## **December 22nd, 2024 - Issue #247 - Fourth of Sunday of Advent**

## **SPECIAL SECOND COLLECTION FOR RETIRED RELIGIOUS ON DECEMBER 22nd:**

Hi Jay,

Thank you for mentioning that Sunday’s (December 22nd) second collection is for the **Retirement Fund for Religious.**

There are more than 24,000 women and men in religious communities who are struggling financially and are in need of help.

Our Franciscan Community of Rochester, MN is not one of those struggling and we do not receive monies from this fund.  However, many Communities are struggling. This is a national collection and not restricted to our diocese which helps provide care, medicine, and other necessities.  Please thank our community, in advance, for giving to those who have given a lifetime of service to Catholic communities throughout the United States.

Thank you Jay,

Sisters Phyllis & Geneva

## **END OF YEAR TAX DONATION CONSIDERATION:**

## **Thanks to everyone for your continued financial support during 2024.  Your support has meant that "Christ of the Desert" has done well financially again this year. As 2024 is coming to an end, some of you are considering year-end tax donations. Please consider "Christ of the Desert" in your giving plans. Your donation will assist us in defraying some of the costs of the “emergency exit doors project”. We will be replacing/enlarging all three doors. This project is near and dear to Father Connole. He wants to ensure our safety should an emergency evacuation situation arise. Estimated cost is about $50,000. If you are donating, please note in the memo section of your donation. “Emergency Door Project”.**

## **Thanks again, for being an active and generous member of our community.**

## **Special Thanks to the Elves of Christ of the Desert for decorating the Chapel so wonderfully for the Christmas season. Jesse Schumaker (Head elf), Cindy Hayward, Jack & Louise McCall, Maryanne Dorniak, Lee Junga, Germain Thompson, Betty Kosic and Marlene Evans.**

## **December 25th – Christmas Day - The Nativity of the Lord**

## **AND SUDDENLY THERE WAS A MULTITUDE OF THE HEAVENLY HOST WITH THE ANGEL, PRAISING “GOD” AND SAYING: “GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST AND ON EARTH PEACE TO THOSE WHOM HIS FAVOR RESTS”.**

## **Luke 2:1**

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## **MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL AT CHRIST OF THE DESERT CHAPEL!!!!**

**CHRIST OF THE DESERT CHRISTMAS EVE & DAY MASS SCHEDULE**

**o  December 24th – Christmas Eve Vigil Mass is at 5:00PM.**

**o  December 25th - Christmas day Mass is at 9:30AM.**

**SACRED HEART CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY MASS SCHEDULE:**

**Christmas Eve Mass Schedule**

**3:30 PM Carols – SHS Children’s Choir**

**4:00 PM Mass - SHS Children’s Choir**

**5:30 PM Carols - Contemporary Ensemble**

**6:00 PM Mass – Contemporary Ensemble**

**8:00 PM Spanish Mass - Español**

**December 25th Christmas Day Mass Schedule**

**12:00 AM Mass - Latin Midnight Mass**

**8:00 AM Mass - Cantor, Organ**

**9:30 AM Mass - Cantor, Organ**

**11:00 AM Mass - SHC Adult Choir**

**12:30 PM - Spanish Mass - Español**

**No Evening Masses**

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## **\*\* Christ of the Desert Business Office will be closed from Monday, December 23, 2024 to Thursday, January 2, 2025. If there is an emergency, please call Sacred Heart Church at 760-346-6502. They have an answering service available and can reach a priest.**

**JUBLIEE YEAR 2025 IS COMING:**

**Pope Francis has given the 2025 Jubilee Year the theme of “Pilgrims of Hope”.**

**Bishop Rojas has designated Sacred Heart Church, in Palm Desert, be named as one of the**

**special sites of Pilgrimage in the Jubilee year in our Diocese. More details to follow.**

**What is a Jubilee Year?**

**In the Catholic Church, a Jubilee or Holy Year is a special year of forgiveness and reconciliation, in which people are invited to come back into right relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation.**

**How often is a Jubilee Year?**

**A Jubilee Year is celebrated by the Church every 25 years. This has been the case since 1470, when Pope Paul II changed it from every 50 years.**

**A Pope can also proclaim an Extraordinary Jubilee, like the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy which Pope Francis inaugurated in 2015.**

**What is the theme of the Jubilee Year in 2025?**

**The theme is Pilgrims of Hope. Pope Francis has invited Catholics to renew our hope and discover a vision that can "restore access to the fruits of the earth to everyone". We are also invited to rediscover a spirituality of God's creation in which we understand ourselves as "pilgrims on the earth" rather than masters of the world.**

**When does the Jubilee Year start and finish?**

**The 2025 Jubilee Year begins on December 24th, 2024 and concludes on January 6th, 2026.**

**What is the Biblical background for the Jubilee Year?**

**The word Jubilee comes from the Hebrew word *yobel*, which is a ram's horn. This wind instrument is blown to mark the start of a Jubilee Year in the Bible (Leviticus 25:9).**

