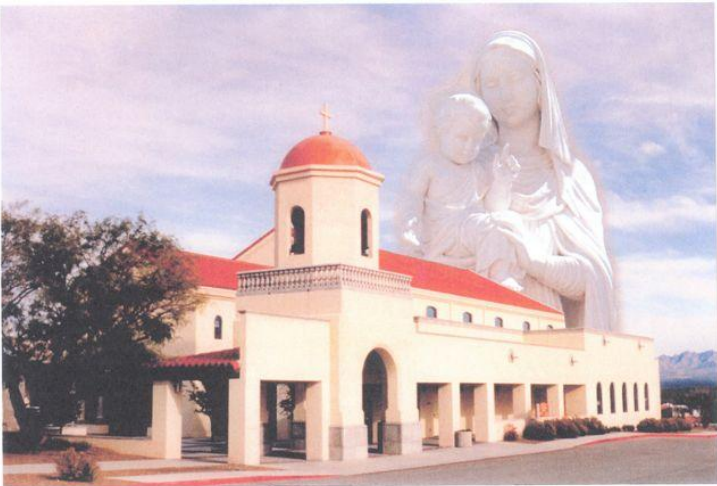


WELCOME TO OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY

**Parish Handbook
2009**



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Welcome from Father Maldonado

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

It is with great joy and pride that I present this Parish Handbook of the wide variety of ministries, activities and organizations that enhance our faith life at Our Lady of the Valley.

Our Lord has endowed each of us with different gifts and a multitude of blessings meant to be utilized for the spread of His Gospel. This handbook provides the opportunity for all of us to build up the kingdom.

The Lord is calling us to live our faith by sharing our time, talents and treasures so that as the Body of Christ we may continue to receive and assist others in experiencing the gift of faith through the saving power of the Gospel.

I personally invite you to explore this handbook and prayerfully discern through the guidance of the Holy Spirit where God is calling you to be an integral part of His plan for salvation.

May all of us continue to grow in faith with a cooperative and generous spirit that expresses our own personal gratitude for the abundant blessings that God has bestowed upon each of us.

*Sincerely yours in Christ,
Rev. Francisco R. Maldonado, Pastor*

ABOUT THE TUCSON DIOCESE

The Catholic presence in the Santa Cruz Valley dates from the time of Fr. Eusebio Francisco Kino, the famous Jesuit missionary. In the 1690's, the Spanish Empire considered this area the *Rim of Christendom*. Evidences of that and the succeeding period remain after 300 years in the renowned Mission San Xavier del Bac and Tumacacori National Historic Park.

Following the Gadsden Purchase in 1854, the Valley and the *Old Pueblo* of Tucson became part of the United States. The area was then, and still remains a part of the Province of Sante Fe. Arizona was established as a Vicariate* Apostolic in 1868, and the Diocese of Tucson was established by Pope Leo XIII in 1897.

The Diocese of Tucson today extends some 350 miles from Yuma on the Colorado River to the New Mexico border, and from Payson, northeast of Phoenix, to Nogales and Douglas on the Mexican border, a total of 42,707 square miles. The Catholic population is about 350,000 and growing. The Diocese is served by 79 Parishes and 20 Missions, provides welfare to more than 800,000 people through three Catholic hospitals, a health care center, and a special social service center. The Diocese also provides Catholic education to some 25,000 students in 21 Elementary

Schools, four High Schools and many Religious Education programs.

On March 7, 2003, The Most Reverend Gerald F. Kicanas was appointed Bishop of Tucson succeeding Bishop Manuel Moreno. On November 13, 2007, during the bishops' annual fall meeting in Baltimore, Bishop Kicanas was elected vice president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The Diocese provides necessary services to Our Lady of the Valley and other parishes through its various organizations, including the Deaconate Program, Marriage Tribunal, Catholic Cemeteries, Division of Disabled Persons, Engaged Encounter, marriage Encounter, and other programs.

Our Lady of the Valley Parish has one representative on the Diocesan Pastoral Council, gives strong support to the Diocese through the Annual Catholic Appeal and encourages all parishioners to contribute generously to this important effort

What is a Vicariate?

In the Diocese of Tucson, a vicariate is a geographical area named after the county or counties it includes. The priests of each vicariate elect a representative, who is the vicar forane (V.F.) and who represents the vicariate on the Presbyteral Council.

OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY

HISTORY

Our Lady of the Valley Parish community had its origin in 1963, at the very beginning of Green Valley. At that time the Maxon Construction Company of Chicago, the first builder, was constructing the “Villas East” and “Villas West.” Mrs. Maxon, the wife of the developer, was Catholic and helped form the original Catholic community. This original small group was served as a mission by St. John’s Parish in Tucson, and later by St. Monica’s. Father Peter Klinkhammer, a priest of the Diocese of Milwaukee, who was then serving the Tucson Diocese, offered Mass on Sundays for several years in the auditorium of the East Social Center on Abrego Drive.

