

# OUR LADY OF THE DESERT



15385 Pierce Ferry Road  
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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

Santísima Virgen María— 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 Adoración

**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 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025**



## **THE HOLY FAMILY**

"Joseph rose and took the child and his mother  
by night and departed for Egypt." - Mt 2:14

Reflection for THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH - December 28, 2025: Year A

## THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH - DECEMBER 28, 2025

Tracy Earl Welliver

Readings: • Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 • Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5. • Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17  
• MMT 2:13-15, 19-23 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/122825.cfm>

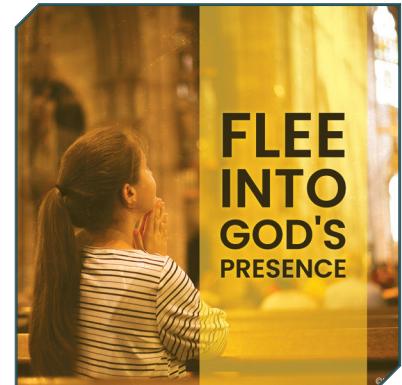
### EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

#### God's GPS Never Fails

I use GPS wherever I go, and it serves me well most of the time. However, sometimes it leads me to a place that does not exist. Then there are those times when I am about to turn, and the man inside my phone shouts out, "GPS signal lost!" or "Rerouting!" The problem is, when the area is unfamiliar to me, I have no choice but to listen. I could try to get where I am going by simple intuition or by pulling over to look at a paper map, but I don't trust my sense of direction. And I haven't bought a paper map in close to a decade!

Many people move through life without any direction. They find themselves constantly rerouting and wondering when they will ever get to a satisfying final destination. What they need is a compass and a companion for the journey. Yet they have no idea how to get either.

Prayer can serve as a compass, and it connects us to a companion for the journey. Stewardship living is impossible without prayer. If we count on our own will and believe we can become fruitful without daily contact with the Divine, we can find ourselves looking for directions more than moving toward a destination. God, through prayer, will help us see all we have as a gift. God, through prayer, will lead us away from materialism and selfishness and toward freedom and generosity. Even when we fall to sin, the path back is clearer. God's GPS signal is never really lost. — Tracy Earl Welliver ©LPI



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

#### El GPS de Dios nunca falla

Yo uso el GPS donde quiera que voy, y me sirve bien la mayor parte del tiempo. Sin embargo, a veces me lleva a un lugar que no existe. Luego están esos momentos en que estoy a punto de girar, y el hombre dentro de mi teléfono grita: "¡Señal del GPS perdida!" O "¡Cambio de ruta!" El problema es que, cuando el área no me es familiar, no tengo más opción que escuchar. Podría intentar llegar adonde voy por simple intuición o detenerme para mirar un mapa en papel, pero no confío en mi sentido de dirección. ¡Y no he comprado un mapa en papel en casi una década!

Muchas personas se mueven por la vida sin ninguna dirección. Se encuentran constantemente cambiando de ruta y preguntándose cuándo llegarán a un destino final satisfactorio. Lo que necesitan es una brújula y un compañero para el viaje. Sin embargo, no tienen idea de cómo obtener ninguno de los dos.

La oración puede servir como una brújula, y nos conecta con un compañero para el viaje. Vivir en la corresponsabilidad diaria es imposible sin la oración. Si contamos con nuestra propia voluntad y creemos que podemos ser fructíferos sin el contacto diario con lo Divino, podemos encontrarnos buscando direcciones más que avanzar hacia un destino. Dios, a través de la oración, nos ayudará a ver todo lo que tenemos como regalo. Dios, a través de la oración, nos alejará del materialismo y el egoísmo hacia la libertad y la generosidad. Incluso cuando caemos en pecado, el camino de regreso es más claro. La señal de GPS de Dios nunca se pierde en realidad. — Tracy Earl Welliver ©LPI

## Readings for the week of December 28, 2025

### Sunday:

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

### Monday:

1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/  
Lk 2:22-35

### Tuesday:

1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/  
Lk 2:36-40

### Wednesday:

1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/Jn 1:1-18

### Thursday:

Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8/  
Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

### Friday:

1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/  
Jn 1:19-28

### Saturday:

1 Jn 2:29-3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/  
Jn 1:29-34

### Next Sunday:

Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13/  
Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12



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## Gospel Meditation

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

When I was ten, my dad gathered our family around the table in small-town Vermont and told us we were moving to the big desert city of Phoenix, Arizona. We were leaving behind family, friends, and everything familiar. None of us knew what to expect.

