

# 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](http://www.stritaalexandria.com) / [www.saintrita-school.org](http://www.saintrita-school.org)



## April 13, 2025: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

### CLERGY AND STAFF

<b>Pastor</b>	Rev. Christopher P. Christensen frc41@gmail.com	Ext. 17
<b>Parochial Vicar</b>	Rev. Nicholas Schierer fatherschierer@gmail.com	Ext. 30
<b>Permanent Deacon</b>	Deacon Stephen J. Dixon deacondixon.strita@gmail.com	
<b>In Residence</b>	Rev. Paul Berghout ihmpadre@gmail.com	Ext. 15
<b>Director of Sacred Music</b>	Lawrence Bowie lbowie.strita@gmail.com	Ext. 29
<b>Parish Secretary and Hispanic Liaison</b>	Alma Ramirez aramirez.strita@gmail.com	Ext. 10
<b>Business Manager</b>	Debbie Beck dbeck.strita@gmail.com	Ext. 13
<b>Director of Religious Education</b>	Chloe Holloway cholloway.strita@gmail.com	Ext. 12
<b>Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry</b>	Maria Goitiandia mgoitiandia.strita@gmail.com	Ext. 38
<b>Sacristan</b>	Elizabeth Vail evail.strita@gmail.com	Ext. 11
<b>Bulletin Editor</b>	Elizabeth Vail bulletin.submit.strita@gmail.com	
<b>Maintenance Manager</b>	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/](http://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, April 14, 2025

*Monday of Holy Week*

7:00 am Jutta Grumm †

7:30 pm Audrey Fullen †

### Tuesday, April 15, 2025

*Tuesday of Holy Week*

7:00 am Edward Caughlan

7:30 pm Raynaldo B. Paredes

### Wednesday, April 16, 2025

*Wednesday of Holy Week*

7:00 am Biss Meyer Family

7:30 pm Roger Paredes

### Thursday, April 17, 2025

*Holy Thursday*

6:00 pm (en Español) Roman Reyes

7:30 pm The President

### Friday, April 18, 2025

*Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)*

See Holy Week Schedule for Good Friday Liturgies

### Saturday, April 19, 2025

*Holy Saturday*

8:30pm OCIA Catechumens and  
Candidates

### Sunday, April 20, 2025

*Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord*

7:00 am Frank and Alice Walsh †

8:00 am Reno Carlitti †

11:00 am Missa Pro Populo

1:00 pm Delmy de Torres †

*Additional Mass Intentions this Week:*

Kaitlin Coleman, Santiago R. Soutuyo †

### 7 Churches Pilgrimage

Participate in an ancient Catholic tradition to prepare prayerfully for Easter this year. On the evening of **Holy Thursday, April 17**, travel to seven different churches to spend time in adoration of Jesus and reflect upon His agony in the garden. St. Rita is one of the stops on two different routes. There will be books available in the Russell Road vestibule, and you can also find a downloadable version at <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/Young-Adult-Ministry/7-Churches-Pilgrimage/>.



### Office Closed for Easter from April 18-22

The Parish Office will be closed from **Friday, April 18, through Tuesday, April 22**, in observance of the Easter holiday. The Parish Office will re-open on **Wednesday, April 23**.

### No Coffee and Donuts Easter Sunday

There will be no Coffee and Donuts on **Easter Sunday, April 20**. Coffee and Donuts will resume on **Sunday, May 4**.

### Bulletin/Newsletter Submissions

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

### 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.

### Tenebrae



Join us for Tenebrae on Wednesday of Holy Week, **April 16**, at **8:30 pm**. Tenebrae is Latin for "darkness," and features the chanting of Psalms, as well as readings from Sacred Scripture. During the liturgy, candles are gradually extinguished, reminding us of the darkness we experience without Christ.

### Blessing of the Easter Food

We will have the blessing of the Easter food on **Holy Saturday, April 19, after Lauds (Morning Prayer)**. This blessing is a long-standing tradition of Christians in Poland and other Slavic countries. Baskets are typically lined with white cloth and decorated with ribbons, flowers, and greenery, and filled with the following items:

- **Eggs** to represent Christ's Resurrection
- **Bread** to remind us that Jesus is the "Bread of Life"
- **Salt** to remind us that we should be the "Salt of the Earth"
- **Meat** as a symbol of joy and abundance
- **Lamb-shaped butter or sugar**, representing Jesus as the "Lamb of God."
- **A white candle**, representing Jesus as the "Light of the World"
- **Wine**, symbolic of the Blood of Christ

The basket is then covered with white linen to symbolize the burial shroud of Christ.

