



St. Rita Catholic Church

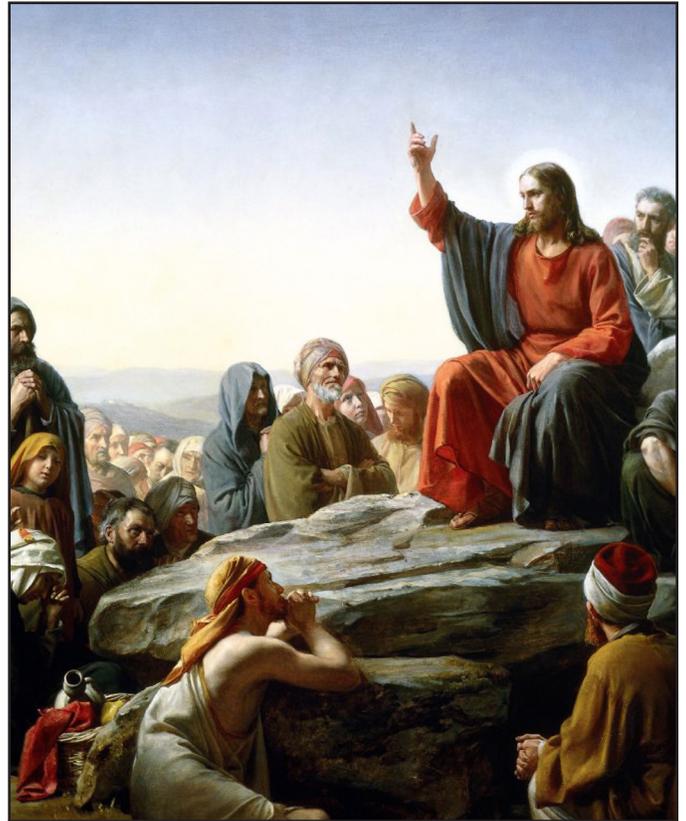
3815 Russell Road | Alexandria, VA 22305 | 703-836-1640 (office) 703-706-0484 (fax)

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

February 1, 2026: Fourth 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	



When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:1-3)

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, February 2, 2026

The Presentation of the Lord

7:00 am Bill Boyd ☩

7:30 pm Joan Grey ☩

Tuesday, February 3, 2026

Saint Blaise, Bishop and Martyr; Saint Ansgar, Bishop

7:00 am Margaret Linman ☩

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

Wednesday of the Fourth Week in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Nancy Rementer

7:30 pm Sean Harrington ☩

Thursday, February 5, 2026

Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr

7:00 am Special Intention

Friday, February 6, 2026

Saint Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs

7:00 am Alyssa and Billy Conlon

7:30 pm Sean Harrington ☩

Saturday, February 7, 2026

Saturday of the Fourth Week in Ordinary Time

8:00 am Haley and Jacob Quintanilla

5:00 pm Conor Minnich

Sunday, February 8, 2026

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00 am The Piereck Family

8:00 am Casper Church

11:00 am Missa Pro Populo

1:00 pm José García Cabrera ☩

Additional Mass Intentions this Week:

Travis Renee Baldwin ☩, Elizabeth Vail, Travis Renee Baldwin ☩, Travis Renee Baldwin ☩

Saint Rita School News

Due to last week's inclement weather, our celebration of Catholic Schools Week will take place **February 1-7**. Student servers will be serving at Mass on **Sunday, February 1**, and many St. Rita School students will join us, in school uniform, for the 11:00am Mass. All are invited to the School Hall **after the 11:00 am Mass** for coffee, donuts, tours, and fellowship. If you missed last week's second collection for tuition assistance, you can also donate at <https://bit.ly/3YAOq23> or by scanning the QR Code.



First Saturday Pro-Life Rosary



Come join the monthly Pro-Life Rosary on the first Saturdays of the month at the abortion clinic at **2616 Sherwood Hall Lane**. The next First Saturday is **Saturday, February 7**. Plan to be there **a little before 10:00 am**, and we will form a group with

the others who are there, and pray the Rosary together. For more information contact **Rick Strobach** at rick.strobach@gmail.com or **Jay Moret** at felix.moret@gmail.com.

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!

Middle School Ministry

Calendar for February through May 2026

Wednesday, February 11th – Middle School Ministry Night

Friday, February 13th – Galentine's Day (girls only)

Wednesday, March 11th – Middle School Ministry Night

Thursday, April 2nd – Seven Churches Pilgrimage

Wednesday, April 8th – OFF for the Easter Octave

Saturday, April 25th – Diocesan BASH

Wednesday, May 13th – Middle School Ministry Night

All monthly Wednesday night Ministry events take place in the School Hall from 6:15-7:30pm and dinner will be provided!



For more information and to register your 6th - 8th graders contact *Maria Goitiandia* at mgoitiandia.strita@gmail.com

Saint Paul Miki and Companions

(Feast: February 6)

Saint Paul Miki and his 25 companions gave their lives for the Faith in Nagasaki (Japan) on February 5, 1597. As they were crucified, they continued to pray and proclaim their Faith in Christ. Forgiving his enemies, Paul Miki prayed that they, too, would convert and become Christians. The martyrs were finally executed by the sword, with the names of Jesus and Mary on their lips.

Upcoming Second Collections

February 1: Repairs and Replacements

February 1: Arlington Catholic Herald

February 18: Ash Wednesday

February 22: Black and Indian Mission Collection

Thank you for your continued generosity!

