



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 30, 2026: Twenty-Second 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	



*"Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.'"
(Matthew 16:24)*

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.

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 31, 2026

Monday of the Twenty-Second Week in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Ron Dematteo ☩

7:30 pm Mercy Kann

Tuesday, September 1, 2026

Tuesday of the Twenty-Second Week in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Sally Yenson

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Wednesday of the Twenty-Second Week in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Ed, Eva Lou, and Mitri Saad ☩

7:30 pm Kerry Carlitti

Thursday, September 3, 2026

Saint Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church

7:00 am The Family of Nancy King

Friday, September 4, 2026

Friday of the Twenty-Second Week in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Stella Tran

7:30 pm Cheryl L. Fuentes ☩

Saturday, September 5, 2026

Saint Teresa of Calcutta

8:00 am Mike Kuznia, Jr. ☩

5:00 pm Nicholas Childs ☩

Sunday, September 6, 2026

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Fr. Paul Berghout

8:00 am Fr. Paul Berghout

11:00 am Missa Pro Populo

1:00 pm Antonia Umaña ☩

Additional Mass Intentions this Week:

Fr. Genesius Jones, OFM ☩, Fr. William Nyce, Ana Ramirez ☩, Reno Carlitti ☩

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**, starting **September 12**, 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 by scanning the QR Code, and submit it to **Chloe Holloway** at cholloway.strita@gmail.com.



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!

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!

El Ritual de Iniciación Cristiana para Adultos (RICA)

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 vestíbulo de la iglesia o visitando nuestra pagina web <https://stritaalexandria.com/rica/>.

This Week at St. Rita

Sunday, August 30, 2026

4:30 pm Solemn Vespers

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

Monday, August 31, 2026

5:30 pm Legión de María (en Español)

7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study

Tuesday, September 1, 2026

7:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

6:30 pm Legion of Mary

Thursday, September 3, 2026

4:00 pm Junior Legion of Mary

Friday, September 4, 2026

No events scheduled

Saturday, September 5, 2026

6:30 pm Hispanic Young Adult Group

Sunday, September 6, 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!



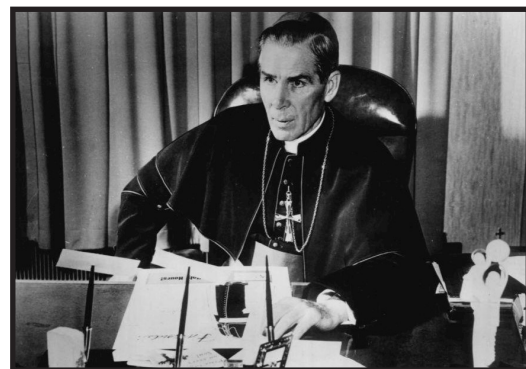
40 Hours Devotion

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.



First Saturday Pro-Life Rosary



Come join the monthly Pro-Life Rosary on the first Saturdays of the month at the abortion clinic at **2616 Sherwood Hall Lane**. The next First Saturday is **Saturday, September 5**. Plan to be there **a little before 10:00 am**, and we will form a group with the others who are there, and pray the Rosary together.

For more information contact **Rick Strobach** at rick.strobach@gmail.com or **Jay Moret** at felix.moret@gmail.com.

Birthday Party for our Lady

All are welcome to join the Legion of Mary **after the 5:00 pm Mass** on **Saturday, September 12**, in the **School Hall**, for a birthday party in honor of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (celebrated on September 8). Birthday cake will be provided.



Hail, Full of Grace, the Lord is with 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!

Upcoming Second Collections

- September 6: Repairs and Replacements
- September 13: Religious Education Program
- September 27: The Catholic University of America

Thank you for your continued generosity!

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

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**.

Schola Domus Sanctae

The St. Rita Schola for homeschoolers and school age children (ages 7 and up) is starting up again for 2026-27! This year, we'll take the name Schola Domus Sanctae (School of the Holy House), putting ourselves under the patronage of the Holy Family of Nazareth. Schola Domus Sanctae will meet on **Tuesdays from 4:00 - 4:45 pm** in the Parish Center Conference Room. Session I will run from **September 15-December 15** and Session II will run **January 12-May 18**. Cost for the first child per session is \$75, and \$50 for each additional sibling. In addition, there is a one-time cost per child of \$20 for the Parish Book of Chant (full price is \$28). For more information, and to register, please scan the QR Code. If you have any questions, please contact **David Sullivan** at navillusdf@aol.com, or **Leigha Doerr** at lsdoerrer@gmail.com.



ST. RITA SCHOOL
In the Classical tradition

SAVE THE DATE

Strength for the Journey

A MORNING OF INSPIRATION FOR WOMEN



Saturday, October 3, 2026

8:00 AM - 12:45 PM · ST. RITA CHURCH & SCHOOL HALL
SPEAKERS & REGISTRATION DETAILS TO FOLLOW