## This Week at St. Rita

### Sunday, April 13, 2025

3:00 pm Archconfraternity of the Holy Face

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

### Monday, April 14, 2025

*No Religious Education Classes*

5:30 pm Legión de María (en Español)

7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study

### Tuesday, April 15, 2025

7:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study

### Wednesday, April 16, 2025

*No Religious Education Classes*

8:00 pm Knights of Columbus Meeting

### Thursday, April 17, 2025

*Please see Holy Week Schedule*

### Friday, April 18, 2025

*Please see Holy Week Schedule*

### Saturday, April 19, 2025

*Please see Holy Week Schedule*

### Sunday, April 20, 2025

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

# Holy Week 2025



## **PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 2025**

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm  
7:00 am  
8:00 am  
9:15 am (Latin Novus Ordo Mass)  
11:00 am  
1:00 pm (en Español)

## **MONDAY, TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK**

7:00 am Mass  
6:30 - 7:30 pm Adoration  
6:30 pm Confession  
7:30 pm Mass \*

\* Tuesday evening's Mass will be a Latin Novus Ordo instead of a Traditional Latin Mass

## **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2025**

8:30 pm Tenebrae

## *The Sacred Paschal Triduum*

## **HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2025**

6:00 pm Misa de la Cena del Señor  
7:30 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper (English)  
After Mass – 7:00 am (Friday) Vigil before the Blessed Sacrament

\*\*There will be no evening confessions on Holy Thursday\*\*



## **GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2025**



8:30 am Good Friday Lauds (Morning Prayer)  
9:00 am - 12:00 pm Confession  
12:00 pm Stations of the Cross (English)  
3:00 pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English)  
6:00 pm "Via Crucis" en vivo en Español  
(Living Stations of the Cross in Spanish)  
Despues Celebración de la Pasión del Señor

\*\*There will be no evening confessions on Good Friday\*\*

## **HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 2025**

8:30 am Holy Saturday Lauds (Morning Prayer)  
After Lauds Blessing of the Easter Food  
9:00 am - 12:00pm Confession

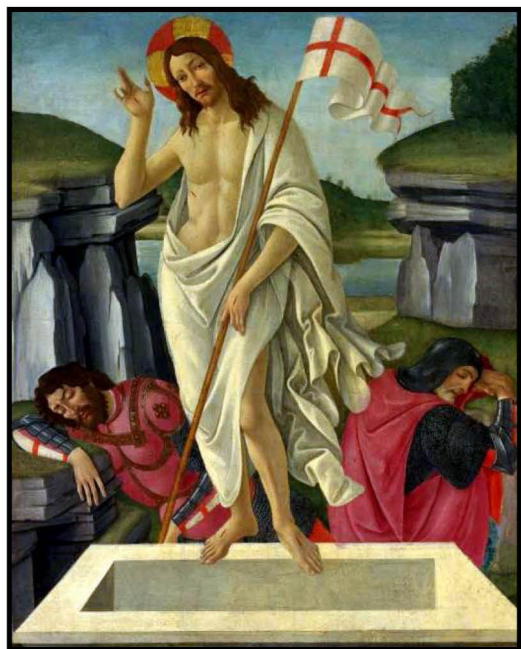
\*\*There will be no afternoon or evening confessions on Holy Saturday\*\*





# Easter 2025

**SUNDAY, APRIL 20, 2025**



**SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 2025**

8:30 pm                      Easter Vigil Mass

*There will be no afternoon or evening confessions  
and no 5:00 pm Mass on Holy Saturday.*

**SUNDAY, APRIL 20, 2025**

Regular Sunday Mass Schedule

*“Do not be afraid; for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified.  
He is not here; for he has risen, as he said.”  
(Matthew 28:5-6)*

## Divine Mercy Sunday

**SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2025**

Regular Sunday Mass Schedule



3:00 - 4:00 pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
Divine Mercy Chaplet  
Silent Adoration  
Confessions  
Benediction

*My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the Fount of My Mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment.*

*(Diary of St. Faustina, 699)*



### Volunteers Needed for Christ House Dinner

Volunteers are needed for an upcoming dinner service at the Christ House Shelter on **Sunday, April 27 at 5:00 pm**. Most importantly, we are looking for volunteers to cook a batch of beef stew or make brownies or cookies and deliver the food to the shelter between **4:15-4:30 pm** that day. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact **Eric Co** at [ericco9@yahoo.com](mailto:ericco9@yahoo.com) or **713-206-8759**.

