

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



February 23, 2025: Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

CLERGY AND STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Christopher P. Christensen frcc41@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, February 24, 2025

Monday of the Seventh Week in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Ivy Gonsalves
7:30 pm Emma Oliverio

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

Tuesday of the Seventh Week in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Frank Walsh †

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

Wednesday of the Seventh Week in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Victoria Tuimavave †
7:30 pm Matthew Schnur

Thursday, February 27, 2025

Saint Gregory of Narek, Abbot and Doctor of the Church

7:00 am Christine Hanley

Friday, February 28, 2025

Friday of the Seventh Week in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Becca Lynch
7:30 pm Bobby and Dana Wann

Saturday, March 1, 2025

Saturday of the Seventh Week in Ordinary Time

8:00 am Norca Miller
5:00 pm Rodney and Kimberly Wilson

Sunday, March 2, 2025

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Cecilia Sierra
8:00 am Phyllis Manfred †
11:00 am Missa Pro Populo
1:00 pm Pablo Majano Urbina †

Additional Mass Intentions this Week:

John and Elisa Schnur, Carolyn Lundberg, Donald Trump, Len Pawlak

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 or **Jay Moret** at felix.moret@gmail.com.



Coffee and Donuts next Sunday

Please join us for Coffee and Donuts **Sunday, March 2**, in the School Hall, after all Masses, starting after the 8:00 am Mass.

Upcoming Second Collections

March 2: Repairs and Replacements
March 5: Ash Wednesday

Thank you for your continued generosity!

Bulletin Submissions

Please submit all announcements for the bulletin or email newsletter to bulletin.submit.strita@gmail.com by **Wednesday, ten days before the desired bulletin date**. Thank you!

ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

MARCH 5, 2025

7:00 AM MASS IN ENGLISH
12:15 PM MASS IN ENGLISH
6:00 PM MISA EN ESPAÑOL
7:30 PM MASS IN ENGLISH



There will be no Eucharistic Adoration or Confessions on Ash Wednesday



FRIDAYS OF LENT

5:30 PM Potluck soup dinner before Stations of the Cross
6:00 PM Via Crucis en Español
6:30 PM Stations of the Cross in English
7:00 PM Vespers (Evening Prayer) with a combination of English and Latin chants

Lenten Regulations for Fast and Abstinence

Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics 14 years old and older on **Ash Wednesday** and **all Fridays of Lent**. This obligation prohibits the eating of meat, but not eggs, milk products, or condiments of any kind (even those made from animal fat). Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to **fast** on **Ash Wednesday** and **Good Friday**. On days of **fasting**, only one full meal may be taken. Two additional smaller meals are permitted to maintain strength, but the two smaller meals together may not equal one full meal.

This Week at St. Rita

Sunday, February 23, 2025

10:30 am St. Rita Young Adults Brunch
6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

Monday, February 24, 2025

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

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

7:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

2:30 pm Homeschool Holy Hour
6:00 pm Religious Education Classes
8:15 pm St. Rita Young Adults Men's Group
8:15 pm St. Rita Young Adults Women's Group

Thursday, February 27, 2025

4:00 pm Junior Legion of Mary
6:00 pm High School Youth Ministry

Friday, February 28, 2025

7:00 pm Vespers

Saturday, March 1, 2025

9:00 am OCIA
9:15 am Legion of Mary
10:00 am First Confession Retreat

Sunday, March 2, 2025

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

5:30 pm Teams of our Lady
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

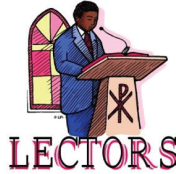
selling their tickets. Further instructions will be found in the letter enclosed with the tickets.

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.

Lectors Needed

Become a lector and help spread the Word of God and contribute to our parish. Lectors are needed for all English Masses. Scheduling is flexible and training is provided. Please consider volunteering for this ministry. To volunteer, or if you would like more information, please contact **Frank Donahoe** at **703-960-0719** or **fpdonahoe137@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.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, George Szele, Rafael Vasquez-Coubert, Angela Wilson



2025 Bishop's Lenten Appeal (BLA)

The 2025 BLA Commitment Sunday is next weekend! Once a year we are asked to make a pledge to sustain the good works funded by the BLA which offer vital services and assistance to those in need across our communities. We are asking every family to participate to help our parish make our goal. By participating in the BLA, we renew our commitment to the Lord with a response to His call to serve our brothers and sisters. You may make a gift at www.arlingtondiocese.org/BLA or scan the QR code.



SCAN ME

Petición Cuaresmal del Obispo de 2025

¡El próximo fin de semana es el domingo del compromiso con la Petición Cuaresmal del Obispo de 2025! Una vez al año se nos pide que hagamos una promesa de contribución para mantener las buenas obras financiadas por la Petición Cuaresmal del Obispo, que ofrecen servicios vitales y asistencia esencial a las personas necesitadas en nuestras comunidades. Le pedimos a cada familia que participe para ayudar a nuestra parroquia a alcanzar la meta fijada. Al participar en la Petición Cuaresmal del Obispo, renovamos nuestro compromiso con el Señor con una respuesta a su llamado a servir a nuestros hermanos y hermanas. Pueden enviar una donación a 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**. Now more than ever, our children deserve fathers that are intentional and committed to living out their vocation of fatherhood. St. Rita's Fatherhood Conference offers a forum for fathers to reflect, discuss, and grow in their vocation with speakers and practical discussions you can continue at home. Early bird registration until **March 19** for **\$30**. Regular registration: **\$40**. Space is limited, so please register as soon as possible at <https://bit.ly/fiercefatherhood> to secure your spot.

Formed.org

Did you know that St. Rita Parish has a subscription to Formed.org? Discover small group Bible studies, inspiring children's shows, sacramental preparation resources, family-friendly movies, and more! To sign up for free, visit signup.formed.org and enter "St. Rita Church" to create your free account.

News from the Diocese and Beyond

Vocations

"Love your enemies and do good to those who hate you." (Luke 6:27) Priests, religious brothers and sisters, and married couples are each called to live out a vocation rooted in love and forgiveness. Is God calling you to witness to His mercy and compassion through a religious vocation? Talk to your priest or reach out to the **Vocations Office** at **(703) 841-2514** or via email: vocations@arlingtondiocese.org.