

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 October 25-26 Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

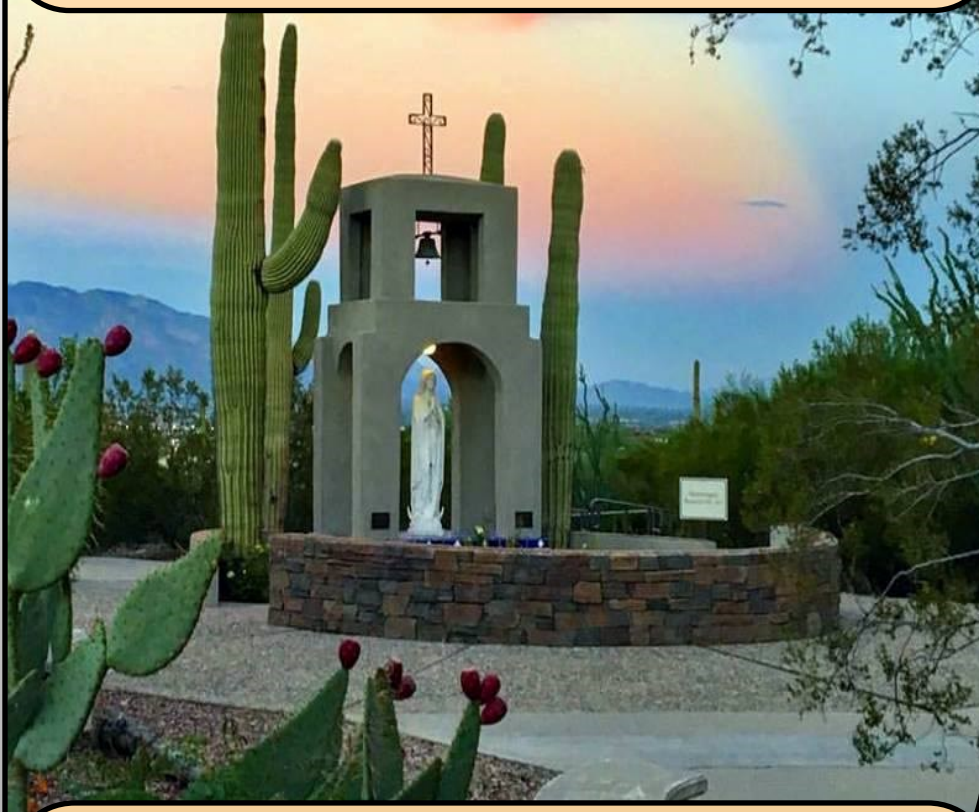
Knights of Columbus

Steve Spain

Grand Knight

Joe Weinand

Deputy 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 Catechism next treats the issue of homosexuality. Once again, we are reminded that in the Church's teaching, sexual acts must always be open to the procreation of human life. Obviously, sexual relations between homosexual individuals does not fulfill this requirement. Nor does this act show forth sexual complementarity. Therefore, the Church teaches that "under no circumstances can they (homosexual acts) be approved." (CCC #2357).

The Catechism is very quick to add a section which speaks about the individuals who experience homosexuality in their lives. It states that such persons "do not choose their homosexual condition; for most of them it is a trial." The catechism points out that such people "must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity. Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided." (CCC #2358) So, it is not the person but the action that is seen as evil.

Like all others who are single, the Catechism teaches that, "Homosexual persons are called to chastity." (CCC #2359)

~Fr. Brian Johnson C.Ss.R.

Bible Study with Fr. Brian Johnson, Monday October 27

This week we will meet at 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. In the Agave room building #7.

Thanksgiving Tickets

Are now available for purchase in the office.



Right to Life Month

Every October, the Church in the U.S. celebrates Respect Life Month. We reflect on the gift of every human life and how to build a culture that protects life from conception to natural death. We invite you to use this prayer during this week, as a way of beginning to reflect on the great gift of life that God has given us.

A Prayer to St. Joseph, Defender of Life

Dearest St. Joseph, at the word of an angel, you lovingly took Mary into your home. As God's humble servant, you guided the Holy Family on the road to Bethlehem, welcomed Jesus as your own son in the shelter of a manger, and fled far from your homeland for the safety of both Mother and Child. We praise God that as their faithful protector, you never hesitated to sacrifice for those entrusted to you. May your example inspire us also to welcome, cherish, and safeguard God's most precious gift of life. Help us to faithfully commit ourselves to the service and defense of human life—especially where it is vulnerable or threatened. Obtain for us the grace to do the will of God in all things, Amen.

