

August 30, 2026



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

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 | Sábado

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:



22ND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

*"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself,
take up his cross, and follow me." (Matthew 16:24)*

*"El que quiera venir en pos de mí, que se niegue a sí
mismo, tome su cruz y me siga." (Mateo 16:24)*

Reflection:

In this Gospel passage, Jesus speaks openly about the suffering He will endure and the necessity for His followers to take up their own crosses. This call to discipleship requires us to embrace sacrifice and self-denial. To follow Jesus means to align our will with God's, seeking His kingdom above all else. When we carry our crosses, we participate in the redemptive work of Christ, finding true life in Him. This teaching challenges us to examine what we cling to in our lives and invites us to let go of anything that hinders our journey to holiness.

Socratic Question:

What are the crosses you are called to carry, and how can you embrace them as opportunities to grow closer to Jesus?

Reflexión:

En este pasaje del Evangelio, Jesús habla abiertamente sobre el sufrimiento que Él soportará y la necesidad de que Sus seguidores tomen sus propias cruces. Este llamado al discipulado nos exige abrazar el sacrificio y la abnegación. Seguir a Jesús significa alinear nuestra voluntad con la de Dios, buscando Su reino por encima de todo. Al cargar nuestras cruces, participamos en la obra redentora de Cristo, encontrando la verdadera vida en Él. Esta enseñanza nos desafía a examinar a qué nos aferramos en la vida y nos invita a soltar todo lo que impida nuestro camino hacia la santidad.

Pregunta socrática:

¿Cuáles son las cruces que estás llamado a cargar, y cómo puedes abrazarlas como oportunidades para acercarte más a Jesús?

Source: Truthly App

PARISH INFORMATION

MASS INTENTIONS INTENCIONES DE MISA

Saturday August 29

5:00 pm

†Lando Ahumada
SI George G. Jochum Family
SI Lazaro Hong

Sunday August 30

8:00 am

†John Zubel & Ed Solorzano
†Jeannie Shiflept

10:00 am

†Jack & Rachel Solorzano
SI Heather O'Donnell

12:00 pm

Living & Deceased of St. Rita

Monday August 31

8:00 am

†Stan & Mary Zubel
SI David Hong

Tuesday September 1

8:00 am

†Louisa & Joe Moreno & Family

Wednesday September 2

8:00 am

†Stan & Gail Zubel
SI Ian Hong

Thursday September 3

8:00 am

First Responders

Friday September 3

8:00 am

Men & Women in the Military

COLLECTIONS | COLECTA

August 23, 2026



Offertory: \$7,286.29
Rectory Debt: \$992.00
Campus Maint: \$429.60

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.

OFFICE OF THE PASTOR | OFICINA DE PASTOR

August 30, 2026

"May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our hearts, that we may know what is the hope that belongs to our call." (Ephesians 1:17-18)

Dear Parish Family and Friends,

Last week, we heard Peter's faithful response to Jesus. Today, his tone shifts. Although chosen for a unique role of leadership among the apostles, Peter still struggled to understand the deeper meaning of discipleship: it is not about control.

Jesus teaches us that true discipleship means laying down one's life and taking up one's cross. Peter struggled with this message. Do we sometimes struggle with it as well? Peter had faith, yet he tried to control the outcome—prompting Jesus to sharply rebuke him: **"Get behind me, Satan!"**

Jesus alone builds His Church; no human effort can replace Him. Yet each of us is called to participate in His work. Are we willing to make sacrifices to help foster a parish family that cares for one another, supports one another, and sets aside personal agendas for the good of all?

These questions challenged Peter and the apostles, and they continue to challenge us today. How will we live our faith and place our trust in Christ, knowing that He has called each of us by name and sent us forth on mission?

This past weekend, our Parish Leadership Team, ministry leaders, members, and parish volunteers took that call to heart during our parish renewal retreat, **Rooted in Mission: Living Our Core Values for the Parish of Today and Beyond**. Together, we reflected on our mission and the values that will help guide our parish forward. Through unceasing prayer, discernment, and active discipleship, we seek to build a stronger parish community centered on Christ. You will begin seeing reminders of these core values on flyers and posters throughout our parish campus as we work together to strengthen our parish family.

With God, all things are possible!

