

November 30, 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*

*12:00 pm—1:00 pm*  
*daily*

### 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*"Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on  
which day your Lord will come." (Matthew 24:42)*

*"¡Manténganse despiertos! Porque no saben en  
qué día vendrá su Señor." — Mateo 24:42*

#### Reflection:

As we enter the season of Advent, we are reminded of the importance of spiritual vigilance. Advent is not just a time of preparation for celebrating the first coming of Christ at Christmas, but also a reminder to prepare our hearts for His second coming. Jesus calls us to stay awake, to live in a state of readiness, embracing the present moment and living out our faith with purpose and conviction. This Advent, let us invite Christ into our daily lives with expectation and hope, actively seeking His presence in prayer, service, and acts of love.

#### Socratic Question:

As we enter the season of Advent, we are reminded of the importance of spiritual vigilance. Advent is not just a time of preparation for celebrating the first coming of Christ at Christmas, but also a reminder to prepare our hearts for His second coming. Jesus calls us to stay awake, to live in a state of readiness, embracing the present moment and living out our faith with purpose and conviction. This Advent, let us invite Christ into our daily lives with expectation and hope, actively seeking His presence in prayer, service, and acts of love.

#### Reflexión:

Al comenzar la temporada de Adviento, se nos recuerda la importancia de la vigilancia espiritual. El Adviento no es solo una preparación para celebrar la primera venida de Cristo en Navidad, sino también un recordatorio para preparar nuestros corazones para Su segunda venida. Jesús nos llama a mantenernos despiertos, a vivir en un estado de preparación, abrazando el momento presente y viviendo nuestra fe con propósito y convicción. Este Adviento, invitemos a Cristo a nuestras vidas diarias con expectativa y esperanza, buscando activamente Su presencia en la oración, el servicio y actos de amor.

#### Pregunta socrática:

Al comenzar la temporada de Adviento, se nos recuerda la importancia de la vigilancia espiritual. El Adviento no es solo una preparación para celebrar la primera venida de Cristo en Navidad, sino también un recordatorio para preparar nuestros corazones para Su segunda venida. Jesús nos llama a mantenernos despiertos, a vivir en un estado de preparación, abrazando el momento presente y viviendo nuestra fe con propósito y convicción. Este Adviento, invitemos a Cristo a nuestras vidas diarias con expectativa y esperanza, buscando activamente Su presencia en la oración, el servicio y actos de amor.

Source: *Truthly App*

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

## PARISH INFORMATION

### COLLECTIONS | COLECTA



November 23, 2025

Offertory: \$7,221.51  
Rectory Debt: \$2,772.00

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

Chris Metzger

**Secretary:**  
secretary@stritainthedesert.org

Veronica Garcia

**Business Manager:**  
businessmgr@stritainthedesert.org

Louise Azzopardi

**Facilities Manager:**  
rob@stritainthedesert.org

Rob King

**Maintenance:**

Bill Cline

### BULLETIN DEADLINE

Email bulletin request(s) to:  
bulletin@stritainthedesert.org  
By **10am** on the **Wednesday** before the Sunday  
you want it published.

### HOMEBOUND EUCHARIST

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

### EMERGENCY ANOINTING OF THE SICK

520-543-8415

### MASS INTENTIONS AVAILABLE

In accordance with Canon 948, if any faithful would like the Mass to be offered for their individual intention only, please make your request at the Parish Office.

### ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

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

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

Carolyn Reynolds

**Music Ministry:**  
music@stritainthedesert.org

Nancy Campman Crofts

**OCIA Coordinator:**  
ocia@stritainthedesert.org

Michelle Quinn Crowley

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bulletin@stritainthedesert.org

Kathy Lockard

**Compliance:**  
compliance@stritainthedesert.org

Mary Morgan

**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
- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month at 2:30-3:30pm in the John XXIII for 1hr



#### ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Every 1<sup>st</sup> Friday at 8am Mass

#### BAPTISMS

Visit [stritainthedesert.org](http://stritainthedesert.org)  
LITURGY/SACRAMENTS and  
complete the *Intent to Baptize*  
Form



#### CONFIRMATION

Contact Youth Minister or OCIA  
director

#### MARRIAGE

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

## OFFICE OF THE PASTOR

November 30, 2025

“Show us Lord, your love; and grant us your salvation.” (Psalm 85:8)

Dear Parish Family and Friends,

Happy New Year, everyone! Yes, this seems out of step with our usual New Year's celebrations, but it marks the beginning of our new liturgical year in Holy Mother Church. As we enter the Season of Advent, we enter a time of expectation and hope. While Advent is a penitential season, we reflect on the second coming of Jesus Christ in the here and now.

