

# 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](http://www.stritaalexandria.com) / [www.saintrita-school.org](http://www.saintrita-school.org)



## March 17, 2024: Fifth Sunday of Lent

### CLERGY AND STAFF

<b>Pastor</b>	Rev. Christopher P. Christensen frc41@gmail.com	Ext. 17
<b>Parochial Vicar</b>	Rev. Nicholas J. Schierer fatherschierer@gmail.com	Ext. 30
<b>In Residence</b>	Rev. Łukasz Duda	
<b>Permanent Deacon</b>	Deacon Stephen J. Dixon deacondixon.strita@gmail.com	
<b>Director of Sacred Music</b>	Lawrence Bowie lbowie.strita@gmail.com	Ext. 29
<b>Parish Secretary and Hispanic Liaison</b>	Alma Ramirez aramirez.strita@gmail.com	Ext. 10
<b>Business Manager</b>	Debbie Beck dbeck.strita@gmail.com	Ext. 13
<b>Director of Religious Education and Youth Ministry</b>	Sam Fortune sjfortune.strita@gmail.com	Ext. 12
<b>Coordinator of Young Adult Ministry</b>	Maria Goitiandia mgoitiandia.strita@gmail.com	
<b>Sacristan</b>	Elizabeth Vail evail.strita@gmail.com	Ext. 11
<b>Bulletin Editor</b>	Vanessa Lopez bulletin.submit.strita@gmail.com	
<b>Maintenance Manager</b>	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/](http://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, March 18, 2024

*Monday of the Fifth Week of Lent;*

*St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Doctor of the Church*

7:00 am The Curtin Family

7:30 pm Mary Walker

### Tuesday, March 19, 2024

*St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

7:00 am The Mann Family

### Wednesday, March 20, 2024

*Wednesday of the Fifth Week of Lent*

7:00 am Cecilia Sierra

7:30 pm Renuka Carlitti

### Thursday, March 21, 2024

*Thursday of the Fifth Week of Lent*

7:00 am The DiNuzzo Family

### Friday, March 22, 2024

*Friday of the Fifth Week of Lent*

7:00 am The Sanchez Family

7:30 pm Sarah Sabo

### Saturday, March 23, 2024

*Saturday of the Fifth Week of Lent;*

*St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop*

8:00 am The Descano Family

5:00 pm Noelle Kitenko

### Sunday, March 24, 2024

*Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord*

7:00 am Cecilia Sierra

8:00 am The Church Family

11:00 am Missa Pro Populo

1:00 pm Efrain Estrada Gomez

*Additional Mass intentions this week:*

Maria Bremberg, Michael Taylor, Erin Church, Pat McClaghry

### 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 Teams of Our Lady.

### Upcoming Second Collections

**March 24:** Easter Flowers

**March 28:** Holy Thursday

**March 29:** Holy Land (Good Friday)

**March 31:** Easter

*Thank you for your generosity!*

### Bulletin Submissions

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

### 2024 Bishop's Lenten Appeal (BLA)

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](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/BLA) or scan the QR code below to make a gift.



SCAN ME

### 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.

## This Week at St. Rita

### Sunday, March 17, 2024

4:30 pm High School Sacrament Preparation

5:00 pm Teams of Our Lady

6:00 pm High School Youth Group

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

### Monday, March 18, 2024

5:30 pm Hispanic Legion of Mary

6:00 pm Religious Education Classes

### Tuesday, March 19, 2024

6:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study

### Wednesday, March 20, 2024

2:30 pm Homeschool Holy Hour

6:00 pm Religious Education Classes

6:00 pm RICA (en Español)

8:00 pm Knights of Columbus Meeting

### Thursday, March 21, 2024

4:00 pm Junior Legion of Mary

### Friday, March 22, 2024

5:30 pm Soup and Stations

6:00 pm Estaciones en Español

6:30 pm Stations in English

7:00 pm Vespers

### Saturday, March 23, 2024

9:00 am RCIA

9:15 am English Legion of Mary

### Sunday, March 24, 2024

11:00 am Young Adult Brunch

4:30 pm High School Sacrament Preparation

6:00 pm High School Youth Group

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

### Lenten Cross Donations

Help to prepare your body, mind and spirit during Lent! Donate to those in need! Select a tag from the Lenten cross in the Russell Road vestibule for donation to the Mother of Light Center. Items can be delivered to St Rita Church during the season of Lent until **Sunday, April 6th**. Thank you for your generosity!

