

Mission Statement:

"We, the members of Santa Cruz Parish, diverse in culture and traditions, united with the Body of Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit, follow Christ through faithful witness and discipleship in family and community."

"Nosotros, los miembros de la Parroquia de Santa Cruz, diversa en cultura y tradición, unidos con el Cuerpo de Cristo y guiados por el Espíritu Santo, seguimos a Cristo a través del testimonio fiel y discipulado en familia y comunidad."

Masses / Misas

Saturday Vigil Mass

5:30 p.m. - English

Sunday / Domingo

6:30 a.m. - English

8:00 a.m. - Spanish

10:00 a.m. - English

12:00 noon - English

6:00 p.m. - English

Monday - Friday

Lunes - Viernes

6:30 a.m. - English

8:00 a.m. - English

Saturday / Sábado

8:00 a.m. - English

Confessions / Confesiones

Friday / Viernes

6:00 p.m.

Saturday / Sábado

3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Eucahristic Adoration

Every Friday

3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Parish Office / Oficina

Monday - Friday

Lunes - Viernes

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



Pastor:

Rev. Marcos C. Velásquez

Parochial Vicar:

Rev. Simon Muema, S.D.S.

In Residence:

Rev. Showri R. Narra

Deacon:

Rev. Mr. Ernesto Lujan



Santa Cruz Roman Catholic Church

1220 S. 6th Avenue • Tucson, AZ 85713



DECEMBER 15, 2024 • THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Santa Cruz Catholic Parish • 1220 South Sixth Avenue • Tucson, Arizona 85713 • Parish Office (520) 623-3833 • Fax (520) 903-2742

~ Website: www.santacruzchurchtucson.com • Email: santacruzparish@hotmail.com ~

A Parish in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Tucson

Message from the Pastor . . .

Dear Parishioners of Santa Cruz Parish,

This Sunday is the Third Sunday of Advent and is known as Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete Latin for "rejoice." The Entrance Antiphon from St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians reads: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near, (*Phil 4:4-5*), which is taken from the second reading of today's Mass. When St. Paul uses this word, he is using it as a command, as if he were saying to us "Thou shalt rejoice!" But why should we rejoice? Because the Lord is near!

During Advent we are called to be prepared not just for the celebration of Christmas, the Birth of the Lord, but also to be prepared for the return of the Lord at the end of time. But in the world and among worldly people, the thought of the return of the Lord tends to fill people with fear and dread. But St. Paul is teaching us that this cannot be the case for Christians, who should be eagerly awaiting the return of the Lord with joyful expectation. But how can we rejoice in a world that still is filled with sin, violence, hatred, etc. We continue to suffer disease and sickness, physical and mental illness, chronic infirmities, etc. The answer to these realities is our faith that the Lord is at hand, He is near. And because He is near, because He is at hand, He knows all our anxieties and concerns and our faith in Him is what rescues us from present anxieties and allows the Christian to know true joy amid true sorrow and suffering.

St. Paul says, "Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God," (*Phil 4:6*). St. Paul's advice to us to pray and ask God for the problems in our lives and to be grateful for what He has given. By being grateful and by praying, we can handle the worries and anxieties of the day. To be grateful even in the difficulties of life is a true mark of the person who is truly thankful. St. John Chrysostom says:

It is comforting to know that the Lord is at hand . . . Here is a medicine to relieve grief and every bad circumstance and every pain. What is it? To pray and to give thanks in everything. He does not wish that a prayer be merely a petition but a thanksgiving for what we have received . . . How can one make petitions for the future without a thankful acknowledgment of past things? . . . So one ought to give thanks for everything, even what seems grievous. That is the mark of one who is truly thankful.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice!

In Christ,
Fr. Velásquez

Mensaje del Párroco . . .

Estimados Feligreses de la Parroquia de Santa Cruz,

Este domingo es el tercer domingo de Adviento y se lo conoce como Domingo *Gaudete*. *Gaudete* en latín significa "regocijaos". La antífona de entrada de la Carta de San Pablo a los Filipenses dice: Estad siempre alegres en el Señor. repito: estad alegres. El Señor está cerca (*Flp 4, 4-5*), que está tomada de la segunda lectura de la Misa de hoy. San Pablo usa esta palabra, la usa como un mandato, como si nos estuviera diciendo "¡Estaréis alegres!". Pero, ¿por qué debemos alegrarnos? ¡Porque el Señor está cerca!

