

Our Lady of the Desert Church

7101 West Picture Rocks Road, Tucson, AZ 85743
Phone: 520-744-3400 Email: office@desertrenewal.org
Website: www.desertrenewal.org

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

Weekend of December 14-15 Third Sunday of Advent

Redemptorist Community

Church Rector

Rev. Brian Johnson, C.Ss.R.

Director of Renewal Center

Rev. Stephen Rehrauer, C.Ss.R.

Associates

Rev. Charlie Wehrley, C.Ss.R.

Rev. Jim Shea, C.Ss.R.

Rev. Peter Connolly, C.Ss.R.

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

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

Pastor, Santa Catalina Parish

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#### Choir

Charles Lohr, Music Director

#### 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



Let us now explore the signs used in the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. As with several of the sacraments, there is a combination of signs used in this sacrament. The laying of hands is the first sign. As we saw before, the laying of hands symbolized a calling down of the Holy Spirit upon a person. Being an efficacious sign, when the priest lays hands on the head of the sick person, God sends the Holy Spirit upon the sick one to strengthen and heal him or her.

The next sign is an anointing with a special oil, namely the Oil of the Sick. Oil has been used for centuries to heal and strengthen. The early Greek athletes used to rub their whole body with olive oil. The oil seeped into the body and the athletes believed it brought new strength to their muscles. Also, quite frequently, when a child has a cut, his or her mother will put a salve on it to protect and heal the wound. The salve is really a medicine with an oil base. This type of symbol carries over in the sacrament. As the priest anoints the sick person, the oil signifies and also causes the healing love of God to be present in the life of the sick person. God reaches out through the oil to bring healing to the sick person.

Finally, we have some key words spoken which refer to God's actions in the life of the sick person. As the forehead of the sick person is anointed, the priest says, "Through this holy anointing may the Lord in His loving mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit." In answer to this prayer, God does indeed send the Holy Spirit upon the sick person. The hands are anointed next. Here, the priest says, "May the Lord who frees you from sin save you and raise you up." Through these words and the anointing, God in His mercy grants forgiveness of sin and He raises up the sick one through the power of His loving presence.

This sacrament, then, is meant to reassure the sick person that God is with him (even though the patient might not feel that way) and God wills the sick person's physical or spiritual healing. This sacrament can be a source of great comfort to one who is sick.

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

## Christmas

Christmas, the celebration of the birth of Christ the Savior, is fast approaching. We offer you this little novena as a way of preparing your heart for this event. This novena should be prayed daily from December 16-24. The novena can be found here: <https://www.papalartifacts.com/hagiography-the-papal-artifacts-collection-a-commentary-by-the-curator-2/>



## **Our Lady of the Desert Christmas Poinsettia**

We are now selling poinsettia's for the Holiday season. Envelopes for donations will be available at the entrance of the Church and in the office.



## **Advent Penance Service**

We will hold our annual Advent Penance Service on Saturday, December 21st at 10:00 A.M. A short prayer service will begin in the Church at that time. Confessions will be celebrated in the office building, to allow for privacy. This is a wonderful sacrament to help us prepare our hearts to celebrate Christmas.



On December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, after the 10:00 AM Mass, the Our Lady of the Desert Parish had their Annual Christmas Party! It was held at the St. Alphonsus Kitchen with desserts provided by the Knights of Columbus. Here are a few photographs taken by Sir Knight Michael Horner, of the festivities.



The people in the photos above and going clockwise: Christian Lavigne and Mr. and Mrs. Santa Clause; Parishioners Singing Christmas Carols; Parishioners having dessert; Christian Ponce getting ready to sing *Jingle Bells*; Charles Lohr leading the Carolers and the Spain Family and their photo equipment Set up.



**Invite a Catholic Man to become a  
Knight of Columbus**



Knights of Columbus  
One Year FREE  
Online Membership

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

Promo Code:  
*BlessedMcGivney*



**Council Membership Director, at 520-403-5003.**

# Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Tucson



The Catholic Foundation is dedicated to inspiring and stewarding Catholic generosity in the Diocese of Tucson. The organization's core values are Faith, Stewardship, Integrity, Inspiration, Transformation & Discipleship.

The Catholic Foundation is a 501(c)3 charitable organization governed by an independent governing board and is the official fundraising entity for the Diocese of Tucson, including its parishes, schools, ministries and social service entities in Southern Arizona. They have provided philanthropic support for Catholic organizations in the area for more than 40 years, offering planned giving assistance and guidance through legacy gifts such as endowments, stock, annuities and bequests. The Catholic Foundation serves as a community foundation and a trusted charitable giving expert that partners with generous individuals, families and organizations to raise the quality of life in our Catholic community and beyond. They also foster a culture of collaboration, inspire action, and generate impactful outcomes that align with their mission. To learn more contact Elizabeth Bollinger, Executive Director directly at (520) 838-2506.



