



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 9, 2026: Nineteenth 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	



"Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught Peter, and said to him, 'O you of little faith, why did you doubt?'"
(Matthew 14:31)

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 10, 2026

Saint Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr

7:00 am Schlapp Family

7:30 pm Rocco Zugai ☩

Tuesday, August 11, 2026

Saint Clare, Virgin

7:00 am Hanna Walsh

Wednesday, August 12, 2026

Saint Jane Frances de Chantal, Religious

7:00 am Mary Clare Rudolph

7:30 pm Faustina Gattoni-Celli

Thursday, August 13, 2026

Saints Pontian, Pope, and Hippolytus, Priest, Martyrs

7:00 am Kristina Thomas

Friday, August 14, 2026

Saint Maximilian Kolbe, Priest and Martyr

7:00 am McKeon Family

7:30 pm Ernesto Paredes ☩

Saturday, August 15, 2026

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00 am Fr. Ivan Pertine

5:00 pm Paul Ciatti ☩

Sunday, August 16, 2026

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Frances Vaccaro

8:00 am Nicholas von Guggenberg ☩

11:00 am Missa Pro Populo

1:00 pm Carlos Suruy y Elizabeth Villalba

Additional Mass Intentions this Week:

James Bruegenhenmke ☩, April Dawn Brees ☩, Santiago Soutuyo ☩

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 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.

Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Because **August 15** falls on a Saturday this year, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is not a Holy Day of Obligation. There will be one Mass in English at **8:00 am**.

Upcoming Second Collections

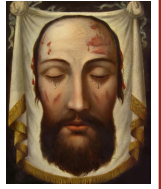
August 15: Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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!

Archconfraternity of the Holy Face Today

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/>.



Baptism Classes

The next **Spanish Baptism Class** will take place on **Wednesday, August 12**, at **5:30 pm**. To sign up for the Spanish Baptism Class, please contact **Alma Ramirez** at aramirez.strita@gmail.com or **703-836-1640 x. 10**.

To sign up for an **English Baptism class**, or for information about Baptisms in English, please contact **Elizabeth Vail** at evail.strita@gmail.com.

St. Rita Men's Fellowship Meeting

The St. Rita Men's Fellowship will meet on **Friday, August 14**, at **7:30 pm** in the school courtyard, weather permitting, and in the Parish Center (enter through the back) if it rains. Please join us for prayer, conversation, and "manly solidarity" under our patron, St. Joseph, "Spouse of the Mother of God." Bring a chair, cold beverages and food or snacks to share, and your rosary! Please contact **Rick Strobach** at rick.strobach@gmail.com for more information. New and past members are always welcome! *Sancte Joseph, ora pro nobis!*



This Week at St. Rita

The Parish Center will be closed for floor waxing from **Monday, August 10 - Saturday, August 15**. If you have a group that is scheduled to meet in the Parish Center during this time, please contact the group leader to find out the location of your meeting.

Sunday, August 9, 2026

3:00 pm Archconfraternity of the Holy Face

4:30 pm Solemn Vespers

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

Monday, August 10, 2026

5:30 pm Legión de María (en Español)

7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study

Tuesday, August 11, 2026

7:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study

Wednesday, August 12, 2026

5:30 pm Spanish Baptism Class

6:30 pm Legion of Mary

Thursday, August 13, 2026

No events scheduled

Friday, August 14, 2026

7:30 pm Men's Fellowship

Saturday, August 15, 2026

6:30 pm Hispanic Young Adult Group

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



**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, 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.

