

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



May 11, 2025: Fourth Sunday of Easter

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, May 12, 2025

Saints Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs; Saint Pancras, Martyr

7:00 am Vincent Tarantino ☩

7:30 pm Timotea Agbayani ☩

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Our Lady of Fatima

7:00 am Giuseppe and Gaby Terracina

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Saint Matthias, Apostle

7:00 am Pat Munson ☩

7:30 pm Cindy Hart

Thursday, May 15, 2025

Saint Isidore

7:00 am Fr. Michael Taylor

Friday, May 16, 2025

Friday of the Fourth Week of Easter

7:00 am Fr. Christopher Pollard

7:30 pm Kathleen Cole ☩

Saturday, May 17, 2025

Saturday of the Fourth Week of Easter

8:00 am Margaret Oliverio

5:00 pm Kavan Kehoe

Sunday, May 18, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Easter

7:00 am Fr. Paul Scalia

8:00 am Fr. Ronald J. Gripshover, Jr.

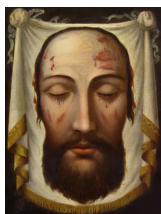
11:00 am Missa Pro Populo

1:00 pm Alba Granados

Additional Mass Intentions this Week:

The Barry Family, Cecilia Castillo, Joanne Robertson ☩,
The President

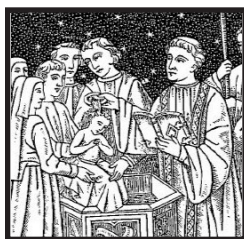
Archconfraternity of the Holy Face Today



All are welcome to join us for the next meeting of the Archconfraternity of the Holy Face **today, Sunday, May 11**, 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/>.

Baptism Classes

The next Spanish Baptism class will take place on **Wednesday, May 14** 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.



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!

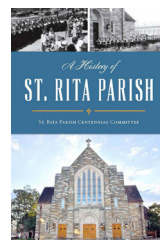
An Evening in Cascia



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. Look forward to an open bar, dinner catered by Aldo's Italian Kitchen, live music performed by the Scotts Ragsdale Orchestra with guest vocalist Daniel Murray, Rita's Italian Ice, and ample opportunity for dancing. Tickets are \$25 for a single and \$40 for a couple. The dress code for the evening is dressy casual. This event will be taking place outdoors – rain or shine! Parking will be limited so please consider carpooling or using a ride-share service. To purchase tickets, please visit <https://stritaalexandria.com/an-evening-in-cascia/>. We hope to see you there!

A History of St. Rita Parish on Sale for St. Rita Celebration

During the weekend of **May 24-25**, *A History of St. Rita Parish* will be back on sale for the special reduced price of **ONLY \$10** a copy! All proceeds go the parish! Copies will be available to purchase at the St. Rita Festival Dinner Dance on **May 24**. They will also be available for purchase after all Sunday Masses on **May 25** at the Russell Road entrance of the church. Get your copy while you can!



Upcoming Second Collections

May 25: Diocesan Retired Priests
June 1: Repairs and Replacements

This Week at St. Rita

Sunday, May 11, 2025

3:00 pm Archconfraternity of the Holy Face
5:30 pm Teams of our Lady
6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

Monday, May 12, 2025

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

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

7:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

2:30 pm Homeschool Holy Hour
6:00 pm Last Religious Education Classes
6:00 pm Spanish Baptism Class
8:15 pm St. Rita Young Adult Women's Group
8:15 pm St. Rita Young Adult Men's Group

Thursday, May 15, 2025

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

Friday, May 16, 2025

7:00 pm Vespers

Saturday, May 17, 2025

9:15 am Legion of Mary
6:30 pm Teams of our Lady

Sunday, May 18, 2025

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

CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF ST. RITA

(FEAST DAY: MAY 22)



The **Novena to St. Rita** begins **Tuesday, May 13**. Novena prayer cards will be available in all vestibules.

May 13- May 22

The **relic of St. Rita** will be on our Lady's altar for veneration. Stop by and pray for St. Rita's intercession!

HOLY MASS FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF ST. RITA

Thursday, May 22

7:00 am English

See the flyers in the vestibules, or call the parish office, for the full schedule of Masses.

AN EVENING IN CASCIA

Saturday, May 24, 6:00 - 10:00 pm

Join us for an adults-only evening with dinner and dancing, including an open bar, dinner catered by Aldo's Italian Kitchen, live music performed by the Scotts Ragsdale Orchestra with guest vocalist Daniel Murray, Rita's Italian Ice, and ample opportunity for dancing. Tickets are \$25 for a single and \$40 for a couple. The dress code for the evening is dressy casual. This event will be taking place outdoors – rain or shine! Parking will be limited so please consider carpooling or using a ride-share service. Please purchase tickets by **Sunday, May 18** at <https://stritaalexandria.com/an-evening-in-cascia/>. We hope to see you there!