But something beautiful happened. As we made the move together, our family grew closer. In retrospect, I'm amazed at my parents' courage to go on that adventure. Even as a kid I realized our family found, in that challenge, a deeper unity and mutual love.

In today's Gospel, Joseph is told: **"Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee..." (Matthew 2:13, 20)**. First to Egypt, then later to Israel. The Holy Family is frequently challenged to move and change, to adapt to God's will for them, in order to find safety in the midst of threat. It's not just an idiosyncratic story about survival. It's a spiritual pattern for all of us. Every Christian family is called to be a kind of sanctuary, especially in a world full of noise, busyness, and fear.

May I make a practical application for us? The Lord's Day, Sunday, is perhaps the most practical way we imitate this dynamic we see in Joseph and his family. Sunday is not meant to be just like every other day, filled with errands and stress. It's meant to be a day set apart; a holy "escape" into rest, worship, joy, and peace. A day to rise, take your family, and flee, into God's presence

— Father John Muir

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

Whoever honors his father atones for sins,  
and preserves himself from them. (Sir 3:3)

### Psalm:

Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.  
(Ps 128)

### Second Reading:

And whatever you do, in word or in deed,  
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,  
giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Col 3:17)

### Gospel:

He rose, took the child and his mother,  
and went to the land of Israel. (Mt 2:21)

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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

God created the Holy Family with a great sense of purpose, because he knew that Jesus would be defined by the woman and man who raised him. Who is our "Holy Family" — the people who will define us? Who has God placed within our lives for a specific purpose?

## Observances for the week of December 28, 2025

**Sunday:** The Holy Family

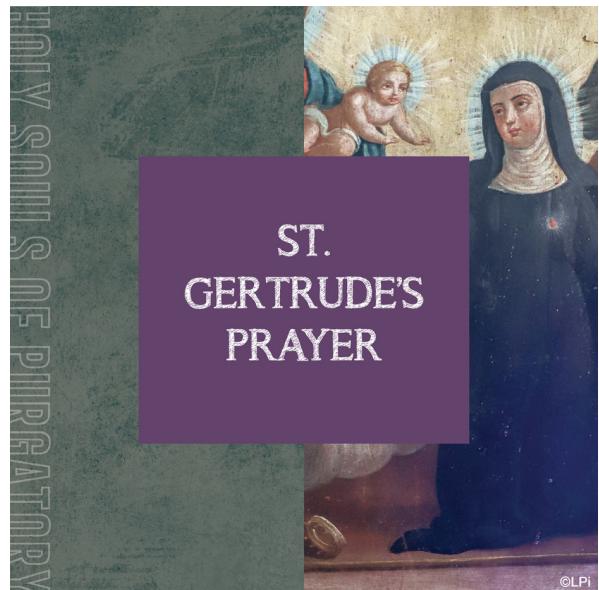
**Wednesday:** St. Sylvester I, Pope; New Year's Eve

**Thursday:** Mary, The Holy Mother of God, New Year's Day, World Day of Peace

**Friday:** Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

**Saturday:** The Most Holy Name of Jesus

**Next Sunday:** The Epiphany of the Lord



## Devotions, Explained!

St. Gertrude's Prayer is a petition said on behalf of the Holy Souls of Purgatory, offering the Blood of Christ in reparation for the sins of the departed.

## Family Blessing

May God bless, protect, unite, mend, and renew our family. Help us to be instruments of healing and holiness, breaking generational curses, rewriting scripts, overcoming tribulation, joining in gratitude, and growing in joy ... together.  
Amen.

## (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

**Mini Reflection:** If any four-word sentence encapsulates what we can expect from the Christian life, it is this: God had other plans.

### Other Plans

I don't know exactly what kind of life Mary and Joseph envisioned when they were first betrothed — back in those simple times when they were just like any other couple who had hopes, dreams and no angels telling them what to do.

Whatever their plans were, I think it's safe to say that the future God had in store for Mary and Joseph was not one either of them expected. I would imagine they both anticipated something a little quieter. A little more stable (no pun intended). A little less tumultuous.

It exhausts me simply to read through the chaos of their movements in today's Gospel. Flee to Egypt, return to Israel (but not Judea! Herod's son is there! Divert to Galilee! Divert!). Settle in Nazareth (let me remind you, this is all happening with a baby in tow, and without the aid of a minivan). Take a deep breath, but don't get too comfortable — now it's almost time to lose your kid in Jerusalem. Then you'll have about 20 years off before he starts raising people from the dead, and that's when things start to get *really* crazy.

The story of the Holy Family is the ultimate example of the phrase "God had other plans." If any four-word sentence encapsulates what we can expect from the Christian life, it is this.

