

December 28, 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

ADORATION

FRIDAY | Viernes

8:30 am—9:30 am

In the church or by
appointment

En la iglesia o por cita

PARISH OFFICE

Horario de Oficina

MONDAY-

WEDNESDAY | De

Lunes a Miércoles

8:30 am—4:00 pm

THURSDAY | Jueves

8:00 am—2:00 pm

FRIDAY | Viernes

9:00 am—1:00 pm

Office closed

12pm—1pm daily

Closed - Dec 31st
Jan 1st & 2nd

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

*"Herod... sent and killed all the male
children in Bethlehem" (Matthew 2:16).*

*"Herodes... mandó matar a todos los
niños varones en Belén"
(Mateo 2:16).*

Reflection:

The Feast of the Holy Innocents calls us to remember the innocent lives lost in Bethlehem and to reflect on the holiness of every human life. In a world often marred by violence and injustice, we are reminded that God is with us, even in suffering. May we cherish and protect the dignity of all, from conception to natural death, standing as witnesses to the light of Christ amidst darkness.

Socratic Question:

What does cherishing every human life mean to you in the context of today's world?

Reflexión:

La Fiesta de los Santos Inocentes nos invita a recordar las vidas inocentes perdidas en Belén y a reflexionar sobre la santidad de cada vida humana. En un mundo a menudo marcado por la violencia y la injusticia, se nos recuerda que Dios está con nosotros, incluso en el sufrimiento. Que podamos valorar y proteger la dignidad de todos, desde la concepción hasta la muerte natural, siendo testigos de la luz de Cristo en medio de la oscuridad.

Pregunta socrática:

Source: Truthly App

13260 E. Colossal Cave Road • Vail, Az 85641 • Tel (520) 762-9688 • stritainthedesert.org

PARISH INFORMATION

COLLECTIONS | COLECTA



December 21, 2025

Offertory: \$5,833.48

Rectory Debt: \$1,880.00

Maintenance: \$1,733.00

Christmas Flowers: \$445.00

Christmas Offertory: \$180.00

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:
adminassist@stritainthedesert.org

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rob@stritainthedesert.org

Rob King

Maintenance:

Bill Cline

BULLETIN DEADLINE & QUESTIONS

Email bulletin request(s) to:

bulletin@stritainthedesert.org

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

HOMEBOUND EUCHARIST

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

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**.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STAFF

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

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

Carolyn Reynolds

OCIA Coordinator:
ocia@stritainthedesert.org

Michelle Quinn Crowley

ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Music Ministry:
music@stritainthedesert.org

Nancy Campman Crofts

Catholic Brotherhood Group:
jkahle25@gmail.com

Jayme Kahle

Women's Bible Study:
irenetoews@cox.net

Irene Toews

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

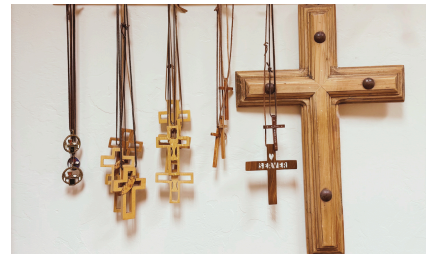


ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Every 1st Friday at 8am Mass

BAPTISMS

Visit stritainthedesert.org
LITURGY **SACRAMENTS** **BAPTISM**
and complete the *Intent to Baptize* Form



CONFIRMATION

Contact Youth Minister or OCIA director

MARRIAGE

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

OFFICE OF THE PASTOR ~ OFICINA DE PASTOR

December 28, 2025

“Let the peace of Christ control your hearts; Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.” (Colossians 3:15a,16a)

