



St. Rita Catholic Church

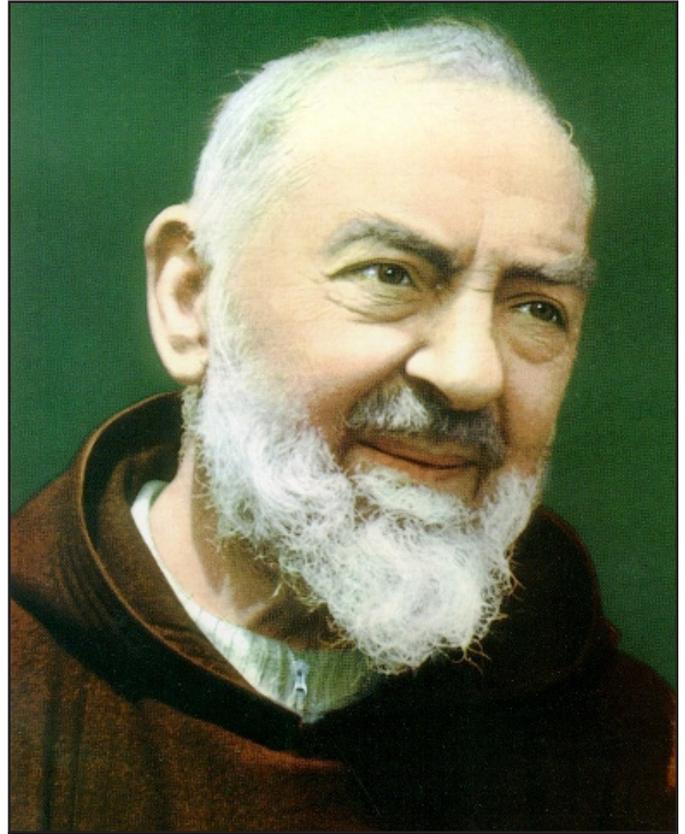
3815 Russell Road | Alexandria, VA 22305 | 703-836-1640 (office) 703-706-0484 (fax)

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

September 21, 2025: Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

CLERGY AND STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Christopher P. Christensen frcc41@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 and Bulletin Editor	Elizabeth Vail evail.strita@gmail.com	Ext. 11
Maintenance Manager	Adan Aguilar aaguilar.strita@gmail.com	



Jesus will be all your strength and all your comfort.

St. Padre Pio (Feast: September 23)

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/.

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 22, 2025

Monday of the Twenty-Fifth Week in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Alice Walsh †

7:30 pm Jim Lovelace †

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

Saint Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest

7:00 am George Szele †

Wednesday, September 24, 2025

Wednesday of the Twenty-Fifth Week in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Elizabeth Therese Burke

7:30 pm Jon and Elisa Schnur

Thursday, September 25, 2025

Thursday of the Twenty-Fifth Week in Ordinary Time

7:00 am All the Souls in Purgatory †

Friday, September 26, 2025

Saints Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs

7:00 am Joan Stokes †

7:30 pm Robert G. Smith †

Saturday, September 27, 2025

Saint Vincent de Paul, Priest

8:00 am Zachary Taylor †

5:00 pm Eileen and John O'Shea †

Sunday, September 28, 2025

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Cecilia Sierra

8:00 am Maria O'Shea †

11:00 am Missa Pro Populo

1:00 pm Juan Antonio Rivas †

Additional Mass Intentions this Week:

Jon and Elisa Schnur, Deacon Dixon, Sarah Swango, Santiago Soutuyo †

August 2025 Collections

Regular Offertory:	\$39,102
Parish Giving Offertory:	\$55,441
Repairs & Replacements:	\$2,238
Parish Giving Repairs & Replacements:	\$5,214
Poor Box:	\$2,233
Parish Giving Poor Box:	\$4,565

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 with any questions.

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!

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

No Coffee and Donuts Today



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!

