

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 23, 2025: Third 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	

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.

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, March 24, 2025

Monday of the Third Week of Lent

7:00 am Caitlin Rockwell

7:30 pm Christopher Parsons †

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

The Annunciation of the Lord

7:00 am Teodoro Closa †

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

Wednesday of the Third Week of Lent

7:00 am Alexandra Oakes

7:30 pm Juana and Cesar Anchiraico

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Thursday of the Third Week of Lent

7:00 am Ailsa Skuodas

Friday, March 28, 2025

Friday of the Third Week of Lent

7:00 am William Haas †

7:30 pm Christopher John Parsons †

Saturday, March 29, 2025

Saturday of the Third Week of Lent

8:00 am Lynn Durel

5:00 pm Raynaldo V.L. Paredes

Sunday, March 30, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday)

7:00 am Cecilia Sierra

8:00 am Kathleen Cole †

11:00 am Missa Pro Populo

1:00 pm Raul Rendon †

Additional Mass Intentions this Week:

Felice Litterio †, Monica Ciatti, Cesar Anchiraico, Vinia Anchiraico

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 needed by the Mother of Light Center. 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 Young Adults.

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://terrastc.com/tour/steps-of-st-paul-pilgrimage-under-the-spiritual-direction-of-frs-william-and-nicholas-schierer/>.

February 2025 Collections

Regular Offertory:	\$39,701
Parish Giving Offertory:	\$52,279
Repairs & Replacements:	\$3,255
Parish Giving Repairs & Replacements:	\$5,044
Poor Box:	\$2,449
Parish Giving Poor Box:	\$5,246

This Week at St. Rita

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

Monday, March 24, 2025

5:30 pm Legión de María (en Español)

6:00 pm Religious Education Classes

7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

7:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

2:30 pm Homeschool Holy Hour

6:00 pm Religious Education Classes

8:15 pm Young Adult Men's Group

8:15 pm Young Adult Women's Lenten Series

Thursday, March 27, 2025

4:00 pm Junior Legion of Mary

6:00 pm High School Youth Ministry

Friday, March 28, 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 29, 2025

9:00 am OCIA

9:15 am Legion of Mary

Sunday, March 30, 2025

9:00 am - 2:00 pm Clothing Drive (Teen Dress Clothes)

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

Clothing Drive

Please donate new or gently worn dress clothes for the teens in our community

Dresses, blouses, cardigans, dress pants, collared shirts, sports jackets, suits, and shoes for teenage boys and girls to have for special occasions such as:

Confirmation, Graduation, school dances

Please only donate clothing that is appropriate for teens to wear to the events listed above – items we do not think fit our criteria will be turned away



**Sunday, March 30th
9am - 2pm
in the old Convent**



Hosted by the St. Rita Young Adults Apostolate



Saint Rita
School

SUMMER CAMP

WEEK 1: JUNE 30TH - JULY 3RD

WEEK 2: JULY 7TH - JULY 11TH

WEEK 3: JULY 14TH - JULY 18TH


**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT OUR
SUMMER CAMP DIRECTOR, ESTELA LIZANO
ELIZANO@SAINTRITA-SCHOOL.ORG**



CYO Track and Field

Do you have a third through eighth grader who is interested in competing in throwing the shot put or turbo javelin, long jumping, sprinting or running longer distances on the track? St. Rita has a CYO track and field program open to all St. Rita School Students or registered parishioners. Homeschool students, as well as all students registered for the Religious Education program qualify to participate! The track team is a great community that unites all the parts of our parish into a competitive team. We train the children according to their talents in sprints, distance, throws, jumps and relays. If you want your child to be fit and make friends or get involved in a sport he or she might want to do in high school, you will be interested in this program. Please email Coach Lisa McNichols at stritchtrack@gmail.com with any questions.

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.

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

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. Registration is **\$40**. Space is limited, so please register as soon as possible at <https://bit.ly/fiercefatherhood> to secure your spot.

Upcoming Second Collections

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

Thank you for your continued generosity!

News from the Diocese and Beyond

Seminarians to be Ordained Deacons

On **Saturday, April 26, 2025**, Bishop Burbidge will ordain seven seminarians to the Transitional Diaconate: James Harbour, Donghan Lee, Sean Mazary, Eric McDade, Alexander Solsma, Teko Teko-Agbo and Aaron Zanca. The Mass will be held at The Cathedral of St. Thomas More in Arlington at 11:00 a.m. and will also be livestreamed. Visit www.ArlingtonDiocese.org/Ordinations to learn more about these men, what led them to seminary, and about the ordination events. Please pray for our future priests!

Vocations

"I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future." (Luke 13:7-9) We are invited to consider how God may be cultivating our hearts, preparing us for a vocation of service. Is God calling you to priesthood or consecrated life, and patiently waiting for you to respond? Talk to your priest or reach out to the **Vocations Office** at **(703) 841-2514** or via email: vocations@arlingtondiocese.org.