Our scriptures for the First Sunday of Advent remind us of the importance of remaining awake and alert. These themes are not new to the ancient world or to us in the post-modern era. The challenge we face is discerning what is right and good. There are so many voices clamoring for the attention of our politicians, teachers, and, sadly, our children that confusion is spreading to a bewildered world. It is Christ who is the light of the world, and He has come to scatter the darkness of our minds and hearts. In doing so, Jesus gently reminds us not to wait until the last minute when time has run out.

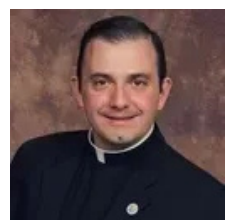
As we enter this Advent Season, we genuinely need to seek the light of truth, which is not us, our government, or the establishment. It is time for us to raise our hearts and minds to a more elevated sense of purpose. Jesus, who is the light of our lives, did not come into the world to make us slaves to our disordered nature. As we begin this penitential journey of faith, we are encouraged to stay awake and invite our Lord into our lives, homes, and families. Indeed, our world does need more light, love, and peace. May we be such agents authentically to become that light through the aid of Jesus Christ and His Holy Spirit! God be praised now and always!

Lastly, we will be working on some critical projects around our beautiful campus. We will be seeking bids to chip and seal the east parking lot. We hope to preserve what we have to avoid erosion and deterioration. Another project that has been in the works for a year is to get a bid on the north parking lot in front of the Shrine. As you know, the parking lot is dangerous for cars coming onto the property due to the bottleneck. We want a bid that addresses that and adds some parking spaces, making it safer and easier to get in and out of the parking lot. The good news is we planned for this and added this project to this year's budget. We are thankful to all of our generous family members who support us, and we cannot thank you enough for your kind support of your parish. Remember, with God, all things are possible! St. Rita of Cascia, pray for us!

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Reverend Alonzo M. García, Pastor





## OFFICE OF THE PASTOR ~ OFICINA DE PASTOR

30 de noviembre de 2025

***“Muéstranos, Señor, tu amor y concédenos tu salvación.” (Salmo 85,8)***

Querida familia parroquial y amigos,

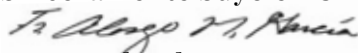
¡Feliz Año Nuevo a todos! Sí, suena un poco fuera de lugar con nuestras celebraciones habituales de Año Nuevo, pero este día marca el inicio de un nuevo año litúrgico en la Santa Madre Iglesia. Al entrar en el tiempo de Adviento, entramos en una etapa de espera y esperanza. Aunque Adviento es un tiempo penitencial, también reflexionamos sobre la segunda venida de Jesucristo en el aquí y el ahora.

Las lecturas de este Primer Domingo de Adviento nos recuerdan la importancia de mantenernos despiertos y atentos. Estos temas no eran nuevos para el mundo antiguo, ni lo son para nosotros en la era posmoderna. El reto que enfrentamos es discernir lo que es correcto y lo que es bueno. Hay tantas voces pidiendo la atención de nuestros políticos, maestros y, tristemente, de nuestros niños, que la confusión se ha extendido por un mundo ya desconcertado. Cristo es la luz del mundo y ha venido a disipar la oscuridad de nuestra mente y de nuestro corazón. Y al hacerlo, Jesús nos recuerda suavemente que no debemos esperar hasta el último minuto, cuando ya sea demasiado tarde.

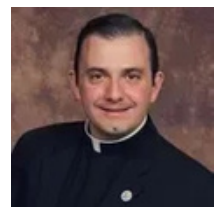
Al comenzar este tiempo de Adviento, necesitamos buscar sinceramente la luz de la verdad, que no somos nosotros, ni nuestro gobierno, ni las instituciones. Es momento de elevar nuestra mente y nuestro corazón hacia un propósito más alto. Jesús, que es la luz de nuestras vidas, no vino al mundo para hacernos esclavos de nuestra naturaleza desordenada. Al iniciar este camino penitencial de fe, se nos invita a mantenernos despiertos y a abrirle la puerta a nuestro Señor en nuestra vida, en nuestro hogar y en nuestra familia. Nuestro mundo, sin duda, necesita más luz, amor y paz. ¡Que podamos ser instrumentos auténticos para reflejar esa luz con la ayuda de Jesucristo y su Espíritu Santo! ¡Dios sea alabado ahora y siempre!