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Thank you all who participated in this Years Arizona Rosary Celebration 2025.



!!Attention all Weavers !!

We are looking for someone who knows the ins and outs of teaching the art of how to Loom. With a standup Loom and/or a Table loom.

If you are interested in volunteering your time to our Sabbatical participants please call Diane Dupnaty 520.400.4031.



Hope that Anchors Us

Facing the end of life, whether for ourselves or someone we love, can stir fear, sadness and deep questions about what lies ahead. Yet, in these moments, we are called to cling to a hope far greater than anything this world offers. Christian hope is not just a wish for things to improve; it is a certainty, rooted in a person who will never fail us. Our hope rests in the One who guarantees it—Jesus Christ, who holds our future in His hands.

So how do we truly live out this hope, especially when suffering weighs heavy?

Let us use the letters of the word “hope” to reflect more deeply on the assurance Jesus has given us.

Holding Fast to Christ

Our hope is not in vague ideas but in Jesus Christ: God who took on flesh, loved us to the end, and conquered death. When life’s final chapter feels uncertain, He remains our sure and steadfast anchor. We are held by a God who keeps His promises. “The mystery of the Redemption of the human person is in an astonishing way rooted in the loving involvement of God with human suffering. That is why we can entrust ourselves to God and to convey this certainty in faith to the person who is suffering and fearful of pain and death.”¹

life, to the very last breath, has inestimable value and demands our protection and care.

Embracing Suffering

Jesus did not just observe human suffering—He entered into it. Our God chose to become like us! Love Himself chose to suffer with us, and that changes everything. Even when we feel alone, He is there, whispering, “I am with you.” Our suffering becomes meaningful when united to Christ’s suffering on the Cross. When we unite our pain with His, it becomes a share in God’s redeeming work, a mystery where our deepest wounds become vessels of grace. This is the scandal of our faith: a God who did not spare Himself so that we would know we are never abandoned.

Isaiah the prophet tells us, “They that hope in the Lord will renew their strength” (Is. 40:31). In life’s hardest moments, let us fix our eyes on our Lord Jesus Christ. He walks this path with us, redeems our struggles, and promises a dawn where every tear is wiped away. May His hope light our way, guiding us and our loved ones to our heavenly home with Him.

Overcoming Death

Through His resurrection, Jesus Christ, overcame death and gave us the hope of joining Him in eternal life. Eternal life is a relationship with our Lord who does not die, who is Life and Love itself. “Death is a decisive moment in the human person’s encounter with God the Savior.”² Thanks to the grace of Christ, death is not the end of life but a promise of communion with God. This is the glorious future awaiting us, and the great hope that steadies us even now when we are suffering.

Persevering in Solidarity

The Gospel is not just information; it transforms. It changes our life and enables us to act. Since we know who holds our tomorrow, we can face today’s fears with courage. This hope reshapes how we face suffering. It means living our final days not in despair, but with joy, offering our pain as prayer and witness.

This hope is not just for us; it is a light we pass to others. In hospice rooms, family conversations, and quiet acts of care for others, we become living reminders that no life is beyond God’s reach. “The scene of the Cross provides a way of understanding that even when it seems that there is nothing more to do there remains much to do, because ‘remaining’ by the side of the sick is a sign of love and of the hope that it contains.”³ Together, we can build communities anchored in solidarity that no illness or grief can destroy. We believe that every human



¹ *Samaritanus bonus*, Conclusion.

² *Ibid.*, V, 10.

³ *Ibid.*, II.

