March 23rd, 2025 - Issue #260 - 3rd Sunday of Lent

**This edition of the weekly Christ of the Desert Bulletin begins our 6th year of publication. Wow time has gone by so quickly.**

**Note from Seana Swanson:**

**Hi Jay:**

**Just wanted to let you know the funeral for Dee Howarth will be on March 24 at 11:45 at the VA cemetery in Riverside. If anyone is interested in attending, please call me at 760-672-1505 or email me at** [**swangirl63@yahoo.com**](mailto:swangirl63@yahoo.com)**. We are trying to get a carpool going.**

**March Upcoming Events:**

* **March 5th is Ash Wednesday. Mass and Ashes at Christ of the Desert at 12PM.**
  + **Masses at Sacred Heart are 7:30AM, 9:00AM, 12:10PM, 5:30PM & 7:00PM**
* **March 6th - Thursday FIND Food distribution/Community Supplemental Food Distribution Program at 9:30.**
* **March 8th - K of C drive-through CRV recycle program. From 7:30AM to 11:30AM. Parking lot behind Salta Center.**
* **March 8/9th - Day Light Saving Time. Change you clocks before going to bed. Spring forward.**
* **March 12th – Bingo at Sacred Heart. 6:00 – 9:00PM in the Salta Center.**
* **March 13th - Christ of the Desert’s Quarterly Finance Council meeting.**
* **March 17th - St. Patrick’s Day.**
* **March 19th - the Christ of the Desert Ladies Guild luncheon.**
* **SPECIAL NOTICE: Priests from all over the valley will be assisting in the Lenten Penance Service.**
  + **LENTEN PENNANCE SERVICE AT SACRED HEART ON MARCH 20TH AT 7PM.**
* **March 30th - last DDF Sunday. (if needed)**
* **April 13th - Palm Sunday.**
* **April 20th - Easter Sunday.**
* **April 15th the Tax Man Cometh. Taxes are due.**

**OUR 2025 DDF GOAL IS $13,100. We have met our goal!!**

**$20,905 has been collected to date!!**

**Another $365 on Sunday the 16th.**

**Remember the following:**

* + **All monies collected (above $13,100) will be returned to us with no Diocesan taxation!!**
  + **These additional funds will enable us to continue our facility improvement projects in 2025.**

**REMINDER:**

**We designate the last Sunday of the month as DDF Sunday. However, you can always donate at any time. Each Sunday we will have a collection basket available after Mass.**

**You can also drop off your donation during the week, into the slot of door #4 office.**

**You can also send us your donation at any time. Our mailing address is “Christ of the Desert”: 43775 Deep Canyon Rd.  Palm Desert, CA  92260**

**Make checks payable to “Christ of the Desert”. Put DDF in lower left memo area.**

**Cash $$$ is always acceptable.**

* **Our Third scheduled collection will be on March 30th.**

**Thanks, in advance, for everyone’s continued DDF support.**

**FATHER CONNOLE’S “EMERGENCY DOOR FUND” UPDATE: Contract awarded. Work to begin after Easter. (Hopefully)**

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

**March 23, 2025 - 3rd Sunday of Lent - John 4:5-42**

**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 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*

**March 23rd – 3rd Sunday of Lent:**

**Mass Readings:**

* **First Reading –**[**Exodus 3:1-8A, 13-15**](https://young-catholics.com/read-types/moses-and-the-burning-bush/)**: Moses encounters God in a burning bush at Horeb. Instructed to remove his sandals on holy ground, he is tasked to rescue Israelites from Egypt, armed with God’s name, “I AM.”**
* **Responsorial Psalm –**[**Psalm 103**](https://young-catholics.com/read-types/celebrating-gods-mercy/)**: I praise the Lord for His kindness: forgiving sins, healing diseases, rescuing lives, and crowning with love. He is righteous, merciful, and gracious, with boundless mercy.**
* **Second Reading –**[**1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12**](https://young-catholics.com/read-types/lessons-from-forefathers-faith/)**: Our forefathers, guided by a cloud and sea, were baptized into Moses, shared spiritual sustenance, and drank from Christ, the spiritual rock. Their failures in the wilderness warn us against evil cravings and complacency.**
* **Gospel –**[**Luke 13:1-9**](https://young-catholics.com/read-types/call-to-repentance-and-parable-of-the-fig-tree/)**: Jesus addressed the news of Galileans killed by Pilate, emphasizing that suffering isn’t directly linked to personal sinfulness. He called for repentance to avoid a similar fate. He then told a parable of a barren fig tree; a gardener sought more time to nurture it, symbolizing God’s patience and call for repentance.**

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

**JUBLIEE YEAR 2025: UPDATE**

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

**The “Holy Doors” at Sacred Heart Church are the exterior entrance of the Padre Pio Adoration Chapel.**

**The Doors are open daily 6:00AM – 6:00PM.**

**In communion with and obedience to those desires promulgated by the Office of the Apostolic Penitentiary, the Diocese of San Bernardino has selected SACRED HEART CHURCH, Palm Desert as a Jubilee site whereat the faithful, having fulfilled the ordinary conditions for the reception of an indulgence, can receive the full remittance of any temporal effects due to sin, opening wide the doors of mercy and hope to an encounter with the risen Lord, in whom our hope “cannot disappoint.”**

**The norms for receiving an indulgence are that a person is "moved by a spirit of charity," is "purified through the sacrament of penance and refreshed by Holy Communion" and prays for the pope. Along with a pilgrimage, a work of mercy or an act of penance, a Catholic "will be able to obtain from the treasury of the Church a plenary indulgence, with remission and forgiveness of all their sins, which can be applied in suffrage to the souls in Purgatory."**

**ATTENTION: Ladies Guild Members:**

**The next Ladies Guild Luncheon will be on Wednesday, April 9th. Menu TBD. Starting March30th. Cindy will be collecting $5 after Masses to reserve a seat. Or you may email or call her at the office. 760-346-0089. We need to know how many will be joining us so we can plan how much food to prepare for our festive gathering!**

**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!!.**

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

* **January 1st - Wednesday - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. Not a Holy Day of Obligation in 2025.**
* **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**

**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: $142,095\* or 94.7% of annual budget. Collection on Sunday the 16th was $1,882.**

**\*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 MARCH: For families in crisis:  
Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.**

**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.**

**2025**

**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.**

**Mary Ann Xavier has a birthday on March 25th**

**Helene Shaunty has a birthday on March 26th.**

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

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS IN HEAVEN:**

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

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

**Larry Kunstler – March 11th.**

**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.**

**Please pray for Roger Gavin, new parishioner, who recently had a stroke.**

**Joe has lung cancer and will start three months of radiation and chemo on December 12th. We ask for healing prayers, and that the will of Our Lord be done.  Judy Farnan**

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

**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/" \t "_blank)**

**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