



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

August 2, 2026: Eighteenth 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.



"But they said to him, 'Five loaves and two fish are all we have here.' Then he said, 'Bring them here to me,' and he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass." (Matthew 14:17-19)

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)

SOLEMN VESPERS

Sunday: 4:30 pm

Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

Monday, August 3, 2026

Monday of the Eighteenth Week in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Lauren O'Neill

7:30 pm James Melvin ☩

Tuesday, August 4, 2026

Saint John Vianney, Priest

7:00 am Fr. Francis Palma ☩

Wednesday, August 5, 2026

The Dedication of the Basilica of Saint Mary Major

7:00 am The Crowley Family

7:30 pm The Marinaccio Family

Thursday, August 6, 2026

Transfiguration of the Lord

7:00 am Irene Zamploni ☩

Friday, August 7, 2026

Saint Sixtus II, Pope, and Companions, Martyrs;

Saint Cajetan, Priest

7:00 am Vicky Hook ☩

7:30 pm Reno Carlitti ☩

Saturday, August 8, 2026

Saint Dominic, Priest

8:00 am Mary Eileen Dixon

5:00 pm Francisco Paredes ☩

Sunday, August 9, 2026

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Shirley Wilson ☩

8:00 am Frank and Alice Walsh ☩

9:15 am Mary Clare Durel

11:00 am Missa Pro Populo

1:00 pm Maria Marino

Additional Mass Intentions this Week:

Audrey Jane Markwart ☩, Ursin and Polymnie Durel ☩

Portiuncula Indulgence (August 2)

The Portiuncula Indulgence is a plenary indulgence available on **August 2**, under the usual conditions (Confession, Holy Communion, prayers for the intentions of the Holy Father, complete detachment from sin), for all who visit a parish church and pray there the Our Father and the Creed. The history of this indulgence goes back to St. Francis and the small chapel of our Lady of the Angels which is at the heart of the Franciscan Order, and is also the place where St. Francis died. In his devotion to this place which was a source of so many graces for himself and his friars, St. Francis sought special permission for an indulgence for anyone who visited the chapel on August 2. The indulgence was later expanded to all Franciscan churches, and then to any parish church.



Upcoming Second Collections

August 2: 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!



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.

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, but will need to complete VIRTUS training. For more information, or if you are interested in volunteering, please contact **Elizabeth** Vail at email.strita@gmail.com.



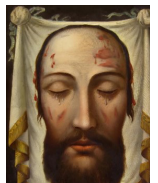
Solemn Vespers Every Sunday

Join us for Solemn Vespers every Sunday at **4:30 pm** in the Church. Vespers, also known as Evening Prayer, is one of the principal Hours of the Liturgy of the Hours. It includes Psalms, a reading, and other prayers. Vespers will be a mixture of English and Latin chants. For more information, please scan the QR Code or visit <https://stritaalexandria.com/june-21-2026/>.



Archconfraternity of the Holy Face

All are welcome to join us for the next meeting of the Archconfraternity of the Holy Face on **Sunday, August 9**, 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/>.



This Week at St. Rita

Sunday, August 2, 2026

4:30 pm Solemn Vespers

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

Monday, August 3, 2026

5:30 pm Legión de María (en Español)

7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study

Tuesday, August 4, 2026

7:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study

Wednesday, August 5, 2026

6:30 pm Legion of Mary

Thursday, August 6, 2026

No events scheduled

Friday, August 7, 2026

No events scheduled

Saturday, August 8, 2026

6:30 pm Hispanic Young Adult Group

Sunday, August 9, 2026

3:00 pm Archconfraternity of the Holy Face

4:30 pm Solemn Vespers

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group



**Knights of
Columbus®**



St. Rita Parish Blood Drive



Saturday, August 22, 2026

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

3815 Russell Rd., Alexandria, VA

The Inova Blood Donor Services Bloodmobile will be parked in the driveway between the church and school buildings.

Contact

Joshua Bowman

kofc15244@googlegroups.com

Donors will receive a special lifesaver T-shirt.*

Photo ID required. Allow one hour for your donation.

*While supplies last. Quantities are limited. Must complete screening process to receive giveaway.



Book your appointment today!

