



St. Rita Catholic Church

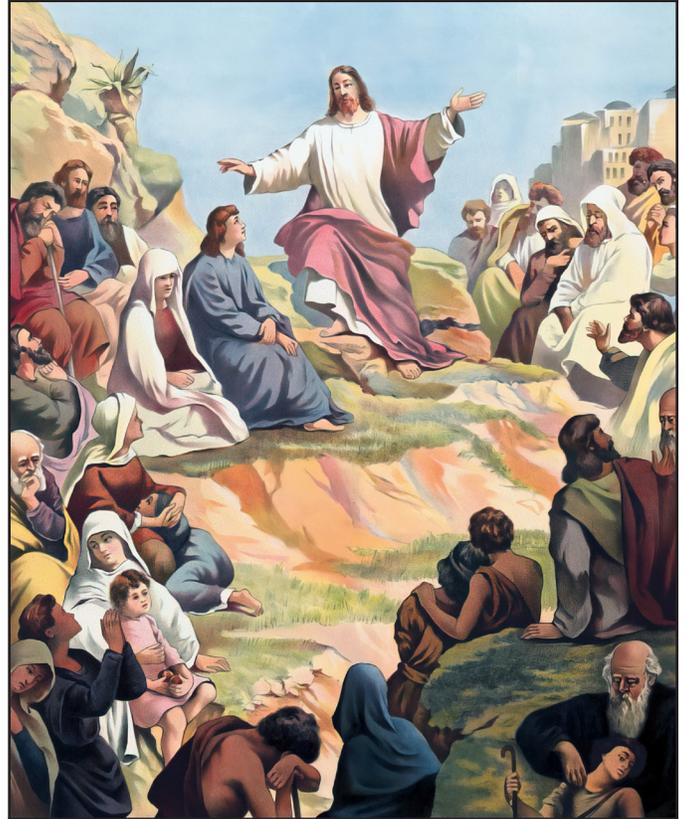
3815 Russell Road | Alexandria, VA 22305 | 703-836-1640 (office) 703-706-0484 (fax)

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

February 15, 2026: Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

CLERGY AND STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Christopher P. Christensen frc41@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	



"Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.'" (Mt. 5:17)

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, February 16, 2026

Monday of the Sixth Week in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Thomas and Regina Bethencourt

7:30 pm Tiffany Schuck ☩

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order

7:00 am Anthony Severdia

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Ash Wednesday (Day of Fast and Abstinence)

7:00 am Nancy Rementer

12:15 pm Celebrant's Intention

6:00 pm (en Español) Presila Delgado Alvarado ☩

7:30 pm Dick Nelson ☩

Thursday, February 19, 2026

Thursday after Ash Wednesday

7:00 am Cathy Martin ☩

Friday, February 20, 2026

Friday after Ash Wednesday

7:00 am Barry Martin Cole and Christian

7:30 pm Proceso Paredes ☩

Saturday, February 21, 2026

Saturday after Ash Wednesday;

Saint Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

8:00 am Adeline Vahle and Family

5:00 pm Teresa Kaczmarek

Sunday, February 22, 2026

First Sunday of Lent

7:00 am Robert C. Alberi ☩

8:00 am Sebastian Armstrong

11:00 am Missa Pro Populo

1:00 pm Elena Esparza ☩

Additional Mass Intentions this Week:

Maria Przepiorka ☩, Haley Quintanilla, Travis Renee Baldwin ☩, Conchita P. Clapp ☩

Middle School Ministry

Calendar for Spring 2026

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

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!

Lenten Regulations for Fast and Abstinence

Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics 14 years old and older on **Ash Wednesday** and **all Fridays of Lent**. This obligation prohibits the eating of meat, but not eggs, milk products, or condiments of any kind (even those made from animal fat). Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to **fast** on **Ash Wednesday** and **Good Friday**. On days of **fasting**, only one full meal may be taken. Two additional smaller meals are permitted to maintain strength, but the two smaller meals together may not equal one full meal.

Coffee and Donuts Today

Join us for Coffee and Donuts in the School Hall on **Sunday, February 15**, after all Masses, starting after the 8:00 am Mass.



