



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 23, 2026: Twenty-First 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.



"And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 16:18-19)

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 24, 2026

Saint Bartholomew, Apostle

7:00 am Mary Margaret Destefano ☩

7:30 pm Joseph Lange ☩

Tuesday, August 25, 2026

Saint Louis; Saint Joseph Calasan, Priest

7:00 am Jon and Elisa Schnur

Wednesday, August 26, 2026

Wednesday of the Twenty-First Week in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Joanna and Charlie Stratton

7:30 pm Theresa Collett

Thursday, August 27, 2026

Saint Monica

7:00 am Laura Valentine ☩

Friday, August 28, 2026

Saint Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

7:00 am The President

7:30 pm Rocco Carlitti

Saturday, August 29, 2026

The Passion of Saint John the Baptist

8:00 am Lauren O'Neill

5:00 pm Erlinda A. Paredes

Sunday, August 30, 2026

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00 am William Fragale

8:00 am Arline Faley ☩

11:00 am Missa Pro Populo

1:00 pm Antonio Lopez Pazos ☩

Additional Mass Intentions this Week:

Isabella Sartini, Fr. Christopher P. Christensen, Alvaro Ramirez ☩, Laura Pettus

Lectors Needed



LECTORS

Become a lector and help spread the Word of God and contribute to our parish. Lectors are needed for all English Masses. Scheduling is flexible and training is provided. Please consider volunteering for this ministry. To volunteer, or if you would like more information, please contact **Frank Donahoe**

at **571-236-8495** or **fpdonahoe137@gmail.com**.

July 2026 Collections

Regular Offertory:	\$32,182
Parish Giving Offertory:	\$79,461
Repairs & Replacements:	\$2,872
Parish Giving Repairs & Replacements:	\$12,246
Poor Box:	\$2,441
Parish Giving Poor Box:	\$4,901

You have made us for Yourself, O, Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You.

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!

7am Daily Mass Parking during the School Year



The school year has begun! 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!

Annual Mission Cooperative Plan Appeal

This weekend's second collection, **August 22-23**, will 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.



Upcoming Second Collections

August 23: Mission Cooperative Plan Appeal

September 6: Repairs and Replacements

Thank you for your continued generosity!

This Week at St. Rita

Sunday, August 23, 2026

10:30 am St. Rita Young Adult Brunch

4:30 pm Solemn Vespers

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

Monday, August 24, 2026

5:30 pm Legión de María (en Español)

7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study

Tuesday, August 25, 2026

7:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study

Wednesday, August 26, 2026

6:30 pm Legion of Mary

Thursday, August 27, 2026

No events scheduled

Friday, August 28, 2026

No events scheduled

Saturday, August 29, 2026

6:30 pm Hispanic Young Adult Group

Sunday, August 30, 2026

4:30 pm Solemn Vespers

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group



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





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»



Youth Ministry Open House

Sunday, September 13th from 9am-2:30pm in the Convent

All families of Middle and High School students are invited to a Youth Ministry Open House in the Convent on Sunday, September 13th following the 8am/ 9:15am/ 11am/ 1pm Masses. Coffee and pastries will be served and more information on registering your children for Youth Ministry will be available!

There will also be an opportunity to meet our Youth Ministers, learn more about WorkCamp, and to receive a calendar with this year's schedule for both the Middle and High School Ministry!



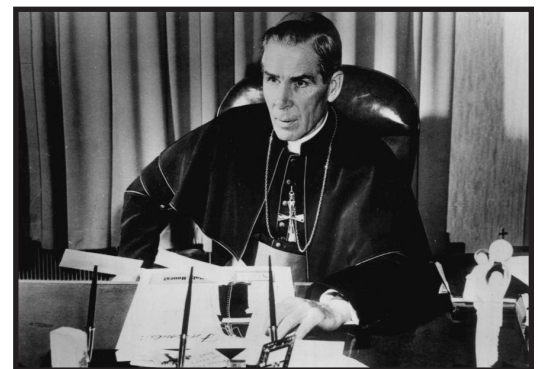
40 Hours Devotion

*This year's 40 Hours Devotion will take place
from Monday, September 21-
Wednesday, September 23.*

*Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will begin after
Mass on Monday evening, and continue until Mass
on Wednesday evening.*

*In anticipation of his beatification on September 24,
our theme this year will be Fulton Sheen, who had a
great devotion to the Holy Eucharist, and faithfully
made a Holy Hour in the presence of the Blessed
Sacrament every day of his priesthood.*

Look for more information in upcoming bulletins.



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!

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/>.

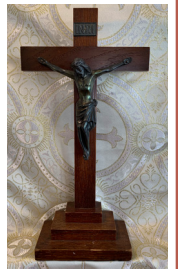
Magnifica Humanitas



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.

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.



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**.



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.



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, Alex Deeds, Julie Gunlock, Jennifer Jacobs, Kimberly Meredith, Constance Richardson, Hayden Ruffin, Gideon Sazynski, Imelda Severdia, Susan Tracey, Marlena Villar, Col. Christie Walton, Brian Wood

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, Oscar Merino, Fr. Martin McGuill, Jane Rippy, Charles Stulb