



St. Rita Catholic Church

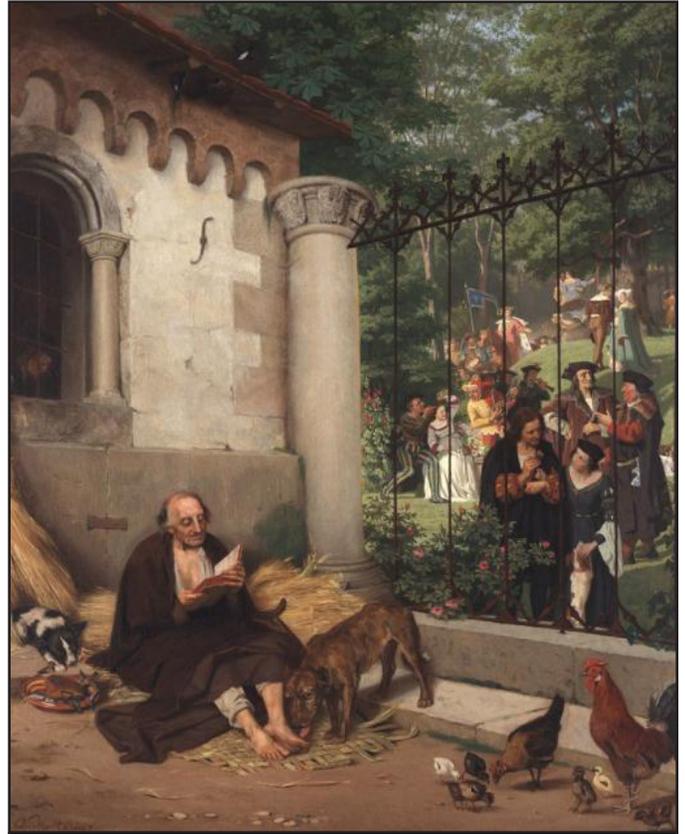
3815 Russell Road | Alexandria, VA 22305 | 703-836-1640 (office) 703-706-0484 (fax)

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

September 28, 2025: Twenty-Sixth 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	



And lying at his door was a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who would gladly have eaten his fill of the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. (Luke 16:19-21)

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 29, 2025

Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels

7:00 am Michael Taylor †

7:30 pm Fr. Christopher P. Christensen

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

Saint Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church

7:00 am All the Souls in Purgatory †

Wednesday, October 1, 2025

Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

7:00 am Samuel Simmons †

7:30 pm Linda, Erin, Michele, and Families

Thursday, October 2, 2025

The Holy Guardian Angels

7:00 am Helen Donlan †

Friday, October 3, 2025

Friday of the Twenty-Sixth Week in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Doug Taylor

7:30 pm Margaret Linman †

Saturday, October 4, 2025

Saint Francis of Assisi

8:00 am Chloe Holloway

5:00 pm Cecilia Sierra

Sunday, October 5, 2025

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Maria Leskanic, Wind and Bell

8:00 am Jennifer Hwang

11:00 am Missa Pro Populo

1:00 pm Por todos los Imigrantes en este país

Additional Mass Intentions this Week:

Maria Przepiorka †, Fr. Paul Berghout, Norca Miller, Carolyn Victory †

Hiking Retreat with Fr. Christensen for Men and Boys (girls ARE allowed!)

The St. Rita Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a hiking retreat on the [Billy Goat Trail in Potomac, MD](#) on [Saturday, October 11](#). The theme of this retreat is the Transfiguration. Even though the retreat will be oriented toward men and boys, women and girls can also join. We will meet in the Parish parking lot at **7:00 am**, and will probably return around noon. Bring **\$5**, snacks and water to share, a rosary, and any other devotional items you would like to have with you. Please sign up by contacting [Rick Strobach](#) at rick.strobach@gmail.com.

Please NOTE: The Billy Goat trail can be a strenuous hike with lots of ups and downs, rock scrambling, and a need for balance on high rocks and overlooks. We'll stop along the way for the retreat meditations. All children must be accompanied by an adult, and those younger than 8 may find the hike to be too difficult. Wear proper shoes and bring water!



