

March 22-23, 2025

Santa Catalina

14380 N DRAGLE RD, TUCSON 85739
WWW.SANTACATALINAPARISH.ORG

Catholic Church

A REDEMPTORIST COMMUNITY

Pastoral Team

Fr. Huy Vu, C.Ss.R
Pastor
frhuy@santacatalinaparish.org
Redemptorist Renewal Center

Deacon Flavio Sanchez
Deacon Alfonso De LaRiva
Deacon Steve Letourneaux

Parish Office

(520)-825-9611

Mon-Fri 9:00 am-3:30 pm

Mass Schedule

Daily Mass

Mon-Fri 8:00 am

Weekend Mass

Sat 4:00 pm (Vigil)

Sun 7:00 am
9:00 am
11:00 am (Bi-lingual)
5:00 pm

Reconciliation

Wed 8:45-10:00 am
Fri 8:45-10:00 am (Lent only)
Sat 2:30-3:30 pm
... or by appointment

Anointing

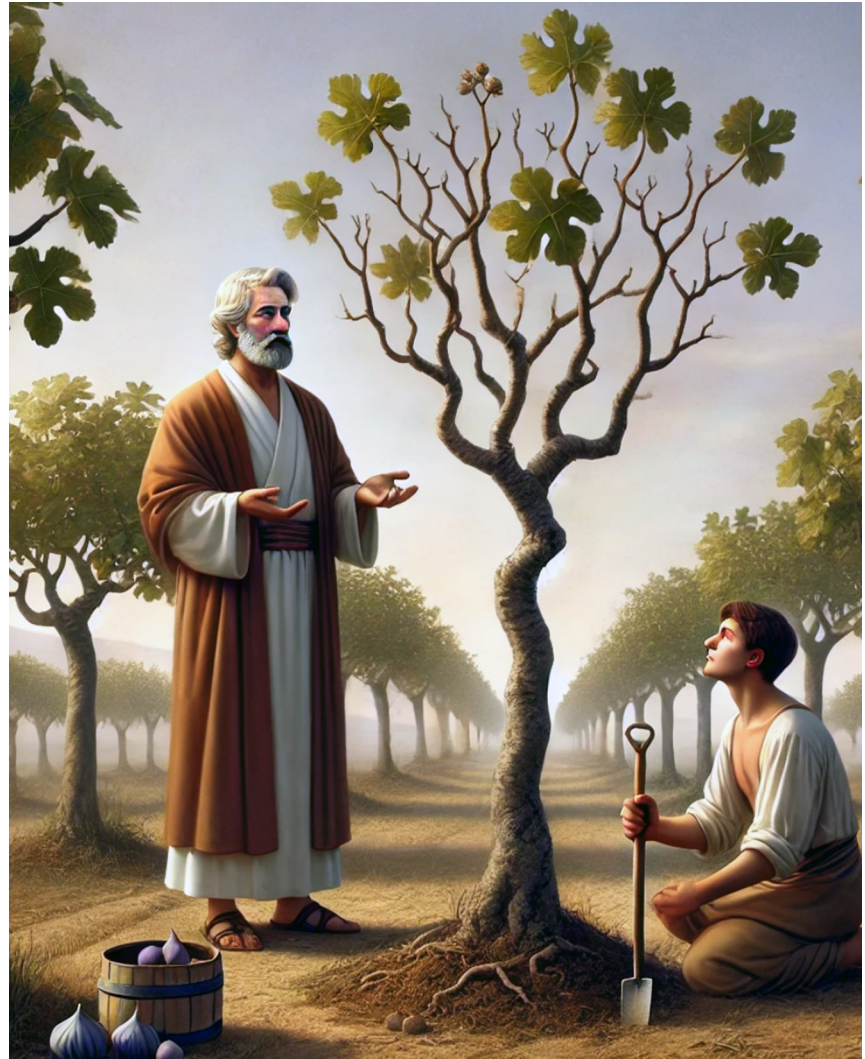
First Friday of the month
at 8:00 am Mass
... or by appointment

Adoration

In Church, Wed 8:30 am -8:30 pm
Chapel hours, Mon-Fri
8:00 am-2:30 pm

Rosary in the Church

Mon-Fri 7:30 am



Third Sunday of Lent

Parish Mission:

As members of God's Faith Community at Santa Catalina Catholic Parish, we commit our lives to being the voice, hands, and spirit of Christ, as our way of continuing God's call to love and peace.

Misión Parroquial:

Como miembros de la Comunidad de Fe de Dios en la Parroquia Católica Santa Catalina, comprometemos nuestras vidas a ser la voz, las manos y el espíritu de Cristo, como nuestra forma de continuar el llamado de Dios al amor y la paz.