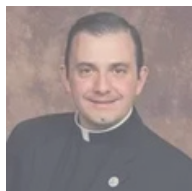
I also invite you to read my recent letter to our parish community regarding our meeting with Bishop Misko and the future of St. Rita in the Desert. The letter is available on the [*News & Events*](#) page of our parish website.

As we continue living our mission, I invite you to join us for our **Harvest Festival on October 23 and 24**. This year's refreshed format will bring together food, entertainment, fellowship, and autumn traditions in a welcoming celebration for our parish family and the wider Vail community.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Very Reverend Alonzo M. García, Dean



30 de agosto de 2026

"Que el Padre de nuestro Señor Jesucristo ilumine los ojos de nuestro corazón, para que comprendamos cuál es la esperanza a la que hemos sido llamados." (Efesios 1:17-18)

Querida familia parroquial y amigos:

El domingo pasado escuchamos la respuesta llena de fe de Pedro a Jesús. Hoy vemos un cambio en su actitud. Aunque fue elegido para desempeñar un papel especial de liderazgo entre los apóstoles, Pedro todavía tenía dificultad para comprender el significado más profundo del discipulado: no se trata de tener el control.

Jesús nos enseña que ser verdaderos discípulos significa entregar nuestra vida y tomar nuestra cruz. A Pedro le costó aceptar este mensaje. ¿A nosotros también nos cuesta? Pedro tenía fe, pero aun así trató de controlar lo que iba a suceder, lo que llevó a Jesús a reprenderlo con firmeza: **"¡Apártate de mí, Satanás!"**

Solo Jesús edifica su Iglesia; ningún esfuerzo humano puede ocupar su lugar. Sin embargo, cada uno de nosotros está llamado a participar en su obra. ¿Estamos dispuestos a hacer sacrificios para ayudar a formar una familia parroquial que se cuide y se apoye mutuamente, dejando a un lado nuestros intereses personales por el bien de todos?

Estas preguntas desafiaron a Pedro y a los apóstoles, y continúan desafiándonos hoy. ¿Cómo viviremos nuestra fe y pondremos nuestra confianza en Cristo, sabiendo que Él nos ha llamado a cada uno por nuestro nombre y nos ha enviado a cumplir una misión?

El fin de semana pasado, nuestro Equipo de Liderazgo Parroquial, junto con líderes y miembros de nuestros ministerios y voluntarios de la parroquia, respondieron a ese llamado durante nuestro retiro de renovación parroquial, **Arraigados en la Misión: Viviendo Nuestros Valores Fundamentales para la Parroquia de Hoy y del Futuro**. Juntos reflexionamos sobre nuestra misión y los valores que nos ayudarán a guiar a nuestra parroquia hacia el futuro. Por medio de la oración constante, el discernimiento y un discipulado activo, buscamos fortalecer una comunidad parroquial centrada en Cristo. Pronto comenzarán a ver recordatorios de estos valores fundamentales en volantes y carteles por todo nuestro campus parroquial mientras trabajamos juntos para fortalecer nuestra familia parroquial.

¡Con Dios, todo es posible!

También los invito a leer mi reciente carta dirigida a nuestra comunidad parroquial sobre nuestra reunión con el Obispo Misko y el futuro de St. Rita in the Desert. La carta está disponible en la página [*News & Events*](#) de nuestro sitio web parroquial.

Mientras continuamos viviendo nuestra misión, los invito a acompañarnos en nuestro **Festival de la Cosecha los días 23 y 24 de octubre**. Este año tendremos un formato renovado que reunirá comida, entretenimiento, convivencia y tradiciones de otoño en una celebración acogedora para nuestra familia parroquial y toda la comunidad de Vail.

¡Esperamos contar con su presencia!

READINGS & OBSERVANCES

FIRST READING:

"You duped me, O LORD,
and I let myself be duped."
(Jeremiah 20:7)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

"My soul is thirsting for
you, O Lord my God."
(Psalm 63:2b)

SECOND READING:

"Do not conform
yourselves to this age but
be transformed by the
renewal of your mind."
(Romans 12:2a)

GOSPEL:

"Whoever wishes to come
after me must deny
himself, take up his cross,
and follow me." (Matthew
16:24)

Sunday, August 30

Jer 20:7-9 | Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6,
8-9 | Rom 12:1-2 | Mt 16:21-27

