

# Our Lady of the Desert Church

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Website: [www.desertrenewal.org](http://www.desertrenewal.org)

Saturday 4 pm livestreamed Mass: <https://www.youtube.com/c/OurLadyoftheDesertChurch/playlists>

## Weekend of December 16-17 Third Sunday of Advent

### **Redemptorist Community**

#### **Church Rector**

Rev. Brian Johnson, C.Ss.R.

#### **Associates**

Rev. Stephen Rehrauer, C.Ss.R.

*Director of Renewal Center*

Rev. Charlie Wehrley, C.Ss.R.

Rev. Jim Shea, C.Ss.R.

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Rev. Peter Connolly, C.Ss.R.

Padre Tomas Jose Fransiscus,  
C.Ss.R. JCL

*Diocese of Tucson Tribunal. Judge*

Rev. Stephen Huy Vu, C.Ss.R.

*Pastor, Santa Catalina Parish*

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#### **Deacon**

Rev. Mr. Ken McNealy

#### **Liturgical Ministers/ Compliance Officer**

Kelly Mooney

Bob Jones

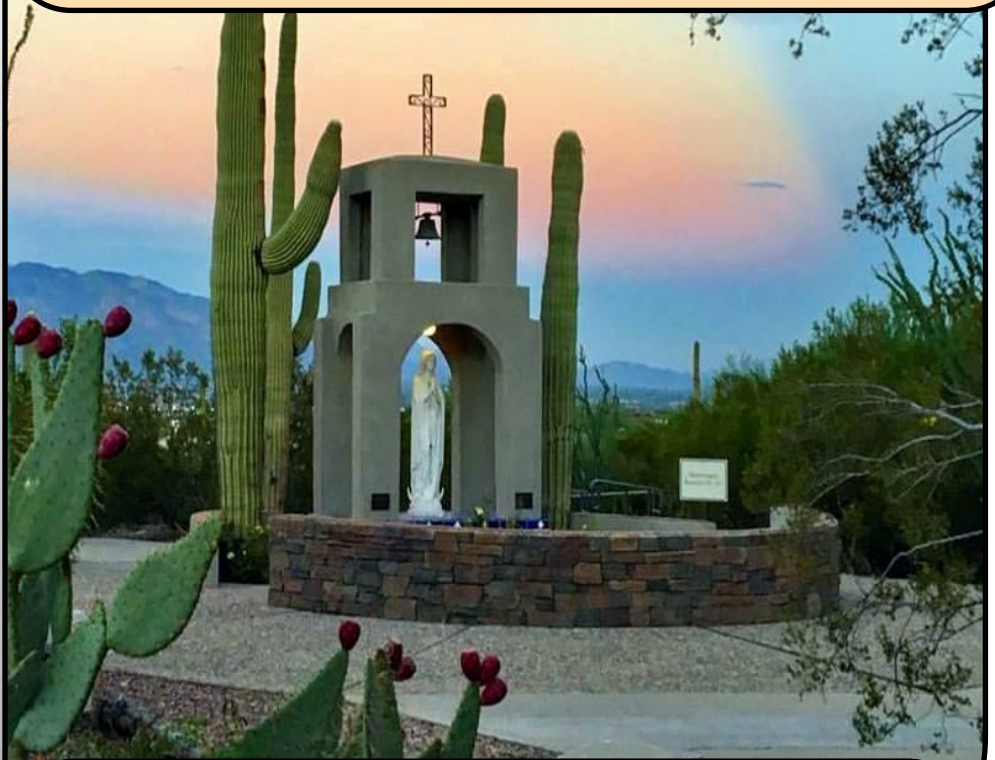
#### **Bulletin Editor**

Alexis Murrieta

#### **Knights of Columbus**

David VanderLinde

*Grand Knight*



**Welcome:** The Redemptorist Community and Pastoral Staff of the Redemptorist Renewal Center extends a warm and loving welcome to all who come here to pray and worship in our church. We are a community that welcomes all people as brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ. Together we are the body of Christ, living and active today.

