

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 29, 2024: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

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	

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.

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

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 30, 2024

Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

7:00 am Derek Swain †
7:30 pm Pauline Mack †

Tuesday, December 31, 2024

*Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord;
Saint Sylvester I, Pope*

7:00 am Robert D'Sylva †
Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

(Holy Day of Obligation)

5:00 pm Margaret Delay Herzing †

Wednesday, January 1, 2025

*Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
(Holy Day of Obligation)*

7:00 am Carol Austin
8:00 am Frank and Alice Walsh †
11:00 am Missa Pro Populo
1:00 pm (en Español) Maria Elena Reyes †

Thursday, January 2, 2025

*Saint Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and
Doctors of the Church*

7:00 am Neftali Cardoza †

Friday, January 3, 2025

Holy Name of Jesus

7:00 am Lawrence Bowie
7:30 pm Robert D'Sylva †

Saturday, January 4, 2025

*Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious
(Secondary Patron of the Diocese of Arlington)*

8:00 am Olivia D'Mello †
5:00 pm Robert D'Sylva †

Sunday, January 5, 2025

Epiphany of the Lord

7:00 am Alana Austin
8:00 am Alek Lievestro
11:00 am Missa Pro Populo
1:00 pm Veronica Flores y Reina Garcilazo

Additional Mass Intentions this Week:

Celebrant's Intention, Thomas Eckel, George Morrow †,
Thomas Bowman

Coffee and Donuts January 5 in the School Hall

Please join us for Coffee and Donuts next **Sunday, January 5, 2025**
in the School Hall after all Masses, starting after the 8:00 am Mass.

Gift for Life Giving Tree

Please consider giving a *Gift for Life* this Christmas 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!

*The Clergy and Staff of St. Rita Parish wish you
a very blessed Christmas!
Parish offices will be closed on January 1, 2025.*

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation) Mass Schedule

DECEMBER 31:

5:00 PM VIGIL MASS (ENGLISH)

JANUARY 1, 2025:

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

*THERE WILL BE NO ADORATION OR
CONFESSIONS ON NEW YEAR'S EVE
OR NEW YEAR'S DAY.*

Please call the parish office or see
the flyers in the vestibules for the
full schedule of Masses.



Epiphany Water and Chalk Blessing

The Traditional Blessing of Epiphany Water and the Blessing of Chalk will take place at **3:00 pm** on **Saturday, January 4, 2025**. Please bring your own water to be blessed. Chalk will be provided, along with instructions for the traditional Epiphany blessing for your home.

This Week at St. Rita

Sunday, December 29, 2024

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

Monday, December 30, 2024

No Religious Education Classes

5:30 pm Legión de María (en Español)

Tuesday, December 31, 2024

No Confessions or Adoration

No scheduled events

Wednesday, January 1, 2025

Parish Offices will be closed for New Year's Day.

No Confessions or Adoration

No Religious Education or RICA Classes

Thursday, January 2, 2025

No scheduled events

Friday, January 3, 2025

7:00 pm Vespers

Saturday, January 4, 2025

9:00 am OCIA
9:15 am Legion of Mary
3:00 pm Epiphany Water and Chalk Blessing

Sunday, January 5, 2025

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. RITA
SCHOOL
In the Classical tradition

Catholic / Classical / Community

SAINT RITA
SCHOOL
OPEN HOUSE
9 JANUARY 2025
9:00 A.M.

*"The soul of education is the
education of the soul"*

3801 RUSSELL ROAD, ALEXANDRIA,
VA (703) 548-1888

Please RSVP on our website:
saintrita-school.org



Together We Celebrate Life: March for Life 2025

The March for Life is an inspiring, peaceful, vibrant, and joy-filled rally of women, men, young people, and children from all across the country who gather every year to march on Capitol Hill near the anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling which legalized abortion in all 50 states. We celebrate each and every life, from the moment of conception, and envision a world where every life is celebrated, valued, and protected. Please join other St. Rita parishioners for **Mass at noon**, a light lunch, and then a bus ride to the Mall for the March on **Friday, January 24, 2025**. We will return to St. Rita Church around **5:00 pm**. Look for a sign-up list in the vestibule. Please contact **Chris Durel** at **571-289-7228** if you have any questions.

Juntos celebramos la vida: Marcha por la vida 2025

La Marcha por la vida es una manifestación inspiradora, pacífica, vibrante y llena de alegría de mujeres, hombres, jóvenes y niños de todo el país que se reúnen cada año para marchar hacia el Capitolio cerca del aniversario del fallo Roe v. Wade de la Corte Suprema de 1973 que legalizó el aborto en los 50 estados. Celebramos todas y cada una de las vidas, desde el momento de la concepción, e imaginamos un mundo donde cada vida sea celebrada, valorada y protegida. Únase a otros feligreses de St. Rita para **la misa al mediodía**, un almuerzo ligero y luego un viaje en autobús al centro comercial para la marcha **el viernes 24 de enero de 2025**. Regresaremos a la iglesia de St. Rita alrededor de las **5:00 pm**. Busque una lista de inscripción en el vestíbulo. Comuníquese con **Chris Durel** al **571-289-7228** si tiene alguna pregunta.

Upcoming Second Collections

January 1, 2025: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
January 5: Repairs and Replacements
January 19: Collection for the Church in Latin America
January 26: St. Rita School Tuition Assistance

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.

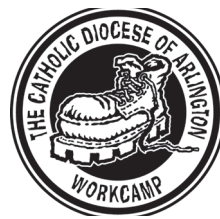
Thank you!

For the Deceased in our Parish:

John Abarre, Hessie Bannon, Bob D'Sylva, Lee Edwards, Mary Gleeson, William C. Haas, Oscar Merino, Aileen Price, Joanne Robertson, Laura Maitre Stevens, George Szele, Rafael Vasquez-Coubert, Raymond Williams, Angela Wilson

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.



Legion of Mary

The Legion of Mary is a lay apostolate whose members are dedicated to serving the Church through prayer and apostolic works, under the leadership of our Lady. The English Adult Legion group meets on **Saturdays** at **9:15 am** in the Parish Center conference room.

Junior Legion

The Junior Legion of Mary, open to children in grade 3 and higher, meets on **Thursdays** at **4:00 pm**. They visit Alexandria Rehab Center as their work.



For more information or if you are interested in joining in the work of the Legion of Mary, please contact **Vivian Moran** at vivian.b.moran@gmail.com or call or text her at **(703) 888-8196**.

Saint Rita School Open House

St. Rita School is hosting an Open House on **Thursday, January 9** at **9:00 am** for all prospective preschool and K-8 families. Our presentations and tours will highlight our Catholic, classical approach to education within a strong community. To RSVP, please visit our website at saintrita-school.org.



News from the Diocese and Beyond

Opening Mass for the Holy Year 2025

Bishop Michael F. Burbidge will celebrate the Opening Mass for the Holy Year 2025 on **Sunday, January 5** at **11:00 am** at the Cathedral of Saint Thomas More in Arlington, VA. Stay tuned for more details, and visit arlingtondiocese.org/event/opening-mass-for-the-holy-year-2025/ to learn more about the Holy Year 2025.



Vocations

"Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" (Luke 2:49) The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph serves as a model of love, faith, and obedience. Just as Jesus was guided by His Father's will, so too can we be guided in our marriages by God's love. Reflect on how your family life mirrors the faith and devotion of the Holy Family. Strengthen your commitment to each other by nurturing a deeper relationship with God.