



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 16, 2026: Twentieth 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	
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 or to schedule Baptism. 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.



"Then Jesus said to her in reply, 'O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And the woman's daughter was healed from that hour." (Matthew 15:28)

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 17, 2026

Monday of the Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Jack Peter Goitiandia, Jr. ✠

7:30 pm Roman Carlitti

Tuesday, August 18, 2026

Tuesday of the Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Victor Summers ✠

Wednesday, August 19, 2026

Saint John Eudes, Priest

7:00 am Violet Aulenbach ✠

7:30 pm Charlie Folz ✠

Thursday, August 20, 2026

Saint Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church

7:00 am Marton Sanon ✠

Friday, August 21, 2026

Saint Pius X, Pope

7:00 am Francis Nevins ✠

7:30 pm Reuel Paredes

Saturday, August 22, 2026

The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00 am Jack Burnisky

5:00 pm Cindy Langan ✠

Sunday, August 23, 2026

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Mercy Kann

8:00 am Zelig Wilmes

11:00 am Missa Pro Populo

1:00 pm Angel David Granados ✠

Additional Mass Intentions this Week:

Robert Koons, Deborah Roney, Vincent and Macala Amuso and Family

2026-2027 Homeschool Atrium Aides Needed

We are looking for aides for our Wednesday afternoon Level II (1st-3rd Grade) Homeschool Atrium (Catechesis of the Good Shepherd). The aide will assist the Catechist in maintaining a prayerful environment, so that the children can encounter Christ the Good Shepherd through their work in the Atrium. Aides are needed for two separate sessions which take place between 12:30-5:00 pm. 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](mailto:Elizabeth.Vail@evail.strita@gmail.com) at evail.strita@gmail.com.



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.

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!

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 **August 19**. Join us in our quest to work for Charity, Unity, and Fraternity at our parish and in our families.

We are a service organization of "Practical Catholic Gentlemen." For information, contact [Ray McGowan](mailto:Ray.McGowan@gmail.com), Deputy Grand Knight, at raymcgowan@gmail.com —or just stop by our meeting!

Women's Group Meeting

Dear Women of St. Rita—All are invited to join a gathering of parish women as we welcome Fr. Will Nyce on **Friday, August 21**, from **7:00-8:30 pm**, in the Parish Center. We will gather with refreshments, conversation, and a Rosary at **7:30 pm**. Fr. Will will join us (after he hears Confessions) and at **8:00 pm** he will introduce himself and provide a brief talk with time for questions. Hope to see you there!



7am Daily Mass Parking during the School Year



School begins on **Thursday, August 20**. During the school year, all those who will be attending the **7:00 am daily Mass** must park in the main parish parking lot. The parking spaces between the Church and the Parish Center, between the Church and the School, and all of the spaces along the Mount Vernon Avenue Exit are reserved for school staff. The parking lot must be vacated by **7:45 am** to allow for the school drop-off process. Please pray for our teachers and students as they begin the new school year!

This Week at St. Rita

Sunday, August 16, 2026

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

4:30 pm Solemn Vespers

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

Monday, August 17, 2026

5:30 pm Legión de María (en Español)

7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study

Tuesday, August 18, 2026

7:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study

Wednesday, August 19, 2026

6:30 pm Legion of Mary

7:45 pm Knights of Columbus Meeting

Thursday, August 20, 2026

No events scheduled

Friday, August 21, 2026

7:00 pm Women's Group Meeting

Saturday, August 22, 2026

10:00 am Knights of Columbus Blood Drive

6:30 pm Hispanic Young Adult Group

Sunday, August 23, 2026

10:30 am St. Rita Young Adult Brunch

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**



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"**



The "Catholics Vote No" initiative regarding the anti-family amendments to the Virginia State Constitution requires not only knowledge and action, but first and foremost prayer. Therefore, **from now until November**, all are invited **every Saturday morning at 3:00 am** to our all-night Eucharistic Adoration here at St. Rita Church to pray for this intention in particular. Please come anytime, but 3:00 am Saturday morning will be especially dedicated to stopping these two amendments.

La iniciativa «Los católicos votan no» —relativa a las enmiendas a la Constitución del Estado de Virginia que atentan contra la familia— requiere no solo conocimiento y acción, sino, ante todo, oración. Por ello, desde ahora y **hasta el mes de noviembre**, invitamos a todos a participar **cada sábado a las 3:00 am** en nuestra adoración eucarística nocturna, aquí en la iglesia de Santa Rita, para orar específicamente por esta intención. Pueden asistir en cualquier momento, pero la hora de las 3:00 am del sábado estará dedicada especialmente a detener estas dos enmiendas.



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»





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, Gideon Sazynski, Imelda Severdia, 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

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. Classes will take place on **Saturday mornings from 10:00 am - 11:30 am**. 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/>.

Annual Mission Cooperative Plan Appeal

The weekend of **August 22-23**, we will have a second collection to support the annual Mission Cooperative Plan Appeal for our diocese. This year, our parish mission organization is **Radio Corazones** (<https://arlingtonmissions.org/mission/radio-corazones-dominican-republic/>), a Catholic radio station for the Diocese of San de la Maguana in the Dominican Republic.



It reaches six provinces in the country and a part of Haiti as well. It serves especially the underdeveloped south, where the Diocese of Arlington mission in Banica is located. The broadcast begins each day at 6:00 am and ends at 11:00 pm. The programming is varied, with Mass every day and different themes regarding evangelization, formation in human and legal rights, and formation in the different areas of ecclesial life. Messages of the Bishop and Bishop emeritus of the Diocese are also communicated every day. The donated funds would be applied to purchase fuel and batteries to help power the radio station as well as provide for maintenance of the facility. If donating by check, please make your check payable to St. Rita Parish and put "MCP" in the memo line. Thank you for your generous support.

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.

