

# 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](http://www.stritaalexandria.com) / [www.saintrita-school.org](http://www.saintrita-school.org)



## January 19, 2025: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

### CLERGY AND STAFF

<b>Pastor</b>	Rev. Christopher P. Christensen frc41@gmail.com	Ext. 17
<b>Parochial Vicar</b>	Rev. Nicholas Schierer fatherschierer@gmail.com	Ext. 30
<b>Permanent Deacon</b>	Deacon Stephen J. Dixon deacondixon.strita@gmail.com	
<b>In Residence</b>	Rev. Paul Berghout ihmpadre@gmail.com	Ext. 15
<b>Director of Sacred Music</b>	Lawrence Bowie lbowie.strita@gmail.com	Ext. 29
<b>Parish Secretary and Hispanic Liaison</b>	Alma Ramirez aramirez.strita@gmail.com	Ext. 10
<b>Business Manager</b>	Debbie Beck dbeck.strita@gmail.com	Ext. 13
<b>Director of Religious Education</b>	Chloe Holloway cholloway.strita@gmail.com	Ext. 12
<b>Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry</b>	Maria Goitiandia mgoitiandia.strita@gmail.com	Ext. 38
<b>Sacristan</b>	Elizabeth Vail evail.strita@gmail.com	Ext. 11
<b>Bulletin Editor</b>	Elizabeth Vail bulletin.submit.strita@gmail.com	
<b>Maintenance Manager</b>	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/](http://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, January 20, 2025

*Saint Fabian, Pope and Martyr; Saint Sebastian, Martyr*

7:00 am Marvin Smith †

7:30 pm Robert McCray Brown †

### Tuesday, January 21, 2025

*Saint Agnes, Virgin and Martyr*

7:00 am Mary Gleeson †

### Wednesday, January 22, 2025

*Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children*

7:00 am For the Respect of All Life

7:30 pm Sandra, Charlene, Ledford and Barnard

### Thursday, January 23, 2025

*Saint Vincent, Deacon and Martyr; Saint Marianne Cope, Virgin*

7:00 am Donald Trump

### Friday, January 24, 2025

*Saint Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church*

7:00 am Terrance Farrington

12:00 pm Celebrant's Intention

7:30 pm The Weitzels Family

### Saturday, January 25, 2025

*Conversion of Saint Paul, Apostle*

8:00 am Cecilia Sierra

5:00 pm Bob D'Sylva †

### Sunday, January 26, 2025

*Third Sunday in Ordinary Time*

7:00 am Wendy Peters †

8:00 am Thomas Volinsky

11:00 am Missa Pro Populo

1:00 pm Sandra Rodriguez

*Additional Mass Intentions this Week:*

Dan, Elizabeth, Snyder and Aloaf, Aileen Warren, James Verne Schick †, Santiago R. Soutuyo †

### 2024 Tax Letters

2024 Tax Letters will be mailed or emailed to you by the end of January. If you would prefer to receive the letter through the mail, please contact the parish office at [703-836-1640](tel:703-836-1640) or [aramirez.strita@gmail.com](mailto:aramirez.strita@gmail.com).

Las Cartas de Impuestos de 2024 se le enviarán por correo o correo electrónico a finales de enero. Si prefiere recibir la carta por correo, comuníquese con la oficina parroquial al [703-836-1640](tel:703-836-1640) o [aramirez.strita@gmail.com](mailto:aramirez.strita@gmail.com).

### Candlemas



On **Sunday, February 2**, the feast of the Presentation of the Lord, we will have the traditional blessing of candles at all Masses. Please bring your own candles to be blessed. There will be a table set up in the sanctuary for you to place any candles you would like to have blessed.

### Bulletin Submissions

Please submit all announcements for the bulletin to **Elizabeth Vail** at [bulletin.submit.strita@gmail.com](mailto:bulletin.submit.strita@gmail.com) by **Wednesday, ten days before the desired bulletin date**. Thank you!

### Together We Celebrate Life: March for Life 2025

Please join other St. Rita parishioners for **Mass at noon**, a light lunch, and then a bus ride to the Mall for the March **this Friday, January 24, 2025**. We will return to St. Rita Church around **5:00 pm**. Please sign up on the list in the vestibule to reserve your spot on the bus. If you have any questions, please contact **Chris Durel** at [571-289-7228](tel:571-289-7228).



