



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

April 19, 2026: Third Sunday of Easter

CLERGY AND STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Christopher P. Christensen frc41@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	



“One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply, ‘Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?’” (Luke 24:18)

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, April 20, 2026

Monday of the Third Week of Easter

7:00 am Shirley Bridgford

7:30 pm Marcia Zurawski †

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

Saint Anselm, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

7:00 am Rachel Cochrane

Wednesday, April 22, 2026

Wednesday of the Third Week of Easter

7:00 am The Von Guggenberg Family

7:30 pm Lee Wetmore †

Thursday, April 23, 2026

Saint George, Martyr; Saint Adalbert, Bishop and Martyr

7:00 am Benjamin Bridgford †

Friday, April 24, 2026

Saint Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest and Martyr

7:00 am Mary Jackson/Marie Minto †

7:30 pm Mike Kuznia †

Saturday, April 25, 2026

Saint Mark, Evangelist

8:00 am The President

5:00 pm Rocco and Renuka Carlitti

Sunday, April 26, 2026

Fourth Sunday of Easter

7:00 am Edward J. Schuck †

8:00 am Michael Peter Reardon †

11:00 am Missa Pro Populo

1:00 pm Deyanira Hernandez García

Additional Mass Intentions this Week:

Sandra F. Baumgarten, Katie Rudolph, Marcia and Patrick Hoover, Brendan Hogan

First Saturday Pro-Life Rosary



Come join the monthly Pro-Life Rosary on the first Saturdays of the month at the abortion clinic at **2616 Sherwood Hall Lane**. The next First Saturday is **Saturday, May 2**. Plan to be there **a little before 10:00 am**, and we will form a group with the others who are there, and pray the Rosary together. For

more information contact **Rick Strobach** at rick.strobach@gmail.com or **Jay Moret** at felix.moret@gmail.com.

March 2026 Collections

Regular Offertory:	\$51,530
Parish Giving Offertory:	\$74,568
Repairs & Replacements:	\$3,634
Parish Giving Repairs & Replacements:	\$8,070
Poor Box:	\$3,394
Parish Giving Poor Box:	\$4,646

Upcoming Second Collections

May 3: Repairs and Replacements

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, April 19**, after all Masses, starting after the 8:00 am Mass.



St. Rita Young Adult Women's Group

The SRYA Women's Group meets every 4th Wednesday of the month from 8-9:30pm in the Convent.

We are currently doing a series with Fulton Sheen's broadcast program "Life is Worth Living"

2026-2027 Homeschool Atrium Aides Needed



We are looking for aides for our Wednesday afternoon Homeschool Atrium (Catechesis of the Good Shepherd). Aides do not need to have prior experience, however, aides must have VIRTUS certification. For more information, or if you are interested in volunteering, please contact **Elizabeth Vail** at evail.strita@gmail.com.

This Week at St. Rita

Sunday, April 19, 2026

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

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

Monday, April 20, 2026

5:30 pm Legión de María (en Español)

6:15 pm Religious Education Classes

7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

3:30 pm Homeschool Schola Practice

7:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study

Wednesday, April 22, 2026

2:30 pm Homeschool Holy Hour

6:15 pm Religious Education Classes

6:30 pm Legion of Mary

8:00 pm St. Rita Young Adult Women's Group

Thursday, April 23, 2026

4:00 pm Junior Legion of Mary

6:30 pm High School Youth Ministry

Friday, April 24, 2026

7:00 pm Vespers

Saturday, April 25, 2026

6:30 pm Hispanic Young Adult Group

Sunday, April 26, 2026

10:30 am St. Rita Young Adult Brunch

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

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.

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

Mass Intentions

Having a Mass offered for someone is a great way to practice the spiritual work of mercy of praying for the living and the dead. It can also be a consolation to a family who has lost a loved one, or a wonderful gift for a birthday, wedding, or any other special occasion. The typical Mass stipend is \$10, and we have various cards available to give to the person for whom you are having the Mass offered. To schedule a Mass, please contact **Alma Ramirez** at **703-836-1640** or **aramirez.strita@gmail.com**.

Formed.org

FORMED Did you know that St. Rita Parish has a subscription to Formed.org? Discover small group Bible studies, inspiring children's shows, sacramental preparation resources, family-friendly movies, and more! To sign up for free, visit **signup.formed.org** and enter "St. Rita Church" to create your free account.

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



Legion of Mary

The Legion of Mary is a lay apostolate whose members are dedicated to serving the Church through prayer and apostolic works, under the leadership of our Lady. The English Adult Legion group meets on **Wednesdays** at **6:30 pm** in the Parish Center conference room.

Junior Legion

The Junior Legion of Mary, open to children in grade 3 and higher, meets on **Thursdays** at **4:00 pm** during the school year. They visit Alexandria Rehab Center as their work.

For more information, or if you are interested in joining in the work of the Legion of Mary, please contact **Vivian Moran** at **vivian.b.moran@gmail.com** or call or text her at **(703) 888-8196**.

News from the Diocese and Beyond

Diocesan Festival: Celebrating Faith + Freedom

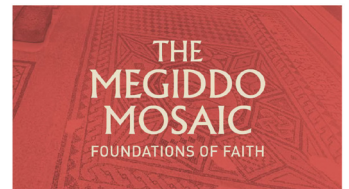
Save the date for the 2026 Diocesan Festival on **Saturday, June 13** in Berryville, Virginia! Join thousands of Catholics from across the Diocese at the Clarke County Fairgrounds for a joyful celebration of faith, freedom and community. As in years past, the festival will open by giving thanks to God with a Vigil Mass celebrated by Bishop Burbidge, followed by live music, food and drink, amusement rides for children, local vendors, and so much more fun for the whole family. Mark your calendar and stay tuned — more details and registration coming soon on **arlingtondiocese.org/festival**.



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Museum of the Bible Exhibit

Museum of the Bible invites you to a once in a lifetime faith experience to view two ancient Biblical exhibits at once: The Dead Sea Scrolls Exhibition and The Megiddo Mosaic. Parishioners in groups of 10 and greater may use the code "CATH26" to receive an exclusive 50% admissions discount. Please contact Customer Service at **866-430-MOTB (6682)** or contact **Jacqueline Schleppebach** at **Jacqueline.Schleppebach@mbible.org** for booking assistance and help with logistics and planning. Plan your visit to Museum of the Bible located at 400 4th St. SW Washington, DC 20024 today!



Volunteer with the Little Sisters of the Poor

If you have compassion and a desire to help others, consider volunteering with the Little Sisters of the Poor in Washington, DC. The mission of the Little Sisters of the Poor is to offer the neediest elderly of every race and religion a home where they will be welcomed as Christ, cared for as family and accompanied with dignity until God calls them to himself. Volunteers are currently needed to serve as a handy man; visit with the residents; serve meals; play cards and other activities. Please contact **volwashington@thelittlesistersofthepoor.org** and the Volunteer Coordinator will follow up and schedule a time for you to visit.