



# 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

**March 1, 2026: Second Sunday of Lent**

## CLERGY AND STAFF

|   |   |         |
|---|---|---------|
| <b>Pastor</b>                                     | Rev. Christopher P. Christensen<br>fccc41@gmail.com     | Ext. 17 |
| <b>Parochial Vicar</b>                            | Rev. Nicholas Schierer<br>fatherschierer@gmail.com      | Ext. 30 |
| <b>In Residence</b>                               | Rev. Paul Berghout<br>ihmpadre@gmail.com                | Ext. 15 |
| <b>Permanent Deacon</b>                           | Deacon Stephen J. Dixon<br>deacondixon.strita@gmail.com |         |
| <b>Retired Permanent Deacon</b>                   | Deacon Chris DiGrado<br>cjdigrado@me.com                |         |
| <b>Director of Sacred Music</b>                   | Lawrence Bowie<br>lbowie.strita@gmail.com               | Ext. 29 |
| <b>Parish Secretary and Hispanic Liaison</b>      | Alma Ramirez<br>aramirez.strita@gmail.com               | Ext. 10 |
| <b>Business Manager</b>                           | Debbie Beck<br>dbeck.strita@gmail.com                   | Ext. 13 |
| <b>Director of Religious Education</b>            | Chloe Holloway<br>cholloway.strita@gmail.com            | Ext. 12 |
| <b>Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry</b> | Maria Goitiandia<br>mgoitiandia.strita@gmail.com        | Ext. 38 |
| <b>Sacristan and Bulletin Editor</b>              | Elizabeth Vail<br>evail.strita@gmail.com                | Ext. 11 |
| <b>Maintenance Manager</b>                        | Adan Aguilar<br>aaguilar.strita@gmail.com               |         |



*And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him. (Mt. 17:2-3)*

## ST. RITA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

“The soul of education is the education of the soul”

<https://saintrita-school.org> | 703-548-1888

|                           |                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Principal</b>          | <b>Malia Busekrus</b>   |
| <b>Preschool Director</b> | <b>Caitlin Rockwell</b> |

## 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/](http://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, March 2, 2026

Monday of the Second Week of Lent

7:00 am Veronica Jost

7:30 pm Ave Maria Titi Francine

### Tuesday, March 3, 2026

Tuesday of the Second Week of Lent;

Saint Katharine Drexel, Virgin

7:00 am The Von Guggenberg Family

### Wednesday, March 4, 2026

Wednesday of the Second Week of Lent; Saint Casimir

7:00 am Kimberly Cioffi

7:30 pm Cierra Fisher

### Thursday, March 5, 2026

Thursday of the Second Week of Lent

7:00 am Maria Reiss

### Friday, March 6, 2026

Friday of the Second Week of Lent

7:00 am Anthony Severdia

7:30 pm Aimee Roberge

### Saturday, March 7, 2026

Saturday of the Second Week of Lent;

Saints Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs

8:00 am Knights of Columbus

5:00 pm Harrison K. Nez †

### Sunday, March 8, 2026

Third Sunday of Lent

7:00 am Peter Kolbe

8:00 am The McGraw Family

9:15 am Roman and Kerry Carlitti

11:00 am Missa Pro Populo

1:00 pm Vanessa Lopez

Additional Mass Intentions this Week:

Travis Renee Baldwin †, Jessica Turner, Travis Renee Baldwin †

### Soup and Stations



Join us **every Friday in Lent** at **5:30 pm** for a simple soup supper in the Parish Center followed by Stations of the Cross (**6:00pm en Español; 6:30pm in English**) in the Church.



Please bring a pot of meatless soup to share. Bread and water will be provided by the hosting group. The hosting group for this Friday will be the American Heritage Girls.

### Upcoming Second Collections

- March 1: Repairs and Replacements
- March 15: Catholic Relief Services
- March 29: Easter Flower Offering

Thank you for your continued generosity!

### Bulletin/Newsletter Submissions

Please submit all announcements for the bulletin or email newsletter to [bulletin.submit.strita@gmail.com](mailto:bulletin.submit.strita@gmail.com) by **Wednesday, ten days before the desired bulletin date.** Thank you!