# Our Lady of the Desert



## **December 17th 1 THES 5:16-24**

Paul calls us to a spirit of thankfulness today. When we are thankful, we are paying attention to all the blessings God sends us each day. When we are not practicing thankfulness, our minds are often closed to God's presence. If we keep our minds on the wonderful things that we have, we will find so much more inner peace. Peace is destroyed by wanting what we do not have. We cannot be at peace if we think we deserve more. So, thankfulness is a virtue that will keep us humble and at peace.

## **December 18th Jer 23:5-8**

Jeremiah prophesies to a defeated people. Their enemies have beaten them and most of the wealthy and politically powerful have been taken away into exile. Jeremiah assures them that one day one of David's sons will again sit on the throne. This harkens back to the "good old days" when a faithful king brought peace and prosperity to the land. Jeremiah also prophesies that God will lead his people back home from exile, just like he rescued them from Egypt. Jeremiah offers hope to a desperate people.

## **December 19th Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a**

The Book of Judges takes up the story of Samson today. As we see so often, his parents have been unable to have a child. Now, God enters the situation to bring about a son. Many famous and significant people share this kind of history within the scriptures. Perhaps this is a reflection on how the grown-up child becomes strong and influential. They do it not by their own human abilities, but through the grace and blessings of God. God is always working to bring salvation to His people.

## **December 20th Is 7:10-14**

King Ahaz is an unfaithful king. Isaiah tries to get him to listen to the word of God by offering a sign. Ahaz is not interested, because he would rather have things go according to his own will, not the way God wants things to go. Yet, Isaiah says that he will receive a sign anyway. A virgin will conceive and bear a son. When Ahaz sees this happen, he will know that God has spoken and he will have to choose between his will and God's. Of course, the Church looks further ahead to another virgin who bears a son! Nothing is impossible for God.

## **December 21st Sg 2:8-14**

The Books of Songs is a book of love poems. The church has always interpreted these poems as speaking of the love relationship between God and His people. Today we hear someone crying out in joy, because her lover has come and called to her. We see images of winter giving way to spring, death giving way to new life. Our God comes to save, to bring happiness to full strength within us! Coming a few days before Christmas, as this reading does, we are encouraged to see in the birth of Jesus the coming of our God to bring us new life and joy!

## **December 22nd 1 Sm 1:24-28**

Today we take up the story of the great Samuel. As with Samson, he too is born after his parents pray to God for a child. Again, a woman unable to have a child has given birth. Samuel will be a great leader who will eventually crown David as king. Since Jesus is from the line of David, we now await his birth as the savior whom God sends to deliver us!



# Our Lady of the Desert



**December 23rd Mal 3:1-4, 23-24**

Today we hear two prophesies about the Day of the Lord. Malachi says that the Lord himself will come and visit the temple. The temple, and therefore the country, will once again be filled with the presence of the Lord. He will not leave his people in their sin and sorrow. He also prophesies a sign of this coming: Elijah will come from God to prepare us to receive the Lord. Obviously, the Church wishes us to understand the reference here to John the Baptist (Elijah), and Jesus. Once again, hope shines in our Advent Season!

*~Fr. Brian Johnson C.Ss.R.*

## RCIA

Last Sunday, at our 10:00 a.m. Liturgy, we welcomed 4 individuals into our community. They are in this year's RCIA class, preparing to enter fully into the Catholic Church this Easter. Their names are: Carolyn Lozano, Doyle Taraba, Emma Rens, and Jason Penna. We ask you to kindly keep these people in your prayers as they grow in their understanding and the Church.

