

All Saints of the Desert

Episcopal Church

A Community where God's Love is Lived Out



Parish Profile - February 2026

Sun City, Arizona



azdiocese.org

A Parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Arizona
The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Reddall, Bishop



Welcome to All Saints!



The desert is a holy place, stark silent, without diversions or excuses. It brings us to our humanity, our dependence on God and each other. All this is no barrier to the Host who welcomes us to worship. We walk with the saints of old and our community to live anew the Word "where God's love is lived out". All Saints of the Desert Episcopal Church prides itself on providing a warm and welcoming atmosphere and community that nourishes our spiritual development, sense of acceptance and belonging. Each week greeters and vestry hosts meet each attendee as they enter the church. This provides an opportunity to make personal connection with returning members of our parish as well as welcome any visitors.



**9502 West Hutton Drive
Sun City, Arizona 85351-1462
623-974-8404
<http://desertsaints.org>**

Deacon Patrice Cole
Kevin Nicastro, Senior Warden
Jack Lutz, Search Committee Chair



The Word and Worship



The central focus of the Episcopal Church is the Word and Worship. At All Saints of the Desert, the prominence of the Eucharist is such that it is celebrated on Saturday evening and Sunday morning each week as well as on special occasions.

In addition to worship services and weekly scripture study, our understanding of the Word of God is supported by bible & book study, and adult education programs.

The Diaconate

We are privileged to enjoy the support and ministry of Deacon Patrice Cole. Deacon Patrice was ordained in June of 2018 and served for six years as a deacon at St. Peter's in Litchfield Park, AZ.

Deacon Patrice joined us at ASOD in September of 2024. Aside from her liturgical responsibilities, she collaborates with the rector and co-convenes our Grief Group. At the diocesan level, Deacon Patrice is a member of the Diocese of Arizona's Native American Ministry Council.



All Saints is honored to report that two of our parishioners are postulants well into training at The Deacon Formation Academy.



Ministries

Worship Ministries

Acolytes

Acolytes assist the priest at the altar and in processions. The acolyte vests for the service and remains with the priest in the chancel during the service.

Altar Guild

If there is a service at the church, someone from the Altar Guild is there before the service to get things prepared! Their main duty is to prepare the sanctuary for worship services and to clean up after each service. They change the hangings on the altar as the occasion dictates. They also prepare the sanctuaries for Advent, Lent, and special occasions.

Chalice Bearers

Chalice bearers assist during Holy Communion, providing the wine to those receiving. Chalice bearers come up from the congregation during the Eucharistic Prayer and join the celebrant around the altar.

Choir

The Choir participates in facilitating worship each Sunday morning at the 10:00am service, September through May. Our Choir is directed and accompanied by David Zych.

Greeter & Ushers

Greeters are among the first people visitors encounter. They provide a warm welcome as they distribute worship bulletins, answer questions, and offer guidance as needed.

Ushers facilitate the service by collecting and presenting people's offerings at the altar. They also direct worshipers to the communion rail during the Eucharist.



Lectors

Readers and intercessors read the lessons and lead the reading of the psalm during worship. This ministry is scheduled each month, and the readings are provided ahead of time to allow for preparation.



Parish Ministries

Bickman Rose Garden

Roses of many varieties and colors adorn the main entrance to our church grounds. A team of rose gardeners cultivate and maintain the beauty of our garden though all the seasons of the year.



Desert Angels – Ladies of ASOD

This group desires to grow spiritually with other women in the congregation while serving our parish and others in the community. Their gatherings are wonderful opportunities to meet and get to know the women of All Saints as they all grow spiritually. Each month they have an interesting topic to discuss.

Events Committee

This group meets periodically to generate fun and engaging ideas for community events and service opportunities. Some of the activities recently planned include parish dinners, hikes, and BBQ lunches.



Frontline Ministry

Our Frontline Ministry volunteers work to keep the day to day operations of the church functioning smoothly. Some help in the front office, some count and deposit our weekly offerings, and others maintain our website and Facebook pages.

Grief Group

This group meets twice a month. It provides a safe place for people who are grieving to learn about the stages of grief, learn coping strategies , share their stories , and provide listening and support.

