

## 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 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025**



Reflection for FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – December 21, 2025: Year A

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 21, 2025

Tracy Earl Welliver

Readings: • Isaiah 7:10-14 • Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6. • Romans 1:1-7

• Matthew 1:18-24 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/122125.cfm>

### EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP – RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

#### St. Joseph the Steward

St. Joseph is one of the greatest examples of stewardship we have in the Gospels. Here is a man who understands care and reverence for the property of God, a man chosen to be steward over the very life and breath of God's Son and Spouse.

Joseph was mindful. He recognized what belonged to God. When he understood that Mary was to be the mother of God, he was not jealous or bitter. He did not presume to claim ownership over her.

Joseph was prayerful. He accepted the opportunity to be in relationship with God, even if it was in a radical and unexpected way. How many of us would trust a crazy dream we have where an angel tells us our fiancée is carrying the Son of God? Well, those of us who are already profoundly connected to God through prayer. Joseph was open to receiving God, and so he was open to the truth in a way many of us would not have been.

Joseph was gracious. Even before he had full understanding of the situation, he was unwilling to expose Mary to shame. He did not give himself over to feelings of betrayal.

Joseph was committed. He persevered. The Lord had no shortage of strange and even dangerous-sounding tasks for Joseph, but he submitted to each one.

Joseph was accountable. When he awoke from his dream, "he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him, and took his wife into his home."

Joseph was a man entrusted with many gifts, and he gave of them wisely. Let us pray that we have the grace to follow in his example. — Tracy Earl Welliver ©LPi



### LA ORRESPONSABILIDAD DIARIA – RECONOCE A DIOS EN TUS MOMENTOS ORDINARIOS

#### San José el Corresponsable

San José es uno de los más grandes ejemplos de corresponsabilidad que tenemos en los Evangelios. He aquí un hombre que entiende el cuidado y la reverencia por la propiedad de Dios, un hombre escogido para ser corresponsable de la vida y el aliento del Hijo y Esposa de Dios.

José estaba atento. Reconoció lo que era de Dios. Cuando entendió que María iba a ser la madre de Dios, no se puso celoso ni amargado. No se atrevió a presumir la propiedad sobre ella.

José era orante. Aceptó la oportunidad de estar en relación con Dios, aunque fuera de una manera radical e inesperada. ¿Cuántos de nosotros confiaríamos en un sueño loco que tenemos donde un ángel nos dice que nuestra prometida está llevando al Hijo de Dios? Bueno, aquellos de nosotros que ya estamos profundamente conectados con Dios a través de la oración. José estaba abierto a recibir a Dios, por lo que estaba abierto a la verdad de una manera que muchos de nosotros no hubiéramos estado.

José fue amable. Incluso antes de tener una comprensión completa de la situación, no estaba dispuesto a exponer a María a la vergüenza. No se entregó a sentimientos de traición.

José estaba comprometido. Él perseveró. Al Señor no le faltaron tareas extrañas e incluso peligrosas para José, pero se sometió a cada una de ellas.

José era responsable. Cuando despertó de su sueño, "hizo como el ángel del Señor le había mandado, y llevo a su esposa a su casa."

José fue un hombre al que se le confiaron muchos dones, y dio de ellos sabiamente. Oremos para que tengamos la gracia de seguir su ejemplo. — Tracy Earl Welliver ©LPi



## Readings for the week of December 21, 2025

### Sunday:

Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c, 10b)/  
Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

### Monday:

1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/  
Lk 1:46-56

### Tuesday:

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and  
14/Lk 1:57-66

### Wednesday:

Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps  
89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79

### Thursday:

*Vigil:* Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29  
(2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or  
1:18-25

*Night:* Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13  
(Lk 2:11)/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

*Dawn:* Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/  
Lk 2:15-20

*Day:* Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c)/  
Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

### Friday:

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and  
8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

### Saturday:

1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

### Next Sunday:

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 (see 1)/  
Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

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## Gospel Meditation

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

A priest friend recently told me a remarkable story. One of his cousins reported having a vivid dream in which an angel told him the family needed to exhume their grandmother's body from a cemetery in New York and return it to her birthplace in Romania. She had been dead nearly ten years. As you might expect, the family thought it was, well, crazy. But astonishingly they exhumed her body. It was incorrupt, showing no signs of decomposition. That experience sparked healing, faith, and reconciliation throughout the family.