Lenten Calendar 2025

Wednesday, March 26 – Reconciliation & Adoration

- 8:45 AM - 10:00 AM – Reconciliation
- 8:30 AM - 8:30 PM – Adoration

Friday, March 28 – Reconciliation, Stations of the Cross & Soup Supper

- 8:45 AM - 10:00 AM – Reconciliation
- 5:00 PM – Stations in the Garden
- 6:00 PM – Soup Supper (*Bring a bowl and spoon*)

Tuesday, April 1 – Lenten Penance Service

- 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Wednesday, April 2 – Reconciliation & Adoration

- 8:45 AM - 10:00 AM – Reconciliation
- 8:30 AM - 8:30 PM – Adoration

Friday, April 4 – Reconciliation, Stations of the Cross & Soup Supper

- 8:45 AM - 10:00 AM – Reconciliation
- 5:00 PM – Stations in the Garden
- 6:00 PM – Soup Supper (*Bring a bowl and spoon*)

Wednesday, April 9 – Reconciliation & Adoration

- 8:45 AM - 10:00 AM – Reconciliation
- 8:30 AM - 8:30 PM – Adoration

Friday, April 11 – Reconciliation, Stations of the Cross & Soup Supper

- 8:45 AM - 10:00 AM – Reconciliation
- 5:00 PM – Stations in the Garden
- 6:00 PM – Soup Supper - Last one this Season
(*Bring a bowl and spoon*)

Contacts

Pastor	Fr. Huy Vu, C.Ss.R.	x 101	frhuy@santacatalinaparish.org
Compliance	Donna Opsatnick		DOpsatnick@diocesetucson.org
Finance	Pia Smith	x 110	pcsmith@santacatalinaparish.org
Funeral Ministry	Madeline Rugama	x 104	mrugama@santacatalinaparish.org
Liturgy	Sophie Zvonar	x 105	szvonar@santacatalinaparish.org
Music Director	Rouzbeh Tebyanian	x 109	rtebyanian@santacatalinaparish.org
Office Admin.	Donna Opsatnick		Lobby@santacatalinaparish.org
RE Coordinator	Katharine Lopez	x 108	RE@santacatalinaparish.org
Bulletin	Leslie Fore / Christopher Auclair		bulletin@santacatalinaparish.org
Webmaster	Christopher Auclair		chris@thinking-cap.com

Keep in touch with us via email and text.

Mass time, ministry updates, & more delivered to your phone.

Just text: SANCAT to 84576

or visit: santacatalinaparish.flocknote.com



Mantente en contacto con nosotros por correo electrónico y mensaje de texto.

Horario de misas, actualizaciones del ministerio y más, directamente a tu teléfono.

Solo envía un mensaje de texto con:

SANCAT al 84576 o visita:

santacatalinaparish.flocknote.com

This Week's Meetings & Events

Day	Time	Meeting/Event	Location/Room
Mon, Mar 24	10:00 AM	St Vincent de Paul	Marian
	4:00 PM	Music Ministry/choir rehearsal	Church
	5:30 PM	Music Ministry - Bilingual Choir	Church
	6:00 PM	Mental Health Focus	Saguaro
Tue, Mar 25	9:30 AM	Yoga Faith	Catalina
	1:30 PM	Arts & Crafts for All	Ocotillo
	4:00 PM	5 PM Mass Choir Rehearsal	Church
	6:00 PM	Men's Prayer Group	Marian
	6:00 PM	Women's Prayer Group	Saguaro
Wed, Mar 26	8:30 AM	Eucharistic Adoration	Church
	8:45 AM	Reconciliation	Church
	9:00 AM	Cultivando Mi Fe	Mesquite
	10:00 AM	St Vincent de Paul	Marian
	1:00 PM	Understanding Sunday Scripture	Catalina
	4:30 PM	Faith Formation Classes K-8th	Mesquite, Ocotillo, Cholla
Thu, Mar 27	9:00 AM	Fingerprinting	Parish Hall
	4:00 PM	Al-Anon "High Hopes" Meeting	Marian
	7:00 PM	AA Meeting	Marian
Fri, Mar 28	8:45 AM	Reconciliation	Church
	9:00 AM	Friday Faith Fellowship - The Chosen	Catalina
	10:00 AM	Grief Share class	Mesquite, Ocotillo
	5:00 PM	Stations of the Cross	Prayer Garden
	6:00 PM	Lenten Soup Supper	Parish Hall
Sat, Mar 29	2:30 PM	Reconciliation	Church
Sun, Mar 30	8:00 AM	Faith Formation Classes K-8th	Mesquite, Ocotillo, Cholla
	12:15 PM	O.C.I.A. & Confirmation	Conference

Join Your Santa Catalina Family—We Need You

Santa Catalina Catholic Church is more than a place of worship—it's your spiritual home. If you attend Mass here, we invite you to officially register and become part of our vibrant parish family. Why Register? By registering, you strengthen your connection to the Church and allow us to better serve you.

