

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 25, 2025: Sixth 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 26, 2025

Saint Philip Neri, Priest

7:00 am Helen Munson ☩

7:30 pm Rainer Montero Castillo ☩

Tuesday, May 27, 2025

Saint Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop

7:00 am Irene Burke ☩

Wednesday, May 28, 2025

Wednesday of the Sixth Week of Easter

7:00 am Teresa Hruby

7:30 pm Margaret Munson ☩

Thursday, May 29, 2025

The Ascension of the Lord

(Saint Paul VI, Pope)

7:00 am Austin Cloyd ☩

Friday, May 30, 2025

Friday of the Sixth Week of Easter

7:00 am Fernando Noe Ramirez, Sr.

7:30 pm Anthony Laneve ☩

Saturday, May 31, 2025

The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00 am Juliana Lopez

5:00 pm The President

Sunday, June 1, 2025

The Ascension of the Lord (Observed)

7:00 am Fr. Sean Nypaver

8:00 am Blanche Lundell ☩

11:00 am Missa Pro Populo

1:00 pm Fernando Ramirez

Additional Mass Intentions this Week:

Mr. and Mrs. Raynaldo B. Paredes, Jesssica Turner, The Raile Family, Eric Strobach

Eighth Annual Rogation Boundary Bike Ride



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. 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.

*The Parish Office will be closed on
Monday, May 26, in Observance of the
Memorial Day Holiday.*



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!



Ordinations and First Mass

Please pray for the twelve men who will be ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Arlington on **Saturday, June 7**, including St. Rita Seminarian, Deacon Joseph Connor. The ordinations will take place at **11:00 am** at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More in Arlington. At **3:30pm** on **Sunday, June 8**, newly-ordained Fr. Joseph Connor will offer his First Mass of Thanksgiving, followed by a reception in the St. Rita School Hall/Courtyard. Please join us for this joyous occasion!

Second Collection for Diocesan Retired Priests Today

The second collection today is for our diocesan retired priests. This collection is an opportunity 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.

April 2025 Collections

Regular Offertory:	\$45,096
Parish Giving Offertory:	\$74,986
Repairs & Replacements:	\$2,715
Parish Giving Repairs & Replacements:	\$8,401
Poor Box:	\$3,357
Parish Giving Poor Box:	\$7,325

Upcoming Second Collections

May 25:	Diocesan Retired Priests
June 1:	Repairs and Replacements
June 1:	Catholic Communication Campaign
June 22:	Peter's Pence Collection

Thank you for your continued generosity!

This Week at St. Rita

Sunday, May 25, 2025

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

Monday, May 26, 2025

Parish Office Closed in Observance of Memorial Day

5:30 pm Legión de María (en Español)

7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study

Tuesday, May 27, 2025

7:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study

Wednesday, May 28, 2025

2:30 pm Homeschool Holy Hour

8:15 pm St. Rita Young Adult Men's Group

8:15 pm St. Rita Young Adult Women's Group

Thursday, May 29, 2025

4:00 pm Junior Legion of Mary

6:00 pm High School Youth Ministry

Friday, May 30, 2025

7:00 pm Vespers

Saturday, May 31, 2025

9:00 am Clothing and Toy Swap

9:15 am Legion of Mary

Sunday, June 1, 2025

5:30 pm Teams of our Lady

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group



Fr. Joseph Connor's First Mass



Saint Rita Church
Pentecost Sunday
June 8 at 3:30 PM

Reception and First Blessings
Following

St. Rita School Courtyard/Hall
4:30-6:30 PM.



Join us in giving thanks to God for 12 new
priests for the Diocese of Arlington,
including Fr. Joseph Connor!



For more information contact: Rick Strobach, St. Rita
Knights of Columbus, rick.strobach@gmail.com

St. Rita Mom Group Presents

Clothing & Toy Swap

Sat. May 31 9am-12pm

St. Rita Old Convent Area/Playground

Join the St. Rita Mom Group for a baby/kid clothing & toy swap! Please see the list below for items to bring.

Regardless of if you are able to bring any donations, please join us and take anything you could use. Bring along your families for fellowship during the swap!

Items to bring:

- baby/kid summer clothing & shoes
- summer maternity clothing
- baby/kid toys in new or like-new condition (with all parts included)
- children's books
- 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. Additionally, we are suggesting to limit clothing items to the spring/summer season, but feel free to bring other season clothes if you do have them. Eligible, leftover items will be brought to the MARiH (Mary Arose in Haste) Center following the event. If you have any spare unopened diapers or wipes, please bring to donate to the center as well.



Please reach out to Marissa Coyle at marissa.coyle21@gmail.com or Maggie Walsh at maggiewalsh257@gmail.com with any questions!

Memorial Day Ceremony honoring Rocky Versace

Join St. Rita American Heritage Girls and other members of the faith community to remember former St. Rita parishioner Capt. Rocky Versace and other Fallen Alexandrians at a Memorial Day Ceremony at **11:00 am** on **Monday, May 26** at the Capt. Rocky Versace Plaza and Vietnam Veterans Memorial in front of the Mount Vernon Recreation Center at 2701 Commonwealth Ave. For more information, please visit <https://www.virginia.org/event/memorial-day-ceremony-versace-plaza-memorial-in-alexandria-va/1704/>.

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 or **Maggie Walsh** at maggiewalsh257@gmail.com.



Come and Adore the Lord!



St. Rita has Adoration every **Friday night** from **8pm - Saturday 8 am**. Our goal is to have two committed Adorers for each hour. If you are interested in signing up to be a committed Adorer, please contact **Michael Cahill** at Cahill09@hotmail.com.

"The time you spend with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the best time that you will spend on earth." (St. Teresa of Calcutta)

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, John Martin Rice, 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.

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/>.



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 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.

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.