**We are officially into the “out of town visitor” season here in the Desert. On Sunday we had over 200 people attend Mass. It was standing room only with some even sitting outside in the entry way to the church.**

**ASH WEDNESDAY IS FEBRUARY 14TH.**

**Ashes will be distributed at the Noon Mass at Christ of the Desert.**

**When did the practice of Ash Wednesday begin and what does it signify?**

**It’s a remnant of the tradition, going back to Old Testament times, of wearing sackcloth and ashes as a mark of penitence for sin.**

**Since Lent, like Yom Kippur, is a time of penitential fasting, it begins with that symbolic acceptance of the ancient sign of penitence.**

**Ash Wednesday is the first day of**[**Lent**](https://staging.dynamiccatholic.com/lent/about-lent.html)**. Lent is the forty days (excluding Sundays) leading up to**[**Easter.**](https://staging.dynamiccatholic.com/lent/www.dynamiccatholic.com/lent/holy-week.html#easter-sunday)**The number forty is significant as it refers to Jesus’ forty days in the desert prior to beginning his ministry of teaching. The ashes are created from the palms used during the previous year’s**[**Palm Sunday**](https://staging.dynamiccatholic.com/lent/www.dynamiccatholic.com/lent/holy-week.html#palm-sunday)**Mass.**

**According to some sources, the practice was started by Pope Gregory the Great, who reigned in the late 6th and early 7th Centuries.**

﻿**In addition to being a sign of penitence, it is also a reminder that our time on Earth is fleeting. Hence the words, derived from Genesis 3:19, spoken to each recipient:**

**"*Memento, homo, quia pulvis es, et in pulverem reverteris.*" ("Remember, man, that thou art dust, and to dust thou shalt return.")**

**FEBRUARY 14TH IS ALSO SAINT VALENTINE’S DAY:**

**The Legend of Saint Valentine:**

Today is February 14th and many folks will celebrate Saint Valentine’s Day by giving flowers, cards, and candy. Not to mention having intimate dinners, spending time with loved ones, going to parties, and giving other special gifts to friends; but who was the real Valentine and why is this most romantic of holidays named after him?

### Oh Claudius

The legend of Valentine’s Day is said to have originated during the third century in Rome, under the reign of Emperor Claudius II. During his reign, Claudius decided that single men made better soldiers, so he outlawed marriage for young men to keep them focused and away from potential familial distractions. A young [priest named Valentine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Valentine) decided the law was unjust and began defying the Emperor’s decree by continuing to perform marriages for young lovers in secret.

### First Valentine Card

Claudius eventually discovered Valentine’s actions, had him arrested and soon after sentenced to death. During his time in jail, Valentine fell in love with his jailer’s daughter, who visited him in prison. Before he was put to death, Valentine sent a letter to the girl signed “from Your Valentine”, the basic expression we still use every year during this holiday. Valentine was executed on February 14, 270 AD.

### The Saint of Couples

Over 200 years later, around 496 AD, [Pope Gelasius](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_Gelasius_I) established the feast of St. Valentine on Feb. 14 to honor his memory, however, the Pope referred to the martyr and his acts as “being known only to God” because not much was really known about Valentine the priest. One account from the 1400s describes Valentine as a temple priest who was beheaded near Rome by the emperor Claudius II for helping Christian couples wed. A different account claims Valentine was the Bishop of Terni, also martyred by Claudius II on the outskirts of Rome. Accordingly each year on February 14, we continue to honor Saint Valentine’s final efforts by celebrating our love for significant others, spouses, family, and friends but what if that’s not really the reason we do it?

**OUR 2024 DDF GOAL IS $12,200.**

**REMINDER:**

**We designate the last Sunday of the month as DDF Sunday. 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**

* **JANUARY 28THcollection update.**
* **We collected an incredible $10,190. Thank you all for your generosity!!!**

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

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

* **Our Second collection will be February 25th.**
* **Our Third collection will be on March 31st.**
  + **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.**
* **Last year we raised $20,746. Over $10,000 was returned to us!!!**

**Thanks, in advance, for everyone’s continued DDF support in the February & March collections.**

**ATTENTION: Ladies Guild Members:**

**February 14th is both Valentine’s Day and Ash Wednesday so we are moving the luncheon to Wednesday the 21st.**

**We will be serving a lunch with an  “Italian Flair” including salad and bread, and of course, dessert. Please put February 21st on your calendar and call, email (760-346-0089 or**[**chayward@sacredheartpalmdesert.com**](mailto:chayward@sacredheartpalmdesert.com)**) or sign-up with Cindy at Mass starting January 28th.  We have been having a wonderful time socializing and getting to know each other. We encourage everyone to come, especially if you are new to our parish.**

**Announcement: Sew & Serve Ministry:**

**Dress a Girl Around the World Program:**

**Since our Dress a Girl Around the World ministry began at Sacred Heart we have made 4000 dresses for needy girls locally, nationally, and internationally.  We invite you to open your heart by donating to this ministry.**

* **A $5 donation will provide materials for 2 dresses**
* **A $10 donation will provide materials for 4 dresses.**

**On February 11th - Anne Tufo (Sew & Serve Ministry) will have a table before (8:30) and after Mass, in the entryway as you enter the Chapel. Anne will explain this ministry and accept your monetary donations. If you will be donating by check, Make checks to Sacred Heart Church – in the memo area (lower left) attention Dress a Girl.**

**You may also pick up a packet to sew on February 10th  in the Sacred Heart parking lot from 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM.  For more information please call Anne at 760 899 0351.**

