



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

May 10, 2026: Sixth Sunday of Easter

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
Facilities Manager	Craig Webb cwebb.strita@gmail.com	



*May 15: St. Isidore
"Sir, I work alone and know of none save God to whom I look for strength."*

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, May 11, 2026

Monday of the Sixth Week of Easter

7:00 am Timmy Jones

7:30 pm Randy Sabel

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

Saints Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs; Saint Pancras, Martyr

7:00 am Stephanie Villhauer

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

Our Lady of Fatima

7:00 am Alvaro Ramirez †

7:30 pm Norka Miller

Thursday, May 14, 2026

The Ascension of the Lord (observance transferred to Sunday)

Saint Matthias, Apostle

7:00 am Cindy and Larry Miller †

Friday, May 15, 2026

Saint Isidore

7:00 am Fr. John F. Heisler

7:30 pm Elizabeth Vail

Saturday, May 16, 2026

Saturday of the Sixth Week of Easter

8:00 am Fr. Christopher J. Pollard

5:00 pm Kathleen Cole †

Sunday, May 10, 2026

The Ascension of the Lord (observed)

7:00 am Tim Foley †

8:00 am The President

11:00 am Missa Pro Populo

1:00 pm Elena Esparza

Additional Mass Intentions this Week:

Timotea Agbayani †, Luisiana Bethencourt, Carlo and Deanna Reiss †, Santiago Soutuyo †

April 2026 Collections

Regular Offertory:	\$48,108
Parish Giving Offertory:	\$84,220
Repairs & Replacements:	\$3,137
Parish Giving Repairs & Replacements:	\$10,046
Poor Box:	\$2,252
Parish Giving Poor Box:	\$4,931

Upcoming Second Collections

May 10: Retired Diocesan Priests
May 17: Catholic Communications Campaign

Thank you for your continued generosity!

Retired Diocesan Priests Second Collection

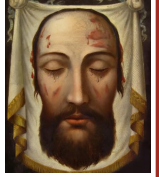
Today's Second Collection assists the Diocese in caring for our current and future retired priests and offers a way to show gratitude for their many years of dedication and faithful service. Thank you for your generosity to help care for our priests who have given their lives in service to the Church.

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!

Archconfraternity of the Holy Face

All are welcome to join us for the next meeting of the Archconfraternity of the Holy Face on **Sunday, May 10**, 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 Women's Group

Dear Women of St. Rita—All are invited to join a gathering of parish women on **Friday, May 15**, from **7:00-8:30 pm**, in the Parish Center. Let's honor our Blessed Mother as we gather with refreshments, conversation, and a Rosary at 7:30 pm. We will have a brief facilitated discussion after the Rosary. Hope to see you there!



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.

Coffee and Donuts

Join us for Coffee and Donuts in the School Hall on **Sunday, May 17**, after all Masses, starting after the 8:00 am Mass.



This Week at St. Rita

Sunday, May 10, 2026

3:00 pm Archconfraternity of the Holy Face
6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

Monday, May 11, 2026

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

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

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

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

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

Thursday, May 14, 2026

4:00 pm Junior Legion of Mary
6:30 pm High School Youth Ministry

Friday, May 15, 2026

7:00 pm Vespers
7:30 pm Men's Fellowship

Saturday, May 16, 2026

6:30 pm Hispanic Young Adult Group

Sunday, May 17, 2026

Coffee and Donuts after all Masses, starting after the 8am Mass
6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF ST. RITA (FEAST DAY: MAY 22)



The **Novena to St. Rita** begins **Wednesday, May 13**. Novena prayer cards will be available in all vestibules.

May 13- May 22

The **relic of St. Rita** will be on our Lady's altar for veneration. Stop by and pray for St. Rita's intercession!

