



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 8, 2026: Fifth 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	



Our Lady of Lourdes (Feast: February 11)

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 9, 2026

Monday of the Fifth Week in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Kimberly Wilson
7:30 pm Napoleon Paredes †

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

Saint Scholastica, Virgin

7:00 am Alma Ramirez

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

Our Lady of Lourdes

7:00 am Thana Dixon †
7:30 pm Charlie Kirk †

Thursday, February 12, 2026

Thursday of the Fifth Week in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Nancy Rementer

Friday, February 13, 2026

Friday of the Fifth Week in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Brent Tyler Wilke †
7:30 pm Talliah

Saturday, February 14, 2026

Saints Cyril, Monk, and Methodius, Bishop

8:00 am Barbara Taylor †
5:00 pm Grant Blazic

Sunday, February 15, 2026

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00 am The Simmons Family
8:00 am Frederick Hamm
11:00 am Missa Pro Populo
1:00 pm Otilia Duarte

Additional Mass Intentions this Week:

Travis Renee Baldwin †, Estela Lizano, Slorita Lin †,
Santiago Soutuyo †

December 2025 Collections

Regular Offertory:	\$34,341
Parish Giving Offertory:	\$85,600
Repairs & Replacements:	\$2,820
Parish Giving Repairs & Replacements:	\$21,846
Poor Box:	\$3,012
Parish Giving Poor Box:	\$6,315

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, 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/>.



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 Goitandia at mgoitandia.strita@gmail.com

St. Rita Men's Fellowship Meeting

The St. Rita Men's Fellowship will meet on **Friday, February 13**, 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!*

Upcoming Second Collections

February 18:	Ash Wednesday
February 22:	Black and Indian Mission Collection

This Week at St. Rita

Sunday, February 8, 2026

3:00 pm Archconfraternity of the Holy Face
6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

Monday, February 9, 2026

5:30 pm Legión de María (en Español)
6:15 pm Religious Education Classes
7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

3:30 pm Homeschool Schola Practice
7:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

2:30 pm Homeschool Holy Hour
6:15 pm Religious Education Classes
6:30 pm Legion of Mary

Thursday, February 12, 2026

4:00 pm Junior Legion of Mary

Friday, February 13, 2026

7:00 pm Vespers
7:30 pm Men's Fellowship

Saturday, February 14, 2026

9:00 am OCIA

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

ST. RITA YOUTH MINISTRY

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH



PARTY FROM 6 - 9 PM

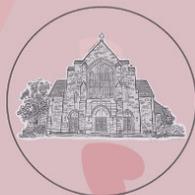


DINNER - GAMES - KARAOKE - ADORATION

HOSTED IN THE

♥ *St. Rita Convent* ♥

ALL MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL AGED GIRLS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND!



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



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.

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**.



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.



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

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.

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.

Bishop's Lenten Appeal 2026

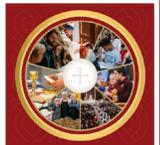


The theme for this Year's Bishop's Lenten Appeal (BLA) is *In Christ, We Are One*. Commitment Weekend is here! Every family's participation strengthens our parish and our diocese - all gifts are vital. Large or small, your gift unites us in supporting ministries serving tens of thousands: seminarian formation, Catholic Charities, youth programs, religious education, and more. Let's reach 100% participation together. You may give at Mass 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*. ¡Llego el fin de semana del compromiso con la Petición Cuaresmal del Obispo! La participación de cada familia fortalece nuestra parroquia y nuestra diócesis; todas las contribuciones son vitales. Grande o pequeña, su donación nos une en el apoyo a ministerios que sirven a decenas de miles de



personas: la formación de seminaristas, Caridades Católicas, programas juveniles, educación religiosa y mucho más. Alcancemos juntos el 100% de participación. Done durante la misa, 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.