Upcoming Second Collections

February 18: Ash Wednesday
February 22: Black and Indian Mission Collection
March 1: Repairs and Replacements



*The Parish Office will be closed on **Monday, February 16**, in observance of the Presidents' Day Holiday.*

This Week at St. Rita

Sunday, February 15, 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, February 16, 2026

Parish Office Closed in Observance of Presidents' Day

No Religious Education Classes

5:30 pm Legión de María (en Español)

7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

3:30 pm Homeschool Schola Practice

7:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study

7:00 pm St. Rita Young Adult Mardi Gras Dance

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

No Adoration or Confessions

6:15 pm Religious Education Classes

6:30 pm Legion of Mary

Thursday, February 19, 2026

4:00 pm Junior Legion of Mary

Friday, February 20, 2026

5:30 pm Lenten Soup Supper

6:00 pm Via Crucis en Español

6:30 pm Stations of the Cross

7:00 pm Vespers

Saturday, February 21, 2026

8:00 am St. Rita Young Adult Retreat

9:00 am OCIA

6:30 pm Teams of our Lady

Sunday, February 22, 2026

10:30 am St. Rita Young Adult Brunch

2:00 pm Spanish Baptism Class

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE FEBRUARY 18, 2026

7:00 AM MASS IN ENGLISH

12:15 PM MASS IN ENGLISH

6:00 PM MISA EN ESPAÑOL

7:30 PM MASS IN ENGLISH



***THERE WILL BE NO EUCHARISTIC ADORATION OR CONFESSIONS ON
ASH WEDNESDAY***

FRIDAYS OF LENT

SOUP AND STATIONS

5:30 PM POTLUCK SOUP DINNER
BEFORE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

6:00 PM EN ESPAÑOL

6:30 PM IN ENGLISH

VESPERS

7:00 PM VESPERS (EVENING
PRAYER) WITH A COMBINATION
OF ENGLISH AND LATIN CHANTS





2026

SAINT RITA SUMMER CAMP

CAMP SCHEDULE:

WEEK 1: JUNE 29 – JULY 2

(NO CAMP JULY 3RD)

WEEK 2: JULY 6 – JULY 10

WEEK 3: JULY 13 – JULY 17

REGISTER NOW



billy



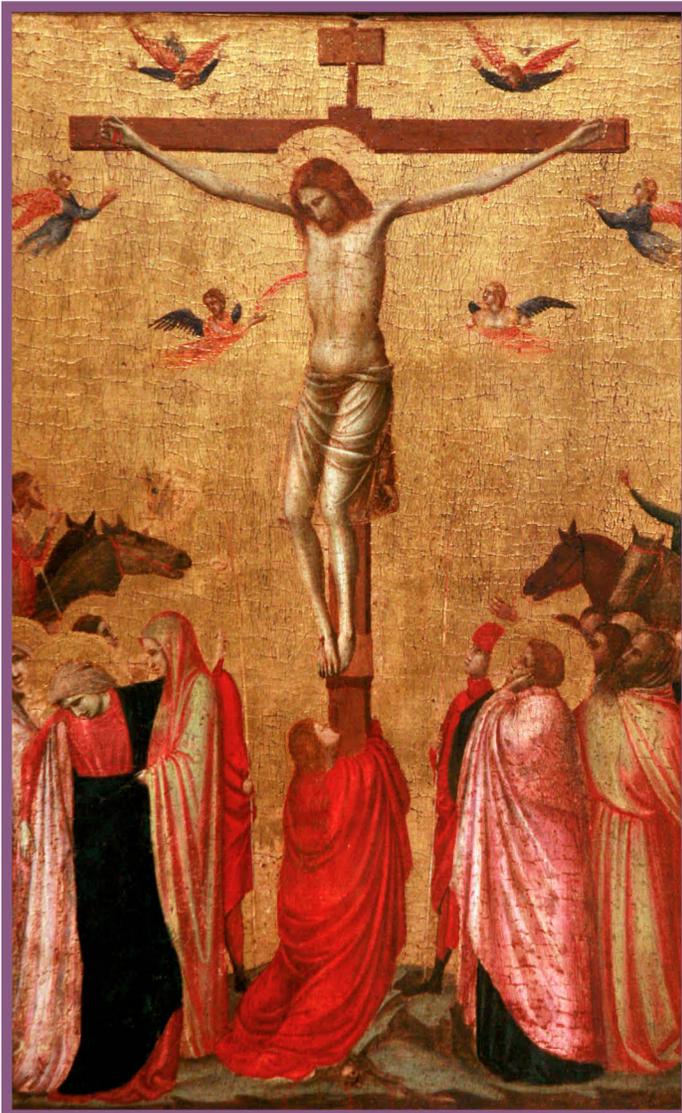
Soup and Stations

Every Friday during Lent

5:30 pm

Join us for a simple soup supper in the Parish Center followed by Stations of the Cross in the Church (6:00pm en Español; 6:30pm in English).

