



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

January 11, 2026: The Baptism of the Lord

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	



"He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.'"

(Matt. 3:16-17)

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, January 12, 2026

Monday of the First Week in Ordinary Time

7:00 am David Connor

7:30 pm Donna Connor

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

Saint Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

7:00 am Patricia and Michael

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Wednesday of the First Week in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Max and Anastasia Eden

7:30 pm Ben Lazey †

Thursday, January 15, 2026

Thursday of the First Week in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Daniel and Laura Quigley

Friday, January 16, 2026

Friday of the First Week in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Rich Sauter

7:30 pm Poor Souls in Purgatory †

Saturday, January 17, 2026

Saint Anthony, Abbot

8:00 am James Calandra †

5:00 pm Wilko Mann

Sunday, January 18, 2026

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Jose Paredes †

8:00 am Richard A. Stratton †

11:00 am Missa Pro Populo

1:00 pm Alicia Guardado

Additional Mass Intentions this Week:

Shaun Smith and Family, Debbie Beck, Connie Schwalm, Santiago Soutuyo †



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.

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!

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, January 11**, 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/>.

Baptism Classes

The next Spanish Baptism class will take place on **Wednesday, January 14** at **6:00 pm**. English Baptism classes are scheduled on an individual basis with Fr. Schierer. Please contact the parish office for more information or to sign up for a class.



Christ House Volunteers Needed



Volunteers are needed for an upcoming dinner service at the Christ House Shelter on **Sunday, January 25** at **5:00 pm**. Most importantly, we are looking for volunteers to cook a batch of beef stew or make brownies or cookies and deliver the food to the shelter between **4:15-4:30 pm** that day. If interested, please contact Eric Co at ericco9@yahoo.com or **713-206-8759**.

Coffee and Donuts Next Week

Join us for Coffee and Donuts in the School Hall on **Sunday, January 18**, after all Masses, starting after the 8:00 am Mass.



This Week at St. Rita

Sunday, January 11, 2026

3:00 pm Archconfraternity of the Holy Face

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

Monday, January 12, 2026

5:30 pm Legión de María (en Español)

6:15 pm Religious Education Classes

7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

3:30 pm Homeschool Schola Practice

7:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

2:30 pm Homeschool Holy Hour

6:00 pm Spanish Baptism Class

6:15 pm Religious Education Classes

6:30 pm Legion of Mary

Thursday, January 15, 2026

4:00 pm Junior Legion of Mary

Friday, January 16, 2026

7:00 pm Vespers

Saturday, January 17, 2026

9:00 am OCIA

6:30 pm Teams of our Lady

Sunday, January 18, 2026

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

5:00 pm Teams of our Lady

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

Gift for Life Giving Tree



Today's feast marks the end of the Christmas season. Today is your last chance to take a tag from our giving tree and make a Christmas gift to 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. You can also make a gift to these important ministries any time of the year at the same website.

2025 Tax Letters

2025 Tax Letters will be mailed or emailed to you by the end of January. If you would prefer to receive the letter through the mail, please contact the parish office at **703-836-1640** or aramirez.strita@gmail.com.

Las Cartas de Impuestos de 2025 se le enviarán por correo o correo electrónico a finales de enero. Si prefiere recibir la carta por correo, comuníquese con la oficina parroquial al **703-836-1640** o aramirez.strita@gmail.com.

Parking Notice

Please do not park in the spaces across from the Russell Road entrance to the church. These spaces are reserved and paid for by Presidential Greens residents. Please remember that we have permission from **The Birchmere** to use their front parking lot on **Sunday mornings from 7:30 am to 2:30 pm**. Please follow the signs and park only in the designated areas. Please vacate the lot by **2:30 pm**.



Upcoming Second Collections

- January 18: Church in Latin America
- January 25: St. Rita School Tuition Assistance

Thank you for your continued generosity!

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:

Judy Burke, 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, Jane Rippy, Fermin L. Vilar

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)

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**.

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.

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

LIVETHELIFE.ORG