## What’s going on at Christ of the Desert?

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## Who Was Saint Francis of Assisi?

Saint Francis of Assisi abandoned a life of luxury for a life devoted to Christianity after reportedly hearing the voice of God, who commanded him to rebuild the Christian church and live in poverty. He is the patron saint for ecologists. (1181-1226)

Born in Italy circa 1181, Saint Francis of Assisi was renowned for drinking and partying in his youth. After fighting in a battle between Assisi and Perugia, Francis was captured and imprisoned for ransom. He spent nearly a year in prison — awaiting his father's payment — and, according to legend, began receiving visions from God. After his release from prison, Francis heard the voice of Christ, who told him to repair the Christian Church and live a life of poverty. Consequently, he abandoned his life of luxury and became a devotee of the faith, his reputation spreading all over the Christian world.

Later in life, Francis reportedly received a vision that left him with the stigmata of Christ — marks resembling the wounds Jesus Christ suffered when he was crucified — making Francis the first person to receive such holy wounds. He was canonized as a saint on July 16, 1228. During his life he also developed a deep love of nature and animals and is known as the patron saint of the environment and animals; his life and words have had a lasting resonance with millions of followers across the globe. Each October, many animals the world over are blessed on his feast day.

## One day, as legend has it, while riding on a horse in the local countryside, Francis encountered a leper. Prior to the war, Francis would have run from the leper, but on this occasion, his behavior was very different. Viewing the leper as a symbol of moral conscience — or as Jesus incognito, according to some religious scholars — he embraced and kissed him, later describing the experience as a feeling of sweetness in his mouth. After this incident, Francis felt an indescribable freedom. His earlier lifestyle had lost all of its appeal.

While praying before an old Byzantine crucifix at the church of San Damiano, Francis reportedly heard the voice of Christ, who told him to rebuild the Christian Church and to live a life of extreme poverty. Francis obeyed and devoted himself to Christianity. He began preaching around Assisi and was soon joined by 12 loyal followers.

Devotion to Christianity

After his epiphany at the church of San Damiano, Francis experienced another defining moment in his life. In order to raise money to rebuild the Christian church, he sold a bolt of cloth from his father's shop, along with his horse. His father became furious upon learning of his son's actions and subsequently dragged Francis before the local bishop. The bishop told Francis to return his father's money, to which his reaction was extraordinary: He stripped off his clothes, and along with them, returned the money back to his father, declaring that God was now the only father he recognized. This event is credited as Francis' final conversion, and there is no indication that Francis and his father ever spoke again thereafter.

The bishop gave Francis a rough tunic, and dressed in these new humble clothes, Francis left Assisi. Unluckily for him, the first people he met on the road were a group of dangerous thieves, who beat him badly. Despite his wounds, Francis was elated. From now on, he would live according to the Gospel.

Francis' embrace of Christ-like poverty was a radical notion at the time. The Christian church was tremendously rich, much like the people heading it, which concerned Francis and many others, who felt that the long-held apostolic ideals had eroded. Francis set out on a mission to restore Jesus Christ's own, original values to the now-decadent church. With his incredible charisma, he drew thousands of followers to him. They listened to Francis' sermons and joined in his way of life; his followers became known as Franciscan friars.

Continuously pushing himself in the quest for spiritual perfection, Francis was soon preaching in up to five villages per day, teaching a new kind of emotional and personal Christian religion that everyday people could understand. He even went so far as to preach to animals, which garnered criticism from some and earned him the nickname "God's fool." But Francis' message was spread far and wide, and thousands of people were captivated by what they heard.

In 1224 Francis reportedly received a vision that left him with the stigmata of Christ — marks resembling the wounds Jesus Christ suffered when he was crucified, through his hands and the gaping lance wound in his side. This made Francis the first person to receive the holy wounds of the stigmata. They would remain visible for the rest of his life. Because of his earlier work treating lepers, some believe that the wounds were actually symptoms of leprosy.

## Death and Legacy

As Francis approached his death, many predicted that he was a saint in the making. When his health began to decline more rapidly, Francis went home. Knights were sent from Assisi to guard him and to make sure that no one from neighboring towns would carry him off (the body of a saint was viewed, at the time, as an extremely valuable relic that would bring, among many things, glory to the town where it rested).

Francis of Assisi died on October 3, 1226, at the age of 44, in Assisi, Italy. Today, Francis has a lasting resonance with millions of followers across the globe. He was canonized as a saint just two years after his death, on July 16, 1228, by his former protector, Pope Gregory IX. Today, Saint Francis of Assisi is the patron saint for ecologists — a title honoring his boundless love for animals and nature.

