



St. Rita Catholic Church

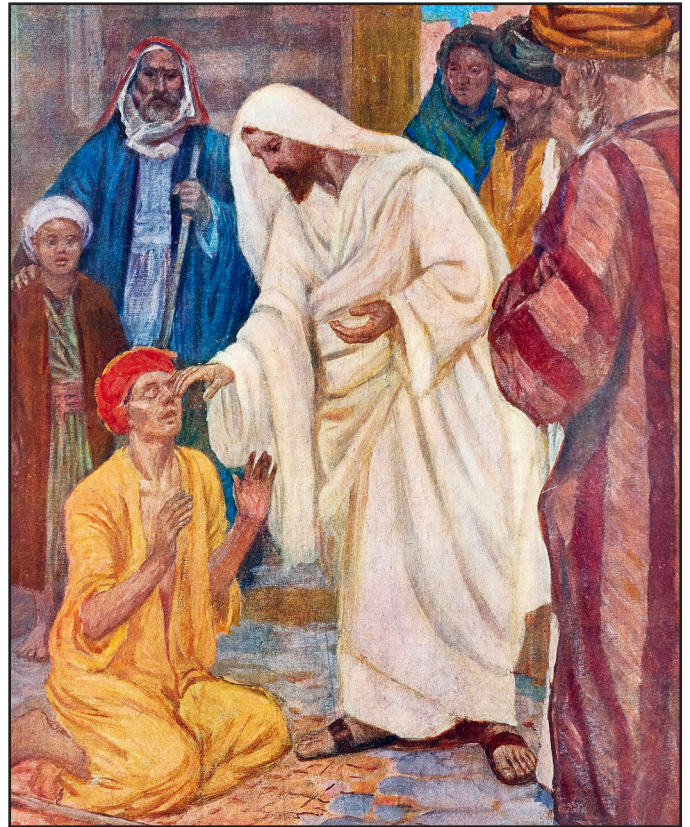
3815 Russell Road | Alexandria, VA 22305 | 703-836-1640 (office) 703-706-0484 (fax)

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

March 15, 2026: Fourth Sunday of Lent

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	



"[Jesus] spat on the ground, and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, 'Go wash in the Pool of Siloam'—which means Sent—. So he went and washed, and came back able to see." (Jn. 5:6-7)

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, March 16, 2026

Monday of the Fourth Week of Lent

7:00 am Abraham Ourth

7:30 pm Kateri Brown

Tuesday, March 17, 2026

Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Lent; St. Patrick, Bishop

7:00 am Melanie Worth

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

Wednesday of the Fourth Week of Lent;

Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

7:00 am Eric and Emily Strobach

7:30 pm Georgia Griffin †

Thursday, March 19, 2026

Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:00 am Caleb Cimmarrusti

Friday, March 20, 2026

Friday of the Fourth Week of Lent

7:00 am Chris Hart

7:30 pm Renuka Carlitti

Saturday, March 21, 2026

Saturday of the Fourth Week of Lent

8:00 am Vivian Moran

5:00 pm Sean Harrington †

Sunday, March 22, 2026

Fifth Sunday of Lent

7:00 am Orah Cobb-Adams

8:00 am Mallory Carroll

11:00 am Missa Pro Populo

1:00 pm Voluntarios del Picnic de la Parroquia

Additional Mass Intentions this Week:

Candidu Añora, Judith Gonzalez, Ronald Forman †,
Ronald Forman †

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 Legion of Mary.

Upcoming Second Collections

March 15:	Catholic Relief Services
March 29:	Easter Flower Offering
April 2:	Holy Thursday
April 3:	Good Friday (Holy Land)
April 5:	Easter
April 5:	Repairs and Replacements

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 by **Wednesday, ten days before the desired bulletin date.** Thank you!

Coffee and Donuts Today

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



Come Holy Spirit



On **Thursday, March 26**, Bishop Burbidge will celebrate our Confirmation Mass at St. Rita Church. We will have about 40 Confirmandi from our parish who have been preparing all year with a retreat, service, and catechesis. Please keep them in your prayers as they are sealed with the Holy Spirit.

Confirmation Scheduling Note

Please note that there will be **no Adoration, Confessions or 7:30 pm Mass** on **Thursday, March 26** due to our Confirmation Mass with Bishop Burbidge scheduled that night.

February 2026 Collections

Regular Offertory:	\$45,267
Parish Giving Offertory:	\$73,524
Repairs & Replacements:	\$3,319
Parish Giving Repairs & Replacements:	\$9,245
Poor Box:	\$1,676
Parish Giving Poor Box:	\$4,140

St. Joseph, foster-father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and true spouse of Mary ever Virgin, pray for us!

This Week at St. Rita

Sunday, March 15, 2026

Coffee and Donuts after all Masses, starting after the 8am Mass

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

Monday, March 16, 2026

5:30 pm Legión de María (en Español)

6:15 pm Religious Education Classes

7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study

Tuesday, March 17, 2026

3:30 pm Homeschool Schola Practice

7:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

2:30 pm Homeschool Holy Hour

6:15 pm Religious Education Classes

6:30 pm Legion of Mary

8:00 pm Knights of Columbus Meeting

Thursday, March 19, 2026

4:00 pm Junior Legion of Mary

6:30 pm High School Youth Ministry

Friday, March 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, March 21, 2026

9:00 am OCIA

6:30 pm Hispanic Young Adult Group

Sunday, March 22, 2026

10:30 am St. Rita Young Adult Brunch

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

SOLEMNITY OF ST. RITA
DINNER DANCE

Buona Festa!

