

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



March 2, 2025: Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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, March 3, 2025

Saint Katharine Drexel, Virgin

7:00 am Maria Blazeovich
7:30 pm Michael Tuimavave

Tuesday, March 4, 2025

Saint Casimir

7:00 am Sam Fortune

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

Ash Wednesday

7:00 am Christopher Parsons †
12:15 pm Celebrant's Intention
6:00 pm (en Español) Cruz Membreño †
7:30 pm Donald Trump

Thursday, March 6, 2025

Thursday after Ash Wednesday

7:00 am Holly Carroll

Friday, March 7, 2025

Saints Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs

7:00 am Kate Ford
7:30 pm Maureen Malanchur †

Saturday, March 8, 2025

Saint John of God, Religious

8:00 am Felix Kuczynski †
5:00 pm Peter Kuczynski †

Sunday, March 9, 2025

First Sunday of Lent

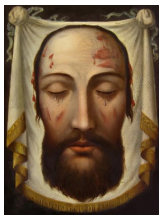
7:00 am Donald Trump
8:00 am Andrew Conrad
11:00 am Missa Pro Populo
1:00 pm Vanessa Lopez

Additional Mass Intentions this Week:

Matthew Schnur, Elena Marie Auclair, Will Tracey, Jack Peter Goitiandia, Jr. †

Archconfraternity of the Holy Face

All are welcome to join us for the next meeting of the Archconfraternity of the Holy Face **Sunday, March 9**, at **3:00 pm** in the church. This prayer group is dedicated to offering reparation for blasphemies against Our Lord and His Holy Name, for sins against keeping Sunday holy, and for sins of revolution and communism. You can read more about the devotion at <https://hisholyface.com/the-devotion/>.



Soup and Stations



Join us **every Friday in Lent** at **5:30 pm** for a simple soup supper in the Parish Center followed by Stations of the Cross in the Church. Please bring a pot of meatless soup to share. Bread and water will be provided by the hosting group. The hosting group for this Friday will be the Teams of our Lady.

Bulletin/Newsletter 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, 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

Monday, March 3, 2025

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

Tuesday, March 4, 2025

7:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

No Confessions or Adoration due to Ash Wednesday Schedule

6:00 pm Religious Education Classes

Thursday, March 6, 2025

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

Friday, March 7, 2025

5:30 pm Lenten Soup Supper
6:00 pm Via Crucis en Español
6:30 pm English Stations of the Cross
7:00 pm Vespers

Saturday, March 8, 2025

9:00 am OCIA
9:15 am Legion of Mary

Sunday, March 9, 2025

3:00 pm Archconfraternity of the Holy Face
6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

Soup and Stations

Every Friday during Lent

5:30 pm

Join us for a simple soup supper in the Parish Center followed by Stations of the Cross in the Church (6:00pm en Español; 6:30pm English).

Please bring a pot of meatless soup to share.



Bread and water will be provided by the hosting group.

March 7: Teams of Our Lady

March 14: American Heritage Girls

March 21: Youth Ministry

March 28: Young Adults

April 4: Knights of Columbus

April 11: Adult and Junior Legion of Mary

Sopas y Estaciones

*todos los viernes
durante la Cuaresma*

5:30 pm

Únase a nosotros para una sencilla cena de sopa en el Centro Parroquial seguida de las Estaciones de la Cruz en la Iglesia (6:00 p.m. en español; 6:30 p.m. en inglés).

Favor de traer una olla de sopa sin carne para compartir.



El pan y el agua estaran a cargo del grupo de acogida.

7 de marzo: Teams of our Lady

14 de marzo: American Heritage Girls

21 de marzo: Youth Ministry

28 de marzo: Young Adults

4 de abril: Knights of Columbus

11 de abril: Adult and Junior Legion of Mary

Annual All Saints' Car Raffle

The tickets for the annual All Saints' Car Raffle have been mailed. This year 4 vehicles will be raffled as well as a \$20,000 cash drawing, along with additional cash drawings. The raffle continues to benefit our parish, specifically our youth ministry programs, and many other charitable causes throughout the diocese. We hope that you will support our efforts by buying or selling your tickets. Ticket returns are processed by All Saints, so please make checks payable to All Saints and mail to the address on the enclosed envelope.

Sorteo Anual de Autos de Todos los Santos

Los boletos para la rifa anual de autos de All Saints ya se enviaron por correo. Este año se rifarán 4 vehículos y un sorteo en efectivo de \$20,000, junto con sorteos en efectivo adicionales. La rifa continúa beneficiando a los programas del ministerio juvenil en nuestra parroquia, así como a muchas otras causas benéficas en toda la diócesis. Esperamos que apoye nuestros esfuerzos comprando o vendiendo sus boletos. All Saints procesa las devoluciones de boletos, así que haga los cheques a nombre de All Saints y envíelos por correo a la dirección que figura en el sobre adjunto.

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**.

Lenten Series for Young Adult Women

All young adult women (ages 19-35) are invited to the St. Rita Young Adult Women's Group Lenten series every Wednesday of Lent from **March 12-April 16** from **8:15-9:30 pm** in the St. Rita Convent. We will read together Brant Pitre's *Jesus the Bridegroom* as we journey together through the desert. For more information, please contact **Maria Goitiandia** at **mgoitiandia.strita@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, Joanne Robertson, George Szele, Rafael Vasquez-Coubert, Angela Wilson



Coffee and Donuts Today

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

2025 Bishop's Lenten Appeal (BLA)

This weekend each household is asked to make a pledge or gift to the BLA. This appeal provides an opportunity to unite as a Catholic family and to support the various programs and ministries that help tens of thousands of people in our diocese. After reflecting upon God's blessings to you, please consider a pledge that will allow you to share your gifts with your neighbors. Each donation is vital to the success of the appeal and the important work that it funds. You may make a pledge at www.arlingtondiocese.org/BLA or scan the QR code.



SCAN ME

Petición Cuaresmal del Obispo de 2025

En este fin de semana se le pide a cada familia que haga una promesa de contribución o una donación a la Petición Cuaresmal del Obispo. Esta Petición nos da la oportunidad de unirnos como familia católica y de apoyar los varios programas y ministerios que ayudan a decenas de miles de personas en nuestra diócesis. Después de reflexionar sobre las bendiciones que Dios les ha dado, piensen en hacer una promesa de contribución que les permitirá compartir sus dones con sus vecinos. Cada donación es vital para el éxito de la Petición y para el importante trabajo que financia. 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.

Upcoming Second Collections

- March 2: Repairs and Replacements
- March 5: Ash Wednesday
- March 9: Black and Indian Missions
- March 30: Catholic Relief Services

Thank you for your continued generosity!

News from the Diocese and Beyond

Vocations

"Why do you notice the splinter in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own?" (Luke 6:41) Jesus calls us to self-awareness and humility, reminding us to look inward before we judge others. This same humility is essential when discerning how God is calling us to serve. Are you being called to dedicate your life to God's service as a priest or religious brother or sister? Talk to your priest or reach out to the **Vocations Office** at **(703) 841-2514** or via email: vocations@arlingtondiocese.org.