Monday, August 31

1 Cor 2:1-5 | Ps 119:97, 98, 99,
100, 101, 102 | Lk 4:16-30

Tuesday, September 1

1 Cor 2:10b-16 | Ps 145:8-9,
10-11, 12-13ab, 13cd-14 | Lk
4:31-37

Wednesday, September 2

1 Cor 3:1-9 | Ps 33:12-13, 14-15,
20-21 | Lk 4:38-44

Thursday, September 3

1 Cor 3:18-23 | Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-
4ab, 5-6 | Lk 5:1-11

Friday, September 4

1 Cor 4:1-5 | Ps 37:3-4, 5-6, 27-
28, 39-40 | Lk 5:33-39

Saturday, August 29

1 Cor 4:6b-15 | Ps 145:17-18,
19-20, 21 | Lk 6:1-5

THIS WEEK

St. Rita's Guild

The Guild of St. Rita begins its
new fiscal year meetings,
Tuesday, August 25th, at 6pm in
the Mother Theresa Room. We
welcome all parishioners to this
vital ministry that supports many
Parish events and manages our
beautiful gift shop. Lend your
heart and hands to help our
amazing parish!

How Can You Help Colombia?

Those wishing to support relief
efforts in Colombia may donate
online through these
organizations:

Colombian Red Cross —
cruzrojacolombiana.org
**ABACO – Food Banks of
Colombia** —
bancodealimentos.org.co
World Central Kitchen — wck.org
Plan International Colombia —
plan.org.co
UNICEF Colombia —
donaciones.unicef.org.co

Welcome Team

Potluck: Sept 12th

Women of the Way Study Group

Wednesdays • 6 pm

Where: Oscar Romero Room
Questions? Email Jessica Floyd:
jbrink1130@gmail.com

Men's Prayer Group

Mondays • 6 pm

Where: Oscar Romero Room
Questions? Contact Jayme
Kahle at (520) 664-4467 or
jkahle25@gmail.com.

*For more announcements
please see our
FULL bulletin online.*



PARISH NEWS

Rectory Debt Payoff

As of Sunday, August 23, 2026

\$210,372

\$345,000
GOAL

149

500
FAMILY PLEDGED/DONATED GOAL

THE HARVEST JOURNAL

Behind Every Great Festival

Nobody notices the volunteer
putting out lanterns.

Or the person directing parking.

Or the family setting up tables
before sunrise.

Until they're gone.

The Harvest Festival succeeds
because ordinary people quietly
do extraordinary things.

This week, we'd simply like to
say...

Thank you.

And if you've been wondering
how you might help...

There's always room for one
more.

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



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

Today, we hear Jesus say to us,

*"For whoever wishes to save his
life will lose it, but whoever loses
his life for my sake will find it."*

The challenge is to let go so God
can lead us. Your gifts to the
Society of St. Vincent de Paul
enable the poor and the needy to
experience Jesus' presence.

GOSPEL MEDITATION

MATTHEW 16:21-27

In this Gospel passage, Jesus begins to reveal to His disciples the path of suffering He must walk. This marks a turning point in His mission, highlighting the cost of true discipleship. Jesus challenges His followers to take up their crosses and follow Him, reminding us that the way of the cross is the path to true life and freedom. By willingly embracing sacrifice and self-denial, we align ourselves with Christ's redeeming love. This Gospel invites us to consider our willingness to let go of worldly attachments and trust fully in God's plan, understanding that true life is found not in holding on, but in letting go and embracing our crosses.

Socratic Reflection:

What might you need to let go of in your life to truly follow Jesus and take up your cross

MATEO 16:21-27

En este pasaje del Evangelio, Jesús comienza a revelar a Sus discípulos el camino de sufrimiento que debe transitar. Esto marca un punto de inflexión en Su misión, destacando el costo del verdadero discipulado. Jesús desafía a Sus seguidores a tomar sus cruces y seguirlo, recordándonos que el camino de la cruz es el camino hacia la verdadera vida y libertad. Al abrazar voluntariamente el sacrificio y la abnegación, nos alineamos con el amor redentor de Cristo. Este Evangelio nos invita a considerar nuestra disposición a soltar los apegos mundanos y confiar plenamente en el plan de Dios, entendiendo que la verdadera vida se encuentra no en aferrarse, sino en soltar y abrazar nuestras cruces.

Pregunta Socrática:

¿Qué necesitas soltar en tu vida para seguir verdaderamente a Jesús y tomar tu cruz?