Dear Parish Family and Friends,

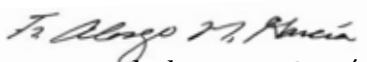
Merry Christmas! While we celebrated Christmas a few short days ago, we are within the Octave of Christmas. Our readings today focus on the domestic church as a matter of great importance. Our texts highlight the importance of family life and the responsibilities of each member. To apply these teachings in our daily lives, I would like to offer some concrete family advice this week. Consider setting aside an evening for a family prayer session where each member expresses gratitude for one another and praises God for their blessings. You might also include writing a family prayer intention journal, where each member can contribute their prayer requests for the week. Another suggestion is to share a passage from the Bible that resonates with your family over dinner and discuss how it relates to your lives. To engage children, you could organize a treasure hunt with clues based on Bible verses that lead to a small family treat. Finally, try dedicating a day to acts of kindness among your family members to strengthen your bond. One act of kindness could include making homemade gifts or cooking a favorite meal together. Our families in the modern era could use some loving advice on what it takes to make a family noble, virtuous, and holy.

For a family to be successful, at least from a biblical, religious, and spiritual perspective, it traditionally includes a father, a mother, and children. However, it's essential to recognise that all families, regardless of their structure, are valuable and can strive for holiness. This inclusivity respects the diverse family forms present in our world today. While many family variants exist, it is essential to acknowledge the plan God had created and desired from the beginning of creation.

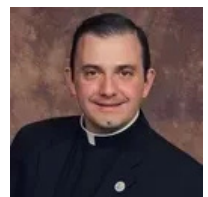
Our texts show how fathers are to treat their wives and children with respect and love. The first reading from Sirach explains how fathers are to exercise their priestly and fatherly love toward their family. This collective care and love for children teaching them right from wrong, creates a strong society. Moreover, it shows how wives collaborate with their husbands in creating and raising holy children. While it is a reality that our families suffer significantly due to social media, higher education, government, and the perverse world of pornography, we see hope and the opportunity to turn things around by listening to the sound advice of the scriptural texts in today's Mass readings. St. Joseph, terror of demons, pray for us!

I wish to thank all who made our Christmas celebrations beautiful and prayerful! To all our liturgical ministers, our altar servers, lectors, ushers, sacristans, choir members, and our parish altar society who worked tirelessly to decorate, thank you for all your love and care during the Advent and Christmas Season! May the joy and peace of this season fill your hearts with happiness and hope. Heavenly Father, bless all families with Your love and grace. Guide them in unity and understanding as they journey together in faith. We pray for Your continued guidance and blessings upon our parish community. Amen.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Reverend Alonzo M. García, Pastor



OFFICE OF THE PASTOR ~ OFICINA DE PASTOR

28 de diciembre de 2025

“Que en sus corazones reine la paz de Cristo; que la palabra de Cristo habite en ustedes con toda su riqueza.” (Colosenses 3,15,6)

Querida familia parroquial y amigos:

¡Feliz Navidad! Aunque celebramos la Navidad hace apenas unos días, aún nos encontramos en la Octava de Navidad. Las lecturas de hoy ponen especial énfasis en la iglesia doméstica, subrayando la gran importancia de la vida familiar y las responsabilidades de cada uno de sus miembros. Para poner en práctica estas enseñanzas en nuestra vida diaria, quisiera ofrecer esta semana algunos consejos concretos para las familias. Consideren apartar una noche para la oración en familia, en la que cada miembro exprese su gratitud por los demás y alabe a Dios por sus bendiciones. También pueden iniciar un cuaderno de intenciones familiares, en el que cada uno escriba sus peticiones de oración para la semana. Otra idea es compartir durante la cena un pasaje de la Biblia que resuene con su familia y conversar sobre cómo se relaciona con su vida diaria. Para involucrar a los niños, podrían organizar una búsqueda del tesoro con pistas basadas en versículos bíblicos que los lleven a un pequeño premio familiar. Finalmente, intenten dedicar un día a realizar actos de bondad entre los miembros de la familia para fortalecer sus lazos. Un acto de bondad puede ser preparar juntos un platillo favorito o hacer regalos hechos en casa. Las familias de nuestro tiempo necesitan con urgencia consejos llenos de amor sobre cómo llegar a ser familias nobles, virtuosas y santas.

