

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



October 6, 2024: Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

CLERGY AND STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Christopher P. Christensen frc41@gmail.com	Ext. 17
Parochial Vicar	Rev. Nicholas Schierer fatherschierer@gmail.com	Ext. 30
Permanent Deacon	Deacon Stephen J. Dixon deacondixon.strita@gmail.com	
In Residence	Rev. Paul Berghout ihmpadre@gmail.com	Ext. 15
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	Chloe Holloway cholloway.strita@gmail.com	Ext. 12
Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry	Maria Goitiandia mgoitiandia.strita@gmail.com	Ext. 38
Sacristan	Elizabeth Vail evail.strita@gmail.com	Ext. 11
Bulletin Editor	Elizabeth Vail 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, 9:15 am (2nd Sunday: Novus Ordo Latin), 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: 6:30 pm (**new time starting October 7**)

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

Malia Busekrus

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 in the Russell Road entrance of the church, or online at www.stritaalexandria.com/parish-registration/.

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, October 7, 2024

Our Lady of the Rosary

7:00 am Violet Therese Oliverio

7:30 pm The Rathe Family

Tuesday, October 8, 2024

Tuesday of the Twenty-Seventh Week in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Kathryn Jackson †

Wednesday, October 9, 2024

Saint Denis, Bishop, and Companions, Martyrs;

Saint John Leonardi, Priest

7:00 am Debbie Beck

7:30 pm John Francis Oliverio

Thursday, October 10, 2024

Thursday of the Twenty-Seventh Week in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Jon Schnur

Friday, October 11, 2024

Saint John XIII, Pope

7:00 am Madeline Connor Oliverio

7:30 pm Beatrice Szele-Szechenyi

Saturday, October 12, 2024

Saturday of the Twenty-Seventh Week in Ordinary Time

8:00 am Fr. Nicholas Schierer

5:00 pm Nicholas von Guggenberg †

Sunday, October 13, 2024

Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Donna and David Connor

8:00 am Fr. Nicholas Schierer

9:15 am Santiago R. Soutuyo †

11:00 am Missa Pro Populo

1:00 pm Maria de Jesus Benavides †

Additional Mass Intentions this Week:

Francisco B. Paredes, Jr. †, Noemi Neville, All Souls in Purgatory †

Change to Confession Schedule Beginning October 7

Beginning **October 7, 2024, Monday - Friday** Confessions will begin at **6:30 pm** instead of 7:00 pm, and there will be only one priest hearing Confessions. Confessions will end at **7:15 pm** on **Monday - Thursday** for Benediction and Mass, and will resume after Mass if there are still penitents. On **Friday**, Confessions will continue through Vespers and Mass. The Weekend Confession Schedule remains unchanged. For more information, as well as resources for Confession and Examination of Conscience, please see the Note from Fr. Christensen in the Parish Email Newsletter for **September 29, 2024**. The Notes from Fr. Christensen can be found on our website at <https://stritaalexandria.com/this-weeks-note-from-fr-christensen/>. If you would like to receive our weekly newsletter, please send an email to saintritanewsletter@gmail.com.

Bulletin Submissions

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

Coffee and Donuts Today in the School Hall

Please join us for Coffee and Donuts in the **School Hall** today after all Masses, starting after the 8:00 am Mass. Please note the change in location for this week.

Baby and Children's Clothing and Gear Swap Today

All St. Rita parishioners are welcome to take any baby or children's items they can use today between **8:30 am - 2 pm** in the **Convent Garden**. You can also drop off gently used baby or kids' clothes, gear, supplies, toys, or books to donate (with clothes bagged by size and gender, up to size 5T). At the end of the event, all remaining items will be donated to Mother of Light Center (MOLC). If possible, please also bring a package of diapers in sizes 4, 5, or 6 for MOLC in honor of October's Respect Life Month.

Annual Life Chain Today

St. Rita Parish will be hosting our own Life Chain this year on **Sunday, October 6** from **2:00 - 3:00 pm** along **Russell and West Glebe Roads**. Please bring your Rosary and a sign to participate in this peaceful witness to life which is still so needed in our time. For more information, contact **Chris Durel** at bprprd@gmail.com or **571-289-7228**.



This Week at St. Rita

Sunday, October 6, 2024

Coffee and Donuts after all Masses, beginning with the 8am Mass

St. Lucy Project Food Drive Bags collected after all Masses

St. Rita History Books being sold after all Masses

8:30 am - 2:00 pm Children's Clothing and Gear Swap

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm Annual Life Chain

5:30 pm Teams of our Lady

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

Monday, October 7, 2024

5:30 pm Legión de María (en Español)

6:00 pm Religious Education Classes

Tuesday, October 8, 2024

7:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study

Wednesday, October 9, 2024

6:00 pm Religious Education Classes

7:30 pm RICA (en Español)

8:15 pm St. Rita Young Adults Men's Group

8:15 pm St. Rita Young Adults Women's Group

Thursday, October 10, 2024

4:00 pm Junior Legion of Mary

6:30 pm Legion of Mary

Friday, October 11, 2024

7:00 pm Vespers

7:30 pm Men's Fellowship

Saturday, October 12, 2024

9:00 am OCIA

Sunday, October 13, 2024

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm Rosary and Holy Face Procession

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

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ANNIVERSARY

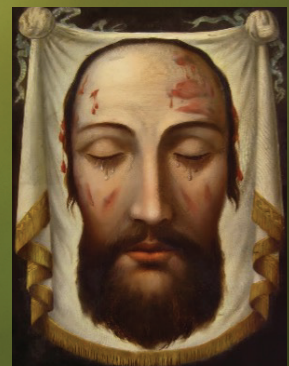
SAINT RITA CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rosary Procession

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 3:00-4:00 PM

Join us for a Rosary Procession in honor of our Lady of Fatima (this day being the 107th Anniversary of her last apparition to the three shepherd children) and the Holy Face of Jesus.