Visit <https://bit.ly/SRP0822>

Call **1.866.256.6372**, use code **7611**

August 15, 2026

A very special Feast of the Assumption in honor of Blessed Karl's birthday

*"We take refuge under your protection,
O Holy Mother of God"*



**Holy Trinity Oratory at
Renaissance**

**12 pm Sung Mass,
Fr. John Audino, FSSP**

**Holy Family Academy,
Manassas, VA**

**2-4:30 pm - Luncheon and
Symposium**

**"Bl. Karl & Empress Zita,
Perfect Saints for Our
Time"**

followed by

**5 pm - Cocktails, dinner,
and dancing, including
traditional dance
instruction**



Lunch & talks -FREE -registration required ● Evening soiree - \$20 per person - tickets required
Tickets free for clergy with discount code BK2026

Robert Howard

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CORDA STRINGS





SAINT RITA CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish Picnic

Sunday, September 20

2:00 - 5:00 PM

held on the Parish grounds

JOIN US FOR FREE FOOD, DRINKS, & FUN!

- Burgers, hotdogs, pork, and delicious sides
- Beer and soft drinks
- Rita's Italian ice
- Team cornhole tournament
- Moonbounces and rides for kids and adults
- Live music





LA IGLESIA DE SANTA RITA

Picnic de la Parroquia



Domingo, 20 de Septiembre

2:00 - 5:00 PM

en el parqueo de Santa Rita



Estás invitado a comer, beber y divertirte!

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- Hamburguesa, hot dogs, puerco asado, y antojitos
 - Cerveza y refrescos
 - Rita's Italian Ice
 - Torneo de cornhole con equipos
 - Juegos para los niños y adultos
 - Música en vivo
- 



Religious Education Classes and Sacrament Preparation

Registration is open for the calendar year 2026-2027. Please note that preparation for a Sacrament (First Holy Communion or Confirmation) requires two years of class participation, which typically begins in 1st Grade (First Holy Communion) or 7th Grade (Confirmation). Classes will take place at the following times:



Mondays from 6:15-7:15 pm starting September 14

- Students in the **First Year** of Sacramental Preparation (Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confirmation)
- Students **not** preparing for Sacraments

Wednesdays from 6:15 - 7:15 pm, starting September 16

- Students in the **Second Year** of Sacramental Preparation

All parents of children in Sacramental years (either first or second) are required to attend our parent catechesis classes that take place during your child's RE night.

Registration forms are available in the Church vestibules, the parish office, or on the parish website at <https://stritaalexandria.com/religious-education/>. Homeschool families whose children will be receiving Sacraments this year must also register in order to be added to our sacrament lists, even if you are planning to complete sacramental preparation at home. For more information, please contact **Chloe Holloway** at cholloway.strita@gmail.com or **703-836-1640, ext. 12**.

Catechists Needed

We are in need of catechists for religious education classes on both Mondays and Wednesdays. Please contact **Chloe Holloway** at cholloway.strita@gmail.com or **703-836-1640, ext. 12**, if you are interested in serving our St. Rita families in this way!

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, Julie Gunlock, Jennifer Jacobs, Kimberly Meredith, Constance Richardson, Hayden Ruffin, Susan Tracey, Marlena Villar, 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, Barry Foust, Rosemary Guida, Shirley Indelicato, Mickey Kimball, David Langley, Oscar Merino, Fr. Martin McGuill, Catherine Elizabeth Nugent, Jane Rippy, Charles Stulb

Vocations Crucifix

All parishioners are invited to host the St. Rita Vocations Crucifix for one week this year. Hosting the vocations crucifix is a wonderful way to deepen your family's prayer life, while praying for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. More information is available on the Sign-Up Genius, available online at https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4AA5AF22A2F5CF8-64506456-vocations#, or by scanning the QR Code. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact **Karen Mah-Chamberlain** at mahcham@gmail.com.



St. Rita Young Adult Men's Group

All Young Adult Men (Ages 19-35) are invited to Men's Group on **Tuesday, August 4 at 6:30 pm** for an evening at Four Mile Run Park to hang out and play sports! For more information about the SRYA Men's Group, please contact stridayoungadults@gmail.com.

OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Have You or Someone You Know...

- Heard about the Catholic Faith and just want to learn more?
- Expressed interest in becoming Catholic?
- Been Baptized Catholic as a child, but have not celebrated the Sacraments of Eucharist and/or Confirmation?
- Received all the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation) but want a refresher on what we believe as Catholics?

OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) classes provide a broad overview of our Catholic Faith and prepare individuals to celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. If you are interested in learning more about our Catholic Faith and receiving the Sacraments (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist), please complete the OCIA Form and submit it to **Chloe Holloway** at cholloway.strita@gmail.com.

RICA (en español)

Para obtener más información sobre la RICA en español o para registrarse, comuníquese con el **Padre Christensen** al frcc41@gmail.com. El formulario de inscripción se puede encontrar en el vestibulo de la iglesia o visitando nuestra pagina web <https://stritaalexandria.com/rica/>.

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!

