**March 10th at 2:00AM - Day light saving time officially begins. “Spring” your clocks one hour forward.**

**OUR 2024 DDF GOAL IS $12,200. WE MET OUR GOAL & THENSOME!!!!!**

**Thanks for everyone’s commitment in meeting our DDF goal for 2024. We are #1 again!!!**

* **To date, we have collected $19,675.**
* **Last year we collected $20,746.**
	+ **All monies collected (above $12,200) will be returned to us with no Diocesan taxation!!**
	+ **These additional funds will enable us to continue our facility improvement projects in 2024.**
* **Make checks payable to “Christ of the Desert”.**
* **Put DDF in lower left memo area. Cash $$$ is always acceptable.**

**REMINDER:**

* **We designate the last Sunday of the month as DDF Sunday (January, February & March). However, you can always donate at any time. Any Sunday (basket will be in the back of the church) or dropping off your donation during the week in the slot in the door on #4 office or sending in your donation.**

**Our mailing address is “Christ of the Desert”: 43775 Deep Canyon Rd.  Palm Desert, CA  92260**

**ATTENTION: Ladies Guild Members luncheon is March 13th:**

**March’s luncheon is back to being on the second Wednesday of the month.**

**Our February Ladies Guild Luncheon was a great event. It was held in the Courtyard of the Church and everyone loved the perfect weather as well as the wonderful lunch, cooked by Kathy Ryan and Jan McCoy. We hope to be able to move back to Catholic Charities after the repair and construction has been completed but, weather permitting, we’ll enjoy the sun in the courtyard next month.**

**We’ll be serving a variation on the traditional corned beef and cabbage with Kathy’s homemade soda bread and a dessert (TBD).**

**Cindy will be taking signups starting February 25th, after Mass. You can also make a reservation by calling the office (760-346-0089) or emailing Cindy at** **chayward@sacredheartpalmdesert.com**

**Hope to see you there!!!**

**March Upcoming Events:**

* **March 7th is the Thursday FIND Food distribution/Community Supplemental Food Distribution Program at 9:30.**
* **March 9th - K of C drive-through CRV recycle program. From 7:30AM to 11:30AM. Parking lot behind Salta Center.**
* **March 10th  is Day Light Saving Time. Change you clocks before going to bed. Spring forward.**
* **March 13th is the Christ of the Desert Ladies Guild luncheon.**
* **March 14th is Christ of the Desert’s Quarterly Finance Council meeting.**
* **March 17th is St. Patrick’s day.**
* **March 20th – Bingo at Sacred Heart. 6:00 – 9:00PM in the Salta Center.**
* **March 31st is Easter Sunday.**
* **April 15th the Tax Man Cometh. Taxes are due.**

**UPDATE FROM FATHER DEREK IN DUBLIN:**

**Jay**

**I’m here in Blackrock Hospital since Sunday (2/25/24) as I’ve had some issues regarding my breathing and I’ve had a series of tests which has led to a change in my medication. I expect to go home this evening actually. (2/29/24)**

**Life is very quiet over here. We are all shocked and horrified at the deaths in Gaza, the children and women. The war in Ukraine seems endless. Ireland has spoken out constantly about the number of the dead in Gaza.**

**Jay, the world has turned in a very strange way. And it’s as if we have no solution. We hold onto faith and wish for a part that would bring us all together in other words following the “WAY”.**

**Jay, I hope you are keeping well, and I remember the community of Christ the Desert at mass and in my daily prayers. Congratulations to you Jay for keeping the flame alive.**

**With every good wish for 24 and always**

**Derek**

**PRAYER FOR TODAY:**

**The Act of Love or the Act of Charity** is a traditional Catholic prayer that has been used for many centuries. While its precise origins are unknown, it is believed to have developed as a way for Catholics to express their devotion to God and their commitment to living a life of love and service to others.

**The Act of Love** is a simple but powerful expression calling us to love God above all things, to love our neighbor as ourselves, and to seek forgiveness and reconciliation with those we have wronged.