Durante el Adviento estamos llamados a estar preparados no sólo para la celebración de la Navidad, el Nacimiento del Señor, sino también para el regreso del Señor al final de los tiempos. Pero en el mundo y entre la gente mundana, el pensamiento del regreso del Señor tiende a llenar a la gente de miedo y pavor. Pero San Pablo nos enseña que esto no puede ser así para los cristianos, quienes deberían estar esperando ansiosamente el regreso del Señor con gozosa expectativa. Pero, ¿cómo podemos regocijarnos en un mundo que todavía está lleno de pecado, violencia, odio, etc.? Seguimos sufriendo enfermedades, dolencias físicas y mentales, dolencias crónicas, etc. La respuesta a estas realidades es nuestra fe en que el Señor está cerca, está cerca. Y porque está cerca, porque está cerca, conoce todas nuestras ansiedades y preocupaciones, y nuestra fe en Él es lo que nos rescata de las ansiedades presentes y permite al cristiano conocer el verdadero gozo en medio del verdadero dolor y sufrimiento.

San Pablo dice: "No se preocupen por nada, sino presenten sus peticiones a Dios en toda ocasión, mediante la oración y la súplica, acompañadas de acción de gracias" (*Fil 4:6*). El consejo de San Pablo para nosotros es orar y pedirle a Dios por los problemas de nuestras vidas y estar agradecidos por lo que Él nos ha dado. Al ser agradecidos y orar, podemos manejar las preocupaciones y ansiedades del día. Ser agradecidos incluso en las dificultades de la vida es una verdadera señal de la persona que es verdaderamente agradecida. San Juan Crisóstomo dice:

Es un consuelo saber que el Señor está cerca. . . . He aquí una medicina para aliviar el dolor y toda circunstancia mala y todo dolor. ¿Cuál es? Orar y dar gracias en todo. Él no quiere que la oración sea mera petición sino una acción de gracias por lo que hemos recibido. . . . ¿Cómo se pueden hacer peticiones para el futuro sin un reconocimiento agradecido de las cosas pasadas? . . . Por lo tanto, uno debe dar gracias por todo, incluso por lo que parece penoso. Esa es la señal de quien es verdaderamente agradecido.

¡Regocijaos en el Señor siempre! Otra vez digo: ¡Regocijaos!

En Cristo,
Padre Velásquez



"Yes, I am willing to spend one hour weekly with Jesus, who is truly present in the Blessed Sacrament."

"Sí, estoy dispuesto a pasar una hora semanal con Jesús, quien está verdaderamente presente en el Santísimo Sacramento."

Eucharistic Adoration Every Friday

3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

3:00 p.m. - Exposition

3:00 p.m. - Divine Mercy
Chaplet

6:00 p.m. - Confessions

6:00 p.m. - Rosario

7:00 p.m. - Rosary

8:00 p.m. - Benediction

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are seeking volunteers for seasonal cleaning at the church, once or twice a week. Volunteers must be in compliance here at Santa Cruz. If you are interested please contact the parish office at 520-623-3833

Estamos buscando voluntarios para la limpieza de la iglesia, una o dos veces por semana. Los voluntarios deben estar en cumplimiento con las normas de Santa Cruz. Si está interesado, comuníquese con la oficina parroquial al 520-623-3833.



Santa Cruz Religious Education

~Christmas Break ~
Last classes Saturday, Dec. 21st
Classes begin again Saturday, January 11th.

RCIA (adults) Last class Tuesday, December 17th. Classes will begin again Tuesday, January 7th.

May the DIVINE INFANT bless all OUR FAMILIES during this HOLY SEASON. MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR! from Martin Doe and the Religious Education Teachers.

Últimas clases el sábado, 21 de diciembre. Las clases comienzan nuevamente el sábado, 11 de enero.

RICA (adultos) Última clase el martes, 17 de diciembre. Las clases comienzan nuevamente el martes, 7 de enero.

Que el DIVINO NIÑO bendiga a todas NUESTRAS FAMILIAS durante esta TEMPORADA SANTA.

FELIZ NAVIDAD y FELIZ AÑO NUEVO! de parte de Martín Doe y los maestros de la educación religiosa.

