



SANTA CRUZ ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
DISCALCED CARMELITE FRIARS



THE NATIVITY OF THE
Blessed Virgin Mary
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH



SEPTEMBER 4TH, 2022 • TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Reflection for the 23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. Luke 14:27

As a pastor who must preach on the Gospel to his people every Sunday, I want to say, "Jesus, enough already! My parishioners are going to think your teachings are just too hard." In the past month we heard a parable about the unfaithful servant who was severely beaten and Jesus warning us that much will be required of the person entrusted with much. What was I supposed to say about that? The next week Jesus tells us that he came to set the earth on fire and how he wished it were already blazing. He said he did not come to establish peace on earth but division. How are we supposed to sing "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me?" Then the next Sunday when asked whether many will be saved, he answered that we must strive to enter through the narrow gate and that many will not be able to enter. Last week Jesus gave us the strange teaching that when we hold a lunch or a dinner, we are not invite our friends or our brothers, or our relatives, or our wealthy neighbors. Instead, we should invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind. In this way, he said, we would be blessed.

This Sunday Jesus tells us in the Gospel, "If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple." I say to myself, "Jesus, how am supposed to preach on this teaching? You are not going to have any followers if I do."

I know what I will do. I will preach about the Blessed Virgin Mary. In August, two beautiful feasts of Mary gave me good material for my homily, saving me from preaching on those difficult Gospels. This first Sunday of September I can draw my parishioner's attention to the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Yes, her birthday is celebrated this Thursday, September 8. Although the Bible does not give an account of Mary's birth, there is a traditional story that Mary's parents, Anna and Joachim, were infertile. They prayed for a child and received the promise of a child who would advance God's plan of salvation for the world. This story, like so many stories in the Bible, stresses the special presence of God in Mary's life from the beginning. The Patron of the Diocese of Tucson, St. Augustine, whom I told you about last week, connects Mary's birth with Jesus' saving work. He tells the earth to rejoice and shine forth in the light of her birth. "She is the flower of the field from whom bloomed the precious lily of the valley. Through her birth the nature inherited from our first parents is changed."

The Blessed Virgin Mary is not divine, but she is full of grace. What's more, she is like us. She is our sister. She was entrusted with much. Her "YES" to God made our redemption possible. She inspires us to fearlessly put our gifts at the service of God. She knows that the fire Jesus wants to see blazing is the fire of love burning in our hearts as it does in hers. We are not to worry. She who is our sister has become our mother. We who are poor and spiritually blind and crippled, are brought under one roof by Our Blessed Mother. As one family of her divine Son, Mary comforts us and assures us that there can indeed be peace on earth if we keep her Son's new commandment of LOVE.

Mary, what does your Son mean when he tells us that unless we hate our father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even our own life, we cannot be a disciple of His? "Don't worry," she says. "Love will give you the answer."

~Fr. Stephen F. Watson, O.C.D.



Happy and blessed Labor Day, our parish offices will be closed on Monday, September 5th in observance of Labor Day.

The Church often looks at the well-being of society through the lens of the well-being of the family. As Pope Francis said during his visit to the United States in 2015, "We cannot call any society healthy when it does not leave real room for family life. We cannot think that a society has a future when it fails to pass laws capable of protecting families and ensuring their basic needs..."¹ This Labor Day, let us reflect on how we can build a more just economy by promoting the welfare of working families.

Rachel's Vineyard (Tucson Area) - If the emotional and spiritual wounds of a past abortion took faith, love and joy from your life, sign up now for a Rachel's Vineyard retreat in the Tucson area, October 7-9, 2022. Visit: www.rachelsvineyardtucson.org or Call/Text 520-743-6777.

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Registration for Catechism Classes has started. You must call the Catechism Office (520) 882-9687, to **make an appointment** to register your child. Information regarding class times will be given to you when you call. Classes will **begin Saturday, September 24th**. The R.E. office is open Tuesday to Saturday from 8 am to 2 pm.

ADULTS needing to receive sacraments, please call the Religious Education office for registration information.



