

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 8-9 First 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



We have concluded our look at the Sacraments. I hope you have grown in your understanding of and appreciation for these wonderful, grace-filled gifts from our God. I would now like to turn to one of the ways that God reaches out to us to help us be His holy people.

The United States Catholic Catechism for Adults states that God helps us in many ways to live a moral and happy life. He showers us with His grace, which is a share of His own love poured into our hearts to strengthen us in love. Grace also awakens in us a desire to say no to temptation and sin. It strengthens us to choose good. God also gives us the Theological and Cardinal Virtues along with His grace so that we will be stronger in our practice of these virtues. God continually reaches out to us through the Church and the sacraments. Through such means, we are called by God to be holy.

God has also given us laws to help us know how to live. These laws are The Ten Commandments. Heeding these commandments helps us to know how to live as the people of God, serving Him and loving one another. However, there is much more to these commandments than what we traditionally hear. I will center in on these commandments, and an expanded understanding of them, over the next few months.

~Fr. Brian Johnson C.Ss.R.

## Funeral Announcement

Memorial Mass for **Margaret Zeches** will be on Friday, March 14, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in the Our Lady of the Desert Church.

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.”**



*Please remember in your prayers*



### **OUR SICK**

*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 7**

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

**\*\*Rachel Sigala (d)**

### **Saturday, March 8**

4:00 p.m. livestreamed- Fr. Peter Connolly

**\*\*Benito Hernandez (d)**

### **Sunday, March 9**

7:30 a.m. – Fr. Stephen Rehrauer

**\*\*Louise Thom (d)**

10:00 a.m. – Fr. Charlie Wehrley

**\*\*Dulce Kabia (d)**

### **Monday, March 10**

7:30 a.m. – Fr. Jim Shea

**\*\*Edie Rohr (d)**

### **Tuesday, March 11**

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

**\*\*Jim (d) & Gene Rucker**

### **Wednesday, March 12**

7:30 a.m. – Fr. Peter Connolly

**\*\*Deceased Redemptorists**

### **Thursday, March 13**

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

**\*\*The Benkert & Rucker Families**

### **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 McGuiness (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 10th meeting will be in the Petroglyph room**. All who registered will receive their materials at the time of the first class.

### **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**

**Jesus, Alexis, Cruz and Camilo**

**In Celebration of**

**Carmen Murrieta's Birthday**

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

Weekend Collections : February 24-March 3, 2025 ~ \$11,050.00

**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 fund-raising 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.**

## Shoes needed

Sister Jose's Womens Center is a nonprofit organization in Tucson, that exists to aid and transform the lives of women who are unhoused. These women spend a lot of time walking around Tucson to stay warm and safe. We are collecting "**gently used women's walking shoes**" as a first step in making them more comfortable and letting them know that someone cares and that they are not alone.

I have put a box in back of the Church where you can drop off shoes in February and March. If you need more info or need shoes to be picked up, please call Colleen @320.444.6152.

# Dear Padre,

***Who decided that fish isn't meat? I really dislike fish; also, it bugs me when my friends eat lobster for dinner on Fridays in the name of "sacrifice."***

Latin is the official language of the Catholic Church. Canon law, as written in Latin, states that we must abstain from *carne* (meat), a word that refers to warm-blooded animals that walk on the ground. By that definition, fish is allowed.

You make an excellent point about the lobster dinners and the nature of sacrifice. In the document "Questions and Answers About Lent and Lenten Practices," the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops states, "While fish, lobster, and other shellfish are not considered meat and can be consumed on days of abstinence, indulging in the lavish buffet at your favorite seafood place sort of misses the point. Abstaining from meat and other indulgences during Lent is a penitential practice. On the Fridays of Lent, we remember the sacrifice of Christ on Good Friday and unite ourselves with that sacrifice through abstinence and prayer."

As we enter Lent, we must remember that our acts of penance should be more than thinking about just giving something up, like meat. Our fasting isn't just an external discipline—sacrifice for the sake of checking a box. It's supposed to be a sacrifice that leads us closer to God. When we take that deeper step ourselves, then we can invite our friends to go deeper, too. ●



SWEET MARSHALLOW / SHUTTERSTOCK

**Fr. Paul Borowski, CSSR / DearPadre.org**

## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

***Jesus opposes the attractions of evil...by responding to temptations with the word of God, which says not to take advantage...to obtain privileges. Because true happiness and true freedom are not found in possessing, but in sharing; not in taking advantage of others, but in loving them; not in the obsession of power, but in the joy of service.***



VATICAN MEDIA

ANGELUS, ROME, MARCH 6, 2022

### Monday

March 10

*Lenten Weekday*

Lv 19:1-2, 11-18  
Mt 25:31-46

### Tuesday

March 11

*Lenten Weekday*

Is 55:10-11  
Mt 6:7-15

### Wednesday

March 12

*Lenten Weekday*

Jon 3:1-10  
Lk 11:29-32

### Thursday

March 13

*Lenten Weekday*

Est C:12, 14-16,  
23-25  
Mt 7:7-12

### Friday

March 14

*Lenten Weekday*

Ez 18:21-28  
Mt 5:20-26

### Saturday

March 15

*Lenten Weekday*

Dt 26:16-19  
Mt 5:43-48

### Sunday

March 16

*Second Sunday of Lent*

Gn 15:5-12,  
17-18  
Phil 3:17-4:1 or  
3:20-4:1  
Lk 9:28b-36

## 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*.