



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 5, 2026: Easter Sunday of the Resurrection 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	



Christ is Risen, Alleluia!

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 6, 2026

Monday within the Octave of Easter

7:00 am Timothy and Klarissa McNamara

7:30 pm Barbara Joy Walker †

Tuesday, April 7, 2026

Tuesday within the Octave of Easter

7:00 am Monica Kolf

Wednesday, April 8, 2026

Wednesday within the Octave of Easter

7:00 am Lauren O'Neill

7:30 pm Katy Coffman

Thursday, April 9, 2026

Thursday within the Octave of Easter

7:00 am The Von Guggenberg Family

Friday, April 10, 2026

Friday within the Octave of Easter

7:00 am Judith Kiolbasa †

7:30 pm Samantha Rezzo

Saturday, April 11, 2026

Saturday within the Octave of Easter

8:00 am Jim and Carol Johnson

5:00 pm Sean Harrington †

Sunday, April 12, 2026

Second Sunday of Easter (or Sunday of Divine Mercy)

7:00 am Jane Rippey †

8:00 am The Castellan Family

9:15 am Francis Coughlin

11:00 am Missa Pro Populo

1:00 pm José Daniel García Padilla †

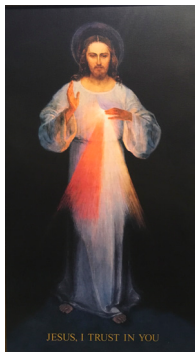
Additional Mass Intentions this Week:

Elizabeth Burke, Frank Bedford Jones †

Divine Mercy Sunday

Sunday, April 12, 2026

On **Sunday, April 12**, there will be a Divine Mercy Holy Hour from **3 - 4 pm**. The Holy Hour will include praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Silent Adoration, and an opportunity for Confession.



3:00 - 4:00 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Divine Mercy Chaplet
Silent Adoration
Confessions
Benediction

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.

(Diary of St. Faustina, 699)

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!



The Clergy and Staff of St. Rita Parish wish you a very blessed Easter!

Parish offices will be closed on Monday, April 6, and Tuesday April 7, in observance of the Easter Holiday

Baptism Classes

The next Spanish Baptism class will take place on **Wednesday, April 8 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.



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

This Week at St. Rita

Sunday, April 5, 2026

Parish Center Closed for Floor Waxing

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

Monday, April 6, 2026

Parish Office Closed in observance of the Easter Holiday

Parish Center Closed for Floor Waxing

No Religious Education Classes

7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study

Tuesday, April 7, 2026

Parish Office Closed in observance of the Easter Holiday

Parish Center Closed for Floor Waxing

Wednesday, April 8, 2026

No Religious Education Classes

6:00 pm Spanish Baptism Class

6:30 pm Legion of Mary

Thursday, April 9, 2026

No Scheduled Events

Friday, April 10, 2026

7:00 pm Vespers

7:30 pm Men's Fellowship

8:15 pm Young Adult Easter Barbecue

Saturday, April 11, 2026

6:30 pm Hispanic Young Adult Group

Sunday, April 12, 2026

3:00 pm Divine Mercy Holy Hour

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group



DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON

Office of the Bishop

200 North Glebe Road, Suite 914 • Arlington, Virginia 22203 • Office (703) 841-2511 • Fax (703) 524-5028

Easter 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Jesus Christ is truly risen, Alleluia! It is with great joy that I wish you a blessed Easter.

On that first Easter morning, the angel asks the women who had come to the empty tomb: *“Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen”* (Luke 24:5). This proclamation continues to echo in the world today. These words remind us that Christ is alive and present, enlightening every darkness.

Easter is the fulfillment of God’s promise. Through his passion, death, and resurrection, our Lord has opened the way to new life. The cross reveals the depth of God’s love and the empty tomb reveals God’s saving power. No burden is too heavy, no wound too deep, that our Lord cannot divinely heal and so transform our lives.

Easter, of course, is not a single day but a sacred season. I encourage you to begin each day with renewed faith. He is alive and with you and will lead, guide, and protect you. With abiding trust, commit your life to him and consistently and enthusiastically practice and live your holy Catholic faith.

May Our Risen Lord Jesus bless you with his peace throughout the Easter season and always.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Arlington



Pascua 2026

Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo,

¡Jesucristo ha resucitado verdaderamente, aleluya! Con gran alegría les deseo una bendecida Pascua.

En aquella primera mañana de Pascua, el ángel pregunta a las mujeres que habían ido al sepulcro vacío: «¿Por qué buscan entre los muertos al que está vivo? No está aquí, ha resucitado» (Lucas 24, 5). Esta proclamación continúa resonando en el mundo de hoy. Estas palabras nos recuerdan que Cristo está vivo y presente, iluminando toda oscuridad.

La Pascua es el cumplimiento de la promesa de Dios. Por medio de su pasión, muerte y resurrección, nuestro Señor ha abierto el camino hacia una vida nueva. La cruz revela la profundidad del amor de Dios y el sepulcro vacío manifiesta su poder salvador. No hay carga demasiado pesada ni herida demasiado profunda que nuestro Señor no pueda sanar divinamente y así transformar nuestra vida.

La Pascua, por supuesto, no es un solo día, sino un tiempo sagrado. Los animo a comenzar cada día con una fe renovada. Él está vivo, está con ustedes y los guiará, conducirá y protegerá. Con confianza perseverante, encomienden su vida a Él y practiquen y vivan su fe santa católica con constancia y entusiasmo.

Que Nuestro Señor Jesucristo Resucitado los bendiga con su paz durante el tiempo pascual y siempre.

Sinceramente en Cristo,

Monseñor Michael F. Burbidge
Obispo de Arlington

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.

Upcoming Second Collections

April 5: Easter
April 5: Repairs and Replacements

Thank you for your continued generosity!

BASH



The St. Rita Youth Ministry will be attending the Diocesan BASH on **Saturday, April 25** and all Middle Schoolers (6-8 Graders) are invited to join! BASH is a celebration of our Catholic faith and love of the

Lord. This event includes music, games, inspirational speakers, confessions, and a Vigil Mass for Sunday, with Bishop Burbidge as the principal celebrant. If you have any questions, or to register, please contact our Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, **Maria Goitiandia**, at mgoitiandia.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.

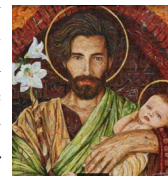
Thank you!

For the Deceased in our Parish:

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

St. Rita Men's Fellowship Meeting

The St. Rita Men's Fellowship will meet on **Friday, April 10**, 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, "Minister of Salvation." Bring a chair, cold beverages and food or snacks to share, and your rosary! Please contact **Rick Strobach** at rick.strobach@gmail.com for more information. New and past members are always welcome! *Sancte Joseph, ora pro nobis!*



Knights of Columbus Monthly Meeting

Men of St. Rita age 18 and up are invited to attend the Knights of Columbus regular meeting on the third Wednesday of each month at **7:45 pm** in the Parish Center. The next meeting will be **April 15**. Join us in our quest for work for Charity, Unity, and Fraternity at our parish and in our families. We are a service organization of "Practical Catholic Gentleman". For information, contact **Ray McGowan**, Deputy Grand Knight, at raymcgowan@gmail.com—or just stop by our meeting!

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.

Come and Adore the Lord!

Join us for all night Adoration **Friday night from 8pm - Saturday, 8 am**. Our goal is to have two committed Adorers for each hour. Your commitment will be a source of grace for yourself, the parish, the Church, and the whole world. If you are interested in signing up to be a committed Adorer, please contact **Michael Cahill** at Cahill09@hotmail.com.

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.