

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



December 1, 2024: First Sunday of Advent

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

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, December 2, 2024

Monday of the First Week of Advent

7:00 am Mary Downey

7:30 pm Jon Schnur

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Saint Francis Xavier, Priest

7:00 am Renuka Carlitti

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Saint John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church

7:00 am Leo Satalich †

7:30 pm Grace Hammel

Thursday, December 5, 2024

Thursday of the First Week of Advent

7:00 am Joe Biden

Friday, December 6, 2024

Saint Nicholas, Bishop

7:00 am Molly Dowd †

7:30 pm Marlene Kenialy †

Saturday, December 7, 2024

Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

8:00 am Joseph Blazeovich, Jr.

5:00 pm Abigail Yep

Sunday, December 8, 2024

Second Sunday of Advent

7:00 am Vivian Trabert

8:00 am Eva Conner

9:15 am Santiago R. Soutuyo †

11:00 am Missa Pro Populo

1:00 pm Elizabeth Guadalupe Membreño †

Additional Mass Intentions this Week:

All Souls in Purgatory †, Adan Aguilar, Jason Hans Thom †

Immaculate Conception Mass Schedule

Although the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception has been transferred to **Monday, December 9**, it is still a Holy Day of Obligation this year. Please see the flyers in the vestibules for the full schedule of Masses for the Holy Day.

7:00 am Mass in English

6:00 pm Misa en Español

7:30 pm Mass in English

No evening Confessions or Adoration.

For more information please see Bishop Burbidge's statement at:

<https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/2024/11/18/observance-of-the-solemnity-of-the-immaculate-conception-of-the-blessed-virgin-mary/>.



Coffee and Donuts Today in the School Hall

Please join us for Coffee and Donuts today in the School Hall after all Masses, starting after the 8:00 am Mass.

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!

Knights of Columbus Advent Candle Sales this Weekend

Advent is here! The Knights of Columbus will be selling Advent Candles after all Saturday evening and Sunday Masses on **November 30/December 1**. Candles are **\$10** per set of four, and all proceeds benefit diocesan seminarians!

WorkCamp Interest Meeting

A WorkCamp Interest Meeting will be held in the St. Rita Convent on **Monday, December 2** from **6:00-7:00 pm** for all who are interested in attending WorkCamp in June 2025. This meeting is for For High Schoolers, Guardians, and Adult Crew Leaders and Contractors. Please contact **Maria Goitiandia** at mgoitiandia.strita@gmail.com if you are interested in participating in WorkCamp or if you are an adult interested in learning more about volunteering as a Crew Leader or Contractor.

Gift for Life Giving Tree

Please consider giving a *Gift for Life* this Advent season. The tags on our Giving Tree in the Russell Road vestibule 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/giffforlife.

Upcoming Second Collections

December 1: Repairs and Replacements

December 1: Christmas Flowers

December 8: Catholic Charities

December 9: Immaculate Conception

December 25: Christmas

January 1, 2025: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Thank you for your continued generosity!

This Week at St. Rita

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

Monday, December 2, 2024

5:30 pm Legión de María (en Español)

6:00 pm Religious Education Classes

7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

7:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

2:30 pm Homeschool Holy Hour

6:00 pm Religious Education Classes

7:30 pm RICA (en Español)

