



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

October 19, 2025: Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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 and Bulletin Editor	Elizabeth Vail evail.strita@gmail.com	Ext. 11
Maintenance Manager	Adan Aguilar aaguilar.strita@gmail.com	



Moses' hands, however, grew tired; so they put a rock in place for him to sit on. Meanwhile Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side and one on the other. (Ex. 17:12)

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, October 20, 2025

Saint Paul of the Cross, Priest

7:00 am Richard Lee

7:30 pm John Oliverio

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

Tuesday of the Twenty-Ninth Week in Ordinary Time

7:00 am All the Souls in Purgatory ☩

Wednesday, October 22, 2025

Saint John Paul II, Pope

7:00 am William Hass ☩

7:30 pm Bruce and Norka Miller

Thursday, October 23, 2025

Saint John of Capistrano, Priest

7:00 am Rita Knott ☩

Friday, October 24, 2025

Saint Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop

7:00 am Maddy Oliverio

7:30 pm Jose Pomalaya ☩

Saturday, October 25, 2025

Saturday of the Twenty-Ninth Week in Ordinary Time

8:00 am Robert Schnur

5:00 pm Susan Josephson

Sunday, October 26, 2025

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Cecilia Sierra

8:00 am Maria de Lourdes Flores Zavala

11:00 am Missa Pro Populo

1:00 pm Por Todas las Almas del Purgatorio

Additional Mass Intentions this Week:

Bernie Victory, Allie Patrone, Randy Hart ☩, Paul Victory

Christ House Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed for an upcoming dinner service at the Christ House Shelter on **Sunday, October 26** at **5:00 pm**. Most importantly, we are looking for volunteers to cook a batch of beef stew or make brownies or cookies and deliver the food to the shelter between **4:15-4:30 pm** that day. If interested, please contact **Eric Co** at ericco9@yahoo.com or **713-206-8759**.



Make Your Offertory Commitment Online

Thank you to every one who has already made an offertory commitment for the coming year. If you have not yet made your offertory commitment, you may easily complete your commitment form online by scanning the QR code or by visiting our parish website at www.stritaalexandria.com. Thank you for your generosity and for supporting the mission of St. Rita Parish!



"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)

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!



Fall/Winter Clothing Drive

- ❖ St. Rita Parish and School are participating in the first Diocesan Week of Service, "Love in Action through Service in Community"
- ❖ New and gently used clothing will be collected the Nov 1-2 and Nov 8-9 weekends
- ❖ Distribution of collected clothing will be the weekend of Nov 15-16

Together, we will offer the hands and heart of Christ to our neighbors in physical need

September 2025 Collections

Regular Offertory:	\$39,106
Parish Giving Offertory:	\$58,288
Repairs & Replacements:	\$2,520
Parish Giving Repairs & Replacements:	\$8,825
Poor Box:	\$2,321
Parish Giving Poor Box:	\$4,797

This Week at St. Rita

Sunday, October 19, 2025

No Birchmere Parking and No Coffee and Donuts

5:00 pm Teams of our Lady

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

Monday, October 20, 2025

5:30 pm Legión de María (en Español)

6:15 pm Religious Education Classes

7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

7:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study

Wednesday, October 22, 2025

2:30 pm Homeschool Holy Hour

6:15 pm Religious Education Classes

Thursday, October 23, 2025

4:00 pm Junior Legion of Mary

6:30 pm High School Youth Ministry

Friday, October 24, 2025

7:00 pm Vespers

Saturday, October 25, 2025

9:00 am OCIA

9:00 am Legion of Mary

Sunday, October 26, 2025

10:30 am St. Rita Young Adults Brunch

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

SPECIAL KIDS/ NEEDS



FUNDRAISER FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

To learn more & donate:
Para mas informacion y donar:
Portocharities.org/sksn

October 25-26

The second collection will benefit Porto Charities, a non-profit organization serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the Diocese of Arlington.

Our diocesan schools require extra financial support to ensure these valued students have the resources to thrive. By supporting Porto Charities you are helping our diocese to continue to serve those who want and deserve a Catholic education and faith formation. I encourage you to prayerfully consider a gift to support this very important mission.

100% of ALL donations goes to our Catholic Schools serving students with disabilities!

100% de TODAS las donaciones son para nuestras Escuelas Catolicas sirviendo estudiantes con discapacidades



Octubre 25-26

La segunda colecta beneficiará a Porto Charities, una organización sin fines de lucro que sirve a personas con discapacidades intelectuales en la Diócesis de Arlington.

