

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 9, 2025: First 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 10, 2025

Monday of the First Week of Lent

7:00 am N. Zorich
7:30 pm Jamie Coffey

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Tuesday of the First Week of Lent

7:00 am Margaret McLaughlin

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Wednesday of the First Week of Lent

7:00 am Nancy Taylor †
7:30 pm St. Rita Knights of Columbus

Thursday, March 13, 2025

Thursday of the First Week of Lent

7:00 am Erika Ramirez

Friday, March 14, 2025

Friday of the First Week of Lent

7:00 am Bobby Minto †
7:30 pm Paul and Gabby Schmitt

Saturday, March 15, 2025

Saturday of the First Week of Lent

8:00 am St. Rita Legion of Mary
5:00 pm Ann McGehee †

Sunday, March 16, 2025

Second Sunday of Lent

7:00 am 100th Anniversary Committee
8:00 am Nancy and Kelly McKeague
11:00 am Missa Pro Populo
1:00 pm Jose Garcia Cabrera †

Additional Mass Intentions this Week:

Jon and Elisa Schnur, Teo Antonio, Cecilia Sierra, Len Pawlak

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 the weekend of **March 15/16** 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.

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.

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 American Heritage Girls.

Archconfraternity of the Holy Face Today

All are welcome to join us for the next meeting of the Archconfraternity of the Holy Face **today, 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/>.

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.

This Week at St. Rita

Sunday, March 9, 2025

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

Monday, March 10, 2025

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

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

7:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

2:30 pm Homeschool Holy Hour
6:00 pm Religious Education Classes
8:15 pm Young Adult Women's Lenten Series
8:15 pm Young Adult Men's Group

Thursday, March 13, 2025

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

Friday, March 14, 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
7:30 pm Men's Fellowship

Saturday, March 15, 2025

9:00 am Young Adult Lenten Retreat
9:00 am OCIA
9:15 am Legion of Mary
10:00 am First Confessions
6:30 pm Teams of our Lady

Sunday, March 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

Annual All Saints' Car Raffle

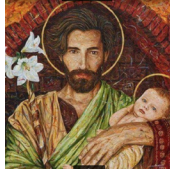
The tickets for the annual All Saints' Car Raffle have been mailed. This year 4 vehicles will be raffled as well as a \$20,000 cash drawing, along with additional cash drawings. The raffle continues to benefit our parish, specifically our youth ministry programs, and many other charitable causes throughout 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.

St. Rita Men's Fellowship Meeting

The St. Rita Men's Fellowship will meet on **Friday, March 14, at 7:30 pm** in the school courtyard, weather permitting, and in the Parish Center (enter through the back) if it rains. Please join us for prayer, conversation, and "manly solidarity" under our patron, St. Joseph, "Protector of Holy Church." Bring a chair, cold beverages and food or snacks to share, and your rosary! Please contact **Rick Strobach** at rick.strobach@gmail.com for more information. New and past members are always welcome! *Sancte Joseph, ora pro nobis!*



Upcoming Second Collections

- March 9: Black and Indian Missions
- March 30: Catholic Relief Services

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.

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

News from the Diocese and Beyond

Mother of Light Center in Need of Volunteers

The current environment has placed a tremendous strain on the poor, needy, and homeless men, women, and children served by Mother of Light Center. Volunteers can commit to one day a week or multiple days. Teens are welcome to complete service hours. All activities take place at or near our center. Spanish speakers are welcome! We are currently in need of Food Pantry Packers (**M-W from 1:00-3:00 pm**), Drivers to pick up food donations (**M, W, F from 8:30-10:30 am**), Clothing Sorters (**M-Sat. from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm**), Tutors for the Teen (**Sat. 11:00 am-1:00 pm**) and ESL Programs, and After-school Aides (**Thurs. from 4:00-5:45 pm**). If you are interested in volunteering, please send your name, email address, phone number and details of how you want to help by email to: motherofflightcenter@gmail.com or by text to: **703-307-5902**.

Vocations

"You shall worship the Lord, your God, and Him alone shall you serve." (Luke 4:8) This Lenten season, reflect on your life's direction. Are you being called to serve God with an undivided heart 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.