In this Sunday's Gospel, Joseph also receives a dream. He's confused, afraid. But in the quiet of sleep, God speaks:

**"Do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home" (Matthew 1:20).** When he wakes, Joseph acts. He doesn't overanalyze or dismiss the message. He trusts, and acts.

God still speaks — not necessarily through literal dreams but through those deeper intuitions of the heart. St. Ignatius of Loyola taught that God's voice draws us into peace, courage, and love. But we have to listen to it. Advent is a time for stillness. As we prepare for Christ's coming, we're invited to enter that quiet space where God's voice can be heard.

When and how do you become most receptive to God? Is it in silence? In prayer? In nature? At Mass? This week, go there. Be still. Listen. And like Joseph, have the courage to act on what God shows you.

— *Father John Muir*

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign:  
the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son,  
and shall name him Emmanuel. (Isa 7:14)

### Psalm:

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory. (Ps 24)

### Second Reading:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ. (Rom 1:7)

### Gospel:

"Joseph, son of David,  
do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home.  
For it is through the Holy Spirit  
that this child has been conceived in her.  
She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus,  
because he will save his people from their sins." (Mt 1:20-21)

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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Sometimes we want God's instructions to be clear and precise — like the angel in Joseph's dream. But Joseph's understanding was only as strong as his devotion to God's will. If we give our lives to God as Joseph did, we will know what he asks of us.

## Observances for the week of December 21, 2025

- Sunday:** 4th Sunday of Advent  
**Tuesday:** St. John of Kanty, Priest  
**Wednesday:** Christmas Eve  
**Thursday:** The Nativity of the Lord  
**Friday:** St. Stephen, First Martyr  
**Saturday:** St. John, Apostle and Evangelist  
**Next Sunday:** The Holy Family



## Devotions, *Explained!*

Las Posadas is a Mexican tradition which recreates the Holy Family's search for lodging in Bethlehem. This nine-day devotion anticipates the birth of Jesus Christ, who seeks refuge in the heart of every man and woman.

## Prayer for Advent - Miracles

Dear God,  
You are in the miracle business.  
I still believe that You can move  
mountains and separate seas.  
Break into every unknown and  
astound us with Your goodness  
and grace.  
Amen.

## (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

**Mini Reflection:** Advent is drawing quickly to a close, and Christmas is coming soon. The change is upon us. Do we rise to accept it, or do we fall on our faces in fear?

### **The First Transfiguration**

I imagine Joseph waking up the morning after the dream, blinking in the dim half-light of the dawn.

One day, decades from now, the baby his wife carries will stand on a mountaintop. His face will shine like the sun, and those who look upon him will fall down upon their own faces in fear.

We call this the transfiguration, and Joseph won't be there to see it. But that doesn't matter. What those men will learn on the mountaintop, Joseph already knows. He learned it last night.

Today, he shrugs off the remnants of slumber and stands up.

"Rise, and do not be afraid." This is what the baby — a baby no longer, but a man now, one in the last days of his life — will say to his companions on the mountain a few decades from now. They will look up to see him standing there the same as he always was, and they will realize that he did not change at all. They did.

"Do not be afraid." This is what the angel said last night as he revealed to Joseph the will of God: that Joseph take Mary and the Child as his own, despite having so many reasons not to do so. And today Joseph wakes up and the world is the same as it always was: Mary is pregnant, and the Child does not belong to him.

No, the world has not changed. Joseph has.

He rises, and goes to Mary.

Advent is drawing quickly to a close, and Christmas is coming soon. The change is upon us. Do we rise to accept it, or do we fall on our faces in fear?