Sunday Collection - December 7-8, 2024
Sunday Collection: \$6,115.89
On-Line Giving: +\$ 498.30
Total Sunday Offertory: **\$6,609.19**

Diocesan Collection:
(Diocesan Priest Retirement Collection: \$828.47)

Weekly Expenses:
Income: \$6,609.19
*Expenses: -\$6,000.25
\$ 608.94

*Weekly operation expenses include utilities, payroll, maintenance and insurance.
Your generous donations are greatly appreciated and are definitely needed. Thank you and God bless!



THANK YOU!
The Guadalupano Group of Santa Cruz would like to give thanks to everyone who donated and supported the celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe. A special thank you to Tony's Auto Glass, who made it possible to have beautiful fresh roses for distributing and decorating, thank you. We especially are so grateful for Our Guadalupano Group, they do so much from planning, fundraising and decorating. We truly are blessed to have them. May God bless all your generosity.

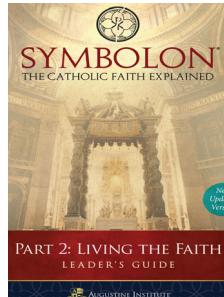
iGRACIAS!

El Grupo Guadalupano de Santa Cruz desea agradecer a todos los que donaron y apoyaron la celebración de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. Un agradecimiento especial a Tony's Auto Glass, hicieron posible tener hermosas rosas frescas para distribuir y decorar, gracias. Estamos especialmente agradecidos por Nuestro Grupo Guadalupano, que hacen mucho desde la planificación, la recaudación de fondos y la decoración. Realmente estamos bendecidos de tenerlos. Que Dios bendiga toda su generosidad.

Visit our Website: santacruzchurchtucson.com

Please sign up for Flock Notes to be informed of parish events

Flock Notes text **santacruzaz** to **84576** or go online to santacruzchurch.flocknote.com



Santa Cruz Adult Faith Formation

Symbolon Part 2

10 Sessions

The Catholic Faith Explained
Starting January 9, 2025,
to March 13 2025

Thursdays – 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

In the Carmelite Hall

Topics: Sacraments; Moral Vision; Catholic Social Teachings
Level One Credit
Any questions (480) 268-6909
Bring a Catholic Bible & Journal

The Nativity of the Lord, Christmas Mass & Confession Schedule Confessions/Confesiones

Monday, December 23 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, December 24 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Mass Tuesday, December 24

Vigilia Natividad del Señor Martes, Diciembre 24

5:30 p.m. English Vigil

Midnight Mass 12:00 a.m. English

Christmas Day Masses Wednesday, December 25

Natividad del Señor, la Navidad Miércoles, Diciembre 25

6:30 a.m. English

8:00 a.m. Español

10:00 a.m. English

12:00 noon English

(NO evening Mass of Christmas Day.)

(NO habrá misa vespertina el día de Navidad.)

The parish office will be closed Tuesday, December 24th and Wednesday, December 25th.

La oficina parroquial estará cerrada el martes 24 y el miércoles 25 de diciembre en observación de la Navidad.

May the Christmas story shine God's glory in your heart and home.



CALENDARS

The Diocese of Tucson Catholic Cemeteries our sponsor for the 2025 Parish Calendars will hand out our calendars next weekend December 14 and 15 after the Sunday Vigil Mass and the Sunday Masses. Please pick one up after Mass.

JANUARY						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Los Cementerios Católicos de la Diócesis de Tucson, nuestro patrocinador de los Calendarios Parroquiales de 2025, entregarán nuestros calendarios el próximo fin de semana el 14 y 15 de diciembre después de la Misa de Vigilia del Domingo y las Misas del Domingo. Por favor, recoja uno después de la Misa.

Dedicated Christmas Poinsettias

We are asking for donations and contributions to help decorate the altar for Christmas. For just \$10.00 you can dedicate a **Christmas Poinsettia in memory of your loved ones**. Please come to office with your dedications. Your generous donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you and God reward you!



Dedicadas Nochebuenas Navideñas

Estamos pidiendo donaciones y contribuciones para ayudar a decorar el altar para Navidad. Por solo \$10.00, puede dedicar una nochebuena navideña en memoria de sus seres queridos. Por favor, venga a la oficina con sus dedicatorias. Sus generosas donaciones son muy apreciadas. ¡Gracias y que Dios lo recompense!