DID YOU KNOW...

22ND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

On August 30, 1992, Thurgood Marshall, the first African American U.S. Supreme Court Justice, received the Presidential Medal of Freedom posthumously from President George H. W. Bush. Thurgood Marshall's remarkable career was marked by his relentless dedication to justice and equality. As a lawyer, he famously won the *Brown v. Board of Education* case in 1954, which declared racial segregation in public schools unconstitutional. His work laid a foundation for the civil rights movement in the United States and significantly contributed to the advancement of racial equality.

Reflecting on Marshall's legacy, consider how one person's commitment to justice and equality can influence society positively. How can you be a force for positive change in promoting justice in your own community?

via truthly app

SAINT SPOTLIGHT



ST. GREGORY THE GREAT

Feast Day: September 3rd

Patronage: St. Gregory the Great is the patron saint of musicians, singers, students, and teachers.

Story: St. Gregory was born around 540 AD into a wealthy Roman family. Originally pursuing a career in public service, he became the Prefect of Rome, but he soon felt called to a spiritual life and turned his family home into a monastery. In 590 AD, he was elected Pope, despite his initial reluctance to take on the role.

As Pope, Gregory was instrumental in reforming the liturgy and Church administration. He took great pains in caring for the poor and reorganizing Church assets to provide better for their needs. St. Gregory is well-known for his extensive writings, which include "The Pastoral Rule," a guide for bishops that remains influential. He also encouraged the Gregorian Mission to convert Anglo-Saxons to Christianity, which had a lasting impact on England's Christian heritage.

Legacy: St. Gregory is regarded as one of the four great Doctors of the Latin Church, along with St. Ambrose, St. Augustine, and St. Jerome. His reforms in Church music led to what is now known as Gregorian Chant. Gregory's dedication to pastoral care, liturgical reform, and evangelization significantly shaped the Church's mission and its approach to governance and worship. His teachings and contributions continue to inspire clergy and laypeople alike in the ongoing call to holiness and service.

Reflection Question: How can St. Gregory's commitment to reform, service, and spiritual leadership inspire you to pursue the betterment of your community and deepen your relationship with God?

KIDS CORNER



Feast Day: September 3rd

Who was St. Gregory the Great?

St. Gregory the Great is a special saint for singers, musicians, students, and teachers.

His Story:

St. Gregory was born a long time ago, around 540 AD, in a wealthy family in Rome. When he was young, he worked for the government and became a very important leader in the city. But Gregory wanted to live a life close to God, so he turned his family's big home into a place where monks could live and pray together.

Later on, even though he didn't want to be in charge, Gregory was chosen to be the Pope, which means he was the leader of all the Catholics around the world. As Pope, he changed how the Church sang songs during Mass and made sure the Church took good care of the poor. Gregory also sent missionaries to England to teach people about Jesus.

His Legacy:

St. Gregory is known for creating Gregorian Chant, a special kind of Church music that people still sing today. He wrote many important books that helped priests take care of people in their churches. Gregory's hard work and love for God helped many people learn about Jesus and live better lives.

Question to Think About:

How can you follow St. Gregory's example by helping others and sharing God's love in your own school or neighborhood?

Source: *Truthly App*



Knights of Columbus®

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: **September 5-6 & 19-20**

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!

CONGRATULATIONS, KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 14230!

St. Rita's **Knights of Columbus Council 14230** has earned the **Star Council Award**, the Knights of Columbus' top international recognition for local councils. The award recognizes excellence in membership, faith formation, fraternal benefits, and charitable service.

Over the past year, our Knights raised **more than \$15,000** in support of local youth, mothers and families, seminarians, and other charitable programs.

Interested in joining the Knights?

Contact Antonio Mejia at

tiger8@icloud.com or

Grand Knight Gary Criscione at

garycriscione52@gmail.com.

ALUMINUM CAN RECYCLING

Recycle your aluminum cans in the collection barrels next to the St. Vincent de Paul donation shed.

Please remember:

- Aluminum cans only (no glass, paper, steel cans, or trash)
- Place cans in securely tied bags
- No clothing donations—please take clothing to the Vail Resources Thrift Store across the street

Need help?

Ask a Knight wearing a maroon council shirt.