— *Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman*

## **Why do we do that?**

### **Catholic Life Explained**

#### **Question:**

What is the difference between tithing and stewardship?

#### **Answer:**

Both tithing and stewardship are part of a spiritual way of life that calls us to use all of our resources for the service of the Gospel. Everything we are and everything we have comes from God. Offering back to God what He has given us is part of how we worship and give thanks to God.

Tithing is the practice of giving back 10 percent of what we earn. It comes from the Old English word for "ten." The first Scriptural example of tithing came from Abraham who gave a tenth of his possessions to the priest Melchizedek. He did so as an act of thanksgiving to God.

Stewardship as a way of life calls us to use well all that we have and all that we are, placing all things in service of others and God. Stewardship helps us see the good we can accomplish by making God and our spiritual life the most important values in our life. Whatever we accumulate in this life stays here. We can't take it with us! Both tithing and stewardship help us remember that nothing is mine or even ours ... all belongs to God.



# Our Lady of the Desert Parish News and Events



*Christmas  
Mass*



*Misa de  
Navidad*



## Our Lady of the Desert Christmas Mass Times

Wednesday, December 24th:  
4:00pm - Vigil Mass (*English*)

Thursday, December 25th:  
10:00am - Morning Mass (*Spanish*)

## Nuestra Señora del Desierto Horarios de las misas de Navidad

Miércoles 24 de diciembre:  
16:00 - Misa de Nochebuena (*en inglés*)

Jueves 25 de diciembre:  
10:00 - Misa de la mañana (*en español*)

## The Solemnity of Mary *Mother of God* ©LPI

### Our Lady of the Desert New Year's Mass Times

Wednesday, December 31st:  
5:00pm - Vigil Mass (*English*)

Thursday, January 1st, 2026:  
10:00am Mass (*Spanish*)

## La Solemnidad de María *Madre de Dios* ©LPI

### Nuestra Señora del Desierto Horarios de misas de Año Nuevo

Miércoles 31 de diciembre:  
17:00 - Misa de Nochevieja (*en inglés*)

Jueves 1 de enero de 2026:  
10:00 - Misa (*en español*)



# St. Mary's Parish News and Events

## Come Decorate with Us!

Parishioners are invited to come help decorate the church and the donated Christmas trees on Tuesday, December 23rd beginning at 9am.

If we don't finish on the 23rd, we'll continue decorating on Wednesday, December 24th at 9am.

Donations of non-breakable ornaments to fill out the trees are welcome.

See you there!



## Christma Masses / Misas de Navidad

### Christmas Mass Times

Wednesday, December 24th:

3:30pm - Children's Christmas Pageant

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

11:30pm - Christmas Sing-Along

Thursday, December 25th:

12:00am - Midnight Mass (*Bilingual*)

9:00am - Morning Mass (*English*)

11:30am - Day Mass (*Spanish*)

### Horarios de misas de Navidad

Miércoles 24 de diciembre:

15:30 - Representación navideña infantil

16:00 - Misa de Nochebuena (*en inglés*)

23:30 - Villancicos navideños

Jueves 25 de diciembre:

00:00 - Misa de Medianoche (*bilingüe*)

9:00 - Misa de la mañana (*en inglés*)

11:30 - Misa del día (*en español*)



**Merry Christmas**  
*Feliz Navidad*



## The Solemnity of Mary *Mother of God*

### New Year's Mass Times

Wednesday, December 31st:

5:30pm - Vigil Mass (*Bilingual*)

Thursday, January 1st, 2026:

10:00am Mass (*Bilingual*)