Father Klinkhammer, seeing that the group had already grown to a congregation of about 150, advocated a fund drive to build the first church. This was completed on the present grounds in 1970, and the church was formally dedicated as Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church on November 8, 1970. The first Pastor was Monsignor John F. Burns from the Diocese of Tucson. Due to illness, he was succeeded in 1971 by Father Paul M. Laroque, who served as Pastor for the next 13 years. The Rectory was built in 1972, and the Holy Family Center in 1976. As Green Valley expanded, the

congregation grew to 1,100 families by 1983. In 1984, Monsignor James P. Stapleton became the third Pastor after Fr. Laroque became ill. As Green Valley continued to expand, the Parish soon outgrew its seating capacity. By 1988, it had become necessary to celebrate some Masses in both the Church and the Holy Family Center at the same time, to accommodate the crowd.

A new fund drive, in 1988, succeeded in raising over half a million dollars to build the present Church. The Parish then had a special stroke of good fortune! All Saints Church in Tucson was being converted to a different use by the Diocese, and the beautiful stained glass windows were obtained for our Parish. The architect, Charles Albonese, designed the present Our Lady of the Valley Church to incorporate the windows, one of its most beautiful features. In addition, the architect's overall plan unified the entire complex – the Church and Bell Tower, with the Rectory and Holy Family Center buildings, using the new colonnade to enclose the patio and integrate the existing buildings. The entire project was completed in 1990 at a cost of \$2.2 million dollars. Following the death of Monsignor Stapleton, Fr. Joseph A. Lombardo became the fourth Pastor of Our Lady of the Valley in 1995. Under his leadership and through the generosity of parishioners, the Parish retired its outstanding debt of \$750,000 in less than one

year. Also, Fr. Lombardo entered into negotiations with the county and Kevin Kiernan, a private developer, enabling the Parish to gain title to the 2.7 acre parcel to the west of the church.

As of January 1, 2006, the parish was officially incorporated as an Arizona non profit corporation as “Our Lady of the Valley Roman Catholic Parish – Green Valley”. In August 2006, Father Lombardo was reassigned within the Diocese and Father Francisco Maldonado was assigned as our fifth Pastor.

Mission Statement

“We the parish community of Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church, inspired by the Holy Spirit, and nourished by the Holy Eucharist, are a community of faith.

We invite all God’s people to celebrate His love through participation in liturgy, prayer, service and fellowship.

We are committed to ongoing faith formation for people of all ages.

We value the diverse gifts we have been given and freely share our time, talent, and treasure to minister to the needs of all God’s people.”

ADMINISTRATION

Board of Directors

PURPOSE

To govern the body of the “Our Lady of the Valley Parish – Green Valley” as formed under the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws documents established with the parish incorporations within the Diocese of Tucson as of January 2006.

The board is made up of the following members:

The Bishop of the Tucson Diocese
The Vicar General
The Pastor of Our Lady of the Valley
and two appointees from the parish who serve for a three year term

Pastoral Council

PURPOSE

The Parish Pastoral Council, a consultative body, is declared to be at the pleasure of the Bishop of the Diocese of Tucson and the Pastor of Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church a representative group of parishioners supportive of the Parish Mission as stated in the Constitution and Mission Statement.

ACTIVITIES

The Council is a consultative body with three-year rotating terms.

Monthly meetings open to all members of the parish are from 1 to 2:30 pm on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from September through June in the Holy Family Center.

Finance Committee

PURPOSE

To serve as an advisory board to the Pastor regarding the raising and expenditures of funds to increase stewardship, endowments, increasing envelope usage and on financial matters that need to be reviewed.

ACTIVITIES

The council meets the third Monday of each month.

Reviews the monthly and year-to-date operating statement and balance sheet along with other specifically requested financial information.

Provide advice and research to the Pastor as needed regarding financial expenditures.

Review and approve contracts.

Review possible fundraising activities as needed.

Building Committee

PURPOSE

The Parish Building Committee is a standing committee appointed by the Pastor to assist in formulating a facilities plan for the Parish.

ACTIVITIES

To review and provide recommendations on the capital facilities needs of the Parish.

To assist in Parish facilities related projects.

FAITH FORMATION / **SACRAMENTAL** **PREPARATION**

Adult Confirmation

PURPOSE

Prepares adults for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation during the Easter Season. Each year the exact date is established by the Bishop of Tucson and the celebration takes place on that date.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR ADULT CONFIRMATION

Adults (age 18 and older) who are baptized, practicing Catholics – regularly attending Mass and receiving communion; and if married, are in a valid marriage according to church law.

ACTIVITIES

A series of formation/education sessions, usually 12 to 14, depending on the time frame, plus a half-day retreat, are held prior to the administration of the Sacrament and are designed to further educate and spiritually form the candidates in the Catholic Church. Notice and direction are given in the Sunday Bulletins and by Pulpit Announcements before the sessions begin.

