parábola de los dos hijos, Jesús nos desafía a examinar la sinceridad de nuestras acciones en comparación con nuestras palabras. El primer hijo, aunque al principio fue desobediente, finalmente cumple con la voluntad de su padre, mientras que el segundo hijo, a pesar de estar de acuerdo exteriormente, no cumple. Esta historia resalta la importancia de vivir de manera auténtica, donde nuestras acciones reflejen genuinamente nuestras convicciones internas y nuestro compromiso con Dios. La verdadera conversión no consiste solo en una afirmación verbal, sino en acciones concretas que se alineen con el Evangelio. La enseñanza de Jesús nos invita a ir más allá de las palabras y abrazar una vida de integridad y propósito, buscando constantemente cumplir la voluntad de Dios en nuestras elecciones diarias.

Pregunta Socrática:

¿Cómo puedes asegurarte de que tus acciones reflejen tu verdadero compromiso de seguir a Cristo, y qué pasos puedes dar para fortalecer la alineación entre tus palabras y tus hechos?

DID YOU KNOW...

26TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

On September 27, 1825, the Stockton and Darlington Railway, the world's first public railway to use steam locomotives, was officially opened in England. This revolutionary development marked the beginning of modern rail transport, launching an era of rapid industrialization and transformation in travel and trade. The opening of this railway demonstrated the potential of steam-powered transportation, which soon spread globally, profoundly changing economic landscapes by linking cities and allowing for the faster, more efficient movement of goods and people.

This advancement in transportation technology accelerated the Industrial Revolution, contributed to urbanization, and laid the groundwork for the interconnected world we experience today.

Reflect on how technological advancements can create new opportunities for connection and progress. In your own life, how have technological changes opened new possibilities for growth and learning?

via truthly app



SAINT THÉRÈSE OF THE CHILD JESUS

Feast Day: October 1

Patronage:
Saint Thérèse is the patroness of missionaries, florists, and the sick.

Story:
Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, often referred to as "The Little Flower," was born in Alençon, France, in 1873. She was the youngest of nine children in a deeply devout Catholic family. After losing her mother at a young age, Thérèse experienced profound spiritual growth and, by the age of 15, entered the Carmelite monastery in Lisieux.

Thérèse is renowned for her "Little Way," a simple approach to spirituality focused on doing small acts with great love. She believed that minor, everyday sacrifices and acts of kindness could bring great joy to God and contribute to spiritual growth. Her autobiographical work, "Story of a Soul," reveals the depth of her spirituality and her understanding of God's love.

Legacy:
Saint Thérèse's influence extends far beyond her short life of 24 years. Declared a Doctor of the Church in 1997, Thérèse's teachings emphasize love and humility, inspiring countless individuals to seek holiness in everyday life. Her approach encourages people to find beauty and purpose in the ordinary, transforming simple daily acts into profound expressions of love for God and others.

Reflection Question:
How can Thérèse's "Little Way" inspire you to incorporate love and intentionality into your everyday actions, and what might change in your life if you intentionally offered all your daily tasks up to God?

KIDS CORNER



Feast Day: October 1

Who was Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus?
Saint Thérèse is the special friend of those who are missionaries, people who bring flowers joyfully to others, and those who are sick.

Her Story: Saint Thérèse was born in France in 1873, and she was the youngest of nine siblings in a catholic family. Even as a little girl, Thérèse loved Jesus very much. She was kind and liked to do nice things for others. When she was just 15, she joined a special group of nuns called Carmelites who prayed a lot and worked for Jesus.

Thérèse wanted to be a missionary and travel to faraway places, but health problems kept her close to home. So, she came up with "The Little Way," believing that doing small things with lots of love could make God very happy. Thérèse did little acts of kindness every day, like smiling at someone or being helpful, always thinking of ways to show her love for God in big and small ways.

Her Legacy: Even though Thérèse didn't live a long life, she made a big impact. She taught everyone that no matter how small the act, doing it with love can make it strong and wonderful. People remember her as "The Little Flower" because she loved flowers and believed each little flower was important, just like each person's small acts of love.