Please bring a pot of meatless soup to share.



Bread and water will be provided by the hosting group.

February 20: To be Determined

February 27: Young Adults

March 6: To be Determined

March 13: Knights of Columbus

March 20: Legion of Mary

March 27: Homeschool Group

Sopas y Estaciones

*todos los viernes
durante la Cuaresma*

5:30 pm

Únase a nosotros para una sencilla cena de sopa en el Centro Parroquial seguida de las Estaciones de la Cruz en la Iglesia (6:00 p.m. en español; 6:30 p.m. en inglés).

Favor de traer una olla de sopa sin carne para compartir.



El pan y el agua estaran a cargo del grupo de acogida.

20 de febrero: Ser determinado

27 de febrero: Young Adults

6 de marzo: Ser determinado

*13 de marzo: Knights of
Columbus*

20 de marzo: Legion of Mary

*27 de marzo: Homeschool
Group*

St. Rita Young Adult Mardi Gras Swing Dance



All Young Adults are invited to a Mardi Gras Swing Dance on **Tuesday, February 17**, from **7:00 - 9:00 pm** in the **St. Rita School Hall**. Dancers of all levels are welcome!

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.



Food Donation Reminder

Thank you for your generous donations of non-perishable food in the food baskets in the vestibules. Please note that we can only accept *non-perishable* food. We are unable to accept expired food, bread or fresh vegetables, or already-opened bags or containers. We also do not accept clothing donations. The following local organizations will accept clothing donations:

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington (Christ House)

131 S. West St., Alexandria, VA 22314

(Tuesdays only - must call ahead)

Green Drop

7210 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA 22306

Look Again Resale Shop

900 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314

Pamphlet Racks

Please note that no materials may be placed in the vestibules or book/pamphlet racks without the permission of the parish office. Any unauthorized materials (books, pamphlets, holy cards, etc.) placed in the vestibules will be discarded.

Please Pray for These St. Rita Parishioners

For all those discerning Religious Vocations:

Catherine Addington, Daughters of St. Paul; Sr. Giovanna Lamma, 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



Young Adults from St. Rita and Blessed Sacrament are invited to a morning of prayer, reflection, and discussion on **Saturday, February 21**, from **9:00 am - 12:00 pm** in the **St. Rita Parish Center**. Meditations and lectures will be offered by Fr. Clark and Fr. Christensen, with time for Adoration and the opportunity to go to Confession. The retreat has no cost but please make sure to register by **Thursday, February 19**, by scanning the QR Code. If you have any questions, please contact **Maria Goitiandia** at mgoitiandia.strita@gmail.com.



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.

Bishop's Lenten Appeal 2026



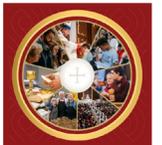
The theme for this Year's Bishop's Lenten Appeal (BLA) is *In Christ, We Are One*. Thank you to everyone who participated in the BLA last weekend! If you haven't yet had a chance to make your gift, we still need your help. Every family matters in helping

our parish reach goal. No gift is too small. Your participation supports vital ministries our parish depends on: seminarian formation, religious education, youth ministry, Catholic Charities, and more. Consider a monthly recurring gift to spread your generosity throughout the year. You can also give a one-time gift or pledge. Give today 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*. ¡Gracias a todos los que participaron en la Petición Cuaresmal del Obispo! Si aún no ha tenido la oportunidad de hacer una donación, todavía necesitamos su ayuda. Cada familia es importante para que alcancemos nuestrameta. No hay donación pequeña. Su participación apoya ministerios vitales de los que depende nuestra parroquia: la formación de seminaristas, la



educación religiosa, la pastoral juvenil, Caridades Católicas y muchos más. Considere hacer una donación mensual recurrente para extender su generosidad a lo largo del año. Done hoy mismo en arlingtondiocese.org/bla o escanee el código QR.

