



# 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

*December 14, 2025: Third Sunday of Advent*

## CLERGY AND STAFF

<b>Pastor</b>	Rev. Christopher P. Christensen fccc41@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 aguilar.strita@gmail.com	

*Third Sunday of Advent*



## 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

*Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord...  
You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm,  
because the coming of the Lord is at hand. (James 5:7a, 8)*

## 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, December 15, 2025

Monday of the Third Week of Advent

7:00 am Helen Kazimar †

7:30 pm Elena Auclair

### Tuesday, December 16, 2025

Tuesday of the Third Week of Advent

7:00 am Maureen (Arroyo) Fox †

### Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Late Advent Weekday

7:00 am Maria Blazevich

7:30 pm Mary Emma Hughes

### Thursday, December 18, 2025

Anniversary of the Dedication of St. Rita Church

7:00 am Joseph Vorbach, II †

### Friday, December 19, 2025

Late Advent Weekday

7:00 am Ethan Blum

7:30 pm Sean Harrington †

### Saturday, December 20, 2025

Late Advent Weekday

8:00 am Khanh Nguyen

5:00 pm Gertrud Kitzelmann †

### Sunday, December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:00 am In Honor of the Immaculate Conception  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00 am Maximilian Piereck

11:00 am Missa Pro Populo

1:00 pm Kevin Hernandez

Additional Mass Intentions this Week:

Felix Moret, Jr., Christine Hanley, In Honor of the  
Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary,  
Santiago Soutuyo †

### No Adoration or Confessions Thursday, December 18

There will be no Adoration or Confessions on **Thursday, December 18**.

### Gift for Life Giving Tree



Please consider giving a Gift for Life this Advent season. Take a tag from the Giving Tree in the Russell Road vestibule and support the Gabriel Project

Pregnancy Assistance and Project Rachel After Abortion Care ministries. For more information about these ministries, or to donate online, please visit [www.arlingtondiocese.org/giftforlife](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/giftforlife).

### Upcoming Second Collections

December 14: Catholic Charities Christmas Collection

December 25: Christmas

January 1, 2026: Mary, Mother of God

### 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!

## Annual Catholic Charities Second Collection Today



The Second Collection today (**Sunday, December 13/14**) is for the annual Parish Christmas Collection for Catholic Charities. This year's theme, *United in Charity*, reminds us that when we share our blessings with those in need, we share the love of Christ Himself. Your generous gift supports vital ministries serving families, individuals, and communities across our diocese. You can also give online at [ceda.net/Christmas](http://ceda.net/Christmas), through Parish Giving, or by using the special bulletin insert included in this week's bulletin.

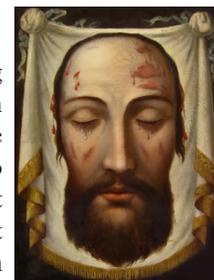
### Coffee and Donuts Next Sunday

Join us for Coffee and Donuts in the School Hall on **Sunday, December 21**, after all Masses, starting after the 8:00 am Mass.



### Archconfraternity of the Holy Face Today

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



## This Week at St. Rita

### Sunday, December 14, 2025

3:00 pm Archconfraternity of the Holy Face

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

### Monday, December 15, 2025

5:30 pm Legión de María (en Español)

6:15 pm Religious Education Classes

7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study

### Tuesday, December 16, 2025

7:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study

### Wednesday, December 17, 2025

6:15 pm Religious Education Classes

8:00 pm Knights of Columbus Meeting

### Thursday, December 18, 2025

No Confessions or Adoration

4:00 pm Junior Legion of Mary

6:30 pm High School Youth Ministry

### Friday, December 19, 2025

7:00 pm Vespers

### Saturday, December 20, 2025

9:00 am OCIA

9:00 am Legion of Mary

### Sunday, December 21, 2025

Coffee and Donuts after All Masses, starting after the 8am Mass

5:00 pm Teams of our Lady

6:00 pm Las Posadas

# Christmas 2025

## THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD (HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION)

### CHRISTMAS EVE (TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24):

4:30 PM MUSICAL PRELUDE  
5:00 PM VIGIL MASS (ENGLISH)  
11:30 PM MUSICAL PRELUDE

### CHRISTMAS DAY (WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25):

12:00 AM MIDNIGHT MASS (ENGLISH)  
7:00 AM (ENGLISH)  
8:00 AM (ENGLISH)  
11:00 AM (ENGLISH)  
1:00 PM (EN ESPAÑOL)

