

# 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)



**May 5, 2024: Sixth Sunday of Easter**

## 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

## 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.

## 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.

## Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

### Monday, May 6, 2024

*Monday of the Sixth Week of Easter*

7:00 am Elisa Schnur  
7:30 pm Danny Hurley ☩

### Tuesday, May 7, 2024

*Tuesday of the Sixth Week of Easter*

7:00 am Katherine Chipman Bush ☩

### Wednesday, May 8, 2024

*Wednesday of the Sixth Week of Easter*

7:00 am John Durel  
7:30 pm Karen Davidson

### Thursday, May 9, 2024

*Ascension of the Lord*

7:00 am Elizabeth Schnur

### Friday, May 10, 2024

*St. John of Avila, Priest and Doctor of the Church;*

*St. Damien de Veuster, Priest*

7:00 am Rev. John T. O'Hara  
7:30 pm Margaret Oliverio

### Saturday, May 11, 2024

*Saturday of the Sixth Week of Easter*

8:00 am Philip Schnur  
5:00 pm Anita Alweis ☩

### Sunday, May 12, 2024

*The Ascension of the Lord (observed)*

7:00 am Thana Dixon ☩  
8:00 am Alice Walsh and Mary Jackson ☩  
11:00 am Missa Pro Populo  
1:00 pm Noely Estrada

*Additional Mass intentions this week:*

Rev. Christopher P. Christensen, Elizabeth Vail,  
Joanne Robertson, Santiago R. Soutuyo ☩

### 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@strita@gmail.com) at [mgoitiandia.strita@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:bulletin.submit.strita@gmail.com) by Wednesday, ten days before the desired bulletin date. Thank you!

### Spanish Baptism Class

The next Spanish Baptism class will take place on **Thursday, May 9 at 6:00 pm**. English Baptism classes are scheduled on an individual basis with Fr. Schierer. Please contact the parish office for more information or to sign up for a class.

### 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](https://www.inovabloodsaves.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/34051).

### Novena to St. Rita

The Novena to St. Rita begins **Monday, May 13**. Novena prayer cards will be available in all vestibules. The relic of St. Rita will be on our Lady's altar for veneration throughout the Novena. Stop by and pray for St. Rita's intercession!

## This Week at St. Rita

### Sunday, May 5, 2024

*Knights of Columbus Blood Drive Sign Ups after All Masses*

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

### Monday, May 6, 2024

5:30 pm Hispanic Legion of Mary  
6:00 pm Religious Education Classes

### Tuesday, May 7, 2024

6:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study

### Wednesday, May 8, 2024

2:30 pm Homeschool Holy Hour  
6:00 pm Religious Education Classes  
6:15 pm RICA (en Español)  
8:15 pm St. Rita Young Adult Women's Group  
8:15 pm St. Rita Young Adult Men's Group

### Thursday, May 9, 2024

4:00 pm Junior Legion of Mary

### Friday, May 10, 2024

7:00 pm Vespers  
7:30 pm Men's Fellowship Meeting

### Saturday, May 11, 2024

9:15 am Legion of Mary

### Sunday, May 12, 2024

3:00 pm Archconfraternity of the Holy Face  
4:30 pm High School Sacrament Preparation  
6:00 pm High School Youth Group  
6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group



### Archconfraternity of the Holy Face

The next meeting of the St. Rita Chapter of the Archconfraternity of the Holy Face will be next **Sunday, May 12 at 3:00 pm** in the church. All are welcome to join us for the devotion's powerful prayers, including a short meditative reflection for all attendees. This new prayer group is dedicated to offering reparation for blasphemies against Our Lord and His Holy Name, for sins against keeping Sunday holy, and for sins of revolution and communism. You can read about the devotion at <https://hisholyface.com/the-devotion/>. The meetings will continue at **3:00 PM** on the **second Sunday of each month**.

### Organ Recital and Sacred Music for Pentecost

Join us **Sunday, May 19, at 7:00pm**, for a concert of sacred music for Pentecost, with Lawrence Bowie, Director of Sacred Music, assisted by schola cantorum, cello and violin, featuring works by Titelouze, Buxtehude, Bach, Bohm, Bernhard, Viadana, and Mozart, as well as the sung Solemn Te Deum. A reception will follow in the Parish Center.

### 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:

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](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:

John Abarre, 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

### Seventh Annual Rogation Boundary Bike Ride

Join us in reviving the ancient tradition of marking the Rogation days here at St. Rita Parish! In earlier times, Rogation originated as a solemn procession on foot around the parish boundary to pray for God's protection against disasters and blessing of the fields. As a pilgrimage in our own backyard, we will make a circuit of the parish boundaries by bike on **Saturday, May 11**, beginning with Adoration at **6 am** and then proceeding to Four Mile Run Park to recite the Litany of Saints and stop at points along the way to mark the boundary with blessed chalk. The loop is a mildly strenuous 7.5 miles and portions of the route are in the road, so keep this in mind as you consider the appropriate skill and comfort level. The ride takes around 2 hours. For more information, please contact **Joshua Bowman** at [mrbeaujo@gmail.com](mailto:mrbeaujo@gmail.com).

### News from the Diocese and Beyond

#### Volunteer Sewing Instructors for MOLC's Sewing School

Mother of Light Center (MOLC) is seeking volunteers to support the MOLC Sewing School. The program's mission is to empower women from low-income, immigrant families by learning sewing skills, increasing their income, and boosting self-esteem. Passionate volunteers with sewing skills are desperately needed at this time, due to personal circumstances with our current teacher. Classes are on **Saturdays from 3:00 – 6:00 PM** at the MOLC. Please contact **Aimee Gilroy** at [aimee@agilroygroup.com](mailto:aimee@agilroygroup.com) or **202-641-5708** for further details.

#### 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](mailto: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 congregate meals, and computer/tech instructors. Schedule is flexible. 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](mailto:maria.mellor@ccda.net) or **703-751-2766**.

#### Vocations

"God sent His only Son into the world so that we might live through Him." Are you open to the call to be sent into the world as a priest or consecrated religious, that others might live in Christ? If you think God may be offering you this grace, contact Fr. Michael Isenberg, Vocations Director, at **(703) 841-2514** or email: [vocations@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:vocations@arlingtondiocese.org).