### Mother of Light Center Lenten Cross

St. Rita Church is partnering with the Mother of Light Center for the fifth year in a row for the Lenten Cross Project, now through **Sunday, March 29**. You will find the Cross in the Russell Road vestibule of the church filled with many cards/items for which the center is in need. Choose a card, fulfill the request, and bring items back to the church vestibule the following week or when convenient to you. The items will go directly to the clients of Mother of Light Center. Thank you for your generosity!

### La Cruz de Cuaresma del Centro Madre de la Luz

La Iglesia de Santa Rita se ha asociado con el Centro Madre de la Luz por el quinto año consecutivo para el Proyecto de la Cruz de Cuaresma, que se llevará a cabo desde ahora hasta **el domingo 29 de marzo**. Encontrará la Cruz en el vestíbulo de Russell Road de la iglesia, llena de muchas tarjetas y artículos que el centro necesita. Elija una tarjeta, complete la solicitud y devuelva los artículos al vestíbulo de la iglesia la semana siguiente o cuando le resulte conveniente. Los artículos se destinarán directamente a los clientes del Centro Madre de la Luz. ¡Gracias por su generosidad!

### Archconfraternity of the Holy Face

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



### This Week at St. Rita

#### Sunday, March 1, 2026

- 5:30 pm Teams of our Lady
- 6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

#### Monday, March 2, 2026

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

#### Tuesday, March 3, 2026

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

#### Wednesday, March 4, 2026

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

#### Thursday, March 5, 2026

- 4:00 pm Junior Legion of Mary

#### Friday, March 6, 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, March 7, 2026

- 9:00 am OCIA

#### Sunday, March 8, 2026

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

# **CAR RAFFLE**

**4 - 2026 VEHICLES plus 21 CASH Drawings**

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE ST. RITA YOUTH MINISTRY

**1 - \$5.00 Ticket**

gives you a chance to win all 25 prizes, including:

**2026 FORD BRONCO SPORT**

**2026 FORD MAVERICK TRUCK**

**2026 FORD MUSTANG**

**2026 FORD ESCAPE**

**plus 21 CASH Drawings totaling \$42,000**



Drawings held April 25, 2025 Beginning at 1:00pm at  
ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH

\*You do not need to be present at the drawing to win\*

Tickets have been mailed to all registered parishioners of St. Rita  
Catholic Church for purchase!

Contact our St. Rita Car Raffle Coordinator  
at [strita.car.raffle@gmail.com](mailto:strita.car.raffle@gmail.com)

Sponsored by All Saints Catholic Church - 9300 Stonewall Road, Manassas, VA  
20110 - 703-368-4500 - [www.allsaintsva.org](http://www.allsaintsva.org)

Cars Provided By: Ourisman Ford of Manassas  
Permit number G-25-01390-119504

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON

# MEN'S

CONFERENCE 2026

MARCH 7<sup>TH</sup> | 8AM - 2PM

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

750 PEACHTREE ST., HERNDON, VA

Men of the Diocese are invited to a day of fellowship, prayer and learning, centered around the historic election of the first American Pope, **Leo XIV**, and its coinciding with the 2026 celebration of the **250<sup>th</sup>** anniversary of our national founding.

For more info & to Register:

**ARLINGTONDIOCESE.ORG/MEN**



Office of Marriage, Family and Respect Life  
703.841.2550 | familylife@arlingtondiocese.org | @arlingtonfamily

2026 Women's Conference

## Faith, Hope & Courage

Catholic Women Helping to Form our Great Nation



Saturday, March 14

8 am - 2 pm | St. Joseph Catholic Church

For more info & to register go to:

**arlingtondiocese.org/women**



**SAINT PATRICK'S DAY**  
GALA & DINNER AUCTION

*Caed Mile Failte!* The St. Rita School PTO Auction Gala is **Saturday, March 14**, from **6:00 - 10:00 pm**, at the **Army Navy Club**. Enjoy an evening of casino games, prizes, silent and live auction items while supporting St. Rita Preschool and Big School. Tickets available at [stritaauction.com](http://stritaauction.com).

