



St. Rita Catholic Church

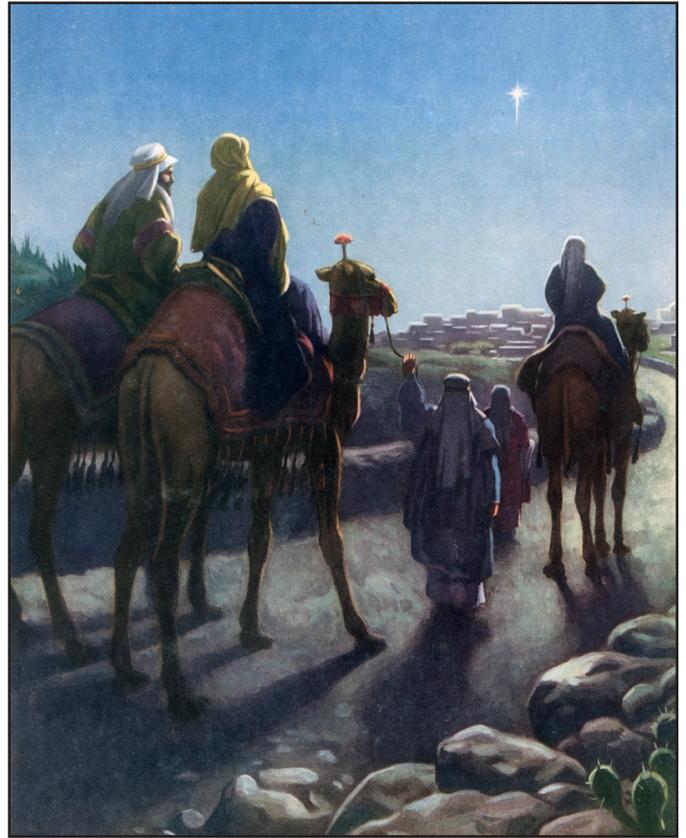
3815 Russell Road | Alexandria, VA 22305 | 703-836-1640 (office) 703-706-0484 (fax)

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

January 4, 2026: The Epiphany 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	



"When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was." (Matt. 2:10)

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 5, 2026

Saint John Neumann, Bishop

7:00 am Noemi Neville

7:30 pm Ray and Mary Johnson †

Tuesday, January 6, 2026

Saint André Bessette, Religious

7:00 am The Rockwell Family

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

Saint Raymond of Penyafort, Priest

7:00 am Elizabeth Vail

7:30 pm John Rodney Buchanan †

Thursday, January 8, 2026

Christmas Weekday

7:00 am Jared Herberger †

Friday, January 9, 2026

Christmas Weekday

7:00 am Barbara B. Borger †

7:30 pm Tom and Gloria Bush

Saturday, January 10, 2026

Christmas Weekday

8:00 am Clarice Myers

5:00 pm Claudia Niedziocha

Sunday, January 11, 2026

The Baptism of the Lord

7:00 am Marie Quigley

8:00 am Jamison McGarrell

9:15 am Jose Marie Poole de Liñan †

11:00 am Missa Pro Populo

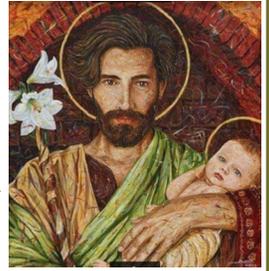
1:00 pm Alexis Flores

Additional Mass Intentions this Week:

Emily Cassell, Corey Haley, Megan Peterson

St. Rita Men's Fellowship Meeting

The St. Rita Men's Fellowship will meet on **Friday, January 9**, 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, "Patron of exiles." Bring a chair, cold beverages and food or snacks to share, and your rosary!



Please contact **Rick Strobach** at 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, 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/>.

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.



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!

This Week at St. Rita

Sunday, January 4, 2026

5:30 pm Teams of our Lady

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

Monday, January 5, 2026

5:30 pm Legión de María (en Español)

6:15 pm Religious Education Classes

7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study

Tuesday, January 6, 2026

7:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

2:30 pm Homeschool Holy Hour

6:15 pm Religious Education Classes

6:30 pm Legion of Mary

Thursday, January 8, 2026

4:00 pm Junior Legion of Mary

Friday, January 9, 2026

7:00 pm Vespers

7:30 pm Men's Fellowship

Saturday, January 10, 2026

9:00 am OCIA

Sunday, January 11, 2026

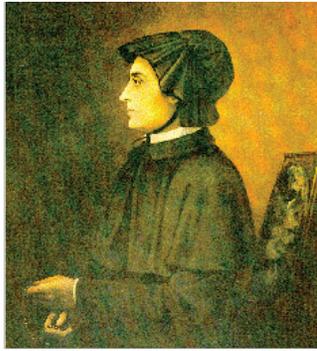
3:00 pm Archconfraternity of the Holy Face

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

(Feast Day: January 4)

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton is the Secondary Patron of the Diocese of Arlington, as well as the patron of Catholic Schools. She is the first American-born saint, born in New York City in 1774. Although she was raised in the Episcopal church, she was introduced to Catholicism through the Filicchi family who assisted her after her husband's death in 1803, which left her a widow with five young children. Her attraction to the Real Presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament was one of the determining factors of her conversion. Shortly before her conversion, she wrote of a visit that she made to St. Paul's Episcopal church. "I got in a side pew which turned my face towards the Catholic Church in the next street, and found myself twenty times speaking to the Blessed Sacrament there, instead of looking at the naked altar where I was . . ." After her conversion to the Catholic Faith, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was called to found a religious order, the Sisters of Charity, which was the first foundation of a religious congregation for women in the United States. Her first school, for the poor girls of the local area, opened on May 14, 1810, and is considered the beginning of the Catholic School system in the United States. St. Elizabeth died in 1821, and was canonized by Pope St. Paul VI in 1975, who said at her canonization, "Being a Saint means being perfect, with a perfection that attains the highest level that a human being can reach. A Saint is a human creature fully conformed to the will of God. A Saint is a person in whom all sin-the principle of death-is canceled out and replaced by the living splendor of divine grace."



St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Pray for us!

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**.



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

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, John Martin Rice, Jane Rippy, Fermin L. Vilar

Upcoming Second Collections

- January 4: Repairs & Replacements
- January 18: Church in Latin America
- January 25: St. Rita School Tuition Assistance

Thank you for your continued generosity!