

St. Rita Catholic Church

3815 Russell Road | Alexandria, VA 22305

703-836-1640 (office) 703-706-0484 (fax)

Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 9 am - 9 pm

www.stritaalexandria.com / www.saintrita-school.org



February 18, 2024: First Sunday of Lent

CLERGY AND STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Christopher P. Christensen frc41@gmail.com	Ext. 17
Parochial Vicar	Rev. Nicholas J. Schierer fatherschierer@gmail.com	Ext. 30
In Residence	Rev. Łukasz Duda	
Permanent Deacon	Deacon Stephen J. Dixon deacondixon.strita@gmail.com	
Director of Sacred Music	Lawrence Bowie lbowie.strita@gmail.com	Ext. 29
Parish Secretary and Hispanic Liaison	Alma Ramirez aramirez.strita@gmail.com	Ext. 10
Business Manager	Debbie Beck dbeck.strita@gmail.com	Ext. 13
Director of Religious Education and Youth Ministry	Sam Fortune sjfortune.strita@gmail.com	Ext. 12
Coordinator of Young Adult Ministry	Maria Goitiandia mgoitiandia.strita@gmail.com	
Sacristan	Elizabeth Vail evail.strita@gmail.com	Ext. 11
Bulletin Editor	Vanessa Lopez bulletin.submit.strita@gmail.com	
Maintenance Manager	Adan Aguilar aaguilar.strita@gmail.com	

HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS

(The Church is open for prayer every day from 6 am - 9 pm.)

Sunday: 7:00 am, 8:00 am, 11:00 am & 1:00 pm (en Español)

Monday: 7:00 am & 7:30 pm (preceded by Miraculous Medal Novena)

Tuesday: 7:00 am

Wednesday: 7:00 am & 7:30 pm

Thursday: 7:00 am

Friday: 7:00 am & 7:30 pm (Novus Ordo Latin)

Saturday: 8:00 am, 5:00 pm (Sunday Vigil Mass)

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

Monday - Friday: 7:00 pm

Saturday: 8:30 am, 4:00 pm, & 7:00 pm

Sunday: 12:30 pm (en Español)

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Monday - Thursday: 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Friday: 8:00 pm - 8:00 am (Saturday)

ST. RITA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

“The soul of education is the education of the soul”

<https://saintrita-school.org/> | 703-548-1888

Principal Max Bindernagel

Preschool Director Caitlin Rockwell

PARISH MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to St. Rita Church! Please join us, as together we worship God and grow in love for one another under the protection of our patroness, St. Rita of Cascia. Registration forms can be found online at www.stritaalexandria.com/parish-registration/ or at the Parish Office.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Please contact the Parish Office to make arrangements to attend a Baptism preparation class, scheduled individually with Fr. Schierer. Please note that it is possible for expectant parents to attend the preparation class before the birth of their child.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Please contact the Parish Office to obtain an application to begin marriage preparation. Diocesan regulations require 6 months of marriage preparation. Living together before marriage is sinful and harmful to future marriage. Couples who are living together will be asked to live separately during the marriage preparation time.

HOSPITALIZED AND HOMEBOUND PARISHIONERS

Please contact the Parish office so that the hospitalized and homebound may receive pastoral care from the priests and volunteers of St. Rita.

Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

Monday, February 19, 2024

Monday of the First Week of Lent

7:00 am Duane Hackmann †
7:30 pm Gerardine Ann Moore †

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

Tuesday of the First Week of Lent

7:00 am Peter Migliorelli †

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

Wednesday of the First Week of Lent;

St. Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

7:00 am Cesar Anchiraico-Rosado
7:30 pm Francis "Med" Durel †

Thursday, February 22, 2024

The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle

7:00 am Conchita P. Clapp †

Friday, February 23, 2024

Thursday of the First Week of Lent;

St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr

7:00 am Donald J. Trump
7:30 pm Cecilia Sierra

Saturday, February 24, 2024

Saturday of the First Week of Lent

8:00 am Latha Deheragoda
5:00 pm Frederik Bruce Miller, Jr.

