**Everyone:**

**WE ACHIEVED OUR 2023 DDF GOAL OF $11,500. We are #1 again in paying our DDF goal first.**

* **We collected an incredible $12,531 in January. Thank you all for your generosity!!!**
* **Our Second collection will be February 26th. We don’t want to stop the momentum.**
	+ **All monies collected (above $11,500) will be returned to us with no Diocesan taxation!!**
	+ **These additional funds will enable us to continue our facility improvement projects in 2023.**
	+ **We will have a DDF basket available for your donation throughout February.**
* **Last year we raised over $17,000. Over $10,000 was returned to us!!!**

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

**Ash Wednesday, Noon Mass & ashes is February 22nd.**

**Easter Sunday is April 9th.**

**Who is saying Mass, in February, at Christ of the Desert Chapel:**

**February 5th:  Father Connole**

**February 12th: Father Connole**

**February 19th: Father Elder**

**February 26th: Father Connole**

**PARISHIONEER RECOGNITION SECTION: This month we are honoring Betty Walbridge.**

**Betty and her husband Norm moved to the desert in 1991 after they became empty nesters. Like many of us, they “church shopped” when they got to the desert. It was here at Christ of the Desert that they found their new spiritual home.**

**As fate would have it, Norm passed away in 1998. Christ of the Desert not only became Betty’s spiritual home during these difficult times but also enabled her to become our beloved “Church Lady”. The late Father Jack McGinnis had just assumed responsibilities for Christ of the Desert and needed help in the Parish Office. Betty was a natural fit. She utilized her personal skills and business acumen to run the Parish church office. Her management style made the Parish Office a place where everything had a place and there was a place for everything and everybody.  She was our liaison to Sacred Heart and as such kept communications a constant flow of information of each other’s activities. For over 20 years she was the rock that kept us on an even keel.**

**Betty was instrumental in renting our offices to various organization and groups over the years, as well as working with the local funeral homes to accommodate their needs for small church funerals.**

**Her talent for finding retired priests, to attend to the spiritual needs of the parish, is legendary. Amazingly, the right retired priests kept showing up. Like Fathers Mike, Derek, Marlin, Dave and Tom to name a few.**

**As the “Church Lady Emeritus”, she is always available, even now, to assist us when we need to jog her memory of events of the past.**

**We are forever grateful for having the opportunity to thank her for all she has done for our little community we call “Christ of the Desert”.**

**Thank you, Betty!!!**

**Another long time parishioner will be recognized in one of the March bulletins.**

**Christ of the Desert Women’s Guild:**

**The next gathering will be on Wednesday, March 8th . Cost is $5 and if you are unable to afford the lunch, please see Crys Mueller or Cindy privately and we will take care of the cost for you. We don’t want anyone to miss out!**

**Jim & Jeanne LaBaugh asked me to publish the following:**

**The Legend of Saint Valentine:**

**February 14th is Valentine’s Day and many folks will celebrate this 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 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 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. Accordingly each year on February 14th, we continue to honor Saint Valentine’s final efforts by celebrating our love for significant others, spouses, family, and friends.**

**THE POPE’S INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY: FOR PARISHES:**

**Pope Francis is asking us to pray that parishes, placing communion at the center, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.**

### **FEBRUARY 12TH ,2023**

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

**The readings for the 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time focus on the law and commandments.**

The first reading tells us to choose life by obeying God’s commandments.

* **First Reading** – [**Sirach 15:15-20**](https://young-catholics.com/scripture-reading/?en=394&rp=2338): “Before man are life and death, good and evil, whichever he chooses shall be given him.”
* **Responsorial Psalm** –  **[Psalm 119](https://young-catholics.com/scripture-reading/?en=395&rp=2338)**: “Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord!”

The second reading reminds us that God’s wisdom is far greater than our own.

* **Second Reading** –  [**1 Corinthians 2:6-10**](https://young-catholics.com/scripture-reading/?en=396&rp=2338): “Rather, we speak God’s wisdom, mysterious, hidden, which God predetermined before the ages for our glory, and which none of the rulers of this age knew; for, if they had known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.”

And in the gospel Jesus tells us he has come to fulfill the law, not to abolish it.