Thursday, December 5, 2024

4:00 pm Junior Legion of Mary

Friday, December 6, 2024

7:00 pm Vespers

Saturday, December 7, 2024

9:00 am OCIA

9:15 am Legion of Mary

Sunday, December 8, 2024

10:30 am - 3:30 pm St. Nicholas Market

5:30 pm Teams of our Lady

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

100TH
ANNIVERSARY

SAINT RITA CATHOLIC CHURCH

The 4th Annual

ST. NICHOLAS MARKET



SUNDAY, DEC 8, 2024, 10:30AM-3:30PM

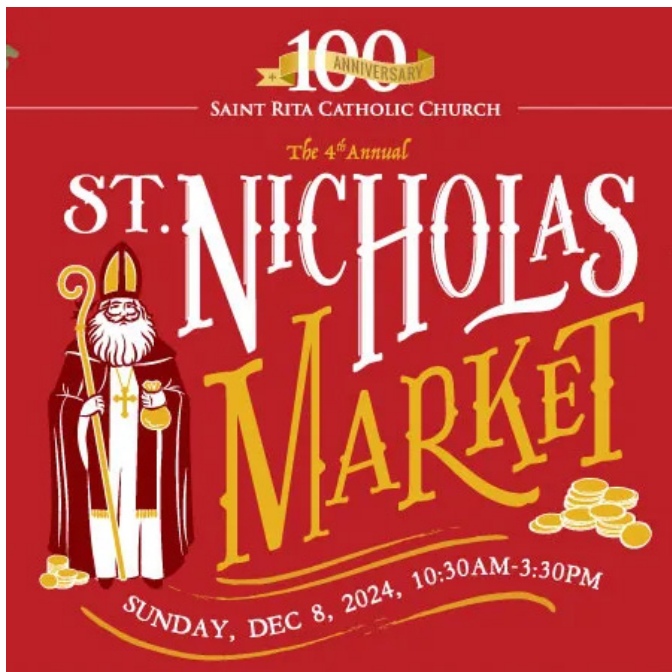
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For more information, visit

StRitaAlexandria.com/st-nicholas-market





Parking Information for Sunday, December 8, 2024

The main St. Rita Parking Lot will be closed on Sunday, December 8, 2024, 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 St. Nicholas Market will also be available at Grace Episcopal Church from 1:00 pm ~ 4:00 pm.

Please promptly move your cars from both lots at the end of the event.

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 their parking lots.

Advent cum Augustine for Young Adults

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.

Men's Annual Silent Retreat for Advent

Join the men of St. Rita on **Saturday, December 14** from **8:00 am-1:00 pm** for a silent retreat. We will start in the church with the Saturday morning Mass, and the retreat will include talks by our priests, as well as opportunities for Confession and Adoration. The cost for the retreat is \$10, which includes breakfast and a potluck lunch afterwards. To sign up, contact **Rick Strobach** at rick.strobach@gmail.com. Sancte Ioseph, Ora Pro Nobis!

Formed.org

Did you know that St. Rita Parish has a subscription to Formed.org? Discover small group Bible studies, inspiring children's shows, sacramental preparation resources, family-friendly movies, and more! To sign up for free, visit signup.formed.org and enter "St. Rita Church" to create your free account.

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 park only in the designated areas. Please vacate the lot by **2:30 pm**.

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

First Saturday Pro-Life Rosary



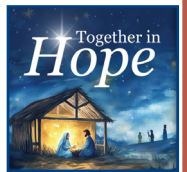
Come join the new monthly Pro-Life Rosary on the first Saturdays of the month at the abortion clinic at **2616 Sherwood Hall Lane**. The next First Saturday is **Saturday, December 7**. Plan to be there **a little before 10:00 am**, and we will form a group with the others who are there to pray the Rosary together. For more information contact **Rick Strobach** at rick.strobach@gmail.com or **Jay Moret** at felix.moret@gmail.com.

Archconfraternity of the Holy Face

All are welcome to join us for the next meeting of the Archconfraternity of the Holy Face on **Sunday, December 8**, at **3:00 pm** in the church. This 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 more about the devotion at <https://hisholyface.com/the-devotion/>.

News from the Diocese and Beyond

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 ccda.net/Christmas. Thank you for your generosity to those in need in our Diocese.

Christmas Joy for Children

This Advent, the Mother of Light Center is spreading joy to families in need. You can help by donating gifts from our Wish List (found on our [website at www.motheroflightcenter.com](http://www.motheroflightcenter.com)). Please deliver gifts to the **Mother of Light Center** by **Thursday, December 12**. Our goal is 600 gifts for children and 400 gift Cards. We need many volunteers, including high school students, to help with the gift distribution on **Saturday, December 14**, from **9:00 am - 4:00 pm** at **St. Rita Church**. Visit www.motheroflightcenter.com to volunteer or to view the Wish List. Let's make this Christmas unforgettable for families in need!



Vocations

Could Christ be calling you to the priesthood or religious life? Take a step to find out and enjoy some quiet prayer time this Advent. The **Men's Day of Recollection** is **Saturday, December 21**, at the **Dominican House of Studies**, with diocesan seminarians and priests and Dominican brothers and priests; the **Women's Day of Recollection** is **Sunday, December 22**, with the **Daughters of Charity**. These events are for those 18-35 years old who are interested in deepening their prayer life and exploring their vocation. For more information and to register, contact the **Office of Vocations**, **703-841-2514** or vocations@arlingtondiocese.org. Deadline to register is **Monday, December 16**.