

# 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 27, 2025: Second Sunday of Easter (or Sunday of Divine Mercy)

### CLERGY AND STAFF

<b>Pastor</b>	Rev. Christopher P. Christensen frcc41@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	

### 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/](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.

### 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 28, 2025

*Saint Peter Chanel, Priest and Martyr;  
Saint Louis Grignion de Montfort, Priest*

7:00 am Abie Jackson ☩  
7:30 pm Anne Scherer ☩

### Tuesday, April 29, 2025

*Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin*  
7:00 am Frank Walsh ☩

### Wednesday, April 30, 2025

*Saint Pius V, Pope*  
7:00 am Martha Von Guggenberg  
7:30 pm Jacobeen Family

### Thursday, May 1, 2025

*Saint Joseph the Worker*  
7:00 am Joan Eisenberg

### Friday, May 2, 2025

*Saint Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church*  
7:00 am Jose Morales ☩  
7:30 pm Dillon McGregor

### Saturday, May 3, 2025

*Saints Philip and James, Apostles*  
8:00 am Elizabeth Schnur  
5:00 pm Agripina Ruiz ☩

### Sunday, May 4, 2025

*Third Sunday of Easter*  
7:00 am Rocco and Renuka Carlitti  
8:00 am Martha Von Guggenberg  
11:00 am Missa Pro Populo  
1:00 pm Leonor Muñoz ☩

*Additional Mass Intentions this Week:*

John Eduardo Murray ☩, Molly Metzgar, Betty Camp ☩,  
Santiago Soutuyo ☩

### Informational Session with RHM Gynecology

Join us this evening, **Sunday, April 27 at 7:00 pm** in the **School Hall** for an informational session with Katie Morris, APRN, WHNP-BC, from Reproductive Health Medicine and Gynecology, a Catholic medical practice that seeks to assist women—young, more mature, and everyone in between—by serving the whole person, respecting God's creation, and remaining open to life. Come learn about the Restorative Reproductive Medicine Approach, Finding the Root Cause to Heal, and Why Catholic Health Care Matters. We hope you can join us!



### March 2025 Collections

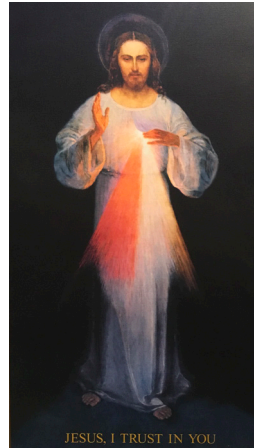
Regular Offertory:	\$45,031
Parish Giving Offertory:	\$65,963
Repairs & Replacements:	\$2,737
Parish Giving Repairs & Replacements:	\$6,410
Poor Box:	\$3,571
Parish Giving Poor Box:	\$3,885

### 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!

## Divine Mercy Holy Hour

Sunday, April 27, 2025



**3:00 - 4:00 pm**

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

*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.*

*(Diary of St. Faustina, 699)*

### Pope John Paul II on

### Christ as the Incarnation of Mercy

In Christ and through Christ, God also becomes especially visible in His mercy; that is to say, there is emphasized that attribute of the divinity which the Old Testament, using various concepts and terms, already defined as "mercy." Christ confers on the whole of the Old Testament tradition about God's mercy a definitive meaning. Not only does He speak of it and explain it by the use of comparisons and parables, but above all He Himself makes it incarnate and personifies it. He Himself, in a certain sense, is mercy. To the person who sees it in Him - and finds it in Him - God becomes "visible" in a particular way as the Father who is rich in mercy. (*Dives in Misericordia*, 2)

## This Week at St. Rita

### Sunday, April 27, 2025

*Bethlehem Olive Wood Carving Sales after all Masses*

10:30 am St. Rita Young Adult Brunch  
3:00 pm Divine Mercy Holy Hour  
6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group  
7:00 pm RHM Gynecology Informational Session

### Monday, April 28, 2025

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

### Tuesday, April 29, 2025

7:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study

### Wednesday, April 30, 2025

2:30 pm Homeschool Holy Hour  
6:00 pm Religious Education Classes

### Thursday, May 1, 2025

4:00 pm Junior Legion of Mary

### Friday, May 2, 2025

7:00 pm Vespers

### Saturday, May 3, 2025

8:30 am First Holy Communion Mini-Retreat  
9:15 am Legion of Mary

### Sunday, May 4, 2025

5:30 pm Teams of our Lady  
6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group



Reproductive Health  
Medicine & Gynecology

Arlington, VA

# Catholic Women's Healthcare

A Talk by

**KATIE MORRIS, APRN, WHNP-BC**

**April 27  
7-8pm**

**ST RITA SCHOOL HALL**

- The Restorative Reproductive Medicine Approach
- Finding the Root Cause to Heal
- Why Catholic Health Care Matters





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Athens

Rome

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\$5999  
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# *A Pilgrimage to* **Greece, Turkey & Italy**

*Steps of St. Paul including a 3 night cruise!*

Under the Spiritual Direction of  
Frs. William and Nicholas Schierer

**NOVEMBER 03 - 15, 2025**



**TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:** Thessaloniki, Meteora, Mykonos, Santorini, Ephesus, Rome

www.terrastc.com  
info@terrastc.com

(888) 798 - 3772  
 terrastc

1934 Old Gallow Rd. Ste 350  
Vienna, VA 22182



### First Saturday Pro-Life Rosary



Come join the new monthly Pro-Life Rosary on the first Saturdays of the month at the abortion clinic at **2616 Sherwood Hall Lane**. The next First Saturday is **Saturday, May 3**. Plan to be there a **little before 10:00 am**, and we will form a group with the others who are there, and pray the Rosary together. For more information contact **Rick Strobach** at [rick.strobach@gmail.com](mailto:rick.strobach@gmail.com) or **Jay Moret** at [felix.moret@gmail.com](mailto:felix.moret@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!



### 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 Adult Ministry, **Maria Goitiandia**, at [mgoitiandia.strita@gmail.com](mailto: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., 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

### 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!

### 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/>.

### Lost and Found

Are you looking for lost items? Please stop by the rectory office **weekdays** between **9:00 am - 9:00 pm** or call the office at **703-836-1640** to check the parish lost and found. Any lost items that are not claimed after 30 days are donated or discarded.



### Formed.org



Did you know that St. Rita Parish has a subscription to Formed.org? Discover small group Bible studies, inspiring children's shows, sacramental preparation resources, family-friendly movies, and more! To sign up for free, visit [signup.formed.org](https://signup.formed.org) and enter "St. Rita Church" to create your free account.

### 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**.



### Upcoming Second Collections

May 4:

Repairs and Replacements

Thank you for your continued generosity!

### News from the Diocese and Beyond

#### Vocations

"Peace be with you." (John 20:19) If you are seeking peace and purpose in your life, open your heart to the possibility of a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life. Let God's mercy guide your steps. Talk to your priest or reach out to the **Vocations Office** at **(703) 841-2514** or via email: [vocations@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:vocations@arlingtondiocese.org).