### BASH



The St. Rita Youth Ministry will be attending the Diocesan BASH on **Saturday, May 10** and all Middle Schoolers (6-8 Graders) are invited to join! BASH is a celebration of our Catholic faith and love of the Lord. This event includes music, games, inspirational speakers, confessions, and a Vigil Mass for Sunday, with Bishop Burbidge as the principal celebrant. To register your child please fill out the form found at <https://bit.ly/4coYuRH>. If you have any questions please contact our Director of Youth and Young Ministry, **Maria Goitiandia**, at [mgoitiandia.strita@gmail.com](mailto:mgoitiandia.strita@gmail.com).

### Motherhood Conference

Motherhood is at the heart of so much, but what about the heart of the mother? *The Heart of It All: Nurturing Yourself in Every Role You Play* is a conference designed to help women embrace and care for themselves—not just as mothers, but as wives and individuals. Join us in the **St. Rita School Hall** on **Saturday, May 3** from **8:45am - 12:00 pm** for inspiring talks, practical tools, and meaningful connections, to help you learn how to thrive in every role you hold, creating a stronger, more joyful foundation for yourself and your family. Cost is \$30. Scan the QR code to reserve your spot today!



### 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., Kimberly Meredith, 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](mailto: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

### Olive Wood Carvings by Bethlehem Christians

Help support our brothers and sisters in Bethlehem by purchasing olive wood carvings from the Holy Land. These beautiful carvings are handmade by the Christians of Bethlehem and will be displayed for purchase after all Masses on the weekend of **April 26-27**. For more information, please contact the **Bethlehem Carving Group** at **202-302-5889** or visit [www.BethlehemCarvings.org](http://www.BethlehemCarvings.org).

### An Evening in Cascia



Please join us on **Saturday, May 24**, from **6:00 - 10:00 pm** for *An Evening in Cascia*, an adults-only evening with dinner and dancing. We will have live music, and an Italian-themed meal. For more information, and to purchase tickets, please visit <https://stritaalexandria.com/an-evening-in-cascia/>. Please note that this event will take

the place of the daytime festival we have had in previous years. We hope to see you there!

### Annual All Saints' Car Raffle

Thanks to all those who have returned their car raffle tickets—special thanks to those who have requested extras to sell to their relatives, friends, co-workers, bowling team, etc. Please note that raffle tickets must be processed at All Saints and checks must be made payable to All Saints. Please mail your tickets and payment directly to All Saints in the envelope provided, by **Tuesday, April 29**. If you would like additional tickets, please email [strita.car.raffle@gmail.com](mailto:strita.car.raffle@gmail.com).

### Sorteo Anual de Autos de Todos los Santos

Gracias a todos los que devolvieron sus boletos para la rifa de autos, y en especial a quienes solicitaron boletos adicionales para vender a sus familiares, amigos, compañeros de trabajo, etc. Tengan en cuenta que los boletos deben procesarse en All Saints y los cheques deben hacerse a nombre de All Saints. Envíen sus boletos y el pago directamente a All Saints en el sobre proporcionado **antes martes, 29 de abril**. Si desean boletos adicionales, envíen un correo electrónico a [strita.car.raffle@gmail.com](mailto:strita.car.raffle@gmail.com).

### Mother of Light Center Lenten Cross

The Mother of Light Center Lenten Cross is 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 now through **Wednesday, April 23**. 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 Cruz de Cuaresma del Centro Madre de la Luz se encuentra en el vestíbulo de Russell Road, llena de tarjetas y artículos que el Centro Madre de la Luz necesita. Elija una tarjeta, complete la solicitud y devuélvala al vestíbulo de la iglesia desde ahora hasta **el miércoles 23 de abril**. Los artículos se destinarán directamente a los clientes del Centro Madre de la Luz. ¡Gracias por su generosidad!

### Upcoming Second Collections

April 13:	Easter Flower Offering
April 17:	Holy Thursday
April 18:	Good Friday (Holy Land)
April 20:	Easter

Thank you for your continued generosity!