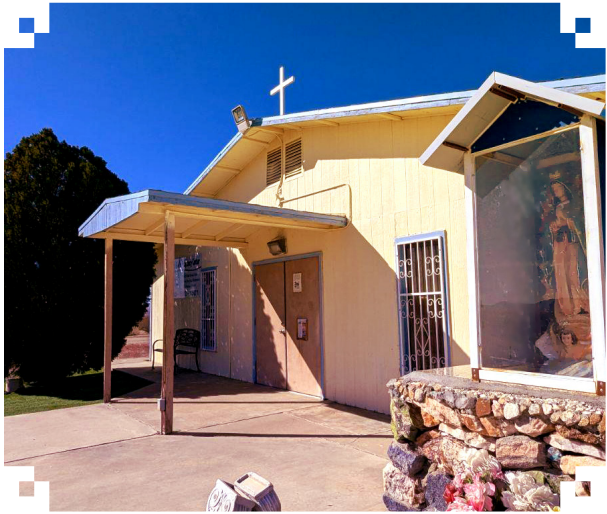


OUR LADY OF THE DESERT



15385 Pierce Ferry Road
(Poste de milla número 4)
P.O. Box 337, Dolan Springs AZ 86441
Teléfono: (928) 767-3397

Padre: Rev. Chris Axline,
Pastor

Padre: Rev. Johnson Vadakkumcherry,
Vicario Parroquial

Confesión el Sábado:
Con cita previa (Español y Inglés)

Rosario el Sábado: En la iglesia
(privadamente) 3:20pm

Misa el Sábado: (Vigilia) / Inglés 4:00pm
Rosario el Domingo: Con las Letanías de la
Santisima Virgen Maria— 9:40am
Misa el Domingo: Español - 11:30am

Liturgia en los Días de la Semana

Cada Día a las Doce: Angelus

Lunes, Martes, Miércoles, Viernes:
Adoración 7:30am y Misa 8:00am

Jueves: Misa 6:00pm Para Vocaciones:
Soltero Vida Consagrada, Matrimonio,
Sacerdocio

Viernes: A Las 6:00pm, Rosario Reina de la Paz
con Adoracion

Sábado: Adoración a las 7:30am y a las 8am.
Misa en honor a la Virgen María

Rev. Chris Axline, Pastor

Rev. Johnson Vadakkumcherry, Parochial Vicar

Confession on Saturday:
By appointment English/Spanish

Saturday Rosary: At the Church (privately) 3:20pm

Saturday Mass (Vigil): English - 4:00pm

Sunday Rosary: With Litanies of the Blessed
Virgin Mary—9:40am

Sunday Mass: Spanish - 11:30am

Liturgy of the Weekdays

Every day at Noon: The Angelus

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday:
Adoration 7:30am & Mass 8:00am

Thursday: Mass 6:00pm for Vocations: Single
consecrated Life, Matrimony, Priesthood

Friday: 6:00pm Rosary of Queen of Peace with Adoration

Saturday: Adoration at 7:30am & at 8am. The Mass in
honor of the Virgin Mary

SUNDAY, December 7th, 2025



2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the
desert of Judea and saying, 'Repent, for the
kingdom of heaven is at hand!'" - Mt 3:1

Reflection for SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – December 7, 2025: Year A SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 7, 2025

Tracy Earl Welliver

Readings: • Isaiah 11:1-10 • Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 • Romans 15:4-9

• Romans 15:4-9

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/120725.cfm>

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP – RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

How Much Is Enough?

I've got some great news for some of you: Jesus Christ doesn't care what name you bear. He doesn't care where you were born, and he doesn't care what your family tree looks like. He doesn't care where you grew up or where you went to school.

I've also got some bad news for some of you: See above.

It's so easy to take our salvation for granted. The mercy of God makes it so. Look at John the Baptist — he was pouring water on everybody who wanted it. Everybody but one group: those who expected it. Those who thought it was a given because of who they were, because of what they were. Those who had no intention of doing the work of repentance.

Sometimes, because God is so faithful, we make the mistake of forgetting that He is also just.

I am baptized, we think. I made my First Communion, and I was Confirmed. That's enough.

I went to Catholic school. I know all the Ten Commandments and I can tell you anything you want to know about the Popes. That's enough.

I'm on parish council. I put money in the basket, and I volunteer. That's enough.

None of it is enough. It would never be enough. And before we look upon the Pharisees and Sadducees with too much judgment, we need to remember: the work of repentance is ongoing. It is a process that we must commit to within ourselves, continuously.

