



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 29, 2026: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

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	



"They brought the ass and the colt and laid their cloaks over them, and he sat upon them. ... The crowds preceding him and those following kept crying out and saying: 'Hosanna to the Son of David!'" (Matt. 21:7,9)

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 30, 2026

Monday of Holy Week

7:00 am Frances Mary Macek †
7:30 pm James Stack

Tuesday, March 31, 2026

Tuesday of Holy Week

7:00 am Monica Ciatti

Wednesday, April 1, 2026

Wednesday of Holy Week

7:00 am Vania Rezende
7:30 pm Elise McMahon

Thursday, April 2, 2026

Thursday of Holy Week (Holy Thursday)

6:00 pm (en Español) José Alonso Lopez †
7:30 pm William Haas †

Friday, April 3, 2026

Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)

See Holy Week Schedule for Good Friday Liturgies

Saturday, April 4, 2026

Holy Saturday

8:30 pm OCIA Catechumens and
Candidates

Sunday, April 5, 2026

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

7:00 am Gabriel Lazarus Grothoff †
8:00 am Frank and Alice Walsh †
11:00 am Missa Pro Populo
1:00 pm Paul Rendon †

Additional Mass Intentions this Week:

Maria Lebron, Karen Gonzalez, Thomas P. Jones †

Blessing of the Easter Food

The blessing of the Easter food will take place 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, decorated with ribbons, flowers, and greenery, and filled with the following:

- **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.

*The Parish Office will be closed from **Friday, April 3, through Tuesday, April 7**, in observance of the Easter holiday. The Parish Office will re-open on **Wednesday, April 8**.*

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.


Knights of Columbus Exemplification Ceremony

The St. Rita Knights of Columbus Exemplification Ceremony for new members will take place **Sunday, March 29, at 4:30 pm** in the Convent (Entrance by the Playground). Open to all men at least 18 years old, practicing Catholics, and who agree to live according to Catholic moral and social teachings. For information, contact **Rick Strobach**, Grand Knight, at rick.strobach@gmail.com.

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.

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.

This Week at St. Rita

Sunday, March 29, 2026

4:30 pm Knights of Columbus Ceremony
6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

Monday, March 30, 2026

No Religious Education Classes

5:30 pm Legión de María (en Español)
7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study

Tuesday, March 31, 2026

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

Wednesday, April 1, 2026

No Religious Education Classes

6:30 pm Legion of Mary
8:30 pm Tenebrae

Thursday, April 2, 2026

Please see Holy Week Schedule

Friday, April 3, 2026

Please see Holy Week Schedule

Saturday, April 4, 2026

Please see Holy Week Schedule

Sunday, April 5, 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

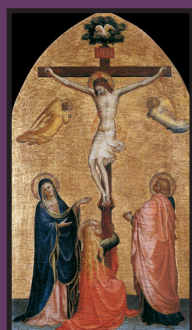
There will be no evening confessions on Holy Thursday



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

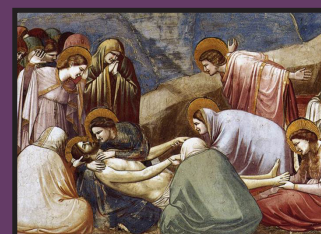
There will be no evening confessions on Good Friday



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)

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

CENA Y BAILE POR LA SOLEMNIDAD
DE ST. RITA

Felices Fiestas!

Cena y Baile

Sábado 23 de Mayo del 2026

6pm – 10pm

Cena fresca preparada

Bar abierto

Rita's Italian Ice

Musica en Vivo

Baile bajo las estrellas

Boletos: \$30 cada uno o \$50 por pareja

Este evento es solamente para adultos

*Música en vivo por la orquesta Scott Ragsdale
con el violinista Daniel Murray*



Los boletos estarán
disponibles pronto.



Mother of Light Center Lenten Cross
Today, Sunday, March 29, is the last day to drop off your donations for the Mother of Light Lenten Cross Project. If you took a card from the cross, please bring the requested items by the end of today and drop them off in the Russell Road vestibule. Thank you for your generosity to the clients of the Mother of

Light Center!

La Cruz de Cuaresma del Centro Madre de la Luz
Hoy, domingo 29 de marzo, es el último día para entregar sus donaciones para el Proyecto de la Cruz de Cuaresma de Mother of Light. Si tomó una tarjeta de la cruz, por favor traiga los artículos solicitados antes de que termine el día de hoy y déjelos en el vestíbulo de Russell Road. ¡Gracias por su generosidad hacia los clientes del Centro Mother of Light!

O sweet St. Joseph, obtain for me the gift of prayer and of perpetual union with Jesus and Mary!

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!

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, etc. 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. 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.

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

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

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, Gary Culpeper, Rosemary Guida, Mickey Kimball, David Langley, Oscar Merino, Catherine Elizabeth Nugent, Jane Rippey, Fermin L. Vilar

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.