**Middle School Ministry**

**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

For more information and to register your 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> graders contact Maria Goitandia at [mgoitandia.strita@gmail.com](mailto:mgoitandia.strita@gmail.com)

**Bishop's Lenten Appeal 2026**



Thank you to all who already donated to this year's Bishop's Lenten appeal. Every family matters in helping our parish reach its goal. No gift is too small. Your participation supports vital diocesan ministries that our parish depends on. If you have not yet made your commitment, you can give today at [arlingtondiocese.org/bla](http://arlingtondiocese.org/bla) or by scanning the QR code.



**Petición Cuaresmal del Obispo de 2026**

Gracias a todos los que ya donaron a la Petición Cuaresmal del Obispo de este año. Cada familia es importante para ayudar a nuestra parroquia a alcanzar su meta. Ninguna donación es pequeña. Su participación apoya los ministerios diocesanos vitales de los que depende nuestra parroquia. Si aún no se ha comprometido, puede donar hoy mismo en [arlingtondiocese.org/bla](http://arlingtondiocese.org/bla) o escanee el código QR.



**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](mailto: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, Daniel Lee Beiro, Celia Coletto, Mickey Kimball, David Langley, Oscar Merino, Catherine Elizabeth Nugent, Jane Rippy, Fermin L. Vilar

**Annual All Saints' Car Raffle**

Car raffle tickets have been mailed to each family. Through ticket sales, charitable causes and parishes (including our own) throughout the area are able to provide for many needs such as our St. Rita Youth Ministry. In addition, each purchaser has a chance to win five cars! This makes "selling" at work or to family and friends more like an opportunity – just show them the ticket – it will sell itself! Please note that raffle tickets must be processed at All Saints. Please mail directly to All Saints in the envelope provided. Checks should be made payable to ALL SAINTS.

**Sorteo Anual de Autos de Todos los Santos**

Se han enviado boletos para la rifa de autos a cada familia. Gracias a la venta de boletos, causas benéficas y parroquias (incluida la nuestra) de toda la zona pueden ayudar a cubrir diversas necesidades, como el Ministerio Juvenil de Santa Rita. Además, ¡cada comprador tiene la oportunidad de ganar cinco autos! Esto hace que vender en el trabajo o a familiares y amigos sea más una oportunidad: ¡solo muéstreles el boleto y se venderá solo! Tenga en cuenta que los boletos de la rifa deben procesarse en All Saints. Envíelos directamente a All Saints en el sobre proporcionado. Los cheques deben hacerse a nombre de ALL SAINTS.

**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.



**After Abortion Retreats**

The next After Abortion Day of Prayer and Healing will take place on **Saturday, March 7**. These group healing events are held in a private and peaceful setting, in English and Spanish, based on the Entering Canaan model (2 separate retreats, 1 location). There will be an opportunity to hear from a past participant and others who have found healing. You are not alone. Take the first step. For confidential inquiries and registration, please contact Project Rachel Ministry: **(703) 841-2504** or [info@helpafterabortion.org](mailto:info@helpafterabortion.org).

**Retiros después de Aborto Provocado**

Retiros Después de Aborto Provocado: Un Día de Oración y Sanación para mujeres que han experimentado un aborto provocado se llevará a cabo **el sábado 7 de marzo**. Estos eventos de sanación en grupo se hacen en un ambiente privado y tranquilo, en inglés y español, basado en el modelo Entering Canaan (2 retiros separados en 1 ubicación). Habrá una oportunidad de escuchar de una participante anterior y de otras que han encontrado la sanación. No está sola. Tome el primer paso. Para preguntas confidenciales, llame al Proyecto Raquel: **(703) 841-2504** o [info@ayudadespuesdelaborto.org](mailto:info@ayudadespuesdelaborto.org).

**Chesterton Academy of Christ the King**

Chesterton Academy of Christ the King, a small co-ed classical high school that is part of the international Chesterton Schools Network, will be opening at St. Lawrence Catholic Church this fall. Chesterton Academies are known for their strong Catholic identity anchored in daily school Mass, rigorous classical curriculum, screen-free socratic seminar format, and affordable tuition. Visit [Chesterton-ChristTheKing.org](http://Chesterton-ChristTheKing.org) to learn more or to apply. Limited spaces remain for rising freshmen for the 2026-2027 school year.