**February Special Events:**

* **February 1st is the Thursday FIND Food distribution/Community Supplemental Food Distribution Program at 9:30.**
* **February 2nd is “Ground Hog’s Day”.** **Punxsutawney Phil’s predicts 6 more weeks of winter. He did not see his shadow.  YEAH!!!!**
* **February 10th - K of C drive-through CRV recycle program. From 7:30AM to 11:30AM. Parking lot behind Salta Center.**
* **February 11th - Sew & Serve Ministry - Dress a Girl Around the World Program collection: (see details above)**
* **Lent starts February 14th. Mass & Ashes distribution at Christ of the Desert at noon.**
  + **Easter is March 31st.**
  + **Ash Wednesday Masses at Sacred Heart are: 7:45, 9:00, 12:10, 5:30 & 7:00 (Spanish)**
* **February 14th is also Valentine’s Day**
* **Next Christ of the Desert Ladies Guild luncheon is on Wednesday February 21st.**
* **February 21st – Bingo at Sacred Heart. 6:00 – 9:00PM in the Salta Center.**
* **February 25th is the second DDF collection Sunday.**
* **February 29th is the extra day every 4 years “called leap” year.**
  + **The Earth takes 365 days, five hours, 48 minutes, and 46 seconds to complete one revolution around the Sun. Thus, scholars, engaged by Roman General Julius Caesar in 46 BC, rounded the year to 365 days. They multiplied the remaining six hours by four to make it 24 hours (one day) and added it to every fourth year.**
* **March 31st is the last DDF Sunday collection.**

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

**February 11, 2024**

**6th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Recently I had a skin rash, and it was awful. (Please don’t tell anyone.) I am embarrassed to admit that I didn’t handle it well. Complaining, whining, begging for sympathy, and crying were my responses to the merciless itching and burning. In the aftermath, a silver lining emerged. I feel a new heartfelt sympathy for all those vexed with chronic skin problems. If you’ve ever had a seemingly unending skin problem, you know how that sympathy flows up from deep inside.**

**This gut-level compassion is something like what the Gospel describes in Jesus when the sore-covered leper says, “If you will it, you can make me clean.” At this, just before the healing, Jesus was “moved with compassion.” The Greek word used here is strong and earthy, closer to “his bowels and guts trembled with the deepest emotions of sadness, pity, and love.” In Jesus, God heals our infirmities not from a divine distance but by learning what it *feels like* to be us. He acquires first-hand experience of what it costs us to be afflicted and still be faithful to God. He sympathizes with the burning, itching, and blistering of human existence in the deepest, first-hand way. To discover that is to touch Jesus’ heart.**

**What in your life, right now, is breaking out like diseased skin? What is getting worse the more you try to soothe it? Perhaps only you feel it. Or maybe it’s exposed to all. A bad habit, broken relationship, loneliness, fear of failure, self-hatred? Name it, and then find a way to bring it confidently to Jesus who will *feel what we are feeling,* and thereby heal us.**

*— Father John Muir*

### February 11th – 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

### Themes for the 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

The readings for the 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (see below) demonstrate the healing power of Jesus and his ability to rid us of what is unclean in our lives.

The first reading tells what should be done if someone has leprosy, and how being unclean separates us from others.

The Gospel recalls how Jesus healed a leper.

### Mass Readings for the 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

* **First Reading** - [Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46](https://young-catholics.com/read-types/leprosy-and-isolation/): The Lord directed Moses and Aaron on handling potential leprosy, requiring priestly examination and, if confirmed, declaring the person unclean. Afflicted individuals had to signify their condition by their appearance, vocalize their unclean status, and live in isolation, highlighting the seriousness with which leprosy was treated.
* **Responsorial Psalm** - [Psalm 32](https://young-catholics.com/read-types/joy-in-forgiveness-2/): In confessing my sins, the Lord forgave me, turning my distress into the joy of salvation. Let the righteous find joy and refuge in Him, celebrating His mercy.
* **Second Reading** - [1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1](https://young-catholics.com/read-types/living-for-gods-glory/): In everything, even in eating and drinking, aim to honor God. Avoid causing offense, seeking the good of many for salvation. Follow my example, as I follow Christ's.
* **Gospel**- [Mark 1:40-45](https://young-catholics.com/read-types/leprosy-healing-and-its-aftermath/): A leper's plea for healing was met with Jesus' compassionate touch and affirmation, leading to immediate cleansing. Despite Jesus' directive for discretion and adherence to Mosaic law for verification, the healed man publicized his miracle, complicating Jesus' public ministry and drawing even larger crowds to seek him in solitude.

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

**FINANCIAL SECTION:**

**FEBRUARY 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: $102,055 or 75.6% of annual budget. Last week collected $3,305.**

**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.**

**THE POPE’S INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY: For the terminally ill.**

**We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.**

**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 FEBRUARY & 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.**

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY SECTION:**

**CeCe Bogan has a birthday on February 13th.**

**John Kirsch has a birthday on February 14th.**

**Dolores Kent has a birthday on February 19th.**

**Zelina Ferenz has a birthday on February 20th.**

**Nancy Tapick has a birthday on February 26th.**

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS IN HEAVEN:**

**Andre Binns – February 2nd, Husband of Linda Binns.**

**Tom Washburn – February 21st, Husband of Carla Washburn.**

**FEBRUARY HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY SECTION:**

**None submitted**

**Please provide Month, Date & Year**

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

**Seana Swanson’s son, Travis, passed away on February 2, 2021.**

**Carla Washburn’s Husband, Tom, passed away on February 4th2017.**

**John Maldonado’s mother, Nellie, passed away on February 17th.**

**Joyce Sosebee’s partner, Paul Aragon, passed away on February 26th  2023.**

**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 & Mary Osborn.**

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

**Please pray for Betty Fernandez, Cindy**

**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