*And she gave birth to her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.*

*Luke 2:7*

## SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD (HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION)

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2025:

5:00 PM (ENGLISH)

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 2026:

8:00 AM (ENGLISH)  
11:00 AM (ENGLISH)  
1:00 PM (EN ESPAÑOL)

*Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King, who rules heaven and earth for ever.*

*Entrance Antiphon*

**THERE WILL BE NO ADORATION AND NO CONFESSIONS ON CHRISTMAS EVE OR CHRISTMAS DAY, OR ON NEW YEAR'S EVE OR NEW YEAR'S DAY.**

Please call the parish office at 703-836-1640 or see the flyers in the church vestibules for the full schedule of Masses.

# Novena For Christmas

(Based on the  Antiphons)

*After praying the Antiphon for each day, pray one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and one Glory Be.*

## December 16

 Pastor qui regis Israel, intende; qui deducis velut ovem Joseph: veni ad ducendum et confortandum nos.

 Shepherd, You Who rule over Israel, hear us; You Who lead Joseph like a sheep: come to guide and comfort us.

## December 17

 Sapientia, quae ex ore Altissimi prodiisti, attingens a fine usque ad finem, fortiter suaviterque disponens omnia: veni ad docendum nos viam prudentiae.

 Wisdom, Which proceeds from the mouth of the Most High, reaching from end to end and ordering all things mightily and sweetly: come to teach us the way of prudence.

## December 18

 Adonai, et dux domus Israel, qui Moysi in igne flammae rubi apparuisti, et ei in Sina legem dedisti: veni ad redimendum nos in brachio extento.

 Sacred Lord, and Leader of the House of Israel, Who appeared to Moses in the flame of the burning bush, and gave him the Law on Mount Sinai: come to redeem us with Your outstretched arm.

## December 19

 Radix Jesse, qui stas in signum populorum, super quem continebunt reges os suum, quem gentes deprecabuntur: veni ad liberandum nos, jam noli tardare.

 Root of Jesse, Which stands as a sign of the people, before Whom kings shall shut their mouth, Whom the Gentiles shall beseech: come to deliver us, and do not delay.

## December 20

 Clavis David, et sceptrum domus Israel, qui aperis, et nemo claudit, claudis, et nemo aperit: veni, et educ vinctum de domo carceris, sedentem in tenebris, et umbra mortis.

 Key of David, and Scepter of the House of Israel, Who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens: come and lead the prisoner out of the prison, he that sits in darkness and in the shadow of death.

## December 21

 Oriens, splendor lucis aeternae, et sol iustitiae: veni, et illumina sedentes in tenebris, et umbra mortis.

 Radiant Dawn, brightness of eternal light, and sun of justice: come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

## December 22

 Rex Gentium, et desideratus earum, lapisque angularis, qui facis utraque unum: veni, et salva hominem, quem de limo formasti.

 King of the Gentiles, and their desire, the cornerstone that makes both one: come and save man whom You have formed from the dust.

## December 23

 Emmanuel, Rex et legifer noster, exspectatio Gentium, et Salvator earum: veni ad salvandum nos, Domine Deus noster.

 Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, desire of the Gentiles, and their Savior: come and save us, O Lord our God.

## December 24

 qui sedes super cherubim, Domine Deus virtutum: veni, ostende faciem tuam, et salvi erimus.

 You Who are seated upon the cherubim, Lord God of Hosts: come, show Your face, and we shall be saved.

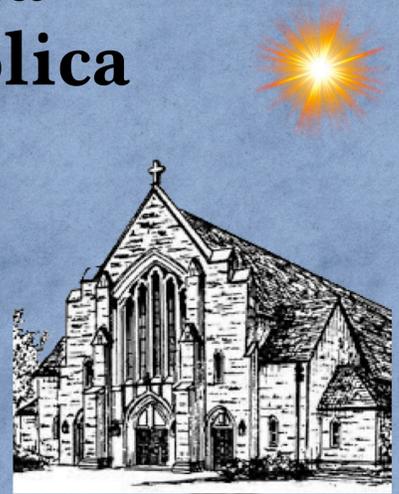
# Las Posadas

Peregrinación Hacia Navidad  
Journeying Together toward Christmas

13-21 de diciembre 2025/December 13-21, 2025

## Santa Rita Iglesia Católica

¿Donde  
pediremos  
Posada?



