



St. Rita Catholic Church

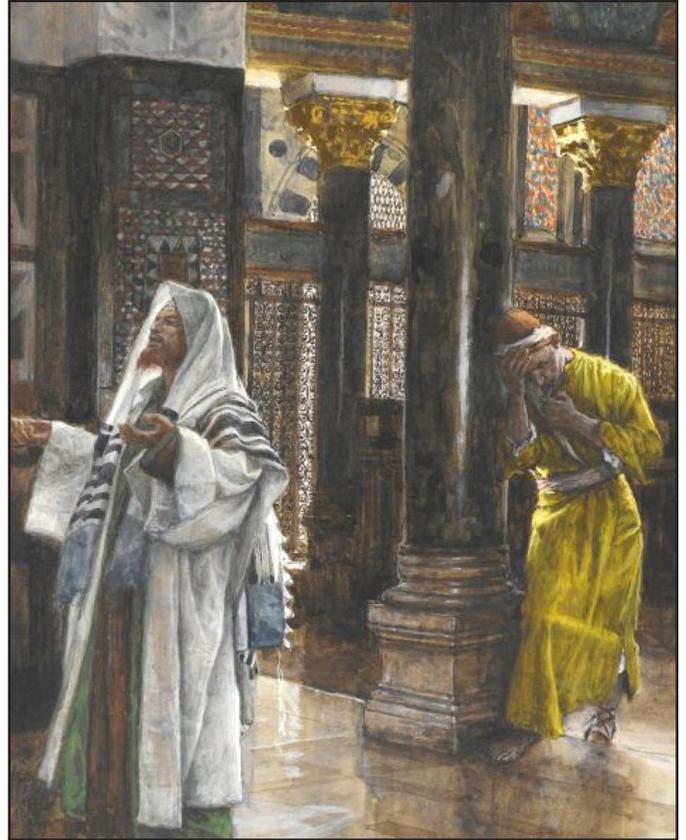
3815 Russell Road | Alexandria, VA 22305 | 703-836-1640 (office) 703-706-0484 (fax)

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

October 26, 2025: Thirtieth 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	



But the tax collector stood off at a distance and would not even raise his eyes to heaven but beat his breast and prayed, 'O God, be merciful to me a sinner.' (Lk. 18:13)

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 27, 2025

Monday of the Thirtieth Week in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Joseph E. Vorbach ☩

7:30 pm Matthew Madalo

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles

7:00 am Jon and Elisa Schnur

Wednesday, October 29, 2025

Wednesday of the Thirtieth Week in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Joseph E. Vorbach ☩

7:30 pm Jeff McMahan ☩

Thursday, October 30, 2025

Thursday of the Thirtieth Week in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Cathy L. West

Friday, October 31, 2025

Friday of the Thirtieth Week in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Barbara Weinert

7:30 pm Robert John McCourt ☩

Saturday, November 1, 2025

All Saints

8:00 am Maria Goitiandia

5:00 pm Alana Austin

Sunday, November 2, 2025

The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed

(All Souls' Day)

7:00 am All Souls Novena ☩

8:00 am Jeffrey McMahan ☩

11:00 am Missa Pro Populo

1:00 pm Por Todos los Legionarios Difuntos

Additional Mass Intentions this Week:

Jose Luis Caballero ☩, Allison Tracey, Soraya Strobach,
Jack Peter Goitiandia ☩

Porto Charities Second Collection Today

The second collection this weekend (**October 25-26**) will benefit Porto Charities, a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing access to diocesan Catholic schools for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Thank you for your generosity to this collection, which enables our diocese to continue to serve those who want and deserve the tremendous benefit of a Catholic education. To learn more about Porto Charities, please visit <https://www.portocharities.org/>.



Upcoming Second Collections

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!

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!

All Saints' and All Souls' Day

This year the Solemnity of All Saints, **November 1**, is not a Holy Day of Obligation. There will be only one Mass in English at **8:00 am**. All of the Sunday Masses will be for the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day), celebrated on **November 2**. There will be an empty coffin covered with a black pall in the sanctuary to represent all those who have died. The All Souls' Novena of Masses will take place from **November 2 - 10**. If you would like your deceased loved ones to be included in the Novena, please place your envelope in the collection basket, or bring it to the Parish Office.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.



Dales, Señor, el descanso eterno, y brille para ellos la luz perpetua.

Plenary Indulgence for the Faithful Departed

The month of November is dedicated to praying for the Souls in Purgatory. A Plenary Indulgence, applicable only to the Souls in Purgatory, is available between the days of **November 1-8** for those who visit a cemetery and pray there for the departed. The usual conditions apply (Confession, Holy Communion, prayers for the intentions of the Holy Father, complete detachment from sin).

First Saturday Pro-Life Rosary



Come join the 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, November 1**. 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.

