

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 8, 2024: Second 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 9, 2024

*The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
(Holy Day of Obligation)*

7:00 am Carlos Waldo ☩
6:00 pm (en Español) Jeannine Mantz
7:30 pm Tina Resta

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Feast of the Dedication of the Cathedral of St. Thomas More

7:00 am Austin and Veronica Simon

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Saint Damasus, Pope

7:00 am Thana Dixon ☩
7:30 pm Elaine Davidson ☩

Thursday, December 12, 2024

Our Lady of Guadalupe

5:15 am (en Español) Celebrant's Intention
7:00 am Betty Bennett ☩

Friday, December 13, 2024

Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

7:00 am Mary Jackson ☩
7:30 pm Howard McGrew

Saturday, December 14, 2024

Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

8:00 am Joe Villalvazo ☩
5:00 pm Quinn Pomroy

Sunday, December 15, 2024

Third Sunday of Advent

7:00 am Helen Kazimar ☩
8:00 am Livia Dunham
11:00 am Missa Pro Populo
1:00 pm Familia Garcia Padilla y Rendon

Additional Mass Intentions this Week:

Missa Pro Populo, Kristin Lowe, All Souls in Purgatory ☩,
Will Klauss ☩, Celebrant's Intention, Consuelo Esperante ☩

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/>.



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!

St. Nicholas Market Today

Join us **today** from **10:30 am - 3:30 pm** for the 4th annual St. Nicholas Market. This annual event brings together hundreds of families for Christmas shopping, fellowship and merrymaking, and fosters our strong parish community.



Parking Information

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 their parking lots.

Mañanitas (Our Lady of Guadalupe)

Jueves/Thursday, December 12

5:00 am Serenata con Mariachis
5:15 am Santa Misa (Holy Mass)



Después de la misa, únete a nosotros afuera de la iglesia para tomar chocolate caliente y pan dulce.

After Mass, join us outside the church for hot chocolate and sweet bread.

This Week at St. Rita

Sunday, December 8, 2024

10:30 am - 3:30 pm St. Nicholas Market
3:00 pm Archconfraternity of the Holy Face
5:30 pm Teams of our Lady
6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group
7:00 pm Young Adult Advent Series

Monday, December 9, 2024

5:30 pm Legión de María (en Español)
6:00 pm Religious Education Classes
7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

7:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

2:30 pm Homeschool Holy Hour
6:00 pm Religious Education Classes
7:30 pm RICA (en Español)

Thursday, December 12, 2024

5:00 am Mañanitas (Our Lady of Guadalupe)
4:00 pm Junior Legion of Mary

Friday, December 13, 2024

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

Saturday, December 14, 2024

6:00 am - 10:00 am Young Adult Women's Advent Retreat
8:00 am - 1:00 pm Men's Advent Retreat
9:00 am OCIA
9:15 am Legion of Mary

Sunday, December 15, 2024

12:30 pm Las Posadas
5:00 pm Teams of our Lady
6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

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!

St. Rita Men's Fellowship Meeting

The St Rita Men's Fellowship will meet on **Friday, December 13**, 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 our patron, St. Joseph, "Guardian of the Redeemer." Bring a chair, cold beverages and food or snacks to share, and your rosary! Please contact **Rick Strobach** at rick.strobach@gmail.com for more information.

Upcoming Second Collections

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!

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., Constance Richardson

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

Archconfraternity of the Holy Face Today

All are welcome to join us for the next meeting of the Archconfraternity of the Holy Face **today, 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/>.

Las Posadas

Join the St. Rita Hispanic Community for Las Posadas, an Advent tradition commemorating Mary and Joseph arriving in Bethlehem looking for shelter. This year we will gather on **Sunday, December 15**, at **12:30 pm** (before the Spanish Mass) and on **Sunday, December 22**, at **4:00 pm**. We'll gather outside the Church and in the vestibule of the Church to begin. On **Sunday, December 22**, there will be a celebration afterwards with food and drinks.

Únase a la comunidad hispana de Santa Rita para Las Posadas, una tradición de Adviento que conmemora la llegada de María y José a Belén en busca de refugio. Este año nos reuniremos **el domingo 15 de diciembre a las 12:30 pm** y **el domingo 22 de diciembre a las 4:00 pm**. Nos reuniremos afuera de la iglesia y en el vestíbulo de la iglesia para comenzar. **El domingo 22 de diciembre**, habrá una reunión posterior con comida y bebidas.

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/giftforlife.

News from the Diocese and Beyond

Catholic Charities Parish Christmas Collection

Thank you for your generosity to this year's 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. Our own faith is also strengthened when we join "Together in Hope" with those needing a helping hand. If you would like to donate online, please visit ccda.net/Christmas.

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.motherofflightcenter.com). Please deliver gifts to the **Mother of Light Center** by **Thursday, December 12**. You can also volunteer to help with the gift distribution on **Saturday, December 14**, from **9:00 am - 4:00 pm** at **St. Rita Church**. Visit www.motherofflightcenter.com to volunteer or to view the Wish List. Let's make this Christmas unforgettable for families in need!

Vocations

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." (Luke 3:4) John the Baptist's call to prepare for Christ can also be a call to prepare your heart for a vocation. Is Christ calling you to serve Him as a priest or religious brother or sister? Talk to your priest or reach out to the **Vocation Office** at **(703) 841-2514** or via email: vocations@arlingtondiocese.org.