



St. Rita Catholic Church

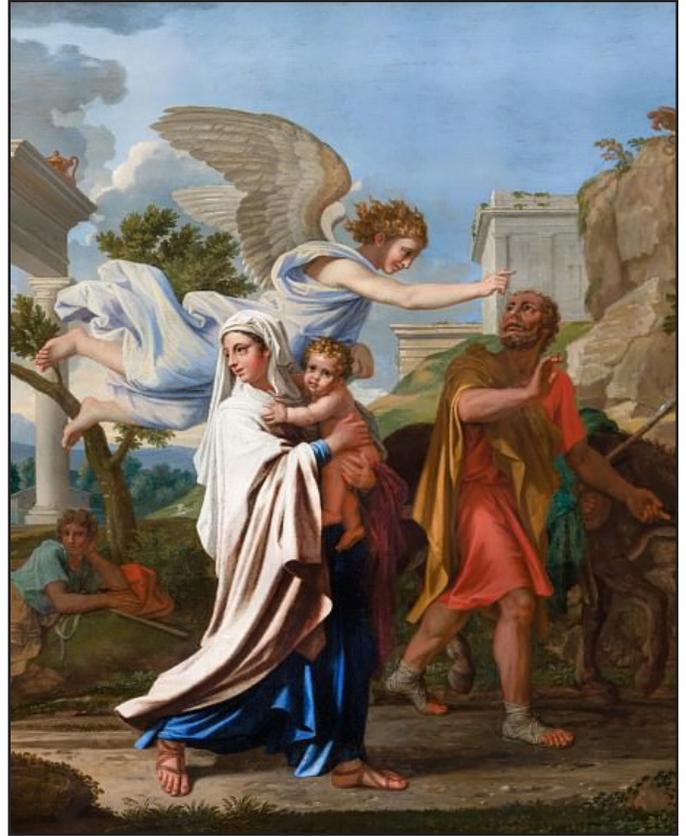
3815 Russell Road | Alexandria, VA 22305 | 703-836-1640 (office) 703-706-0484 (fax)

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

December 28, 2025: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

CLERGY AND STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Christopher P. Christensen fccc41@gmail.com	Ext. 17
Parochial Vicar	Rev. Nicholas Schierer fatherschierer@gmail.com	Ext. 30
In Residence	Rev. Paul Berghout ihmpadre@gmail.com	Ext. 15
Permanent Deacon	Deacon Stephen J. Dixon deacondixon.strita@gmail.com	
Retired Permanent Deacon	Deacon Chris DiGrado cjdigrado@me.com	
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	



When the magi had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt." (Matt. 2:13)

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, December 29, 2025

*Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord;
Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr*

7:00 am Joan Minto †
7:30 pm Dooley and Vivien Mitchell †

Tuesday, December 30, 2025

Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord
7:00 am Kym Gros

Wednesday, December 31, 2025

*Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord;
Saint Sylvester I, Pope*

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

*Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
(Holy Day of Obligation)*

5:00 pm Cynthia Ann Magis

Thursday, January 1, 2026

*Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
(Holy Day of Obligation)*

8:00 am Frank and Alice Walsh †
11:00 am Missa Pro Populo
1:00 pm (en Español) Martha Palermo †

Friday, January 2, 2026

*Saint Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and
Doctors of the Church*

7:00 am Alyson and Josephine Hardin †
7:30 pm Michelle Kae Cure †

Saturday, January 3, 2026

The Most Holy Name of Jesus

8:00 am Marguerite Maloney †
5:00 pm Larry Bowie

Sunday, January 4, 2026

The Epiphany of the Lord

7:00 am Elvera Aucoin †
8:00 am Andrew Baker
11:00 am Missa Pro Populo
1:00 pm Jesus Fernandez Perez †

Additional Mass Intentions this Week:

Patricia and Michael, In Honor of the Immaculate
Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Jeffrey Petrino †

Epiphany Water and Chalk Blessing



The Traditional Blessing of Epiphany Water and the Blessing of Chalk will take place at **3:00 pm** on **Saturday, January 3, 2026**. Please bring your own water to be blessed. Chalk will be provided, along with instructions for the traditional Epiphany blessing for your home.

"We have seen His star in the East, and have come to worship Him." (Matt. 2:2)

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 on Monday,
December 29 and Thursday, January 1.*

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation) Mass Schedule

DECEMBER 31:

5:00 PM VIGIL MASS (ENGLISH)

JANUARY 1, 2026:

8:00 AM (ENGLISH)
11:00 AM (ENGLISH)
1:00 PM (SPANISH)

THERE WILL BE NO ADORATION OR
CONFESSIONS ON NEW YEAR'S EVE
OR NEW YEAR'S DAY.

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



*O Glorious Mother of God, Mary, ever virgin, who alone was found
worthy to bear the Lord of all, and though a virgin, to nurse the
King of angels; be graciously mindful of us, we beseech thee, and
pray to Christ for us, that we, being upheld by thy care, may deserve
to attain to heavenly kingdoms.*

This Week at St. Rita

Sunday, December 28, 2025

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

Monday, December 29, 2025

No Religious Education Classes

The Parish Office will be closed for the Christmas Holiday

5:30 pm Legión de María (en Español)
7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study

Tuesday, December 30, 2025

7:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study

Wednesday, December 31, 2025

No Scheduled Events

No Confessions or Adoration

Thursday, January 1, 2026

The Parish Office will be closed for the Christmas Holiday

No Scheduled Events

No Confessions or Adoration

Friday, January 2, 2026

7:00 pm Vespers

Saturday, January 3, 2026

9:00 am OCIA
9:00 am Legion of Mary

Sunday, January 4, 2026

5:30 pm Teams of our Lady
6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

Gift for Life Giving Tree



Please consider giving a Gift for Life this 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 2026

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.

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:

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



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. Beginning **January 7, 2026**, the English Adult Legion group will meet on **Wednesdays** at **6:30 pm** 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**.

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

Upcoming Second Collections

January 1, 2026: Mary, Mother of God

January 4: Repairs & Replacements

Thank you for your continued generosity!

Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus:

January 3



At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:10-11)