16TH ANNUAL
FR. BACH—BRO. ANGEL DE SANTA CRUZ
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #14139

BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT

OCTOBER 22
SATURDAY | 2022

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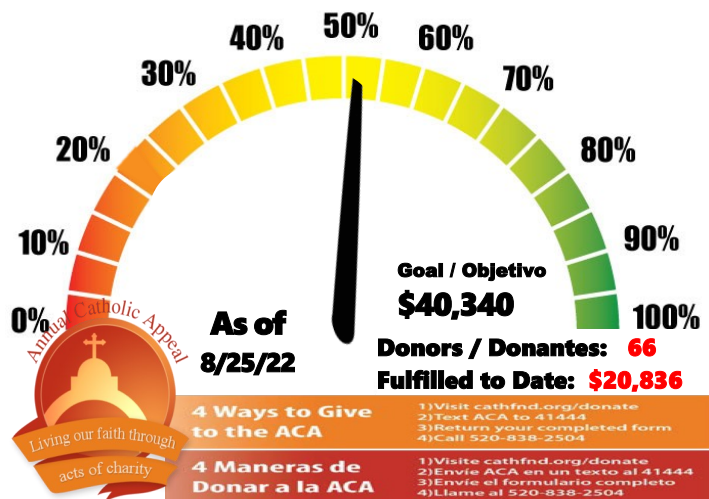
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Casino Del Sol Resort | 5655 W. Valencia Rd.

8:00AM SHOTGUN START
7:00AM CHECK-IN

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- Includes: Golf fees, cart, range balls and lunch
- Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place
- Longest Drive for Ladies and Men
- Closest to the Pin for Ladies and Men
- Hole-In-One Contest
- Many more prizes and raffles!

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT BOB VALENCIA
AT 520-403-1541
bob.valencia33@gmail.com

PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARDS
THE SANTA CRUZ PARISH/
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS OUTREACH PROGRAM



Mass Intentions

Saturday, September 3rd

8:00am Roman G. Islas/R.I.P.

5:30pm Freddy Joseph/R.I.P.

Sunday, September 4th

6:30am Santa Cruz Parishioners

8:00am Special Int./The Aytona Family

10:00am David Norzagaray & Jeannie Acuña/R.I.P.

12:00pm Special Int./Pueblo High School,
Administration & Community

6:00pm Marion Grimm/R.I.P.

Monday, September 5th

In Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:00am Martha M. Fimbres/R.I.P.

Tuesday, September 6th

Special Int./Denise Martinez & Family

8:00am Abelardo Sanchez/R.I.P.

Wednesday, September 7th

Special Int./The Aytona Family

8:00am Special Int./Pueblo High School

Girls & Boys Cross Country Team

Thursday, September 8th

In Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:00am Willy Bravo/R.I.P.

Friday, September 9th

In Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:00am Gail Lonergan/Happy Birthday

Parish Collection August 28th, 2022

Collection: \$ 5,215.80

Thanking You for Your
Service to Our Parish

Most Rev. Edward J. Weisenburger
Diocese of Tucson (520) 838-2500

Santa Cruz Catholic Parish
1220 South Sixth Avenue
Tucson, Arizona 85713

Parish Office (520) 623-3833 Fax (520) 903-2742

~ Website santacruzchurchtucson.com ~

~ Email santacruzparish@hotmail.com ~

Sign up for Flock Notes text [santacruzaz to 84576](tel:52084576)

Business Hours Monday - Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm

Closed for lunch 12:45pm - 1:45pm

Pastor:

Rev. Stephen Watson, O.C.D.

In Residence:

Rev. David Costello, O.C.D.

New Parishioners: Always welcome!

Please register by using our forms available in the church.

*Please note that the 12 noon Mass is following full COVID protocols:
social distancing, masks required and distancing in pews

Masses: Sun. 6:30 am, 10 am, *12 noon & 6 pm

8 am Spanish at Capilla de Guadalupe (409 E. 31st Street)

Mon. - Fri. 8:00 am, Sat. 8 am & 5:30 pm (Vigil)

Confessions: Sat. 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Baptisms: Call the parish office for more information / Llame a la oficina parroquial

Matrimony: Please call at least six months in advance.

Por favor de llamar con seis meses de anticipación.

Parish Administrative Assistant: Hada Reyes (520) 623-3833

Religious Education: Martin Doe, Director (520) 882-9687

Santa Cruz Catholic School: (520) 624-2093

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of ADVERTISED coffee
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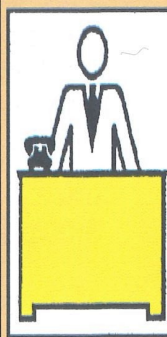
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