



# 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 7, 2025: Second 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 aaguilar.strita@gmail.com	



*John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" (Mt. 3, 1)*

## 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

## 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 8, 2025

*Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception  
(Holy Day of Obligation)*

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

6:00 pm (en Español) Fr. Denis Donahue  
7:30 pm Fr. Kevin J. Beres

### Tuesday, December 9, 2025

*Dedication of the Cathedral of Saint Thomas More*  
7:00 am David and Donna Connor

### Wednesday, December 10, 2025

*Our Lady of Loreto*  
7:00 am Johnny Oliverio  
7:30 pm Patricia and Michael

### Thursday, December 11, 2025

*Saint Damasus I, Pope*  
7:00 am Thana Dixon †

### Friday, December 12, 2025

*Our Lady of Guadalupe*  
5:30 am (en Español) Celebrant's Intention  
7:00 am Betty Bennett †  
7:30 pm The President

### Saturday, December 13, 2025

*Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr*  
8:00 am Linda Dunne †  
5:00 pm Mary Jackson †

### Sunday, December 14, 2025

*Third Sunday of Advent*  
7:00 am Edward Kuczynski †  
8:00 am Leo McCarny †  
9:15 am Josette Fornaris †  
11:00 am Missa Pro Populo  
1:00 pm Arcadio Urrutia †

*Additional Mass Intentions this Week:*

Missa Pro Populo, Carolyn Lundberg, Friar Jude Lustyk,  
Jon and Elisa Schnur

### Lectors Needed

Become a lector and help spread the Word of God and contribute to our parish. Lectors are needed for all English Masses. Scheduling is flexible and training is provided. Please consider volunteering for this ministry. To volunteer, or if you would like more information, please contact [Frank Donahoe](mailto:Frank.Donahoe@st-rita.org) at [571-236-8495](tel:571-236-8495) or [fpdonahoe137@gmail.com](mailto:fpdonahoe137@gmail.com).

### Upcoming Second Collections

December 7: Repairs and Replacements  
December 7: Christmas Flowers  
December 8: Immaculate Conception  
December 14: Catholic Charities Christmas Collection

### 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!

SAINT RITA CATHOLIC CHURCH

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual

# ST. NICHOLAS MARKET



SUNDAY, DEC 7, 2025, 10:30AM-3:30PM

3815 RUSSELL ROAD, ALEXANDRIA VA 22305

FINE ART • APPAREL • HOME GOODS AND MORE!  
LIVE MUSIC • FOOD & DRINK

For more information, visit  
[StRitaAlexandria.com/st-nicholas-market](http://StRitaAlexandria.com/st-nicholas-market)



## This Week at St. Rita

### Sunday, December 7, 2025

10:30 am St. Nicholas Market  
5:30 pm Teams of our Lady  
6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

### Monday, December 8, 2025

5:30 pm Legión de María (en Español)  
6:15 pm Religious Education Classes  
7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study

### Tuesday, December 9, 2025

7:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study

### Wednesday, December 10, 2025

6:15 pm Religious Education Classes

### Thursday, December 11, 2025

4:00 pm Junior Legion of Mary  
6:30 pm High School Youth Ministry

### Friday, December 12, 2025

5:00 am Mañanitas (Our Lady of Guadalupe)  
7:00 pm Vespers  
7:30 pm Men's Fellowship

### Saturday, December 13, 2025

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

### Sunday, December 14, 2025

3:00 pm Archconfraternity of the Holy Face  
6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

*Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception*  
*Fiesta de la Inmaculada Concepción*  
*Holy Day of Obligation/ Día de Precepto*



*Mass Schedule*  
*Horario de Misas*

Lunes/Monday, December 8

7:00 am (English)

6:00 pm (Español)

7:30 pm (English)

*No evening Confessions or Adoration.*

*Please see the flyers in the vestibules or call the Parish Office for the full schedule of Masses.*

*“The Almighty has done great things for me and Holy is His Name.” (Luke 1:49)*

*“Porque me ha hecho grandes cosas el Poderoso; y santo es su nombre.” (Lucas 1:49)*

*Mañanitas*

*Our Lady of Guadalupe*

*Venga a celebrar con nosotros!*

*Come celebrate with us!*

Viernes/Friday, December 12

5:00 am Serenata con Mariachis  
seguido de la Santa Misa (Holy Mass)

Después de la misa, únete a nosotros afuera de la iglesia para tomar chocolate caliente y pan dulce.

After Mass, join us outside the church for hot chocolate and sweet bread.

*¿No estoy yo aquí que soy tu Madre?  
“Am I not here, I, who am your mother?”*



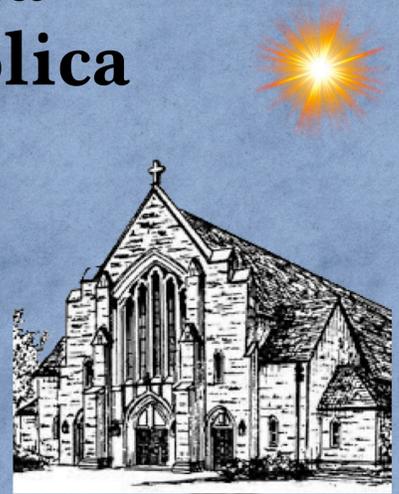
# Las Posadas

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.