As a registered member, you:

- Gain a true sense of belonging in our parish community
- Receive pastoral and spiritual care tailored to your needs
- Have access to faith formation programs for youth and adults, including preparation for the seven sacraments

- Stay connected with parish events, ministries, and opportunities
- Have the chance to share your gifts and talents in parish life

How to Register:

Online: <https://www.osvhub.com/santa-catalina-church/directory/register>

In Person: Pick up a registration form at the parish office during business hours

Questions, verify your registration or other assistance: (520) 825-9611.

Make Santa Catalina your home—register today and let's grow in faith together. †

Annual Senior Women's Spring Tea

Join us for a delightful afternoon at the **Annual Senior Women's Spring Tea on Thursday, April 24, from 1:00 to 2:30 PM in the Parish Hall.** Enjoy tea, cookies, and warm conversation as you reconnect with old friends and meet new ones.



Please bring your own cup and saucer.

Space is limited, so be sure to **RSVP by April 9** by calling Diane Wisniewski at 815-953-8950.

Relax to the beautiful harp music of Carolyn Ancel. **Hosted by the Outreach Ministry.** †

Santa Catalina Catholic Church
Blood Drive March 23rd,
Parish Hall, Sunday, Mar 23, 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM.

For information or to make an appointment, please call the American Red Cross at (800) 733-2767 or log onto redcrossblood.org and use sponsor code: **sancat** †



SCAN TO BE DIRECTED
TO RAPID PASS



SCAN TO SCHEDULE
AN APPOINTMENT

Understanding PTSD: Recognizing Trauma and Supporting Healing in the People you Love - **This Monday, March 24th**



Santa Catalina Mental Health Ministry's next Mental Health Focus will be held on March 24th at 6 pm or March 30th at 3 pm. Join Jessica Brubaker, MS, LPC, NCC, Director of Training at Transitions Counseling and Consulting, as she explains Post-Traumatic Stress

Disorder (PTSD) by exploring what trauma is, its impact on the mind and body, and how PTSD manifests in daily life. Participants will learn about its causes, symptoms, common misconceptions, and practical ways to support loved ones. This session aims to build a compassionate, trauma-informed community. The presentation will be in the parish hall, with two sessions available to fit your schedule. †

El próximo enfoque en salud mental del Ministerio de Salud Mental de Santa Catalina se llevará a cabo el 24 de marzo a las 6 pm o el 30 de marzo a las 3 pm. Únase a Jessica Brubaker, MS, LPC, NCC, Directora de Capacitación en Transitions Counseling and Consulting, mientras explica el Trastorno de Estrés Postraumático (TEPT) explorando qué es el trauma, su impacto en la mente y el cuerpo, y cómo se manifiesta el TEPT en la vida diaria. Los participantes aprenderán sobre sus causas, síntomas, conceptos erróneos comunes y formas prácticas de apoyar a sus seres queridos. Esta sesión tiene como objetivo construir una comunidad compasiva e informada sobre el trauma. La presentación se realizará en el salón parroquial, con dos sesiones disponibles para adaptarse a su horario. †

Create Animal Portraits With Arts & Crafts Group



At our next meeting on March 25th, the Arts and Crafts Group will focus on creating animal portraits. Choose your preferred medium: graphite, colored pencils, pastels, charcoal, pen and ink, collage, scratch board, or any type of

paint (watercolor, acrylic, or oil). Bring a picture of your chosen animal and the necessary materials (paper and tools). Members will demonstrate how to use a grid or light board to transfer images. Join us to learn from each other and create animal portraits!

The Arts and Crafts Group meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month from 1:30 – 3:30 in the Ocotillo Room. †

Crea Retratos de Animales con el Grupo de Arte y Craft

En nuestra próxima reunión el 25 de marzo, el Grupo de Arte y Manualidades se enfocará en la creación de retratos de animales. Elige tu medio preferido: grafito, lápices de colores, pasteles, carbón, pluma y tinta, collage, scratch board o cualquier tipo de pintura (acuarela, acrílico o óleo). Trae una imagen del animal que deseas crear y los materiales necesarios (papel y herramientas). Algunos miembros mostrarán cómo usar una cuadrícula o una mesa de luz para transferir imágenes. ¡Únete a nosotros para aprender juntos y crear retratos de animales!

El Grupo de Arte y Manualidades se reúne el segundo y cuarto martes del mes de 1:30 a 3:30 en la Sala Ocotillo. †

Don't Forget the Sassy Solos Meeting

The Sassy Solos will meet on April 3rd at 11 am in the Ocotillo Room.

