



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

July 19, 2026: Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

CLERGY AND STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Christopher P. Christensen frec41@gmail.com	Ext. 17
Parochial Vicar	Rev. Will Nyce Please contact aramirez.strita@gmail.com	Ext. 30
In Residence	Rev. Noah Morey noah.morey@arlingtondiocese.org	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	

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

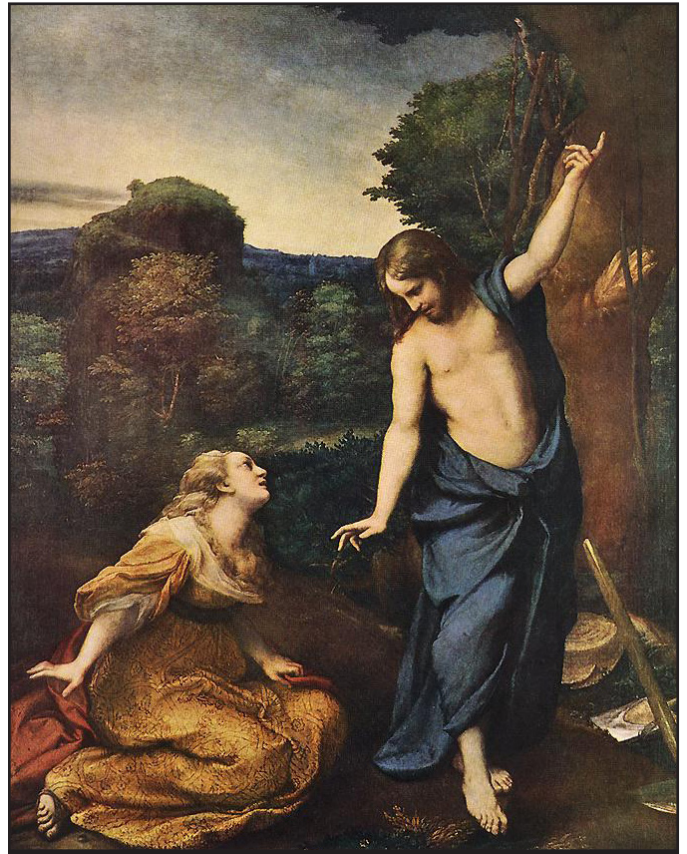
Please contact the Parish Office to make arrangements to attend a Baptism preparation class. Please note that it is possible for expectant parents to attend the preparation class before the birth of their child.

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.



St. Mary Magdalene (Feast Day: July 22)

"Jesus said to her, 'Stop holding on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father.'" (John 20:17)

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)

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Monday - Thursday: 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Friday: 8:00 pm - 8:00 am (Saturday)

Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

Monday, July 20, 2026

Saint Apollinaris, Bishop and Martyr

7:00 am Janice Hoover
7:30 pm Nicholas Purification ☩

Tuesday, July 21, 2026

Saint Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest and Doctor of the Church

7:00 am Anthony Antonelli ☩

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Saint Mary Magdalene

7:00 am Anthony Purification ☩
7:30 pm Sandra Rodriguez

Thursday, July 23, 2026

Saint Bridget, Religious

7:00 am Aurelio Miller

Friday, July 24, 2026

Saint Sharbel Makhluf, Priest

7:00 am Deacon Chris and Pam DiGrado
7:30 pm Norka Miller

Saturday, July 25, 2026

Saint James, Apostle

8:00 am Meg Foster
5:00 pm Patricia Bradley Wendler ☩

Sunday, July 26, 2026

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Grant Caillouet
8:00 am Jim Lowlace ☩
11:00 am Missa Pro Populo
1:00 pm Toño Rodriguez ☩

Additional Mass Intentions this Week:

Noah Sell, Kateri Horton, Oskar Egger ☩

Coffee and Donuts Today

Join us for Coffee and Donuts in the School Hall on **Sunday, July 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"

Volunteers Needed for St. Rita Middle School Ministry

The St. Rita Middle School Ministry is seeking male and female volunteers to help run our boys and girls middle school small groups. The small groups meet once a month during the school year (differing nights for boys/girls) on a **Wednesday** evening from **6:00 - 7:30 pm** in the St. Rita Convent for dinner, discussions, and fellowship. If you are interested in being a volunteer, please fill out the following form by going to <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfm3myHr4fyLQYmVEYIBP2eH57oT61wLOg70hVfE2QV2ZC3ew/viewform> or scanning the QR Code.

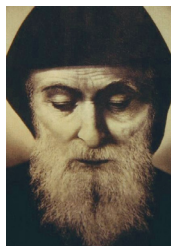


Magnifica Humanitas

Copies of Pope Leo XIV's first Encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas* are available for purchase in the parish office for \$15. The parish office is open Monday - Friday from 9:00 am - 9:00 pm.