HOCKEY FUNDRAISER

Support the charitable works of the Knights of Columbus by purchasing tickets to the **Tucson Roadrunners** hockey game on **Saturday, October 3, at 7:00 PM** in the **Tucson Arena**.

Tickets are \$26 each and will be available **after all Masses through late September**. Cash, checks, and credit cards are accepted.

Questions? Contact Gary Criscione: (251) 689-6485 or garycriscione52@gmail.com.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

YOUR GENEROSITY IS ALREADY AT WORK

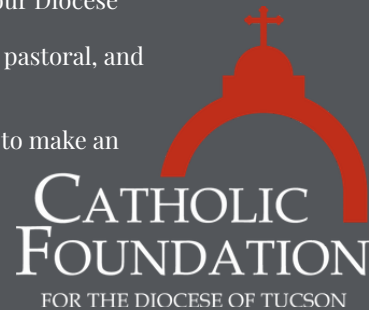
Funds received through the 2026 Annual Catholic Appeal are already being allocated to serve people, parishes, and ministries throughout Southern Arizona.

- \$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



PILGRIM VIRGIN HOME VISITS VISITA DE LA VIRGEN PEREGRINA

Our Blessed Mother wishes to visit your home! The Legion of Mary invites families to welcome the Pilgrim Virgin into their homes for prayer and devotion.

To schedule a visit, complete a contact card and place it in the "Pilgrim Virgin Home Visits / Visita de la Virgen a los Hogares" box located on the table at the church entrance. A Legion of Mary member will contact you.

¡Nuestra Santísima Madre desea visitar su hogar! La Legión de María invita a las familias a recibir a la Virgen Peregrina en sus hogares para un tiempo de oración y devoción.

Para programar una visita, complete una tarjeta de contacto y deposítela en la caja de "Visita de la Virgen a los Hogares" ubicada en la entrada de la iglesia. Un miembro de la Legión de María se comunicará con usted.

Name | Nombre: _____

Telephone | Telefono: _____



GRUPO DE MUJERES DE FE

¡Te invitamos a caminar juntas en la fe!

El Grupo Mujeres de Fe de la Parroquia Santa Rita del Desierto invita a todas las mujeres a participar de nuestras reuniones, un espacio para acercarnos más a Dios, escuchar su

Reuniones: segundo y cuarto jueves de cada mes

Palabra, oración y canto de nuestra fe.

6:00 p. m. a las 8:00 p. m.

¡MUJERES DE FE EN EL ESPÍRITU SANTO!

Invita a una amiga y comparte con nosotras!

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 |
secretary@stritainthedesert.org

PARISH FESTIVAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARE YOUR TALENT AT THE HARVEST FESTIVAL!

Calling all singers, musicians, dancers, cultural groups, and other family-friendly performers! Parishioners of all ages are invited to share their talents on the Harvest Festival Main Stage

October 23-24.

Interested in performing?

Contact Sarah:
liturgycommittee@stritainthedesert.org

Performance requests due September 23.

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!

Awards include

- Most Creative
- Best Saint
- Best Biblical Character
- Best Family/Group
- Best Homemade Costume

More contest details coming soon!

CHALKBOARD ARTIST NEEDED!

The Vineyard Retreat team is looking for a creative parishioner with chalkboard lettering/art skills to help design our menu board for the Harvest Festival.

Interested in sharing your talent?

Contact the St. Rita Guild:
guild@stritainthedesert.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

You don't have to walk through grief alone. Join Arista Healthcare's **Grief Support Group** on the **first Thursday of every month at 10:00 AM at 1636 N. Swan Rd., Suite 250, Tucson.** Open to anyone experiencing grief before, during, or after hospice care—you do not need to be an Arista patient or family member to attend.

Questions? Call (520) 333-0333.
www.aristahealthaz.com

STROKE SCAN SCREENING

Stroke Scan Plus will be at St. Rita in the Desert on **Saturday, September 12**, offering affordable vascular and organ ultrasound screenings. Early detection can help identify risk factors before symptoms appear.

Appointments are required. Call (832) 437-7355 to schedule your screening.

helpourmarriage.org
RETROUVAILLE®
A LIFELINE FOR MARRIED COUPLES
No Marriage is BEYOND HOPE!
Try A RETROUVAILLE Weekend
Upcoming Weekend Tucson, AZ
September 11-13, 2026
Confidential Inquires:
520-762-4449
4003r@helpourmarriage.org
R.O.S.A. ~ Retrouvaille of Southern Arizona



Rachel's Vineyard Retreat (Tucson) **September 4-6, 2026**

If the emotional and spiritual wounds of a past abortion have left you feeling isolated or strained in your faith, you do not have to carry that burden alone.