Adult Faith Formation

PURPOSE

Provides opportunities for adult education and further development of Catholic faith within the Church.

ACTIVITIES

Throughout the year presents various courses, lectures, guest speakers, forums, film discussions, and book or discussion groups for interested adults. The content is mostly concerned with the Catholic Church but are not exclusively so.

Advises the parish family, via Sunday Bulletin notices and pulpit announcements, of events, courses, and opportunities for faith formation at other parishes and locations.

Suggestions are encouraged from the community.

Come Home Ministry (for Inactive Catholics)

PURPOSE

In a non-threatening environment, to encourage, assist, and prepare Catholics who have not been active in the Church, regardless of the length of time, to return to full and active participation in the Catholic Church. There is no charge for these sessions.

ACTIVITIES

The process consists of a series of six weekly sessions, conducted twice a year – typically, prior to Christmas and Easter and throughout the year by appointment. Dates are announced in the Sunday Bulletin and from the pulpit.

Each session has a few topics which are addressed followed by the investigation, discussion and answering of participant's concerns and questions developed during the first session.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (R.C.I.A.)

PURPOSE

The process by which adults are fully initiated into our Catholic faith community. It is intended for anyone over the age of eighteen who has not been baptized, a baptized Christian from another denomination or baptized Catholic but has not yet received the sacraments of Communion or Confirmation.

ACTIVITIES

Participants attend weekly Sunday meetings from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and Sunday 9:00 a.m. Mass.

Participants attend one retreat and special rites held during their faith formation.

The final rites and conferring of the sacraments are celebrated at the Easter Vigil Mass.

Adult Bible Study

PURPOSE

To provide the opportunity for anyone to study the scriptures in accordance with sound, authorized Catholic teaching.

To provide the opportunity for discussion, input and questions.

ACTIVITIES

Bible study using the New American Catholic Study Bible and associated Catholic commentaries

The Bible Study Class decides what to study.

Classes run from November through March weekly on Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

The class is taught by a diocesan approved teacher. Written handout supplemental materials are provided for each class.

Marriage Preparation

PURPOSE

To instruct couples in preparation for Catholic marriage.

ACTIVITIES

Marriage preparation at Our Lady of the Valley is under the direction of the pastor. Couples wishing to marry at the parish should contact the parish office six months prior to the desired wedding date to make an appointment with the pastor. Depending on the age, circumstances, etc. of those planning to marry, the pastor will guide them.

The norm for young couples is for the pastor to invoke the diocesan rule requiring they attend an, "Engaged Encounter", and he directs them to a trained parish couple for a series of sessions over the six months in preparation for their marriage. The couples, to be married, are also given 'homework exercises' to complete between sessions.

Parent Preparation for Infant Baptism

PURPOSE

To prepare parents and godparents of the infant to be baptized, as fully as possible, to begin the Christian Journey of parenthood.

ACTIVITIES

Preparation classes are offered the 4th Friday of the month. Class starts at 6:30 p.m.

We also make Baptism bibs and do the embroidery of crosses on them. If interested in helping, contact the coordinator for the Parent Preparation for Infant Baptism in the directory.

Religious Education (Kindergarten, Elementary, & Jr. High)

PURPOSE

To educate Catholic Christian Doctrine to Kindergarten through Junior High School age parishioners while encouraging a greater prayer life, a closer relationship with Jesus, and a greater connection to the Body of Christ and with each other

ACTIVITIES

Spiritual :

Weekly Religious Education classes are conducted in the Holy Family Center five times a week.

Religious Education students participate in Catholic observances and holiday celebrations.

Service:

Religious Education students participate in charitable donation fundraisers, both locally and nationally.

Young People's Sacramental Preparation

PURPOSE

Young people grades 3-12 who have not received any or all of the sacraments of Baptism, First Reconciliation, and/or First Eucharist are placed in a "Children's Initiation Class." These classes are created for young people to be educated about the sacraments according to their age level. They will receive the sacraments when the teacher feels they are ready.

ACTIVITIES

Students will register for the class, attend classes for 6-8 weeks per sacrament. Students will receive the sacraments on an individual basis, not as a class. Parental involvement is required through the attendance of students and homework assignments completed in a timely manner. There may be parent meetings as needed.

Youth Group & Confirmation Grades 9-12

PURPOSE

Our Lady of the Valley offers a combination Confirmation/Youth Group program for high school students. Students attend two years of Confirmation classes in preparation to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. In conjunction with these classes, the students also participate in the Youth Group; the goal of which is to ensure that our young people feel welcomed, valued and have an active place within our Catholic Community. Additionally, the Youth Group serves as a safe place for teens to come, question and support each other as they face the challenges of living in today's world. Confirmation/Youth Group classes for high school students are weekly in the Parish Holy Family Center.