God is the missing element to this equation. He is the one who raises children to Abraham from the stones. If we rely only on our own abilities, our own merits, our own offerings, it will never be enough. — Tracy Earl Welliver ©LPi



LA ORRESPONSABILIDAD DIARIA – RECONOCE A DIOS EN TUS MOMENTOS ORDINARIOS

¿Cómo Gobernarías tu Reino?

Tengo buenas noticias para algunos de ustedes: a Jesucristo no le importa el nombre que lleves. No le importa dónde naciste, y no le importa cómo es tu árbol genealógico. No le importa dónde creciste o a dónde fuiste a la escuela.

También tengo malas noticias para algunos de ustedes: ver más arriba.

Es tan fácil dar por hecho nuestra salvación. La misericordia de Dios lo hace así. Mire a Juan el Bautista: estaba derramando agua sobre todos los que la querían. Todos menos un grupo: los que lo esperaban. Aquellos que pensaron que era un hecho por quienes eran, por lo que eran. Los que no tenían intención de hacer la obra del arrepentimiento.

A veces, debido a que Dios es tan fiel, cometemos el error de olvidar que Él también es justo.

Estoy bautizado, pensamos. Hice mi Primera Comunión y fui Confirmada. Eso es suficiente.

Fui a la escuela católica. Conozco todos los Diez Mandamientos y puedo decirte todo lo que quieras saber sobre los Papas. Eso es suficiente.

Estoy en el consejo parroquial. Pongo dinero en la canasta y me ofrezco como voluntario. Eso es suficiente.

Nada de eso es suficiente. Nunca sería suficiente. Y antes de juzgar demasiado a los fariseos y saduceos, debemos recordar: la obra del arrepentimiento continúa. Es un proceso con el que debemos comprometernos dentro de nosotros mismos, continuamente.

Dios es el elemento que falta en esta ecuación. Él es el que suscita hijos a Abraham de las piedras. Si confiamos solo en nuestras propias habilidades, nuestros propios méritos, nuestras propias ofrendas, nunca será suficiente.

— Tracy Earl Welliver ©LPi

Readings for the week of December 7, 2025

Sunday:

Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 (see 7)/
Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

Monday:

Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/
Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday:

Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/
Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday:

Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/
Mt 11:28-30

Thursday:

Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab/
Mt 11:11-15

Friday:

Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/
Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Saturday:

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16,
18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Next Sunday:

Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10
(see Is 35:4)/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

This week we hear that John the Baptist is out in the wilderness eating **“locusts and wild honey” (Mark 1:6)**. It’s not just a strange historical detail. It’s a symbolic expression of a healthy spiritual diet. The path to Christ includes both the hard and the beautiful, the gritty and the sweet. We have to learn to gulp the locusts and savor the honey.

I remember working with a young couple preparing for marriage. They were sincere, but raw — barely beginning to discover faith. Part of me wanted to rush them ahead, to fill in all the gaps, to bombard them with scripture and church documents. I swallowed that instinct. It was like eating locusts.

But I also recall them light up as they spoke about each other, about their first child, then their second. And they wanted to be close to God. Something innocent and beautiful was unfolding. That was the honey. I knew God was asking me to savor it.

This Advent, maybe we’re each being invited to accept both locusts and honey. Maybe it’s time to stop avoiding the difficult parts of faith — prayer that feels dry, the call to repentance, the patience with the troublesome. It’s time to eat some locusts.

But we also need to notice the small gifts God gives us: a peaceful moment, a good conversation, the joy of serving someone else, new life, good intentions of our friends. That’s the honey. Savor it!

John didn’t avoid either. He took it all in. And so can we. What are your locusts? Your honey? If we let God feed us with both, we’ll be ready — really ready — for the coming of Christ.

— Father John Muir

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him:
a spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
a spirit of counsel and of strength,
a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD. (Isa 11:2)

Psalm:

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.
(Ps 72)

Second Reading:

Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you,
for the glory of God. (Romans 15:7)

Gospel:

"I am baptizing you with water, for repentance,
but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I." (Mt 3:11)

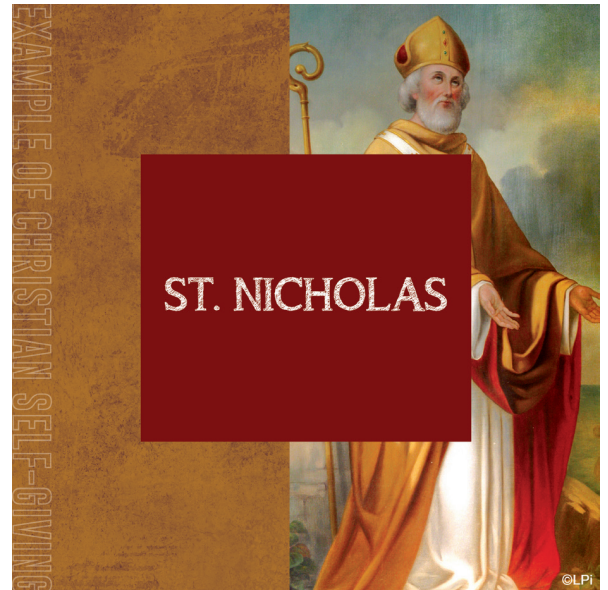
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

The story of Advent is a story of repentance. John the Baptist held up a mirror to the chosen people. He urged them to look at what they saw there. This Advent, will we look in the mirror? Will we choose repentance?

