

# 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)



**June 1, 2025: The Ascension of the Lord (observed)**

## CLERGY AND STAFF

<b>Pastor</b>	Rev. Christopher P. Christensen frc41@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	

## 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.

## 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, June 2, 2025

*Saints Marcellinus and Peter, Martyrs*

7:00 am Kyle Hruby

7:30 pm The Gambetta Family

### Tuesday, June 3, 2025

*Saint Charles Lwanga and Companions, Martyrs*

7:00 am Robert Volini ☩

### Wednesday, June 4, 2025

*Wednesday of the Seventh Week of Easter*

7:00 am Richard Riker ☩

7:30 pm David Pence ☩

### Thursday, June 5, 2025

*Saint Boniface, Bishop and Martyr*

7:00 am Robert Nay ☩

### Friday, June 6, 2025

*Saint Norbert, Bishop*

7:00 am Janice Tarantino ☩

7:30 pm Marian Lombardi ☩

### Saturday, June 7, 2025

*Saturday of the Seventh Week of Easter*

8:00 am Fr. Christopher P. Christensen

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

### Sunday, June 8, 2025

*Pentecost Sunday*

7:00 am David Connor

8:00 am Frederick Hamm

9:15 am The President

11:00 am Missa Pro Populo

1:00 pm Carlos Alvarenga Hidalgo

*Additional Mass Intentions this Week:*

George Mammola ☩, Debra Coleman, Rita Sheehan ☩

### Vacation Bible School



St. Rita Vacation Bible School presents: *Destination Guadalupe!* All rising 1st through 6th Graders are invited to journey to Tepeyac Hill as we learn about the Patroness of the Americas. Vacation Bible School will take place **Monday, July 21-Friday, July 25** from **8:45 am - 12:00 pm**. Teen (rising 7th - 12th Graders) and adult volunteers are also needed. Registration forms can be found in the Russell Road vestibule, and should be returned to the parish office by **Wednesday, July 16**. For more information, or to volunteer, please contact **Chloe Holloway** at **cholloway.strita@gmail.com**.

### 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.

### 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. A plenary indulgence is available, under the usual conditions (Confession, Holy Communion, prayers for the intentions of the Holy Father, complete detachment from sin), for all those who devoutly assist at the first Mass of a newly-ordained priest. Please join us for this joyous occasion!

### Pentecost Vigil

On **Saturday, June 7**, the **5:00 pm Mass** will be celebrated as an extended Vigil for Pentecost, which will include several additional readings before the Gospel. It is a beautiful opportunity to enter more deeply into the prayer and longing for the coming of the Holy Spirit. There will also be a Baptism and several Confirmations at this Mass.



### Prayer to the Holy Spirit



Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy. Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy. Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy. Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy. Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy. Amen.

## This Week at St. Rita

### Sunday, June 1, 2025

*Coffee and Donuts after all Masses, starting after the 8am Mass*

5:30 pm

Teams of our Lady

6:00 pm

Hispanic Prayer Group

### Monday, June 2, 2025

5:30 pm

Legión de María (en Español)

7:00 pm

Young Adult Bible Study

### Tuesday, June 3, 2025

7:00 pm

Hispanic Bible Study

### Wednesday, June 4, 2025

*No scheduled events*

### Thursday, June 5, 2025

4:00 pm

Junior Legion of Mary

6:00 pm

Last Night of High School Youth Ministry

### Friday, June 6, 2025

3:30 pm

St. Rita School Graduation Mass

7:00 pm

Vespers

### Saturday, June 7, 2025

9:15 am

Legion of Mary

### Sunday, June 8, 2025

3:30 pm

Fr. Joseph Connor First Mass and Reception



St. Rita Vacation Bible School Presents

# Destination Guadalupe



**Monday – Friday, July 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>**

**8:45am – 12pm in the St. Rita School Hall**

**All rising 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to journey to Tepeyac Hill as we learn about the Patroness of the Americas at this year's VBS: Destination Guadalupe!**

**Registration forms can be found in the vestibule and can be returned to the parish office by July 16<sup>th</sup>.**



# THE MENS MARCH

Real Men | Marching for the preborn

**Saturday | June 7 | 2025 | 11:00am**

**Gather outside of Washington Surgi-Clinic  
(2112 F Street NW, 20037, DC)**

**Professional dress code: wear a suit (priests in clerics)**

**For more details: [www.themensmarch.com](http://www.themensmarch.com)**

### First Saturday Pro-Life Rosary



Come join the new monthly Pro-Life Rosary on the first Saturdays of the month at the abortion clinic at **2616 Sherwood Hall Lane**. The next First Saturday is **Saturday, June 7**. Plan to be there a **little before 10:00 am**, and we will form a group with the others who are there, and pray the Rosary together. For more information contact **Rick Strobach** at [rick.strobach@gmail.com](mailto:rick.strobach@gmail.com) or **Jay Moret** at [felix.moret@gmail.com](mailto:felix.moret@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/>.



### 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](mailto:Cahill09@hotmail.com).

### Upcoming Second Collections

- June 1: Repairs and Replacements
- June 1: Catholic Communication Campaign
- June 22: Peter's Pence Collection

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](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, John Martin Rice, Joanne Robertson, George Szele, Rafael Vasquez-Coubert

### 2025-2026 Homeschool Atrium Aides Needed



We are looking for 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).

### The Martyrs of Uganda (Feast Day: June 3)

Between 1885-1887, twenty-two Catholic men, including seventeen young pages between the ages of 13 and 30, plus some Protestants, were martyred by King Mwanga of Uganda. Pope St. Paul the VI exclaimed in his canonization homily: "Who could have predicted to the famous African confessors and martyrs such as Cyprian, Felicity, Perpetua and – the greatest of all – Augustine, that we would one day add names so dear to us as Charles Lwanga and Matthias Mulumba Kalemba and their 20 companions? Nor must we forget those members of the Anglican Church who also died for the name of Christ. These African martyrs herald the dawn of a new age. If only the mind of man might be directed not toward persecutions and religious conflicts but toward a rebirth of Christianity and civilisation!"

### 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**.

### 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 of 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.

#### Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

Are you looking for an opportunity to grow in your own faith and extend that gift to others through your personal witness and service to the Church? We invite you to become a Docent (Tour Guide)/Receptionist at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Hours and days are flexible, with an expectation of just a minimum of two 3-hour shifts per month. Our greatest need is for weekday mornings or afternoons. Training will be provided. Anyone interested should please contact **Dee Steel**, Director of Visitor Services., via telephone at the Basilica at **(202) 281-0611** or email [dsteel@bsnc.org](mailto:dsteel@bsnc.org).