



# St. Rita Catholic Church

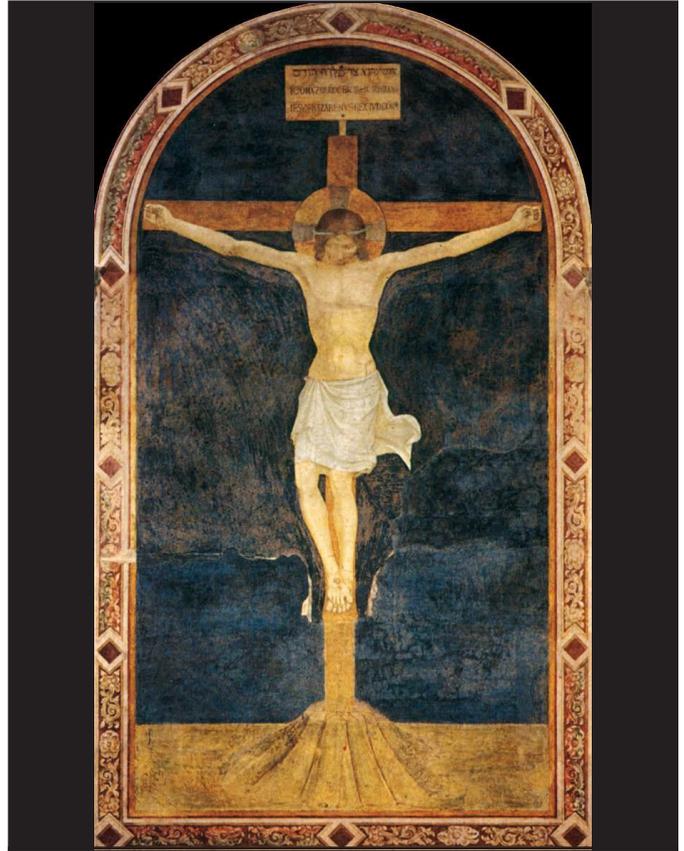
3815 Russell Road | Alexandria, VA 22305 | 703-836-1640 (office) 703-706-0484 (fax)

www.stritaalexandria.com | Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 9 am - 9 pm

**September 14: The Exaltation of the Holy Cross**

## 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 and Bulletin Editor</b>	Elizabeth Vail evail.strita@gmail.com	Ext. 11
<b>Maintenance Manager</b>	Adan Aguilar aaguilar.strita@gmail.com	



*Ave Crux Spes Unica!  
Hail Holy Cross, our Only Hope!*

## ST. RITA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

“The soul of education is the education of the soul”

<https://saintrita-school.org> | 703-548-1888

<b>Principal</b>	Malia Busekrus
<b>Preschool Director</b>	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

*(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

**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)

## Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

### Monday, September 15, 2025

*Our Lady of Sorrows*

7:00 am Paolo Cenni  
7:30 pm Juanita Paredes †

### Tuesday, September 16, 2025

*Saints Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs*

7:00 am Angelina Reyes

### Wednesday, September 17, 2025

*Saint Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church;  
Saint Hildegard of Bingen, Virgin and Doctor of the Church*

7:00 am The Frey Family  
7:30 pm Tarky Lombardi, Jr. †

### Thursday, September 18, 2025

*Thursday of the Twenty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time*

7:00 am Helen Pierce †

### Friday, September 19, 2025

*Saint Januarius, Bishop and Martyr*

7:00 am Jack and Helen O'Donnell †  
7:30 pm (Español) Elvera Liliedahl AuCoin †

### Saturday, September 20, 2025

*Saints Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Priest, and Paul Chong Ha-sang,  
and Companions, Martyrs*

8:00 am Philip Schnur  
5:00 pm The Schlapp Family

### Sunday, September 21, 2025

*Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

7:00 am Antoinette Caillouet Durel †  
8:00 am Pat Broderick †  
11:00 am Missa Pro Populo  
1:00 pm Rosa Bonilla †

*Additional Mass Intentions this Week:*

Elisa Schnur, Elaine Davidson †, Giacomo Cenni

The road to Calvary is also, and at the same time,  
the road to Paradise. (Gerald Vann, OP)



### No Coffee and Donuts in September

There will be no Coffee and Donuts on **Sunday, September 21**, due to the Parish Picnic. Join us in the parish parking lot from **2:00-5:00 pm** for free food, drinks and fun, along with live music!

### Friday Evening Mass

Beginning **Friday, September 5**, the Friday **7:30 pm Mass** will be in English instead of Novus Ordo Latin. Join us for Vespers prior to Mass at **7:00 pm**. Vespers is the official Evening Prayer of the Church and includes a combination of English and Latin chants. Please note that on **Friday, September 19**, Mass will be in Spanish as part of our 40 Hours Devotion. There will be no Vespers on Friday, September 19.