CELEBRACIÓN DE LA FIESTA DE SANTA RITA (22 DE MAYO)



La Novena a Santa Rita
comienza **el Martes 13 de Mayo.**

Las tarjetas de oración de la
Novena estarán disponibles en
todos los vestíbulos.

13 de Mayo- 22 de Mayo
La reliquia de Santa Rita estará
en el altar de la Virgen para su
veneración. ¡Pase y ore por la
intercesión de Santa Rita!

**SANTA MISA POR LA
SOLEMNIDAD DE SANTA RITA**
Jueves, 22 de Mayo

7:00 am en Inglés

Vea los carteles en los vestíbulos o llame a
la oficina parroquial para obtener el mas
información acerca de las misas.

UNA NOCHE EN CASCIA
Sábado 24 de Mayo, 6:00 - 10:00 pm

Acompáñenos a una cena y baile (una noche solo para adultos), incluye bar
abierto, cena a cargo de Aldo's Italian Kitchen, música en vivo a cargo de la
Orquesta Scotts Ragsdale con el vocalista invitado Daniel Murray, Rita's Italian
Ice y muchas oportunidades para bailar. Las entradas cuestan \$25 por persona
y \$40 por pareja. El código de vestimenta es informal elegante. Este evento se
celebrará al aire libre, ¡llueva o truene! El estacionamiento será limitado, así que
considere compartir el auto o usar un servicio de transporte compartido. Compre
sus entradas antes del **domingo 18 de mayo** en [https://stritaalexandria.com/
an-evening-in-cascia/](https://stritaalexandria.com/an-evening-in-cascia/). ¡Esperamos verlos allí!

Eighth Annual Rogation Boundary Bike Ride

Join us in reviving the ancient tradition of marking the Rogation days here at St. Rita Parish! In earlier times, Rogation originated as a solemn procession on foot around the parish boundary to pray for God's protection against disasters and blessing of the fields. As a pilgrimage in our own backyard, Father Christensen will lead a circuit of the parish boundaries by bike on **Saturday, May 31**, beginning at **6:00 am** with the Litany of Saints at the church and then proceeding to Four Mile Run Park to mark points along the boundary with blessed chalk. The loop is a mildly strenuous 7.5 miles and portions of the route are in the road, so keep this in mind as you consider the appropriate skill and comfort level. The ride takes around 2 hours. For more information, please contact **Joshua Bowman** at mrbeaujo@gmail.com.



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.

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:

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

Pope St. John Paul II on Mary, Mother of the Church

From Mary we learn to surrender to God's will in all things. From Mary we learn to trust even when all hope seems gone. From Mary we learn to love Christ her Son and the Son of God. For Mary is not only the Mother of God, she is the Mother of the Church as well.

Legion of Mary

The Legion of Mary is a lay apostolate whose members are dedicated to serving the Church through prayer and apostolic works, under the leadership of our Lady. The English Adult Legion group meets on **Saturdays** at **9:15 am** in the Parish Center conference room.

Junior Legion

The Junior Legion of Mary, open to children in grade 3 and higher, meets on **Thursdays** at **4:00 pm**. They visit Alexandria Rehab Center as their work.



For more information, or if you are interested in joining in the work of the Legion of Mary, please contact **Vivian Moran** at vivian.b.moran@gmail.com or call or text her at **(703) 888-8196**.

News from the Diocese and Beyond

Holy Year of Hope Hotline

As we journey through this Holy Year of Hope, we invite you to be a beacon of light and encouragement. Call us on the **Holy Year Hope Hotline 703-778-9100** and share your personal messages and stories of hope. Your words may be featured in the Walk Humbly Podcasts throughout the year—uplifting others in both joyful moments and challenging times. By sharing your story, you're offering a gift to the community—a reminder that no one is alone, and that hope lives in all of us. Let's inspire one another with hope.



After Abortion Retreats

A Day of Prayer & Healing for women who have experienced abortion will be held on **Saturday, June 14**. These group healing events are held in a private and peaceful setting, in English and in Spanish, based on the Entering Canaan model (2 separate retreats, in 1 location). There will be an opportunity to hear from a past participant and others who have found healing. You are not alone. Take the first step. For confidential inquiries, please contact **Project Rachel Ministry** at **(703) 841-2504** or info@helpafterabortion.org.

Retiros después de Aborto Provocado

Un Día de Oración y Sanación para mujeres que han experimentado un aborto provocado tomara acabo **el sábado, 14 de junio**. Estos eventos de sanación en grupo se hacen en un ambiente privado y tranquilo, en inglés y español, basado en el modelo Entering Canaan (2 retiros separados en 1 ubicación). Habrá una oportunidad de oír de participantes pasados y otras que han encontrado la sanación. No estás sola. Toma el primer paso. Para preguntas confidenciales, llame al **Proyecto Raquel: (703) 841-2504** o ayudadespuesdelaborto.org.