

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 March 15-16 Second Sunday of Lent

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.

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



The Ten Commandments are a series of laws God gave to the nation of Israel during their journey through the desert to the Promised Land. God's aim was to form a people in His image. He sought to help them to understand how to live as His people. An account of these laws can be found in chapter 20 of The Book of Exodus.

In Exodus 20: 2-5a, we read, **"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall not have other gods beside me. You shall not make for yourself an idol or a likeness of anything in the heavens above or on the earth below or in the waters beneath the earth; you shall not bow down before them or serve them."** This is the First of the Ten Commandments, which Catholics generally state as: I am the Lord your God: you shall not have strange gods before me.

The Catholic Catechism has this to say about the First Commandment: "Adoring God, praying to Him, offering Him the worship that belongs to Him, fulfilling the promises and vows made to Him are acts of the virtue of religion which fall under obedience to the first commandment" (CCC # 2135). We will flesh out our understanding of this first commandment by looking at these various issues.

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

## Funeral Announcement

We will have a Memorial Mass for **Catherine Connolly**, an ex-parishioner of Our Lady of the Desert on Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11:00 A.M. Catherine attended here at our parish for quite some time before moving to Virginia to be cared for by family.

## Lenten Preparation for Easter

One of the ways the Church recommends for us to prepare for the celebration of Easter, is by celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation, or Confession. There are a series of Penance services happening throughout our Vicariate. You are more than welcomed to attend any of them you wish

Thursday, March 20th: St. Elizabeth Anne Seaton, 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 27th: St. Mark the Evangelist 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 8th: St. Thomas the Apostle 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 9th: St. Odilia 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 10th: St. Christopher 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 1st: Santa Catalina 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 12th: Our Lady of the Desert 11:00 a.m.



## LENT

As we enter into the Season of Lent, the Church encourages us to enter into a time of conversion, a time where we move away from sin and selfishness to become more like Christ. It is a time for all of us to take the need of conversion seriously. All of us are sinners. All of us live lives not in union with the teachings of Jesus. All of us frequently forget that we are to image God and His love through the way we live our lives.

In the Liturgy for Ash Wednesday, the Church presented us with a way of celebrating conversion this Lent. The gospel on Wednesday has Jesus proposing three types of piety aimed at reforming our hearts and lives. These three types of piety are prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. But, why does Jesus propose these activities, and how do they help us?

As we live our life, it is so easy to start to think that life is all about me. I am the center of my life. The purpose of life is to watch out for number one, by assuring that I get everything I need. However, this way of looking at life is incorrect. God is the center of life, not us. We are here to do His will, not our own. As we enter into prayer, that is what we remember. Prayer leads us to put God and his will first in our lives.

Another misconception about life is that the only way to find happiness is to work at collecting all those things which we think will be more fulfillment to our life. However, we quickly find out that when it comes to happiness, enough is never enough. We constantly need more; more money, more things to fill up the emptiness inside us. This is where fasting comes in. As we voluntarily go without something which we find pleasurable, we are reminding ourselves that there is nothing that this world can offer us to totally fill up the void we experience in the center of our being. Only God, and drawing close to Him, can ever truly make us happy.

Finally, we are tempted to live life for ourselves. We are all important. If a neighbor gets in the way of our happiness, then we need to get that neighbor out of our way. Almsgiving simply means sharing what God has given us with others. Such sharing reminds us that we are not more important than other people. Part of our life has to be taking care of others, just like Jesus always gave himself away on the other's behalf. Again, we are not the center of the universe, God and our neighbor are!

Lent is a time to get our life ordered correctly. Prayer, sacrifice, and almsgiving help us to do so.

### Lenten Regulations

We remind you of the obligations for this Season of Lent. First, we are asked to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and on every Friday of Lent. This obligation exists for everyone over the age of 14 years old. In addition, on both Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, we are asked to fast. This fast means that we are allowed to eat two small meals, (which together would not add up to a normal sized meal), and then one full meal. This obligation to fast exists for all Catholics ages 15 to 59. However, the Bishops remind us, **“THOSE THAT ARE EXCUSED FROM FAST AND ABSTINENCE OUTSIDE THE AGE LIMITS INCLUDE THE PHYSICALLY OR MENTALLY ILL INCLUDING INDIVIDUALS SUFFERING FROM CHRONIC ILLNESSES SUCH AS DIABETES. ALSO EXCLUDED ARE PREGNANT OR NURSING WOMEN. IN ALL CASES, COMMON SENSE SHOULD PREVAIL, AND ILL PERSONS SHOULD NOT FURTHER JEOPARDIZE THEIR HEALTH BY FASTING.”**



