



St. Rita Catholic Church

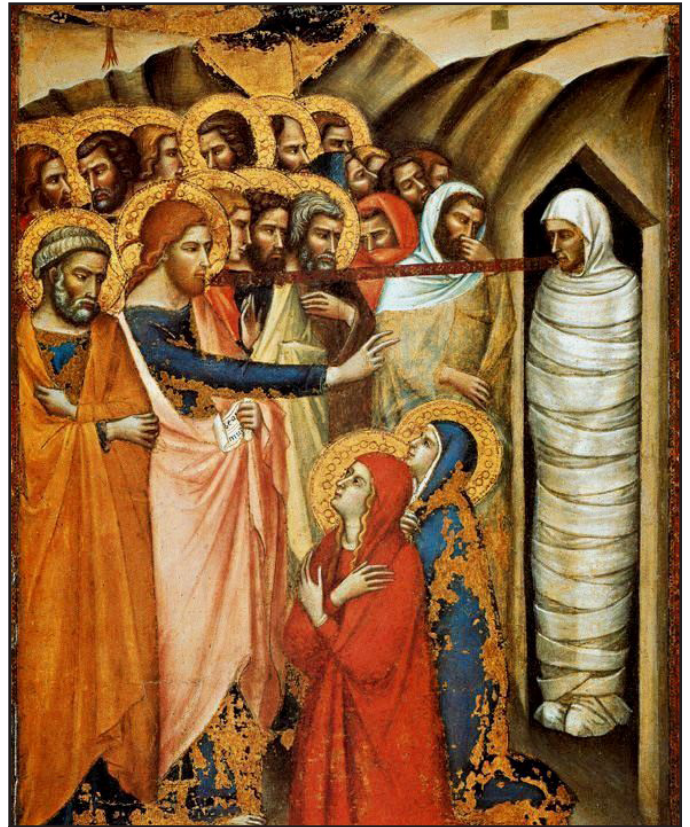
3815 Russell Road | Alexandria, VA 22305 | 703-836-1640 (office) 703-706-0484 (fax)

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

March 22, 2026: Fifth 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] cried out in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them, 'Untie him and let him go.'" (Jn. 11:43-44)

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 23, 2026

Monday of the Fifth Week of Lent;
Saint Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop
7:00 am Michael Taylor
7:30 pm Alicia Bylica

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

Tuesday of the Fifth Week of Lent
7:00 am Jack Thackrah

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

The Annunciation of the Lord
7:00 am Mike Schubmehl †
7:30 pm Bruce Miller, Jr.

Thursday, March 26, 2026

Thursday of the Fifth Week of Lent
7:00 am Katherine Barymow

Friday, March 27, 2026

Friday of the Fifth Week of Lent
7:00 am Francis Sriwardene †
7:30 pm Dani Madda

Saturday, March 28, 2026

Saturday of the Fifth Week of Lent
8:00 am The Pintar Family
5:00 pm The Von Guggenberg Family

Sunday, March 29, 2026

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
7:00 am Raynaldo Paredes
8:00 am The President
11:00 am Missa Pro Populo
1:00 pm Por las intenciones de la familia Rendón García

Additional Mass Intentions this Week:

Ronald Forman †, Kaitlin Coleman, Lynn Durel

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 Homeschool Group.



7 Churches Pilgrimage

Participate in an ancient Catholic tradition to prepare prayerfully for Easter this year. On the evening of **Holy Thursday, April 2**, travel to seven different churches to spend time in adoration of Jesus and reflect upon His agony in the garden. St. Rita is one of the stops on two different routes. There will be books available in the Russell Road vestibule, and you can also find a downloadable version at <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/young-adult-ministry/7-churches-pilgrimage/>, along with an interactive Google map to help you travel from church to church.

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!

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.

Tenebrae

Join us for Tenebrae on **Wednesday of Holy Week, April 1**, at **8:30 pm**. Tenebrae is Latin for "darkness," and features the chanting of Psalms, as well as readings from Sacred Scripture. During the liturgy, candles are gradually extinguished, reminding us of the darkness we experience without Christ.



Upcoming Second Collections

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!

This Week at St. Rita

Sunday, March 22, 2026

10:30 am St. Rita Young Adult Brunch
6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

Monday, March 23, 2026

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

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

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

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

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

Thursday, March 26, 2026

No Adoration, Confessions or 7:30 pm Mass due to Confirmation
No High School Youth Ministry

4:00 pm Junior Legion of Mary

Friday, March 27, 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 28, 2026

9:00 am OCIA
6:30 pm Hispanic Young Adult Group

Sunday, March 29, 2026

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

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

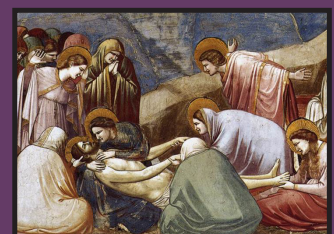
There will be no evening confessions on Good Friday



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

SOLEMNITY OF ST. RITA
DINNER DANCE

Buona Festa!

Dinner & Dancing

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*



Scan QR code to purchase tickets or visit
stritaalexandria.com/an-evening-in-cascia

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

ALL YOUNG ADULTS ARE INVITED TO AN

Easter BBQ



Friday, April 10th

St. Rita Convent Gardens

Following the 7:30pm Mass

Please bring a drink or side to share



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

Blessing of the Easter Food

We will have the blessing of the Easter food on **Holy Saturday, April 4, after Lauds (Morning Prayer)**. This blessing is a longstanding tradition of Christians in Poland and other Slavic countries. Baskets are typically lined with white cloth and decorated with ribbons, flowers, and greenery, and filled with the following items:

- Eggs to represent Christ's Resurrection
- Bread to remind us that Jesus is the "Bread of Life"
- Salt to remind us that we should be the "Salt of the Earth"
- Meat as a symbol of joy and abundance
- Lamb-shaped butter or sugar, representing Jesus as the "Lamb of God."
- A white candle, representing Jesus as the "Light of the World"
- Wine, symbolic of the Blood of Christ

The basket is then covered with white linen to symbolize the burial shroud of Christ.

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**.



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 Uewick

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, Gary Culpeper, 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!

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.

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.

