

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



April 28, 2024: Fifth Sunday of Easter

CLERGY AND STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Christopher P. Christensen frcc41@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	

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.

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

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, April 29, 2024

St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

7:00 am Frank Walsh †

7:30 pm Schmid Family

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

St. Pius V, Pope

7:00 am George N. Gee †

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

St. Joseph the Worker

7:00 am Betty Camp †

7:30 pm Cecilia Sierra

Thursday, May 2, 2024

St. Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

7:00 am Catherine Yore Smith †

Friday, May 3, 2024

Saints Philip and James, Apostles

7:00 am Martin Oliverio

7:30 pm Bill and Laurie Bean †

Saturday, May 4, 2024

Saturday of the Fifth Week of Easter

8:00 am Peter Kuczynski †

5:00 pm Robin and Brenda Humphrey †

Sunday, May 5, 2024

Sixth Sunday of Easter

7:00 am Austin and Veronica Simon

8:00 am Moira McBride

11:00 am Missa Pro Populo

1:00 pm Luis Lemus

Additional Mass intentions this week:

Lauren Prettitore, Holly Carroll, Thomas Ernest Murray †,
Don Roscoe Murray †

Save the Date: St. Rita Festival

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend our Annual Festival on **Saturday, May 25th, 11am-3pm** in the St. Rita parking lot. Celebrate our 100th Anniversary with live performances including Marie Miller; Pupusas, Tacos, Snow Cones, and Beer & Wine for sale; Bouncy Castle, Rock Climbing, and Face Painting for children; Church Tours, 'Dunk the Pastor,' and more! There is no admission fee, but donations will be accepted. If you are interested in helping with this exciting day, please contact: [Maria Goitiandia](mailto:Maria.Goitiandia@mgoitiandia.strita@gmail.com) at mgoitiandia.strita@gmail.com.

Upcoming Second Collections

May 5: Repairs & Replacements

May 5: Diocesan Retired Priests

May 12: Catholic Communication Campaign

Thank you for your generosity!

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!

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

Olive Wood Carvings by Bethlehem Christians

Help support our brothers and sisters in Bethlehem by purchasing Olivewood carvings from the Holy Land. These beautiful carvings are handmade by the Christians of Bethlehem and will be displayed for purchase after all Masses on the weekend of **April 27-28**. For more information, please contact the Bethlehem Carving Group at **202-302-5889** or visit www.BethlehemCarvings.org.

Knights of Columbus Blood Drive

The Knights of Columbus will be hosting the Inova bloodmobile at St. Rita Church on **Saturday, June 29** from **10 am - 2 pm**. Many lives have been saved thanks to the generosity of our community in past drives. Look for the Knights after Mass on the **weekend of May 4-5** or use the link below to sign up: https://www.inovabloodsaves.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/34051.

Vespers Every Friday

Join the parish for sung Vespers every Friday night in the church at 7pm. Vespers, also known as Evening Prayer, is one of the principal Hours of the Liturgy of the Hours. It includes Psalms, a reading, and other prayers. Vespers will be a mixture of English and Latin chants.

This Week at St. Rita

Sunday, April 28, 2024

Bethlehem Olive Wood Carvings for Sale after all Masses.

4:30 pm High School Sacrament Preparation

5:00 pm Teams of Our Lady

6:00 pm High School Youth Group

6:00 pm St. Rita Young Adults F4

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

Monday, April 29, 2024

5:30 pm Hispanic Legion of Mary

6:00 pm Religious Education Classes

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

6:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

6:00 pm Religious Education Classes

6:15 pm RICA (en Español)

Thursday, May 2, 2024

4:00 pm Junior Legion of Mary

Friday, May 3, 2024

7:00 pm Vespers

Saturday, May 4, 2024

9:00 am RCIA

9:15 am Legion of Mary

10:00 am First Holy Communion

Sunday, May 5, 2024

4:30 pm High School Sacrament Preparation

5:30 pm Teams of Our Lady

6:00 pm High School Youth Group

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

Saint Rita School Employment Opportunities

If you would like to serve our parish school in some capacity, we have various opportunities available now and for the 2024-2025 school year. We would love to consider you for any temporary or permanent full or part-time teaching positions, including substitute opportunities, as well as support and classroom aide positions. Please send a resume and cover letter to Assistant Principal **Mrs. Malia Busekrus** at mbusekrus@saintrita-school.org to express your interest, and we will look for a position that may be the right fit for you!