An icon of the Sacred Heart of Jesus will be the centerpiece of a special Sacred Heart Holy Hour at Our Lady of the Desert Church at 5PM on Friday, April 4, 2025. The holy hour, flowing from the jubilee for the 350th anniversary of the apparitions of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque (Dec. 27, 2023 – Jun. 27, 2025) and inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical letter *Dilexit Nos* (He Loved Us), is sponsored by Knights of Columbus (Our Lady of the Desert Council 15704). During the holy hour, an icon depicting the most famous image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, painted in 1767 by Pompeo Batoni and now venerated in the Church of the Gesù in Rome, will be displayed. This reproduction of the original image bears the blessing of Pope Francis and is one of more than 300 icons traveling across the world as part of the Knights of Columbus Pilgrim Icon Program. Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly has said that as Knights bring these icons across the world to their parishes, he hopes "they will invite their families — and all families — to consecrate their homes and themselves to the Sacred Heart." He further said that "In the heart of Christ, we see the heart of the Father. And we ask Our Lord to help us make his heart our own, so that we may see and love in others what he sees and loves in us." The Sacred Heart Holy Hour will include readings from Sacred Scripture and reflections from Pope Francis on the Sacred Heart of Jesus, as well as the Divine Mercy Chaplet, prayers to the Sacred Heart, and time for silent prayer and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The prayer service will lead all present to grow in their love of God and devotion to his Most Sacred Heart. Please Spread the Word, everyone is welcome





# Family of the Month

Awarded to the family of

Bob and Chris Francis

*who has served as an inspiration to our parish, community and council by supporting and strengthening Catholic Family Life*

Dave VanderLinde

*Grand Knight*

15704

Council Number

03/16/2025

Date



Faith in Action

Family

Our parish KofC #15704 council is kicking off a 'Family of the Month' program; the intent is to promote and support the development of strong and vibrant families. Each month, the council 'Family of the Month' committee selects a parish family that models Christian family values and visibly lives them every day. Once a year, the council will select one of the previous twelve Family of the Month winners to represent the council/parish as the potential international 'Family of the Year'.

**Please join us in congratulating our 'Family of the Month' - the Francis, Bob and Chris.**

Long time parish members, Bob was active in our KofC Council 15704 as Financial Secretary. Together, Bob and Chris serve as Sacristan and Eucharistic Ministers to the homebound and are participants in the Diocese of Tucson annual 'March for Life', while Chris leads a faith formation women's group.

## CTSO Announcement—Our Lady of the Desert Church

Reminder to take advantage of the State of Arizona's Tuition Tax Credit. The State allows taxpayers to receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit on their 2024 state taxes while providing much-needed funding for deserving students enrolled in Catholic schools in the Diocese of Tucson and other private schools within Arizona.

Please use our CTSO Donation Form, when submitting your donation. The form is located at the back of the church and should already indicate our **Parish Family Referral Plan ID #1699**.

This ID# assures that your tax credit contributions through CTSO will be designated for distribution towards our parish family members that apply for Tuition Assistance.



*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  
March 2025**

- |                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 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 | David Donofrio     |
| Jack Friedman         | Bob Dionne         |
| Winnie Levoch         | Merle Margelofsky  |
| Bob Box               | Sonali Fernando    |
| Hayden Spencer        | June and Stan Wood |
| Walter McCulloch      | L. Cindy Otte      |
| Linda Whitten         | Sue Cobble         |
| Marty Lopez           | Robert Keogh       |
| Carol Bruzzi          | George Sheehan     |
| Fr. Pat Grile         | Mike Ortiz         |
| Charles Lohr          | Anita Fearday, ASC |