Question to Think About: How can Thérèse's idea of doing little things with love help you be kinder to those around you, and what are some small, kind things you can do today that show love?

Source: *Truthly App*

SAINTS THIS MONTH

September 1
- Joshua the Leader (OT)

September 2
- St. Brocard

September 3
- St. Gregory the Great

September 4
- Pope St. Boniface I
- St. Rosalia
- St. Rose of Viterbo
- Moses the Legislator and Prophet (OT)

September 5
- St. Teresa of Calcutta

September 6
- Zechariah the Prophet (OT)

September 7
- St. Regina

September 8
- The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

September 9
- St. Peter Claver

September 10
- St. Nicholas da Tolentino

September 11
- Sts. Protus and Hyacinth

September 12
- The Most Holy Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary

September 13
- St. John Chrysostom

September 14
- Exaltation of the Holy Cross

September 15
- Our Lady of Sorrows
- St. Nicomedes

September 16
- Saints Cornelius and Cyprian

September 17
- St. Robert Bellarmine
- St. Hildegard of Bingen

September 18
- St. Joseph of Cupertino

September 19
- St. Januarius

September 20
- St. Andrew Kim Taegon, St. Paul Chong Hasang, and companions, Korean martyrs

September 21
- St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
- Jonah the Prophet (OT)

September 22
- Sts. Maurice and the Theban Legion

September 23
- Saint Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)
- Pope St. Linus
- Sts. Zachary and Elizabeth – or November 5

September 24
- St. Pacifico of San Severino

September 25
- St. Fermin – or July 7

September 26
- Sts. Cosmas and Damian
- Gideon the Judge (OT)

September 27
- St. Vincent de Paul

September 28
- St. Lawrence Ruiz and companions
- St. Wenceslaus
- Our Lady Undoer of Knots

September 29
- Sts. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels (FEAST)

September 30
- St. Jerome

All underlined text is clickable *source: young-catholics.com*

PARISH CONNECTIONS

📞 CONTACT US

- **Main Office** - (520)762-9688

- **Office Hours**
  - Mon-Wed: 8:30 am-4:00 pm
  - Thur: 8:00 am-2:00 pm
  - Fri: CLOSED
  - Daily: Closed: 12pm—1pm

- **Staff Directory**

⛪ WORSHIP

- **Mass Times**
  - M-F (Shrine) - 8am
  - Sat (St. John XXIII) - 5pm
  - Sun (St. John XXIII) - 8am | 10am | Noon (Sp)

- **Confession**
  - Sat (St. John XXIII) - 3:30p-4:30p

- **Adoration**
  - Fri (Shrine) 8:30a-9:30a
  - 1st Sunday of each month (St. John XXIII): 3-4pm

🙏 SACRAMENTS

- Baptism
- Marriage
- Annointing
  - Every 1st Friday at 8am Mass
- Funerals

🌱 GROW IN FAITH

- OCIA | Adult Formation
- Children's Formation ~ *coming soon*

🤝 GET INVOLVED

- Ministry Directory
- Music Ministry
- Parish Leadership Team (PLT)

❤️ PRAYER & CARE

- Prayer Requests (online)
- Request a Mass Intention (online) ~ *coming soon*
- Pastoral Care

💝 STEWARDSHIP

- Online Giving
- Parish Support
- Reserve a Legacy Bench

🏡 NEW TO ST. RITA?

- Join St. Rita Parish
- New to the Catholic Faith

🌐 STAY INFORMED

- Calendar
- Weekly Bulletin
- Website

STAFF DIRECTORY

Parish Office

Administrative Assistant:
Chris Metzger

Secretary:
Veronica Garcia

Office Assistant:
Priscilla Molinar

Business Manager:
Louise Azzopardi

Compliance:
Mary Morgan

Bulletin & Web Editor:
Kathy Lockard

Facilities Manager:
Norm Scheopner

Maintenance:
Bill Cline

Religious Education

Director of Religious Education:
Geraldine Durman

Youth Ministry:
Leah Sides

OCIA Coordinator:
Michelle Quinn Crowley

Parish Directory

📍 *Campus Map*



All underlined text is clickable. Can't find what you're looking for? Visit stritainthedesert.org or contact the Parish Office.

