## **Everyone:**

## **Christ of the Desert will be collecting donations for Galilee Center until December 18th.**

## **Thanks so much for your generosity. We had a terrific collection last year; let’s outdo it this year!**

**December Special Events:**

* **December 1st is FIND Food distribution/Community Supplemental Food Distribution Program at 9:30.**
* **December 8th, Holy Day of obligation, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.**
* **December 9th - K of C drive-through CRV recycle program. From 7:30AM to 11:30AM. Parking lot behind Salta Center.**
* **December 13th – Bingo at Sacred Heart. 6:00 – 9:00PM in the Salta Center.**
* **December 14th – Finance Council meeting.**
* **December 17th - Christmas Luncheon after 9:30AM Mass at Desert Willow Golf Resort.**

## **Christ of the Desert will be collecting donations for Galilee Center until December 18th.**

## **December 24th – Regular 9:30AM Sunday Mass.**

## **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.**

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

**December 17, 2023**

**3rd Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)**

**Why do we believe in Jesus and the Catholic Church? Why should we continue to do so? We’ve never seen him face-to-face (at least not most of us, I assume). Most of us have never had mystical visions of angels or saints. We live in the same world as our atheist and secularists friends. Why do we believe in Christ if we’ve never seen him?**

**The simple, symbolic answer the Gospel presents to us this week might surprise us: we believe because of John the Baptist. Early in John’s Gospel we hear: “There was a man sent from God, his name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him.” The Baptist powerfully announces Jesus. This is a historical fact, and it is also now a *pattern* at work in our lives.**

**John the Baptist stands for the entirety of the old covenant, everything entrusted to the Jewish people. And yet he prophetically opens the door to something entirely new in Jesus, to the revival and fulfillment of God’s promises. In every generation, and in every human life, God continues to do this. He has done it through people named Augustine, Francis, Catherine, Theresa, and countless others. In my life, the Baptist’s spirit has come through persons named Eric, Paul, Mary, and Ron. I challenge you to name at least three people through whom God has announced the coming of Jesus in your life. Consciously thank God for their testimony. And let’s commit ourselves to listening to the spirit of John the Baptist testify again this week so that we might more strongly believe in the light.**

*— 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 17th - Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday).**

**What is special about the Third Sunday of Advent? For much of the Church’s history, this Sunday had a special name: “Gaudete” Sunday. The traditions surrounding this Sunday go back as far as the fourth or fifth century, as does the season of Advent itself. Advent, our preparation for Christmas, was originally a forty-day penitential season like Lent. In fact, since it used to begin on November 12 (just after the Memorial of St. Martin of Tours), it was called “St. Martin’s Lent.” “Gaudete Sunday” was the Advent counterpart to “Laetare Sunday,” which marks the mid-point in Lent.**

**On Gaudete Sunday, the season of Advent shifts its focus. For the first two weeks of Advent, the focus can be summed up in the phrase, “The Lord is coming.” But beginning with Gaudete Sunday, the summary might be, “The Lord is near.” This shift is marked by a lighter mood and a heightened sense of joyous anticipation.**

**Liturgically, the colors lighten as well. The priest usually wears rose-colored vestments, a hue seen only on Gaudete Sunday and Laetare Sunday. On this day, we light the third candle of the Advent wreath, which is also rose-colored, or if you prefer, pink.**

**The word “Gaudete” is Latin for “Rejoice.” This celebration is a reminder that God who loves us is still in charge and that we await his coming not with fear, but with tremendous joy. Today’s Second Reading, from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians, reflects this joy: “Brothers and sisters: Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.”**

 **DECEMBER 17th, 2023**

### **Themes for the 3rd Sunday of Advent.**

### The readings for the 3rd Sunday in Advent (Gaudete Sunday) encourage us to rejoice because our salvation is near.

### The first reading foreshadows the coming of the Messiah, the anointed one.

### The psalm is the Magnificat – “My soul rejoices in my God.”

### The second reading encourages us to rejoice, pray, and give thanks.

### And in the gospel John the Baptist tells the priests that he is not the Christ, but that the Messiah is coming.

### **Mass Readings for the 3rd Sunday of Advent.**

* **First Reading** – [Isaiah 61:1-2A, 10-11](https://young-catholics.com/scripture-reading/?en=302&rp=3069): “I rejoice heartily in the LORD, in my God is the joy of my soul; for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem, like a bride bedecked with her jewels.”
* **Responsorial Psalm** – [Luke 1](https://young-catholics.com/scripture-reading/?en=303&rp=3069): “My soul rejoices in my God.”
* **Second Reading** – [1 Thessalonians 5:16-24](https://young-catholics.com/scripture-reading/?en=304&rp=3069): “May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
* **Gospel**– [John 1:6-8, 19-28](https://young-catholics.com/scripture-reading/?en=305&rp=3069): “I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, ‘make straight the way of the Lord,’” as Isaiah the prophet said.”

**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: $74,509 or 54.4 % of annual budget. Last week we collected $4,289.**

**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.**

**ATTENTION: Ladies Guild Members:**

**We will be having our next Ladies Guild Luncheon on Wednesday, January 10th 2024 at 11:30 am at the Catholic Charities building in the parking lot.**

**Our menu will consist of Beef Stew, rolls and salad with a dessert TBD. Please email Cindy at****chayward@sacredheartpalmdesert.com****or call 760-346-0089 to sign up or Cindy will be available after Mass, starting December 24th, to sign up and pay $5 per person. You may pay ahead at sign-up or pay at the door. We do plan ahead for the amount of food so please make sure to pay if you signed up, even if you don’t make it.**

**THE POPE’S INTENTION FOR DECEMBER: For persons with disabilities:
We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.**

**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.**

**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:**

**Daria Smith’s mother, Christine Smith, will be celebrating her birthday in heaven on December 11th.**

**Seana Swanson’s son, Travis Swanson, will be celebrating his birthday in Heaven on December 16th.**

**Jackie Capitanelli has a birthday in heaven on December 16th.**

**Mary Walbridge will be celebrating her 60th birthday in heaven this year on December 17th.**

**DECEMBER HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY SECTION:**

**Roger & Kathy Stambaugh – December 30th. 35 years!!**

**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**

**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**

**“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 East Valley Food Distribution Coordinator

SHC & COD Parish Council Member SHC East Valley Outreach Program Coordinator

COD Remembrance Walk Coordinator SHC Parish Walk Coordinator

CELL NUMBER 760-777-3745