Por último, estaremos trabajando en algunos proyectos importantes en nuestro hermoso campus. Solicitaremos presupuestos para reparar y sellar el estacionamiento del lado este. Queremos preservar lo que tenemos para evitar la erosión y el deterioro. Otro proyecto que lleva un año en proceso es conseguir un presupuesto para el estacionamiento norte, frente al Santuario. Como saben, la entrada es peligrosa para los autos que ingresan a la propiedad debido al embudo que se forma. Buscamos una propuesta que atienda ese problema e incluya algunos lugares adicionales para estacionarse, lo que lo haga más seguro y más fácil de entrar y salir. La buena noticia es que ya teníamos planeado este proyecto y que está incluido en el presupuesto de este año. Estamos muy agradecidos con todas las familias generosas que nos apoyan y no tenemos palabras para agradecerles su bondad hacia su parroquia. Recuerden: ¡con Dios, todo es posible! ¡Santa Rita de Cascia, ruega por nosotros!

Sinceramente Suyos en Cristo,



Reverendo Alonzo M. García, Pastor





### IN THE GOSPEL PASSAGE...

As we reflect on Matthew 24:37-44, Jesus calls us to a heightened awareness of His presence and an anticipation of His coming. In today's world, it is easy to become distracted by the busyness of life, but Jesus invites us to step back and focus on what truly matters. Advent is a season of hope and renewal; a time to prepare our hearts for the joy of encountering Christ anew.

The Gospel challenges us to live each day with intentionality, recognizing the sacredness of ordinary moments. Just as in the days of Noah, where people were caught off guard, we too can become complacent. Jesus urges us to stay vigilant, to be ready not only for His eventual return in glory but also for the countless ways He visits us daily.

Consider this invitation to vigilance as an opportunity to deepen your prayer life, to serve others with love, and to seek God's presence in the silence of your heart. Let us live with expectant faith, knowing that our Lord's arrival is not something to fear but a promise to embrace with joy and readiness.

### DID YOU KNOW....

### IN THE GOSPEL PASSAGE...

The Meaning of "Advent": The word "Advent" comes from the Latin "adventus," meaning "coming" or "arrival." This season is focused on the dual themes of remembrance and anticipation—looking back to the first coming of Christ at His birth and looking forward to His second coming at the end of time.

Source: *Truthly App*

### EN ESTE PASAJE DEL EVANGELIO,

Al reflexionar sobre Mateo 24:37-44, Jesús nos llama a una mayor conciencia de Su presencia y anticipación de Su venida. En el mundo de hoy, es fácil distraerse con las ocupaciones de la vida, pero Jesús nos invita a dar un paso atrás y enfocarnos en lo que realmente importa. El Adviento es una temporada de esperanza y renovación; un momento para preparar nuestros corazones para la alegría de encontrar a Cristo de nuevo.

El Evangelio nos desafía a vivir cada día con intencionalidad, reconociendo la sacralidad de los momentos cotidianos. Así como en los días de Noé, donde la gente fue sorprendida, nosotros también podemos volvernos complacientes. Jesús nos insta a permanecer vigilantes, a estar preparados no solo para Su eventual regreso en gloria, sino también para las innumerables maneras en que nos visita diariamente.

Considera esta invitación a la vigilancia como una oportunidad para profundizar tu vida de oración, para servir a los demás con amor y para buscar la presencia de Dios en el silencio de tu corazón. Vivamos con fe expectante, sabiendo que la llegada de nuestro Señor no es algo que debemos temer, sino una promesa que debemos abrazar con alegría y disposición.



# CHURCH TRIVIA

## TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Celebrate the Season of Preparation! Test your Advent knowledge and learn interesting facts about how we can all contribute to a reverent and welcoming atmosphere during Mass. See how many you can get right!

**1. What is Advent?**

- A) A time for decorating Christmas trees
- B) A period of joyful anticipation and preparation for Christmas
- C) A season of watching holiday movies

**2. How many Sundays are there in the Advent season?**

- A) Two
- B) Three
- C) Four

**3. What is the primary color used in the Church during Advent?**

- A) Green
- B) Purple
- C) Red

**4. What does the Advent wreath symbolize?**

- A) The beauty of nature
- B) The eternal life offered by Christ
- C) A Christmas decoration

**5. What is the name of the special candle lit on the third Sunday of Advent?**

- A) Peace candle
- B) Joy candle
- C) Love candle



**6. Which Old Testament prophet is often read during Advent for his prophecies about the coming Messiah?**

- A) Jeremiah
- B) Isaiah
- C) Ezekiel

**7. Who is the saint traditionally celebrated on December 6th during Advent?**

- A) St. Nicholas
- B) St. Stephen
- C) St. Francis

**8. What does the word "Advent" mean?**

- A) Beginning
- B) Arrival
- C) Celebration

**Reflection:**

Reflect on how these questions help you understand the true spirit of Advent. How do you plan to use the Advent season to prepare your heart for the celebration of Jesus' birth?