Sunday, February 25, 2024

Second Sunday of Lent

7:00 am Frank Walsh †
8:00 am Marian Passafaro †
11:00 am Missa Pro Populo
1:00 pm Alexis Flores

Additional Mass intentions this week:

Yvonne Laschon †, Aileen Warren, Joseph S. Maida, IV,
Joseph S. Maida, III †

Upcoming Second Collections

February 18: Black & Indian Missions

Thanks for your generosity!

Friday Lenten Soup Suppers

Join us **every Friday** in Lent at **5:30 pm** for a simple soup supper in the Parish Center followed by Stations of the Cross in the Church. Please bring a pot of meatless soup to share. Bread and water will be provided by the hosting group. This week's hosting group is the American Heritage Girls.

Bulletin Submissions

Please submit all announcements for the bulletin to bulletin.submit.strita@gmail.com by Wednesday, ten days before the desired bulletin date. Thank you!

Fridays of Lent

5:30 pm Soup and Stations
6:00 pm Estaciones en Español
6:30 pm Stations in English
7:00 pm Vespers

Lenten Regulations for Fast and Abstinence

Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics 14 years old and older on **Ash Wednesday** and all **Fridays of Lent**. This obligation prohibits the eating of meat, but not eggs, milk products, or condiments of any kind (even those made from animal fat). Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to **fast** on **Ash Wednesday** and **Good Friday**. On days of **fasting**, only one full meal may be taken. Two additional smaller meals are permitted to maintain strength, but the two smaller meals together may not equal one full meal.

Office Closed February 19th

The parish office will be closed, **Monday, February 19, 2024** in observance of Presidents' Day.

This Week at St. Rita

Sunday, February 18, 2024

5:00 pm Teams of Our Lady
6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

Monday, February 19, 2024

Parish Office closed in observance of Presidents' Day.
No Religious Education Classes.

5:30 pm Hispanic Legion of Mary

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

6:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

2:30 pm Homeschool Holy Hour
6:00 pm Religious Education Classes
8:00 pm Knights of Columbus Meeting

Thursday, February 22, 2024

4:00 pm Junior Legion of Mary

Friday, February 23, 2024

5:30 pm Soup and Stations
6:00 pm Estaciones en Español
6:30 pm Stations in English
7:00 pm Vespers

Saturday, February 24, 2024

9:00 am RCIA
9:15 am English Legion of Mary
6:30 pm Teams of Our Lady

Sunday, February 25, 2024

4:30 pm High School Sacrament Preparation
6:00 pm St. Rita Young Adult F4
6:00 pm High School Youth Group
6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

Lectors Needed

Become a lector and help to spread the Word of God and contribute to our parish. Lectors are needed for all Masses. Please consider volunteering for this ministry. Scheduling is flexible and training is provided. For more information, or to volunteer, please contact please contact [Frank Donahoe](mailto:Frank.Donahoe@arlingtondiocese.org) at **703-960-0719** or fpdonahoe137@gmail.com.

Christ House Evening Meal Donations

St. Rita Church will provide 75 meals for dinner at Christ House on **February 25th**. We need volunteers to provide: Beef Stew, Rolls, Mac & Cheese, Salad and/or Coleslaw, Fruit, Deserts, Cookies and Bars. If you would like to volunteer, please call [Susanne Arnold](mailto:Susanne.Arnold@arlingtondiocese.org) at **703-583-5138** for more information.

Offertory Counters Needed

The Offertory Counters have the important job of counting the weekly Sunday collections. Volunteering is low-commitment and only requires meeting once a month. If you are interested in volunteering as an offertory counter, please contact [Jill Bender](mailto:Jill.Bender@arlingtondiocese.org) at nymeetsva@yahoo.com.

Adoration at St. Rita

Like St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, secondary Patron of our Diocese, we can also nourish our Faith by spending time in Adoration of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. There are many opportunities for Adoration at St. Rita, including every **Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday** and **Thursday** from **6:30 pm-7:30 pm**. Friday All-Night Adoration also continues weekly from **8:00 pm Friday - 8:00 am on Saturday**. Please consider taking some time to come and adore the Lord in the Eucharist.