Our group encourages a social outlet for our members. Our meetings are open to single women who enjoy getting together for lunches, dinner, plays, local outings and events. †



No olvides la reunión de los "Sassy Solos"

Los "Sassy Solos" se reunirán el 3 de abril a las 11 am en el Salón Ocotillo.

Nuestro grupo fomenta un encuentro social para nuestros miembros. Nuestras reuniones están abiertas a mujeres solteras que disfrutan de reunirse para almuerzos, cenas, obras de teatro, salidas locales y otros eventos. †

Pastoral

Building on the Pastoral Council's "ASK ME" program, we've added a "Comment Box" in the narthex. We're eager to hear your feedback, questions, and suggestions as to how we can continue to improve. We also welcome your words of encouragement and appreciation – let us know what's going well and what brings you joy at Santa Catalina!

Your feedback is invaluable to us as we strive to create a welcoming and spiritually enriching environment for all. We will carefully review your comments and use them to guide our planning and decision-making, helping us live out our Parish Vision and grow stronger

as disciples.

You can drop your comments and questions in the box, or if you prefer, email us at pc@santacatalinaparish.org or speak to any member of the Pastoral Council. We are blessed to be part of this faith community, and we deeply value your input as we journey together. ✝



We Are Stephen Ministry

The spirit of Stephen Ministry traces back to the early Church when the Apostles commissioned St. Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, to care for the needs of the growing Christian community. In that same spirit, our mission is to serve Santa Catalina Parish and our community by bringing Christ's love and healing to those who are hurting. Since our inception in 2011, we have provided compassionate care to more than one hundred individuals.

Stephen Ministry offers Christ-centered, one-to-one support for those facing life's challenges, including being homebound, grieving the loss of a loved one, struggling with loneliness, enduring prolonged illness, disability, or rehabilitation, experiencing a spiritual crisis, navigating broken relationships, job loss, and other stressful circumstances. Our ministry is built on pillars of grace, empathy, active listening, trust, and strict confidentiality.

Our Stephen Ministers are members of Santa Catalina

Parish—caring Christians who want to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those experiencing hardship. We come from diverse backgrounds, ages, and walks of life, but we share one essential calling: a heart for bringing Christ's healing love to those in need. Each Stephen Minister undergoes 50 hours of specialized training over five months, followed by ongoing monthly education to address specific caregiving needs. We are compassionate, nonjudgmental, and committed to walking alongside others in their journey toward healing.

If you or someone you know could benefit from Stephen Ministry, or if you are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, contact the church office at 520-825-9611 or email Judy Rossman at StephenMinistry@santacatalinaparish.org. Informational brochures are available in the Narthex. All inquiries are strictly confidential. ✝



Upcoming Training for the Communion Ministry with the Sick and Homebound

Santa Catalina's Communion Ministry to the Sick & Homebound brings the Eucharist to individuals in their homes, as well as in residential and medical facilities.

Members of this ministry are Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHCs), trained and

commissioned by the parish, who share the gift of Communion and prayer with those unable to attend Mass due to health reasons.

Training for new EMHCs is required and will be offered in four sessions on Tuesdays: **March 25, April 1, 8, and 15, 2025, from 10:30 AM to 12:00**

PM in the Mesquite Room. We invite you to prayerfully consider joining this

meaningful ministry and continuing the work of Jesus. Contact: (520)825-6511. ✝



Why the Cross? –Tim and Julie Smith from *Liguorian Magazine*

That implement of gruesome death is Christianity's undying emblem—and the reasons why are plentiful and inspiring.