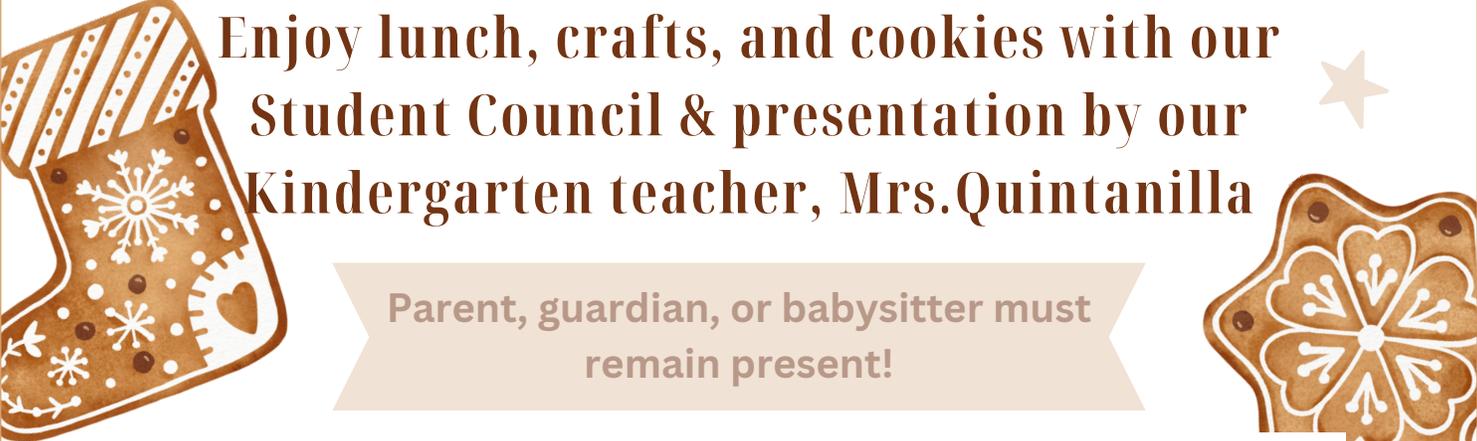


Saint Rita School invites pre-Kindergarten & preschool aged children to our annual Advent event

# COOKIES, CAROLS, & CRAFTS

Thursday, December 11, 2025

★ Saint Rita School Hall



Enjoy lunch, crafts, and cookies with our Student Council & presentation by our Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Quintanilla

Parent, guardian, or babysitter must remain present!

Registration is required. Please visit [saintrita-school.org](http://saintrita-school.org) under Admissions/ Open Houses & Tours





**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

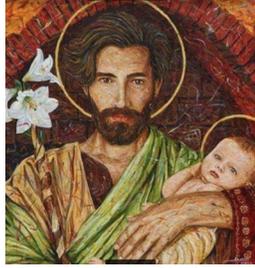
SCAN ME



LIVETHELIFE.ORG

**St. Rita Men's Fellowship Meeting**

The St. Rita Men's Fellowship will meet on **Friday, December 12**, at **7:30 pm** in the school courtyard, weather permitting, and in the Parish Center (enter through the back) if it rains. Please join us for prayer, conversation, and "manly solidarity" under our patron, St. Joseph, "Guardian of the Redeemer." Bring a chair, cold beverages and food or snacks to share, and your rosary! Please contact **Rick Strobach** at [rick.strobach@gmail.com](mailto:rick.strobach@gmail.com) for more information. New and past members are always welcome! *Sancte Joseph, ora pro nobis!*



**Archconfraternity of the Holy Face**

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/>.



**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**.

**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).



**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](mailto:vivian.b.moran@gmail.com) or call or text her at **(703) 888-8196**.

**Annual Catholic Charities Second Collection**



The annual Parish Christmas Collection for Catholic Charities will be held **next Sunday (December 13/14)**. 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 [ccda.net/Christmas](http://ccda.net/Christmas), through Parish Giving, or by using the special bulletin insert included in this week's bulletin.

**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 Rippey, Fermin L. Vilar

**WorkCamp 2026**

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All rising sophomores - seniors are invited to join the St. Rita High School Youth Ministry for WorkCamp this coming June 20-26th.

There will be a meeting on December 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:45am in the Convent for those signed up or interested in signing up to discuss key details, dates, and fundraising - parents are encouraged to attend.

Contact [mgoitiandia.strita@gmail.com](mailto:mgoitiandia.strita@gmail.com) with any questions and access to registration.



**St. Rita Youth Ministry WorkCamp class of 2025**



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Arlington Diocese WorkCamp is an annual youth ministry program culminating in a week-long overnight camp providing the teens of the Diocese with an opportunity to encounter Christ through service, faith, and fellowship. This service opportunity combines prayer, great speakers, daily Mass, confession, and tons of fun, making it an integrated experience of true Christian community and one of the most transformational opportunities of the year!

