

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



November 24, 2024: Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

CLERGY AND STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Christopher P. Christensen frec41@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

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, November 25, 2024

Saint Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin and Martyr

7:00 am George Garrity †

7:30 pm Howard McGrew

Tuesday, November 26, 2024

Tuesday of the Thirty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Russell Satalich †

Wednesday, November 27, 2024

Wednesday of the Thirty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Elaine Davidson †

7:30 pm The Paredes Family

Thursday, November 28, 2024

Thursday of the Thirty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time

(Thanksgiving Day)

7:00 am Carol Austin

8:30 am Frank and Alice Walsh †

Friday, November 29, 2024

Friday of the Thirty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Joanne Robertson †

7:30 pm Elizabeth and Sylvester Downing †

Saturday, November 30, 2024

Saint Andrew, Apostle

8:00 am Billy Folz †

5:00 pm Marie Ann Kuczynski †

Sunday, December 1, 2024

First Sunday of Advent

7:00 am Sabine Culotta

8:00 am Felice Litterio †

11:00 am Missa Pro Populo

1:00 pm Genesis Villagran

Additional Mass Intentions this Week:

All Souls in Purgatory †, Celebrant's Intention, Jesus Fernandez Lema †

Lectors Needed

Become a lector and help spread the Word of God and contribute to our parish. Lectors are needed for all English Masses. Scheduling is flexible and training is provided. Please consider volunteering for this ministry. To volunteer, or if you would like more information, please contact **Frank Donahoe** at **703-960-0719** or **fpdonahoe137@gmail.com**.



Knights of Columbus Advent Candle Sales

Advent is approaching! To help you prepare, the Knights of Columbus will be selling Advent Candles after all Saturday evening and Sunday Masses on **November 16/17** and **November 30/December 1**. Candles are **\$10** per set of four, and all proceeds benefit diocesan seminarians!



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!



Happy Thanksgiving!

On Thanksgiving Day, **Thursday, November 28**, we will have two English Masses, one at **7:00 am** and one at **8:30 am**. Please see the flyers in the vestibules for the full schedule of Masses. There will be **no Adoration** and **no 6:30 pm Confessions**. Proceeds received from

the Thanksgiving Collection will go to the Poor Box to help our neighbors in need.

Parish offices will be closed both **Thursday, November 28**, and **Friday, November 29**, in observance of the holiday.

*"O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures for ever!"*

(Psalm 118:1)

Gift for Life Giving Tree

Please give a *Gift for Life* this Advent and Christmas season. Look for our Giving Tree in the Russell Road vestibule, which will support the Gabriel Project Pregnancy Assistance and Project Rachel After Abortion Care ministries. For more information or to donate online, please visit www.arlingtondiocese.org/giftforlife.

Upcoming Second Collections

November 24:	Catholic Campaign for Human Development
November 28:	Thanksgiving
December 1:	Repairs and Replacements
December 1:	Christmas Flowers
December 8:	Catholic Charities
December 9:	Immaculate Conception

This Week at St. Rita

Sunday, November 24, 2024

10:30 am St. Rita Young Adult Brunch

5:00 pm Teams of our Lady

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

Monday, November 25, 2024

5:30 pm Legión de María (en Español)

6:00 pm Religious Education Classes

7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study

Tuesday, November 26, 2024

7:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study

Wednesday, November 27, 2024

No Religious Education Classes

No St. Rita Young Adult Men's and Women's Group

7:30 pm RICA (en Español)

Thursday, November 28, 2024

Parish Offices Closed in Observance of Thanksgiving

Friday, November 29, 2024

Parish Offices Closed in Observance of Thanksgiving

7:00 pm Vespers

Saturday, November 30, 2024

Knights of Columbus Advent Candle Sales after the 5pm Mass

9:15 am Legion of Mary

Sunday, December 1, 2024

Knights of Columbus Advent Candle Sales after All Masses

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

5:30 pm Teams of our Lady

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

St. Nicholas Market, Sunday December 8

Mark your calendars and bring the entire family to the 4th Annual St. Nicholas Market on **Sunday, December 8**, from **10:30 am - 3:30 pm**. This annual event brings together hundreds of families for Christmas shopping, fellowship and merrymaking, and fosters our strong parish community.



