**UPDATE FROM THE DESK OF FATHER DEREK:**

**I check in with Derek every several weeks to see how he is doing. Below is his latest response.**

**It’s amazing how that little church stays afloat. And it’s like a little glistening star.  It truly offers a refuge and congratulations to you for all the work you do to keep the sails up. I’m delighted to hear of the new parishioners, and I know they will find great blessings and the heart of Christ. I think once you have a become part Christ of the Desert it never leaves you. It’s the one constant that I talk about regularly here in Ireland. Probably the most authentic church that I have had the privilege to offer a little service.**

**I am blessed in the church here in Foxrock. The community is very open to be challenged and appreciate if you offer a few words of reflection. Throughout my illness they have been very caring and helpful.**

**I continue to battle my little illnesses and the medical team are trying to balance my medication.**

**Please give my deepest regards to the community of Christ of the Desert. Derek**

**Border Compassion 2nd Annual Mother's Day Celebration, May 10, 2024 in Mexicali, Mexico.**
**Help us to honor and gift each mother living in the shelter.**

**The goal is to provide 200 wallets with $50 in each! “Faith Communities” from all over the valley are participating in the program.**

**You are invited to donate a wallet or make a cash donation on “behalf of your mother”. Bring wallets and donations (Make checks payable to Border Compassion (memo area Mother’s Day Wallets) to Christ of the Desert.**

**Sisters Phyllis and Geneva are coordinating the collection starting on April 7th, 14th , 21st ,28th & May 5th.They will be available each Sunday, after Mass, at the entrance to the Chapel to accept your donation and answer any questions you might have about this wonderful program.**

**The mission of Border Compassion is to invite faith-communities to Cross-Over at the border to offer a compassionate humanitarian response to families living at the Posada del Migrante Shelter, which houses up to 300 people.**

 **Border Compassion is a non-profit, faith-based, grassroots effort to respond to the needs of families who have migrated to the border crossing at Calexico, CA and Mexicali, Mexico. These asylum seekers left their homes to escape violence, poverty and climate disasters.**

**Make checks payable to: Border Compassion (memo area Mother’s Day Wallets) or donate on line** [**https://border-compassion.org**](https://border-compassion.org)**.**

**For information, contact Suzanne Jabro (****sjabro@csjla.org****) or Damaris Molina (****dmolina@csjorange.org****).**

**43376 Cook Street, Unit 10, Palm Desert, CA 92211 (**[**www.border-compassion.org**](http://www.border-compassion.org)**)**

**Border Compassion is a non-profit 501c3, Tax id 94-1605666.**

**ENKINDLING THE FLAMES OF GOD’S LOVE:**

**Sacred Heart Women’s Challenge Weekend Retreat!**

**May 3 - 4th, 2024**

**To empower women in building God’s Kingdom with speaker sessions, reflection, group discussion, prayer, praise and worship!**

**Sacred Heart Church - St. Andrew’s Room**

**Schedule: Friday: 3:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

**Saturday: 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

**Cost: $45: Includes breakfast, lunch and dinners**

**Call or email: Judy Foudy: 949-436-8759; Judyfoudy @gmail.com; or Ellie Ragonese: 213-369-5650; ellieragonese.com**

**Music by: Ellie Ragonese Prayer & Music Ministry**

 **ATTENTION: Next Ladies Guild Members luncheon is May 8th:**

**Christ of the Desert Women’s Guild:**

**The next gathering will be on Wednesday, May 8th at 11:30. Menu TBD. Cost is $5 and if you are unable to afford the lunch, please see Crys Mueller or Cindy privately and we will take care of the cost for you. We don’t want anyone to miss out!**

**Cindy will be taking signups starting April 21st, after Mass. You can also make a reservation by calling the office (760-346-0089) or emailing Cindy at** **chayward@sacredheartpalmdesert.com**