Las oraciones para Las Posadas estarán disponibles en los vestíbulos para llevarlas y rezarlas en casa. Acompáñenos en el último día de la Novena el domingo 21 de diciembre a las 6:00 pm, seguido de una celebración.

The prayers for Las Posadas will be available in the vestibules to take and pray at home. Join us for the final day of the Novena on Sunday, December 21, at 6:00 pm, followed by a celebration.



**LIVE THE LIFE**  
STRENGTHENING MARRIAGES AND FAMILIES

# ADVENTURES *in Marriage*

**FEBRUARY 6-8, 2026**



## LEARN HOW TO LOVE BETTER!

Most couples don't know how to be married. Come find out why independent researchers are calling this one of the MOST effective marriage programs in the country!

*You'll learn:*



How to communicate



How to resolve conflict



How to meet the emotional needs of one another

**COST: \$50 (+free Childcare!)**

**Friday: 6 PM - 8 PM**

**Saturday: 9 AM - 1:30 PM**

**Sunday: 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM (Mass at 11 AM)**

**St. Rita Catholic Church  
3815 Russell Road  
Alexandria, VA 22305**

TO REGISTER PLEASE  
SCAN THE QR CODE

SCAN ME



LIVETHELIFE.ORG

### Christmas Tree Sales at Our Lady of Lourdes



The St. Rita Knights of Columbus will be joining the Knights at Our Lady of Lourdes to sell Christmas Trees at the Christmas Tree Lot at **Our Lady of Lourdes (830 23rd Street South, Arlington, VA)**. Christmas Tree sales begin on **Saturday, November 29**, and the lot will be open on **Saturdays and Sundays from 9:00 am - 6:00 pm**, and on **Tuesdays and Fridays from 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm**.

### Lost and Found

Are you looking for lost items? Please stop by the rectory office **weekdays between 9:00 am - 9:00 pm** or call the office at **703-836-1640** to check the parish lost and found. Any lost items that are not claimed after 30 days are donated or discarded.

### 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)*

### Formed.org

Did you know that St. Rita Parish has a subscription to Formed.org? Discover small group Bible studies, inspiring children's shows, sacramental preparation resources, family-friendly movies, and more! To sign up for free, visit **signup.formed.org** and enter "St. Rita Church" to create your free account.

### 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:

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:

Veronica Abarre, Jose Luis Arranda, Michael Barker, Daniel Lee Beiro, Lee Edwards, John Francis Garrity, III, David Langley, Oscar Merino, Catherine Elizabeth Nugent, John Martin Rice, Jane Rippy, Fermin L. Vilar



### Legion of Mary

The Legion of Mary is a lay apostolate whose members are dedicated to serving the Church through prayer and apostolic works, under the leadership of our Lady. The English Adult Legion group meets on **Saturdays at 9:00 am** in the Parish Center conference room.

### Junior Legion

The Junior Legion of Mary, open to children in grade 3 and higher, meets on **Thursdays at 4:00 pm** during the school year. They visit Alexandria Rehab Center as their work.

For more information, or if you are interested in joining in the work of the Legion of Mary, please contact **Vivian Moran** at **vivian.b.moran@gmail.com** or call or text her at **(703) 888-8196**.

### News from the Diocese and Beyond



### SACRED MUSIC

### FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

*featuring the Cathedral Choir and Youth Choir*



Sunday, December 14  
3:30 pm

Cathedral Concerts  
Cathedral of Saint Thomas More

3901 Cathedral Lane  
Arlington, Virginia

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!  
**VIRGINIA  
PRO-LIFE DAY 2026**  
DÍA A FAVOR DE LA VIDA  
EN VIRGINIA

**JANUARY 15, 2026**  
15 DE ENERO DE 2026



Join us in Richmond for a day of advocacy  
and Mass with the bishops!

**WE NEED YOUR VOICE!**

Register now at:  
**VAPROLIFEDAY.ORG**