**OUR LADY OF THE  
DESERT**

**DECEASED MEMBERS**  
*Last 12 Months*

**(Month/Year)**

- Melissa Bandelt (5/24)
- Bill Berry (3/24)
- Olive 'Punken' Berry (4/24)
- Carol Burba (9/24)
- Peter Castillo (2/24)
- Pat Celentano (12/24)
- Patricia Conley (12/24)
- Larry Cobble (5/24)
- Catherine Connolly (2/25)
- Robert (Bob) Dorr (7/24)
- Fr. Tom Fransiscus C.Ss.R. (2/25)
- Joe Fernando (2/24)
- Gabby Juteau (10/24)
- Mary Sloan (7/24)
- Deacon Scott Pickett (3/25)
- Elaine Tolentino (8/24)
- Patricia Wayne (10/24)
- Margaret Zeches (2/25)

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

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

### **Friday, March 14**

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

\*\*Bob & Angie Brewster

### **Saturday, March 15**

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

\*\*Robert Dorr (d)

### **Sunday, March 16**

7:30 a.m. – Fr. Brian Johnson

\*\*Lou Ann Spiegelfoff (d)

10:00 a.m. – Fr. Peter Connolly

\*\*Teri McGuinness (d)

### **St. Patrick's Day**

### **Monday, March 17**

7:30 a.m. – Fr. Peter Connolly

\*\*Denny Mallory

### **Tuesday, March 18**

7:30 a.m. - Fr. Charlie Wehrley

\*\*Mary Gausepohls (d)

### **St. Joseph's Day**

### **Wednesday, March 19**

7:30 a.m. – Fr. Brian Johnson

\*\*Tony & Natalie Abatecola (d)

### **Thursday, March 20**

7:30 a.m. - Fr. Charlie Wehrley

\*\*James Orth (d)

### **Friday, March 21**

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

\*\*Tess Coscos (d)

### **Saturday, March 22**

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

\*\*Larry (d) & Karen Benkert

### **Sunday, March 23**

7:30 a.m. – Fr. Peter Connolly

\*\*Fr. Brian Johnson - Birthday

10:00 a.m. – Fr. Stephen Rehrauer

\*\*Mont Murry (d)

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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

Please help our local community by donating today. We collected 75lbs for the month of February. The bin is located in the veranda near the bookstore.

Thank you for your generosity. ~*Marge Mauzer*

### **Grief**

Losing a loved one 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

### **New Bible Study Update**

The new Bible Study, "Jesus the Way, the Truth and the Life" will begin on Monday, **March 17th meeting will be in the Petroglyph room .**

### **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.



**March**

March 2025

| 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 |    |    |    |    |    |

**BOOKSTORE  
NEW LOCATION  
OFFICE**

HOURS ARE THE SAME AS THE OFFICE  
MONDAY-SATURDAY 8 AM-4 PM  
SUNDAY 8 AM-3 PM

**This weeks Flower were donated by**

**James Conley**

**In Loving Memory of  
Patricia Conley**

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 : March 3-10, 2025 ~ \$4,564.00

**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/>



## Safe Environment



Our Lady of the Desert Church, along with The Diocese of Tucson under the leadership of Bishop Weisenburger remains committed to protecting our community against all forms of abuse and responding appropriately.

The mission of the Diocese of Tucson "Safe Environment Program" is to ensure the safety of children, young people and vulnerable who have been entrusted to our care in our parishes, schools, religious education classes, and other programs.

To find out more about the Diocese's Call to Protect, please click here: <https://diocesetucson.org/our-call-to-protect/>



**Report Abuse** If you or someone you know is a victim of abuse  
Contact law enforcement (911), call the Victim  
Assistance Program of the Diocese of Tucson (520-623-0344)  
or visit <https://diocesetucson.org/reportabuse>.

# Soul-Centered

Through Music as Prayer & Emotional Therapy



Music is the voice of God. This retreat will focus on using music as prayer as well as adding musical accompaniment to guided meditation practices.

In particular, we will focus on opening to the Holy Spirit and allowing God to take us to places within our hearts, souls and minds as we are experiencing musical pieces.

The primary focus will be on identifying feelings that the Spirit brings alive inside of you through the music. Guided meditations, set to music, will focus on enhancing self-love and self-esteem.

This retreat will begin at 9:00 AM and end at 3:00 PM. It will include lunch. The cost is \$55.

*Redemptorist Renewal Center*

7101 W. Picture Rocks Rd,  
Tucson, Arizona 85743

*Rev. Charlie Wehrley,*

Retreat Director

**April 5, 2025**

**Call 520-744-3400  
For reservations.**



## Annual Catholic Appeal

Yes, we are back to the beginning of another Annual Catholic Appeal. This special fundraising effort is very important to allow the Diocesan Ministries to continue to be active in all the parishes of the Diocese. All the Diocesan Offices exist to support the Pastors of our Churches in providing ministry to their people. I encourage you all to be as supportive of this Campaign as you can be.