This Week at St. Rita

Sunday, February 1, 2026

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

9:00 am Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast

5:30 pm Teams of our Lady

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

Monday, February 2, 2026

5:30 pm Legión de María (en Español)

6:15 pm Religious Education Classes

7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study

Tuesday, February 3, 2026

3:30 pm Homeschool Schola Practice

7:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

2:30 pm Homeschool Holy Hour

6:15 pm Religious Education Classes

6:30 pm Legion of Mary

Thursday, February 5, 2026

4:00 pm Junior Legion of Mary

Friday, February 6, 2026

7:00 pm Vespers

Saturday, February 7, 2026

9:00 am OCIA

Sunday, February 8, 2026

3:00 pm Archconfraternity of the Holy Face

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

ST. RITA'S KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
is hosting a

PANCAKE BREAKFAST



SUNDAY, February 1st

after the 8:00, 9:15, and 11:00 Masses

In the Parish Center Reception Room

\$10 per person \$25 per family

**THIS IS A FUNDRAISING EVENT TO
SUPPORT OUR WORK**

BRING A FRIEND!

Candlemas



*The Presentation of the Lord/La Presentación del Señor
Monday, February 2/Lunes 2 de Febrero*

7:00 am Mass in English (Misa en inglés)

7:30 pm Mass in English (Misa en inglés)

On Monday, February 2, the feast of the Presentation of the Lord, the blessing of candles will take place at the beginning of each Mass. Please bring your own candles to be blessed, and place them on the designated table before Mass begins. Please note that we will not be able to bless any candles after Mass.

El lunes 2 de febrero, la fiesta de la presentación del Señor, la bendición de las velas tendrá lugar al comienzo de cada misa. Por favor, traiga sus propias velas para ser bendecidas y colóquelas sobre la mesa designada antes que comience la misa. Tenga en cuenta que no estaremos disponibles para bendecir ninguna velas después de la misa.

Baptism Classes

The next Spanish Baptism class will take place on **Sunday, February 22 at 2:00 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.



Annual All Saints' Car Raffle



St. Rita will once again be participating in the annual car raffle conducted by All Saints' Catholic Church. Prizes include four cars and cash prizes up to \$42,000. All registered parish families will be receiving tickets in the coming weeks.

Proceeds will in part benefit our parish, so we strongly encourage all parishioners to participate by purchasing or selling their tickets. Further instructions will be found in the letter enclosed with the tickets.

Sorteo Anual de Autos de Todos los Santos

St. Rita volverá a participar en la rifa anual de autos realizado por la Iglesia Católica de Todos los Santos. Los premios incluyen cuatro autos y premios en efectivo de hasta \$42,000. Todas las familias parroquiales registradas estarán recibiendo boletos en las próximas semanas. Los ingresos beneficiarán en parte a nuestra parroquia, por lo que animamos encarecidamente a todos los feligreses a participar mediante la compra o venta de sus entradas. Encontrará más instrucciones en la carta adjunta a los boletos.

Archconfraternity of the Holy Face

All are welcome to join us for the next meeting of the Archconfraternity of the Holy Face on **Sunday, February 8, 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/>.

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, Julie Gunlock, 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, Mickey Kimball, David Langley, Oscar Merino, Catherine Elizabeth Nugent, Jane Rippy, Fermin L. Vilar

2025 Tax Letters

2025 Tax Letters have been emailed and the mailing is on its way. If you received an email, but would prefer to receive your tax letter through the mail, please call the parish office to let us know. If you do not receive an email or a paper copy of your tax letter, please contact **Alma Ramirez** at aramirez.strita@gmail.com. If you give online, please obtain your tax letter directly from the Parish Giving site at parishgiving.org. If you primarily use Parish Giving (PG) but also received a tax letter from the church, add that sum to your PG total.

Las Cartas de Impuestos 2025

Se han enviado las Cartas de Impuestos 2025 por correo electrónico. Si no tenemos su correo electrónico enviaremos una copia por correo. Si no recibe un correo electrónico o una copia impresa de su carta de impuestos, comuníquese con **Alma Ramirez** a aramirez.strita@gmail.com. Si hace sus donaciones en línea, obtenga su carta de impuestos directamente del sitio Parish Giving en parishgiving.org. Si usa principalmente Parish Giving (PG) pero también recibió una carta de impuestos de la iglesia, agregue esa suma a su total de PG.

Bishop's Lenten Appeal 2026



The theme for this Year's Bishop's Lenten Appeal (BLA) is *In Christ, We Are One*. Commitment Weekend will be next weekend, **February 7/8**. Your participation helps our parish reach our goal while strengthening ministries the parish depends

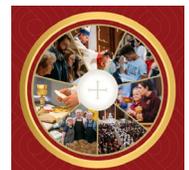
on - seminarian formation, religious education training, youth ministry support, Catholic Charities services, and more. Every gift counts. Every family matters. Monthly recurring gifts are encouraged to spread generosity throughout the year. You can also give a one-time gift or pledge. You may give at arlingtondiocese.org/bla or by scanning the QR code.



Petición Cuaresmal del Obispo de 2026

El tema de la Petición Cuaresmal del Obispo de este año es *En Cristo, Somos Uno*. El fin de semana de compromiso será **el 7/8 de febrero**.

Su participación ayuda a nuestra parroquia a alcanzar su meta y a fortalecer los ministerios de los que depende: la formación de seminaristas, la capacitación en educación religiosa, el apoyo al ministerio juvenil, los servicios de Caridades Católicas y mucho más. Cada



donación cuenta. Cada familia es importante. Se recomienda hacer donaciones mensuales recurrentes para compartir la generosidad a lo largo del año. También puede hacer una donación única o un compromiso de donación. Done en arlingtondiocese.org/bla o escanee el código QR.



News from the Diocese and Beyond

Presentation about Mother Teresa at St. Ambrose

Join us in the St. Ambrose Parish Hall on **Sunday, March 1, at 7:00 pm** for a special presentation by Fr. Brian Kolodiejchuk, MC, the postulator for Mother Teresa's causes of beatification and canonization.