**In the Bible the Jubilee Year occurred every 50 years and involved the cancelling of debts, a period of rest for people and the earth, and land being restored to the landless.**

**In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus makes clear his own mission is to bring Jubilee. In the synagogue at Nazareth he reads from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah, proclaiming the year of the Lord's favor:**

**The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim the Lord's year of favor." (Luke 4:18-19)**

**After reading, Jesus announces: “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." Jesus shows us what God's Kingdom of justice, compassion and freedom looks like. He invites us join him in making it a reality.**

**Christ of the Desert collected donations for Galilee Center throughout the Holiday Season.**

**Thanks so much for your generosity. We had a terrific collection again this year!!!!!**

**ATTENTION: Ladies Guild Members:**

**We will be having our next Ladies Guild Luncheon on Wednesday, January 8th 2025 at 11:30 AM.**

**Our menu is 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, starting December 22nd, to sign up and pay $5 per person. We do plan ahead for the amount of food so please make sure to pay when you signed up.**

**February meeting date is on Wednesday the 12th.**

**REMEMBRANCE WALK – PAVER ORDER INFORMATION FOR NEW PARISHIONERS:**

**The “REMEMBRANCE WALK” IS LOCATED IS LOCATED TO THE RIGHT OF THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE CHAPEL. (behind the planter)**

**Forms are available from the Parish Office or back of the church. Installation will be within 30 days of your order. If you are not sure what you want to say on the paver, let me assist you!!.**

**DECEMBER ACTIVITIES:**

* **December 1st – 2nd Collection for Christmas gifts for our priests.**
* **December 5th - FIND Food distribution/Community Supplemental Food Distribution Program at 9:30.**
* **December 8th – 3rd and final collection for Christmas gifts for our priests.**
* **December 9th, Holy Day of obligation, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.**
* **December 11th – Bingo at Sacred Heart. 6:00 – 9:00PM in the Salta Center.**
* **December 14th - K of C drive-through CRV recycle program. From 7:30AM to 11:30AM. Parking lot behind Salta Center.**
* **December 15th - Christmas Luncheon after 9:30AM Mass at Desert Willow Golf Resort.**

## **Christ of the Desert will be collecting donations for Galilee Center until December 16th.**

## **May 18th – Father Connole’s 57th ordination anniversary.**

## **December 22nd – Second collection for Retirement Fund for Religious.**

## **December 24th – Christmas Eve Vigil Mass is at 5PM**

## **December 25th - Christmas Day Mass is at 9:30AM.**

## **December 31st is New Year’s Eve. Feast of the Holy Family.**

## **January 1st- Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. Mass at Sacred Heart at 9:00AM.**

## **January 26th – First DDF Sunday.**

**In 2025 the following will be observed as Holy Days of Obligation:**

* **January 1st - Wednesday - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. Mass at Sacred Heart Church at 9:00AM**
* **May 29th - Thursday of the Sixth Week of Easter - Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord**
* **August 15th  - Friday - Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
* **November 1st  - Solemnity of All Saints (Saturday)**
* **December 8th – Monday- Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**
* **December 25th – Thursday- Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

**Whenever January 1, the solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, or August 15, the solemnity of the Assumption, or November 1, the solemnity of All Saints, falls on a Saturday or on a Monday, the precept to attend Mass is abrogated. Also, when December 8th falls on a Sunday, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is transferred to Monday. While the day remains a solemnity, the faithful are not obligated to attend Mass.**

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

**December 22, 2024 - Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**The Blessed Virgin teaches us the secret to being blessed, happy, and full of joy. When Elizabeth, her cousin, greets her, she calls Mary “blessed” for two reasons, her motherhood of Jesus, and Our Lady’s belief that “there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord” (Luke 1:45). Mary is “blessed” entirely because of her relationship to the Incarnation of God in Jesus, and for no other. This of course makes perfect sense, because as the Lord, as God-in-the-flesh, her son is the source of all blessedness, life, and joy. Mary is blessed because of her contact with Jesus, and by her faith in him.**

**So, it is with us, too. We become blessed by our “motherly” contact with Christ in our souls through baptism. He lives in us and grows to maturity within us. We bear him to the world. This requires unshakeable faith that his promises to us will be fulfilled, despite all the problems and difficulties that plague us. We become blessed, happy, and joyful in the measure that we are in contact with Jesus and trust in him.**

**Advent challenges: 1.) This week go to someone who has borne the love of Jesus to you and tell her or him how they have been a blessing to you. 2.) Name someone in your life now to whom God has sent you to bring Jesus’ presence. Pray: “Lord, thank you for the blessing of sending me to bring your presence to this person. Help me bear you faithfully to him/her.”***— Father John Muir*

### [**Pray the O Antiphons**](https://young-catholics.com/297/advent-ideas-pray-the-o-antiphons/)

**The “O Antiphons” are a beautiful tradition to incorporate into your family prayer during Advent. These antiphons are part of the evening prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours, specifically from December 17 to December 23. Each antiphon uses Old Testament imagery to proclaim the coming of the Christ child. By praying the O Antiphons, you can deepen your reflection on the meaning of Advent and prepare your hearts for the birth of Jesus. Consider incorporating these powerful prayers into your family’s daily prayer routine during this special season.**