## Happy Advent

Today, we continue the celebration of Advent. This is a Liturgical Season during which we prepare ourselves for the celebration of Christmas. One great way to prepare for Christmas is to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession). There will be several Penance Services in our area. Below is a listing of some of them. You are welcomed to attend any service that works for you:

**Saturday, December 16th at 10:00 A.M. here at Our Lady of the Desert**  
**Wednesday, December 20th at 6:00 P.M. at St Christopher**

## Book of Revelation

The Bible Study on the Book of Revelation will begin Monday, **December 18, at 10:00 A.M** for all those who have signed up for it. We will meet in the Ironwood room across from the pool .



*Arizona's Catholic Tuition Support Organization (CTSO) thanks the parishioners of Our Lady of the Desert for your tax credit contributions of \$41, 526 for tax year 2022. Your support enabled CTSO to make Catholic Education available, affordable, and accessible to those who want the opportunity of a quality education that nurtures faith development, provides strong academics, high expectations, promotes self-respect as well as respect for and service to others. Please consider supporting Arizona CTSO for the 2023 tax year.*





*Please remember in your prayers*

### **OURSICK**

*Please pray for those in our community who are struggling  
with various illnesses.*

*If you would like to be added to our sick list, please call the  
office. 520.744.3400*

*The Scripture Prayer group that meets on Tuesday evenings  
prays for those on the sick list.*

### **Our Sick List December 2023**

Peter Castillo	Fr. Rich Boevor
Ed Kenyon	Tim McDonald
Chuck Peterson	June Wood
Linda Peterson	Aubrey Scarborough
Michael Dunlap	Joanna Crawford
Lee Morrison	Scott Milligan
Fr. Jim Shea	Joe Fernando
Rachel Flint	
Bob Garcia	
Fr. Jeff King-Healing	
Tony Iavagnilio	

### **OUR LADY OF THE DESERT**

**DECEASED MEMBERS**  
*Last 12 Months*

**(Month/Year)**

Carol Boerner (9/23)  
Bernie Burba (11/23)  
Art Davenport (4/23)  
Thomas Doyle (12/22)  
Carol Draper Burba (1/23)  
Fr. Ricardo Elford, C.Ss.R. (9/23)  
Theresa Fitzpatrick (10/23)  
Dave Forgue (10/23)  
Sharon Iavagnilio (1/23)  
Joan Jones (11/23)  
Pierrette(Petra) Juteau (11/23)  
Harriet Lewandowski (5/23)  
Linda Obenauf (11/23)  
Virgil Roeder (5/23)  
Edward Schafle (1/23)  
Dan Sullivan (11/23)  
Phyllis Spence, OSB (11/23)  
Dennis Terrill (2/23)  
Larry Waller (4/23)  
Dorie Zimmerman (9/23)

**"The desert will lead you to your heart where I will speak."**

Hoshea 2:16

## **\*\*Mass Intentions/Presiders**

### **Friday, December 15**

7:30 a.m. - Fr. Brian Johnson  
\*\*Francis Michael Connolly (d)

### **Saturday, December 16**

4:00 p.m. livestreamed- Fr. Charlie Wehrley  
\*\*For Healing

### **Sunday, December 17**

7:30 a.m. – Fr. Brian Johnson  
\*\*Gerardo Garcia (d)  
10:00 a.m. – Fr. Tom Fransiscus  
\*\*Lee Morrison - Birthday

### **Monday, December 18**

7:30 a.m. – Fr. Stephen Rehrauer  
\*\*Anna M. Hernandez - Special Intention

### **Tuesday, December 19**

7:30 a.m. - Fr. Charlie Wehrley  
\*\*Michael Dunlap - Healing

### **Wednesday, December 20**

7:30 a.m. – Fr. Tom Fransiscus  
\*\*Charles Patrick Dodge

### **Thursday, December 21**

7:30 a.m. - Fr. Brian Johnson  
\*\*Johanna & Sam Harley - Healing

### **Friday, December 22**

7:30 a.m. - Fr. Peter Connolly  
\*\*Trish Mowry - Happy Birthday

### **Saturday, December 23**

4:00 p.m. livestreamed- Fr. Stephen Rehrauer  
\*\*Abel Seigel (d)