Hospitality

Teams of parish members take turns each month hosting Coffee Hour and Fellowship Time after our worship services. For after-worship gatherings, a Saturday team provides a Wine and Cheese reception on the first Saturday and other treats on the third. A Sunday team provides a wide array of Coffee Hour goodies each week.



Intercessory Prayer Group

Our Intercessory Prayer Group meets regularly to pray for our church family on the prayer list as well as people from the church directory. They write notes to send to those for whom they pray.

Pastoral Care

Clergy and trained lay persons bring the consecrated elements of the Eucharist to homebound members of the parish. In addition to providing the sacrament, they also provide fellowship, and connection to the wider community.

Library Ministry

Our library houses many books that offer spiritual information to our parishioners. Many of these materials are historical in nature. These materials are kept inventoried, cleaned, preserved and available to the church community by our volunteers.

Men of ASOD

Their mission is to serve the vital role of men’s fellowship by deeply exploring God’s teachings with open discussions and applying them practically to our daily lives. In addition, they work to build strong spiritual and social relationships by supporting church activities, and community events throughout the year.

Vestry

ASOD has an active Vestry that consists of the Executive Team with the Rector, Sr. Warden, Jr. Warden, Treasurer, and Clerk and six Vestry members that meet monthly.

Veterans Ministry

On the second Friday of every month, members of this small but dedicated group prepare and deliver a wholesome meal to the veteran residents at the U.S. Vets shelter in Phoenix. Each month, we serve as many as one hundred men and women or more.



Outreach



Our outreach programs put our faith into action by serving our neighbors and honoring the dignity of every person. Guided by the baptismal covenant, it links worship with practical ministries—such as feeding the hungry and supporting those in need—so the church’s love is lived out beyond its walls. See <https://desertsaints.org/outreach.php> for more information.

Adam’s Wheelchairs

We help fund this organization to help provide wheelchairs for families who would not be able to afford them, as well as provide recipients with the opportunity to experience a new, mobile life.

Benevilla

As one of Benevilla’s founding members we continue to financially support the work and ministry of Benevilla’s mission to promote health and independence to their neighbors.

Chapel Rock / Camp Genesis

We provide camperships each year to help fund this camp, held at Chapel Rock, for children who have an incarcerated immediate family member.

Christmas Toy Drive

In support of the Surprise Police Department, we collect new and unwrapped toys each year to make Christmas special for the underprivileged children of Surprise.



Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity provides adequate, affordable shelter for those who are homeless or living in substandard housing. All Saints of the Desert parishioners participate in buildings each year.



Lions Club

We collect outdated glasses and give them to the Sun City chapter of Lions Club International.

Navajoland

Warm winter clothing is sometimes donated by people who've moved from colder climates. Because we have little opportunity to sell them here, they are collected during the year and delivered in the fall to the Diocese of Navajoland for distribution to our brothers and sisters who are in need of them during the cold winters there.

Scouting America

Once each month our parish hall is the venue for a meeting of the White Tanks chapter of Scouting America's National Honor Society, the Order of the Arrow.

Thrift Shop

In addition to providing funds for our parish and outreach projects, our Thrift Shoppe serves the Sun City community, providing "gently used" items at affordable prices. Perhaps, more importantly, the Thrift Shoppe provides a comfortable and friendly place for neighbors to gather and visit.



Thrive

Our thrift shop donates items that are excess to our needs or capacity to this organization that serves the biological families who are separated or at risk of being separated due to the lack of basic resources to care for the family.

Twelve Step Groups

Currently eight AA groups and one Al-Anon group meet at All Saints each week at no charge other than what they choose to donate.

U.S. Vets

Once a month, members of our parish prepare and deliver a wholesome meal to as many as one hundred or more veterans at the U.S. Vets shelter in Phoenix.

Valley View Community Foodbank

We support the food bank through financial support and monthly food drive collection of nutritious non-perishable food.