ACTIVITIES

Youth Group activities include ongoing Community Service activities both within the Parish of Our Lady of the Valley, and the local community. Students participate in yearly retreats, pilgrimages, and Diocese planned Youth Conferences and events such as Steubenville. Monthly field trips and guest speakers add enrichment to their classes; and prepare them for adult Catholic life.

SPIRITUAL LIFE

Contemplative Prayer Group

PURPOSE

The goal for those who participate in Contemplative Prayer is to grow in union with God. Engagement in contemplative prayer enlivens all other forms of prayer and the individual reaps benefits in daily life as well as in their prayer life.

ACTIVITIES

If anyone is interested in learning more about the practice of Contemplative Prayer please call Barbara at 625-4319.

Eucharistic Adoration

PURPOSE

Allows parishioners an opportunity to spend time in quiet prayer with Jesus Christ who is present in the Blessed Sacrament exposed on the altar.

ACTIVITIES

The Blessed Sacrament is exposed on the altar of Our Lady of the Valley Church Monday through Friday following the 8:00 a.m. Mass. Repose of the Blessed Sacrament varies depending on circumstances and activities in the church.

Adorers can select a day hour that is convenient for them to adore each week.

Invitation forms to register are just inside the north entrance of the church.

Our Lady's Prayer Group

PURPOSE

To pray for the individual needs requested by the parishioners of Our Lady of The Valley.

ACTIVITIES

The group meets in the Church weekly to pray aloud the Chaplet of Mercy and one five decade rosary. After the session they attend daily Mass. After Mass they adjourn to the Holy Family Center to pray two more five decade rosaries and other prayers.

Prayer Hotline

PURPOSE

To provide parishioners the opportunity to elicit prayers and support for their special needs and intentions.

ACTIVITIES

Parishioners call the Prayer Hotline chairperson and request prayers for their special needs and intentions. These are then written up and sent via e-mail to members of the prayer hotline. Members of this ministry offer their prayers in response to the parishioners' request.

Legion of Mary

PURPOSE

To foster Holiness through service to the sick and homebound in the Name of the Blessed Mother.

ACTIVITIES

Visiting and praying with those in hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities and the homebound.

Taking Communion and holding Communion Services to the above mentioned facilities.

Reciting the Rosary at Wakes and before funerals if requested by the family.

Leading the Tuesday Rosary for Peace.

Sponsoring the Pilgrim Madonna Statue in parish homes for one week periods.

This organization is open to all members of Our Lady of the Valley Parish, male and female. We meet every Monday after the 8 a.m. mass for approximately 1 ½ hours in room 208 in the Holy Family Center.

Life In The Spirit

Purpose

A Life in the Spirit Seminar is a chance to EXPERIENCE God and the Holy Spirit in your life. It will help you to develop a better understanding of God, as Father and Son, but especially as the Spirit and the impact the Spirit can have in your life. Life in the Spirit is an opportunity for you to "step away" and take the time to deepen your personal relationship with God...which may change your life!!

The seminar will explore:

God's Love of us - His Gift of Salvation -
New Life in the Spirit - Receiving God's Gifts
- Baptism of the Holy Spirit - Spiritual Growth
& Transformation in Christ.

If your spiritual walk needs a boost... If you feel disconnected from God and his love of you...if you want to better understand God's spiritual gifts for you... then this seminar will offer you inspiration, understanding and empowerment.

ACTIVITIES

This is a weekend retreat experience consisting of talks, presentations, discussions, songs, prayer services, Eucharist and fellowship. Currently one seminar is offered in the Spring and one in the Fall. Notice will appear in the Sunday bulletins and by Pulpit Announcements.

Cursillo

PURPOSE

The Cursillo as an instrument of renewal for Christians provides the environment through which one's own spirituality may be developed, loved and shared.

ACTIVITIES

The process is initiated with a weekend retreat consisting of a series of talks by religious and lay persons, Mass and fellowship within the Christian Community. Following the Cursillo retreat, individuals return to their parish to continue the Christian ideals learned and experienced.

Members of the Cursillos community provide mutual support and encouragement in achieving their purposes.

Holy Spirit Community

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Holy Spirit Community is to build up a faith-sharing, prayer community of faith filled individuals that feel a desire for Christian fellowship, spiritual growth, mentoring, prayer and support. Further, the community is somewhat charismatic in its spiritual expression with lively music and compassionate outreach.

ACTIVITIES

The community meets once per month at 6:30 p.m. on the 3rd Thursday of the month in the Holy Family Hall. The meetings involve praise and worship music, a talk / witness, small group sharing and fellowship time.

Faith Sharing Groups

PURPOSE

We are called as individuals and as a parish community to grow in our relationship with God. In order to foster this, we invite anyone who is interested to join us for examining the readings in advance of each Sunday, sharing ideas in a prayerful environment, or just listening to how the readings pertain to each member—including “Snowbirds”.