*Find the answers on Page 10*



# WEEKLY CALENDAR, INTENTIONS, OBSERVATIONS & READINGS

## MASS INTENTIONS INTENCIONES DE MISA

*Saturday, November 29*

5:00 pm

†Monica Dinh

*Sunday November 30*

8:00 am

SI Giovanni & Margaret Szwast

10:00 am

Men & Women in the Military

12:00 pm

†Berta Tellez

†Paul Johnson

*Monday December 1*

8:00 am

Living & Deceased of St. Rita

*Tuesday December 2*

8:00 am

†Tracey Naegle

†Bill Gassoway

*Wednesday December 3*

8:00 am

First Responders

*Thursday December 4*

8:00 am

†Jack & Rachal Solorzano

†Stanley & Mary Zubel

*Friday December 5*

8:00 am

SI Joy Elizabeth Toussaint

*Saturday December 6*

8:00 am

†Ronald Reuter

5:00 pm

†Ronald Reuter

†Bill Gassoway

## THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

*Sunday, November 30*

**1st Sunday of Advent**

8:00 am – Mass (English)

10:00 am – Mass (English)

12:00 noon – Mass (Spanish)

*Monday, December 1*

8:00 am Mass (English)

8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

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

*Tuesday, December 2*

8:00 am Mass (English)

8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

*Wednesday, December 3*

**Feast of St. Francis Xavier**

8:00 am – Mass (English)

8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

*Thursday, December 4*

8:00 am Mass

8:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet

4:30 pm Legion of Mary

*Friday, December 5*

8:00 am Mass

8:30 am Eucharist Adoration

*Saturday, December 5*

5:00 pm – Mass (English)

## READINGS & OBSERVANCES

### FIRST READING:

"They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore." (Isaiah 2:4)

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

"Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord." (Psalm 122:1)

### SECOND READING:

"Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light." (Romans 13:12)

### GOSPEL:

"Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come." (Matthew 24:42)

*Sunday, November 30*

**1st Sunday of Advent**

Is 2:1-5 | Ps 122:1-9 | Rom 13:11-14 | Mt 24:37-44

*Monday, December 1*

Is 4:2-6 | Ps 122:1-9 | Mt 8:5-11

*Tuesday, December 2*

Is 11:1-10 | Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 | Lk 10:21-24

*Wednesday, December 3*

Is 25:6-10a | Ps 23:1-6 | Mt 15:29-37

*Thursday, December 4*

Is 26:1-6 | Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a | Mt 7:21, 24-27

*Friday, December 5*

Is 29:17-24 | Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 | Mt 9:27-31

*Saturday, December 6*

Is 30:19-21, 23-26 | Ps 147:1-6 | Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8





### DIOCESE OF TUCSON NEW OUTLOOK

The Diocese of Tucson invites you to stay in touch with the Church via your phone and/or email. Every week the Diocese publishes the *New Outlook*, our local newsletter with links to news, events, and so much more! To sign up: text **DOTNEWS** to **84576** or go to <https://news.diocesetucson.org/subscribe>

### HOW TO REPORT ABUSE



- Call **911** to make a police report.
- If the abuse happened in another state, call the Police or Sheriff's Office in the specific state.
- Call the Victim Assistance Program of the Diocese of Tucson at: 1(800)234-0344 and/or
- The Office of Child, Adolescent and Adult Protection at (520)838-2513.

### HELPFUL WEBSITES

#### Diocese of Tucson:

[www.diocesetucson.org](http://www.diocesetucson.org)

#### The New Outlook:

<https://news.diocesetucson.org>

#### News from the Vatican:

[www.vaticannews.va](http://www.vaticannews.va)

#### U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops:

[www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)

#### Office of Vocations:

<https://diocesetucson.org/vocations>

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- Click on **CONTINUE TO SIGN UP/LOGIN**
- Enter your email
- In "Join your Parish" enter **ST. RITA IN THE DESERT**
- Click **NEXT**
- Complete your information



### Community Rewards Program

Do you shop at Fry's and have a VIP shopper's card? If so, please consider registering your card for the Fry's Community Rewards Program, and they will donate to St. Rita in the Desert.

- Go to **www.frysfood.com**
- Select **Sign In** and sign in to your online account
- Click on **My Account**
- Select **Community Rewards**
- Click **Enroll Now**
- In the "*Find an Organization*" box, enter **St. Rita in the Desert**
- Click **Enroll**

## PARISH MINISTRIES

### LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

#### *Altar Boys*

If your boy would like to become an Altar Boy, please review the **Altar Server Manual** together and complete the **Altar Server Application** online or email: [travis71durman@gmail.com](mailto: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 **2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 2pm** in the parish office.