Save the Date

Saturday, May 23, 2026

6pm – 10pm

Catered Dinner al Fresco

Open Bar

Rita's Italian Ice

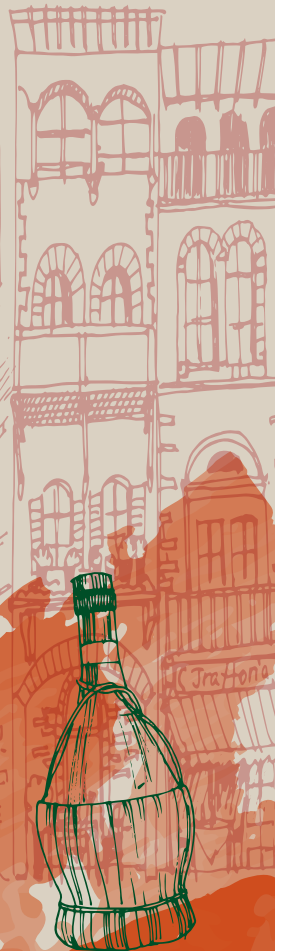
Live Music

Dancing Under the Stars

Tickets: \$30 each or \$50 per couple

This event is for adults

*Live Music by the Scott Ragsdale Orchestra
with guest vocalist Daniel Murray*



**TICKETS
AVAILABLE
SOON!**

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

Sponsored by All Saints Catholic Church - 9300 Stonewall Road, Manassas, VA
20110 - 703-368-4500 - www.allsaintsva.org

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

Holy Week 2026



PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026

Regular Sunday Mass Schedule

MONDAY, TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

Regular Schedule of Mass and Confessions

7:00 am Mass
6:30 - 7:30 pm Adoration
6:30 pm Confession
7:30 pm Mass

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2026

8:30 pm Tenebrae

The Sacred Paschal Triduum

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026

6:00 pm Misa de la Cena del Señor
7:30 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper (English)
After Mass – 7:00 am (Friday) Vigil before the Blessed Sacrament

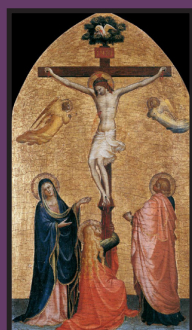
There will be no evening confessions on Holy Thursday



GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2026

8:30 am Good Friday Lauds (Morning Prayer)
9:00 am - 12:00 pm Confession
12:00 pm Stations of the Cross (English)
3:00 pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English)
6:00 pm "Via Crucis" en vivo en Español
(Living Stations of the Cross in Spanish)
Despues Celebración de la Pasión del Señor

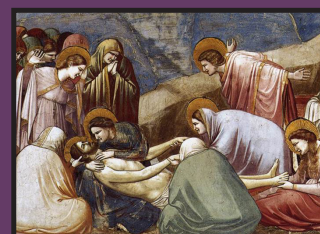
There will be no evening confessions on Good Friday



HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2026

8:30 am Holy Saturday Lauds (Morning Prayer)
After Lauds Blessing of the Easter Food
9:00 am - 12:00pm Confession

There will be no afternoon or evening confessions on Holy Saturday



Easter 2026

SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2026



SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2026

8:30 pm Easter Vigil Mass

*There will be no afternoon or evening confessions
and no 5:00 pm Mass on Holy Saturday.*

SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2026

Regular Sunday Mass Schedule

*“Do not be afraid; for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified.
He is not here; for he has risen, as he said.”
(Matthew 28:5-6)*

Divine Mercy Sunday

SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2026

Regular Sunday Mass Schedule



3:00 - 4:00 pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Divine Mercy Chaplet
Silent Adoration
Confessions
Benediction

My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the Fount of My Mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment.

(Diary of St. Faustina, 699)

JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU

Middle School Ministry

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 6th – 8th graders contact Maria Goitandia at mgoitandia.strita@gmail.com



Annual All Saints' Car Raffle

Thank you to all those who have returned their car raffle tickets—special thanks to those who have requested extras to sell to their relatives, friends, co-workers, bowling team, etc. One \$5.00 ticket offers the purchaser a chance to win four vehicles plus \$42,000 in cash prizes, and helps contribute to the work of our Youth Ministry at St. Rita Parish. 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

Gracias a todos los que devolvieron sus boletos para la rifa de autos, y en especial a quienes solicitaron boletos adicionales para vender a sus familiares, amigos, compañeros de trabajo, etc. Un boleto de \$5.00 ofrece al comprador la oportunidad de ganar cuatro vehículos y \$42,000 en premios en efectivo, además de contribuir al trabajo de nuestro Ministerio Juvenil en la Parroquia de Santa Rita. Tenga en cuenta que los boletos de la rifa deben procesarse en All Saints. Envíenlos directamente a All Saints en el sobre proporcionado. Los cheques deben hacerse a nombre de ALL SAINTS.

Sacred Altar Linens

We are in need of more volunteers (adult women, or girls, 6th grade and above) to help launder and iron the Sacred Altar Linens. No experience is needed as training will be provided. If you are interested in helping with this prayerful and rewarding work, please contact [Elizabeth Vail](mailto:evail.strita@gmail.com) at evail.strita@gmail.com.

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, Brad Chester, 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, Daniel Lee Beiro, Celia Coletto, Rosemary Guida, Mickey Kimball, David Langley, Oscar Merino, Catherine Elizabeth Nugent, Jane Rippy, Fermin L. Vilar



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!

INTO THE DEEP

Save the Date for Vacation Bible School
Monday – Friday, August 3rd–7th, 2026
8:45am – 12pm in the St. Rita School Hall
Open to all rising 1st to 6th graders

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 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 o escanee el código QR.