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!

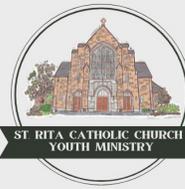
First Saturday Pro-Life Rosary



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, October 4](#). 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 or [Jay Moret](#) at felix.moret@gmail.com.

High School Youth Ministry



High School Youth Ministry meets every **Thursday** from **6:30-8:30 pm** in the 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.

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!

This Week at St. Rita

Sunday, September 28, 2025

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

Monday, September 29, 2025

5:30 pm Legión de María (en Español)

7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

7:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study

Wednesday, October 1, 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, October 2, 2025

4:00 pm Junior Legion of Mary

6:30 pm High School Youth Ministry

Friday, October 3, 2025

7:00 pm Vespers

Saturday, October 4, 2025

8:30 am Workshop Retreat for Women

9:00 am OCIA

9:00 am Legion of Mary

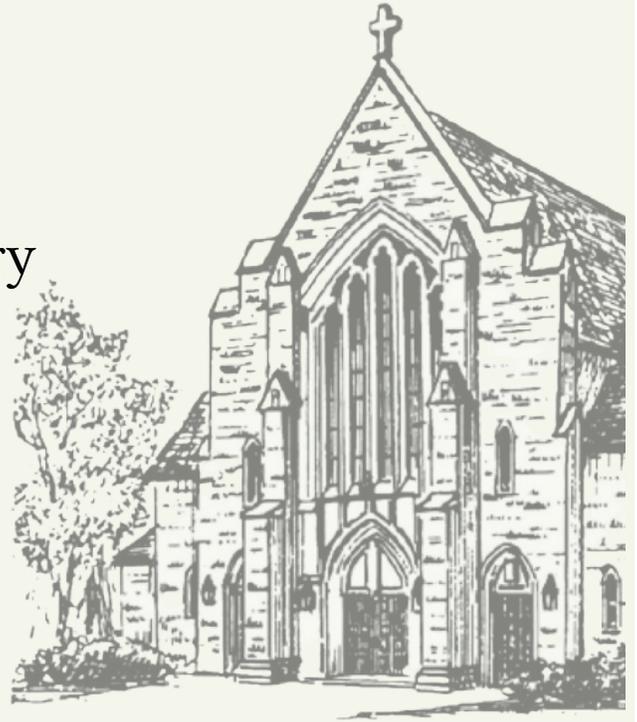
Sunday, October 5, 2025

5:30 pm Teams of our Lady

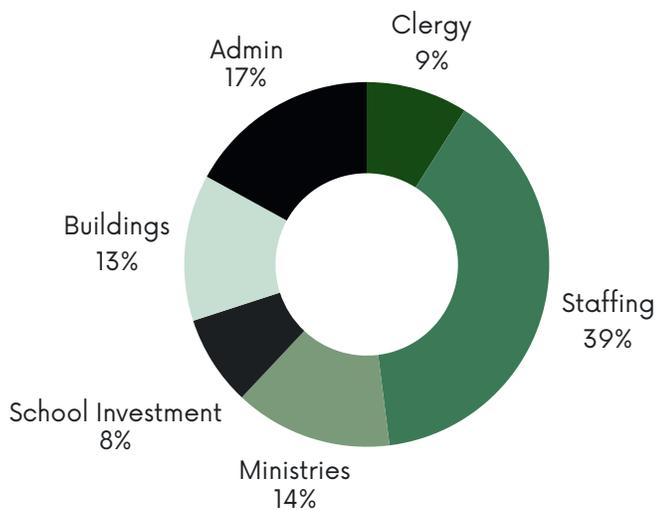
6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

This fall, we are inviting every St. Rita's family to renew their Sunday offertory commitment.

Your regular financial support is an **expression of Christian stewardship** that sustains and strengthens our parish family.