Upcoming Second Collections

September 28: The Catholic University of America

This Week at St. Rita

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

Monday, September 22, 2025

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

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

7:00 pm	Hispanic Bible Study
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Wednesday, September 24, 2025

2:30 pm	Homeschool Holy Hour
8:15 pm	St. Rita Young Adults Men's Group
8:15 pm	St. Rita Young Adults Women's Group

Thursday, September 25, 2025

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

Friday, September 26, 2025

7:00 pm	Vespers
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Saturday, September 27, 2025

9:00 am	OCIA
9:00 am	Legion of Mary

Sunday, September 28, 2025

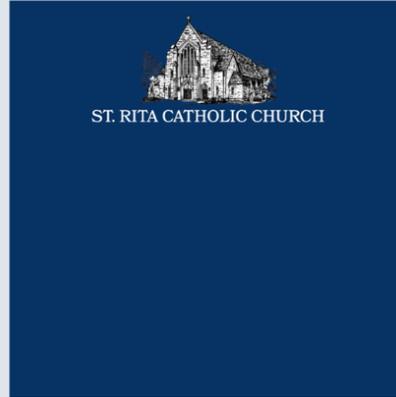
10:30 am	St. Rita Young Adult Brunch
6:00 pm	Hispanic Prayer Group

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:

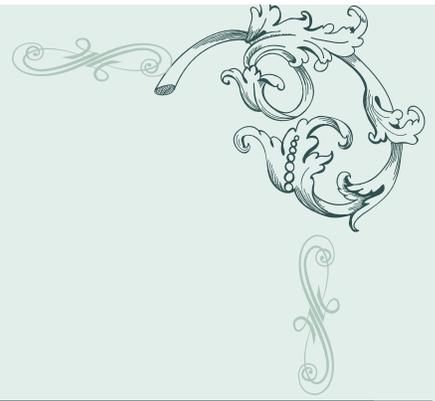
Weekly High School gatherings which include a home cooked meal, a talk by one of our Youth Ministers, time for small group discussions, and faith-filled fun. | Bi-weekly summer events for High Schoolers. | Our new monthly Middle School events. | Covering the cost of admittance for Diocesan events including: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



SCAN HERE TO
ORDER OR DONATE



Workshop Retreat for Women



The Heart of It All: Nurturing Yourself in Every Role You Play

*A day that will combine the focused learning of a workshop
with the restorative and reflective aspects of a retreat!*

Below are some of our featured speakers:



Clare Morell is a fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center in the Bioethics, Technology and Human Flourishing Program. She is the author of *The Tech Exit*.



Edwina Maskym, PHD, is an educator specializing in philosophy of the person, history of philosophy and ethics of care.



Helen Alvaré is the Robert A. Levy Endowed Chair in Law and Liberty at Antonin Scalia Law School, George Mason University, where she teaches Family Law, Law and Religion, and Property Law.

Oct 4th

8:30AM-12:15PM
St. Rita School Hall
3801 Russell Rd,
Alexandria, VA 22305

Sponsored by
St. Rita School

Register today!
Space Limited.



*Price: \$30
(lunch included)*

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.

RICA (en español)

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

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**.



Fellowship of Catholic Scholars Mass and Conference

On **Saturday, September 27**, Fr. Paul Scalia will celebrate the **5:00 pm Anticipated Mass at St. Rita**, which will also be for the Fellowship of Catholic Scholars Convention, being held that weekend at the Renaissance Arlington Capital View Hotel in Crystal City. The theme for the Convention is “The Eucharist” and includes many great speakers, including Fr. Robert J. Spitzer of the Magis Center, Fr. Gerald Murray, James McCreery (architect), Sara Pecknold, and many others. Please consider registering for and attending the Convention and the Mass! Details and registration information can be found at <https://catholicscholars.org/convention/>.

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. To register, please scan the QR code.



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!

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. 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

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.

Celebrating A Golden or Silver Wedding Anniversary This Year?

If you were married in 1975 or 2000, please join Bishop Michael Burbidge for the 2025 Mass for Jubilarians to be celebrated on **Sunday, October 19** at **2:30 pm** at the **Cathedral of St. Thomas More** in Arlington, VA. Contact your parish office to register no later than October 3. For more info, visit <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/family-life/mass-for-marriage-jubilarians/>.