## QUICK FACTS

**Phone:** (520) 838-2504  
**Website:** cathfnd.org  
**Year Established:** 1981

**Budget:**  
\$6,569,000

**Impact:** 2024 Diocesan Grants: \$605,840. Healthcare Grants: \$406,000. Scholarships: \$24,000.

**Annual Fundraiser:**  
The Cornerstone Gala, Friday, Sept. 12, 2025

**Secure income** for yourself and your Catholic church, school, ministry or the **Catholic Foundation**.

### Charitable Gift Annuity

A gift annuity with the Catholic Foundation offers you fixed payments for life, and a way to support the Church.



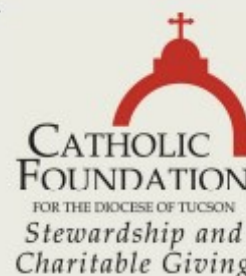
- **Make a gift of \$10,000 or more** using cash or securities.
- **Receive fixed payments for life** - for yourself or a loved one age 60 or older.
- **Enjoy tax benefits**, including an income tax deduction for a portion of your gift if you itemize, and part of each annuity payment is tax-free through life expectancy.
- **Designate remaining funds** to support your parish, school, ministry, or the Catholic Foundation.

### Gift Annuity Rates for One-Life\*

| Age  | 60   | 65   | 70   | 75   | 80   | 85   | 90+   |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Rate | 5.2% | 5.7% | 6.3% | 7.0% | 8.1% | 9.1% | 10.1% |

\*Effective January 1, 2024. Rates are subject to change.

To receive a free, no-obligation illustration of how you could benefit from a Charitable Gift Annuity, contact Elizabeth Bollinger at **520.955.2109** or **ebollinger@diocesetucson.org**





*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](tel:520.744.3400)*

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

**Our Sick List  
December 2024**

- |                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Erin Neely            | Bill Liscum        |
| Miguel Quijada        | Grace Carroll      |
| Tim McDonald          | Jerry Linton       |
| Chuck Peterson        | Aubrey Scarborough |
| Linda Peterson        | Joanna Crawford    |
| Michael Dunlap        | Lee Morrison       |
| Joan Forgue           | Jim Whitten        |
| Terry Bahill          | Ashleigh McIntosh  |
| Rachel Flint          | Emily Hernandez    |
| Bob Garcia            | JC Martinez        |
| Fr. Jeff King-Healing | Kurt Cummings      |
| David Donofrio        | Jack Friedman      |
| Winnie Levoch         | Merle Margelofsky  |
| Bob Box               | Margaret Zeches    |
| Hayden Spencer        | June and Stan Wood |
| Walter McCulloch      | L. Cindy Otte      |
| Linda Whitten         | Sue Cobble         |
| Marty Lopez           | Robert Keogh       |

**OUR LADY OF THE  
DESERT**

DECEASED MEMBERS  
*Last 12 Months*

**(Month/Year)**

- Melissa Bandelt (5/24)  
Fr. Rich Boever C.Ss.R. (1/24)  
Bill Berry (3/24)  
Olive 'Punken' Berry (4/24)  
Carol Burba (9/24)  
Peter Castillo (2/24)  
Pat Celentano (12/24)  
Larry Cobble (5/24)  
Joe Fernando (2/24)  
Tony Iavagnilio (1/24)  
Mary Johnson (1/24)  
Gabby Juteau (10/24)  
Edward Kenyon (1/24)  
Mary Sloan (7/24)  
Elaine Tolentino (8/24)  
Patricia Wayne (10/24)

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

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

### **Friday, December 13**

7:30 a.m. - Fr. Jim Shea

\*\*Betty Carroll (d)

### **Saturday, December 14**

4:00 p.m. livestreamed– Fr. Brian Johnson

\*\*Pedro Rosales & Family Healing

### **Sunday, December 15**

7:30 a.m. – Fr. Peter Connolly

\*\*Fran & Monica Roach

10:00 a.m. – Fr. Stephen Rehrauer

\*\*Ken & Margaret McNealy-Healing

### **Monday, December 16**

7:30 a.m. – Fr. Peter Connolly

\*\*Fran & Monica Roach

### **Tuesday, December 17**

7:30 a.m. - Fr. Tom Fransiscus

\*\*Lee Morrison - Happy Birthday

### **Wednesday, December 18**

7:30 a.m. – Fr. Jim Shea

\*\*Special Intentions Healing for Spiritual,  
Physical & Emotional

### **Thursday, December 19**

7:30 a.m. - Fr. Brian Johnson

\*\*Mary Gausepohls

### **Friday, December 20**

7:30 a.m. - Fr. Stephen Rehrauer

\*\*Yolande Juteau (d)

### **Saturday, December 21**

4:00 p.m. livestreamed– Fr. Charlie Wehrley

\*\*Lorraine Stewart (d)

### **Sunday, December 22**

7:30 a.m. – Fr. Charlie Wehrley

\*\*Bob & Angie Breister

10:00 a.m. – Fr. Brian Johnson

\*\*Victims of Coronavirus (Recovery &  
Healing)

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Interfaith Community Service Food Bank**

Please help our local community by donating today. The bin is located in the veranda near the bookstore.