Observances for the week of December 7, 2025

Sunday:	2nd Sunday of Advent
Monday:	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Tuesday:	St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatatzin
Wednesday:	Our Lady of Loreto
Thursday:	St. Damasus I, Pope
Friday:	Our Lady of Guadalupe
Saturday:	St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr
Next Sunday:	3rd Sunday of Advent



Devotions, Explained!

St. Nicholas is sometimes merged with the modern figure of Santa Claus in the collective imagination. But St. Nicholas was a real-life bishop, a follower of Jesus whose example of Christian self-giving endures hundreds of years after his death.

Prayer for Advent - Peace

Come, Lord Jesus!
Bring your peace to our world.
Inspire reconciliation, heal
divisions, bind wounds,
rewrite scripts.
You are the Prince of Peace,
bring that light into every space.
Amen.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: It is so, so beautiful to be culturally Catholic. But actions, rituals, traditions, sentiments, nostalgia — none of it matters unless it bears the fruit of a transformed heart.

Culturally Catholic

Catholic culture is so thick, you could spread it on a scone. Or a baguette. Or a slice of ciabatta bread. Or naan (Wait, do you put butter on naan? I would, because I'm Midwestern, but I sense that this is, perhaps, incorrect).

Okay, maybe my comparison is imperfect, but what I'm saying is this: Catholic culture is delicious, it's versatile, and it's nourishing. It's the same everywhere, even though it also looks and feels totally unique in every place. The Day of the Dead in Mexico, Simbang Gabi in the Philippines, St. Patrick's Day in Ireland, Meskel in Ethiopia, Semana Santa processions in Spain: these are all touchstones of Catholic culture.

It is so, so beautiful to be culturally Catholic. But today, when I hear John the Baptist's words to the Pharisees and the Sadducees, I am reminded that Catholicism is so much more than just cultural expression.

The Pharisees and Sadducees were loyal sons of Abraham and scrupulous observers of the law of Moses. Their culture, you could say, was strong. But John the Baptist is telling them — and he's telling us — that culture isn't enough.

Actions, rituals, traditions, sentiments, nostalgia — none of it matters unless it bears the fruit of a transformed heart.

It's something to remember especially as we approach Christmas, a time when culture and cultural rituals become so (beautifully) prominent. In the cultural practice of Christmas, we are like the Wise Men approaching the manger, bearing our gifts. But how terrible would it have been if the wise men had hurried away, their culture expressed, their ritual complete, and gone back to the world unchanged by the gaze of the Infant?

So be culturally Catholic. Bring these gifts to the Christ Child — but linger there. Reflect. And then when you return to the world, you will bring Catholic culture with you.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

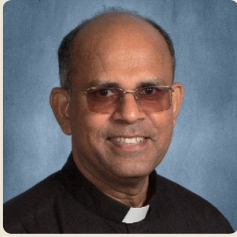
I've heard people call Jesus' conception by the Holy Spirit being "immaculately conceived." Is that what the Immaculate Conception is?

Answer:

While these two events are often confused, they are not the same thing. We celebrated the conception of Jesus on March 25th, the feast of the Annunciation. While that was surely miraculous, it isn't what we refer to as the "immaculate conception." The Immaculate Conception is Mary's conception, and we typically celebrate it on December 8th. If the 8th happens to be a Sunday, the Church moves the feast to December 9th. It is a holy day of obligation. Why does the Church consider it so important to celebrate?

Mary's conception is immaculate because she was conceived without original sin. The angel Gabriel acknowledges this when he hails Mary as "full of grace" (Luke 1:28). Scripture scholars identify several theological ideas that confirm this. In the Old Testament, the sacred, pristine Ark of the Covenant held the presence of God. The presence of God is now held within a new "ark" — the womb of Mary. Genesis 3 also prophesies of a woman who would oppose the devil and whose child would crush the devil's head. Christ is the "New Adam." This passage sets up Mary, then, as the "New Eve." Jesus and Mary are the beginnings of a new creation, one we all can participate in through the grace of our baptism. After all, God's love is more "original" than our sin!

Parish News and Events



Welcome to Fr. Johnson Vadakkumcherry!