We will begin in the church, process through the Arlandria neighborhood, and end back in the church. What better way to give public witness to our Lord and our Lady on this special day.



Faith, Screens, & Our Families

Thursday October 17, 2024

Before Covid, almost half of teens described their internet use as constant. For all age brackets, young and old, screen use has gone up since then.



What impact is this growing screen usage having on our children?

What can we do about it?

7:00 pm

St. Rita's Catholic School Hall, Alexandria Virginia

Come learn how screen-based technology usage is impacting your family and get advice for protecting yourself and your children from its harmful effects. This is a practical and spiritual call to action.

Peter Ryan is a Catholic husband and father of four who recently retired as a Navy Captain after 28 years of service. In his free time, he began studying the profound effects that screen based technology is having on our lives. He authored "Technology, The New Addiction," which was published in the September 2018 edition of the U.S. Navy Journal *Proceedings*. He and his 20-year old daughter Theresa, a junior at Franciscan University of Steubenville, who uses the Lightphone, began speaking on this topic throughout the Diocese of Arlington after she gave up her smart phone almost four years ago.

Parish Pilgrimage to the Shrine of St. Rita

There are no spots remaining on the bus to Philadelphia for the 100th anniversary pilgrimage to the Shrine of St. Rita of Cascia on **Monday, October 14, 2024 (Columbus Day)**. If you would like to join us for the pilgrimage, but didn't get a space on the bus, you can still meet us in Philadelphia. For details on where and when to meet us, please contact **Sarah Greiner** at sdgreiner1@verizon.net or **703-389-7006**. Thank you for your enthusiasm for this anniversary event!

Men's Fellowship for October

The St Rita Men's Fellowship will meet on **Friday, October 11**, at **7:30 pm** in the school courtyard, weather permitting, and in the Parish Center (enter through the back) if it rains. Please join us for prayer, conversation, and "manly solidarity" under the patronage of St. Joseph, "Patron of Carpenters and Craftsmen." Bring food, a chair, and cold beverages or snacks to share—and your rosary! Contact **Rick Strobach** at rick.strobach@gmail.com for more information. New and past members are always welcome! Sancte Joseph, Ora pro nobis !

Our Lady of Fatima Rosary Procession

Join us on **Sunday, October 13**, from **3:00 - 4:00 pm**, for a Rosary Procession in honor of our Lady of Fatima (this day being the 107th Anniversary of her last apparition to the three shepherd children) and the Holy Face of Jesus. We will begin in the church, process through the Arlandria neighborhood, and end back in the church. What better way to give public witness to our Lord and our Lady on this special day.

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, Karen Davidson, Samuel Dunton, J.G., Shannon Harris, Elizabeth Holmes, Alexandra Meredith, Kimberly Meredith, Stephanie Prescott, Michael Slavin, Constance Richardson, Egidio and Graciela Vera-y-Aragón, Benjamin Weitzel, Hayley Wynn

If you know of someone who should be on the list, please contact Elizabeth 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:

John Abarre, HESSIE BANNON, Bob D'Sylva, Mary Gleeson, William C. Haas, Margarita Linman, Martin McGarth, Oscar Merino, Victor Manuel Piche, Aileen Price, Joanne Robertson, Thomas Rowe, James Schick, Laura Maitre Stevens, George Szele, Rafael Vasquez-Coubert, Raymond Williams, Angela Wilson

Faith, Screens, and Our Families

Join the St. Rita School Community on **Thursday, October 17, at 7:00 pm** in the School Hall for a talk by Captain Peter Ryan, U.S. Navy (Retired) to learn how screen-based technology usage is impacting your family and get advice for protecting yourself and your children from its harmful effects. This is a practical and spiritual call to action.

St. Nicholas Market: Save the Date

The 4th Annual St. Nicholas Market will be held on **Sunday, December 8**, from **10:30 am - 3:30 pm**. Be sure to mark your calendars and bring the entire family to this fun-filled event! If you are interested in being a vendor or helping with the committee, please email **Amanda** at saintritaahospitality@gmail.com. This annual event brings together hundreds of families for Christmas shopping, fellowship, and merrymaking, and fosters our strong parish community. We have a number of corporate and family sponsorships available this year! Sponsorship information is available on our website (<https://stritaalexandria.com/st-nicholas-market/>). Please consider joining us!

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 at nymeetsva@yahoo.com.

August 2024 Collections

Regular Offertory:	\$33,882
Parish Giving Offertory:	\$53,123
Repairs & Replacements:	\$2,514
Parish Giving Repairs & Replacements:	\$4,629
Poor Box:	\$3,248
Parish Giving Poor Box:	\$5,095

Upcoming Second Collections

October 6:	Repairs and Replacements
October 20:	World Mission Sunday
October 27:	Porto Charities
November 1:	All Saints Day
November 2:	All Souls Day
November 3:	Repairs and Replacements

Thank you for your continued generosity!

Parking Notice

Please do not park in the spaces across from the Russell Road entrance to the church. These spaces are reserved and paid for by Presidential Greens residents. Please remember that we have permission from **The Birchmere** to use their front parking lot on **Sunday mornings from 7:30 am to 2:30 pm**. Please follow the signs and only park in the designated areas. Please vacate the lot by **2:30 pm**.

News from the Diocese and Beyond

Vocations

"Let the little children come to me; ..." Are you being called to bring others to Christ and His Kingdom as a priest, deacon, sister or brother? Contact **Father Michael Isenberg** at **703-841-2514**, or email michael.isenberg@arlingtondiocese.org.