**In 2013, Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio chose to honor Saint Francis by taking his name, becoming Pope Francis.**

**FINANCIL SECTION:**

**OCROBER HAS 5 SUNDAYS FOR THOSE THAT GIVE MONTHLY.**

**Please make all checks payable to “Christ of the Desert” not Sacred Heart.**

**Total monies collected to date: $37,592 or 27.8 % of annual budget. Last week we collected $1,368.**

**Monies collected each week reflect the Friday & Sunday Mass plus rental income from offices in the Courtyard.**

**This information is important for our community in order to understand where are financially throughout the year.**

        **Our Monthly expenses are budgeted at $11,250 per month or $33,750 per quarter. $135,000 annually.**

**Thanks for your continued generosity.**

**See instructions at end of Bulletin for ways to continue giving via your bank on-line service, there is likely a “setting” that will say “Autopay” or some other “Bill Pay” service.**

**ATTENTION: Ladies Guild Members**

**We will be having our Ladies Guild Luncheon on Wednesday, October 11th at 11:30 am at the Catholic Charities building in the parking lot.**

**Your lunch ladies have a special surprise for you after the October 11th Women’s Guild lunch. Please clear your schedules to allow for extra time to spend with us!!**

**We will have Chicken Chili and Loaded Cornbread with dessert (TBD).Please email Cindy at**[**chayward@sacredheartpalmdesert.com**](mailto:chayward@sacredheartpalmdesert.com)**or call 760-346-0089 to sign up or Cindy will be available after Mass to sign up and pay $5 per person. You may pay ahead at sign-up or pay at the door. We do plan ahead for the amount of food so please make sure to pay if you signed up, even if you don’t make it.**

**Thanks so much and see you in October.**

### SEPTEMBER 24th, 2023

### Themes for the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time:

### The readings for the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time highlight God’s generosity.

### In the first reading we are told that God does not think the way we think.

### The psalm praises God’s compassion, justice, and mercy.

### The second reading reminds us that we must labor to imitate Christ.

### And in the gospel Jesus tells the parable about the workers in the vineyard and the generous landowner who paid them all the same wage.

### Mass Readings for the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time:

1. **First Reading** – [Isaiah 55:6-9](https://young-catholics.com/scripture-reading/?en=73&rp=2928): Seek God while He’s close; abandon wickedness. Turn to the merciful Lord. His thoughts surpass ours, as heaven is above earth. His ways and thoughts are beyond ours.
2. **Responsorial Psalm** – [Psalm 145](https://young-catholics.com/scripture-reading/?en=74&rp=2928): Daily I’ll bless and praise You, O Lord, forever. Your greatness is beyond measure. You’re gracious, merciful, slow to anger, kind, and just. You’re near to all who call upon You.
3. **Second Reading** – [Philippians 1:20C-24, 27A](https://young-catholics.com/scripture-reading/?en=75&rp=2928): In life or death, I magnify Christ. Life means fruitful labor. Caught between longing for departure to be with Christ and staying for your benefit. Live worthily of the gospel.
4. **Gospel** – [Matthew 20:1-16A](https://young-catholics.com/scripture-reading/?en=76&rp=2928): The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who hires laborers at different times. Those who worked only an hour received the same wage as those who worked all day. The landowner’s generosity teaches that God’s ways are not based on human standards of fairness.

**Themes are gleaned from**[**www.young-catholics.com**](http://www.young-catholics.com/)

**OCTOBER ACTIVITIES:**

1. **October 5th -  FIND-Community Supplemental Food Distribution Program, 9:30 to 11AM.**
2. **October 11th - Ladies Guild Luncheon on Wednesday at 11:30 AM at the Catholic Charities.**
3. **October 11th – Bingo at Sacred Heart. 6:00 – 9:00 PM in the Salta Center.**
4. **October 14th - K of C drive-through CRV recycle program. From 7:30AM to 11:30AM. Parking lot behind Salta Center.**

**THE POPE’S INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER: For people living on the margins of society.**

**We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.**

**The Christ of the Desert “Bulletin” now appears on**[**www.sacredheartpalmdesert.com**](http://www.sacredheartpalmdesert.com/)**website. Open up the site and click on “church”, look down on the bottom left for Christ of the Desert. Open up this site for the “bulletin” and other information about our community.**