Saint Sharbel Makhluf (Feast Day: July 24)

Saint Sharbel was born in 1828 in a small town in northern Lebanon, the youngest of five children. At the age of 23, he entered a Maronite monastery and was ordained a priest. After many years of sacrifice and obedience in community, he was granted permission to move to the hermitage of Saints Peter and Paul. Here he spent the remainder of his life, living an austere life in imitation of the early desert fathers. He was known as "the saint inebriated with God," and many came to him seeking physical and spiritual healing. After his death in 1898, mysterious lights were seen around his tomb. His body was exhumed and found to be incorrupt, exuding sweat and blood. Saint Sharbel was canonized in 1977, and continues to work miracles for those who seek his intercession.



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!

This Week at St. Rita

Sunday, July 19, 2026

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

4:30 pm Solemn Vespers
6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

Monday, July 20, 2026

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

Tuesday, July 21, 2026

7:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

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

Thursday, July 23, 2026

No events scheduled

Friday, July 24, 2026

No events scheduled

Saturday, July 25, 2026

6:30 pm Hispanic Young Adult Group

Sunday, July 26, 2026

10:30 am St. Rita Young Adult Brunch
4:30 pm Solemn Vespers
6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

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 forms will be available in the vestibules and online
at <https://stritaalexandria.com/vacation-bible-school/>

We are also in need of adult and teen volunteers to help with
Vacation Bible School. Please contact Chloe Holloway at
cholloway.strita@gmail.com to volunteer.

St. Rita High School Youth Ministry

Summer Schedule

July

18th – Trip to the Museum of the Bible (sign up only)

29th – Diocesan King's Dominion Day (sign up only)

August

3-7th – Vacation Bible School (sign up to volunteer)

21st – Summer Friday in the Convent from 7-9pm

September

4th – Summer Friday in the Convent from 7-9pm

24th – First Thursday Night YM of the 2026-2027 Year

for all 'sign up only' events please contact
mgoitiandia.strita@gmail.com or see flyers / forms in the vestibule





To protect human life & the truth about marriage

CATHOLICS



NO

on the

**"Virginia Right to Reproductive Freedom Amendment" and
"Virginia Remove Constitutional Same-Sex Marriage Ban Amendment"**

Pledge to Vote: CatholicsVoteNo.com



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
ARLINGTON

Early Voting begins **September 18**
Election Day **November 3**



Para proteger la vida humana y la verdad sobre el matrimonio

CATÓLICOS NO *a la*

«Enmienda sobre el Derecho a la Libertad Reproductiva de Virginia» y
«Enmienda para Eliminar la Prohibición Constitucional del Matrimonio
entre Personas del Mismo Sexo en Virginia»

Comprométete a votar: CatolicosVotanNo.com



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
ARLINGTON

Las elecciones anticipadas comienzan el
18 de septiembre
Día de las elecciones: **3 de noviembre**



Interested in Becoming Catholic?

Join us in the Parish Center on **July 26, following 4:30 pm Vespers** (Evening Prayer), for a gathering for all those who are interested in becoming Catholic or receiving Sacraments as an adult (Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confirmation). Please RSVP to **Chloe Holloway** at cholloway.strita@gmail.com if you are interested in attending.

Vocations Crucifix



Spend a week praying together for more men and women from our parish community to hear God's call to join the priesthood and religious life.

Sign up for a Wednesday to pick-up the crucifix from the Church Office



<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4AA5AF22A2F5CF8-64506456-vocations#/>

Contact Karen Mah-Chamberlain with questions
mahcham@gmail.com - 571-347-0306

2026-2027 Homeschool Atrium Aides Needed

We are looking for aides for our Wednesday afternoon Homeschool Atrium. Aides do not need to have prior experience, but will need to complete VIRTUS certification. For more information, or if you are interested in volunteering, please contact **Elizabeth Vail** at evail.strita@gmail.com.



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.

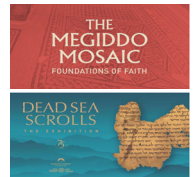
Lost and Found

Are you looking for lost items? Please stop by the rectory office **weekdays** between **9:00 am - 9:00 pm** or call the office at **703-836-1640** to check the parish lost and found. Any lost items that are not claimed after 30 days are donated or discarded.

News from the Diocese and Beyond

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!



St. Martin de Porres Senior Center

Summer season has arrived! Catholic Charities St. Martin de Porres Senior Center (SMdP) has volunteer opportunities awaiting for your summer fun. SMdP provides services to prevent the isolation of seniors and promote their wellness, happiness, and independence. Volunteers are needed for breakfast and lunch; greeting participants at the front desk; activities; nurse to conduct health screenings; arts and crafts; exercise instructor; and more. Volunteer opportunities are listed online at <https://ccda.net/find-help/senior-services/>. Center hours are **Monday-Friday** from **8:45 am - 1:30 pm**. Flexible schedules based on availability. SMdP is located at 4650 Taney Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22304. Contact maria.mellor@ccda.net; phone: **703-751-2766**.

Please Pray for These St. Rita Parishioners

For all those discerning Religious Vocations:

Sr. Catherine Lucia Phoebe 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, Alex Deeds, 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, Celia Coletto, Gary Culpeper, Rosemary Guida, Shirley Indelicato, Mickey Kimball, David Langley, Oscar Merino, Fr. Martin McGuill, Catherine Elizabeth Nugent, Jane Rippy