Sign up now for a confidential, supportive retreat open to men and women. Discover hope, healing, and renewal. Visit www.rachelsvineyardtucson.org.

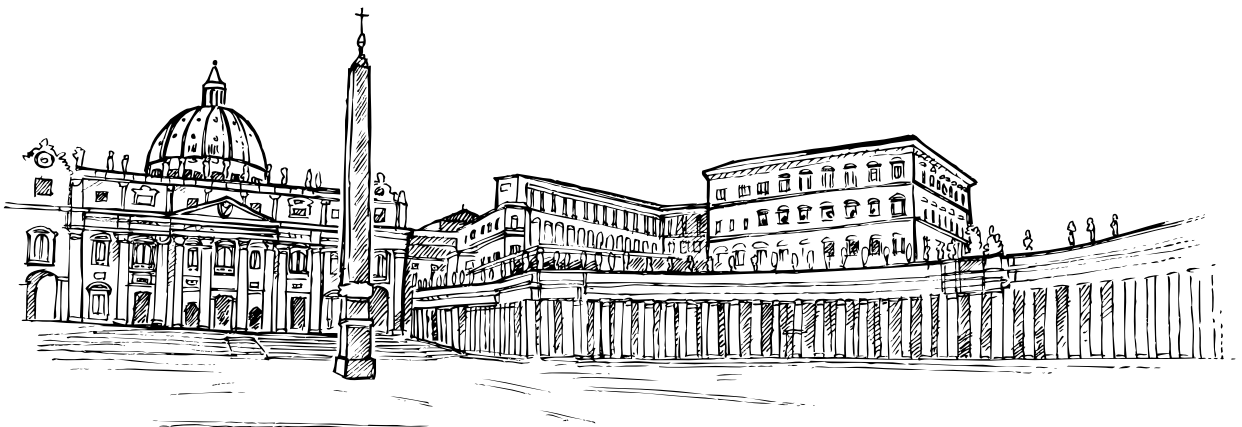
Call/Text: 520-743-6777.

FAMILY TREE HEALING MASS

Join the Family Tree Healing Mass on
Thursday, September 10, at 6:30 PM
St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Catholic Church
(801 N. Grande Ave., Tucson).

Experience praise and worship, healing prayers, and prayer for generational healing through the power of Jesus Christ, led by Fr. Bala Kommathoti.

Invite your family and friends! For more information and to download the optional genogram, visit www.TucsonCCR.org.



SAINTS THIS MONTH

August 1

- [St. Alphonsus Liguori](#)
- [The Holy Maccabees \(OT\)](#)

August 2

- [St. Eusebius of Vercelli](#)
- [St. Peter Julian Eymard](#)

August 3

- [St. Lydia of Philippi](#)

August 4

- [Saint John Vianney](#)

August 5

- [Saint Mary Major](#)
- [St. Oswald of Northumbria](#)

August 6

- [Pope St. Hormisdas](#)

The [Transfiguration of the Lord](#) is also observed on August 6.

August 7

- [Pope St. Sixtus II and companions](#)
- [St. Cajetan](#)
- [St. Donatus of Arezzo](#)
- [St. Albert of Trapani](#)

August 8

- [St. Dominic de Guzman of Osma](#)

August 9

- [St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross](#)
- [St. Romanus of Rome](#)

August 10

- [St. Lawrence the Deacon](#)

August 11

- [Saint Clare of Assisi](#)
- [St. Tiburtius](#)
- [St. Susanna of Rome](#)

August 12

- [St. Jane Frances de Chantal](#)

August 13

- [Sts. Pontian and Hippolytus](#)
- [St. Cassian](#)

August 14

- [St. Maximilian Kolbe](#)
- [St. Eusebius of Rome](#)

August 15

- [St. Tarcisius](#)

August 15 is also the Solemnity of the [Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary](#).