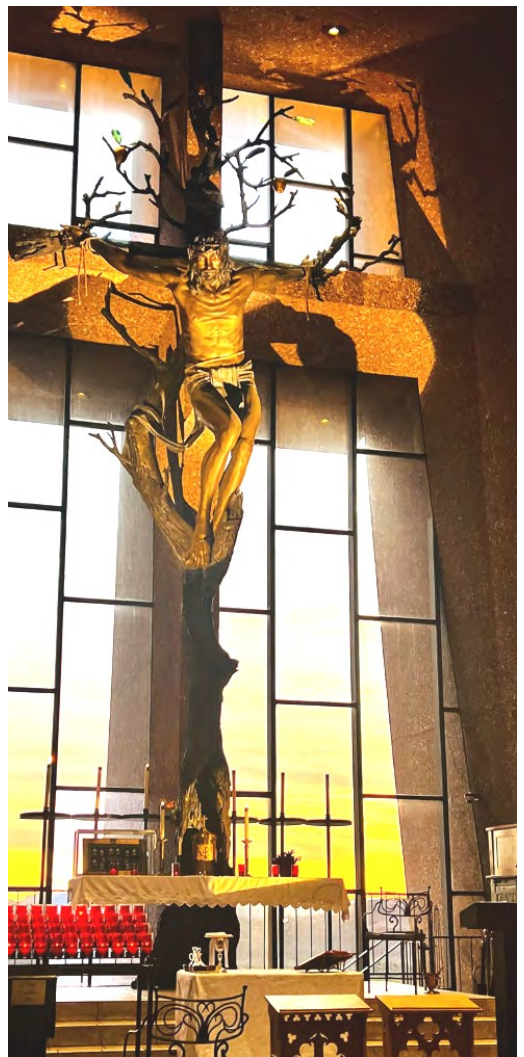
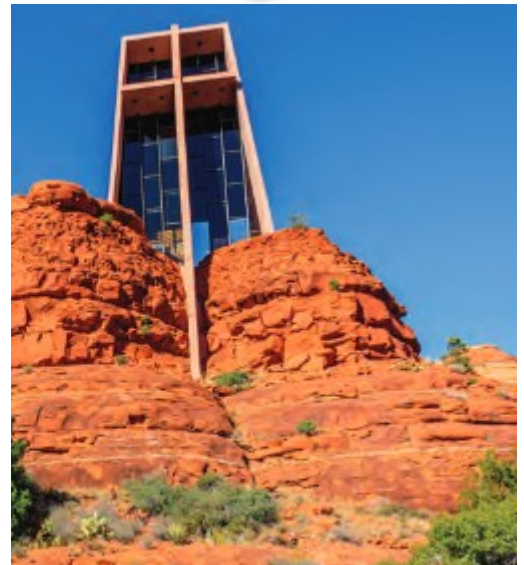
The Chapel of the Holy Cross in Sedona, Arizona, displays one of the largest and most stunning sculptured crosses in the country. Standing firmly in the sanctuary, this magnificent emblem of Christianity overlooks the breathtaking red rocks of Oak Creek Valley. We have the unique opportunity to sing and pray there for several hours every week, as we serve as music ministers at weekly Masses, adoration, and weddings.

For us Catholic Christians, the cross is a unique and iconic image that we venerate. Oceans of ink have been poured out in explaining the gruesome reality of crucifixion and the “theology of the cross.” But when I gaze at the cross, I ask myself, Why and how did we get here?

- Why, in our worship, do we focus on a barely covered, bleeding figure of a man who is impaled on a first-century instrument of execution?
- How did we get to the point where this horrid device, designed to terrorize a population by publicly torturing people to death, has become an object of veneration?
- Why do we use this symbol to mark our bodies, bless our children, remember our deceased, and sacramentalize our homes?
- How did we get to a place where a terrifying object whose history reveals humanity at its worst has become an icon of sacred art, fine jewelry, and divine love?

For answers, we can turn to our communion of saints, frail humans who give us insight and wisdom to help us answer these perplexing questions. Several of these saints are so intimately connected to the cross of our Lord that “of the Cross” is part of their names.

YOU CAN CONTINUE READING THIS ARTICLE IN THE MARCH-APRIL ISSUE OF *LIGUORIAN* MAGAZINE, NOW ACCESSIBLE ON OUR WEBSITE: WWW.SANTACATALINAPARISH.ORG.



In natural disasters, where human lives are lost and some survive, we are astonished and may wonder, "Why were these saved and not the others? Were they better than the others? Was it a punishment for those who lost their lives?" However, we know that this is not the case. We remain as we were at the beginning—without an answer.

Today's Gospel presents moments of deep reflection that call for a transformation of the heart. The Word of God helps us mature internally. Conversion is a process of gradually growing in faith in order to bear fruit.

"Lent comes to awaken us from lethargy, from moving forward by inertia. It reminds us that we can bring about something new within ourselves and in our surroundings, thanks to the goodness and mercy of



My childhood best friend was Xander Price. He was the fastest runner in school, an excellent baseball player and Jewish. Though his family wasn't intensely religious, I felt totally at home with them despite our religious differences. Everything about their Judaism seemed to undergird and strengthen my own experience of being a Catholic. I knew they didn't believe in Jesus like my family did, but I intuited somehow that Jesus was "hiding" in their religion. Like a cat moving under a blanket, ready to emerge at any moment, the Lord was hidden there in a special way.

In the Gospel for this third Sunday of Lent, Jesus says, **"For if you had believed Moses, you would have believed me, for he wrote of me"** (John 5:46). Stunning words, those. Moses wrote about Jesus. The way therefore that we come to know and

Gospel Reflections: Third Sunday of Lent

God, who is always willing to forgive" (Pope Francis).

God continues to wait for us to bear good fruit. He is always patient with us, waiting time and again. Each year, He chooses not to cut down but to nourish and provide new soil, and to wait. "Sir, leave it for one more year, and in the meantime, I will dig around it and fertilize it. Perhaps it will bear fruit in the future; if not, then you may cut it down" (Luke 13:8-9).