Please Pray for These St. Rita Parishioners

For all those discerning Religious Vocations:

Sr. Maria Josepha, Labor Mariae; William Manaker, Society of Jesus; Catherine Addington, Daughters of St. Paul; Vayla Lamarra, Benedictines of Mary, Queen of Apostles; Seminarians for the Diocese of Arlington, especially Joseph Connor and John Murphy

For the Sick in our Parish:

Diego Alzugaray, Ciarán Canning, Eva Conner, Margee M. Eife, Margaret Fisher, Elizabeth Holmes, Alexandra Meredith, Kimberly Meredith, Stephanie Prescott, Aileen Price, Constance Richardson, Joanne Robertson, Egidio and Graciela Vera-y-Aragón, Hayley Wynn

If you know of someone who should be on the list, please contact Vanessa at bulletin.submit.strita@gmail.com. Names will remain on the above prayer list for 30 days from the time they are requested. At the end of that time, you may renew your request. Thank you!

For the Deceased in our Parish:

Hessie Bannon, Laura Bean, Maggie Delia Bernard, Leger Brosnahan, Reno Carlitti, Rumalda Coletto, Margarita Linman, Martin McGarth, Joseph McKenna, Victor Manuel Piche, Alvaro Ramirez, Jesus Romero, Thomas Rowe, James Schick, Colleen Sheehan

2024 Bishop's Lenten Appeal (BLA)

This past weekend each household was asked to make a BLA pledge or gift. This appeal provides an opportunity to unite as a Catholic family to support programs, ministries and services helping tens of thousands of people. After reflecting upon God's blessings to you, please consider a pledge to the BLA. Each donation is vital to the success of the appeal and the important work that it funds. You may mail in your pledge, or you may go online to make a donation at www.arlingtondiocese.org/BLA or scan the QR code below to make a gift.



SCAN ME

Peticion Cuaresmal del Obispo de 2024

Este fin de semana pasado se le pido a cada familia que haga una promesa de contribución o una donación a la Peticion Cuaresmal del Obispo. Esta Peticion nos ofrece la oportunidad de unirnos como familia catolica para apoyar las programas, ministerios y servicios de ayuda a decenas de miles de personas. Después de reflexionar sobre las bendiciones que Dios les ha dado, piensen en la posibilidad de hacer una promesa de contribución a la Peticion Cuaresmal del Obispo. Para hacer una ofrenda pueden enviarla por correo postal, pueden hacer una donación en línea en www.arlingtondiocese.org/bla o escanear el código QR que aparece a continuación:



ESCANÉAME

Annual All Saints' Car Raffle

St. Rita's will once again be participating in the annual car raffle conducted by All Saints' Catholic Church. Prizes include four cars and cash prizes up to \$20,000. All registered parish families will be receiving tickets in the coming weeks. Proceeds will in part benefit our parish, so we strongly encourage all parishioners to participate by purchasing or selling their tickets. Further instructions will be found in the letter enclosed with the tickets.

Sorteo Anual de Autos de Todos los Santos

St. Rita's volverá a participar en la rifa anual de autos realizado por la Iglesia Católica de Todos los Santos. Los premios incluyen cuatro autos y premios en efectivo de hasta \$20,000. Todas las familias parroquiales registradas estarán recibiendo boletos en las próximas semanas. Los ingresos beneficiarán en parte a nuestra parroquia, por lo que animamos encarecidamente a todos los feligreses a participar mediante la compra o venta de sus entradas. Encontrará más instrucciones en la carta adjunta a los boletos.

News from the Diocese and Beyond

Vocations

"Christ suffered for sins once for all." Is He asking you to suffer with Him and bring others to God as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life? Contact Fr. Michael Isenberg, Vocations Director, at **(703) 841-2514** or email: vocations@arlingtondiocese.org.