I thought I was meant for that job, but God had other plans. I thought I would live in this place, but God had other plans. I thought I was supposed to become this person, but God had other plans.

We can do all the right things. We can make all the right choices. We can say, over and over again until our voice wears out, "Thy will be done." But all we can know for sure is that God has other plans.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

### Why do we do that?

#### Catholic Life Explained

##### Question:

If I go to the Sacrament of Penance and end up repeating the same sins, does that mean I do not have a strong enough intention to amend my life?

##### Answer:

There is a popular expression that says, "Be patient. God isn't finished with me yet!" Growing in faith and holiness is an ongoing, life-long project, and our struggle with sin is at the heart of it. As St. Paul says, the good he intends to do, he does not do. The evil he does not intend, he does! It is not always a lack of intention, but more often the allure of evil that makes it difficult to change.

When we confess our sins, we are to come with a fully contrite heart. You need to reflect on your true feelings toward your actions before approaching the sacrament. After confession, there are strategies you can make to avoid falling into the same traps of sin. First, pray for and seek out strength and perseverance through multiple sacraments, charitable work, and personal sacrifice. Second, avoid occasions of sin when you might fail or be sorely tempted. In doing these things, remind yourself daily that it is a spiritual war we wage, and with God's grace, we will succeed.

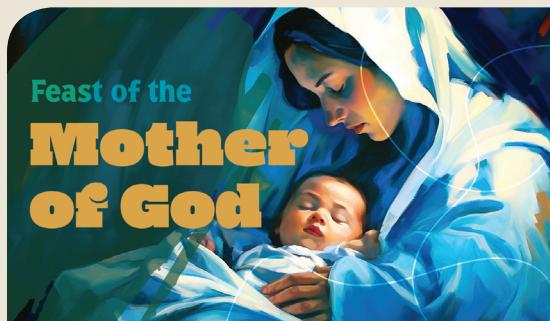
# Our Lady of the Desert Parish News and Events

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

### 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* ©CLPi

### 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*)



An advertisement for the Hallow app. It features a blue background with a church building and the text 'Pray Every Day with Hallow.' and 'Find peace. Grow closer to God, every day.'

An advertisement for the Hallow app. It features a blue background with a church building and the text 'Pray Every Day with Hallow.' and 'Find peace. Grow closer to God, every day.'

Need help activating your Hallow account?  
Here are some tips to get you started...

#### 1. Hallow is a free app!

Anyone can download it, create an account, and join a parish page completely for free. This however, means when users do this they start with basic access to Hallow and its content. Tons of content is free! But some content (premium content) is still behind a paywall (the subscription the users are receiving messages for).

2. Through your parish partnership, you are able to unlock 8 pieces of those premium contents per contract year with the goal of your parishioners engaging and praying with that content at the same time through a prayer challenge. Think of these as take home retreats meant to draw your parish deeper in faith and bolster what is already happening at your parish in person.

3. Parishioners are able to access Hallow premium at a huge discount through your partnership (if they so desire to have access to all content at all times) instead of waiting for those premium content to be unlocked through your partnership. This is done by purchasing a subscription which is available for 50% off through the partnership. Instructions to redeem that are as follows:

If you do NOT have a Hallow account yet, go to [hallow.com/parish](https://hallow.com/parish). Then search for your parish by entering the zip code. You will be prompted to create an account and pay. After you do this, you will have a premium subscription and be joined to St. Mary in Kingman.

If you DO have a Hallow account, go to [hallow.com/redeem](https://hallow.com/redeem). You will be asked to put in a promo code. Use code "ExpansionSub50" (no quotes). Once you do, you will be asked to log in to your already existing account (so please use the same log-in credentials as when you created your account). The discount will then be applied and you can access all content on Hallow. Don't forget to still join your parish page if you haven't joined already!



Participate in prayer challenges as a parish community.

# Religious Formation and Sacraments

## FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION



## INSCRIPCIÓN PARA LA FORMACIÓN EN LA FE



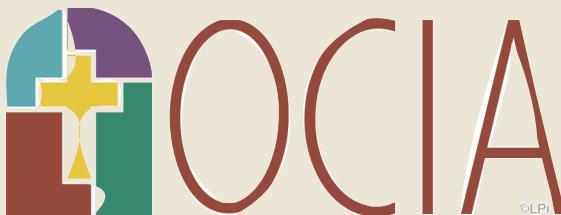
Registration for the 2025-2026 Religious Education session has ended.

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



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.

## 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)

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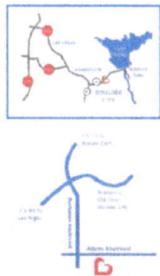


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