### 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!

SAINT RITA CATHOLIC CHURCH

## Parish Picnic

Sunday, September 21  
2:00 - 5:00 PM  
held on the Parish grounds

**JOIN US FOR FREE FOOD, DRINKS, & FUN!**

- Burgers, hotdogs, pork, and delicious sides
- Beer and soft drinks
- Rita's Italian ice
- Team cornhole tournament with cash prize
- Moonbounces and rides for kids and adults
- Live music performed by The Knuckle Dusters

Please consider **volunteering** to help with our parish picnic. We are still in need of many volunteers to help the day run smoothly. To sign up to help, please visit our parish website ([stritaalexandria.com](http://stritaalexandria.com)) and click on the button beneath the picnic flyers. You can also sign up your two-person **cornhole team** by visiting the parish website and clicking on the button beneath the cornhole flyer.

## This Week at St. Rita

### Sunday, September 14, 2025

3:00 pm Archconfraternity of the Holy Face  
6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

### Monday, September 15, 2025

5:30 pm Legión de María (en Español)  
7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study

### Tuesday, September 16, 2025

7:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study

### Wednesday, September 17, 2025

2:30 pm Homeschool Holy Hour  
8:00 pm Knights of Columbus Meeting

### Thursday, September 18, 2025

*40 Hours Begins - See Schedule*

4:00 pm Junior Legion of Mary  
6:30 pm High School Youth Ministry

### Friday, September 19, 2025

*40 Hours Continues - See Schedule*

### Saturday, September 20, 2025

*40 Hours Concludes - See Schedule*

9:00 am OCIA  
9:00 am Legion of Mary  
6:30 pm Teams of our Lady

### Sunday, September 21, 2025

*No Coffee and Donuts*

2:00 pm Parish Picnic  
5:00 pm Teams of our Lady  
6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group



# 40 Hours Devotion

18-20 September 2025

Theme: *St. Joseph*

THURSDAY

18 SEPTEMBER 2025

No 6:30pm Exposition

6:30pm Confessions

7:30pm Mass to begin 40 Hours  
(Homilist: Fr. James Searby)

Solemn Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
following Mass\*

9:30pm Night Prayer (Sung)

FRIDAY

19 SEPTEMBER 2025

7:00am Mass in English  
3:00pm Divine Mercy Chaplet  
6:30pm Confessions  
7:00pm Solemn Benediction  
7:30pm Misa en Español  
(Celebrant and Homilist: Fr. Jesus Muñoz)  
9:30pm Night Prayer (Sung)

SATURDAY

20 SEPTEMBER 2025

7:00am Morning Prayer (Sung)  
followed by Eucharistic  
Procession  
7:45am Solemn Benediction  
8:00am Mass (in English)  
for the Feast of St. Matthew  
(Principal Celebrant and Homilist:  
Fr. Larry Swink)



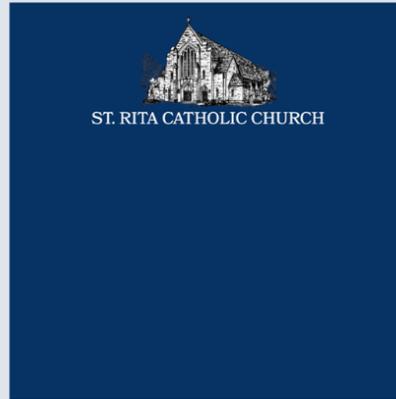
\*Adoration of the Most Holy Eucharist continues for the remainder of the 40 Hours Devotion, interrupted only by the celebration of the Holy Mass. Please come and spend some time with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. You can sign up for an hour of Adoration on the sign-up sheets in the Russell Road vestibule.

# St. Rita Youth Ministry Fundraiser

Place an order for a shirt or make a one-time donation to support the St. Rita Youth Ministry between September 4th-21st. All shirts will be ordered through our campaign page on Custom Ink and then delivered to St. Rita and distributed at a later date.



FRONT



BACK

About the Design: “Cor ad Cor Loquitur” or “heart speaks to heart” was the apostolic motto selected by St. John Henry Newman, an expression he discovered reading the letters of St. Francis de Sales. This motto comes primarily from Newman’s desire and understanding of the necessity of community as an aid for spiritual growth. In his work “An Essay in Aid of a Grammar of Assent” Newman expresses, “That next to the power and force of supernatural grace, the greatest influence over the human heart is the example of goodness and virtue in another person.” At St. Rita’s Youth Ministry, we see the reality of this expression played out every time our teens gather, in the name of Our Lord. We have many events and opportunities for the youth in our parish to grow in their faith and carry out acts of service, but above all, our greatest desire is that they would enter into a deeper relationship with Christ and their brothers and sisters around them. The words “Cor ad Cor Loquitur” hang on the wall of our youth ministry space for this very reason, so that our teens may always be reminded that the community of faith they are members of is one they are invited to be members of for eternity when “heart speaks to heart”.

We want to invite all of you to adopt this same mission in your own life and you can do so by supporting our Youth Ministry Shirt fundraiser. All proceeds from this fundraiser will go towards supporting the Middle and High School Youth Ministry at St. Rita so that we can continue to be able to offer opportunities for our teens to grow in their relationship with Christ and one another.