**APRIL Upcoming Events:**

* **April 4th - Thursday FIND Food distribution/Community Supplemental Food Distribution Program at 9:30.**
* **April 13th - K of C drive-through CRV recycle program & wine bottles. From 7:30AM to 11:30AM. Parking lot behind Salta Center.**
* **April 10th - Christ of the Desert Ladies Guild luncheon at 11:30.**
* **April 20th - Bingo at Sacred Heart. 6:00 – 9:00PM in the Salta Center.**
* **May 8th – Christ of the Desert Women’s Guild Luncheon.**
* **May 19th, 2024 - The Spring Combined Collection**

**In 2024 the following will be observed as Holy Days of Obligation:**

* **Sunday, May 12, 2024 - Solemnity of the Ascension. The Solemnity replaces the Seventh Sunday of Easter.**
* **Thursday, August 15 – Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
* **Friday, November 1 – Solemnity of All Saints**
* **Please Note: In 2024, December 8 occurs on a Sunday and will be observed in the Roman Calendar as the Second Sunday of Advent. The liturgical observance of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is transferred to Monday, Dec. 9, 2024. However, the obligation to participate in Mass for the Immaculate Conception is not transferred.**
* **Wednesday, December 25 – Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord**
* **Wednesday, January 1, 2025 – Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

**GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE**

**April 14, 2024**

**3RD Sunday of Easter.**

**When I was a kid, a friend at my home parish told me, “If you get to Mass by the Gospel reading, it counts!” As a lifelong late-arriver, it’s something I have told myself many times, especially in my earlier years as a Catholic. If the “it counts” is justifiable on a pathetically minimal scale of liturgical legalism, then the Gospel reading today shows how insanely wrong-headed it is, and how helpful it is to re-think the Mass in its light.**

**The famous “Road to Emmaus” story recounts, on that first Sunday of the Resurrection, the basic two-fold structure of the Mass: *Word*, followed by *Eucharist*. Jesus spends a significant period of time with two dismayed disciples, as he connects a wide swath of the Hebrew scriptures with his own suffering, death, and resurrection. They would later report that this Liturgy of the Word touched their hearts with an inexplicable fire. This Word-induced flame alone is what leads the two disciples to discover Jesus’ presence in the “breaking of the bread.”**

**With this in mind, how can we possibly think that the Liturgy of the Word is unnecessary or incidental? The two disciples needed the Scriptures explained to them in order to experience Jesus alive in the eucharistic breaking of bread. Sure, we say, but they had the Risen Jesus. But that’s precisely the point: Jesus is risen and accompanies us in both parts of the Mass. Imagine how much our experience of Jesus in the Eucharist would deepen if we (preachers and listeners) took even more seriously that Jesus himself sets our hearts ablaze with his Word *so that* we know him in the Eucharist. That Word-induced fire counts, too!**

*— Father John Muir*

**April 14th – 3rd Sunday of Easter.**

**The readings for the 3rd Sunday in Easter encourage us to truly believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ and to accept his love.**

**In the gospel the risen Jesus appears to his disciples and helps them understand his death and resurrection.**

**The readings for the 3rd Sunday of Easter touch on several interconnected themes that are crucial to understanding the Easter season and its significance in Christian life.**

**Mass Readings for** **3rd Sunday of Easter.**

* **First Reading -**[**Acts 3:13-15, 17-19**](https://young-catholics.com/read-types/call-for-repentance/)**: Peter declares that by rejecting Jesus and choosing a murderer instead, the people and their leaders acted in ignorance. His death and resurrection fulfill God's prophecy. Peter urges repentance for the forgiveness of sins.**
* **Responsorial Psalm – “ LORD LET YOUR FACE SHINE ON US.”**
* **Second Reading -**[**1 John 2:1-5**](https://young-catholics.com/read-types/the-path-to-knowing-christ/)**: If we sin, Jesus Christ, the righteous, advocates for us. He atoned for our sins, extending beyond us to the whole world. True knowledge of Him is demonstrated by obeying His commands.**
* **Gospel -**[**Luke 24:35-48**](https://young-catholics.com/read-types/jesus-appears-to-his-disciples-2/)**: The disciples recounted recognizing Jesus by the breaking of bread. Jesus then appeared, offering peace and dispelling fears of his being a specter by showing his hands and feet and eating fish, demonstrating his physical resurrection. He explained scripture prophecies about his suffering, resurrection, and the call to spread forgiveness in his name, affirming their roles as witnesses.**

