

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 15, 2024: Third 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 16, 2024

Monday of the Third Week of Advent

7:00 am Maureen (Arroyo) Fox ☩

7:30 pm Adrienne Soroff ☩

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

Late Advent Weekday

7:00 am Cassius Miles Thomas

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Anniversary of the Dedication of St. Rita Church (Solemnity)

7:00 am Esperanza Falcon ☩

7:30 pm Carol Austin

Thursday, December 19, 2024

Late Advent Weekday

7:00 am Howard McGrew

Friday, December 20, 2024

Late Advent Weekday

7:00 am Harry Soroff ☩

7:30 pm Deceased members of the Blazeovich Family

Saturday, December 21, 2024

Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church

8:00 am John Kitchener, Sr. ☩

5:00 pm Joseph Schweers

Sunday, December 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:00 am The Kowalski Family

8:00 am Lucas Eldridge

11:00 am Missa Pro Populo

1:00 pm Arcadio Urrutia ☩

Additional Mass Intentions this Week:

Amanda Gamboa ☩, Judith Gonzalez, Kathleen O'Connell
Elder ☩, Romon Esperante ☩



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.

No Adoration or Confessions Thursday, December 19

There will be no Adoration or Confessions on **Thursday, December 19**, due to the School Advent Concert.

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.

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.

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!

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. There are also flyers in the vestibules with the prayers and readings for each day of Las Posadas, so that you can celebrate the other days at home or with friends.

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. También hay volantes en los vestíbulos con las oraciones y lecturas de cada día de Las Posadas, para que podáis celebrar los demás días en casa o con amigos.

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. También hay volantes en los vestíbulos con las oraciones y lecturas de cada día de Las Posadas, para que podáis celebrar los demás días en casa o con amigos.

This Week at St. Rita

Sunday, December 15, 2024

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

12:30 pm Las Posadas
5:00 pm Teams of our Lady
6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group
7:00 pm Young Adult Advent Series

Monday, December 16, 2024

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

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

7:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study

Wednesday, December 18, 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, December 19, 2024

No Confessions or Adoration due to School Advent Concert

4:00 pm Junior Legion of Mary
5:30 pm School Advent Concert

Friday, December 20, 2024

7:00 pm Vespers

Saturday, December 21, 2024

9:00 am OCIA
9:15 am Legion of Mary
6:30 pm Teams of our Lady

Sunday, December 22, 2024

10:30 am St. Rita Young Adult Brunch
4:00 pm Las Posadas followed by Celebration
7:00 pm Young Adult Advent Series

Christmas 2024

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD (HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION)

CHRISTMAS EVE (TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24):

4:30 PM MUSICAL PRELUDE
5:00 PM VIGIL MASS (ENGLISH)
11:30 PM MUSICAL PRELUDE

CHRISTMAS DAY (WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25):

12:00 AM MIDNIGHT MASS (ENGLISH)
7:00 AM (ENGLISH)
8:00 AM (ENGLISH)
11:00 AM (ENGLISH)
1:00 PM (SPANISH)

And she gave birth to her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Luke 2:7

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD (HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2024:

5:00 PM (ENGLISH)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2025:

7:00 AM (ENGLISH)
8:00 AM (ENGLISH)
11:00 AM (ENGLISH)
1:00 PM (SPANISH)

Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King, who rules heaven and earth for ever.

Entrance Antiphon

THERE WILL BE NO ADORATION AND NO CONFESSIONS ON CHRISTMAS EVE OR CHRISTMAS DAY, OR ON NEW YEAR'S EVE OR NEW YEAR'S DAY.


Please call the parish office at 703-836-1640 or see the flyers in the church vestibules for the full schedule of Masses.


Novena For Christmas

(Based on the  Antiphons)


After praying the Antiphon for each day, pray one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and one Glory Be.


December 16

 Pastor qui regis Israel, intende; qui deducis velut ovem Joseph: veni ad ducendum et confortandum nos.


 Shepherd, You Who rule over Israel, hear us; You Who lead Joseph like a sheep: come to guide and comfort us.


December 17

 Sapientia, quae ex ore Altissimi prodiisti, attingens a fine usque ad finem, fortiter suaviterque disponens omnia: veni ad docendum nos viam prudentiae.


 Wisdom, Which proceeds from the mouth of the Most High, reaching from end to end and ordering all things mightily and sweetly: come to teach us the way of prudence.


December 18

 Adonai, et dux domus Israel, qui Moysi in igne flammae rubi apparuisti, et ei in Sina legem dedisti: veni ad redimendum nos in brachio extento.


 Sacred Lord, and Leader of the House of Israel, Who appeared to Moses in the flame of the burning bush, and gave him the Law on Mount Sinai: come to redeem us with Your outstretched arm.


December 19

 Radix Jesse, qui stas in signum populorum, super quem continebunt reges os suum, quem gentes deprecabuntur: veni ad liberandum nos, jam noli tardare.


 Root of Jesse, Which stands as a sign of the people, before Whom kings shall shut their mouth, Whom the Gentiles shall beseech: come to deliver us, and do not delay.


