



St. Rita Catholic Church

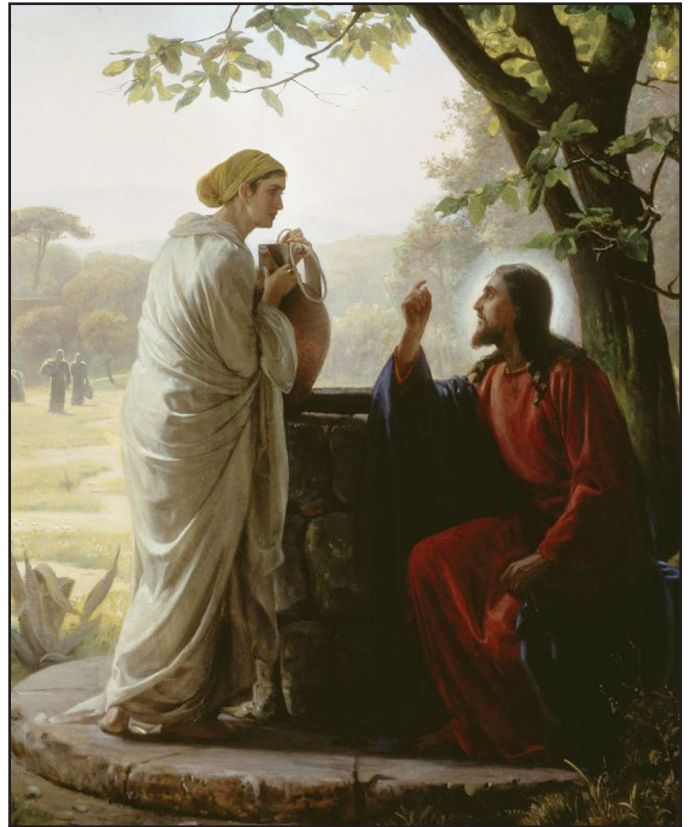
3815 Russell Road | Alexandria, VA 22305 | 703-836-1640 (office) 703-706-0484 (fax)

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

March 8, 2026: Third 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	



"The woman said to him, 'I know that the Messiah is coming, the one called the Christ; when he comes, he will tell us everything.' Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one speaking with you.' (Jn. 4:25-26)

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 9, 2026

Monday of the Third Week of Lent;

Saint Frances of Rome, Religious

7:00 am Thomas Lee

7:30 pm Matthew Rodriguez

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

Tuesday of the Third Week of Lent;

7:00 am Megan Rolla

Wednesday, March 11, 2026

Wednesday of the Third Week of Lent

7:00 am Roland Lawrence †

7:30 pm John Fenton

Thursday, March 12, 2026

Thursday of the Third Week of Lent

7:00 am Anna Davis

Friday, March 13, 2026

Friday of the Third Week of Lent

7:00 am Erika Ramirez

7:30 pm Santiago Barrero

Saturday, March 14, 2026

Saturday of the Third Week of Lent

8:00 am The Von Guggenberg Family

5:00 pm Sutton Ressler †

Sunday, March 15, 2026

Fourth Sunday of Lent

7:00 am Gerard McEvoy †

8:00 am Nicholas Von Guggenberg †

11:00 am Missa Pro Populo

1:00 pm Celestino Rodriguez †

Additional Mass Intentions this Week:

Logan Chrisinger, Joy Hickey, Soo Song, Santiago Soutuyo †

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 Knights of Columbus.

Baptism Classes

The next Spanish Baptism class will take place on **Wednesday, March 11** at **6:00 pm**. English Baptism classes are scheduled on an individual basis with Fr. Schierer. Please contact the parish office for more information or to sign up for a class.



Str, give me this water, that I may not thirst! (Jn. 4: 15)

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!

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!

Upcoming Second Collections

March 15: Catholic Relief Services

March 29: Easter Flower Offering

Thank you for your continued generosity!

This Week at St. Rita

Sunday, March 8, 2026

3:00 pm Archconfraternity of the Holy Face

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

Monday, March 9, 2026

5:30 pm Legión de María (en Español)

6:15 pm Religious Education Classes

7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

3:30 pm Homeschool Schola Practice

7:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study

Wednesday, March 11, 2026

2:30 pm Homeschool Holy Hour

6:00 pm Spanish Baptism Class

6:15 pm Religious Education Classes

6:15 pm Middle School Youth Ministry

6:30 pm Legion of Mary

Thursday, March 12, 2026

4:00 pm Junior Legion of Mary

6:30 pm High School Youth Ministry

Friday, March 13, 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

7:30 pm Men's Fellowship

Saturday, March 14, 2026

9:00 am OCIA

6:30 pm Hispanic Young Adult Group

Sunday, March 15, 2026

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

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

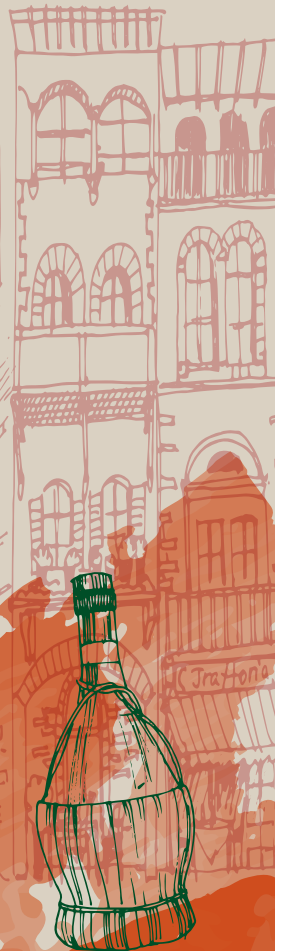
Live Music

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

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 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:

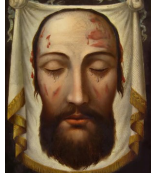
Veronica Abarre, Daniel Lee Beiro, Celia Coletto, Rosemary Guida, Mickey Kimball, David Langley, Oscar Merino, Catherine Elizabeth Nugent, Jane Rippy, Fermin L. Vilar

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.

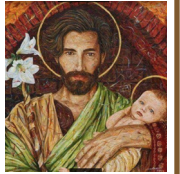
Archconfraternity of the Holy Face Today

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



St. Rita Men's Fellowship Meeting

The St. Rita Men's Fellowship will meet on **Friday, March 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, "Protector of Holy Church." Bring a chair, cold beverages and food or snacks to share, and your rosary! Please contact [Rick Strobach](mailto:rick.strobach@gmail.com) at rick.strobach@gmail.com for more information. New and past members are always welcome! *Sancte Joseph, ora pro nobis!*



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.



News from the Diocese and Beyond

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 to learn more or to apply. Limited spaces remain for rising freshmen for the 2026-2027 school year.