

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



April 6, 2025: Fifth 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, April 7, 2025

Saint John Baptist de la Salle, Priest

7:00 am Elizabeth Burke

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Tuesday of the Fifth Week of Lent

7:00 am Rose Ann Balzereit †

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

Wednesday of the Fifth Week of Lent

7:00 am Sam Prescott

7:30 pm Mary Lee Corr †

Thursday, April 10, 2025

Thursday of the Fifth Week of Lent

7:00 am Maureen Malanchuk †

Friday, April 11, 2025

Saint Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr

7:00 am Christopher Parsons †

7:30 pm The Matich Family

Saturday, April 12, 2025

Saturday of the Fifth Week of Lent

8:00 am Audrey Fullen †

5:00 pm Charles "Chuck" Franklin †

Sunday, April 13, 2025

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

7:00 am Susan DeLuca †

8:00 am Mike and Mallory Carroll

9:15 am Angela Wilson †

11:00 am Missa Pro Populo

1:00 pm Jose Daniel Garcia Padilla †

Additional Mass Intentions this Week:

Matthew Schnur, Alexsandra Oakes, The Ruio Family



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.

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!

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!



Come Holy Spirit

On **Monday, April 7**, Bishop Coffey of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA will celebrate our Confirmation Mass at St. Rita Church. We will have about 35 Confirmandi from our parish who have been preparing all year with a retreat, service, and catechesis.

Please keep them in your prayers as they are sealed with the Holy Spirit.

Confirmation Scheduling Note

Please note that there will be no Adoration, Confessions or 7:30 pm Mass on **Monday, April 7** due to our Confirmation Mass with Bishop Coffey scheduled that night.

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 Knights of Columbus.

This Week at St. Rita

Sunday, April 6, 2025

10:30 am Holy Face Procession

4:00 pm Confirmation Rehearsal

5:30 pm Teams of our Lady

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

Monday, April 7, 2025

No Confessions, Adoration or 7:30 pm Mass due to Confirmation

5:30 pm Legión de María (en Español)

6:00 pm Religious Education Classes

7:00 pm Confirmation

7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

7:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

2:30 pm Homeschool Holy Hour

6:00 pm Religious Education Classes

6:00 pm Spanish Baptism Class

8:15 pm Young Adult Men's Group

8:15 pm Young Adult Women's Lenten Series

Thursday, April 10, 2025

4:00 pm Junior Legion of Mary

6:00 pm High School Youth Ministry

Friday, April 11, 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, April 12, 2025

9:00 am OCIA

9:15 am Legion of Mary

1:30 pm Megaboda

Sunday, April 13, 2025

3:00 pm Archconfraternity of the Holy Face

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

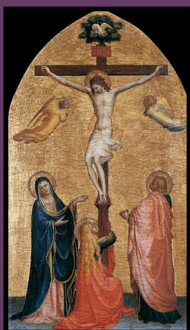
HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2025

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

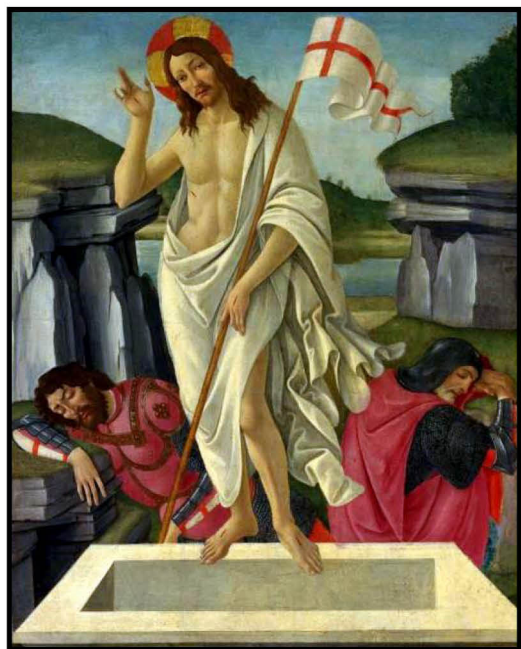
8:30 am Holy Saturday Lauds (Morning Prayer)
After Lauds Blessing of the Easter Food
9:00 am - 12:00pm Confession

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.

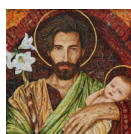
(Diary of St. Faustina, 699)

Baptism Classes

The next Spanish Baptism class will take place on **Wednesday, April 9** at **6:00 pm**. English Baptism classes are scheduled on an individual basis with Fr. Schierer. Please contact the parish office for more information or to sign up for a class.

Men's Fellowship

Get back to those LENTEN COMMITMENTS and join the St. Rita Men's Fellowship on **Friday, April 11** at **7:30 pm**. We'll meet 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 St. Joseph, "Patron of the Church." Bring food, a chair, and cold beverages or snacks to share--and your rosary! New and past members are always welcome! Contact **Rick Strobach** at rick.strobach@gmail.com for more information. *Sancte Ioseph, Ora pro nobis!*



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/>.

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. Traditional items for the Easter basket include eggs, bread, salt, meat, lamb-shaped butter or sugar, a white candle, and wine. Look for more information about preparing your basket in next week's bulletin.

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. 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!

2025 Bishop's Lenten Appeal (BLA)

Thank you to those who have pledged to the Bishop's Lenten Appeal! Every donation, large or small, is essential. If you have yet to make your gift, you may make a pledge at www.arlingtondiocese.org/BLA or scan the QR code. Thank you for your generosity!



SCAN ME

Petición Cuaresmal del Obispo de 2025

¡Gracias a quienes se han comprometido con la Campaña Cuaresmal del Obispo! Toda donación, grande o pequeña, es esencial. Si aún no ha hecho su donativo, puede hacerlo en www.arlingtondiocese.org/BLA o escanear el código QR. ¡Gracias por su generosidad!



ESCANÉAME

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. If you would like additional tickets, please email 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. Si desean boletos adicionales, envíen un correo electrónico a strita.car.raffle@gmail.com.

CYO Track and Field

Santa Rita cuenta con un programa de atletismo CYO abierto a todos los estudiantes de la Escuela Santa Rita y feligreses registrados. Todos los estudiantes registrados en el programa de Educación Religiosa, pueden participar! El equipo de atletismo es una gran comunidad que une a todos los miembros de nuestra parroquia en un equipo competitivo. Entrenamos a los niños según sus talentos en carreras de velocidad, distancia, lanzamientos, saltos y relevos. Si desea que su hijo esté en forma, haga amigos o practique un deporte que le gustaría practicar en la preparatoria, este programa le interesará. Si tiene alguna pregunta, envíe un correo electrónico a la entrenadora **Lisa McNichols** a stritatrack@gmail.com.

Upcoming Second Collections

April 6:	Repairs and Replacements
April 13:	Easter Flower Offering
April 17:	Holy Thursday
April 18:	Good Friday (Holy Land)
April 20:	Easter