August 16

- [St. Stephen of Hungary](#)
- [St. Roch](#)

August 17

- [St. Hyacinth of Poland](#)
- [St. Clare of Montefalco](#)

August 18

- [St. Helena](#)
- [St. Agapitus of Palestrina](#)

August 19

- [St. John Eudes, priest](#)
- [St. Magnus of Anagni](#)

August 20

- [St. Bernard of Clairvaux](#)
- [Samuel the Prophet \(OT\)](#)

August 21

- [Pope St. Pius X](#)

August 22

- [Sts. Timothy, Hippolytus, and Symphorian](#)

August 23

- [St. Rose of Lima](#)

August 24

- [St. Bartholomew, Apostle](#)
- [St. Emily de Vialar](#)

August 25

- [St. Louis of France](#)
- [St. Joseph Calasanaz](#)

August 26

- [Pope St. Zephyrinus](#)
- [St. Alexander of Bergamo](#)
- [The Priest Melchizedek \(OT\)](#)

August 27

- [St. Monica](#)

August 28

- [St. Augustine of Hippo](#)

August 29

- [Passion of St. John the Baptist](#)
- [St. Sabina of Rome](#)

August 30

- [St. Pammachius](#)
- [Sts. Felix and Adauctus](#)

August 31

- [St. Raymond Nonnatus](#)
- [St. Nicodemus](#)
- [St. Joseph of Arimathea](#) – or March 17

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
- Anointing
 - 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 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 IN THE DESERT



**ST. RITA
IN THE DESERT**
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

August 22, 2026

Dear Parishioners of St. Rita in the Desert,

On August 20th, we had the privilege of meeting with Bishop James Misko and his leadership team to discuss the future of St. Rita in the Desert and our vision for a new permanent church. The meeting was very positive. Bishop Misko recognizes the growth of our parish and agrees that St. Rita needs a new church to serve our community now and into the future. He was also very complimentary on the work of our Building Committee and the extensive effort that has gone into developing our plans.

The bishop did, however, have concerns of our vision versus capability and challenged us with an important question: Can we demonstrate that St. Rita has the parishioner base and financial strength necessary to successfully undertake and sustain a project of this magnitude? A challenge we must embrace before moving further.

Our path forward will require us to strengthen three main areas:

- **Grow our registered parish community.** We need to ensure that the families who worship with us are formally registered and that our parish records accurately reflect the community we serve.
- **Strengthen stewardship and weekly offertory.** Our ability to build a new church will ultimately depend upon our ability as a parish to financially support the project.
- **Address our immediate worship-space needs.** Until a new church can be built, we need to explore additional Mass opportunities and other practical ways to safely accommodate our growing community.

These are not obstacles to our vision; they are the steps necessary to demonstrate that St. Rita is ready. Over the coming months, the parish leadership team and I will be working to fully understand the size and participation of our parish, strengthen our stewardship, and evaluate opportunities to expand Mass availability. As we establish a stronger foundation, we will be better positioned to move forward with a feasibility study the bishop has stated he will support.

This is an important moment for St. Rita. The door is open and the need has been recognized. Now it's time to demonstrate we are ready to walk through it together. Every registered family, every Mass attended, every hour volunteered, and every gift given helps demonstrate the strength and commitment of our parish community.

I ask each of you to pray about your role in this next chapter of St. Rita in the Desert. Our goal is not simply to build a larger building. It is to create a permanent spiritual home capable of serving our growing Catholic community for generations to come.

Sincerely in Christ,

Very Reverend Alonzo M. Garcia, Dean
Pastor





ST. RITA IN THE DESERT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

22 de agosto de 2026

Estimados feligreses de Santa Rita en el Desierto,

El 20 de agosto, tuvimos el privilegio de reunirnos con el obispo James Misko y su equipo directivo para hablar sobre el futuro de Santa Rita en el Desierto y nuestra visión de una nueva iglesia permanente. La reunión fue muy positiva. El obispo Misko reconoce el crecimiento de nuestra parroquia y coincide en que Santa Rita necesita una nueva iglesia para servir a nuestra comunidad ahora y en el futuro. También fue muy elogioso con el trabajo de nuestro Comité de Construcción y el esfuerzo extenso que se ha realizado en el desarrollo de nuestros planes.

Sin embargo, el obispo tenía dudas sobre nuestra visión frente a nuestra capacidad y nos desafió con una pregunta importante: ¿Podemos demostrar que Santa Rita cuenta con la base de feligreses y la fortaleza financiera necesarias para emprender y mantener con éxito un proyecto de esta magnitud? Un desafío que debemos aceptar antes de avanzar.