#### *Eucharistic Ministry*

Interested in learning more about the role of an Extraordinary Minister or would like to be part of this vital ministry, Submit your **EOMHC Sign-up** form online.

#### *Lectors*

Become a Lector. Submit your **Ministry Request form** online.

#### *Music Ministry*

Curious about our choirs? Love to sing sacred music? Join us, our rehearsals are open to everyone!  
Adult choirs: Tues at 5 pm  
Children's choir: Wed at 4 pm  
Spanish choir: Thur at 6:15 pm  
Do you play piano, guitar, flute or clarinet? We want to meet you!

Coro español: ¡Queremos desarrollar nuestro coro! ¡Considere unirse a nosotros o volver a unirse a nosotros! ¡Voz, guitarra y bajo bienvenidos!

#### *Ushers*

Ushers play a pivotal role in our parish, not only aiding others but also serving as the welcoming face to newcomers. For our regular parishioners, they provide a sense of familiarity and continuity across all Masses. Submit your **Usher Sign-Up** form online.

### PARISH MINISTRIES

#### *Outreach Ministry*

Join us as we provide support every week to our Meals to Grow Program, Food Bank and other critical human needs in our community. Email: [outreach@stritainthedesert.org](mailto: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](mailto:porters@stritainthedesert.org)

#### *Right to Life*

Email: [rtl@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:rtl@stritainthedesert.org)

#### *Family Faith Formation*

[www.watch.formed.org](http://www.watch.formed.org)

#### *Vocations*

Contact Mr. Adam LaGuardia: [Vocations@stritainthedesert.org](mailto: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](mailto: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.**  
Serve Others.  
**Defend Your Values.**  
**BECOME A KNIGHT**

**Catholic Men 18+**  
visit our website:  
<https://www.kofc14230.org/> or  
contact John Cuddy at:  
[john.cuddy@yahoo.com](mailto:john.cuddy@yahoo.com) or  
(978)382-0742



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



## PARISH NEWS



### THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

#### ADVENT FOOD DRIVE

**Begins Sunday, November 30, 2025**

We invite you to bring non-perishable food donations to the narthex throughout Advent. Focus items this year include: Spaghetti sauce & noodles, spaghetti-O's, Canned fruit, chili, beef stew, beef soups and instant mashed potatoes.

We will also be supporting Vail Food Bank's weekend backpack program and are in need of individually wrapped snack cakes (Little Debbie or similar)

### MUSIC MINISTRY

*CALLING ALL CHRISTMAS SINGERS!*

#### NATIVITY BLESSING AND CHRISTMAS CONCERT

December 19 at 6 pm.

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

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

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

*JOIN US!*

### ST. RITA CHRISTMAS MARKET

It's that wonderful time of year and the ministries and organizations of St Rita's would like to help make it even better!

Items will be available for purchase to support the ministries and organizations provide for the parish as they serve the Lord.

Visit the Christmas Market

**Nov 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Dec 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Dec 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>**

*After each of the mass*

Come to see if you can find that special last minute Christmas gift!



### THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

#### ANGEL TREE BEGINS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2025

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

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

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

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

**Sunday, December 14th**

May God bless you for your generosity.



### worldwide marriage encounter

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

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

For more information go to: [wme.org](http://wme.org) or call 520-661-3644

### ALTAR SOCIETY

#### *Volunteers Needed*

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

### OUTREACH MINISTRY

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

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

Please return donation in the Yellow Outreach Envelope





### American Red Cross

*Your generosity helps save lives!*

Join us at our Red Cross blood drive

Nov 17<sup>th</sup> - Dec 7<sup>th</sup>

Saint Rita in the Desert Church

American Red Cross Bus

From 7:30am-12:30pm

The American Red Cross is teaming up with the legendary PAC-MAN to celebrate 45 years of gaming and to invite donors to make an impact!

Receive an exclusive pair of Red Cross x PAC-MAN socks (*while supplies last*).

**PLUS**, donors who give during this time frame will also get a custom Red Cross x PAC-MAN GASHAPON®.

Quantities are limited!

### OUTREACH MINISTRY

The Outreach Committee sincerely thanks everyone for their generous support during the Vail Food Bank collection, which currently helps more than 400 families. Your contributions totaled over \$3,000, making a meaningful difference. May God bless all of you, the amazing St. Rita Community.