Where Your Offertory Giving Goes



Like every home, our parish has many ongoing needs. This chart shows how your offertory giving supports the daily life of the parish. A full annual report of parish activities and finances will be shared later this fall.

Pastoral Priorities at the Parish



Expanding Outreach | Drawing on the recent Communion survey, we are exploring new opportunities to strengthen parish life outside of Mass, especially by supporting couples and families.



Building Youth Ministry | Our goal is to create activities that welcome a wider circle of young people from both the parish and surrounding community, helping them grow in their connection to the Church.



Securing Our Parish Infrastructure | There are several projects we are reviewing to improve safety, accessibility (including parking), and our church and school HVAC system, among other maintenance and facilities needs.

"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace." 1 Peter 4:10

On Sunday, October 5, we will ask you to prayerfully commit to a level of offertory giving that you can sustain throughout the year ahead.

This is not a pledge that will be billed, but a personal commitment **made in faith...** and also an opportunity to increase in generosity if you are able.

We encourage you to fulfill your renewed offertory commitment by giving online - see details below.

If you prefer to give using offertory envelopes and do not receive them already, please contact our parish office so that you can begin receiving envelopes.

“Honor the LORD... with the first fruits of all you produce.” Prov 3:9

Suggested Giving Levels

Annual Household Income	Weekly Offertory Giving as a % of Annual Income		
	1%	2%	3%
\$50,000	\$10	\$20	\$30
\$75,000	\$15	\$30	\$45
\$100,000	\$20	\$40	\$60
\$125,000	\$25	\$50	\$75
\$150,000	\$30	\$60	\$90
\$200,000	\$40	\$80	\$120
\$250,000	\$50	\$100	\$150

This chart is offered as a guide to help each family prayerfully discern the level of giving that is right for them. What matters most is not the amount, but the spirit of sacrifice, offered in gratitude to God.

Are You Enrolled in Online Giving?

Fulfilling your offertory commitment securely through **Parish Giving™**, the parish's online giving provider, helps save the parish both money and time.

Visit stritaalexandria.com/parish-giving to review your Parish Giving account or to set up your first online recurring gift today. It's simple and easy.



Contact the parish office if you have any questions about Parish Giving™ or require guidance setting up your account for the first time.

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/>.



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:

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 Rippy, Fermin L. Vilar

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. Please register by **September 30** by scanning the QR code.



St. Rita History Books and Magnets for Sale in Parish Office

Copies of *A History of St. Rita Parish*, published in honor of our 100th Anniversary last year, are available for purchase in the Parish Office, for the discounted price of **\$10 per book**. We also have St. Rita Parish magnets available for **\$1 each**. The magnets were also designed especially for our 100th Anniversary, and include colors taken from the church sanctuary, as well as symbols representing elements from the life of St. Rita, including a crown of thorns, a drop of blood, and bees.



Upcoming Second Collections

- September 28: The Catholic University of America
- October 5: Repairs and Replacements
- October 19: World Mission Sunday

News from the Diocese and Beyond

Alexandria Life Chain Next Sunday

The Alexandria Life Chain will be held along **Franconia Road** from Saint Lawrence Catholic Church, 6222 Franconia Road, to the Springfield Mall, from **2:30 pm to 3:30 pm**, on **Sunday, October 5**, rain or shine. Life Chain signs for church and individual use will be available for pick-up at Hammond Hall adjacent to the church starting at 2:00 pm. Please join us for a respectful, prayerful witness to life.

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/>.

27th Annual Christ the King Men's Retreat

Arm yourself for the war being waged against God by the evil one's unrelenting assault on human life. The Christ the King Men's Day of Recollection, directed by Father Francis de Rosa, will be held on **Saturday, October 25** from **8:30 am - 1:15 pm** at **St. Raymond of Peñafort Catholic Church**. There is no charge for this event, but you must register before **October 20** at www.waywomen.com/mensretreat. Donations gratefully accepted. For more information, contact **Robin Maas** at rmvmaas@gmail.com.