

# 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)



## May 18, 2025: Fifth Sunday of Easter

### 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, May 19, 2025

*Monday of the Fifth Week of Easter*

7:00 am Fr. Denis Donahue

7:30 pm Magali Elvira Rodriguez Menendez ☩

### Tuesday, May 20, 2025

*Saint Bernadine of Siena, Priest*

7:00 am Fr. Daniel Gee

### Wednesday, May 21, 2025

*Saint Christopher Magallanes, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs*

7:00 am Patricia McLaughlin

7:30 pm Katie Oliverio

### Thursday, May 22, 2025

*Saint Rita of Cascia, Religious*

7:00 am Melanie Worth

### Friday, May 23, 2025

*Friday of the Fifth Week of Easter*

7:00 am Mary Kuczynski ☩

7:30 pm William Vest ☩

### Saturday, May 24, 2025

*Saturday of the Fifth Week of Easter*

8:00 am Fr. Raymond Machesney ☩

5:00 pm Margaret M. Prendergast ☩

### Sunday, May 25, 2025

*Sixth Sunday of Easter*

7:00 am Anne Tlappek ☩

8:00 am Peter Brennan ☩

11:00 am Missa Pro Populo

1:00 pm En accion de gracias a las tres divinas personas

*Additional Mass Intentions this Week:*

Violet Oliverio, Elizabeth Hexter, Rita Christiansen, John and Elisa Schnur



### 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.

### Second Collection for Diocesan Retired Priests

There will be a second collection for our diocesan retired priests on the weekend of **May 24-25**. This collection is an opportunity for you to give back to our retired priests who have given the greater part of their lives to serve the faithful of our diocesan Church. Currently there are 29 retired priests and an additional 22 diocesan priests who will retire in the next ten years. Please consider donating to this important collection. Thank you for your kind support.

### Upcoming Second Collections

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

### 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!

### Prayer to St. Rita, Patroness of our Parish

*(Feast: May 22)*

O Glorious St. Rita! Thou who didst so wonderfully participate in the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, obtain for me the grace to suffer with patience the pains of this life, and protect me in all my needs.

Pray for us St. Rita.

That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.



### An Evening in Cascia

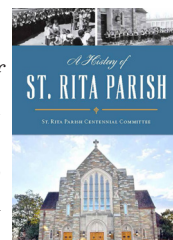
Please join us on **Saturday, May 24**, from **6:00**

**- 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 Scott

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/>.

### 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!



## This Week at St. Rita

### Sunday, May 18, 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

### Monday, May 19, 2025

5:30 pm Legión de María (en Español)

7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study

### Tuesday, May 20, 2025

7:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study

### Wednesday, May 21, 2025

2:30 pm Homeschool Holy Hour

6:00 pm Religious Education May Crowning

8:00 pm Knights of Columbus Meeting

### Thursday, May 22, 2025

4:00 pm Junior Legion of Mary

6:00 pm High School Youth Ministry

### Friday, May 23, 2025

7:00 pm Vespers

### Saturday, May 24, 2025

9:15 am Legion of Mary

6:00 pm An Evening in Cascia

### Sunday, May 25, 2025

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group



May 11, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our diocesan priests dedicated their lives to serving and guiding us on our life-long journey of faith, and many continue to offer their priestly ministry in retirement. They renewed us in the grace of Christ by celebrating the sacraments, preaching the Gospel, offering encouragement through life's crosses, and praying for us and our families. They continue to pray for us and serve the diocese and God's people in their retirement years.

Currently there are 176 diocesan priests serving the Diocese of Arlington. Of these, 29 priests are retired, and over the next ten years, 22 additional priests will reach retirement age. At all Masses on *May 24-25*, the annual second collection for retired priests will take place in parishes.

The funds from this annual collection address several specific needs, including the ongoing operational expenses of the *Saint Rose of Lima Priests' Retirement Villa*, a residence for up to 15 priests. This special collection will also provide funds for clergy post-retirement health care, nursing home care, and the priests' pension fund.

I ask you to be as generous as possible so that our priests, who have faithfully served the People of God in the diocese, may be cared for in their retirement years.

May Our Lord Jesus bless you with his peace and increased faith, hope, and love throughout the Jubilee Year and always.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge  
Bishop of Arlington



# SUPPORT YOUR RETIRED PRIESTS

## Areas of Support:

- St. Rose of Lima Priests' Retirement Villa
- Funds for future healthcare needs
- The Priests' Pension Fund

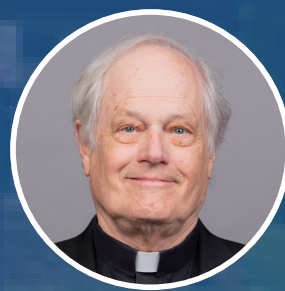


"My retired brother priests and I are truly blessed to know of the care and compassion shown by parishioners through this special collection which helps to support us in our retirement years."

-Msgr. John Cregan

## Our Priests at a Glance:

- Diocesan Priests: 176
- Retired: 29
- Retiring within 10 years: 22



"Being retired and living at St. Rose of Lima Priest Retirement Villa is a great blessing. I am thankful for all who support us in our retirement."