Parking Information

Please note that the main St. Rita Parking Lot will be closed on **Sunday, December 8**, for the St. Nicholas Market. Parking will be available at the Birchmere **for all Masses**, and until the conclusion of the Market at **3:30 pm**. Parking for the Market will also be available at Grace Episcopal Church from **1:00-4:00 pm**. Please promptly move your cars from both lots at the end of the Market. Handicap parking will be available in the driveway between the Church and the Parish Center. Thank you for your patience and understanding. Please pray for our generous neighbors who are allowing us to use our parking lots.

Advent cum Augustine

All Young Adults (ages 19-35) are invited to join the Young Adults for "Advent cum Augustine," **every Sunday of Advent from 7:00-8:30 pm** in the St. Rita Convent. We will discuss St. Augustine's sermons on Advent, followed by the Recitation of the Rosary.

Accompanying our Lady to Bethlehem

All Young Adult Women (ages 19-35) are invited to a Morning of Recollection on **Saturday, December 14** from **6:00-10:00 am**. The morning will begin with Mass at 6:00 am and continue in the St. Rita Convent at 7:00 am with a morning of prayer and recollection to prepare ourselves for the coming of our Savior. Please contact **Maria Goitiandia** at mgoitiandia.strita@gmail.com to register.

Please Pray for These St. Rita Parishioners

For all those discerning Religious Vocations:

Sr. Maria Josepha, Labor Mariae; Deacon William Manaker, Society of Jesus; Catherine Addington, Daughters of St. Paul; Sr. Giovanna 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:

Renuka Carlitti, Karen Davidson, J.G.

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, Oscar Merino, Aileen Price, Joanne Robertson, Laura Maitre Stevens, George Szele, Rafael Vasquez-Coubert, Raymond Williams, Angela Wilson

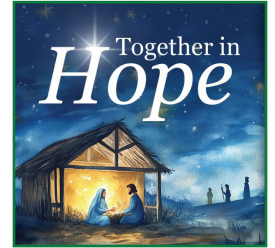
News from the Diocese and Beyond

Solemn Vespers with Bishop Burbidge this Evening

Bishop Burbidge invites you to join him for the celebration of Solemn Vespers to be held in thanksgiving for the naming of six priests of the Diocese of Arlington as "Chaplains to His Holiness" by Pope Francis and bestowing on them the title of Monsignor. Solemn Vespers will be held at the **Cathedral of Saint Thomas More**, Arlington, at **7:00 pm**, on **Sunday, November 24**. All are invited to a dessert reception to follow in Burke Hall. Learn more at arlingtondiocese.org/event/solemn-vespers-2024.

Catholic Charities Parish Christmas Collection

This year's theme is "Together in Hope." When vulnerable people come to Catholic Charities, they encounter Christ's love and the hope that springs from love. And, in a beautiful way, our own faith is strengthened when we join "Together in Hope" with those needing a helping hand. Please consider donating at Mass the weekend of **December 7-8**. You can also donate online at ceda.net/Christmas. Thank you for your generosity to those in need in our Diocese.



Share the Gift of Thanksgiving

This Thanksgiving, the Mother of Light Center (MOLC) is on a mission to bring warmth, hope, and full holiday meals to 500 families in our community. Join us in making a difference! You can help by volunteering to pack and deliver meals from **November 25-27**. We need extra hands, especially Spanish speakers, on delivery day, **November 27**. Volunteers must be 15 years or older. We also need donations to purchase food and supplies. If you would like to volunteer or to donate, please visit www.motherofflightcenter.com.



Christmas Joy for Children

During Advent, the Mother of Light Center (MOLC) is spreading joy to families in need. You can help by donating gifts from our Wish List (found on our [website at www.motherofflightcenter.com](http://www.motherofflightcenter.com)). Please deliver gifts to the **Mother of Light Center** by **Thursday, December 12**. Our goal is 600 gifts for children (ages 1-10) and 400 gift Cards (\$25-\$30). You can also volunteer to help with the gift distribution on A Day of Giving on **Saturday, December 14**, from **9:00 am - 4:00 pm** at **St. Rita Church**. We need many volunteers, including high school students, to help make the day special. Earn service hours while spreading holiday joy! Visit www.motherofflightcenter.com to volunteer or to view the Wish List. Let's make this Christmas unforgettable for families in need!



Vocations

"My kingdom is not from this world." Are you being called to proclaim the glorious reign of Christ the King as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life? Contact **Father Michael Isenberg** at **703-841-2514**, or email michael.isenberg@arlingtondiocese.org.