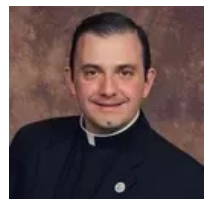
Desde una perspectiva bíblica, religiosa y espiritual, tradicionalmente hablamos de una familia formada por un padre, una madre y los hijos. Sin embargo, es importante reconocer que todas las familias, independientemente de su estructura, tienen valor y pueden aspirar a la santidad. Esta visión inclusiva respeta la diversidad de formas familiares presentes en nuestro mundo actual. Aun así, es esencial reconocer el plan que Dios creó y deseó desde el inicio de la creación.

Nuestros textos nos muestran cómo los padres están llamados a tratar a sus esposas e hijos con respeto y amor. La primera lectura del libro del Eclesiástico explica cómo los padres deben ejercer su amor sacerdotal y paternal en la familia. Este cuidado y amor compartido, al enseñar a los hijos qué es bien y qué es malo, ayuda a construir una sociedad fuerte. Asimismo, se nos muestra cómo las esposas colaboran con sus esposos en la formación y crianza de hijos santos. Aunque es una realidad que muchas familias sufren hoy en día a causa de las redes sociales, la educación superior, el gobierno y el mundo perverso de la pornografía, también vemos esperanza y la oportunidad de cambiar el rumbo al escuchar los sabios consejos de las Escrituras proclamadas en la Misa de hoy. San José, terror de los demonios, ruega por nosotros.

Quiero agradecer de corazón a todos los que hicieron que nuestras celebraciones navideñas fueran tan hermosas y llenas de oración. A todos nuestros ministros litúrgicos: monaguillos, lectores, ujieres, sacristanes, miembros del coro y a nuestra sociedad del altar parroquial, que trabajaron incansablemente para decorar, ¡gracias por todo su amor y dedicación durante el tiempo de Adviento y Navidad! Que la alegría y la paz de esta temporada llenen sus corazones de esperanza y felicidad. Padre Celestial, bendice a todas las familias con tu amor y tu gracia. Guíalas en la unidad y en el entendimiento mientras caminan juntas en la fe. Te pedimos tu continua guía y bendiciones para nuestra comunidad parroquial. Amén.

Sinceramente Suyos en Cristo,

Reverendo Alonzo M. García, Pastor



GOSPEL MEDITATION

IN THE GOSPEL PASSAGE...

The Gospel of Matthew recounts Herod's brutal attempt to eliminate the newborn King by ordering the massacre of innocent children. This harrowing event draws us to contemplate the fragility of life and the immense suffering caused by human sinfulness. Yet, within this darkness shines the abiding presence of God, who safeguards His divine plan through the Holy Family's flight to Egypt. This narrative calls us to be vigilant protectors of the vulnerable, echoing God's love and compassion in our world today.

Reflection Question:

How can we, in our lives today, actively protect and defend the dignity of those who are most vulnerable?

EN ESTE PASAJE DEL EVANGELIO,

El Evangelio de Mateo relata el brutal intento de Herodes de eliminar al recién nacido Rey ordenando la masacre de niños inocentes. Este desgarrador acontecimiento nos lleva a contemplar la fragilidad de la vida y el inmenso sufrimiento causado por el pecado humano. Sin embargo, dentro de esta oscuridad resplandece la presencia permanente de Dios, quien protege Su plan divino a través de la huida de la Sagrada Familia a Egipto. Esta narración nos invita a ser protectores vigilantes de los vulnerables, reflejando el amor y la compasión de Dios en nuestro mundo actual.

Pregunta de reflexión:

¿Cómo podemos, en nuestras vidas hoy, proteger y defender activamente la dignidad de los más vulnerables?

DID YOU KNOW....