## La Solemnidad de María *Madre de Dios*

### Horarios de misas de Año Nuevo

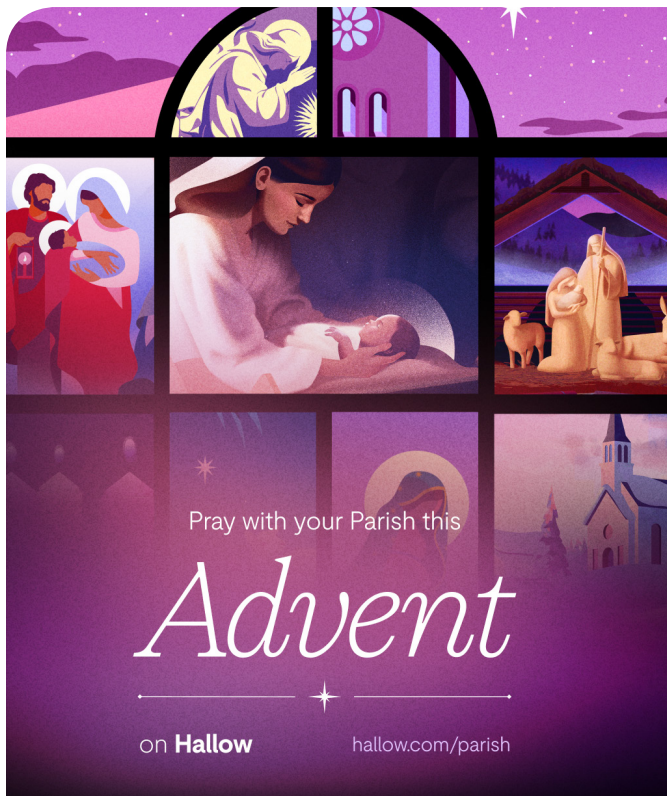
Miércoles 31 de diciembre:

17:30 - Misa de Nochevieja (*bilingüe*)

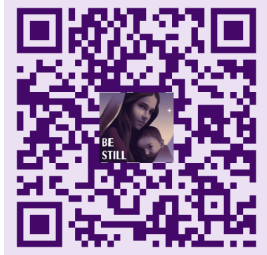
Jueves 1 de enero de 2026:

10:00 - Misa (*bilingüe*)





Scan here to  
join the Advent  
*Be Still* Prayer  
Challenge



Need help getting  
started?

Email:  
parishsupport@  
hallow.app

### You're invited!

Starting December 1, St. Mary's will journey together through Hallow's Advent Prayer

Challenge, *Be Still*, along with Jonathan Roumie, Sr. Miriam James Heidland, Chris Pratt, Gwen Stefani, Fr. John Burns, among others. Together, we'll walk with Mary and Joseph through the Gospels, drawing from Caryl Houselander's *The Reed of God* and John Mark Comer's *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry*.

The road from Nazareth to Bethlehem was filled with risk, uncertainty, and chaos—yet it was held together by a sacred stillness and an unshakeable peace. This Advent, may we enter more deeply into prayer and discover that same peace.

### Already using Hallow?

Simply open the app, tap the Church tab at the bottom of your screen, visit our parish page, and join the Advent prayer challenge.

### New to Hallow?

Visit [hallow.com/parish](https://hallow.com/parish), search by parish zip code. You'll receive a special trial with full access to Hallow's premium content. Prefer the free version? Just tap "Skip" — you'll still have access to our parish page and the Advent prayer challenge.

### About Hallow

Hallow is the world's #1 prayer app, designed to help you find peace and grow closer to God. You can pray alongside Fr. Mike, Sr. Miriam, Jonathan Roumie, Bishop Barron, Mark Wahlberg, and many others.

The app also includes mental health content, sleep stories, audiobooks, and sacred music.

**We look forward to praying with you!**



# Religious Formation and Sacraments

## FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION



## INSCRIPCIÓN PARA LA FORMACIÓN EN LA FE



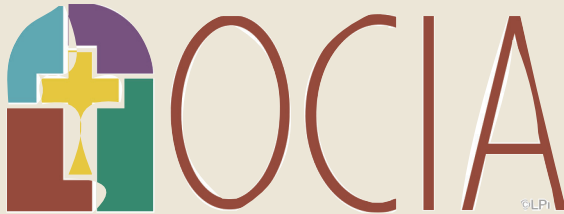
Registration for the 2025-2026 Religious Education session **has ended**.

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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