### **Sunday, December 24 Christmas Eve**

7:30 a.m. – Fr. Tom Fransiscus  
\*\*Lidia G. Hernandez (d)  
10:00 a.m. – Fr. Brian Johnson  
\*\*Robert Heyer (d)

### **3:15-Christmas Caroling**

4:00 p.m. –Fr. Stephen Rehrauer  
4:05 p.m. –Fr. Tom Fransiscus –Overflow-  
Petroglyph

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Grief Share Support Group**

Grief share is a friendly group of caring people, who share the experience of the loss of a loved one. Next Program is upcoming see next weeks bulletin for next meeting details. For more information contact, June or Stan Wood at 520.219.2919. or at [Jwls1@earthlink.net](mailto:Jwls1@earthlink.net).

### **Homebound Ministry**

Do you have a loved one, a neighbor or friend that is currently Homebound, in a Care Center or in the Hospital? Do you think that person would like a visit from a Homebound Eucharist Minister? Our Lady of the Desert has trained (EMs), who would love to take Holy Communion to that special person. For more information call the office 520-744-3400.

### **Our Lady of the Desert Circle of Redemptorist Associates**

Please join us at one of our monthly meetings (3rd Thursday of the month, from 5:00-6:00pm). We'd love to see you in person or on Zoom. Please contact Diana Davenport at [diana@davenport.net](mailto:diana@davenport.net) (520-612-9873) for more information. If you would like to attend online, please contact John Davenport ([john@davenport.net](mailto:john@davenport.net)) for a Zoom link.

### **Monthly Rosary Prayer**

December 13, 9am-10am. In Our Lady of the Desert Church. Please come and join us on the second Wednesday of every month.

### **Weekly Rosary Prayer**

Every Wednesday starting at 6:00 p.m. In the Our Lady of the Desert Chapel. Please come join us.

### **Scripture Prayer Group**

meets via zoom each Tuesday. For more details email John Davenport at: [john@davenport.net](mailto:john@davenport.net), or call 440.478.1203.

### **Food Bank**

The Marana Food Bank bin is located in the veranda near the bookstore. We collected a total of 101lbs of food for the month of November. Please help our local community by donating today. Thank you for your generosity. ~Marge Mauzer

# THIS AND THAT

## OUR MISSION

Our mission is to be a place where the contemplative spirit of the human person may be discovered, fed and nourished. It is a place, an oasis in the Sonoran Desert, where individuals encounter God and "feel the burn" of the Holy Spirit.

Redemptorist Renewal Center office hours are as follows:

Monday - Saturday:

**8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

Sundays:

**8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**



**This weeks Flowers were donated by  
Jeanne Heyer  
In Loving Memory of  
Robert Heyer**

To sponsor flowers in memory of or in celebration. Please contact the office at 520-744-3400

**Weekly Stewardship for Our Lady of the Desert**

Weeks of December 4-11, 2023      \$ 6,832.00

**If you have requested additional envelopes, they will be available the following week in the box on the table by the side door in church.**

For your convenience, know that you may come during office hours to personally offer your stewardship, mail it in, or use the following link and specify your donation. Click here:

<http://desertrenewal.org/fees-and-rates/>





# THE BOOKSTORE IS **OPEN** AFTER EACH WEEKEND MASS

## December 2023

### Book Store Hours

Bookstore open after all weekend Masses.