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

**The Spring Combined Collection will take place on May 19th, 2024.**

* **Catholic Relief Services**
* [**Catholic Communication Campaign**](http://www.archmil.org/giving/Combined-Collections/CCC.htm)
* [**Peter’s Pence**](http://www.archmil.org/giving/Combined-Collections/Religious.htm)
* [**Catholic Campaign for Human Development**](http://www.archmil.org/giving/Combined-Collections/CCHD.htm)

**FINANCIAL SECTION:**

**APRIL HAS 4 SUNDAYS FOR THOSE THAT GIVE MONTHLY.**

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

**Total monies collected to date: $145,872 or 108.1% of annual budget. Last week’s collection was: $8,8048\*.**

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

**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.**

**THE POPE’S INTENTION FOR APRIL: For the role of women.**
**We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.**

**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 APRIL & YOU WANT ME TO ADD TO THE NOTICES BELOW????**

**DISCLAIMER: If information below is incorrect, please let me know and I will correct the error.**

**APRIL BIRTHDAY SECTION:**

**Bob Ruehl - April 3rd.**

**Mary Lindstrom – April 3rd.**Louise McCall - April 7th

**Betty Schultz - April 17th.**

**Joyce Sosebee - April 18th.**

**Jim LaBaugh – April 18th.**

**Bob Smith – April 20th.**

**Carol Anderson – April 21st**

**Howard Lincoln – April 23rd.**

**Dan Smith – April 29th.**

**Dave Bannon – April 30th.**

**APRIL BIRTHDAYS IN HEAVEN:**

**Jamie Rogers – April 3rd, Brother of Crys Mueller.**

**Max Gregory Sosebee - April 16th, son of Joyce Sosebee**.

**APRIL HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY SECTION:**

**Carl & Lois Hickey – April 17th.**

**Jan & Patrick McCoy – April 30th.**

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

**Christine Smith, mother of Daria Smith, passed away on April 1st.**

**Larry Bean, husband of Louella, passed away on April 13th.**

**Daniel Pepper, husband of JoAnn, passed away on April 22nd, 2018.**

**John Schumaker, son of Jesse Schumaker, passed away on April 30, 2017.**

**Please provide Month, Date & Year & Relationship to family member being remembered**

**“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.**

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

**Carol Lee Evans.**

**Would you please add prayers for my friends Arnie, Ted, Karen and Mira!!! Thank you, Roxanne**

**Please pray for Lois Hickey who recently fell and broke her hip. Jay Mueller & the entire community.**

**Please pray for Patrick McCoy, Jan’s husband, who recently fell which required surgery.**

**Please pray for Steve Lester as he recovers from pneumonia. Jay Mueller & the entire community.**

**Dear Jay**

**Please thank the congregation for all the prayers.   After 6 weeks not able to walk there is some improvement on my knee cap but I was told to spend 6 more weeks not using it.  So I still can’t walk on it.   I have an awful brace that I also have to use during the night.**

**I still need some more prayers. Carrie Clay**

**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.**

**John Maldonado is a Mortgage Loan Originator with First West Financial, Corp & a member of Christ of the Desert congregation.**

**"Your Home Loan Made Simple" We help you buy your dream home by simplifying the mortgage financing process with personalized loan options that save you time and money. If you need assistance with any type of loan, I am here to help.**

**For every loan that closes, I will make a donation to Christ of the Desert.**

**Contact: John A. Maldonado at** **jam@firstwestfinancial.com** **or call 760 636-8266. Mortgage Loan Originator,**

**NMLS #1995783,**[**WWW.firstwestfinancial.com**](http://www.firstwestfinancial.com/)

**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****. 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****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