This is a new opportunity to carry out what pleases God: to act justly, to speak for those without a voice, to dedicate quality time to family, and above all, to be less irresponsible and less violent. These attitudes lead us nowhere. Let us allow God to nourish in us what we truly need! - ©LPi

believe in Jesus is to discover him lurking in Moses' writings. The Hebrew Scripture is the wonderful womb in which Jesus gestates within a host of images: Adam, Isaac, David, Melchizedek, the Temple, sacrificed lambs, prophets and so on. Right now, in your parish's OCIA program, soon-to-be baptized people are carefully studying where Jesus is in the writings of Moses, so that they may believe in him. This works for all of us, too, who wish to deepen our knowledge and love of Jesus.

Lenten challenge: Take some time to prayerfully study one of the images of Jesus listed above in the Old Testament. Identify which one you find compelling and consider why this is so. If you don't know where to start, begin with the prophet Jeremiah as an image of Jesus.

— *Father John Muir* ©LPi

This Week's Liturgy Schedule

Date	Mass	Celebrant	Intention	
Mon, Mar 24	8:00 AM	Fr. Charlie Wehrley	†	Diego Zell by the Zell family
Tue, Mar 25	8:00 AM	Fr. Huy Vu	†	Marie & Ralph Gates by Ruth Kelly
			L	Leslie Fore by SAJM
Wed, Mar 26	8:00 AM	Fr. Brian Johnson	†	Michael Mosman by the Mosman family
			†	James Kelly by Ruth Kelly
Thu, Mar 27	8:00 AM	Fr. Huy Vu	†	George Catarius, Sr. by Anne Catarius
			†	Richard Kurczewski by Trudy Kurczewski
Fri, Mar 28	8:00 AM	Fr. Huy Vu	†	Noreen Iannuzzi by Rita Quin
			†	Helen Marie Sieverding by Joe & Deb Sieverding
Sat, Mar 29	4:00 PM	Fr. Huy Vu	†	Charles Russell Fields by Marilee Jones
			†	Angelo Seminerio by Georgia Crissy
Sun, Mar 30	7:00 AM	Fr. Brian Johnson	†	Dale Sieverding by Mark & Cheryl Mammenga
	9:00 AM	Fr. Brian Johnson	†	Yvonne & Jacob Manachi by Mona Manachi
			†	Robert Carvalho by John & Carol Harrison
			L	Benjamin Asma, Jr by Bewalda family
	11:00 AM	Fr. Huy Vu		For all who are struggling with suicidal thoughts
5:00 PM	Fr. Huy Vu	†	Angeline Lapinsky by Tom & Donna Opsatnick	

Today's Readings:

First Reading: "This is what you shall tell the Israelites: I AM sent me to you." (Ex 3:14)

Second Reading: These things happened to them as an example, and they have been written down as a warning to us, upon whom the end of the ages has come. (1 Cor 10:11)

Gospel: "But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!" (Lk 13:5)

Psalm: The Lord is kind and merciful. (Ps 103)

Readings for the week of March 23rd, 2025*

Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15b/Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4/Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20/Mt 5:17-19

Thursday: Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 11:14-23

Friday: Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17/Mk 12:28-34

Saturday: Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab/Lk 18:9-14



Readings in English



Readings in Spanish

* Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. ©LPi



Please Pray for Our Parishioners

Gloria Carbajal	Linda Howard	Maureen McCabe	Robert Perry	Rene Terrazas
Mimi Cuono	Charles Lohr	John Melkun	Jaime Santiago	Jeffrey Van Slyae
Leslie Fore	David W. Maloney	Molly Minke	Linda Slivinski	Raul Velasquez
Anita Garcia	Manuel Martinez	Cecilia Montano	Bob Stamer	Sophie Varalli
Pat Gasca	Bertha Martinez	Edward Montano, Jr	Gregory Surowiec	Derek Palmer
Billy Higgins	Molly McCabe	Joseph O'Connor	Bill Terrazas	Jeanie Polak

Saint of the Week: Saint Rafqa (1832–1914)



Saint Rafqa, also known as Rafqa Pietra Choboq Ar-Rayès, was a Lebanese Maronite nun celebrated for her deep spirituality, unwavering faith, and willingness to embrace suffering as a path to holiness. She was born in Himlaya, Lebanon, in 1832. Orphaned at a young age,

she felt called to religious life and joined the Maronite Order of Saint Anthony of the Maronites in 1855. Later, she became a member of the Lebanese Maronite Order, dedicating herself to a life of prayer, humility, and service.

In 1885, Rafqa prayed to share in Christ’s suffering, and soon after, she developed painful illnesses, including blindness and paralysis. Instead of seeking relief, she accepted her suffering with joy, considering it a means to deepen her union with God. Despite her severe physical pain, she continued her work and inspired those around her with her patience and devotion.