### 2025 First Annual Chili Cook Off Winners



**Kaye LaGuardia  
FIRST PLACE**

1<sup>st</sup> Place - Vocation Ministry

2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Welcome Committee

3<sup>rd</sup> Place - St. Vincent de Paul

### Thank You!

A heartfelt thank you to all our winners, participants, and amazing volunteers who helped make our first annual Chili Cook-Off such a fun and successful event! Your enthusiasm, generosity, and hard work brought our parish community together in a joyful way. We are grateful for each one of you—thank you for making this event truly unforgettable!

### ST. RITA PRE-CANA MINISTRY

Receive the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony in the Catholic Church. Learn how to live a Christ-focused life as individuals and as a married couple. Learn how Natural Family Planning can safely and effectively help you to promote or postpone new life.

Catholic Marriage classes (\$50/couple)  
Natural Family Planning class (\$25/couple)

Schedule announced Dec, 2025. Classes will **NOT** be offered again until Nov, 2026.

Interested? Email: [pre-cana@stritainthedesert.org](mailto:pre-cana@stritainthedesert.org)

## “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**.

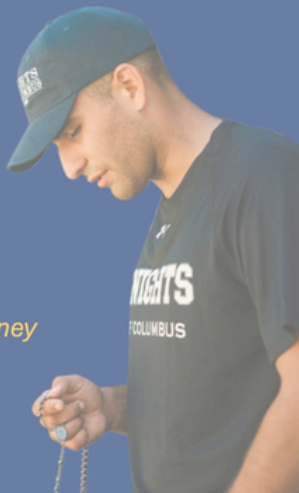
Become a Knight of Columbus!



Join us today!

[www.kofc.org/join](http://www.kofc.org/join)

Promo Code: *BlessedMcGivney*



Knights of  
Columbus®

### ANNUAL ART CONTEST

Begins **December 1, 2025**

Art can be done at home or school

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

You must bring your art to Parish Hall 12/21  
(Please bring no art before 0800 12/21 in Hall)

No Entry Fee, all welcome  
three great FIRST place prizes!

Theme: **Christ is Christmas**

Best in Theme: Grade School (11"x17" poster)

Best in Theme: High School (11"x17" poster)

Best in Theme: Adult (Any Medium)

Visit [stritainthedesert.org](http://stritainthedesert.org) for details

## TUCSON ROADRUNNERS

### STAR WARS NIGHT

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 31 @ 7:00 PM**

The Tucson Roadrunners hockey team is partnering with the Knights of Columbus for a special fundraising night – Star Wars Night! This is typically one of the best attended games as many get dressed up as Star Wars characters for a fun evening.

Our St. Rita Knights are participating in this special event and have decided they will be donating all proceeds from the tickets sales to the Team AZ Special Olympics softball team. St. Rita has a Special Olympian who was selected to be on the team going to the US National games June 2026 in Minneapolis.

Our goal is to raise \$1,000 to help cover costs so these athletes can compete next year. There are tickets available in section 213 which is behind the goal. These tickets normally cost \$42.65 with all the taxes and fees.

The Knights can sell them to you for only \$25 which is over \$17 in savings. It's almost like BOGO (buy one, get one).

If you can't go but want to help, you can purchase a ticket and the Knights will be sure to provide it to the local S/O group so an athlete who can't afford it can attend the game.

If you have any questions, talk to any member of the St Rita Knights. You can call Wayne Glembin at (520) 449-7115 or email at [gkcouncil14230@gmail.com](mailto:gkcouncil14230@gmail.com).



Knights of  
Columbus®



## VOLUNTEER OF THE WEEK

### MEET CAROL MCCARTNEY

**When one of our readers sent me a note saying:**

**"I would like to nominate Carol McCartney for volunteer of the week. She is a wonderful catechist preparing our little ones for their 1st Holy Communion and reconciliation. She works so hard and puts her whole heart into faithfully forming our parish kids." ~ anonymous**

**I instantly knew I needed to interview her. Please enjoy. ~ Kathy Lockard, St. Rita Bulletin Editor**

**Which ministry do you serve?** I am a Catechist for the 2nd-grade Sacraments Class. I am also an Usher and a Eucharistic minister

**How long have you been serving at our parish?** I have been serving at St Rita's Parish since 2014. I first volunteered with St Vincent De Paul. I began as a Catechist assistant in 2019. This is my third year as a Catechist, teaching the class myself.

**What first inspired you to volunteer?** The reasons I volunteer: because I believe God wants our hearts, souls, and hands. It is important to make Parish life an integral part of everyday life. It is a great way to meet other parishioners, to have an investment in the Church, and to serve God. The Church becomes a real family when you are involved in Church life.