ST. RITA HARVEST FESTIVAL
VAIL • ARIZONA
OCTOBER 23-24, 2026

THE HARVEST FESTIVAL NEEDS YOU

October 23 & 24 are almost here.

Our Festival teams have been working for months to create a wonderful weekend for our parish and community. Now we have reached the point where **we need more hands to make it** happen.

You don't have to plan an event.
You don't have to volunteer all weekend.
You just need to give us a couple of hours.

WHERE WE NEED HELP MOST

🎃 Children's Village — SATURDAY EVENING
Our greatest volunteer need. Help with games, activities and families. Especially needed after 4 PM.

🎟️ Harvest Hall
Help with the Silent Auction, 50/50 Raffle and guest assistance. Multiple shifts available Friday & Saturday.

🤝 Hospitality & Volunteer Check-In
Be one of the friendly faces welcoming guests and helping Festival volunteers get where they need to go.

✨ Glow Garden
Help welcome guests into one of the Festival's quieter, reflective experiences.

🎤 Main Stage
We still need parishioners willing to join the fun as game-show contestants and participants.

TWO HOURS CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE.
Pick a shift. Bring a friend. Bring your spouse. Volunteer as a family.

We have the plans.
We have the Festival.
Now we need the people.

Click HERE to Learn More or
SCAN TO VOLUNTEER

Still have questions?
Email: **festival@stritainthedesert.org**

Help us welcome more than 1,500 guests to St. Rita in the Desert.

ST. RITA IN THE DESERT
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

HOW ARE YOU LIVING YOUR VOCATION?

Our Catholic faith reminds us that holiness is not just a destination, but a way of life — lived in love, in our daily responsibilities, and in service to those God has entrusted to us.

MY RESPONSIBILITY TO GOD

- Do I make time for prayer and Sunday Mass?
- Do I thank God for the gifts He has given me?
- Do I ask Him how He wants me to use those gifts?

Lord, teach me to serve You with a generous heart.

MY RESPONSIBILITY TO MY SPOUSE

- Do I give my spouse my time, attention, patience, and affection?
- Do I pray for — and with — my spouse?
- Do my words and actions help my spouse grow closer to God?

Lord, help me love as You love.

MY RESPONSIBILITY TO MY CHILDREN & FAMILY

- Am I teaching the faith not only with my words, but by my example?
- Do my children see me pray, serve, forgive, and participate in parish life?
- Am I showing them what it looks like to be part of the Body of Christ?

Lord, make our home a place of faith, love and service.

MY RESPONSIBILITY TO MY CHURCH

- Do I see St. Rita simply as the church I attend... or as a community to which I belong?
- Do I offer my time and talents as well as my treasure?
- When my parish needs helping hands, do I consider whether I might be one of the people God is asking to step forward?

Lord, help me be Your hands and feet in our parish community.

PERHAPS THIS WEEK,

THE ANSWER IS SIMPLE.

Our Harvest Festival needs many hands to welcome our community.

A few hours. One small job. One willing heart.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

OCTOBER 23 – 24

SCAN TO SIGN UP

"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another."
1 PETER 4:10

ST. RITA IN THE DESERT
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Inspired by the USCCB Examination of Conscience for Married Persons.

ST. RITA HARVEST FESTIVAL
VAIL • ARIZONA
OCTOBER 23-24, 2026

Welcome to the Harvest Festival!

We're glad you're here. Explore, eat, play & enjoy the Festival!



- Children's Village Beer Garden
- Harvest Hall Main Stage
- Harvest Market Glow Garden
- Vineyard Retreat Hospitality
- Historic Shrine Built in 1935
- Restrooms
- Photo Op

ST. RITA IN THE DESERT
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Welcome to St. Rita in the Desert

Come for the Festival. Stay for the community.

We're so glad you're here.

Good Food Great People Brighter Together