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 or call our Admissions Director, **Mrs. Malia Busekrus**, at **(703) 548-1888 ext. 32** with any questions.

Poor Box Donations

In recent months we have had so many people requesting assistance that our poor box funds have been depleted. Please consider making a donation to the poor box to help the many needy persons in our community. You can make a donation by placing it in the poor boxes located in the church, through Parish Giving, or dropping off a check at the parish office.

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 Deacon Joseph Connor, and John Murphy

For the Sick in our Parish:

John Abarre, Diego Alzugaray, Ciarán Canning, Renuka Carlitti, Eva Conner, Samuel Dunton, Margee M. Eife, Margaret Fisher, Elizabeth Holmes, Alexandra Meredith, Kimberly Meredith, Stephanie Prescott, Michael Slavin, 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, Aileen Price Alvaro Ramirez, Jesus Romero, Thomas Rowe, James Schick, Colleen Sheehan, Laura Maitre Stevens, Angela Wilson

Legion of Mary

The Legion of Mary is a lay apostolate that does the Spiritual Works of Mercy. Founded by Frank Duff in 1921 in Ireland, it has spread throughout the world. Here at St. Rita Parish, the English Adult Legion group meets on **Saturdays at 9:15am** in the Parish Center conference room. Some of the works they do are door-to-door visitation, Pilgrim Virgin visits and auxiliary visits. The Junior Legion of Mary, open to children in grade 3 and higher, meets on Thursdays. They visit Alexandria Rehab Center as their work. For more information, please contact **Vivian Moran** at vbmoran@juno.com or call or text her at **(703) 888-8196**.

News from the Diocese and Beyond

Finding Jesus in the Virtuous Life Young Adult Retreat

God's law orders us towards goodness. His grace also transforms us from within, ordering every aspect of our lives towards union with Him, and this is the essence of the virtuous life. Join Fr. Steven Oetjen for an exciting young adult retreat at Arlington Diocese's San Damiano Retreat Center in White Post, VA. This young adult retreat will be an opportunity to spend a weekend contemplating the "well-ordered life in Christ," with special attention given to the virtues of fortitude and temperance. The retreat begins at **5 pm** on **Friday, May 10**, and ends at **1 pm** on **Sunday, May 12**. Retreat cost is \$285, and financial assistance may be available. For further information or to register for this retreat, please contact **Deacon Mark Maines** at mark.maines@arlingtondiocese.org.

St. Martin de Porres Senior Center - Volunteers Needed

St. Martin de Porres Senior Center, 4650 Taney Avenue, Alexandria, is seeking volunteers for arts and crafts, exercise, serving congregational meals, computer/tech instructors and to give presentations. Flexible schedule. St. Martin's Senior Center provides services to prevent senior isolation and promote their wellness and independence. The Senior Center is a multicultural community with more than 20 countries represented. Center hours are Monday-Friday, 9:30 am - 1:30 pm. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact maria.mellor@ccda.net or **703-751-2766**.

Relevant Radio

24/7 Catholic radio is now available in the DC region on channel 1260 AM. Relevant Radio has excellent shows that discuss current events, spiritual growth, and prayers such as the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet that you can listen to while driving in your car or at home anytime. For more information, go to www.relevantradio.com or just download the Relevant Radio app!

Vocations

"Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action." Are you being called to love the Lord and His people as a priest, deacon, sister or brother? Love demands truth and action. Contact Fr. Michael Isenberg, Vocations Director, at **(703) 841-2514** or email: vocations@arlingtondiocese.org.