ACTIVITIES

One group meets every Thursday morning all year long at a home in Desert Hills. Other groups only meet in the winter. As the membership increases to the point that the group gets too big, we form new groups, asking the newcomers to take turns facilitating. The Thursday morning group uses the Lectors' Workbook, but other groups might choose to study something different. We try to go on one fieldtrip every year such as a trip to St. David or the Garden of Gethsemane in Tucson for example.

Parish Library

PURPOSE

To provide spiritual and theological resources to the parish family

ACTIVITIES

The Library, located in Room 209 of the Holy Family Center, is readily available to all parishioners whenever the church facilities are open.

To date there are over 1,700 books in 21 different categories, including Biography, Christology, Prayer, Scripture, Spiritual Classics, reference works and many others.

To check out books use the sign out sheet located in the library.

Leave any donated books on the desk in the library.

OUTREACH

Welcoming Committee

PURPOSE

To welcome newly registered parishioners to Our Lady of The Valley Parish.

ACTIVITIES

Assists in the physical registration of new parishioners during “Welcome Weekend”, generally held one weekend.

Conducts “Visits of Welcome” to homes of new parishioners, if requested to do so.

Acquaints new members with the parish, ministries, and activities.

Helps new parishioners become aware of parish organizations.

Sets up and conducts social engagements for welcoming new parishioners.

Attends meeting once a month or as scheduled.

Eucharistic Ministers to the Homebound

PURPOSE

Our members bring the Eucharist on a regular basis to those who are homebound or in assisted living centers and nursing homes. We support the sick, homebound and senior members of our parish community by our prayer, visitation and spiritual nourishment with God's Word and the Eucharist. We inform the pastor of persons who may want to be anointed with the sacrament of the sick. Our ministry is a sign of our parish's love and concern for those whom we visit.

ACTIVITIES

We have an in-service training for all E.M.'s to the homebound once a year to conform to the "directives of compliance" of the Diocese of Tucson. We have an in-service training on a one to one basis to train perspective members of the E.M.'s to the homebound. Once a year, new members are commissioned at church to this ministry.

Stephen Ministry

PURPOSE

To train lay parishioners to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care, to reach out with God's love to people who are in need, e.g., the grieving depressed, homebound, ill, etc.

ACTIVITIES

Complete 50 hours of initial training in important caring ministry skills and concepts. Ministers are commissioned for a two year term.

Visit those who have requested them on a regular and dependable basis offering Christian support and care. This is done under the guidance of trained Stephen leaders, who also provide ongoing education and skill building during the years of service. This confidential ministry is open to all adult parishioners in good standing. Training is offered once each year.

Respect Life

PURPOSE

To promote the sanctity of human life, educate the community on our moral obligations to end abortion, support the Catholic Church on pro-life issues, and communicate related events for national and local participation.

ACTIVITIES

Participate in fundraising activities for pro-life centers.

Coordinate and participate in peaceful prayer vigils outside abortion clinics.

Participate in various community awareness programs including voter registration, sexual integrity programs for teens/youths, and awareness of local life centers.

Attend special Masses for Roe v. Wade anniversary to pray for the end of abortion and emotional healing for those who have had abortions.

Involvement in Respect Life Sunday for the education/awareness of the importance of the sanctity of human life.

Support Pro-Life Reachout committee in various events/activities. Information about preserving life from birth to natural death is provided.

Participate in Catholic Lobby Day by presenting issues relevant to the sanctity of human life to local and state politicians.

St. Vincent de Paul

PURPOSE

Members strive to live Christ's Gospel by loving our neighbors and ministering among them.

ACTIVITIES

Extend comfort, friendship, spiritual and physical support to the poor and suffering.

Give financial assistance where resources permit.

The Society invites donations of clothing, household, and other goods which can be provided to those in need or to be sold through the St. Vincent de Paul Resale Shop located on the Parish campus. Shop is open to the public every Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to Noon.

Just Coffee

PURPOSE

To enable the Mexican people to live and be productive in their own country by purchasing and selling the coffee they grow.

ACTIVITIES

Purchase coffee through a Mexican grower cooperative in Chiapas, Mexico.

Sell coffee after Masses on the second weekend of each month.

All proceeds from sales are returned to the Mexican people who sell us the coffee.

Martha Group

PURPOSE

To serve a lunch or snack after a funeral.

ACTIVITIES

Members of this committee assist at every lunch with the cooking, setup and cleanup. There are also a group of women who provide casseroles, salads, desserts or whatever is needed to round out a meal or snack table.

Fiesta!

PURPOSE

To bring the parish and the community together for fellowship and fundraising.

ACTIVITIES

Attend pre-planning and monthly meetings as needed.

Support Fiesta chairperson.

