



St. Rita Catholic Church

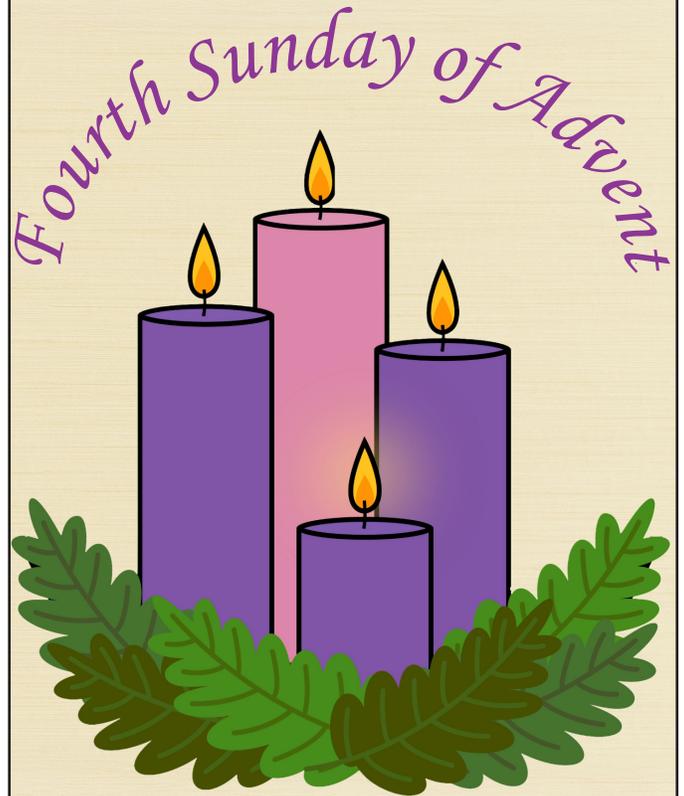
3815 Russell Road | Alexandria, VA 22305 | 703-836-1640 (office) 703-706-0484 (fax)

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

December 21, 2025: Fourth Sunday of Advent

CLERGY AND STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Christopher P. Christensen fccc41@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 aguilar.strita@gmail.com	



Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel. (Isaiah 7:14)

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, December 22, 2025

Late Advent Weekday

7:00 am Sara Burns
7:30 pm Mia Vendlinsky-Reichard †

Tuesday, December 23, 2025

Late Advent Weekday; St. John of Kanty, Priest

7:00 am Max Cognazzo

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

Late Advent Weekday

7:00 am Mina Yingwiththayakun

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

5:00 pm Thana Dixon †

Thursday, December 25, 2025

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

12:00 am (Midnight) Sanctification of Priests
7:00 am Maurice Daly †
8:00 am Frank and Alice Walsh †
11:00 am Missa Pro Populo
1:00 pm (en Español) Por todos los niños de nuestra comunidad

Friday, December 26, 2025

Saint Stephen, the First Martyr

7:00 am Fr. Paul Scalia
7:30 pm James Grimard †

Saturday, December 27, 2025

Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist

8:00 am Daniel Lee Beiro †
5:00 pm Clarissa Piereck

Sunday, December 28, 2025

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

7:00 am John Skinnion †
8:00 am Alice Walsh †
11:00 am Missa Pro Populo
1:00 pm Nicolas y Vanessa Lopez

Additional Mass Intentions this Week:

Fr. Nicholas Schierer, In Honor of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Giovanni Sanchez

*"Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;
for he has come to his people and set them free.*

*He has raised up for us a mighty Savior,
born of the house of his servant David. (Luke 1:68-69)*

Coffee and Donuts Today

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



Upcoming Second Collections

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 by Wednesday, ten days before the desired bulletin date. Thank you!

*The Clergy and Staff of St. Rita Parish wish
you a very blessed Christmas!*

*The Parish Office will be closed from Wednesday,
December 24 through Monday, December 29.*

Christmas Mass Schedule

CHRISTMAS EVE:

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

CHRISTMAS DAY:

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

THERE WILL BE NO ADORATION OR
CONFESSIONS ON CHRISTMAS EVE
OR CHRISTMAS DAY.

Please call the parish office or see
the flyers in the vestibules for the
full schedule of Masses.