**What does volunteering mean to you personally?** Volunteering in the Church helps to nourish my soul and brings me closer to God. It lights up my life, and helps me have a better perspective of what is important. My husband is disabled and has many health issues. It is so easy to feel weighed down by challenges. Volunteering helps me be a loving caregiver for my husband. Also, I find it very fulfilling to help children learn about God and prepare for their First Confession and First Holy Communion.

**How has serving impacted your faith or spiritual life?** I have learned so much about my faith while teaching the Children. Although teaching children was not something I ever thought I would or could do, the Holy Spirit had a plan. Mary Ann Cleveland brought me into her classroom as her assistant in 2019. When she moved in 2023, I took over her class. This is the strongest calling I have ever felt, and the work of the Holy Spirit, as I teach, has been very evident to me. I could not teach on my own. I pray before each class that the Holy Spirit will put the right words in my mouth. It's hard to express how much I love teaching the children about God and His loving plan for us all. I feel closer to my faith and God since becoming a Catechist.

**What is your favorite part of serving in this ministry?** My favorite thing is seeing the Children make their First Holy Communion. To see them receive Jesus, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity.

**How has this ministry blessed you or your family?** Being a Catechist has made me want to be as good a Catholic as I teach the kids to be. Since I started teaching, I pray more and am always conscious of the fact that all I do is an example for my students.

**What skills or gifts do you feel God has called you to use here?** I love finding creative ways to help the Children learn and remember God's plan of salvation for us all. For instance, I went to the Holy Land in 2020. During class I show the children pictures that I took at the places we are learning about in class. They are amazed when they see that there are physical places where the stories of the Life of Jesus can be seen and visited now. It makes it more real to them.

**Can you share a meaningful or memorable moment from your service?** A memorable moment for me was when I got a student in my class who had an older brother I had taught the year before. I asked the older brother, "What did you tell your little brother about my class?" He answered, "I told him, 'You are going to learn a LOT!' That filled my heart with joy.

**What has been the biggest challenge, and how has God helped you through it?** The biggest challenge is balancing the time I spend as a Catechist versus the time needed to care for my husband and our household. I always pray to God for guidance, and things always seem to work out.

**What would you say to someone thinking about volunteering?** If you are thinking of volunteering, pray to the Holy Spirit. Someone once said, "Volunteering shouldn't be hard. Once you find what God wants you to do, it will be easy, something you love." I have found that to be true. You may have to try several things to figure out what that calling is, but it is worth it. You will have more friends, and your problems will seem farther away. You will feel closer to God. It is very fulfilling. You will benefit in ways you can't imagine. Of course, it benefits the Church as well. Just do it!

**How do you see God working through the ministry you're part of?** God blessed us with a priest who wants to give our children the best Catholic education possible as a parish. The Curriculum we use is the Word of Life by the Augustin Institute. I believe God had his hand in the development of this program. It is amazing, and I think the students learn the Catholic Faith in a way that will "stick". Father Alonzo also provides "Formed" to all parishioners. There are so many ways to learn about the Catholic Faith these days. I see it as the Holy Spirit hard at work, not just in Religious education, but in the whole world. Through social media, the world can truly know God.

**What hopes do you have for the ministry's future?** Wonderfully, our Church is growing with many new families and new Catholics. The census is expected to increase a lot in the next few years. We are at capacity for our classrooms. We will be needing more space, and more importantly, volunteers who feel a calling to help our children learn the true, authentic Catholic faith. I pray we have all we need to keep up with our expanding Church.

**Is there a particular prayer intention you would like to share?** My personal prayer intention is that my husband's pain and health issues will resolve and that I can continue teaching for many more years.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Advent Parish Mission

And Toto Too: The Wizard of Oz As A Spiritual Adventure



This Advent season holds significant importance as it provides an opportunity for us to prepare our hearts and contemplate the gift of Jesus Christ.

It is a time when people can easily get distracted by consumerism and holiday burnout, but I encourage you to go on a journey through Advent to gain a deeper understanding and a closer connection to Christ.

During this beautiful time of anticipation, experience divine joy and look forward to what is to come with a sense of adventure.

December 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, with two daily sessions:

9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

followed by a repeat session from

6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at

St. Francis de Sales Church Gym, located at

1375 S. Camino Seco, Tucson, Arizona, 85710



## RAFFLE FUNDRAISER



FOR SAN XAVIER MISSION RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

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

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

**TICKET /\$10**

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

## Annual Catholic Appeal

Learn more about the Appeal at  
[www.cathfnd.org/aca](http://www.cathfnd.org/aca)



## TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. **B** - A period of joyful anticipation and preparation for Christmas.
2. **C** - Four
3. **B** - Purple, representing penance and preparation.
4. **B** - The eternal life offered by Christ. The circular shape symbolizes eternity.
5. **B** - Joy candle, often called the "Gaudete" candle
6. **B** - Isaiah
7. **A** - St. Nicholas
8. **B** - Arrival, referring to the coming of Christ.