Church History

The seed for All Saints was planted when the Reverend Howard Blackburn, Rector of St. Christopher's, called a special vestry meeting in 1973 to establish a needed mission church in the north end of Sun City. St. Christopher's, our Mother Church, set up a new church fund of \$3,000; and over the next several years, that church and its ECW deposited over \$17,000 in the Building Fund.

Services as a Mission Church began in November 1973, at the Sundial Recreation Center where they continued until the present church was constructed.

The Reverend Howard Blackburn had been appointed Vicar of the new Mission by the Right Reverend Bishop of Arizona Joseph M. Harte, who took the first shovelful of earth from the site at the northwest corner of Burns and Hutton Drives.

In May 1976, The Saints marched into the new church to the tune of "When the Saints Come Marching In" as an appropriate beginning to their new church life.



Having become a self-supporting parish on April 29, 1977, our parish hall was completed in 1978 and a chapel added in 1979. An enlarged chapel and columbarium were completed in 1991.

Subsequently, All Saints has added a library, a thrift shop, a remodeled sacristy, and a choir rehearsal room with music director's office and convenient music and vestment storage.

We have had eight rectors in the 50 years since The Reverend Howard Blackburn served as Vicar of the new Mission.

1973 - 1974: The Reverend Howard W. Blackburn, Vicar

1974 - 1981: The Reverend James E. Mahagan, Vicar/Associate Pastor

1976 - 1985: The Reverend James M. Reaves

1986 - 1997: The Reverend Dr. Irwin S. Mitchell

1997 - 2008: The Reverend Canon Frank Clark

2008 - 2016: The Reverend Bob Burton

2017 - 2022: The Reverend Julie O'Brien

2024 - 2025: The Reverend Canon David Chavez



Our Community

While ASOD is located within Sun City, it serves a much broader area with parishioners coming from Buckeye, El Mirage, Glendale, Goodyear, Peoria, Phoenix, Sun City West, and Surprise. The map below shows the location of a sampling of members who live outside of Sun City.

The Sun Cities

Opened in 1960, Sun City covers fourteen square miles and features eight golf courses and eight recreation centers, all but one of which have fitness centers and one or more swimming pools. Over 130 clubs offer a variety of appeal to a variety of interests.

Just west of Sun City, are Sun City West and The Grand, each of which reflects Sun City.

Other Area Attractions

There are three performing arts centers, one of which houses the West Valley Symphony. State Farm Stadium and several baseball spring training venues.

A bit further afield can be found the Wildlife World Zoo, Aquarium & Safari Park, White Tank Mountain Regional Park with its many hiking trails and Lake Pleasant Regional Park with its magnificent lake surrounded by beautiful mountains.

Of course, the proximity of Phoenix, the fifth largest city in the nation, offers a staggering array of entertainment, sports, and other opportunities. And the Grand Canyon is less than 4 hours away!