DECEMBER 28TH IS...

Notable for being the Feast of the Holy Innocents, also known as Childermas. This day commemorates the tragic massacre of young male children in Bethlehem, ordered by King Herod in his attempt to kill the newborn Jesus, whom he saw as a threat to his throne. This event is recorded in the Gospel of Matthew and reflects the ancient fulfillment of prophecy as these innocent children are seen as the first martyrs for Christ.

In medieval England, the Feast of the Holy Innocents was considered a day of mourning and misfortune. It was even said to be a day when no new undertakings should begin, as it carried a sense of bad luck. Historically, the Feast of the Holy Innocents served as a sobering reminder of the darkness that can engulf humanity, but it also highlighted the light of Christ that conquers all forms of evil. In many cultures, this day has inspired acts of charity, reflection on the sanctity of human life, and increased commitments to protecting those who are vulnerable.

How does reflecting on historical events like the massacre of the Holy Innocents inspire you to act with greater empathy and justice in today's world?

Source: *Truthly App*

WEEKLY CALENDAR, INTENTIONS, OBSERVATIONS & READINGS

MASS INTENTIONS INTENCIONES DE MISA

Sunday December 28

8:00 am

†Forrest & Regina Pettit

10:00 am

†Dean Richins

†Mike & Kathy Holguin

†Diane & Jessie Holguin

12:00 pm

Living & Deceased of St. Rita

Monday December 29

8:00 am

†Kalf & Jessie Garcia

†Vince & June Kellen

†Marty Hammond

Tuesday December 30

8:00 am

†Ted Golembiewski

Wednesday December 31

8:00 am - First Responders

Thursday January 1

10:00 am

†Francisco Sanchez Sandoval

†Alicia, Rebeca & Irma Sevilla
Nuño

Friday January 2

8:00 am

SI Joy Elizabeth Toussaint

Saturday January 3

8:00am

†Janet Poluga

5:00 pm

†John Ragucci

†Angelina Marco

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

Sunday, December 28

**The Holy Family of Jesus,
Mary & Joseph**

8:00 am - Mass (English)

10:00 am - Mass (English)

12:00 noon - Mass (Spanish)

Monday, December 29

**The Fifth Day in the Octave of
Christmas**

8:00 am Mass (English)

8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

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

Tuesday, December 30

**The Sixth Day in the Octave of
Christmas**

8:00 am Mass (English)

8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

Wednesday, December 31

**The Seventh Day in the Octave
of Christmas**

8:00 am - Mass (English)

8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

Thursday, January 1

**Holy Day of Obligation -
Solemnity of Mary, the Holy
Mother of God**

10:00 am - Mass (English)

Friday, January 2

**Saints Basil the Great and
Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops
and Doctors of the Church**

8:00 am Mass

8:30 am Eucharist Adoration

Saturday, January 3

Christmas Weekday
5:00 pm - Mass (English)

READINGS & OBSERVANCES

FIRST READING:

"Whoever honors his father atones for sins... and brings comfort to his mother." (Sir 3:3, 5)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

"Blessed are all who fear the Lord, and walk in his ways." (Ps 128:1)

SECOND READING:

"Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience." (Col 3:12)

GOSPEL:

"Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you." (Matthew 2:13)

Sunday, December 28

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 | Ps 128:1-5 | Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 | Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Monday, December 29

The Fifth Day in the Octave of Christmas

1 Jn 2:3-11 | Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6 | Lk 2:22-35

Tuesday, December 30

The Sixth Day in the Octave of Christmas

1 Jn 2:12-17 | Ps 96:7-10 | Lk 2:36-40

Wednesday, December 31

The Seventh Day in the Octave of Christmas

1 Jn 2:18-21 | Ps 96:1-2, 11-13 | Jn 1:1-18

Thursday, January 1

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Nm 6:22-27 | Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8 | Gal 4:4-7 | Lk 2:16-21

Friday, January 2

Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

1 Jn 2:22-28 | Ps 98:1-4 | Jn 1:19-28

Saturday, January 3

Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 2:29-3:6 | Ps 98:1, 3cd-6 | Jn 1:29-34

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. We would love to have you. Every **2nd Tuesday of the month** at **2pm** in the parish hall.