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Tucson, Arizona—Section 8 North
(close to office and under
big tree for shade)
Row 7, Graves 8, 9, 11
Individual Price: \$4,000 ea.
Price for all three: \$12,000
For more information
or inquiries contact:
Rose Vega cell (520) 240-2986
email: toulakat60@gmail.com
or barcelo54@aol.com



Learn more about
our services
and upcoming
educational events.



Scan me!



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Columbus®**



"Bringing Men Closer to Christ!"

We are Catholic Men who lead, serve, protect, and defend. We share an idea to be better husbands, fathers, sons, neighbors, and role models; and to put charity and community first.

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Fr. Bach – Bro. Angel de Santa Cruz
Knights of Columbus Council #14139

Kofc.org/joinus



Diocese of Tucson - Alive in Christ

Praise & Worship for the New Year!

Thursday January 9, 2025 at 6:45 PM

"So, whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come."

-2 Cor 5:17



Invite your family & friends!

- Attend in person at: **Our Lady of La Vang Parish**
St. Frances Cabrini Church, 3201 E. Presidio Rd., Tucson
- Join on Zoom at: **Meeting ID: 814 4930 0841**
Passcode: 352734

View this using Zoom app on a computer / tablet / smart phone,
Or listen on a traditional phone: Dial (346) 248 7799 or (669) 900 9128 (*not toll-free*).
-If you have problems joining the meeting, please text Diana at: 520-981-8800.
-For Zoom training videos, and videos of past meetings, go to TucsonCCR.org

Anointing of the Sick

The Anointing of the Sick is available upon request for the faithful who are seriously ill, before major surgery, or advanced age. Please call the parish office (520) 623-3833 to make an appointment.



Support our Parish
Are you interested in advertising your business and promoting your company with a trusted resource that parish families use every day?
If you are, please contact Hada Reyes, your bulletin publisher
here at Santa Cruz (520-623-3833)



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Lleveselo a Ramón!! (520) 791-3588

Have you moved?

Do you have a new address or phone number? Updating this information helps us serve the Parish more effectively and saves on returned postage costs. Please call the Parish Office at 520-623-3833 to update your information.



¿Se ha mudado?

¿Tiene una nueva dirección o número de teléfono? Actualizar esta información nos ayuda a brindar un servicio más eficaz a la parroquia y a ahorrar en costos de envío de devolución.

Llame a la oficina parroquial a 1 520-623-3833 para actualizar su información.

HOW TO REPORT ABUSE

- Call 911 to make a report.
- If the abuse happened in Arizona, call the Police or Sheriff's Office in the specific area. If the abuse happened in any other state, call the Police or Sheriff's Office in the specific area of that state.
- Call the diocese in which the abuse happened. If the abuse happened in the Diocese of Tucson, call the Victim Assistance Program of the Diocese of Tucson 520-623-0344 or (1-800-234-0344 in Arizona) and/or the Office of Child, Adolescent and Adult Protection of the Diocese of Tucson at 520-838-2513.

Saturday, December 14th

- 8:00 a.m. Eufemia Villa/R.I.P.
5:30 p.m. In Honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus/
In Memory of Carlos & Lily Contreras/R.I.P.

Sunday, December 15th

- 6:30 a.m. Santa Cruz Parishioners
8:00 a.m. Ausencio Melendez & Angelica Gameros/
Happy Birthday
10:00 a.m. Magdalena Polanco/R.I.P.
12:00 noon Special Intention/Pueblo High School,
Administration & Community
6:00 p.m. Benjamin Jacobs/R.I.P.

Monday, December 16th

- 6:30 a.m. Fernando Piña/R.I.P.
8:00 a.m. Special Intention/James Felix & Joe Felix

Tuesday, December 17th

- 6:30 a.m. In Thanksgiving to St. Thomas More/
Prayers Answered
8:00 a.m. Andres R. Montaño/R.I.P.

Wednesday, December 18th

- 6:30 a.m. In Thanksgiving to Our Blessed Mother/
Prayers Answered
8:00 a.m. Ausencio Melendez & Angelica Gameros/
Happy Birthday

Thursday, December 19th

- 6:30 a.m. In Thanksgiving to St. Peregrine/Prayers Answered
8:00 a.m. Special Intention/Susan Felix & Salem Felix

Friday, December 20th

- 6:30 a.m. Eleonor Leon/Improved Health
8:00 a.m. Fr. Narciso Santesmases, O.C.D./R.I.P.