Nuestras escuelas requieren apoyo financiero adicional para garantizar que estos valiosos estudiantes tengan los recursos para prosperar. Al apoyar a Porto Charities, está ayudando a nuestra diócesis a continuar sirviendo a aquellos que quieren y merecen una educación católica y una formación en la fe. Los animo a que consideren en oración un regalo para apoyar esta misión tan importante.





all Young Adults invited to attend

ALL SAINTS' DAY

Masquerade Ball

6:00 PM ——— 10:00 PM

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST

ST. RITA'S SCHOOL HALL

scan here for more details and to purchase your tickets



St. Rita School 5K and Fun Run

The St. Rita School 5K and 1K Fun Run will be held on **Saturday, November 15**, at **8:00 am** behind **George Washington Middle School**. For registration and event details, see www.StRita5K.com. All are welcome to participate and support St. Rita School while enjoying a fun-filled morning of fitness and autumn weather!

St. Rita School 5K and Fun Run



St. Rita School Book Fair

The Saint Rita School Book Fair will be open for all parishioners on **Sunday, November 9**, from **8:30 am - 1:00 pm** at the School. Supplied by Bookworm, a local independent business that works with many diocesan schools, and curated especially for our school, the St. Rita Book Fair offers books for



children in pre-school through eighth grade and their families, along with a selection of educational games, seasonal calendars, and school supplies. Featured this year are books chosen by the diocesan librarians for 5th and 6th graders, classic works of children's fiction, a large selection of books about the saints, the Mass, prayer, and other elements of the Catholic faith.

Upcoming Second Collections

- October 19: World Mission Sunday
- October 26: Porto Charities
- November 1: All Saints Day
- November 2: All Souls Day
- November 2: Repairs and Replacements

Thank you for your continued generosity!

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, Fermin L. Vilar

Volunteers for Refugee Adjustment Workshop at St. Rita School



Hogar Immigrant Services - Legal of Catholic Charities Diocese of Arlington is hosting a Refugee Adjustment Workshop at **St. Rita School (School Hall)** on **Saturday, November 1**, from **9:30 am - 4:30 pm** to assist Refugee's applications for adjustment of status (lawful permanent residence or "green cards") to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Training on completing the green card application will be provided. No prior immigration law experience is needed. Attorneys: only an active law license in any U.S. jurisdiction is required. Interpreters and Law Students are welcome, as well. The Volunteer Registration deadline is **5:00 pm** on **Thursday, October 30**. You can volunteer by scanning the QR Code. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact **Hogar Legal** at VolunteerHogar@ccda.net. Thank you!

News from the Diocese and Beyond

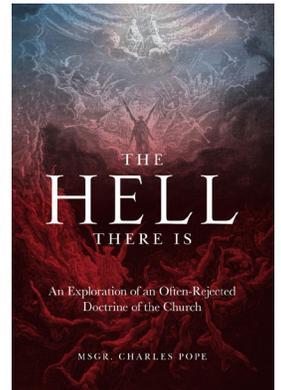
27th Annual Christ the King Men's Retreat

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 rmvlmaas@gmail.com.

Monsignor Charles Pope

The Hell There Is

Join the Pro Animis Sanctis in Purgatorio (Purgatorial Prayer Society) at **St. John the Beloved Catholic Church in McLean, VA**, on **Tuesday, October 28**, for a lecture by Msgr. Charles Pope on his new book *The Hell There Is*, with additional discussion on Purgatory. The evening will begin with a light social at **6:00 pm**, followed by the lecture at **7:00 pm** in the church. All are welcome. Books will be available for purchase and signing.



St. Jerome Institute (Northern Virginia)

Admissions Open House



The St. Jerome Institute (SJI) will hold an Admissions Open House for its new Northern Virginia Campus on **Sunday, November 2** from **3:00 - 5:00 pm**, at **7500 Saint Philip Court, Falls Church, VA 22042**.

SJI is a Christ-centered, liberal arts high school that aspires to cultivate and develop what is most human in our students by incorporating them into the rich tradition of Catholic humanism. At our Open House Parents and Students will have an opportunity to tour our campus at St. Philip's, demo classes in our distinctive seminar style, and hear from teachers, students, and parents about what makes SJI a place to foster deep thinking and true friendships. Scan the QR Code for more information and to register.