



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 18, 2026: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

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 | |



*"John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.'"
(John 1:29)*

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 19, 2026

Monday of the Second Week in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Michael Joseph Cotugno †

7:30 pm Richard Stephen Vanni †

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

Saint Fabian, Pope and Martyr; Saint Sebastian, Martyr

7:00 am Ruy Sasser †

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

Saint Agnes, Virgin and Martyr

7:00 am Mitchell Sauter †

7:30 pm Christina Mercedes

Thursday, January 22, 2026

Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

7:00 am Edward D'Arcy †

Friday, January 23, 2026

Saint Vincent, Deacon and Martyr; Saint Marianne Cope, Virgin

7:00 am Robert T. and Iris Clare Reimann †

12:15 pm Celebrant's Intention

7:30 pm John Sullivan

Saturday, January 24, 2026

Saint Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

8:00 am Josephine Cunningham

5:00 pm Jason Trabert

Sunday, January 25, 2026

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Peggy McLaughlin †

8:00 am Macie Swango

11:00 am Missa Pro Populo

1:00 pm Daniel Rivas

Additional Mass Intentions this Week:

David Argento, Debra Coleman, Debbie Youngblood †,
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. Please sign up on the sign-up list in the vestibule. 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!

Coffee and Donuts Today

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



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**.

Saint Rita School News

Catholic Schools Week is **January 25-31**. Student servers will be serving at Mass on **Sunday, January 25**. All St. Rita School students are encouraged to wear their school uniform and join us for the 11:00am Mass. All are invited to the School Hall **after the 11:00 am Mass** for coffee, donuts, tours, and fellowship. There will also be a second collection for financial aid at all Masses. You can also donate at <https://bit.ly/3YAQq23> or by scanning the QR Code.



Upcoming Second Collections

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

Thank you for your continued generosity!

This Week at St. Rita

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

Monday, January 19, 2026

*Parish Office closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
No Religious Education Classes*

5:30 pm Legión de María (en Español)

7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

3:30 pm Homeschool Schola Practice

7:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

2:30 pm Homeschool Holy Hour

6:15 pm Religious Education Classes

6:30 pm Legion of Mary

8:00 pm Knights of Columbus Meeting

Thursday, January 22, 2026

4:00 pm Junior Legion of Mary

Friday, January 23, 2026

12:15 pm Respect Life Mass and March for Life

7:00 pm Vespers

Saturday, January 24, 2026

9:00 am OCIA

Sunday, January 25, 2026

Coffee and Donuts after the 11am Mass for Catholic Schools Week

10:30 am St. Rita Young Adult Brunch

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group



January 18, 2026
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Saint Rita Parishioners,

Happy New Year from Saint Rita School! This year marks our 74th anniversary of service to the members of our parish and local community. Since its inception, Saint Rita School has endeavored to bring truth, goodness, and beauty to the children of our parish. With over 265 students currently enrolled in our preschool and K-8th grade programs, our students and staff strive to live our Mission Statement daily, which reflects the heart of our work:

Saint Rita School believes that “the soul of education is the education of the soul” (Pope Pius XI). We are a small Catholic school in the classical tradition, dedicated to forming children intellectually and spiritually following the teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church. We treasure faith in Jesus Christ and are dedicated to serving His people.

The education of our children is a sacred task, one we undertake in union with our parents, pastor, and you, our parishioners. One of the greatest challenges we face is keeping Catholic education affordable. As Pastor and Principal, we work together with the Diocese to help support families who would otherwise be unable to afford Catholic education for their children. This year, one third of our students are receiving over \$230,000 in financial assistance. These funds come from Saint Rita Parish, the Diocese of Arlington, PTO fundraising, and through private donors. We are so grateful for the support of our parish! As we offer our thanks, we pray that you will continue to provide both spiritual and financial support for our families. A recent financial aid recipient commented:

I am and always will be incredibly grateful to the Saint Rita School community for the formation my children are receiving from the dedicated and conscientious faculty and staff who care deeply about their minds and their souls. With secular schools all around us sinking into confusion, their students riddled with anxiety and despair, the goodness sought, truth spoken, and beauty seen at St. Rita burn like a lighthouse in the fog. For us and for so many other families, the tuition assistance that has made this education possible for our children has been an incredible blessing. Thank you.

The second collection at next weekend’s Masses will benefit our tuition assistance program. We hope that you can contribute to this collection to help more of our parish children attend Saint Rita School. You may contribute using cash, check, or by donating online at <https://bit.ly/3YAOq23>. If using a check, please note “tuition assistance” in the memo line.

We are so grateful for your continued support of Saint Rita School. Our parish has a long and proud history of forming young men and women who serve our community and nation. The priests, faculty, staff, and students will remember you in our prayers during Catholic Schools Week and throughout the year. Please stop by for coffee and donuts after the 11am Mass next weekend, take a tour, and see the good things that are happening at our parish school!

Rev. Christopher Christensen, Pastor

Mrs. Malia Busekrus, Principal

saintrita-school.org

principal@saintrita-school.org

703-548-1888



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

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:
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, Daniel Lee Beiro, John Francis Garrity, III, David Langley, Oscar Merino, Catherine Elizabeth Nugent, Jane Rippy, Fermin L. Vilar

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.



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**.

Wisdom from St. Francis de Sales (Feast: January 24)

Do not lose your inward peace for anything whatsoever, even if your whole world seems upset. Commend all to God, and then lie still and be at rest in God's bosom....

Whatever happens, abide steadfast in a determination to cling simply to God; trusting to God's eternal love for you.

News from the Diocese and Beyond

In Celebration of Music

On **January 25, at 3:30 pm**, join us at the **Cathedral of Saint Thomas More** for a unique musical event. The concert will begin and end with our eight Cathedral Choir section leaders singing pieces by Handel, Purcell, and Howells in praise of St. Cecilia, the patron saint of music and musicians. In between, you will hear the richness of the sacred music tradition with varied solo and small-group selections. The performance is free of charge; a free will offering will be taken up to help defray costs. All are invited to a reception following the concert.

Lenten Vocational Discernment Retreat for Men

Start your Lent off spending some quiet time with the Lord. Join Fr. Joseph Rampino from **February 19-21** for a silent retreat, for men, ages 18-35, sponsored by the Office of Vocations. The cost is \$150 and includes overnights and all meals. The retreat begins Friday at 6:30 pm and concludes Sunday after lunch. For more information or to register, contact **Fr. Noah Morey** at **703-841-2514** or vocations@arlingtondiocese.org. The deadline to register is **Monday, February 9**. There will be a similar retreat for women from June 19-21.