She spent the last years of her life in continuous prayer, radiating peace and love despite her afflictions. Rafqa passed away on March 23, 1914, and her legacy of endurance and holiness continues to inspire many. She was canonized in 2001 by Pope John Paul II. Her feast day is observed on March 23, and she is venerated as a model of redemptive suffering. †

Financial Report	Weekend 3/09/25	Attendance
Offertory	\$31,007	1369
Major Maintenance	\$325	
Total	\$31,332	
2024	\$29,586	1431
Rectory	\$4,035	

Sign up to take The Weekly Vocations Cross Home

The Weekly Vocations Cross program invites you to pray for Catholic vocations. If you attend the 4 PM or 5 PM Mass, you can take the cross home for a week and pray using the provided pamphlet.

During Mass, the priest presents the cross to you at the altar. You then display it in your home and return it before the same Mass the following week.

Sign up for this meaningful opportunity to support vocations! Sheets are available in the Narthex. † 10

The Patient Gardener - By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

I have garden beds on the side of my house that I don't deserve.

When we bought the property, this was one of the features that was highlighted in the listing. "Professional landscaping! Tri-level garden beds that bask in the southern exposure!"

But I'm so terrible at weeding these garden beds — they become overgrown quickly, and I shudder to imagine what the previous owners would think of me if they drove by. I'm afraid they would write me off as lazy or disinterested, when really I'm just exhausted and busy. Every time I try to garden, one of my little assistant gardeners runs near the road and I must abandon the project to save them.

So, my husband, bless his heart, is the savior of these garden beds. He goes out there in the cool of the

evening to pluck up the weeds that threaten to overtake this beautiful little garden. Patiently and tenderly, he restores it to a presentable state. Without him, they would be lost.

Perhaps I love these garden beds so much because I identify with them. If I were a garden, I would also be a mess, and people who have no time for messes would write me off as hopeless. We all need a savior to stick up for us, to come and quietly prune the unsightly growths that have taken root in our souls and turn the soil that has sat undisturbed for too long.

What I love most about our Savior is that he didn't — doesn't — give up on us. "Give me more time," he says to the Master. "I can still fix this one." ©LPi



COLLEEN JURKIEWICZ DORMAN

The Difference Between Mortal Sin and Venial Sin

Sin is an offense against God that damages our relationship with Him. However, not all sins are equal in gravity. The Church distinguishes between mortal sin and venial sin, based on their effects on the soul.

A mortal sin is a grave offense that completely severs our relationship with God. For a sin to be mortal, three conditions must be met: grave matter (the action must be seriously wrong, such as murder or adultery), full knowledge (the person must be aware that it is sinful), and deliberate consent (the person must freely choose to commit it). Mortal sin results in the loss of sanctifying grace and, if left unrepented, leads to

eternal separation from God. However, through the Sacrament of Confession, God's mercy restores the sinner to grace.

A venial sin, on the other hand, is a lesser offense that wounds but does not break our relationship with God. It occurs when the matter is not grave, or when full knowledge or consent is lacking. While venial sins do not lead to eternal separation from God, they weaken our soul and make us more prone to serious sin. Regular confession and sincere repentance help us grow in holiness and strengthen our relationship with God. †

Is Missing Sunday Mass a Serious Sin?

For Catholics, missing Sunday Mass without a serious reason (such as illness or caring for someone in need) is considered a grave sin. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC 2181) states that the Sunday Eucharist is essential to Christian life, and deliberately skipping it without a valid excuse is a grave offense.

A grave sin (or mortal sin) requires grave matter, full knowledge, and deliberate consent. If all three are met, missing Mass separates a person from God's grace until

repented through Confession. However, forgetfulness or lack of understanding may lessen the sin's severity.

A priest can grant a dispensation from the obligation for valid reasons. If someone misses Mass without an excuse, they should seek Confession before receiving Communion. Regular Sunday Mass attendance is a core Catholic duty, honoring the Third Commandment: "Keep holy the Sabbath." †

Collection for Youth On Their Own (YOTO) – March 22-23

Did you know that over 5,600 homeless students have been identified in Pima County. Homeless youth are four times more likely to drop out of high school than their housed peers.

Youth experiencing homelessness face significant barriers to education, including unstable living situations, lack of transportation, hunger, poor health, and difficulty meeting school enrollment requirements.

Youth On Their Own (YOTO) is a dropout prevention program dedicated to supporting the high school graduation and future success of homeless youth in Pima County. For 39 years, YOTO has provided financial assistance, essential supplies, mentorship, and guidance to help students stay in school and thrive.

How Can We Help? We are hosting a hygiene item

collection on March 22-23, 2025, to help stock the YOTO Mini Mall, which provides free basic necessities to students in need.