This Week at St. Rita

Sunday, October 26, 2025

10:30 am St. Rita Young Adults Brunch

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

Monday, October 27, 2025

5:30 pm Legión de María (en Español)

6:15 pm Religious Education Classes

7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

7:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study

Wednesday, October 29, 2025

2:30 pm Homeschool Holy Hour

6:15 pm Religious Education Classes

Thursday, October 30, 2025

4:00 pm Junior Legion of Mary

6:30 pm High School Youth Ministry

Friday, October 31, 2025

7:00 pm Vespers

Saturday, November 1, 2025

9:00 am OCIA

9:00 am Legion of Mary

Sunday, November 2, 2025

5:30 pm Teams of our Lady

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group



Fall/Winter Clothing Drive

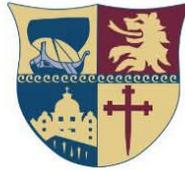
- ❖ St. Rita Parish is participating in the first Diocesan Week of Service, *"Love in Action through Service in Community"*
- ❖ New and gently used clothing will be collected before and after the November 1-2 and November 8-9 Masses
- ❖ Distribution of collected clothing will be on Saturday, November 15, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., in the School Hall

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

**RSVP
NOW**



ST. **JEROME**
INSTITUTE



**NOVA
OPEN HOUSE**



**SUNDAY, NOV 2
3PM - 5PM**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805044EAAA722A3FF2-58917372-sjnova?#/>



VISIT US!

- ✓ Tour our new campus
- ✓ Demo classes in our distinctive seminar style
- ✓ Hear from teachers, students, and parents about what makes SJI a place to foster deep thinking and true friendships

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, which gives expression to the great questions and longings of the human heart and contains the intellectual and artistic patrimony of Jerusalem, Athens, and Rome.

**7500 SAINT PHILIPS CT
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22042
202-390-1289
STJEROMEINSTITUTE.ORG**



CHESTERTON ACADEMY
OF CHRIST THE KING

October 2025

Dear Friend,

We are excited to announce the opening of Chesterton Academy of Christ the King in Alexandria, Virginia, launching fall 2026. Chesterton Academies are small, independent, Catholic, classical high schools inspired by the wit, wisdom, faith, and joy of the early 20th century English writer G.K. Chesterton. Back in 2008, Mr. Dale Ahlquist and a group of parents started the first Chesterton Academy in the Twin Cities of Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota. That school opened with just a handful of students, but grew into an inspiring educational model that weaves the faith through a rigorous and integrated classical curriculum. Other parents around the country sought their assistance in starting schools like it, and there are now more than seventy of these thriving schools around the country and spreading internationally,

When we open our doors next fall, Chesterton Academy of Christ the King will work to form the intellect, character, and faith of our first freshman class and those who follow in their footsteps. Our classical curriculum grounds students in history and introduces them to the master works of the Christian tradition in all subjects, orienting them toward the good, the true, and the beautiful. At Chesterton Academies, students attend daily Mass, grapple with the big questions of history, philosophy, and theology in Socratic seminars, read and discuss great literature, hone their logic and problem solving in math and science, and become articulate writers and speakers as well as compassionate and reflective young adults.

By the time they leave us, our students will be joyfully discerning and embarking upon the plan God has for their lives, equipped to navigate a confused world without succumbing to its distraction, disillusionment, and despair. Chesterton students are well-formed in the Catholic faith, well-rounded in their academic skills and talents, and optimistic, resilient, and grounded in their outlook.

We hope you will join us, support us, and pray for us as we seek to raise up the next generation of saints.

Chesterton-ChristTheKing.org



Office@Chesterton-ChristtheKing.org



CHESTERTON ACADEMY OF CHRIST THE KING

Network of +80 thriving schools in the US and abroad

Daily Mass and strong Catholic identity

Award-winning, integrated classical curriculum

Screen-free, active learning through Socratic seminars

College credit available through Franciscan University

Opening on 17 beautiful acres at St. Lawrence Catholic Church

Affordable tuition of \$13,900/year + fees for 2026-2027



Apply
Online
Today!

**Parent Info
Session Nov. 3**

**Prospective
Student Bonfire**

Nov. 15

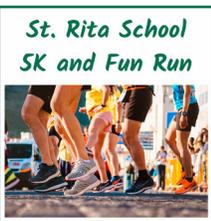
Click or scan to RSVP



CHESTERTON-CHRISTTHEKING.ORG

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 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.



Make Your Offertory Commitment Online

Thank you to everyone 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)

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

**ST. RITA SCHOOL
PROSPECTIVE FAMILIES
OPEN HOUSE**

K-8TH GRADE- NOVEMBER 18, 2025
PRESCHOOL- NOVEMBER 20, 2025

Catholic / Classical / Community

"The soul of education is the education of the soul"

JOIN US FOR PRESENTATIONS AND
TOURS OF OUR PRESCHOOL & K-8
PROGRAMS

Registration required




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



News from the Diocese and Beyond

Voter Resources for the Upcoming Election

On **November 4**, Virginians will select candidates for all 100 seats in the House of Delegates as well as for Governor, Lt. Governor and Attorney General. This November's elections are poised to have an outsized impact on our Commonwealth as our state legislators continue to consider three proposed constitutional amendments, including an extreme constitutional amendment establishing a "right" to abortion. The legislators we elect this November will decide whether the proposed amendments are advanced or stopped. For more information and election resources, please visit <https://vacatholic.org/action-center/Election2025/>.