-Fr. Tuck Grinnell



**Special Collection is  
May 24th-25th!**



11 de mayo de 2025

Amados hermanos y hermanas en Cristo:

Nuestros sacerdotes diocesanos han dedicado su vida a servirnos y a guiarnos en nuestro peregrinaje de fe a lo largo de nuestra existencia y muchos siguen ofreciendo su ministerio sacerdotal durante la jubilación. Han renovado en nosotros la gracia de Cristo al celebrar los sacramentos, predicar el Evangelio, darnos aliento para cargar las cruces de la vida y rezar por nosotros y nuestras familias. Siguen rezando por nosotros y sirviendo a la diócesis y al Pueblo de Dios durante sus años de jubilación.

En la actualidad, hay 176 sacerdotes diocesanos al servicio de la Diócesis de Arlington. De ellos, 29 sacerdotes están jubilados y, en los próximos diez años, otros 22 llegarán a la edad de jubilación. En todas las Misas celebradas el fin de semana del 24 y 25 de mayo, se realizará en las parroquias la segunda colecta anual para los sacerdotes jubilados.

Los fondos de esta colecta anual se emplearán para atender varias necesidades específicas, incluso los continuos gastos operativos de la *Villa de Jubilación Sacerdotal Santa Rosa de Lima*, una residencia para un máximo de 15 sacerdotes. Esta colecta especial también proporcionará fondos para la atención de salud, el cuidado en hogares geriátricos y el fondo de pensiones de los sacerdotes después de la jubilación.

Les ruego que sean generosos en la medida de sus posibilidades, de manera que nuestros sacerdotes, que han servido fielmente al Pueblo de Dios en la diócesis, puedan recibir cuidado en sus años de jubilación.

Que Nuestro Señor Jesús los bendiga con su paz y con más fe, esperanza y amor durante el Año Jubilar y siempre.

Fielmente en Cristo,

Monseñor Michael F. Burbidge  
Obispo de la Diócesis de Arlington

# APOYE A SUS SACERDOTES JUBILADOS

## Formas de apoyo:

- Villa de Jubilación Sacerdotal Santa Rosa de Lima
- Fondos para futuras necesidades de atención de salud
- El Fondo de Pensiones de los Sacerdotes



“Para mis hermanos sacerdotes jubilados y para mí es una verdadera bendición saber que los feligreses demuestran esmero y compasión por medio de esta colecta especial que ayuda a sostenernos en nuestros años de jubilación”.

–Monseñor John Cregan

## Una mirada a nuestros sacerdotes:

- Sacerdotes diocesanos: 176
- Sacerdotes jubilados: 29
- Sacerdotes que se jubilarán dentro de 10 años: 22



“Es una gran bendición estar jubilado y vivir en la Villa de Jubilación Sacerdotal Santa Rosa de Lima. Mis agradecimientos a todas las personas que nos apoyan en nuestra jubilación.”

–Padre Tuck Grinnell



**¡La colecta especial  
será los días 24 y 25  
de mayo!**

### 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](mailto: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](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:

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

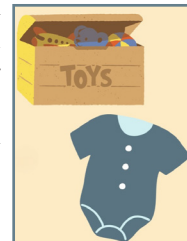
### 2025-2026 Homeschool Atrium Aides Needed



We are looking for a volunteers to assist as aides for the 2025-2026 Wednesday Homeschool Atrium (Catechesis of the Good Shepherd) Program. Aides are needed for both Level I (3-6 years old) and Level II (1st-3rd Grade). Prior experience is not necessary, but volunteers must have VIRTUS certification. For more information, or if you are interested in volunteering, please contact **Elizabeth Vail** at [evail.strita@gmail.com](mailto:evail.strita@gmail.com).

### Clothing and Toy Swap

Join the St. Rita Mom Group for a baby/kid clothing and toy swap on **Saturday, May 31** from **9:00 am - 12:00 pm**. Bring baby/kid summer clothing and shoes, summer maternity clothing, baby/kid toys in new or like-new condition (with all parts included), children's books, and small baby items such as wraps, carriers, blankets, etc. Please refrain from bringing large items such as strollers, car seats, and pack-n-plays unless a need is specified. Eligible, leftover items will be brought to the MARIH Center following the event. If you have any spare unopened diapers or wipes, please bring to donate to the center as well. For more information please contact **Marissa Coyle** at [marissa.coyle21@gmail.com](mailto:marissa.coyle21@gmail.com) or **Maggie Walsh** at [maggiewalsh257@gmail.com](mailto:maggiewalsh257@gmail.com).



### 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://www.formed.org) and enter "St. Rita Church" to create your free account.

### News from the Diocese and Beyond

#### Morning of Recollection for Parents and Grandparents Who Have Lost Children

Are you suffering after the loss of a child? Please join us for a Morning of Reflection for Parents and Grandparents who have lost children and grandchildren. The gathering will be held at **St. Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church** on **Saturday, May 31**, beginning with the **9:15 am** parish Mass. It will feature talks by Deacon Dave Maurer, of St. Mary of Sorrows in Fairfax, and Betsy Leon, national speaker and author. There will be time for sharing with others. Coffee and pastries will be provided. The event is free, but to register and learn more visit: [arlingtondiocese.org/parentsmass](https://arlingtondiocese.org/parentsmass).

#### 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](mailto:info@helpafterabortion.org).