## What you are Supporting:

Weekly High School gatherings which include a home cooked meal, a talk by one of our Youth Ministers, time for small group discussions, and faith-filled fun. | Bi-weekly summer events for High Schoolers. | Our new monthly Middle School events. | Covering the cost of admittance for Diocesan events including: BASH, RALLY, Life Fest, and WorkCamp for all Middle School and High Schoolers in attendance.



SCAN HERE TO  
ORDER OR DONATE



### Archconfraternity of the Holy Face Meeting Today

All are welcome to join us for the next meeting of the Archconfraternity of the Holy Face on **Sunday, September 14**, 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/>.



### OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Have You or Someone You Know...

- Heard about the Catholic Faith and just want to learn more?
- Expressed interest in becoming Catholic?
- Been Baptized Catholic as a child, but have not celebrated the Sacraments of Eucharist and/or Confirmation?
- Received all the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation) but want a refresher on what we believe as Catholics?

OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) classes provide a broad overview of our Catholic Faith and prepare individuals to celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. English Classes will take place on **Saturday** mornings at **9:00 am**, beginning **September 6**. The OCIA registration form can be found at <https://stritaalexandria.com/ocia/>. For more information or to register for OCIA in English, please contact **Fr. Schierer** at [fatherschierer@gmail.com](mailto:fatherschierer@gmail.com).

### RICA (en español)

Para obtener más información sobre la RICA en español o para registrarse, comuníquese con el **Padre Christensen** al [frcc41@gmail.com](mailto:frcc41@gmail.com). El formulario de inscripción se puede encontrar en el vestibulo de la iglesia o visitando nuestra pagina web <https://stritaalexandria.com/rica/>.

### Please Pray for These St. Rita Parishioners

#### For all those discerning Religious Vocations:

Catherine Addington, Daughters of St. Paul; Sr. Giovanna Lamarra, Benedictines of Mary, Queen of Apostles; Br. Nathaniel Labs, Order of Preachers; Mark Martinez, Archdiocese of Santa Fe; Seminarians for the Diocese of Arlington, especially John Murphy and Daniel Usewick

#### For the Sick in our Parish:

Veronica Abarre, Renuka Carlitti, Josephine Cunningham, Barry Foust, J.G., Jennifer Jacobs, Kimberly Meredith, Constance Richardson, Susan Tracey, Col. Christie Walton

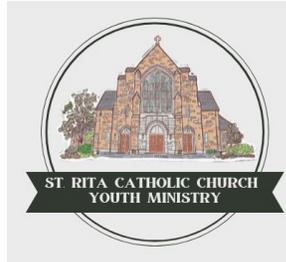
If you know of someone who should be on the list, please contact Elizabeth at [bulletin.submit.strita@gmail.com](mailto:bulletin.submit.strita@gmail.com). Names will remain on the above prayer list for 30 days from the time they are requested. At the end of that time, you may renew your request.

Thank you!

#### For the Deceased in our Parish:

Jose Luis Arranda, Michael Barker, Hessie Bannon, Daniel Lee Beiro, Lee Edwards, John Francis Garrity, III, David Langley, Oscar Merino, Catherine Elizabeth Nugent, John Martin Rice, Jane Rippey, George Szele, Fermin L. Vilar

### High School Youth Ministry



High School Youth Ministry meets every **Thursday** from **6:30-8:30 pm** in the new Youth Ministry room located in the old St. Rita Convent. To register your high schooler please fill out the registration form, found in the vestibule, or online on our Youth Ministry page (<https://stritaalexandria.com/youth-group/>).

Please contact Maria Goitiandia at [mgoitiandia.strita@gmail.com](mailto:mgoitiandia.strita@gmail.com) with any questions.

### Workshop Retreat for Women



On **Saturday, October 4**, from **8:30 am- 12:15 pm**, St. Rita School is sponsoring a workshop for women entitled *The Heart of It All: Nurturing Yourself in Every Role You Play*. This day will combine the focused learning of a workshop with the restorative and reflective aspects of a retreat.

Featured speakers include Clare Morell, Edwina Maskym, and Helen Alvaré. The workshop will take place in the St. Rita School Hall, and the \$30 registration fee includes lunch. Scan the QR Code to register today!

### First Steps Family Enrichment Program

All married and engaged couples are welcome to join the First Steps Family Enrichment Program. Family Enrichment is an approach to parenting based on the case study method. The course will help you form your own ideas and opinions about what is best for you, your marriage, and family life. Enjoy the opportunity to think about how to build and strengthen your marriage and parenting skills. Classes will take place in the **St. Rita School Hall** on **October 25, December 6, January 10, March 14, and April 25** from **7:00-9:00 pm**. For more information, please contact [sherryannmorgenstern@gmail.com](mailto:sherryannmorgenstern@gmail.com). To register, please scan the QR code.



### Upcoming Second Collections

- September 14: Parish Religious Education Program
- September 28: The Catholic University of America

Thank you for your continued generosity!

Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into His glory? (Luke 24:26)

### 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, September 27**. 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).