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 October 2025

Miguel Quijada	Tim McDonald
Jerry Linton	Phil Kyes
Chuck Peterson	Aubrey Scarborough
Linda Peterson	Joanna Crawford
Michael Dunlap	Lee Morrison
Charles Lohr	Kevin Linton
Ashleigh McIntosh	Brianna Krumweide
Rachel Flint	Emily Hernandez
Bob Garcia	JC Martinez
Fr. Jeff King-Healing	David Donofrio
Gayle Dorr	Margaret Beymer
Winnie Levoch	Merle Margelofsky
Sonali Fernando	Bernie Chuinard
Hayden Spencer	June and Stan Wood
Walter McCulloch	John Smithhisler
Marty Lopez	Robert Keogh
Carol Bruzzi	Virginia (Ginny) Wuebold
Fr. Pat Grile	Mike Ortiz
Ray Obral	Linda Lowman
Della Swarm	

OUR LADY OF THE DESERT

DECEASED MEMBERS

Last 12 Months

(Month/Year)

Bob Box (3/25)
Pat Celentano (12/24)
Patricia Conley (12/24)
Catherine Connolly (2/25)
Bob Dionne (5/25)
Josie Earhart (5/25)
Fr. Tom Fransiscus C.Ss.R.
(2/25)
Bettie Hunchis (8/25)
Gabby Juteau (10/24)
Marilyn Mallberg (2/25)
Sebastian Quijada (8/25)
George Sheehan (5/25)
Deacon Scott Pickett (3/25)
Patricia Wayne (10/24)
Jim Whitten (7/25)
Margaret Zeches (2/25)



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>.

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

Hoshea 2:16

****Mass Intentions/Presiders**

Friday, October 24

7:30 a.m. - Fr. Jim Shea
**Tosoni Family - Health

Saturday, October 25

4:00 p.m. livestreamed- Fr. Peter Connolly
**Bill & Velma Starman (d)

Sunday, October 26

7:30 a.m. - Fr. Brian Johnson
**Louise Thom (d)
10:00 a.m. - Fr. Peter Connolly
**Dylan Danielson (d)

Monday, October 27

7:30 a.m. - Fr. Charlie Wehrley
**Rosie Vassallo - Birthday

Tuesday, October 28

7:30 a.m. - Fr. Stephen Rehrauer
**Abatecola's Birthdays

Wednesday, October 29

7:30 a.m. - Fr. Brian Johnson
**Joe Taraba (d)

Thursday, October 30

7:30 a.m. - Fr. Peter Connolly
**Denny Mallory (d)

Friday, October 31

7:30 a.m. - Fr. Jim Shea
**Spiritual Gift of Healing

Saturday, November 1 All Saints Day

4:00 p.m. livestreamed-Fr. Stephen
Rehrauer
**Harold Ramsey (d)

Sunday, November 2 All Souls Day

7:30 a.m. - Fr. Peter Connolly
**Pete Castillo (d)
10:00 a.m. - Fr. Charlie Wehrley
**Bob & Carmen Murieta 56th Wedding
Anniversary

UPCOMING EVENTS

Interfaith Community Service Food Bank

Please help our local community by donating today.
**The bin is now located in the Front Office . We have
collected 72lbs. For the month of October.**
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
(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 (520-612-9873) for more
information. If you would like to attend online, please
contact John Davenport (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, or call
440.478.1203.

Adoration -First Friday of Every Month From 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.



Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.
May your grace transform us into
tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both
humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure
expectation of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.
May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread the joy and peace
of our Redeemer throughout the earth.
To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever. Amen



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.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Gifts & Books



Hours are:

MONDAY – SATURDAY: 8:00 am—4:00 pm

SUNDAY 8:00 am—3:00 pm

**This weeks Flowers were donated by
Velma Whittingham**

In Loving Memory of

Bill & Velma Starman

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

Week of October 13-20, 2025 Collection Total : \$6,629.00

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:

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

THANK you!

Our Lady of the Desert, you are AMAZING!
Your overwhelming generosity means we can help more good causes
this year than our council ever has before! God bless you!

The charities you enable us to support include:

*Arizona
Diaper Bank*

*Sister Jose
Women's Center*

*Christ Child society
of Tucson*

Courtney's Courage

Gospel Rescue Mission

*St. Vincent de Paul
of Southern Arizona*

GAP Ministries

*Hands of Hope
Tucson*

*Casa Maria
Soup Kitchen*

*Redemptorist
Seminarians*

*Feed My
Starving Children*

*Arizona
Rosary Celebration*



Our Lady of the Desert Council

LIFE

Our Sign
of Hope



There is perhaps no more beautiful celebration than when parents bring their newborn child to the waters of baptism. Parents, godparents, family, and friends share in this sacrament with incomparable joy. For in baptism, we share in Christ's death and resurrection, and through the outward signs of water and oil, are made *children of God* and given the hope of eternal life with Him.