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 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 (915) 539-0985

EXTERNAL MINISTRIES



Knights of Columbus®

Lead with Faith.
Protect your Family.
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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 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) 501-1386

MARIAN BOOK CLUB

Every Thursday
4:30-6pm
Oscar Romero

All are welcome to join!



Congrats & Thanks to every member of our parish choir, narrators, & volunteers. The Manger's Miracle Concert was a beautiful success. May God Bless you all.

MEMORIAL SERVICE - TED GOLEMBIEWSKI

**December 30th
10am in St. Rita Shrine**

You may remember him as Santa Claus at the Children's Christmas Eve Mass, as a dedicated volunteer at the yearly Festivals, as a volunteer at the Thanksgiving and Christmas food collections, or as a faithful Eucharistic Minister. In whatever capacity you knew him, you are welcome to join us in celebrating the life of this remarkable man. Thank you.

Valerie Golembiewski & family



**THE SOCIETY OF
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

ADVENT FOOD DRIVE

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)

PRE-CANA MINISTRY

Catholic marriage & Natural Family Planning Classes

God is asking couples to increase their chance for a healthy, life-long marriage by receiving the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony in the Catholic Church!!

Your Parish Family wants you to have a forever marriage with God. The Pre-Cana ministry program will educate couples about Catholic Marriage & Natural Family Planning.

Classes in the Verhagen - 2026 schedule:

Catholic Marriage Classes - \$50/couple
Saturdays: Jan 24th & 31st, Feb 7th | 2-4:30pm
Wednesdays: Jan 28th, Feb 4th & 11th | 5-7:30pm

NFP Class - \$25/couple
Saturday, Feb 14 | 1-4:30pm

Classes will not be offered again until Nov 2026.
Email: pre-cana@stritainthedesert.org



**THE SOCIETY OF
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

Today is the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. We hear the words:

"The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him."

During this New Year may we also grow in wisdom and have the favor of God upon us by remembering to take care of our suffering brothers and sisters.

MEN'S GROUP

Join us as we begin a new 12 session series called ***The Sacrament of Charity***. Our study will discuss the Eucharist and Pope Benedict XVI's Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Sacramentum Caritatis*, The Sacrament of Charity.

January 12th in the Oscar Romero room
6pm to 7:30 pm.

If you need further information and are interested in attending, please email Jayme Kahle at: jkahle25@gmail.com

“Culture of Invitation” Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly



Knights of
Columbus®

JOIN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

FAITH • FAMILY • FRATERNITY • SERVICE

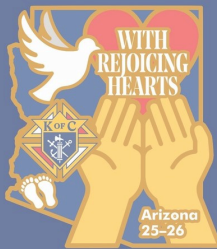
The Knights of Columbus is more than just a men's group.
We are a brotherhood of Catholic men committed to:

- 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**.

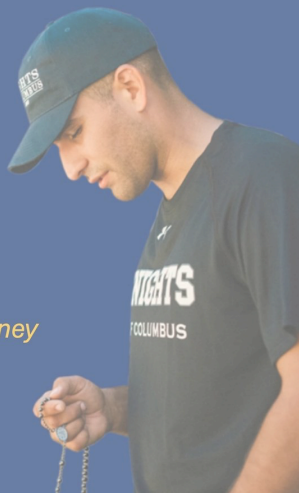
Become a Knight of Columbus!



Join us today!

www.kofc.org/join

Promo Code: **BlessedMcGivney**



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BASKETBALL FREE THROW

Jan 18th, 2026

After each of the mass

St Rita's Knights of Columbus
Basketball Free Throw Championship
Official Division: St. Rita's Qualifying Round for
young people ages 9-14, for District, State, Regional, &
National!