HOLY MASS FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF ST. RITA

Friday, May 22

7:00 am

English

7:30 pm

English (preceded by Sung Vespers at 7:00 pm)

SOLEMNITY OF ST. RITA DINNER DANCE

Saturday, May 23, 6:00 - 10:00 pm

Join us for an adults-only evening with dinner and dancing, including an open bar, dinner catered by Aldo's Italian Kitchen, live music performed by the Scotts Ragsdale Orchestra with guest vocalist Daniel Murray, Rita's Italian Ice, and ample opportunity for dancing. Tickets are \$30 each and \$50 for a couple. The dress code for the evening is dressy casual. This event will be taking place outdoors – rain or shine! Parking will be limited so please consider carpooling or using a ride-share service. Please purchase tickets by **Wednesday, May 20**, by scanning the QR Code or going to our website <https://stritaalexandria.com/>. We hope to see you there!



CELEBRACIÓN DE LA FIESTA DE SANTA RITA (22 DE MAYO)



La Novena a Santa Rita comienza **el miércoles 13 de Mayo**. Las tarjetas de oración de la Novena estarán disponibles en todos los vestíbulos.

13 de Mayo- 22 de Mayo
La reliquia de Santa Rita estará en el altar de la Virgen para su veneración. ¡Pase y ore por la intercesión de Santa Rita!

SANTA MISA POR LA SOLEMNIDAD DE SANTA RITA Viernes, 22 de Mayo

7:00 am en Inglés

7:30 pm en Inglés (precedido por las Vísperas cantadas a las 7:00 pm)

CENA Y BAILE POR LA SOLEMNIDAD DE SANTA RITA Sábado 24 de Mayo, 6:00 - 10:00 pm

Acompáñenos a una cena y baile (una noche solo para adultos), incluye bar abierto, cena a cargo de Aldo's Italian Kitchen, música en vivo a cargo de la Orquesta Scotts Ragsdale con el vocalista invitado Daniel Murray, Rita's Italian Ice y muchas oportunidades para bailar. Las entradas cuestan \$30 por persona y \$50 por pareja. El código de vestimenta es informal elegante. Este evento se celebrará al aire libre, ¡llueva o truene! El estacionamiento será limitado, así que considere compartir el auto o usar un servicio de transporte compartido. Compre sus entradas antes del **miércoles 20 de mayo** en <https://stritaalexandria.com/>. ¡Esperamos verlos allí!



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

Registration opens Friday, May 1
 Registration forms will be available
 in the vestibules and online at
<https://stritaalexandria.com/vacation-bible-school/>

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**.



*Holiest Virgin, with all my heart I honor thee above
 all the angels and saints in Paradise as the daughter
 of the eternal Father, and to thee I consecrate my soul
 and all its powers.*

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

Ninth Annual Rogation Boundary Bike Ride

Join us in reviving the ancient tradition of marking the Rogation days here at St. Rita Parish! In earlier times, Rogation originated as a solemn procession on foot around the parish boundary to pray for God's protection against disasters and blessing of the fields. As a pilgrimage in our own backyard, Father Christensen will lead a circuit of the parish boundaries by bike on **Saturday, May 23**, beginning at **6:00 am** with the Litany of Saints at the church and then proceeding to Four Mile Run Park to mark points along the boundary with blessed chalk. The loop is a mildly strenuous 7.5 miles and portions of the route are in the road, so keep this in mind as you consider the appropriate skill and comfort level. The ride takes around 2 hours. For more information, please contact **Joshua Bowman** at mrbeaujo@gmail.com.



News from the Diocese and Beyond

Chesterton Academy of Christ the King

Chesterton Academy of Christ the King will be opening at St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Alexandria this fall. Chesterton high schools have a strong Catholic identity anchored in daily school Mass, a rigorous classical curriculum, screen-free discussion-based learning, and affordable tuition. Our 2026-2027 tuition rate of \$13,900 will be locked in for our founding families, and need-based financial aid is available. Interested students and their families are invited to learn more about the school while enjoying afternoons of ice cream and fellowship on our campus at monthly "Sundaes on Sundays" events throughout the spring and summer. Visit Chesterton-ChristTheKing.org to learn more, RSVP for our next event, and to apply.

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.

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 Schleppenbach** at Jacqueline.Schleppenbach@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!