Source: Truthly App

Diocese of Tucson - Alive in Christ

## Our Lady of Guadalupe Vigil Mass

**Thursday December 11, 2025 at 6:45 PM**

*"Do not be troubled or weighed down with grief... Am I not your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection?"*

— Our Lady of Guadalupe to St. Juan Diego



❖ Lively Praise & Worship

❖ Praise reports & prayers for all your intentions



Fr Bala Kommathoti

Blessing with the Mantle of Our Lady of Guadalupe from the Apostolate of the Rosary

**Invite your family & friends!**

**Our Lady of La Vang / St. Frances Cabrini**

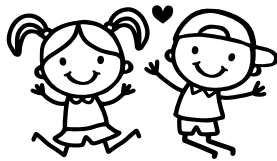
3201 E. Presidio Rd., Tucson

YouTube recording of this event will be available after December 15 at [TucsonCCR.org](http://TucsonCCR.org) website

## SAINT SPOTLIGHT



### KIDS CORNER



### FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

Feast Day: December 3

#### Who Was St. Francis Xavier?

St. Francis Xavier was one of Jesus' special helpers known as a missionary. He traveled to faraway places to tell people about God's love and Jesus' life. Born in Spain in 1506, Francis was a friend of St. Ignatius of Loyola and helped start a special group called the Jesuits. This group loves sharing stories about Jesus and helping others.

#### Adventures and Missionary Work:

Francis Xavier had exciting adventures! He sailed across the oceans to reach India, Japan, and other countries in Asia. He bravely learned new languages and cultures to teach everyone he met about Jesus. Imagine traveling on a big ship for months to share good news with people you've never met!

Even though it was hard work, Francis was full of joy. He spoke about Jesus with a big smile, and his kindness helped many people become friends with Jesus too.

#### Why St. Francis Xavier Inspires Us:

St. Francis Xavier reminds us that we can share God's love wherever we are—at school, home, or with friends. You don't need to travel far away; just being kind and helping others shows people Jesus' love.

#### Reflection:

Think about a time you did something nice for someone else. How can you be like St. Francis Xavier and spread a little bit of Jesus' love with your actions today?

Just like St. Francis Xavier, you can be a missionary by showing love and kindness to those around you—every day is a chance to make the world a brighter place!

### SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER

**Feast Day:** December 3

**Patronage:** Missionaries, Mission Territories, The Apostleship of Prayer, & Navarre, Spain

St. Francis Xavier, one of the most renowned missionaries in the history of the Church, played a pivotal role in the spread of Christianity across Asia during the 16th century. Born in 1506 in the Kingdom of Navarre (now part of Spain), Francis Xavier was initially a promising young scholar and athlete at the University of Paris. There, he met St. Ignatius of Loyola, a friendship that would profoundly change his life and lead to the founding of the Society of Jesus, commonly known as the Jesuits.

#### Missionary Journeys and Impact:

Driven by an unwavering zeal to bring the message of Christ to non-Christian lands, Francis Xavier embarked on extensive missionary journeys. He first traveled to India in 1541, where he worked tirelessly to minister to the Portuguese settlers and local populations. His travels took him to Japan, Malacca, the Moluccas, and other regions in Southeast Asia. Xavier learned local languages and adapted his teaching methods to resonate with different cultures, all while facing immense challenges.

Francis Xavier's missionary work laid the foundation for Christianity in several countries despite various obstacles, including cultural barriers and personal hardships. His letters, filled with passionate accounts of his journey, inspired many European Christians to support missionary activities.

#### Legacy and Reflection:

Declared the "Patron of All Missions," St. Francis Xavier's legacy teaches us about the power of missionary zeal and the importance of evangelization in diverse contexts. His life underscores the call for each Christian to witness to the faith, not necessarily by traveling to distant lands, but in daily life and interactions.

Reflect on how St. Francis Xavier's example can inspire your own witness to the faith. How might you integrate his spirit of dedication and adaptability into your own efforts to share the love of Christ with those around you?

Through St. Francis Xavier's witness, we are reminded that every act of kindness and sharing our faith can have a transformative impact, just as Francis transformed countless lives with his love and tireless dedication to spreading the Gospel.

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](mailto:bulletin@stritainthedesert.org)