Healthcare

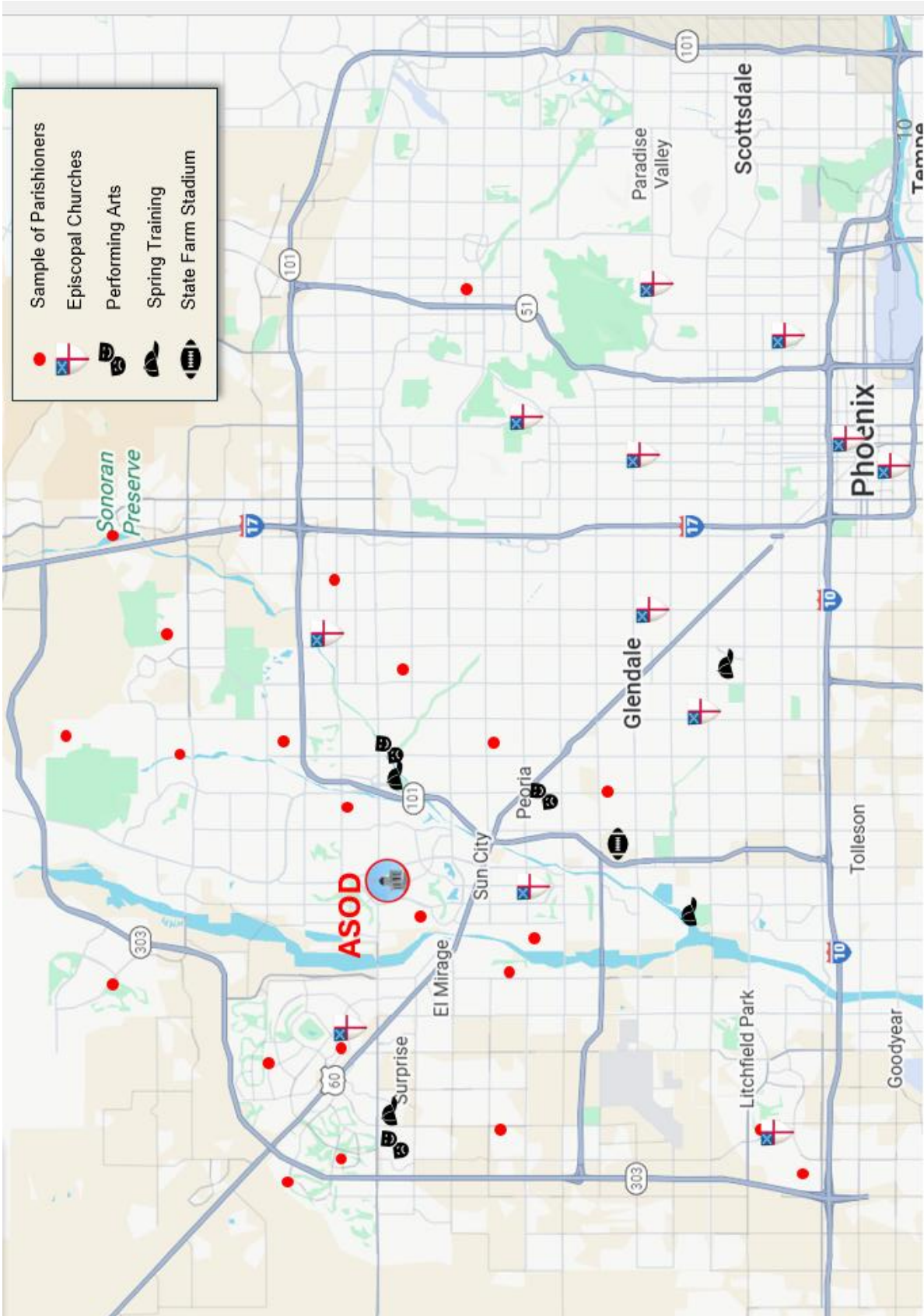
There are several hospitals in the immediate area including Banner Boswell Medical Center in Sun City, named by U.S. News & World Report as a 2025-2026 Best Regional Hospital, earning the No. 4 spot in Phoenix and No. 5 spot in Arizona.

In the broader area are the Mayo Clinic, M D Anderson Cancer Center, City of Hope Phoenix (formerly Cancer Treatment Centers of America), Arizona Heart Institute, and Barrow Neurological Institute.

Doctors with a wide range of specialties are readily available.

- Please see map on next page -





Our Campus

Church

The beautiful interior of All Saints of the Desert provides our congregation with a tranquil, sacred space where we gather for spiritual instruction and worship. The atmosphere is reverent, peaceful, and inviting as we gather as brothers and sisters in Christ.

The Chapel of St. Mary

Our chapel provides a welcoming venue for Saturday evening services and smaller services. Memorials and private interment ceremonies offer family members and others a serene, comforting place of worship.

A key feature of our chapel is the columbarium, which occupies three of its walls. Its niches can accommodate the remains of over five hundred individuals in a holy, peaceful place.



Choir Room

Our choir room, with choir director's office attached, provides a place for our choir to practice and ample room for the storage of vestments and music.

Parish Hall

Our Parish Hall serves as a hub of activities beginning with fellowship after the weekend services. Throughout the week, the hall is used by diverse groups in our community such as our Thrift Store, Boy Scouts, and a variety of twelve step groups.



Kitchen

Adjacent to the parish hall is a large, fully equipped commercial kitchen which, in addition to its use in connection with activities in the hall, is used monthly for the preparation of meals for homeless veterans.



