

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 4, 2025: Third 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 5, 2025

Monday of the Third Week of Easter

7:00 am Paul Schmitt

7:30 pm Martin Oliverio

Tuesday, May 6, 2025

Tuesday of the Third Week of Easter

7:00 am Helen Ivan Cyrus †

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Wednesday of the Third Week of Easter

7:00 am Fr. Christopher Christensen

7:30 pm Fr. Christopher Christensen

Thursday, May 8, 2025

Thursday of the Third Week of Easter

7:00 am John Durel

Friday, May 9, 2025

Friday of the Third Week of Easter

7:00 am Cathy Martin

7:30 pm Marilyn Turner †

Saturday, May 10, 2025

Saint John of Avila, Priest and Doctor of the Church;

Saint Damien de Veuster, Priest

8:00 am Barbara Wienert

5:00 pm The President, Vice President, and their Families

Sunday, May 11, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Easter

7:00 am Anita Alweis †

8:00 am Alice Walsh and Mary Jackson †

9:15 am Martha Von Guggenberg

11:00 am Missa Pro Populo

1:00 pm Kazuo Chapina Rendon †

Additional Mass Intentions this Week:

Matthew Schnur, Renuka Carlitti, Karen Davidson



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.

St. Rita Men's Fellowship Meeting

The St. Rita Men's Fellowship will meet on **Friday, May 9**, at **7:30 pm** 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 our patron, St. Joseph, "Protector of Holy Church." Bring a chair, cold beverages and food or snacks to share, and your rosary! Please contact **Rick Strobach** at rick.strobach@gmail.com for more information. New and past members are always welcome! *Sancte Joseph, ora pro nobis!*



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/>. Parking will be limited so please consider carpooling or using a ride-share service. We hope to see you there!

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.

This Week at St. Rita

Sunday, May 4, 2025

Coffee and Donuts after all Masses, beginning after the 8am Mass

5:30 pm Teams of our Lady

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

Monday, May 5, 2025

5:30 pm Legión de María (en Español)

6:00 pm Religious Education Classes

7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study

Tuesday, May 6, 2025

7:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

No Homeschool Holy Hour

6:00 pm Religious Education Classes

Thursday, May 8, 2025

4:00 pm Junior Legion of Mary

6:00 pm High School Youth Ministry

Friday, May 9, 2025

7:00 pm Vespers

7:30 pm Men's Fellowship

Saturday, May 10, 2025

9:15 am Legion of Mary

10:00 am First Holy Communion

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

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.



St. Augustine on John 21:15-17

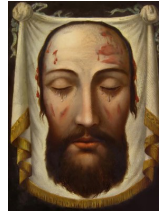
While our Lord was being condemned to death, [Peter] feared, and denied Him. But by His resurrection, Christ implanted love in his heart, and drove away fear. Peter denied, because he feared to die: but when our Lord was risen from the dead, and by His death destroyed death, what should he fear? He says to Him, Yea, Lord; You know that I love You. On this confession of his love, our Lord commends His sheep to him: He says to him, Feed My Lambs, as if there were no way of Peter's showing his love for Him, but by being a faithful shepherd under the chief Shepherd.

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**.

Archconfraternity of the Holy Face



All are welcome to join us for the next meeting of the Archconfraternity of the Holy Face **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/>.

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.

Upcoming Second Collections

May 4: Repairs and Replacements
 May 25: Diocesan Retired Priests

Thank you for your continued generosity!

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

News from the Diocese and Beyond

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 info@ayudadespuesdelaborto.org.