

# 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)



## October 13, 2024: Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### CLERGY AND STAFF

|   |   |         |
|---|---|---------|
| <b>Pastor</b>                                     | Rev. Christopher P. Christensen<br>frc41@gmail.com      | Ext. 17 |
| <b>Parochial Vicar</b>                            | Rev. Nicholas Schierer<br>fatherschierer@gmail.com      | Ext. 30 |
| <b>Permanent Deacon</b>                           | Deacon Stephen J. Dixon<br>deacondixon.strita@gmail.com |         |
| <b>In Residence</b>                               | Rev. Paul Berghout<br>ihmpadre@gmail.com                | Ext. 15 |
| <b>Director of Sacred Music</b>                   | Lawrence Bowie<br>lbowie.strita@gmail.com               | Ext. 29 |
| <b>Parish Secretary and Hispanic Liaison</b>      | Alma Ramirez<br>aramirez.strita@gmail.com               | Ext. 10 |
| <b>Business Manager</b>                           | Debbie Beck<br>dbeck.strita@gmail.com                   | Ext. 13 |
| <b>Director of Religious Education</b>            | Chloe Holloway<br>cholloway.strita@gmail.com            | Ext. 12 |
| <b>Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry</b> | Maria Goitiandia<br>mgoitiandia.strita@gmail.com        | Ext. 38 |
| <b>Sacristan</b>                                  | Elizabeth Vail<br>evail.strita@gmail.com                | Ext. 11 |
| <b>Bulletin Editor</b>                            | Elizabeth Vail<br>bulletin.submit.strita@gmail.com      |         |
| <b>Maintenance Manager</b>                        | Adan Aguilar<br>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/](http://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 14, 2024

*Saint Callistus I, Pope and Martyr*

7:00 am Dorothy Marie Oliverio  
7:30 pm Austin and Veronica Simon

### Tuesday, October 15, 2024

*Saint Teresa of Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church*

7:00 am Micky Minto †

### Wednesday, October 16, 2024

*Saint Hedwig, Religious; Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, Virgin*

7:00 am Patricia Carter †  
7:30 pm Francis J. Sullivan †

### Thursday, October 17, 2024

*Saint Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop and Martyr*

7:00 am Frank and Roxann Fragale

### Friday, October 18, 2024

*Saint Luke, Evangelist*

7:00 am Emma Faustina Oliverio  
7:30 pm David Connor

### Saturday, October 19, 2024

*Saints John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues, Priests, and Companions, Martyrs*

8:00 am Priseilla S. Dozier †  
5:00 pm John Oliverio

### Sunday, October 20, 2024

*Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

7:00 am Luke Tracey  
8:00 am The Trump Family  
11:00 am Missa Pro Populo  
1:00 pm Steven Velasquez

*Additional Mass Intentions this Week:*

Joseph Durel, Cory Haley, All Souls in Purgatory †, Lucas Soutuyo and Josefa Rodriguez †

### 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 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/>.



The Parish Office will be closed on **Monday, October 14**, in observance of the Columbus Day Holiday.

### Bulletin Submissions

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



### Our Lady of Fatima Rosary Procession Today

Join us **today** 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.

### 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](mailto:sdgreiner1@verizon.net) or **703-389-7006**.



### Upcoming Second Collections

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!

## This Week at St. Rita

### Sunday, October 13, 2024

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm Rosary and Holy Face Procession  
6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

### Monday, October 14, 2024

*Parish Office closed in observance of the Columbus Day holiday  
No Religious education classes*

5:30 pm Legión de María (en Español)

### Tuesday, October 15, 2024

7:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study

### Wednesday, October 16, 2024

2:30 pm Homeschool Holy Hour  
6:00 pm Religious Education Classes  
7:30 pm RICA (en Español)  
8:00 pm Knights of Columbus Meeting

### Thursday, October 17, 2024

4:00 pm Junior Legion of Mary  
6:30 pm Legion of Mary

### Friday, October 18, 2024

7:00 pm Vespers

### Saturday, October 19, 2024

9:00 am OCIA  
6:30 pm Teams of our Lady

### Sunday, October 20, 2024

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



### Jesuit Martyrs of Virginia



Thirty-seven years before the founding of Jamestown, a small band of Spanish Jesuit missionaries preached the Gospel to the native people. Come learn about the cause for canonization of these missionaries in a presentation

by Fr. Andrew Fisher, Pastor of St. Ambrose Parish, and a member of the Historical Commission for the Cause of the Martyrs of La Florida, which includes the Jesuit Martyrs of Virginia, on **Sunday, October 27 at 6:30 pm** in the **St. Rita School Hall**.

### Porto Charities Second Collection

The second collection on the weekend of **October 26-27** will benefit Porto Charities, a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing access to diocesan Catholic schools for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Our schools need financial support to provide the additional resources to support these students, and your donation will help them create or expand their inclusion programs for the coming year. Since 2009, Porto Charities has given more than \$1.2 million in grants to all four of our Catholic High Schools and more than fifteen elementary schools. Thank you for your generosity to this collection, which enables our diocese to continue to serve those who want and deserve the tremendous benefit of a Catholic education. To learn more about Porto Charities, please visit <https://www.portocharities.org/>.



### 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**.

### 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 [saintrita hospitality@gmail.com](mailto:saintrita hospitality@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!

### Faith, Screens, and Our Families



Join the St. Rita School Community this **Thursday, October 17, at 7:00 pm** in the **St. Rita 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.

### Substitute Teachers Needed

Saint Rita School is looking for substitute teachers (Pre-K-8th Grade) to fill in on a daily basis and occasionally for extended periods. A good rapport with children is essential, but a teaching license is not required. Candidates must have a Bachelor's Degree. For more information or to apply to get on our substitute list, please send a resume and cover letter to:

Pre-School: **Caitlin Rockwell** at [crockwell@saintrita-school.org](mailto:crockwell@saintrita-school.org)  
K-8: **Malia Busekrus** at [mbusekrus@saintrita-school.org](mailto:mbusekrus@saintrita-school.org)

### 20th Annual St. Rita 5K and Fun Run

Join us on **Saturday, November 2**, for the St. Rita 5K and Fun Run. The course for 2024 will be a flat, fast out-and-back along Main Line Boulevard and Potomac Avenue in the Potomac Yard neighborhood of Alexandria. The Start/Finish line will be behind George Washington Middle School (enter via Mt. Vernon Avenue). It is a tree-lined course that should be sporting beautiful fall colors! The 1K Fun Run begins at **8:00 am**, and the 5K will begin at **8:30 am**. For more information and to sign up, please visit <https://runsignup.com/strita5k>.

### 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, John Murphy, and Daniel Usewick

#### 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](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, 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

### News from the Diocese and Beyond

#### Vocations

"Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" If you ask the Lord this question in prayer, trust in his grace to respond with a joyful "yes," and consider following Christ more closely as a priest or in consecrated life. Contact **Father Michael Isenberg** at **703-841-2514**, or email [michael.isenberg@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:michael.isenberg@arlingtondiocese.org).