"The death and resurrection of Jesus is the heart of our faith and the basis of our hope."¹ Through our Lord Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven, death is overcome, and life is victorious. "Hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite not knowing what the future may bring."² Because of this Christian hope, we can face the unknown trials of life with faith rather than fear.

We are called to be signs of hope to all people, especially those whose goodness, value, and dignity are undermined. As members of the Body of Christ, we carry this hope with us as we continue Jesus' mission on earth. Pope Leo XIV encourages us, "How important it is that each and every baptized person feel himself or herself called by God to be a sign of hope in the world today."³

Sadly, there is a devastating absence of hope today. We see this most profoundly in a sweeping disregard for human life in its most vulnerable forms and stages. Abortion and assisted suicide are products of

"Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us." Romans 5:5

hopelessness and despair. Yet even amid the increasing attacks on human life, we know that the "storms that buffet us will never prevail, for we are firmly anchored in the hope born of grace, which enables us to live in Christ and to overcome sin, fear and death."⁴

We have been entrusted with a message of hope for the woman who finds herself unexpectedly pregnant or for the man diagnosed with a terminal illness. At these challenging moments, we must bring God's presence, witnessing to His love, and inspiring a renewal of hope in those whose hearts are burdened. For "hope is born of love and based on the love springing from the pierced heart of Jesus upon the cross."⁵

Having been "buried with Christ in Baptism, we receive in his resurrection the gift of a new life that breaks down the walls of death."⁶ Confident of God's presence within us, may we share the Gospel of Life with those most in need of hope, knowing that "the grace of God precedes and accompanies his people as they press forward firm in faith, active in charity and steadfast in hope."⁷

¹ Pope Francis, *Spes non confundit*, 20.

² *Ibid.*, 1.

³ Pope Leo XIV, Vatican News, May 26, 2025: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2025-05/pope-leo-xiv-africa-day-pilgrimage-blessing-vatican-basilica.html>.

⁴ Pope Francis, *Spes non confundit*, 25.

⁵ *Ibid.*, 3.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 20.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 6.

Self-Forgiveness

The Life-Restoring Cleanse for Your Soul



Forgiveness of others is difficult for the average person. But self-forgiveness is almost impossible for countless others.

Everyone makes mistakes. Some of us are able to learn from those mistakes and brush them off. We release feelings of failure, shame and guilt. Others, however, are not able to overcome the devastation they feel when they make mistakes.

These people most often suffer from perfectionism, which has haunted them with the belief that if they make a mistake of any sort it's fatal. They are afraid their value in the eyes of others will be greatly diminished and they will no longer be respected or even considered worth-while persons.

And these are the individuals who suffer the most with the concept of self-forgiveness. They simply don't know where to begin to set themselves free from the great disgrace they feel over proving through any error that they are not perfect.

If you are trapped in the fear that any mistake you make may be fatal to your reputation or self-worth or even your ability to be loved by others-- including God-- this retreat will help you realize that every mistake, every sin, is forgivable. God forgives when we ask, many people forgive us when we ask. We are the ones who must learn to forgive ourselves just as God and others forgive us.



Fr. Charlie Wehrley, C.Ss.R.

Retreat Director

November 8, 2025

9:00 AM-3:00PM

\$55 includes lunch

Redemptorist Renewal Center

**7101 W. Picture Rocks Rd
Tucson, AZ 85743**

Call 520-744-3400



REDEMPTORIST RENEWAL CENTER

7101 W PICTURE ROCKS RD., TUCSON, AZ 85743

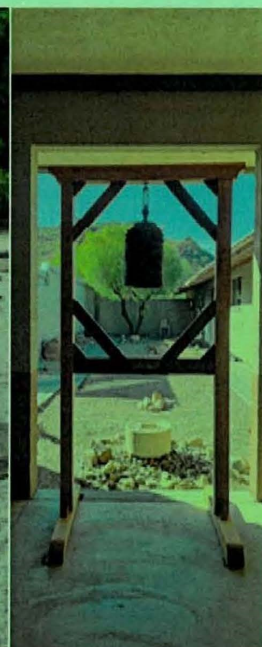
www.desertrenewal.org

Contemplative Intensive Retreats with Fr. Stephen Rehrauer, CSsR

February 7-9, 2025 November 21-23, 2025 ~~March 21-23, 2025~~

Jesus taught that the Kingdom of God is within and among us. To truly follow Christ from the depths of our lives we must seek “within” through quiet prayerful meditation and listen to his Spirit speaking there. Following Jesus Christ is not only a matter of doing; it is a way of being.