Volunteer to work in various booths and/or chair the booth, i.e., food, drinks, crafts, teen dance, children's games, etc.

Set up and clean the parish grounds before and after the Fiesta.

Mission Helpers

PURPOSE

To prepare and provide articles to be used by missionaries abroad or in isolated areas.

ACTIVITIES

Request from parishioners travel size personal hygiene articles. These articles are packaged and distributed to the homeless.

Request from parishioners cancelled postage stamps that can be sold by the foreign mission to collectors and stamp dealers to help support their missionary work.

Donate a few hours each month to sort and pack the materials donated.

Women's Guild

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Women's Guild is to promote fellowship, spiritual growth and to serve Our Lady of the Valley in whatever capacity we can.

ACTIVITIES

We meet every Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Holy Family Center. We welcome all ladies who would like to join us for our activities.

Quilting: We sort and prepare donated cotton and cotton flannel fabric to sew into lap quilts. The quilts are then donated to approximately fifteen charitable organizations in Green Valley and Tucson. We also sew, tie and prepare baby quilts for the Reachout Committee of OLV. There is always a great need for these warm, cheerful quilts. We complete approximately 600 per year.

Gift Boutique: This shop sells religious items, gifts for all ages and various miscellaneous items. The shop is a source of income for our projects and Scholarships.

Women's "New to You" Shop: We sort, hang and sell used women's fashions. Donations are always needed to fill the racks and make this clothing useful again. The shop is a source of income for our projects and scholarships.

Scholarships are awarded each year to assist worthy youth of the Parish for their college education.

Monthly donations include Friends of the Homeless to provide sandwiches for the poor, the Green Valley Food Bank, and Green Valley Assistance Program. We are here to help the members of our community as needed.

We also assist in the preparation of funeral luncheons when asked to do so.

Sandwiches for the Poor

PURPOSE

To feed the poor in the Tucson area.

ACTIVITIES

A group of people make sandwiches for the poor. Their gift of ministry is shared with shelters in Tucson.

Sandwich making is done at 7:00 a.m. on the first, third and fifth Wednesdays and on the second Monday of each month in the Parish Hall. Anyone interested in helping is warmly invited to come!

Santa Cruz Valley Interfaith Council

PURPOSE

This is an organization of churches that attempts to know more about each other and our forms of worship in order to promote understanding and good will.

ACTIVITIES

All churches in the valley are invited to join. We have 12 active churches. Each church pays dues according to their ability.

Elections are held each May for President, Vice President and Secretary. A pastor usually is president.

We hold three functions each year, each held in a local church:

A Thanksgiving service is held in November. A Paragon Award can be given to a person who has given of himself/herself in an extraordinary way to the community at this event.

A Martin Luther King Celebration is held in January as close to his birthday as possible.

Two Choir Concerts have been held. The first one was in Our Lady of the Valley in 2007.

Green Valley Assistance Services, Inc.

PURPOSE

An ecumenical group to assist people in need throughout the community.

ACTIVITIES

Volunteers spend a couple of hours per week doing the following:

They shop for homebound people do light cleaning, take people shopping, transport to doctors, other things that aged people cannot do for themselves

SOCIAL FELLOWSHIP

Sunday Evening Bingo

PURPOSE

Sunday Night Bingo is a social event for parish members and many of our Green Valley neighbors.

We are also able to provide funds for many parish needs.

ACTIVITIES

Bingo is played every Sunday evening, September through May, in the Holy Family Center.

Doors open at 5:00 p.m. and games begin at 6:30 p.m.

Snack bar is available.

This activity is staffed by volunteers.

Bridge Players

PURPOSE

Social, recreational and the opportunity to practice bridge skills.

ACTIVITIES

Party Bridge is played every Friday from 11:40 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Holy Family Center.

We do not give lessons, so it is best if you have some playing knowledge and skill.

Line Dancing

PURPOSE

Fellowship, friendship, fun and health

ACTIVITIES

The Line Dancers is an interfaith group that meets once a week on Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Anyone is welcome to come.

We learn new dances and go to different care facilities to dance for the residents.

We donate money to different local groups.

We support one another in times of sickness and need.

We dance for fun and for our health to keep our minds and bodies working!

Catholic Daughters of the Americas

PURPOSE

To support the Holy Father, Bishops and clergy, Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Daughters of the Americas raise funds for seminarians of the Diocese and other local and national charities through many fund raising activities.

ACTIVITIES

Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month in the Holy Family Center after 8:00 a.m. Mass. All women are welcome.

CDA sponsors retreats to enrich members, family and friends, raises funds by giving of their time and talents to various activities throughout the year, embracing the principle of faith working through love.

We cordially invite all female members of the parish to join us.

Catholic Golden Agers

PURPOSE

To help others maintain spiritual awareness and provide fun social activities that bring people together.

ACTIVITIES

Organize social and educational programs.

During Lent a special Soup Line is presented.