This week, we welcome Fr. Johnson Vadakkumcherry to our parish. He comes to us from Our Lady of the Lake Roman Catholic Church in Lake Havasu City.

We are blessed to have him join our parish community!

Welcome
THANK YOU FOR JOINING US

Blessed is She is hosting an Advent Mini Retreat on Saturday, December 13th from 8am-12pm in Tempe.

And guess what? It's FREE.

Come join Blessed is She for a morning of reflection together this Advent season. There will be Mass starting at 8:15am followed by a light breakfast, fellowship, a talk, worship, & adoration.

It will be such a beautiful time to rest and be with the Lord together.

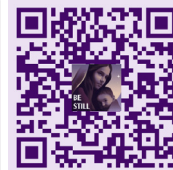
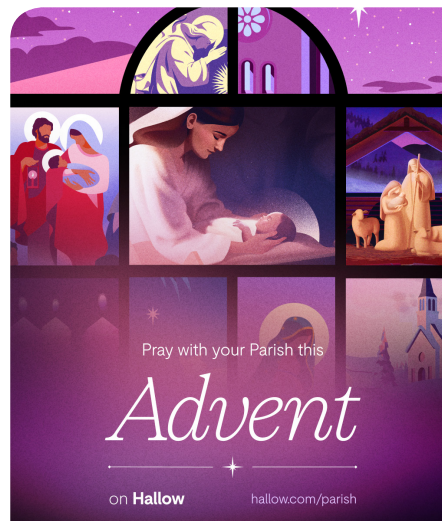
They will be ready to receive all women of our diocese at 8am on December 13th at City of the Lord (711 W University Dr, Tempe, AZ 85281).

More information and RSVP form: blessedishe.net/phoenix

Advent Mini Retreat

12/13 | 8am-12pm

711 W University Dr,
Tempe, AZ



Scan here to
join the Advent
Be Still Prayer
Challenge

Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration

In preparation for the festivities of our Lady of Guadalupe of Dec 12th, the Hispanic community is doing different activities of fundraisers after each Mass to bring a Mariachi band on that day.

Monetary donations are accepted if you do not wish to purchase any raffle tickets for the items displayed in the back of the church.

All parishioners are invited to come on Dec 12th to the Rosary and bilingual mass.

Please see the bulletin for more information.

We appreciate your support and generosity."



Religious Formation and Sacraments

FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION



INSCRIPCIÓN PARA LA FORMACIÓN EN LA FE



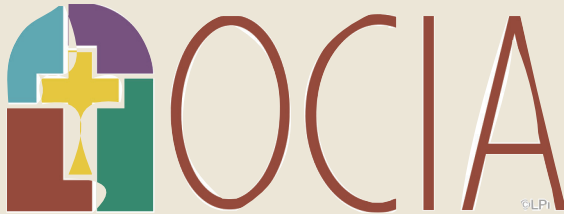
Registration for the 2025-2026 Religious Education session has ended.

Classes are held on Thursdays from 5:30-7:00pm at the St. Mary's Parish Center.

No payments will be accepted at class times. Payments can be made at the Parish Office during business hours, or online at this QR code —>



We look forward to a great year with our St. Mary's families!



OCIA Class

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults meets weekly on **Wednesdays at 7pm** in Rooms 5, 6, 7 at St. Mary's Parish Hall

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Thursdays: 5:30-7:00pm



Early Childhood (ages 4-6):

No sacramental preparation

Elementary Catechism, Year 1 (ages 7+):

1st Reconciliation (if baptized)

**Unbaptized children complete two years of catechism, with Baptism being received in the second year, along with Confirmation and 1st Holy Communion*

Elementary Catechism, Year 2 (ages 8-12):

1st Holy Communion, Confirmation, Baptism (if unbaptized)

Catecismo en Español, año 1 (7+ años):

1a Reconciliación (si está bautizado)

**Los niños no bautizados completan dos años de catecismo, recibiendo el bautismo en el segundo año, junto con la Confirmación y la Primera Comunión.*

Catecismo en Español, año 2 (8-12 años):

1a Santa Comunión, Confirmación, Bautismo (si no está bautizado)



BAPTISM INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS



Baptism Information

(children ages 6 and younger)



REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BAPTISM OF YOUR CHILD

To have your child baptized in our parish, a parent of the child to be baptized must come to the Parish Office to obtain an outline describing the required forms.

After submitting these required forms to the office, the parents and godparents will be scheduled to attend a pre-baptism class. Only after all requirements have been met can the baptism of your child be scheduled.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please call the Parish Office: (928) 377-3435.

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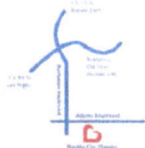


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