Friday, Dec 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10:00 am – 2:00 pm
Saturday Dec 3 <sup>rd</sup>	10:00 am – 2:00 pm
Saturday & Sunday 3/4	after all Masses 4 pm, 7:30 am, 10 am
Tuesday, Dec 5 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am – 2:00 pm
Thursday, Dec 7 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am – 2:00 pm
Saturday Dec 9 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am – 2:00 pm
Saturday – Sunday 9/10	after all Masses 4 pm, 7:30 am, 10 am
Saturday – Sunday 16/17	after all Masses 4 pm, 7:30 am, 10 am

**MERRY CHRISTMAS ~ BLESSINGS TO ALL**

Saturday – Sunday 23/24	CLOSED
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**HAPPY NEW YEAR ~ Continued Blessings all the Year Thru**

Saturday – Sunday 30/31	CLOSED
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## Novena Prayer to Our Mother of Perpetual Help adapted to be prayed in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic



Our Mother of  
*Perpetual Help*

Mother of Perpetual Help, with the greatest confidence we come before your holy picture to beseech your intercession. We think of you, Mother, at the foot of the Cross. Your heart must have bled to see your Son in agony. But your joy was great when He rose from the dead, victorious over the powers of evil. Mother of Sorrows, pray for us in this time of trial.

Help us not to lose heart. Intercede for your people who are afflicted with Coronavirus. Comfort your people who are vulnerable and anxious. Protect healthcare workers who put their lives at risk.

Inspire our leaders to make good decisions. Change our hearts so that we may act responsibly. Teach us to trust in God's love and mercy and to share with you the joy of having courageously faced up to all the challenges of Life. Amen



The *Act of Spiritual Communion*, by St. Alphonsus Liguori, may be a source of comfort at this time when we are separated from one another, but connected as the Body of Christ. Pray this prayer when you are not able to receive the Eucharist.

### Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire you into my heart. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself entirely to you. Never permit me to be separated from You. For this I pray. Amen.

Source: *Visits to the Most Blessed Sacrament*  
by St. Alphonsus Liguori





# Dear Padre,

*Was Jesus born in a stable or a cave? The Christmas scene in our church has Jesus born in a little shed, but in my friend's church it looks more like a cave. The Bible says Jesus was born in a manger, so just where was Jesus born?*

The Christmas scenes, sometimes called Nativity scenes or crèches, vary from church to church. In Scripture, we find more details about the Nativity in Luke's Gospel, but even he simply says that Mary wrapped Jesus in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because the inn was full (Luke 2:7).

In none of the Scriptures do we have any details about what the place looked like, but since a manger is a place where caregivers feed livestock, we can assume that Jesus was born in a stable of some kind. At that time, small caves sometimes were used as stables.

Nativity scenes, though, are not an attempt to present a historically accurate picture of where Jesus was born. Rather, scenes of the birth of Jesus remind us of the special love that God shows for us in sending the Son to us. We do not care so much about creating an exact picture of what took place as we do of beholding the beauty and wonder of God born among us. ●



THE OFFICE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, ATTRIBUTED TO JACOBUS COEN

**The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org**



## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*The Baptist is a model for those in the Church who are called to proclaim Christ to others: they are able to do so only by detaching from themselves and from worldliness, by not attracting people to themselves but directing them toward Jesus. This is joy: directing toward Jesus. And joy must be the characteristic of our faith.*

ANGELUS, ROME, DECEMBER 13, 2020

### MONDAY

December 18  
Advent Weekday  
Jer 23:5–8  
Mt 1:18–25

### TUESDAY

December 19  
Advent Weekday  
Jgs 13:2–7, 24–25a  
Lk 1:5–25

### WEDNESDAY

December 20  
Advent Weekday  
Is 7:10–14  
Lk 1:26–38

### THURSDAY

December 21  
Advent Weekday  
Sg 2:8–14 or  
Zep 3:14–18a  
Lk 1:39–45

### FRIDAY

December 22  
Advent Weekday  
1 Sm 1:24–28  
Lk 1:46–56

### SATURDAY

December 23  
Advent Weekday  
Mal 3:1–4, 23–24  
Lk 1:57–66

### SUNDAY

December 24  
Fourth Sunday of Advent  
2 Sm 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16  
Rom 16:25–27  
Lk 1:26–38

### Timely topics viewed with a Catholic perspective

Catholic Update explores contemporary issues through the lens of Catholic teaching and traditions. Print and digital subscriptions! For more information, visit [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org) or call 800-325-9521.