Library

Our spacious library provides both a venue and the resources for individual or group learning as well as for group meetings. Its Zoom capabilities facilitate the involvement of those beyond our walls. It also serves as a venue for several 12-step groups.



Bickman Memorial Garden

Our memorial garden features desert plants, meditation benches, and Stations of the Cross. The central feature is our magnificent rose garden, surrounding a fountain and positioned to welcome parishioners and visitors and provide a place for prayer and meditation.



Thrift Shop

Our Thrift Shoppe serves the Sun City community, providing "gently used" items at affordable prices. Perhaps, more importantly, it provides a comfortable and friendly place for neighbors to gather and visit. Items unsuitable for our shop go to other charities.



Office Building

Our office building houses the rector's and deacon's offices, a finance office, marge meeting room, and a welcoming reception area that includes a conversation grouping.



Core Values

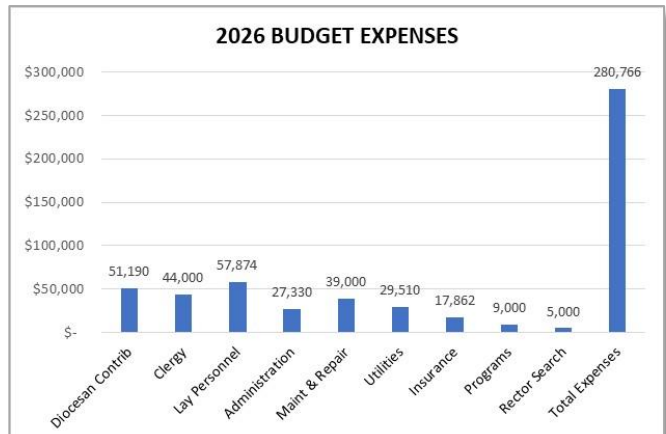
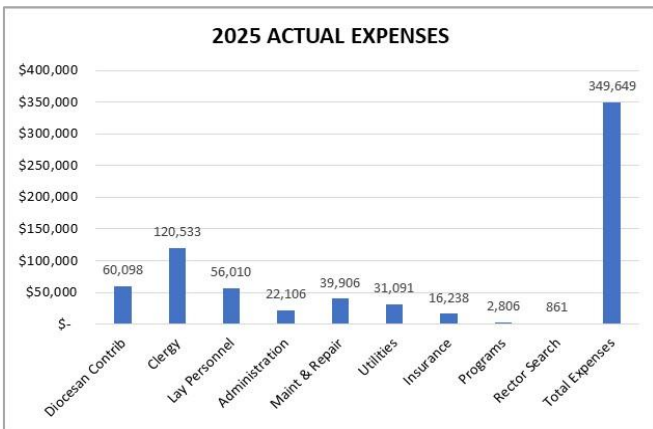
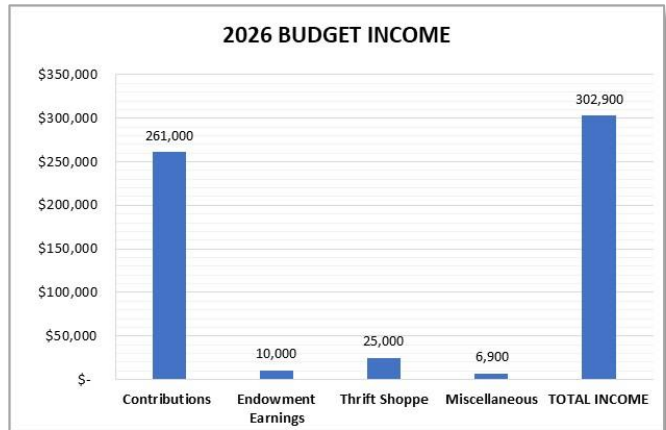
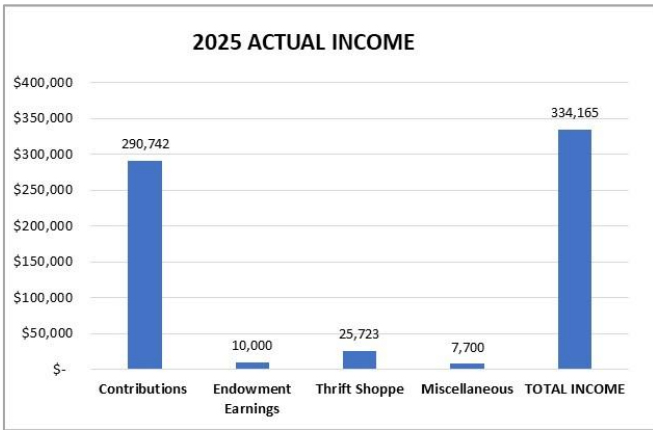
<p>Traditions of the Episcopal Church</p> <p>As followers of Jesus, our prayer, worship, teaching, and life together is shaped by the traditions of the Episcopal Church.</p> <p>We celebrate traditions as they enable us to create a Christ-centered community.</p>	<p>Education and Study</p> <p>We endeavor to provide meaningful opportunities for learning in an effort to form us more fully in the knowledge of God's purposes, preparing us to carry out God's mission in our homes, parish, and community.</p>
<p>Stewardship</p> <p>We work to promote the wise use and care of all God has provided us; including our time, talent, and treasure.</p>	<p>Hospitality</p> <p>We are committed to strengthening our community through the practice of outstanding hospitality. Inclusion and welcome to all in all we do</p>

