

# 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)



## February 16, 2025: Sixth 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	

### 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/](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.

### 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, February 17, 2025

*The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order*

7:00 am Dorothy Marie Oliverio

7:30 pm Fr. Paul Berghout

### Tuesday, February 18, 2025

*Tuesday of the Sixth Week in Ordinary Time*

7:00 am John Francis Oliverio

### Wednesday, February 19, 2025

*Wednesday of the Sixth Week in Ordinary Time*

7:00 am Erline Smith

7:30 pm Kayser Swidan

### Thursday, February 20, 2025

*Thursday of the Sixth Week in Ordinary Time*

7:00 am Megan Rolla

### Friday, February 21, 2025

*Saint Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor of the Church*

7:00 am Luisiana Bethencourt

7:30 pm Robert Garza †

### Saturday, February 22, 2025

*The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle*

8:00 am Cecilia Sierra

5:00 pm Conchita P. Clapp †

### Sunday, February 23, 2025

*Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time*

7:00 am Salvatore Graziano †

8:00 am The Trump and Vance Families

11:00 am Missa Pro Populo

1:00 pm Julio Villagran

*Additional Mass Intentions this Week:*

Inta Funk †, Laura Tillotson, Tom and Gloria Bush, Santiago R. Soutuyo †



### 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.

### Parish Offices Closed

#### Monday, February 17

The Parish Office will be closed on **Monday, February 17**, in observance of the Presidents' Day holiday.



### January 2025 Collections

Regular Offertory:	\$31,007
Parish Giving Offertory:	\$83,794
Repairs & Replacements:	\$2,367
Parish Giving Repairs & Replacements:	\$7,986
Poor Box:	\$3,454
Parish Giving Poor Box:	\$6,505

### 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!

## Volunteer Needed for Monthly Carpenter's Shelter Dinner



We are in need of a new volunteer to coordinate St. Rita's monthly dinner for the Carpenter's Shelter on the **second Sunday** of each month. The volunteer is responsible for organizing, coordinating and serving the donated food, a time commitment of about 2 hours a month. The volunteer must be over 18. Please contact Maria Smith at [mariasmith1040@comcast.net](mailto:mariasmith1040@comcast.net) if you are interested in coordinating this activity. Since 1988, Carpenter's Shelter, located at **930 N. Henry St.**, has provided safe, temporary housing and community support for families and individuals experiencing homelessness. More information about Carpenter's Shelter is available at <https://carpentersshelter.org>.

### 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, March 1**. Plan to be there **a little before 10:00 am**, and we will form a group with the others who are there, and 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).



### Upcoming Second Collections

March 2: Repairs and Replacements  
Thank you for your continued generosity!

## This Week at St. Rita

### Sunday, February 16, 2025

*Coffee and Donuts after all Masses, starting after the 8am Mass*

5:00 pm Teams of our Lady

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

### Monday, February 17, 2025

*Parish Office Closed in observance of Presidents' Day*

*No Religious Education Classes*

*No Young Adult Bible Study*

5:30 pm Legión de María (en Español)

### Tuesday, February 18, 2025

7:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study

### Wednesday, February 19, 2025

2:30 pm Homeschool Holy Hour

6:00 pm Religious Education Classes

8:00 pm Knights of Columbus Meeting

### Thursday, February 20, 2025

4:00 pm Junior Legion of Mary

6:00 pm High School Youth Ministry

### Friday, February 21, 2025

7:00 pm Vespers

### Saturday, February 22, 2025

9:00 am OCIA

9:15 am Legion of Mary

### Sunday, February 23, 2025

10:30 am St. Rita Young Adults Brunch

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

### Annual All Saints' Car Raffle



St. Rita will once again be participating in the annual car raffle conducted by All Saints' Catholic Church. Prizes include four cars and cash prizes up to \$20,000. All registered parish families will be receiving tickets in the coming weeks. Proceeds will in part benefit the youth ministry programs in our parish, so we strongly encourage all parishioners to participate by purchasing or

selling their tickets. Further instructions will be found in the letter enclosed with the tickets.

### Sorteo Anual de Autos de Todos los Santos

St. Rita volverá a participar en la rifa anual de autos realizado por la Iglesia Católica de Todos los Santos. Los premios incluyen cuatro autos y premios en efectivo de hasta \$20,000. Todas las familias parroquiales registradas estarán recibiendo boletos en las próximas semanas. Los ingresos beneficiarán en parte los programas del ministerio juvenil en nuestra parroquia, por lo que animamos encarecidamente a todos los feligreses a participar mediante la compra o venta de sus entradas. Encontrará más instrucciones en la carta adjunta a los boletos.

### 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., Constance Richardson, Col. Christie Walton

*If you know of someone who should be on the list, please contact Elizabeth at [bulletin.submit.strita@gmail.com](mailto: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, Jose Luis Arranda, Michael Barker, HESSIE BANNON, Bob D'Sylva, Lee Edwards, John Francis Garrity, III, Mary Gleeson, William C. Haas, Oscar Merino, Aileen Price, Joanne Robertson, Laura Maitre Stevens, George Szele, Rafael Vasquez-Coubert, Angela Wilson



### 2025 Bishop's Lenten Appeal (BLA)

The 2025 BLA mailing was recently sent to parishioners. This year's theme is: "Abounding in Hope." After reflecting upon the blessings God has given you, please prayerfully consider a pledge. Sharing your gifts with the more than 40 ministries and programs funded by the BLA truly impacts the lives of thousands across our diocese. You may make a gift at [www.arlingtondiocese.org/BLA](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/BLA) or scan the QR code.



SCAN ME

### Petición Cuaresmal del Obispo de 2025

La correspondencia sobre la Petición Cuaresmal del Obispo de 2025 se envió recientemente a los feligreses. El tema de este año es "Abundando en la esperanza". Después de reflexionar sobre las bendiciones que Dios les ha dado, en espíritu de oración piensen en hacer una promesa de contribución. El hecho de compartir sus dones con los más de 40 ministerios y programas financiados por la Petición Cuaresmal del Obispo realmente tiene una gran repercusión en la vida de miles de personas en toda nuestra diócesis. Pueden enviar una donación a [www.arlingtondiocese.org/BLA](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/BLA) o escanear el código QR.



ESCANÉAME

### Fierce Fatherhood Conference

Please join us for the second annual Fierce Fatherhood Conference on **Saturday, March 29**, from **8:45 am - 1:00 pm**, in the **St. Rita School Hall**. Please contact [office@saintrita-school.org](mailto:office@saintrita-school.org) for more information or if you would like to lend a hand.

### 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, April 26**. 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).

#### Retiros después de Aborto Provocado

Un Día de Oración y Sanación para mujeres que han experimentado un aborto provocado tomara acabo **el sábado, 26 de abril**. 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](mailto:info@ayudadespuesdelaborto.org).

#### Vocations

"Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours." (Luke 6:20) A vocation to religious life calls for a life of simplicity and dedication to God's kingdom. Could God be calling you to this blessed path? Talk to your priest or reach out to the **Vocations Office** at **(703) 841-2514** or via email: [vocations@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:vocations@arlingtondiocese.org).