**December 22nd - Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Mass Readings for Fourth Sunday of Advent. First Reading –**[**Zephaniah 3:14-18A**](https://young-catholics.com/read-types/rejoice-daughter-zion/)**: God has removed your punishment and is with you, bringing joy and renewal. Rejoice and do not fear, for He delights in you.**

* **First Reading –**[**Micah 5:1-4A**](https://young-catholics.com/read-types/the-ruler-from-bethlehem/)**: God promises a ruler from Bethlehem, whose origins are ancient. He will shepherd Israel, bring peace, and his greatness will reach the ends of the earth.**
* **Responsorial Psalm –**[**Psalm 80**](https://young-catholics.com/read-types/turn-to-the-lord-for-salvation/)**: We ask God to show His power, care for His people, and give us new life. We seek His presence and salvation.**
* **Second Reading –**[**Hebrews 10:5-10**](https://young-catholics.com/read-types/christs-willing-sacrifice/)**: Christ’s arrival meant replacing old sacrifices with his own body, fulfilling God’s will. His sacrifice made us holy once and for all.**
* **Gospel –**[**Luke 1:39-45**](https://young-catholics.com/read-types/marys-visit-to-elizabeth/)**: Mary visited Elizabeth, whose baby leaped for joy upon hearing Mary. Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, blessed Mary for her faith and for bearing the Lord.**

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

**FINANCIAL SECTION:**

**DECEMBER 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: $87,804\* or 58.5% of annual budget. Last week’s Sunday collection was: $2,760.**

**\*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 $12,500 per month or $37,500 per quarter. $150,000 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 DECEMBER: For pilgrims of hope,  
We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.**

**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 DECEMBER & 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.**

**DECEMBER BITHDAY SECTION:**

**Loretta Schutten has a birthday on December 6th.**

**Louella Bean has a birthday on December 6th.**

**Jack McCall has a birthday on December 7th.**

**Lee Marie Junga has a birthday on December 8th.**

**Jo Falk has a birthday on December 11th.**

**Germaine Thompson has a birthday on December 12th.**

**Jim Grand has a birthday on December 15th.**

**Jesse Schumaker has a birthday on December 19th.**

**Joyce McIntyre has a birthday on December 21st.**

**Chris Anderson has a birthday on December 25th.**

**JoAnn Pepper has a birthday on December 26th.**

**Shirley Murphy has a birthday on December 31st.**

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS IN HEAVEN:**

**Bobby DeWeese, brother of Paulette Quaid, has a birthday in heaven on December 4th.**

**Christine Smith, mother of Daria Smith, has a birthday in heaven on December 11th.**

**Jackie Capitanelli, Matriarch of the Capitanelli Family, has a birthday in heaven on December 16th.**

**Seana Swanson’s son, Travis Swanson, has a birthday in Heaven on December 16th.**

**Mary Walbridge, Daughter of Betty Walbridge, has a birthday in heaven on December 17th.**

**Bill Kosic, husband of Betty Kosic, has a birthday in heaven on December 28th.**

**DECEMBER HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY SECTION:**

**Roger & Kathy Stambaugh – December 30th.**

**Please provide Month, Date & Year**

**DECEMBER: REMEMBERING WEDDING ANNIVERSAY SECTION:**

**None submitted.**

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

**Michael Brauntz, Roseanne’s husband passed away on December 8th. No year provided**

**Father Connole’s mother passed away on December 9th, 2014.**

**Lesile Zannotti passed away on December 23rd, 2013.**

**Mary Mueller, Jay’ Mueller’s mother, passed away on December 31st, 2005.**

**Mary “Sissy” Grand, Jim Grand’s mother, passed away on December 31st, 2001.**

**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.**

**Please pray for my friend Craig Richard who was recently diagnosed with thyroid cancer. Daria Smith.**

**Please pray for Carrie Clay who had an “accident” and broke her leg. She had surgery on Tuesday. Christ of the Desert Community**

**Please pray for Doug and Val. Roxanne Reed**

**Please pray for my daughter, Lisa Gruebel, who has been diagnosed with lung cancer, Suzanne Cummings.**

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

**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**](mailto: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**](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**](https://www.google.com/maps/search/43-775+DEEP+CANYON+ROAD,+PALM+DESERT,+CA+92260?entry=gmail&source=g)**.**

**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.**](https://www.google.com/maps/search/43775+Deep+Canyon+Rd.+Palm+Desert,+CA+92260?entry=gmail&source=g)[**Palm Desert, CA**](https://www.google.com/maps/search/43775+Deep+Canyon+Rd.+Palm+Desert,+CA+92260?entry=gmail&source=g)[**92260**](https://www.google.com/maps/search/43775+Deep+Canyon+Rd.+Palm+Desert,+CA+92260?entry=gmail&source=g)

**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 Remembrance Square Coordinator

SHC East Valley Outreach Program Coordinator

CELL NUMBER 760-777-3745