

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 16, 2025: Second Sunday of Lent

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 17, 2025

Saint Patrick, Bishop

7:00 am Melanie Worth

7:30 pm George Gee †

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

7:00 am Monica Kolf

Wednesday, March 19, 2025

Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:00 am St. Rita Young Adults Women's Group

7:30 pm St. Rita Young Adults Men's Group

Thursday, March 20, 2025

Thursday of the Second Week of Lent

7:00 am D. Lee DuSell †

Friday, March 21, 2025

Friday of the Second Week of Lent

7:00 am Jake Michael DiGeronimo †

7:30 pm William Haas †

Saturday, March 22, 2025

Saturday of the Second Week of Lent

8:00 am Cecilia Sierra

5:00 pm Thelma Domenici †

Sunday, March 23, 2025

Third Sunday of Lent

7:00 am Norka Miller

8:00 am St. Rita Lectors

11:00 am Missa Pro Populo

1:00 pm Maria Paula Flores de Majano †

Additional Mass Intentions this Week:

Maureen Malanchuk †, Carlie Neville, Jean Valerie MacNair †, Santiago R. Soutuyo †

Mother of Light Center Lenten Cross

St. Rita Church is partnering with the Mother of Light Center for the fourth year in a row for the Lenten Cross Project, now through **Wednesday, April 23**. You will find the Cross in the Russell Road vestibule of the church filled with many cards/items for which the center is in need. Choose a card, fulfill the request, and bring items back to the church vestibule the following week or when convenient to you. The items will go directly to the clients of Mother of Light Center. Thank you for your generosity!

La Cruz de Cuaresma del Centro Madre de la Luz

La Iglesia de Santa Rita se ha asociado con el Centro Madre de la Luz por cuarto año consecutivo para el Proyecto de la Cruz de Cuaresma, que se llevará a cabo desde ahora hasta **el miércoles 23 de abril**. Encontrará la Cruz en el vestíbulo de Russell Road de la iglesia, llena de muchas tarjetas y artículos que el centro necesita. Elija una tarjeta, complete la solicitud y devuelva los artículos al vestíbulo de la iglesia la semana siguiente o cuando le resulte conveniente. Los artículos se destinarán directamente a los clientes del Centro Madre de la Luz. ¡Gracias por su generosidad!

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!

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 (**6:00pm en Español; 6:30pm in English**) 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 Youth Ministry.



Food Drive for Catholic Charities St. Lucy Project

The Knights of Columbus are conducting a food collection drive for the St. Lucy Project, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington program on the weekend of **March 22/23**. Blue shopping bags will be distributed **this weekend** with a list of preferred items for purchase. Monetary donations and gift cards are also welcome. Please fill your bag and return it after all Sunday Masses on **March 22/23**. We need non-perishable items like hearty soups, canned chicken or tuna, canned veggies, beans or fruits, peanut butter and jelly, cereal and oatmeal, pasta and sauce, individually packaged snacks, and vegetable oil. Please, no glass jars.



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.

This Week at St. Rita

Sunday, March 16, 2025

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

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

Monday, March 17, 2025

5:30 pm Legión de María (en Español)

6:00 pm Religious Education Classes

7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

7:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study

Wednesday, March 19, 2025

2:30 pm Homeschool Holy Hour

6:00 pm Religious Education Classes

8:00 pm Knights of Columbus Meeting

8:15 pm Young Adult Women's Lenten Series

Thursday, March 20, 2025

4:00 pm Junior Legion of Mary

6:00 pm High School Youth Ministry

Friday, March 21, 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 22, 2025

Knights of Columbus Food Drive after 5:00 pm Mass

9:00 am OCIA

9:15 am Legion of Mary

6:30 pm Teams of our Lady

Sunday, March 23, 2025

Knights of Columbus Food Drive after all Masses

10:30 am St. Rita Young Adult Brunch

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

save the date



AN EVENING IN CASCIA:
ST. RITA PARISH FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, MAY 24TH

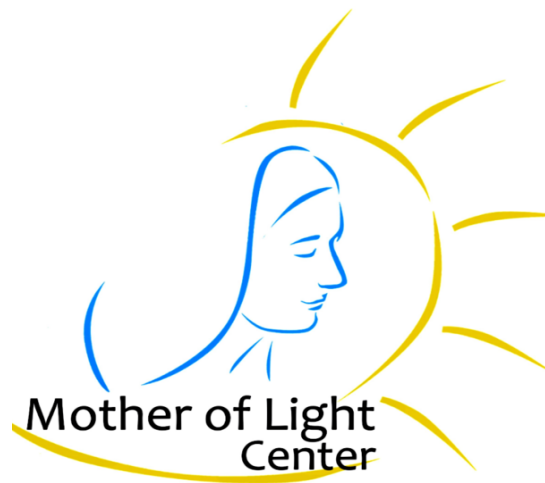
6- 10 PM

DINNER, LIVE MUSIC, &
DANCING

MORE INFORMATION AND
TICKET SALES COMING SOON!

THIS IS AN ADULTS ONLY EVENT





**Help to prepare your body, mind and spirit
during Lent!**

Donate to those in need! Select a tag from the Lenten cross in the Russell Road vestibule for donation to the Mother of Light Center.

Items can be delivered to St Rita Church during the season of Lent until Wednesday, April 23.

Thank you for your generosity!

**¡Ayuda a preparar tu cuerpo, mente y espíritu
durante la Cuaresma!**

¡Dona a los necesitados! Seleccione una etiqueta de la cruz de Cuaresma que se encuentra en el vestíbulo de Russell Road para donarlos al Centro Madre de la Luz. Los artículos se pueden traer a la iglesia de Santa Rita durante el tiempo de Cuaresma hasta el Miércoles 23 de Abril.

¡Gracias por su generosidad!

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.

Pilgrimage in the Steps of St. Paul with Fr. Schierer

Join Fathers Nicholas and William Schierer on a pilgrimage in the steps of St. Paul from **November 3-15, 2025**. This Pilgrimage will go to Greece, Turkey, and Italy. Each day we will celebrate Mass and reflect on the Gospel text appropriate to the place we visit. This will be a pilgrimage of a lifetime and it will forever change the way you read and understand the Scriptures. We hope you will be able to join us on what promises to be a grace-filled journey. For more information, please visit <https://terraste.com/tour/steps-of-st-paul-pilgrimage-under-the-spiritual-direction-of-frs-william-and-nicholas-schierer/>.

Upcoming Second Collections

- March 30: Catholic Relief Services
- April 6: Repairs and Replacements

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, 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

2025 Bishop's Lenten Appeal (BLA)

The Bishop's Lenten 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

La Petición Cuaresmal del Obispo 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.

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

Bishop Ireton Theater Arts Presents *Guys and Dolls*

Bishop Ireton High School's Theater Arts Department presents *Guys and Dolls*, **April 4, 5, 11 and 12** at **7:00 pm**, and **April 6** at **2:00 pm** in Garwood Whaley Auditorium at Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria, VA 22314. For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit <https://www.bishopireton.org/fine-arts/theater-arts>.

Vocations

"This is my chosen Son; listen to him." (Luke 9:35) In prayer, listen to the voice of Jesus calling you. Could He be inviting you to follow Him more closely in a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life? Talk to your priest or reach out to the **Vocations Office** at **(703) 841-2514** or via email: vocations@arlingtondiocese.org.