**This is the 200th issue of the Christ of the Desert Bulletin.**

**Hope everyone looks forward to receiving the bulletin each week.**

**It is my honor to be able communicate both spiritually and communally with all our parishioners each week. Thank you. J.**

**DDF SUNDAY - FIRST COLLECTION IS JANUARY 28TH.**

* **Make checks payable to “Christ of the Desert”. Put DDF in lower left memo area.**
	+ **Cash $$$ is always acceptable.**
* **Jay will be out in the Church entrance area collecting DDF donations.**
* **Bob will be inside the church (usual location) collecting the weekly donations.**

**SPECIAL NOTE FROM FATHER MARLIN:**

**It's no secret that I LOVE our community at Christ of the Desert.  I so look forward to preaching and presiding at the Eucharist with you. We have such strong connections to each other.  I wish I could thank each of you individually for your generous Christmas gifts, as you were very, very generous!  As I have gotten older and now have arthritis in my fingers on both hands it is too difficult to write individually, so please accept my apologies.  Your generosity is deeply appreciated and I have put your gifts in my 'rainy day fund.'  As a diocesan priest I am responsible for my own maintenance needs.  Your gifts enable me to put monies aside for any future needs I may have and so they are especially appreciated.  Thank you, thank you again.  I pray to be with all of you for many more years to come!!**

**Father Marlin**

**Men's Retreat - Sacred Heart Men’s Challenge Weekend**

**Date: February 16-17th, 2024**

**Location:  Sacred Heart Church**

**Salta Pastoral Center, Room 333**

**Schedule:**

**Retreat begins Friday 5:30 PM to 9 PM**

**Saturday 7:30 AM through 7 PM**

**Wonderful retreat, specially designed for those who desire an annual retreat to renew and strengthen their relationship with God.**

**Organized by WorkLight formerly known as Christians in Commerce.**

**Call or email for more information**

**Phil Lavelle (916) 502-1924**

**Gary Gonsalves (858) 395-1111**

gonsalves1234@hotmail.com

**January Special Events:**

      **January 1st – Happy New Year!!!.**

      **January 4th - FIND Food distribution/Community Supplemental Food Distribution Program at 9:30**

        **January 10th – Bingo at Sacred Heart. 6:00 – 9:00PM in the Salta Center.**

        **January 10th – Ladies Guild Luncheon at 11:30 at Catholic Charities.**

        **January 13th - K of C drive-through CRV recycle program. From 7:30AM to 11:30AM. Parking lot behind Salta Center.**

     **January 28th is the first DDF Sunday collection!!**

o  **February 25th is the second DDF Sunday collection!!**

o  **March 31st is the last DDF Sunday collection!!**

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

**January 28, 2024**

**4th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**I love movies about exorcisms. Apparently, so do many others. The 2023 movie “Nefarious” features a possibly possessed inmate on death row. Critics were not impressed, but audiences scored it at 97% on the website Rotten Tomatoes. Most people have an appreciation for the demonic realm, even if cultural elites are generally embarrassed about it. As is standard in exorcism movies, the afflicted person (in this case, a man named Edward Brady) thinks and acts like *multiple* persons. He is someone besides himself. We know what that is like. We feel *fake* sometimes, not ourselves.**

**The same dynamic is on dramatic display this week in the Gospel. Jesus the Exorcist approaches a possessed man who utters, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?” Notice the plural, *us.* The basic effect of the demonic is division. The man’s identity is fractured, divided, and thus many. Jesus powerfully expels the spirit by saying, “Quiet! Come out of *him*!” Jesus’ word has the power to restore the man’s singularity — *him —* and indeed it does.**

**All this helps us to dismiss childish images of demons sporting red goat tails. Equally, it overcomes the cultured aloofness that dreams demons are mere metaphors for evil. We see instead that fallen angels are conscious and intelligent beings who orient their agency toward division. They bring about schism where there should be unity, e.g., in persons, families, communities, politics, and so on. Thankfully, Jesus commands demons to flee from all these places to restore wholeness and peace. What if we made room for his word where we need it?**

*— Father John Muir*

### January 28th – 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

### Themes for the 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

### The readings for the 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time invite us to recognize Jesus and grant him authority in our lives. They encompass several interwoven themes that are central to Christian theology and spiritual life:

### In the first reading, Moses foretells the coming of a mighty prophet.

### The Gospel tells how the people were amazed by the way Jesus taught with authority.

### Mass Readings for the 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

* **First Reading** – [Deuteronomy 18:15-20](https://young-catholics.com/read-types/prophecy-of-a-future-prophet/): Moses declares God's promise to raise a prophet like him from among the people. This prophet, carrying God's words, must be heeded, with consequences for false prophecy.
* **Responsorial Psalm** – [Psalm 95](https://young-catholics.com/read-types/heed-the-lords-voice-2/): Let us joyfully praise the Lord, our salvation's rock. In worship, remember He is our creator and guide. Heed His voice today, avoiding the hardness of heart shown by our ancestors.
* **Second Reading** – [1 Corinthians 7:32-35](https://young-catholics.com/read-types/undivided-devotion-to-the-lord/): The unmarried are encouraged to focus solely on pleasing the Lord, free from worldly distractions. Married individuals naturally divide attention between the Lord and their spouse. This advice is for undistracted devotion.
* **Gospel**– [Mark 1:21-28](https://young-catholics.com/read-types/authority-over-spirits/): In Capernaum's synagogue, Jesus' authoritative teaching awed listeners, contrasting with the scribes. His authority was further displayed when He commanded an unclean spirit to exit a possessed man. The spirit's obedience, marked by convulsions and a loud cry, left the congregation amazed. They marveled at Jesus' powerful teachings and control over unclean spirits. This incident quickly elevated Jesus' reputation throughout Galilee.

**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: $96,663 or 71.6% of annual budget. Last week collected $5,336.**

**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.**

Donation Tax Statements went out in the mail on Thursday January 18th. For those of you that are snow birds and or have two homes, it is likely that your statement went to your main address. If you need a list of your donations because you will not be going home before you do your taxes, please call or email me at the above email address and I can send you the information or copy and give it to you. If you live locally and did not receive your letter, please do the same.

Also, if you need a letter and you donate cash, please call me.

Thank you,

Cindy

**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****) 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.**

**THE POPE’S INTENTION FOR JANUARY: For The Gift Of Diversity In The Church**

**Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.**

**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 JANUARY & 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.**

**JANUARY BITHDAY SECTION:**

**Judy Penny has a birthday on January 2nd.**

**John Maldonado has a birthday on January 5th.**

**John Schumaker has a birthday on January 6th.**

**Linda Olsen has a birthday on January 19th.**

**Carmen Carlo has a birthday on January 19th.**

**Marjorie Sole has a birthday on January 22nd.**

**Carmen Migliaccio has a birthday on January 27th.**

**Lou Latranga has a birthday on January 31st.**

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS IN HEAVEN:**

**Frances Dorniak – January 4th , Maryanne Dorniak’s Mother.**

**Steve Kent – January 5th, husband of Dolores Kent.**

**Jim Carlo - January 11th, husband of Carmen Carlo**

**Paul Aragon has a birthday in heaven on January 12th.**

**Mary Mueller – January 16th , Jay Mueller’s Mother.**

**William MacKenzie – January 25th, Margaret MacKenzie’s husband.**

**Arnold Capitanelli – January 26th , Anne Marie’s father.**

**Dan Ryan – January 30th, Kathy Ryan’s husband.**

**JANUARY HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY SECTION:**

**Linda & John Olsen have an anniversary on January 28th.**

**Please provide Month, Date & Year**

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

**Father Jack McGinnis passed away on January 1, 2022. Beloved friend of the entire Christ of the Desert Community.**

**Dennis DeWeese, who passed away at 50 years old on January 12,2001. Paulette Quaid’s brother.**

**Elsie Junga passed away on January 16, 1991. Family member of Lee Junga.**

**Stephen Dorniak passed away on January 20, 2016. Father of Maryanne Dorniak**

**Max Gregory Sosebee passed away January 22,2022. Son of Joyce Sosebee**

**January 27th is the one year anniversary of the passing of Mary Walbridge, daughter of Betty**

**Max Eugene Sosebee passed away on January 30th2005. Husband of Joyce Sosebee.**

**Dan Ryan passed away on January 30th. Husband of Kathy Ryan.**

**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 put my friends on the prayer list as they are all ill. Arnie Tom Karen and Mira. Roxanne Reed**

**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****. 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