Thank you for your generosity. ~*Marge Mauzer*

### **Grief**

Losing a loved on is painful.

You do not have to do it alone.

If you want to join support group, or talk to someone about your loss, call

Dr. June Wood, PhD LICSW-Emeritus,Mn.  
(520) 419.5962.

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

Please join us at one of our monthly meetings on the 3rd Thursday, 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.

### **Weekly Rosary Prayer**

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

### **Monthly Rosary Prayer**

Please come and join us on the second Wednesday of every month. In the Our Lady of the Desert Church starting at 9:00 a.m.

### **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.

### **Adoration –First Friday of Every Month**

For Adoration updates please visit our website <https://desertrenewal.org/our-lady-of-the-desert-church/>



# 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.

## December 2024 Bookstore Hours

| SU | MO | TU | WE | TH | FR | SA |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |
| 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |    |

## DECEMBER



Open: 1/2 hr after all w/e Masses  
Monday-Thursday-Friday  
10 am-2 pm  
Tuesdays 11 am-2 pm  
Saturdays in December 11 am-1 pm  
Closed Dec 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>  
**CLOSED WEDNESDAYS**  
CHRISTMAS GIFTS AVAILABLE

**This weeks Flower were donated**

**By Kelly & John Mooney**

**In Loving Memory of**

**Joan Crose**

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**

Weekend Collections : December 2-9 2024 ~ \$ 12,401.00

**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/>



# Our Lady of the Desert

in conjunction with...



**CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY**  
OF TUCSON  
WHERE LOVE LEADS TO ACTION

*presents*  
**Christmas Gifts  
of Love**

## **Pick an Angel or Ornament & Give the Gift of LOVE!**

Do you want to make the holidays brighter for children and babies? Adopt a child or an infant for the holiday! You will be giving gifts of LOVE. Choose one Angel or Ornament based on your Christmas budget. We will provide you with clothing sizes and gift suggestions for the child named on the Ornament. Each Angel taken from the Christmas tree will support a newborn infant. Your kindness and generosity for a child will create wonderful memories. Look for the Christmas tree **Saturday, November 23rd** and start picking Angels and Ornaments! **Please Gift Wrap** your presents and put the Angel or Ornament taped securely on the gift. If you need two or more gift tags, please feel free to duplicate the Angel or Ornament to be put on the gift. If you should choose to purchase a gift card please put in a small box or envelope with the Angel or Ornament tag taped securely on them. **Bring all wrapped gifts to the weekend Masses no later than the weekend of December 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>** For more information or any questions contact:

Angela Schneider at  
520-400-4447 or email  
aschneid24@hotmail.com



# Dear Padre,

*My family, friends, and coworkers seem to be uncomfortable when I tell them that I've been praying for them. Should I just keep it to myself?*

There is nothing fundamentally wrong with telling people you have been praying for them. Most people are probably grateful for such care and support. But it can be a little tricky. If the person believes the praying is actually a judgment and not a blessing, it may provoke a less-than-grateful response. This is where honest discernment on your part is invited. Are you coming across as prayerfully concerned, or is there some criticism or judgment in what seems to be an innocent blessing? People are able to perceive the difference.

Another consideration—and this is not at all unusual as a response in the culture of today—is that some people are very defensive about any religious expressions and do not react favorably. Think, for example, about the different reactions to “Merry Christmas” or “Happy Holidays,” which can often provoke the familiar idiom “them’s fightin’ words.” My best advice is to keep praying for everyone, as no one truly understands or fully appreciates the power of prayer. That being said, temper your announcement when you suspect it will not be well received. This demonstrates a grateful and blessed heart, which is what you intend and hope for, after all. ●



MARY LONG / SHUTTERSTOCK

*Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSSR / DearPadre.org*

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

| Monday                              | Tuesday                    | Wednesday                | Thursday                           | Friday                   | Saturday                                   | Sunday                                 |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| December 16                         | December 17                | December 18              | December 19                        | December 20              | December 21                                | December 22                            |
| <i>Advent Weekday</i>               | <i>Advent Weekday</i>      | <i>Advent Weekday</i>    | <i>Advent Weekday</i>              | <i>Advent Weekday</i>    | <i>Advent Weekday</i>                      | <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>         |
| Nm 24:2–7,<br>15–17a<br>Mt 21:23–27 | Gn 49:2, 8–10<br>Mt 1:1–17 | Jer 23:5–8<br>Mt 1:18–25 | Jgs 13:2–7,<br>24–25a<br>Lk 1:5–25 | Is 7:10–14<br>Lk 1:26–38 | Sg 2:8–14 or<br>Zep 3:14–18a<br>Lk 1:39–45 | Mi 5:1–4a<br>Heb 10:5–10<br>Lk 1:39–45 |



## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*[The crowd asked John the Baptist,] “What shall we do?”*  
*By suggesting this question, the Gospel reminds us of something important: life has a task for us.... Each of us—let us not forget this—has a mission to accomplish. So, let us not be afraid to ask the Lord: what shall I do?*

ANGELUS, ROME, DECEMBER 12, 2021