*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)*

This Week at St. Rita

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 followed by Celebration

Monday, December 22, 2025

No Religious Education Classes
5:30 pm Legión de María (en Español)
7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study

Tuesday, December 23, 2025

7:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

The Parish Office will be closed for the Christmas Holiday
No Scheduled Events

No Confessions or Adoration

Thursday, December 25, 2025

The Parish Office will be closed for the Christmas Holiday
No Scheduled Events

No Confessions or Adoration

Friday, December 26, 2025

The Parish Office will be closed for the Christmas Holiday
7:00 pm Vespers

Saturday, December 27, 2025

9:00 am Legion of Mary

Sunday, December 28, 2025

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



DIocese of ARLINGTON

Office of the Bishop

200 North Glebe Road, Suite 914 • Arlington, Virginia 22203 • Office (703) 841-2511 • Fax (703) 524-5028

Christmas 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christmas shines as a season of joy, unity, and renewed hope. The Child of Bethlehem comes to draw us together as one family of faith, bridging every distance and healing every division. His radiant light pierces the darkness reminding us that in Christ love triumphs and peace endures.

As we gather once more around the manger of Bethlehem, our hearts are filled with awe and gratitude for the gift of God's love made visible in Jesus Christ. At Christmas, we rejoice in the wondrous mystery of the Incarnation—God made man, dwelling among us to share our humanity, joys, and sorrows. In Him, heaven and earth are united, and through Him, we are reconciled to our Creator. The birth of our Savior reveals that God's love knows no boundaries.

I invite you to celebrate this holy season with renewed thanks for the gift of one another. May we follow the example of the Holy Family, who in faith and love welcomed the will of God with trust and serenity.

May the joy of this Christmas strengthen the bonds of unity among us and may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts and homes.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Arlington



Navidad 2025

Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas en Cristo,

La Navidad resplandece como una temporada de alegría, unidad y esperanza renovada. El Niño de Belén viene a reunirnos como una sola familia de fe, superando toda distancia y sanando toda división. Su luz radiante atraviesa la oscuridad y nos recuerda que en Cristo el amor triunfa y la paz perdura.

Al reunirnos nuevamente en torno al pesebre de Belén, nuestros corazones se llenan de asombro y gratitud por el don del amor de Dios hecho visible en Jesucristo. En Navidad, nos regocijamos en el maravilloso misterio de la Encarnación: Dios hecho hombre, que habita entre nosotros para compartir nuestra humanidad, nuestras alegrías y nuestras penas. En Él, el cielo y la tierra se unen, y por medio de Él somos reconciliados con nuestro Creador. El nacimiento de nuestro Salvador revela que el amor de Dios no conoce fronteras.

Los invito a celebrar esta santa temporada con un renovado agradecimiento por el don que somos los unos para los otros. Que sigamos el ejemplo de la Sagrada Familia, que con fe y amor acogió la voluntad de Dios con confianza y serenidad.

Que la alegría de esta Navidad fortalezca los lazos de unidad entre nosotros, y que la paz de Cristo reine en sus corazones y en sus hogares.

Sinceramente en Cristo,

Monseñor Michael F. Burbidge
Obispo de Arlington

Las Posadas this Evening

Join the St. Rita Hispanic Community **this evening, Sunday, December 21 at 6:00 pm** for Las Posadas, followed by a celebration with food and drink. Las Posadas is an Advent tradition commemorating Mary and Joseph arriving in Bethlehem looking for shelter. We will gather outside the church and in the vestibule to begin.



Únase a la comunidad hispana de Santa Rita **esta tarde, domingo 21 de diciembre** a las **6:00 pm** para Las Posadas, seguidas de una celebración con comida y bebida. Las Posadas es una tradición de Adviento que conmemora la llegada de María y José a Belén en busca de refugio. Nos reuniremos afuera de la iglesia y en el vestíbulo para comenzar.

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**.



Annual Catholic Charities Second Collection

Thank you to all who supported Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington in last weekend's Parish Christmas Collection. Your donation brings healing and hope to those who need it most. If you have not made a gift yet, you may still contribute by donating online at ccda.net/Christmas.

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, Hayden Ruffin, 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:

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

Gift for Life Giving Tree



Please consider giving a Gift for Life this Advent and Christmas 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.

March for Life

The March for Life is an inspiring, peaceful, vibrant, and joy-filled rally and it's the largest annual human rights demonstration in the world. Every January, tens of thousands of pro-lifers converge in Washington, D.C. and march on Capitol Hill to remember the anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling which legalized abortion in all 50 states. And while the Dobbs decision rightly returned the decision to the American people, our work to protect life continues at the state and federal levels. We will participate in the annual March for Life on **Friday, January 23, 2026**. Please join other parishioners for Mass at **12:15 pm**, a light lunch, and then a bus ride to the Mall for the March. We will return to St. Rita Church around 5:00 pm. Look for a sign-up list in the vestibule in the coming weeks. Please contact **Chris Durel** at **571-289-7228** if you have any questions.

November 2025 Collections

Regular Offertory:	\$43,986
Parish Giving Offertory:	\$81,718
Repairs & Replacements:	\$3,516
Parish Giving Repairs & Replacements:	\$8,749
Poor Box:	\$3,314
Parish Giving Poor Box:	\$4,450

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