December 20

 Clavis David, et sceptrum domus Israel, qui aperis, et nemo claudit, claudis, et nemo aperit: veni, et educ vinctum de domo carceris, sedentem in tenebris, et umbra mortis.


 Key of David, and Scepter of the House of Israel, Who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens: come and lead the prisoner out of the prison, he that sits in darkness and in the shadow of death.


December 21

 Oriens, splendor lucis aeternae, et sol iustitiae: veni, et illumina sedentes in tenebris, et umbra mortis.


 Radiant Dawn, brightness of eternal light, and sun of justice: come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.


December 22

 Rex Gentium, et desideratus earum, lapisque angularis, qui facis utraque unum: veni, et salva hominem, quem de limo formasti.


 King of the Gentiles, and their desire, the cornerstone that makes both one: come and save man whom You have formed from the dust.


December 23

 Emmanuel, Rex et legifer noster, exspectatio Gentium, et Salvator earum: veni ad salvandum nos, Domine Deus noster.

 Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, desire of the Gentiles, and their Savior: come and save us, O Lord our God.

December 24

 qui sedes super cherubim, Domine Deus virtutum: veni, ostende faciem tuam, et salvi erimus.

 You Who are seated upon the cherubim, Lord God of Hosts: come, show Your face, and we shall be saved.

Christmas Schedule and Novena

This week we enter into the final days of Advent. The Christmas Novena begins on **December 16** and is the oldest recorded novena in the Church. It commemorates the nine months that Jesus spent in the womb of Mary. See this week's bulletin insert for a simple novena using the beautiful O Antiphons, the basis for the familiar hymn, O Come, O Come, Emmanuel. The schedule of Masses for Christmas can also be found on the insert, as well as in the vestibules of the church. "Come Lord Jesus, and do not delay!"

Advent Scripture Challenge and Lectio Divina

It's not too late to begin the Advent Scripture challenge. You can find materials in both English and Spanish on our parish website at www.stritaalexandria.com. This challenge is a wonderful way to deepen our faith and come together as a community in anticipation of the joy and hope of Christmas. The Diocese has also created a series of lectio divina meditations for Advent in both English and Spanish. In these series, you will learn the basics of putting lectio divina into practice. Our diocesan priests will teach you what lectio is, but more importantly, how you can incorporate it into your life of prayer to draw closer to God. You can find these videos on the diocesan website at <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/lectio>.

November 2024 Collections

Regular Offertory:	\$31,755
Parish Giving Offertory:	\$57,470
Repairs & Replacements:	\$2,719
Parish Giving Repairs & Replacements:	\$5,134
Poor Box:	\$3,673
Parish Giving Poor Box:	\$8,425

Upcoming Second Collections

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

Youth Ministry Ice Skating



All High Schoolers are invited to join the St. Rita Youth Ministry for an evening of ice skating from **6:30-8:00pm** on **Thursday, December 19**, at the Westpost Outdoor Ice Skating Rink. This is a free event, but dinner will not be provided, so please be sure to eat before you come. If you would like to join us, please email **Maria Goitiandia** at mgoitiandia.strita@gmail.com.

WorkCamp 2025

Registration is open for WorkCamp 2025! High School students, parents, and adult volunteers are invited to attend this sleep-away camp from **June 21-27, 2025**. WorkCamp is an opportunity for students to experience a community of faith, service, and fun!



Find more information and complete our parish registration form at <https://stritaalexandria.com/workcamp/>. If you are interested in serving as an adult volunteer, please complete the interest form found at <https://stritaalexandria.com/workcamp-adult-volunteer-interest-form/>. Registration will close in early February and is first come, first served, so don't delay! Contact **Maria Goitiandia** at mgoitiandia.strita@gmail.com with any questions.

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**.

News from the Diocese and Beyond

After Abortion Retreats

A Day of Prayer & Healing for women who have experienced abortion will be held on **Saturday, February 1, 2025**. These group healing events are held in a private and peaceful setting, based on the Entering Canaan model. For confidential inquiries, please contact **Project Rachel Ministry** at **(703) 841-2504** or info@helpafterabortion.org.

Retiros después de Aborto Provocado

Un Día de Oración y Sanación para mujeres que han experimentado un aborto provocado tomara acabo **el sábado, 1 de febrero del 2025**. Estos eventos de sanación en grupo se hacen en un ambiente privado y tranquilo, en inglés y español, basado en el modelo Entering Canaan (2 retiros separados en 1 ubicación). Habrá una oportunidad de oír de participantes pasados y otras que han encontrado la sanación. No estás sola. Toma el primer paso. Para preguntas confidenciales, llame al **Proyecto Raquel: (703) 841-2504** o info@ayudadespuesdelaborto.org.

Vocations

"Rejoice in the Lord always." (Philippians 4:4) Are you filled with joy at the Lord's invitation to serve Him in priesthood or consecrated life? This deep sense of joy is a sign that God may be calling you to share His love with others in a special way. Talk to your priest or reach out to the **Vocation Office** at **(703) 841-2514** or via email: vocations@arlingtondiocese.org.