Open Division: All other athletes! All ages, does
not advance to District. Parish Bragging Rights Only!

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: gkcouncil14230@gmail.com.



Knights of
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ANNOUNCEMENTS



GIVEN

2026 CATHOLIC YOUNG WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Attend the GIVEN Forum
June 24-28, 2026 | Washington, DC

Receive a Mentor

1 year of dedicated, 1-on-1 mentorship

Launch an Action Plan

Discover and activate your gifts!

APPLY TODAY

[GIVENINSTITUTE.COM/LEADERSHIP-PROGRAM](https://giveninstitute.com/leadership-program)



RECEIVE THE GIFT THAT YOU ARE REALIZE THE GIFTS YOU'VE BEEN GIVEN RESPOND WITH THE GIFT ONLY YOU CAN GIVE

Catholic women (ages 21-35) are invited to...

APPLY TODAY!

giveninstitute.com/leadership-program

LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



GIVEN FORUM SPEAKERS



St. Andrew's Concert Series

Presents the return engagement of the noted European organist

Attila Ádám Honti



Sunday, January 4, 2026 at 2:00PM

St. Andrew the Apostle Church

800 Taylor Drive, Sierra Vista, AZ 85635

For more information please call (520) 226-5574

There is no charge to attend this concert. A freewill offering will be accepted.

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

SAINT SPOTLIGHT



KIDS CORNER



SAINT BASIL THE GREAT

Feast Day:
January 2nd

Who Was He?

Saint Basil the Great is known for helping people who work in hospitals and for anyone who does kind deeds for others. He loved helping the poor and sick very much!

What Did He Do?

Saint Basil was born a long time ago, around the year 330, in a place called Cappadocia, which is now in Turkey. He came from a big family that loved Jesus. Basil studied very hard in school and even traveled to learn more. He made a great friend named Gregory who also loved God. Basil decided he didn't just want to learn things; he wanted to live like Jesus, helping others. He started a community where people worked together, prayed, and helped the needy. As a leader in the church, he often spoke about how important it is to believe that Jesus is truly God. He also built hospitals and places to care for people who were sick or poor.

Why Is He Special?

Saint Basil didn't just talk about being good — he showed it by his actions! He wrote many books that help people understand God better, and he started things like hospitals to help those in need. Because of him, many people learned how to live together, pray, and share everything with each other.

Question to Ponder:

How can you show kindness to someone in need today, just like Saint Basil did?

SAINT BASIL THE GREAT

Feast Day:
January 2nd

Patronage:

Saint Basil the Great is the patron saint of hospital administrators and those who provide charitable works. His dedication to serving the poor and establishing institutions of care exemplifies his commitment to social justice and compassion.

Story:

Born around 330 AD in Caesarea, Cappadocia, St. Basil grew up in a family renowned for their Christian faith. He pursued an extensive education in Constantinople and Athens, where he formed a lifelong friendship with St. Gregory of Nazianzus. Basil initially practiced law and rhetoric but was profoundly affected by the monastic tradition he encountered. Inspired, he established a monastic community focused on communal living, prayer, and manual labor. As Bishop of Caesarea, Basil fervently defended the Nicene Creed against Arianism and was a prolific writer who helped shape Christian theology. His tireless efforts to organize charitable institutions, including hospitals and hospices, reflect his deep compassion and commitment to the marginalized.

Legacy:

St. Basil's influence extends far beyond his lifetime through his foundational contributions to monasticism and theology. His writings, particularly on the Holy Spirit and monastic discipline, remain significant in both Eastern and Western Christian traditions. His establishment of charitable works laid the groundwork for future Christian social services, showcasing his vision of faith in action.

Reflection Question:

How can St. Basil's example of combining faith, intellectual rigor, and compassionate service inspire us to address the needs in our community today?

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