Nuestro camino a seguir requerirá fortalecer tres áreas principales:

- **Hacer crecer nuestra comunidad parroquial registrada.** Debemos asegurarnos de que las familias que adoran con nosotros estén formalmente registradas y que nuestros registros parroquiales reflejen con precisión la comunidad a la que servimos.
- **Fortalecer la gestión y la oferta semanal.** Nuestra capacidad para construir una nueva iglesia dependerá, en última instancia, de nuestra capacidad como parroquia para apoyar económicamente el proyecto.
- **Atender nuestras necesidades inmediatas de espacio de culto.** Hasta que se pueda construir una nueva iglesia, necesitamos explorar oportunidades adicionales para la Misa y otras formas prácticas de acomodar de forma segura a nuestra creciente comunidad.

Estos no son obstáculos para nuestra visión; son los pasos necesarios para demostrar que Santa Rita está preparada. En los próximos meses, el equipo directivo de la parroquia y yo trabajaremos para comprender plenamente el tamaño y la participación de nuestra parroquia, fortalecer nuestra gestión y evaluar oportunidades para ampliar la disponibilidad de misas. A medida que establezcamos una base más sólida, estaremos mejor posicionados para avanzar con un estudio de viabilidad que el obispo ha declarado apoyar.

Este es un momento importante para Santa Rita. La puerta está abierta y la necesidad ha sido reconocida. Ahora es el momento de demostrar que estamos preparados para atravesarlo juntos. Cada familia registrada, cada misa asistida, cada hora voluntaria y cada donación otorgada ayuda a demostrar la fortaleza y el compromiso de nuestra comunidad parroquial.

Pido a cada uno de nosotros que oren sobre nuestro papel en este próximo capítulo de Santa Rita en el Desierto. Nuestro objetivo no es simplemente construir un edificio más grande. Es crear un hogar espiritual permanente capaz de servir a nuestra creciente comunidad católica para las generaciones venideras.

Sinceramente en Cristo,

Muy Reverendo Alonzo M. García, Decano
Pastor





Build Something They'll Remember

Choose One Experience. Make a Difference.

Our Harvest Festival is returning with a new vision—and a new way of serving.

We've listened to the feedback from past festivals. Instead of asking a few volunteers to carry the entire festival, we're inviting many parishioners to help create **one unforgettable experience**.

Choose One Experience. Join One Team. Help Build Something They'll Remember.

Children's Village - Confirmation

Magical fun for our youngest guests.

- Games
- Pumpkin Patch
- Prizes
- Family Activities

Hospitality - Welcome Team

Welcome every guest with a smile.

- Information
- Guest Welcome
- Volunteer Check-In
- Floater

Creative Corner - Confirmation

Hands-on fun for all ages.

- Face Painting
- Hair Tinsel
- Henna
- Crafts

Harvest Market - Altar Society

Support our vendors and artisans.

- Vendor Check-In
- Hospitality
- Market Support

Vineyard Retreat - Guild

Create a relaxing gathering space.

- Hospitality
- Décor
- Guest Experience

Harvest Beer Garden - Knights

Help serve our adult guests.

- Hospitality
- Entry
- Setup
- Cleanup

Main Stage - Liturgical Ministry

Keep the entertainment running smoothly.

- Performer Hospitality
- Stage Crew
- Seating
- Setup

Glow Garden - Marian Garden Chair

Help create the festival's evening magic.

- Lighting & Décor
- Lanterns
- Guest Experience

Logistics & Setup - Facilities

The team behind the scenes.

- Tents
- Tables & Chairs
- Signage
- Site Setup/Teardown
- Cleanup

There Is a Place for You.

Whether you have an hour, a weekend, or a special talent to share, we'd love to welcome you to the Harvest Festival Team.

Help us build something our parish—and our community—will remember.

One Experience. One Team. One Amazing Festival.

Click [HERE](#) to Learn
More About the Harvest
Festival Team



See the Vision

Each experience is planned and led by its own dedicated volunteer team.



 Children's Village
Creative Corner

 Main Stage
Entry | Hospitality

 Harvest Market
Glow Garden

 Vineyard Retreat
Beer Garden

Your Parish. Reimagined.

Imagine helping bring this vision to life.