



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 24, 2026: Pentecost Sunday

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	



“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues.” (Acts 2:4)

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 25, 2026

The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church

7:00 am Fernando Ramirez
7:30 pm The Matich Family

Tuesday, May 26, 2026

Saint Philip Neri, Priest

7:00 am Ivy Gonsalves

Wednesday, May 27, 2026

Saint Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop

7:00 am Sally Ford
7:30 pm Mr. and Mrs. Raynaldo B. Paredes

Thursday, May 28, 2026

Thursday of the Eighth Week in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Elizabeth Vail

Friday, May 29, 2026

Saint Paul VI, Pope

7:00 am Tanuja Gnanasekaran †
7:30 pm The Homonnay Family

Saturday, May 30, 2026

Saturday of the Eighth Week of Ordinary Time

8:00 am Fernando Noe Ramirez, Sr. †
5:00 pm Don McGraw

Sunday, May 31, 2026

The Most Holy Trinity

7:00 am Fr. Philip Briggs
8:00 am The Randall Family
11:00 am Missa Pro Populo
1:00 pm Juliana Lopez

Additional Mass Intentions this Week:

The Foss Family, Maggie Keaveny, The Barry Family, The Raile Family

Memorial Day Ceremony honoring Rocky Versace

Join St. Rita American Heritage Girls and other members of the faith community to remember former St. Rita parishioner Capt. Rocky Versace and other Fallen Alexandrians at a Memorial Day Ceremony at **11:00 am** on **Monday, May 25** at the Capt. Rocky Versace Plaza and Vietnam Veterans Memorial in front of the Mount Vernon Recreation Center at **2701 Commonwealth Ave.** For more information, please visit <https://www.virginia.org/event/memorial-day-ceremony-versace-plaza-memorial-in-alexandria-va/5161/>.

The Parish Office will be closed on **Monday, May 25**, in observance of the Memorial Day Holiday.



Upcoming Second Collections

June 7: Repairs and Replacements
June 28: Peter's Pence Collection

Thank you for your continued generosity!

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!

Act of Consecration to the Holy Spirit

O Holy Spirit, divine Spirit of light and love, I consecrate to Thee my understanding, heart and will, my whole being for time and for eternity.



May my understanding be always submissive to Thy heavenly inspirations, and to the teaching of the Catholic Church, of which Thou art the infallible guide; may my heart be ever inflamed with love of God and of my neighbor; may my will be ever conformed to the divine will, and may my whole life be a faithful imitation of the life and virtues of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, to Whom with the Father and Thee be honor and glory forever. Amen.

Farewells and Welcome

Bishop Burbidge has announced the clergy changes for this year, and there will be some changes that affect St. Rita Parish. These changes take effect on **Thursday, June 25**. Fr. Nicholas Schierer has been assigned to St. William of York in Stafford, and we will be welcoming Fr. William Nyce as our new Parochial Vicar. Fr. Paul Berghout will change residence to St. Lawrence in Alexandria, and Fr. Noah Morey, Diocesan Director of Vocations, will be in residence here at St. Rita. Please pray for all of our priests!

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.

Offertory Counters Needed

The Offertory Counters have the important job of counting the weekly Sunday collections. Volunteering is low-commitment and only requires meeting once a month. If you are interested in volunteering as an offertory counter, please contact Jill Bender at nymeetsva@yahoo.com.

This Week at St. Rita

Sunday, May 24, 2026

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

Monday, May 25, 2026

Parish Office Closed in Observance of Memorial Day

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

Tuesday, May 26, 2026

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

Wednesday, May 27, 2026

2:30 pm Homeschool Holy Hour
6:30 pm Legion of Mary
8:00 pm St. Rita Young Adult Women's Group

Thursday, May 28, 2026

4:00 pm Junior Legion of Mary

Friday, May 29, 2026

7:00 pm Vespers

Saturday, May 30, 2026

6:30 pm Hispanic Young Adult Group

Sunday, May 31, 2026

10:30 am St. Rita Young Adult Brunch
6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

Corpus Christi Procession

Sunday, June 7

3:00 pm

We will sing hymns in Latin, English and Spanish and there will be two outdoor altars set up along the way for Benediction. Come bear witness to our Faith!



Procesión Eucarística

Domingo, 7 de Junio

3:00 pm

Cantaremos himnos en latín, inglés y español y habrá dos altares al aire libre instalados a lo largo del camino para la Bendición. ¡Ven a dar testimonio de nuestra Fe!

★ 250 YEARS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ★



DIOCESAN FESTIVAL

★ CELEBRATING FAITH + FREEDOM ★

SATURDAY
JUNE 13
3:45 - 9:30 PM

CLARKE COUNTY
FAIRGROUNDS


BERRYVILLE, VA



FREE EVENT FOR ALL AGES
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED TO RECEIVE COMPLIMENTARY FOOD

MASS WITH BISHOP BURBIDGE ★ MUSIC ★ FOOD

*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"

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/>



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**.

Formed.org



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, Fr. Martin McGuill, Catherine Elizabeth Nugent, Jane Rippy

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.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend

Married Couples: If you enjoy the warmth of summer, why not sign up for the Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend and bring some more warmth and intimacy to your marriage. It's a positive, simple, common sense, private experience between husband and wife that revitalizes your marriage. And, it is now Vatican Approved! Space is limited so make your reservation now! Upcoming experiences are:

August 28-30, 2026 in Bristow, VA (lodging is on your own—couples return home each night)
 October 23-25, 2026 in Hampton, VA (lodging provided)
 November 6-8, 2026 in Emerald Isle, NC (lodging provided)
 February 12-14, 2027 in Waynesboro, VA (lodging provided)

For more information please call **757-690-1369** or to register, go to WWME.org, click "Apply" and search for your desired location.