## **Act of Love Prayer**

**O my God, I love you above all things,
with my whole heart and soul,
because you are all good and worthy of all my love.**

**I love my neighbor as myself for the love of you.**

**I forgive all who have injured me
and I ask pardon of all whom I have injured.**

**Amen.**

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

**March 10th, 2024**

**4rd Sunday of Lent**

**Our national pastime isn’t baseball. It’s what the Bible calls “condemning the world.” We generally enjoy pronouncing curses upon those whom we see as trouble, wrong, or evil. Don’t believe me? Listen to almost any podcast, cable news network, or social media platform to hear it. It will be some version of: “We all agree that if *they* are eradicated, things will be great.” Condemning is almost always clothed in virtue. It basks in its good intentions. That’s why it is so attractive. Condemning seems like our best path to saving what is good.**

**What a shock, then, to hear Jesus announce: “For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him” (Jn 3:17). He comes to save the world, as we all want, but he will accomplish it *without an act of condemnation.* How hard it is to accept this! Condemning feels godlike. I judge who and what must be lost to protect the good. But in the light of Jesus’ endless mercy and love, this is the *least* godlike thing we can do.**

**Lenten challenge: This week, I invite you to give up the delicious experience of condemning whomever in the world you most would like to see gone. Perhaps write down their names. Secondly, I invite you to consider fasting from any media that feeds the tasty but deadly tendency to condemn.**

*— Father John Muir*

### March 10th – 4th Sunday of Lent.

The readings for the 4th Sunday of Lent focus on God's faithfulness in drawing us closer to him.

The first reading tells how God inspired Cyrus to allow the chosen people to worship once again in Jerusalem.

And in the gospel we hear of Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus, where Jesus explains that he was sent to us out of the boundless love of God.

The 4th Sunday of Lent presents a profound reflection on themes of longing for restoration, God's mercy and grace, the dichotomy between light and darkness, and God's unwavering love for humanity. These readings invite us to contemplate our own lives in light of God's enduring patience and willingness to forgive. They challenge us to recognize our transgressions, yet reassure us of the possibility of repentance and returning to God's grace. Through the narrative of the Babylonian exile and the words of Jesus in John 3, we are reminded of the transformative power of belief and the hope that lies in restoration.

### Mass Readings for the 4th Sunday of Lent.

* **First Reading** - [2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23](https://young-catholics.com/read-types/judahs-exile-and-return/): Judah's betrayal of faith led to their exile as Babylon destroyed Jerusalem and the temple. God's warnings were ignored, resulting in captivity. Fulfilling Jeremiah's prophecy, the exile lasted until Cyrus of Persia decreed the rebuilding of the temple, marking the beginning of the return.
* **Responsorial Psalm** - [Psalm 137](https://young-catholics.com/read-types/exiles-lament/): In Babylon's captivity, we wept for Zion, unable to sing our sacred songs in a foreign land. Forgetting Jerusalem would be my greatest loss, my joy silenced without its memory.
* **Second Reading** - [Ephesians 2:4-10](https://young-catholics.com/read-types/saved-by-grace-through-faith/): God, in His mercy, made us alive with Christ, saving us by grace through faith, not by our deeds, to display His grace in Christ. We are created for good works, predestined by God.
* **Gospel**- [John 3:14-21](https://young-catholics.com/read-types/salvation-through-faith/): Jesus has a conversation with Nicodemus and references Moses lifting up the serpent in the wilderness as a foreshadowing of his own crucifixion and the salvation that it would bring. Jesus emphasizes the importance of believing in him as the Son of God in order to receive eternal life, and highlights the judgment that will come to those who do not believe.

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

**FINANCIAL SECTION:**

**MARCH 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: $119,478 or 88.5% of annual budget. Last week collected $4,512\*.**

**\*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 MARCH: For the new martyrs.**

**We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.**

**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 MARCH & 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.**

**MARCH BIRTHDAY SECTION:**

**Tiara McCoy has a birthday on March 8th.**

**Saint Patrick has a birthday on March 17th, born in 492.**

**Bonnie Morrisroe has a birthday on March 18th.**

**Helene Shaunty has a birthday on March 28th.**

**Father Marlin Connole has a birthday on March 28th.**

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS IN HEAVEN:**

**Daniel Pepper – March 7, 1934, Husband of JoAnn Pepper.**

**Joe Lehane – March 1st,1950. Husband of Lynn Lehane.**

**MARCH HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY SECTION:**

**George & Betty Schultz – March 20th.**

**Jim Grand & Stephen Spurgen – March 23rd.**

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

**Joan Warner, twin sister of Jean LaBaugh, passed away on March 4th.**

**Dottie DeWeese, mother of Paulette Quaid, passed away on March 12th, 2011.**

**Steve Lester’s wife, Noralyn, passed away on March 22nd, 1988.**

**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:**

**Pat Martin longtime President of SHC Parish Council & friend of Jay Mueller.**

**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**

**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**

CELL NUMBER 760-777-3745

**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