Members support each other when in need and send appropriate greeting cards to those who are sick, grieving or are homebound.

Attend meetings the first Tuesday of the month from October through May. Board meets at 2:00 p.m. and the general meeting begins at 3:00 p.m.

Coffee and Donuts

PURPOSE

To provide an opportunity for our parishioners come together as a community and to socialize.

To enable the parishioners of a particular neighborhood to get to know one another.

ACTIVITIES

Coffee and donuts are provided without charge after the 7am and 9AM Masses in the Holy Family Center on the first Sunday of the month from October to April.

Our Lady of the Valley Supper Club

PURPOSE

This supper club is being formed as a means to meet and share our faith and married life with other couples in our community.

ACTIVITIES

We gather once a month at a member's home for fellowship, food, faith and fun.

Italian Catholic Federation

PURPOSE

“IGNEM VENI MITTERE”: ***“I Came to Light a Fire!”***

The ICF was established in 1924 in San Francisco, California, to reach out to all Catholics, sharing our faith and our heritage with them. It is an organization founded on the principle of charity, apostolic works and preserving the Italian heritage. Branch 425 of this national organization was established in 1999 at Our Lady of the Valley Parish.

ACTIVITIES

The organization has a commitment to preserving the Italian heritage by supporting charities such as Cooley’s Anemia, financial and spiritual support of vocations, awarding scholarships to our youth and grants to the developmentally disabled through the “Gifts of Love” program, disaster relief, support for the clergy at St. David’s Monastery in St. David, Arizona, as well as charitable giving in our Diocese and Parish. Monies for these charities is raised each year through the Branch having two lasagna dinners, one drive-thru in the Fall and one sit-down/take out in the winter, and a cookie sale in the spring.

Membership is open to all Catholics. You need not be Italian to enjoy the full hearted fellowship and sunny disposition of the Italian spirit. Enjoy with us Italian cuisine, bocce, pedro, potluck suppers, travel excursions and other events which allow us to worship and socialize together.

Annual dues are \$30.00 per person.

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Holy Family Center.

We welcome and extend our hearts to you!

Knights of Columbus Council # 6842

Founded in 1882 by Fr. Michael McGivney, the Knights of Columbus is a national Catholic Men's fraternal and charitable organization, locally administered by Our Lady of the Valley Council No. 6842. All men are invited to join this vital Church organization.

PURPOSE

The Knights of Columbus is the right arm of the church. They are dedicated to do works of charity for the greater church and community, as well as to support the seminarians of the diocese of Tucson.

ACTIVITIES

The Knights are promoters in the parish of regular blood drives, Lenten fish fries, Sunday pancake breakfasts, and an annual golf tournament.

They also offer an exceptional life insurance program for their membership.

Padre Kino Fourth Degree # 1918

PURPOSE

The Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus was established on February 22, 1900, on the principle of patriotism—love and devotion to one's country—and Fourth Degree Knights focus the majority of their activities on this principle. Applicants for the Fourth Degree must be Third-Degree members of the Knights of Columbus in good standing.

ACTIVITIES

The honor guard participates in many church, civic, and local spiritual and patriotic activities. Examples include the Veterans Day ceremony at Green Valley Cemetery, ordinations to the priesthood, and funerals.

The assembly meets monthly. Meetings are followed by a luncheon social.

Salva Regina

PURPOSE

The purpose of Salve Regina is spiritual, social and charitable and to enable the wives, widows, mothers, sisters and daughters of Our Lady of the Valley Knights of Columbus become better acquainted and to help the Council members in any way possible.

ACTIVITIES

Salve Regina supports the Knights in their social activities and bereavement services. They also assist them with their breakfasts and dinners as well as the annual golf outing. Salve Regina has one fund raising activity each year, with the money raised going to charities and causes selected by the members. Annual social events include the Christmas luncheon, the Anniversary luncheon, "Knights Out" (a dinner party of the Ladies and Knights). Annual dues are \$12.00.

The Salve Regina members attend corporate communion as a group on the Monday before the regular meeting. A coffee follows at a member's home, allowing the continued spirituality and fellowship of the members. Regular meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in conjunction with the Knights of Columbus meeting. New members who meet the requirements are welcome.

Special Events Committee

PURPOSE

To provide the environment for major social events which occur for the Our Lady of the Valley Parish.

ACTIVITIES

Develop a plan for each social event as designated by the church calendar.

Coordinate with the clergy and the church staff as to the requirements for each social event.

Prepare the environment for each event, including the invitation, refreshments, and hospitality.

Organize, cook and serve dinner for Thanksgiving, St. Patrick's Day, and other social events in the Parish.

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Acolytes

PURPOSE

The purpose of the acolytes, also called altar servers, is to serve the clergy by preparing for the celebration of the Mass, by serving them during the Mass, and by cleaning up after the Mass.