**CELEBRATION SECTION:**

**There will be an information providing sheet on the table near the Chapel exit/entrance area.**

**You can always email the information to me as well.**

**You can sign up for any month NOW. I will keep a record of your special month and enter it when that month arrives.**

**WHO HAS A DATE IN SEPTEMBER & YOU WANT ME TO ADD TO THE NOTICES BELOW????**

**SEPTEMBER: BIRTHDAY SECTION:**

**Enedina Sutton – September 1st**

**Rosanne Hopkins – September 1st**

**Carol Kephart – September 2nd**

**Lynne Lehane – September 3rd**

**Paul Oliaro – September 15th**

**Carla Washburn – September 17th**

**Armin Callo – September 18th**

**Frank Rayo- September 25th**

**Chris Ray -September 27th**

**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS IN HEAVEN:**

**Stella Luna – September 20th.**

**SEPTEMBER HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY SECTION:**

**Jim & Carmen Carlo – September 15th**

**Jim & Jean LaBaugh – September 16th**

**Kevin & Jody Harris – September 23**

**SEPTEMBER: REMEMBERING WEDDING ANNIVERSAY SECTION:**

**Larry & Louella Bean would have celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary on September 20th.**

**SEPTEMBER REMEMBRANCE SECTION: “May their souls rest in peace”, Amen**

**Joe Lehane, husband of Lynne, passed away on September 2nd**

**Lindy Hodges, twin sister of Sandy Reid, passed away on September 5th**

**Joe Maldonado, Father of John Maldonado, passed away on September 9th**

**Bob DeWeese, father of Paulette Quaid passed away on September 12th.**

**“Who would you like to pray” for section:**

**Please send me your new updated petitions which will appear in green.**

**Many of you pray for special intentions at Sunday Mass. Please send me those intentions so the entire Parish can pray to the LORD with you.**

**Request that the memory of Stella Luna be blessed with prayers offered by the Christ of the Desert Family. (Sister of Ed Luna)**

**The Parish prays for the following parishioners:**

**Marie, Jim Carlo & Carol Lee Evans.**

**THIS WE PRAY TO THE LORD!!!**

**PAVER ORDERS:**

**Pavers can still be purchased. Installation will be within 30 days of your order. I have the tools to do the install myself now. Forms are available from the Parish Office or back of the church. If you are not sure what you want to say on the paver, let me assist you!!**

**Christ of the Desert office hours: 760-346-0089**

**Office hours are from 9:30 to 1:30 Monday- Friday. Please call first to be sure Cindy is available. When Cindy is in the office, the office door is locked. Please ring the doorbell “to get her attention”.**

**SUPPORT OUR PARISHIONERS WHO HAVE SMALL BUSINESSES SECTION:**

**If anyone else wants to advertise their business in the Bulletin, send me your information.**

**Thinking about selling your house or condo? Call Crys Mueller at 760 989 8732. I have been with BD Homes for the past 15 years.**

**Enedina Sutton, a Distributor of Nature Sunshine Products and a long time parishioner. Has Herbal Supplements, all kinds of Vitamins, ointments, essential Oils, disinfectant products and much more. I do the business from home. I can be reached at**[**760-345-3754**](tel:760-345-3754)**. I live in Sun City Palm Desert community.**

**Invented by NASA engineers, used on astronauts returning from space to rebuild muscle, bone and heal wounds “red light therapy” is now available. I am a new parishioner. Please call or email me: Rom Partyka 805-673-9235 or email at**[**rom1942@msn.com**](mailto:rom1942@msn.com)**for more information or to set up an appointment.**

**Need a good Catholic housekeeper? Call Elvia Pantoja at 760 698 6050. 20 years’ experience in the Indian Wells & Palm Desert area. References provided upon request.**

**ON GOING MESSAGE SECTION:**

**Please continue to consider supporting our community with the following options:**

**Mail your weekly or monthly offering to Christ of the Desert. All our regular mail goes to Sacred Heart so you would need to use that address. Make checks payable to Christ of the Desert.**

**CHRIST OF THE DESERT c/o.**

**SACRED HEART CHURCH 43-775 DEEP CANYON ROAD, PALM DESERT, CA 92260.**

**OR**

**Go to your bank on-line service, there is likely a “setting” that will say “Autopay” or some other “Bill Pay” service. You can set up an automatic payment directly from there. If you have any trouble doing this or don’t have a computer, just call your bank and they can help you.**

**Please make sure that you tell the bank to make the check payable to Christ of the Desert but send the check to Sacred Heart’s address:**

**43775 Deep Canyon Rd.  Palm Desert, CA  92260**

**Jay Mueller**

**Stay Healthy! Do good work! Keep in touch!!!**

SHC & COD Finance Council Member

SHC & COD Parish Council Member

COD Remembrance Walk Coordinator

SHC Parish Walk Coordinator

SHC East Valley Food Distribution Coordinator

SHC East Valley Outreach Program Coordinator

CELL NUMBER 760-777-3745