### Juntos celebramos la vida: Marcha por la vida 2025

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**. Por favor, inscríbete en la lista del vestíbulo para reservar tu lugar en el autobús. Comuníquese con **Chris Durel** al [571-289-7228](tel:571-289-7228) si tiene alguna pregunta.

### Parish Office Closed on Monday, January 20

The Parish Office will be closed on **Monday, January 20**, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

### Upcoming Second Collections

January 19: Collection for the Church in Latin America  
January 26: St. Rita School Tuition Assistance  
February 2: Repairs and Replacements

Thank you for your continued generosity!

## This Week at St. Rita

### Sunday, January 19, 2025

*Coffee and donuts after all Masses, beginning after the 8 am Mass*  
*Traditional Latin Mass Schola Recruitment*

5:00 pm Teams of our Lady

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

### Monday, January 20, 2025

*Parish Office closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day*  
*No Religious Education Classes*

*No Young Adult Bible Study*

5:30 pm Legión de María (en Español)

7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study

### Tuesday, January 21, 2025

*No events scheduled.*

### Wednesday, January 22, 2025

2:30 pm Homeschool Holy Hour

6:00 pm Religious Education Classes

8:15 pm St. Rita Young Adult Men's Group

8:15 pm St. Rita Young Adult Women's Group

### Thursday, January 23, 2025

4:00 pm Junior Legion of Mary

6:00 pm High School Youth Ministry

### Friday, January 24, 2025

12:00 pm Respect Life Mass and March For Life

7:00 pm Vespers

### Saturday, January 25, 2025

9:00 am OCIA

9:15 am Legion of Mary

### Sunday, January 26, 2025

*Coffee and Donuts after the 11am Mass for Catholic Schools Week*

10:30 am St. Rita Young Adult Brunch

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group



January 19, 2025  
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Saint Rita Parishioners,

Happy New Year from Saint Rita School! This year marks our 73rd anniversary of service to the members of our parish and local community. Our school was the recipient of two prestigious awards this year: *Cardinal Newman Guide* and *Purple Star School*. Since its inception, Saint Rita School has endeavored to bring truth, goodness, and beauty to the children of our parish. With over 260 students currently enrolled in our preschool and K-8th grade programs, we are excited to live out our mission. Our students and staff recently memorized our Mission Statement, which reflects the heart of our work:

*Saint Rita School believes that “the soul of education is the education of the soul” (Pope Pius XI). We are a small Catholic school in the classical tradition, dedicated to forming children intellectually and spiritually following the teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church. We treasure faith in Jesus Christ and are dedicated to serving His people.*

The education of our children is a sacred task, one we undertake in union with our parents, pastor, and you, our parishioners. One of the greatest challenges we face is keeping Catholic education affordable. As Pastor and Principal, we work together with the Diocese to help support families who would otherwise be unable to afford Catholic education for their children. This year, one third of our students are receiving over \$225,000 in financial assistance. These funds come from Saint Rita Parish, the Diocese of Arlington, PTO fundraising, and through private donors. We are so grateful for the support of our parish! As we offer our thanks, we pray that you will continue to provide both spiritual and financial support for our families. A recent financial aid recipient commented:

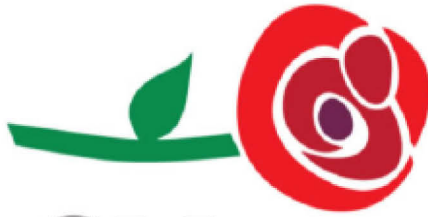
*My family has been part of Santa Rita Church for 9 years, and with the church and school's financial and tutoring support, all of my children will graduate from this school. As a family, we are grateful for all the support provided to us over the years. Without this support, my children would not have had a quality Catholic education! Blessings to all the people who make it possible for our children to have the opportunity to receive an education based on the principles of the Catholic Church.*

The second collection at next weekend's Masses will benefit our tuition assistance program. We hope that you can contribute to this collection to help more of our parish children attend Saint Rita School. You may contribute using cash or check! If using a check, please note “tuition assistance” in the memo line.