Challenges

- **Growth** – Attract and welcome new members into our church community from surrounding communities as well as Sun City.
- **Involvement** – Stimulate more interest and participation in church activities and outreach ministries.
- **Financial**– Enhance our Stewardship Ministry to achieve financial stability.
- **Pastoral Care** – Provide companionship as well as services and church activities to the homebound.



Financials



ASOD 2026 PLEDGES					ASOD FUNDS	AMOUNT
Pledge	Qty	%	Average	Amount	Endowment (R)	\$829,499
\$5000+	14	19%	\$ 9,346	\$ 130,850	Bickman (R)	\$165,355
\$2500+	16	22%	\$ 3,640	\$ 58,240	Columbarium	\$53,386
\$1000+	31	39%	\$ 1,539	\$ 47,620	Church Accts	\$596,476
\$0-\$999	16	20%	\$ 545	\$ 8,770	TOTAL	\$1,644,716
Total	77	100%	\$ 3,188	\$ 245,480	R = Restricted	

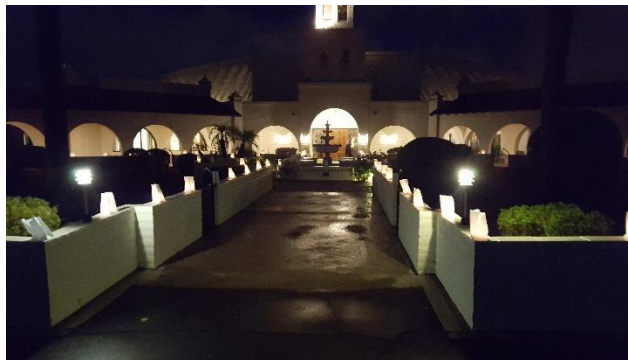


Daily Activities of Our Parish



Desired Rector Characteristics

- Displays a keen sense of **integrity**.
- Welcomes **diversity** and is **inclusive** of others.
- Possesses a **passion for pastoral and ministerial care**.
- Offers **real life applications in preaching and teaching**.
- Demonstrates **compassion** to all.
- Possesses a **sense of humor**.
- Works in **collaboration** with others for the good of the parish.
- Understands the needs of a **Senior Community**.
- Possesses skills needed to **grow the parish** both physically and spiritually.
- Inspires **congregant participation** both internally and externally.
- Possesses skills and knowledge of **church administrative and business practices**.



All interested candidates are requested to submit applications to –
The Rev. Canon Anita Braden, Canon to the Ordinary, Diocese of Arizona
(602) 254-0976 anita@azdiocese.org
114 West Roosevelt - Phoenix, Arizona 85003