The intensive retreat is an opportunity for those new to contemplative prayer to begin a regular practice of Christian meditation. For those already practicing contemplative prayer, it affords an opportunity to deepen their practice and renew their commitment to this powerful prayer form. The retreat includes instruction and intensive practice of the form of meditation known as ‘Christian mindfulness’, or ‘Centering Prayer.’ We will learn the importance of body posture in prayer, of emptying the mind of, and concentration techniques to attain a state of openness to the voice of God’s Spirit speaking to our spirits and teaching us to pray. In clearing the ground of our lives through Christian contemplation, the seed of God’s Kingdom sown there can flourish and produce a hundred-fold.



For more information or to make reservation, call 520.744-3400 or write

office@desertrenewal.org

www.desertrenewal.org

Healing the Inner Child



Many people suffer from their unhealed childhood wounds

Inner child work is a therapeutic approach that focuses on healing emotional wounds from childhood. It recognizes that experiences during formative years can significantly impact adult behavior, self-esteem, and relationships. The inner child represents the childlike aspects of our personality, including both joyful and painful memories.

The term Inner Child refers to the vulnerable, childlike part of ourselves that holds memories and emotions from our early years. It can influence how we react to situations in adulthood.

Inner child work involves acknowledging and nurturing this part of ourselves. It aims to address unmet needs and unresolved traumas, allowing for emotional growth and maturity.

This retreat will focus on several ways to bring healing to your inner-child.



December 6, 2025
9:00 AM- 3:00 PM

\$55 per person
includes lunch and Handouts

Redemptorist
Renewal Center

7101 W. Picture Rocks Rd
Tucson, AZ 85743

Call 520-744-3400 for reservations

Dear Padre,

Is it wrong for children to dress up as zombies and devils and other evil creatures for Halloween?

No. It is perfectly acceptable to choose these kinds of costumes and to participate in the festivities of Halloween. Halloween is primarily a secular celebration. Although it is true that the original celebration is deeply rooted in the Christian tradition, that tradition is more properly celebrated during the great feast days of the Church that follow Halloween: All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day.

Mythological representations, and the costumes that remind us of these kind of characters, are to be understood with a sense of fun and mischief. There is no difference between a ghost, a goblin, a zombie, Captain America, Superman, or one of the Mario Brothers. They are all fictional characters in the very human stories we share with each other. The meaning we assign to them must be proportional to what they represent. On Halloween, they represent nothing more than a person in costume. It could be an entirely different story under different circumstances in which there might be the possibility of a misunderstanding about the meaning of such a costume. Halloween pretty much blurs that distinction and takes away the misunderstanding. It is meant to be entertaining and fun. That is all. ●

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



FAMWELD / SHUTTERSTOCK

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

My own story is that of a citizen, the descendant of immigrants, who in turn chose to emigrate. All of us, in the course of our lives, can find ourselves healthy or sick, employed or unemployed, living in our native land or in a foreign country, yet our dignity always remains unchanged: it is the dignity of a creature willed and loved by God.

AUDIENCE OF THE HOLY FATHER, ROME, MAY 16, 2025



STEFANO SPAZIANI

Monday

October 27

Weekday

Rom 8:12-17

Lk 13:10-17

Tuesday

October 28

Sts. Simon and Jude,

Apostles

Eph 2:19-22

Lk 6:12-16

Wednesday

October 29

Weekday

Rom 8:26-30

Lk 13:22-30

Thursday

October 30

Weekday

Rom 8:31b-39

Lk 13:31-35

Friday

October 31

Weekday

Rom 9:1-5

Lk 14:1-6

Saturday

November 1

All Saints

Rv 7:2-4, 9-14

1 Jn 3:1-3

Mt 5:1-12a

Sunday

November 2

The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day)

Wis 3:1-9

Rom 5:5-11 or Rom 6:3-9

Jn 6:37-40

(These readings or any from no. 668 or from the Masses for the Dead)