* **Gospel** –  **[Matthew 5:17-37](https://young-catholics.com/scripture-reading/?en=397&rp=2338)**: “Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the kingdom of heaven.”

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

**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.**

**FEBRUARY Special Events:**

* **February 2nd  was the Thursday FIND Food distribution/Community Supplemental Food Distribution Program at 9:30.**
* **February 2nd was “Ground Hog’s Day”.** **Punxsutawney Phil predicted, this morning, six more weeks of Winter. Thanks Phil!!**
* **Next Christ of the Desert Ladies Guild luncheon is on Wednesday March 8th.**
* **Lent starts February 22nd  . Mass & Ashes distribution is at 12:00 noon.**
* **February 26th is the second & final DDF collection Sunday.**

**UPDATE ON OUR MONTHLY FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM:**

**FIND Food distribution/Community Supplemental Food Distribution Program was on February 2nd at 9:30.**

* + **To date we have distributed 13,300 pounds of food.**
	+ **Our family count is 21. God is helping us to reach out to those in need.**
	+ **We need volunteers to assist with this program. See Jay or Cindy, if you wish to help us.**
		- **1 hour each month on the 1st Thursday of the month at 9:30.**

**WEEKLY MASS UPDATE:**

 **February 5th – we had 175 people. Capacity is 185.**

**February 3rd – Friday Healing Mass (at 12:30) we had 45 people.**

 **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????**

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY SECTION:**

**Peggy Jones has a birthday on February 8th.**

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

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

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

**NEW SECTION: 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:**

**Loretta Schutten & Art Pieretti – February 14th. May Art rest in Peace.**

**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 4th.**

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

**Please provide Month, Date & Year & Relationship to family member being remembered.**

**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:**

**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”.**

**REMINDER SECTION:**

**February HAS 4 SUNDAYS FOR THOSE THAT GIVE MONTHLY.**

**Please make all checks payable to “Christ of the Desert” not Sacred Heart.**

**Those that send in the monetary support monthly & weekly, please continue.**

**Those that give at Mass, we need your continued support.**

 **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.**

**We have done great this past year but remember this is an ongoing process. Thanks for your continued generosity.**

**WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE SECTION:**

**THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR JULY 1,2022 TO June 30, 2023 IS $115,000.**

**This information is important for our community in order to understand where are financially throughout the year.**

        **Our Monthly expenses are $9,583 or $28,749 per quarter.**

        **Total Q1,Q2,Q3 & Q4 monies collected: $103,452. 89.5 of annual budget,**

        **Total 1st quarter collections were: $40,172.**

* **Total 2nd  quarter collections were: $36,854.**
* **Total 3rd quarter collections are: $26,426.**
* **January collections: $22,536.**
* **February collections: $$3,890.**
* **March collections are: $TBD.**

        **Total 4th quarter collections: TBD**

**“Who would you like to pray” for section:**

**Please send me your new updated petitions which will appear in green.**

**Many of you have returned to Mass on Sunday and pray for special intentions there. Please send me those intentions so the entire Parish can pray to the LORD with you.**

**Please pray for the repose of the soul of Betty Walbridge’s daughter Mary. The entire parish**

**Please pray for Steve Kustura. Roxanne**

**Please pray for Paul Aragon. Joyce Sosebee**

**Please pray for Marie. Roxanne**

**Please pray for Joyce Olsen. Marlene Evans.**

**Please pray for long time Parishioner, Peggy Jones as she battles cancer. Helene**

**Please pray for John & Carol Lee Evans. Entire parish**

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

 **SUPPORT OUR PARISHIONERS WHO HAVE SMALL BUSINESSES SECTION:**

 **If anyone else wants to advertise their business in the Bulletin, send me your information.**

**Postal Connection (****760-568-3471****) owned and operated by one of our parishioners, Helene Shaunty. They are located (Near CVS Pharmacy) at 74923 Hwy 111 in Indian Wells. They are open and are considered an essential business doing mail and shipping, as well as Notary Services. They are a small business and have been greatly impacted by the quarantine.....so they would appreciate any and all of your business**.

**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.**

**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.**

**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**

**God Bless,**

**J.**

**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