ACTIVITIES

The acolytes' job begins before Mass with the preparation of the books, the sacred vessels and linens, and any other items that will be used during the celebration of the Mass. They serve the clergy during the Mass by providing the correct items and performing the necessary tasks. After Mass, they clean the vessels and otherwise ready all other items for use at the next Mass.

Individual, on-the-job training is provided to ensure that the clergy receive responsible and consistent service at each Mass.

Eucharistic Ministers

PURPOSE

To assist the priest with the distribution of the Eucharist, both the host and cup, at the weekend liturgies and special Holy Day Masses, and bread only at daily Mass.

ACTIVITIES

Members of the ministry serve on a rotating basis during their preferred Mass time. Special training for this ministry is provided.

Lectors

PURPOSE

To assist the priest by reading the Scripture passages during each Mass.

ACTIVITIES

Two scripture readings are proclaimed at each weekend Mass and one at daily Mass plus the psalm at daily Mass. Lectors also read the general intercessions.

Volunteers attend a speaking and presentation session to define the importance of the position and refine their speaking and presentation skills.

Music Ministry

PURPOSE

Gathering as a community we renew and deepen our faith through music, expressing feelings in ways that words alone cannot.

ACTIVITIES

Alleluia Choir

This choir rotates to different weekend Masses October through May.

Sings at special liturgical events including Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, and during Holy Week. Rehearsals required once a week from October through May.

Resurrection Choir

This choir sings at funerals/memorial services when invited to do so by the family of the deceased, and sings all parts of the Mass as well as hymns selected by the family.

Qualification for this choir is the willingness to be available on short notice. Rehearsals are one hour before each service.

Contemporary Mass Ensemble

This ensemble sings at the 4:00 p.m. Mass on Sunday. Music is chosen with the family and Youth Group in mind, with piano accompaniment. Lead singers from the Religious Education or Youth Groups are frequent performers.

Cantors

Sing at all weekend Masses and holy days throughout the year.

Sing at special liturgical events.

Training is required, audition is necessary

Hospitality

PURPOSE

Help ensure mass attendance is an inviting, enjoyable, and spiritual experience for all.

ACTIVITIES

Greeters and Ushers are to provide a warm, sincere welcome to parishioners prior to Mass.

Ushers are responsible for seating people, assisting those with special needs, and collecting the stewardship offerings. They coordinate the presentation of the gifts at the offering, handle medical emergencies and other situations when they arrive, and hand out Sunday Bulletins at the end of Mass.

Head Ushers are assigned to the teams for each of the regularly scheduled Masses to ensure a smooth operation of duties.

Environment

PURPOSE

The parish Environment Ministry focuses on the appearance of the church. Its goal is to provide an inviting, tranquil, orderly environment for the parishioners.

ACTIVITIES

The Environment Ministry, with the help of many talented parishioners, provides and maintains the flowers, plans for the acquisition of some of the church furnishings, and does the decorating for the special seasons of the year, including: Advent, Christmas, Holy Week, Easter and other special occasions. They also monitor all literature and displays of any kind that appear in the church.

Liturgy Coordinator

PURPOSE

The liturgy coordinator is responsible for planning, under the guidance and with the approval and consent of the pastor, all special liturgies. Special liturgies occur most commonly during the cycles of the Church year that prepare for and develop the great Mysteries of Christ: Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter.

ACTIVITIES

The Liturgy Coordinator's job is multi-faceted. It includes scheduling and planning the special liturgies, scheduling and coordinating the participation of all the liturgical ministries, preparation of Blessings and Rites for the clergy, and rehearsals for the RCIA, readers, acolytes and all participants in special liturgies. The coordinator also provides Bulletin copy to keep the parishioners informed.

Wedding Liturgy Coordinator

PURPOSE

The Wedding Liturgy Coordinator plans the Nuptial (Wedding) Masses by assessing and coordinating the needs of the engaged couple, and the services of the liturgical ministries involved in the wedding with the wishes and preferences of the clergy.

ACTIVITIES

The Wedding Liturgy Coordinator's job begins with a meeting with the couple to discuss their needs and plans for their Nuptial Mass. Details that must be addressed include: attendants, scriptural readings and language requirements, music, and special individual needs and circumstances. The Wedding Coordinator conducts the wedding rehearsal, and prepares all necessary documents for the Mass, including the Rite of Marriage. The Coordinator is present at the wedding to provide assistance for the couple and the clergy, and to make sure that the ministries are working together.

Funeral Coordinator and Funeral Receptions

PURPOSE

The purpose of this ministry is to assist the bereaved families to coordinate the funeral liturgy, committal service or reception.

ACTIVITIES

When a loved one dies, first contact the cemetery, then talk to the funeral coordinator at the parish to arrange for the funeral mass, etc. This person will coordinate the mass, committal and reception, as needed. She will coordinate the liturgy ministers for the funeral and be at the funeral liturgy to assist in any way.