Requested Donations:

- Toilet paper
- Body wash
- Face wash
- Shaving cream
- Chapstick
- Toothbrushes
- Shampoo (full-sized)
- Conditioner (full-sized)

Cash donations are also greatly appreciated! (Checks can be made payable to YOTO.)

Your generosity makes a real difference in the lives of local youth. Thank you for your support!

Contact: Sue Bishop – sajm@santacatalinaparish.org †

Would You like to find out how you can help the homeless in Tucson?

Join the next Local Immersion Tour on April 23 from 8:00 - 11:30 am.

The tours leave from the church parking lot and take a small group to Casa Maria Catholic Workers Community which provides meals and clothing for

those in need, and Sister Jose Women's Center which provides meals, clothing, shelter, and counseling for homeless women. If you are interested in a tour, send an email to reserve your spot to sajm@santacatalinaparish.org. †



The Plight of Homeless Women in Tucson - Today (March 23)

Did you know there are nearly 700 homeless women in Tucson and that women are far less likely to be served in shelters and transitional housing? The average age of homeless women at Sister José Women's Center is around 60.

Join the Santa Catalina Social Awareness and Justice Ministry on March 23rd at 2:00 PM in the parish hall for a presentation by Jean Fedigan, founder of Sister José Women's Center. She will discuss the challenges faced by Tucson's homeless women and how you can help.

Sister José Women's Center serves around 150 women daily, offering meals, showers, clothing, laundry, and a safe overnight program for 50+

women (and their pets). Founded in 2009, the Center became a 501(c)(3) in 2012 and relocated to 1050 S. Park Ave in 2017. Their mission is to serve with compassion, dignity, and respect—providing a supportive community where women can find warmth and safety.

Jean, an RN since 1993, began her career at Tucson Medical Center and later held leadership roles at University Physicians Healthcare Network. Her commitment to homeless women inspired the creation of an emergency winter shelter and ultimately the establishment of Sister José Women's Center. †



Poor Box Funds Awarded to Worthy Recipients



Every quarter, the Social Awareness and Justice Ministry (SAJM) selects local organizations serving the poor to receive \$500 each from the “Poor Box” funds, with recipients approved by

Fr. Huy. Thank you for your generous donations. Our most recent recipients are:

Reachout Women’s Center

Provides free pregnancy testing, limited ultrasounds, and counseling for women facing unplanned pregnancies, unhealthy relationships, or financial difficulties. Services include a clothing and diaper bank (available every 60 and 30 days, respectively), emergency formula distribution (up to three times a year), and layettes for clients who complete an approved educational course.

John Valenzuela Youth Center

Founded in 1994 in South Tucson, JVYC offers a safe space for at-risk youth (ages 5-18) to develop academic, social, and resiliency skills. Named after Officer John Anthony Valenzuela, who died protecting children, the center serves families—96% of whom live at or below the poverty line. With high dropout rates and risk factors like

truancy and substance abuse, JVYC helps youth stay on track through structured programs and mentorship.

To address these issues, JVYC has adopted the following strategies:

- Operate a year round, out-of-school time youth program.
- Operate the program during the highest crime hours of 2:45 to 7:00 p.m.
- Provide a safe environment with caring adults

Conduct activities in all 5 Core Service Areas:

- Improve Educational Performance
- Life Skills Education
- Family/Community Involvement
- Recreation, Sports, Health, Dance, Cultural and Artistic activities
- Service Learning Activities

The long term projected outcomes of JVYC are:

- Youth will be safe from violence
- Youth will be safe from high risk behaviors
- Youth will be safe from delinquent /criminal activity
- Youth will be graduated from high school ☩

Santa Catalina Parish



Spiritual Adoption

Jesus, Mary and Joseph
I love you very much.
I beg you to spare the life
of the unborn child that I
have spiritually adopted who is
in danger of abortion.

...Bishop Fulton J Sheen



Outreach

Following Christ Through Service

At Saint Vincent de Paul, we are committed to serving those in need within our local communities, regardless of creed, gender, ethnicity, or social background. Through our assistance, we hope to offer a glimpse of God's love by helping individuals and families facing hardships such as rent, utility bills, and other crisis-related expenses.

Our office is open Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 AM to 1 PM in the Marian Room (in the Santa Catalina Parish Center). We serve those in need across Mammoth to Oro Valley, made possible



largely through the generosity of our parishioners.

As a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization (Conference #38-3813972) and a Qualifying Charitable Organization (QCO) for the State of Arizona (QCO

Code: 20830), we ensure that your donations directly support those in crisis.

If you or someone you know needs assistance, has questions, or would like to learn more about our work, please contact us at (520) 825-8288 or email svdpcatalina@gmail.com. †