Many of our parishioners here at Our Lady of the Desert seem not to understand the relationship between the Diocese and the Redemptorists. We are working with the permission of the Diocesan Bishop. As such, we are under his authority. This is especially true of Our Lady of the Desert. Without the Bishop's permission, Our Lady of the Desert could not be in existence. And, since he has allowed us to exist, we are bound by all Diocesan policies. Being part of this ACA is part of those policies. All of you, as members of a Conventual Parish in this Diocese have access to the ministries of the Diocese of Tucson. So, this appeal directly affects us!

Because of our status as a Conventual Parish, we are treated differently when a goal is assigned to us. Our goal is much lower than if we were a regular parish. This ACA is a way of us showing our gratefulness to the Diocese of Tucson. So, once again, I ask you to please be generous in your support of this year's ACA.

Sincerely,

Fr. Brian Johnson, C.Ss.R.



Please join Our Lady of the Desert Circle  
of Redemptorist Associates as

**Fr. Paul Coury, CSsR**  
presents a celebration  
of the life of

**St. Clement Maria Hofbauer, CSsR.**

**St. Clement began his life as a baker's apprentice,  
and became a Redemptorist priest only through  
the generosity of a benefactor.**

***St. Clement lived during a time as volatile as our own:***  
the political map of Europe was changing constantly.  
Every-day people saw their chances of survival rise  
or fall with each new group of rulers.

**When: Thursday, March 20, 2025 from 5-6:00pm**

**Where: St. Alphonsus Kitchen and via Zoom\***

**\*Please contact Diana Davenport at [diana@davenport.net](mailto:diana@davenport.net)  
for the Zoom link.**

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**



# Dear Padre,

***Does the Church teach how we should dress to go to Mass? Maybe I'm just old-fashioned, but the way some people dress seems very disrespectful.***

Church teaching, dogmas, doctrines, and creedal formulations are not the specific resources to consult in order to answer this question. It is properly a matter of discipline and practice, although the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* does direct that “bodily demeanor (gestures, clothing) ought to convey respect” (1387). There are many commentaries on what exactly “respect” might mean.

It would be very difficult to establish a universal dress code. The many different cultures, climates, and particular circumstances of a specific Catholic community make a dress code unmanageable. It seems that you judge the local practice not up to your standards. Your judgment may be correct, or you may have unreasonable expectations. There was a time when “Sunday best” was the established norm. In other communities, the expectation would be “business casual” as a bare minimum. Now, it seems standards and practices are very fluid and flexible. All of this being said, it is ultimately a pastoral concern, not doctrinal or dogmatic. Try not to allow how other people dress distract you from your purpose at Mass. While they may not look like you imagine they should, their prayer might be genuine and heartfelt. ●



BRICOLAGE / SHUTTERSTOCK

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

## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*After the labors of each day, it will do us good not to switch off the light in the room without placing ourselves in the light of God.... Wonder at the boundless love of God, who never tires of us and has the power to transfigure our days, to give them a new meaning, a new, unexpected light.*



ANGELUS, ROME, MARCH 13, 2022

UNSPLASH

### Monday

March 17  
*Lenten Weekday*  
Dn 9:4b–10  
Lk 6:36–38

### Tuesday

March 18  
*Lenten Weekday*  
Is 1:10, 16–20  
Mt 23:1–12

### Wednesday

March 19  
*St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary*  
2 Sm 7:4–5a, 12–14a, 16  
Rom 4:13, 16–18, 22  
Mt 1:16, 18–21, 24a or Lk 2:41–51a

### Thursday

March 20  
*Lenten Weekday*  
Jer 17:5–10  
Lk 16:19–31

### Friday

March 21  
*Lenten Weekday*  
Gn 37:3–4, 12–13a, 17b–28a  
Mt 21:33–43, 45–46

### Saturday

March 22  
*Lenten Weekday*  
Mi 7:14–15, 18–20  
Lk 15:1–3, 11–32

### Sunday

March 23  
*Third Sunday of Lent*  
Ex 3:1–8a, 13–15  
1 Cor 10:1–6, 10–12  
Lk 13:1–9

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

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