### Saint Rita School Admissions

If you would like your child to join our quest for the good, the true, and the beautiful, please consider applying now for the 2024-2025 school year. We have very few spaces remaining, with waiting lists in numerous grades, so please do not delay! Visit our school website at [saintrita-school.org/admissions/apply](http://saintrita-school.org/admissions/apply) or call our Admissions Director, **Mrs. Malia Busekrus**, at **(703) 548-1888 ext. 32** with any questions.

### St. Rita Seminarian to be Ordained Deacon

Bishop Michael F. Burbidge will ordain 12 seminarians to the transitional diaconate on **Saturday, April 6, 2024**, including St. Rita Seminarian Joseph Connor. All are welcome to attend the ordinations at St. Theresa Catholic Church, Ashburn, VA at **11:00 am**. Soon-to-be Deacon Joseph Connor will preach at the **11:00 am** Mass at St. Rita on **Divine Mercy Sunday, April 7, 2024**. Please continue to pray for Joseph and all of our diocesan seminarians as they continue their formation to become priests for the Diocese of Arlington.

### 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, Renuka Carlitti, Eva Conner, Margee M. Eife, Margaret Fisher, Elizabeth Holmes, Alexandra Meredith, Kimberly Meredith, Stephanie Prescott, 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](mailto: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, Aileen Price Alvaro Ramirez, Jesus Romero, Thomas Rowe, James Schick, Colleen Sheehan, Laura Maitre Stevens

### Holy Week 2024

#### Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024

Regular Sunday Mass Schedule

#### Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week

**7:00 am** Mass  
**6:30 - 7:30 pm** Adoration  
**7:00 pm** Confession  
**7:30 pm** Mass \*

\* *Tuesday evening's Mass will be a Latin Novus Ordo*

#### Wednesday, March 27, 2024

**8:30 pm** Tenebrae

#### The Sacred Paschal Triduum

**6:00 pm** Misa de la Cena del Señor  
**7:30 pm** Mass of the Lord's Supper (English)  
**After Mass – Midnight** Vigil before the Blessed Sacrament  
 \*\**There will be no evening confessions on Holy Thursday\*\**

#### Good Friday, March 29, 2024

**8:30 am** Good Friday Lauds (Morning Prayer)  
**9:00 am - 12:00 pm** Confession  
**12:00 pm** Stations of the Cross (English)  
**3:00 pm** Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English)  
**6:00 pm** "Via Crucis" en vivo en Español  
*(Living Stations of the Cross in Spanish)*

**Despues** Celebración de la Pasión del Señor

\*\**There will be no evening confessions on Good Friday\*\**

#### Holy Saturday, March 30, 2024

**8:30 am** Holy Saturday Lauds (Morning Prayer)  
**After Lauds** Polish Blessing of the Easter Food  
**9:00 am - 12:00pm** Confession

\*\**There will be no afternoon or evening confessions on Holy Saturday\*\**

### Easter 2024

#### Saturday, March 30, 2024

**8:30 pm** Easter Vigil Mass  
*There will be no afternoon or evening confessions and no 5:00 pm Mass on Holy Saturday.*

#### Sunday March 31, 2024

Regular Sunday Mass Schedule

### Divine Mercy Sunday

#### Sunday, April 7, 2024

**3:00 - 4:00 pm** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
 Divine Mercy Chaplet  
 Silent Adoration  
 Confessions  
 Benediction

### News from the Diocese and Beyond

#### Vocations

"He became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him." The gift of a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life is discerned through prayer and grace. Contact Fr. Michael Isenberg, Vocations Director, at **(703) 841-2514** or email: [vocations@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:vocations@arlingtondiocese.org).