



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

September 13, 2026: Twenty-Fourth 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	



Hail, Mary, full of sorrows, the Crucified is with thee; tearful art thou amongst women, and tearful is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of the Crucified, give tears to us, crucifiers of thy Son, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

ST. RITA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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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, September 14, 2026

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

7:00 am Helena Bradley

7:30 pm JP Hunter

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

Our Lady of Sorrows

7:00 am Pio and Mary Thomas ☩

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Saint Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs

7:00 am Angelina Reyes

7:30 pm Meredith Jarrett

Thursday, September 17, 2026

Saint Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church;

Saint Hildegard of Bingen, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

7:00 am Severina Loza Choque ☩

Friday, September 18, 2026

Friday of the Twenty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time

7:00 am William "Bill" Cordeiro ☩

7:30 pm Antonio and Maria DeFranco ☩

Saturday, September 19, 2026

Saint Januarius, Bishop and Martyr

8:00 am Elvera AuCoin ☩

5:00 pm Eileen and John O'Shea ☩

Sunday, September 20, 2026

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Mike Adamski ☩

8:00 am Zoulangué Lizarazo

11:00 am Missa Pro Populo

1:00 pm Rosa Bonilla ☩

Additional Mass Intentions this Week:

Deacon Stephen J. Dixon, Juanita Paredes ☩, Joseph Schmitz, Santiago Soutuyo ☩

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 **September 16**.

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**, Deputy Grand Knight, at raymcgowan@gmail.com—or just stop by our meeting!

Archconfraternity of the Holy Face

All are welcome to join us for the next meeting of the Archconfraternity of the Holy Face on **Sunday, September 13**, at **3:45 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/>.

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!

OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults)

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.



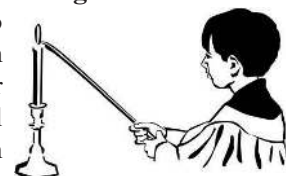
Youth Ministry Open House



All families of Middle and High School students are invited to an Open House in the Convent on **Sunday, September 13** from **9:00 am - 2:30 pm**. Coffee and pastries will be served, along with an opportunity to meet our Youth Ministers, learn more about WorkCamp, and receive a calendar of Youth Ministry activities. Come and learn more about registering your children for Middle and High School Ministry.

New Altar Boy Training

All boys from 4th to 12th grade who have received First Holy Communion are invited to join the Altar Server crew! Training for new servers will be on **Saturday, September 19**, from **12:30 - 1:30 pm** in the church.



This Week at St. Rita

Sunday, September 13, 2026

9:00 am Youth Ministry Open House
3:45 pm Archconfraternity of the Holy Face
4:30 pm Solemn Vespers
6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

Monday, September 14, 2026

5:30 pm Legión de María (en Español)
7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

7:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

2:30 pm Homeschool Holy Hour
6:30 pm Legion of Mary
7:45 pm Knights of Columbus Meeting

Thursday, September 17, 2026

4:00 pm Junior Legion of Mary

Friday, September 18, 2026

7:30 pm Women's Group

Saturday, September 19, 2026

10:00 am Order of Christian Initiation of Adults
12:30 pm Altar Server Training
6:30 pm Hispanic Young Adult Group

Sunday, September 20, 2026

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

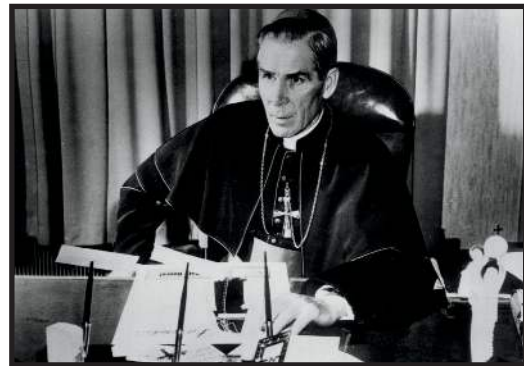
Estás invitado a comer, beber y divertirte!

- 
- 
- 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



40 Hours Devotion

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.



MONDAY

21 SEPTEMBER 2026

No 6:30 pm Exposition or Confessions

7:30 pm Mass to begin 40 Hours

Solemn Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
following Mass*

9:30 pm Night Prayer (Sung)

TUESDAY

22 SEPTEMBER 2026

7:00 am Mass in English

3:00 pm Divine Mercy Chaplet

6:30 pm Confessions

7:00 pm Solemn Benediction

9:30 pm Night Prayer (Sung)

WEDNESDAY

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

7:00 am Mass in English

3:00 pm Divine Mercy Chaplet

6:30 pm Confessions

6:30 pm Solemn Vespers and Eucharistic
Procession

7:30 pm Mass in English to conclude 40 Hours

***Adoration of the Most Holy Eucharist continues for the remainder of the 40 Hours Devotion, interrupted only by the celebration of the Holy Mass. Please come and spend some time with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. You can sign up for an hour of Adoration on the sign-up sheets in the Russell Road vestibule. The full schedule of Masses for 40 Hours is posted in the vestibules.**



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»



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!

Upcoming Second Collections

September 13: Religious Education Program
September 27: The Catholic University of America

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

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/>.

Women's Group Meeting

Dear Women of St. Rita—All are invited to our September gathering as we welcome our Pastor, Fr. Christopher Christensen, on **Friday, September 18**, from **7:00-9:00 pm**, in the Parish Center. We will gather at **7:00 pm** with refreshments and a time to visit. We will pray the Rosary at **7:30 pm**, followed by time to write out questions for our Pastor. Fr. Christensen will join us (after Mass and Exposition) at approximately **8:15 pm**, and he will answer our questions. Hope to see you there!



Morning of Inspiration for Women



Save the date for *Strength for the Journey: A Morning of Inspiration for Women*, on **Saturday, October 3**, from **8:00 am - 12:45 pm** in the St. Rita School Hall. The event includes three inspiring speakers, a light breakfast, lunch, and informative handouts. For more information and to register, please scan the QR Code.

St. Rita Middle School

YOUTH MINISTRY

All Middle Schoolers (grades sixth-eighth) are invited every 2nd Wednesday of the month from October-May from 6:00-7:30pm in the Convent for dinner, discussion, and fellowship!



For more information and to register for Youth Ministry contact mgioitiandia.strita@gmail.com

First Night
on
October
14th!

ST. RITA HIGH SCHOOL

Youth Ministry

EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT FROM
SEPTEMBER - MAY FROM
6:30-8:30PM IN THE CONVENT



DINNER | TALK
SMALL GROUPS
FELLOWSHIP

EVERY 1ST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH WE BEGIN
THE NIGHT IN THE CHURCH FOR ADORATION

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER CONTACT
MGIOITIANDIA.STRITA@GMAIL.COM

First Night
on
September
24th!

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