We are so grateful for your continued support of Saint Rita School. Our parish has a long and proud history of forming young men and women who serve our community and nation. The priests, faculty, staff, and students will remember you in our prayers during Catholic Schools Week and throughout the year. Please stop by for coffee and donuts after the 11am Mass next weekend, take a tour, and see the good things that are happening at our parish school!

Rev. Christopher Christensen, Pastor

Mrs. Malia Busekrus, Principal



# MARCH FOR LIFE

*Together We Celebrate Life*

January 24, 2025

## St. Rita March for Life Schedule



12:00 PM

RESPECT LIFE MASS

FOLLOWED BY PIZZA IN THE PARISH CENTER

IMMEDIATELY AFTER LUNCH, WE WILL BOARD THE BUS TO RIDE TO THE  
NATIONAL MALL FOR THE MARCH

WE WILL RETURN TO ST. RITA CHURCH AROUND 5:00 PM

Please sign up on the list in the vestibule to reserve your spot on the bus.  
If you have any questions, please contact Chris Durel at 571-289-7228.

### 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.

#### Traditional Latin Mass Schola

The St. Rita Traditional Latin Mass Schola will be recruiting members **today**. The schola is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about sacred music, Gregorian chant and the liturgy while contributing your musical talents! All experience and skill levels are welcome! If you are interested in singing with us, come talk to us outside the church **today**. You can also contact **Helen McDonough** at [hamcdo@gmail.com](mailto:hamcdo@gmail.com), or come to one of our practices. We practice at **around 8:00 pm** on **Tuesday** evenings and at **8:00 am** on **Sunday** mornings in the **Parish Center Conference Room**.

### Catholic Schools Week Second Collection and Coffee and Donuts

Catholic Schools Week begins **January 26**. The second collection at next weekend's Masses will benefit the tuition assistance program at Saint Rita School. We hope that you can contribute to this collection to help more of our parish children attend Saint Rita School. Please stop by for coffee and donuts **after the 11:00 am Mass** on **Sunday, January 26**, take a tour, and see the good things that are happening at our parish school!

#### New Mass Intention Limit

Having a Mass offered for someone is a great way to practice the spiritual work of mercy of praying for the living and the dead. It can also be a consolation to a family who has lost a loved one, or a wonderful gift for a birthday, wedding, or any other special occasion. The typical Mass stipend is \$10. Please note that we have a new limit of **10 Masses every three months**, in order to give all parishioners an opportunity to schedule a Mass. To schedule a Mass, please contact Alma Ramirez at 703-836-1640 or [aramirez.ritra@gmail.com](mailto:aramirez.ritra@gmail.com).

### 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, Col. Christie Walton

*If you know of someone who should be on the list, please contact Elizabeth at [bulletin.submit.ritra@gmail.com](mailto:bulletin.submit.ritra@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

### 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, February 1**. 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](mailto:rick.strobach@gmail.com) or **Jay Moret** at [felix.moret@gmail.com](mailto:felix.moret@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.ritra@gmail.com](mailto:mgoitiandia.ritra@gmail.com) with any questions.



### Lost and Found

Are you looking for lost items? Please stop by the rectory office **weekdays** between **9:00 am - 9:00 pm** or call the office at **703-836-1640** to check the parish lost and found. Any lost items that are not claimed after 30 days are donated or discarded.

### 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, in English and in Spanish. There will be an opportunity to hear from a past participant and others who have found healing. You are not alone. Take the first step. For confidential inquiries, please contact **Project Rachel Ministry** at **(703) 841-2504** or [info@helpafterabortion.org](mailto:info@helpafterabortion.org).

### Vocations

"Do whatever He tells you." (John 2:5) At the Wedding at Cana, Jesus performs His first miracle, blessing the union of a married couple. Marriage is a sacred covenant, and like the servants at the wedding, we are called to listen to Christ's guidance in our marriages. Take time to pray together and invite Christ into your marriage, trusting in His power to strengthen your bond. Talk to your priest or reach out to the **Vocation Office** at **(703) 841-2514** or via email: [vocations@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:vocations@arlingtondiocese.org).