



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 20, 2026: Twenty-Fifth 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.



"[T]he landowner found others standing around, and said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' They answered, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You too go into my vineyard.'" (Matthew 20:6-7)

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 21, 2026

Saint Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

7:00 am Norka Miller

7:30 pm Marisa Slaten-Preston ☩

Tuesday, September 22, 2026

Tuesday of the Twenty-Fifth Week in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Alice Walsh ☩

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

Saint Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest

7:00 am Colette Wilmes

7:30 pm Cesar Anchiraico

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Thursday of the Twenty-Fifth Week in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Marisa Slaten-Preston ☩

Friday, September 25, 2026

Friday of the Twenty-Fifth Week in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Gail Terrell ☩

7:30 pm Sarah Cahill

Saturday, September 26, 2026

Saints Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs

8:00 am Bernardo Brooks ☩

5:00 pm Barry Culpepper ☩

Sunday, September 27, 2026

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Fr. John D. Kelly

8:00 am Zachary Taylor ☩

11:00 am Missa Pro Populo

1:00 pm Mercedes Marina Palma ☩

Additional Mass Intentions this Week:

Antoinette Durel ☩, Malia Busekrus, Francisco Arvizu,
Thomas Amuso

No Coffee and Donuts Today

There will be no Coffee and Donuts today due to the Parish Picnic. Please join us for Coffee and Donuts in the School Hall next month on **Sunday, October 18**, after all Masses, starting after the 8:00 am Mass.



LA IGLESIA DE SANTA RITA

Parish Picnic

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

HOY!

This Week at St. Rita

Sunday, September 20, 2026

No Coffee and Donuts today due to Parish Picnic

2:00 pm Parish Picnic

4:30 pm Solemn Vespers

6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

Monday, September 21, 2026

40 Hours Begins after 7:30 pm Mass

5:30 pm Legión de María (en Español)

7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study

Tuesday, September 22, 2026

40 Hours Continues

7:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

40 Hours Concludes with Vespers, Procession, and Mass

2:30 pm Homeschool Holy Hour

6:30 pm Legion of Mary

Thursday, September 24, 2026

4:00 pm Junior Legion of Mary

Friday, September 25, 2026

No events scheduled

Saturday, September 26, 2026

10:00 am Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

6:30 pm Hispanic Young Adult Group

Sunday, September 27, 2026

10:30 am Young Adult Brunch

2:00 pm Ritual de Iniciación Cristiana para Adultos

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

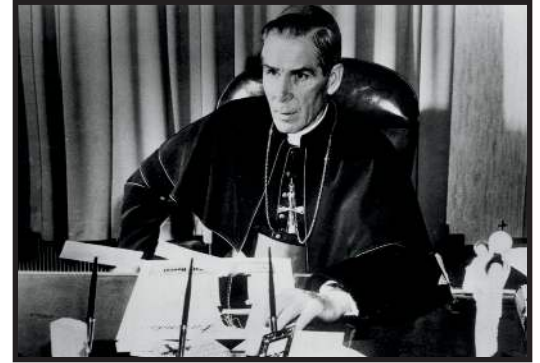
TODAY!

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!

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.**



ST. RITA
SCHOOL
In the Classical tradition

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



TOPIC FOCUS

I Home & Identity

Discover how transhumanism could shape the home of the future.

II Understanding Temperament

Do you know yours? Gain a fascinating awareness of how temperament shapes your marriage, your daily life — and even your children.

III The Power of Hope in Marriage & Family Life

Is hope simply a psychological tool, or a supernatural virtue? Find the answer in our closing talk.

*Join us for a day of insight, inspiration, and meaningful discoveries for you and
your family.*

SPEAKERS & REGISTRATION DETAILS TO FOLLOW

Register Here!





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»**



ST. RITA 5K AND 1 MILE FUN RUN

SAVE THE DATE!

**SATURDAY
NOV 14, 2026**

8:00 AM | 8:30 AM
MAIN LINE BLVD
ALEXANDRIA, VA



ST. RITA SCHOOL
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

**RUN WITH PURPOSE.
BUILD COMMUNITY.
MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

**REGISTER
TODAY!**



www.StRita5k.com



**Volunteer Opportunities
on Parent Square Soon!**

ST. RITA HIGH SCHOOL
Youth Ministry
 EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT FROM
 SEPTEMBER - MAY FROM
 6:30-8:30PM IN THE CONVENT



**First Night
on
September
24th!**

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
 MGOITIANDIA.STRITA@GMAIL.COM

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 mgoitiandia.strita@gmail.com

**First Night
on
October
14th!**

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.



**Learn More about the
 Traditional Latin Mass Schola**

The St. Rita Schola for Traditional Latin Mass
 will be recruiting members **after Sunday Masses
 on September 27**. The Schola is a wonderful
 opportunity to learn more about sacred music,
 Gregorian Chant and the liturgy, while contributing
 your musical talent! All experience and skill levels are welcome!
 If you are interested in singing with us, come talk to us outside the
 church on the 27th, or contact **Helen McDonough** at [hamcdo@
 gmail.com](mailto:hamcdo@gmail.com). We practice at 8:15 pm on Tuesday evenings and 8:00
 am Sunday mornings in the Parish Center Conference Room.



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](mailto: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/](https://stritaalexandria.com/rica/).

Upcoming Second Collections
 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

News from the Diocese and Beyond

After Abortion Retreats
 The next After Abortion Day of Prayer and Healing will take place
 on **Saturday, October 3**. These group healing events are held in
 a private and peaceful setting, in English and Spanish, based on
 the Entering Canaan model (2 separate retreats, 1 location). There
 will be an opportunity to hear from a past participant and others
 who have found healing. You are not alone. Take the first step.
 For confidential inquiries and registration, please contact Project
 Rachel Ministry: (703) 841-2504 or info@helpafterabortion.org.

Retiros después de Aborto Provocado
 Retiros Después de Aborto Provocado: Un Día de Oración
 y Sanación para mujeres que han experimentado un aborto
 provocado se llevará acabo **el sábado 3 de octubre**. Estos eventos
 de sanación en grupo se hacen en un ambiente privado y tranquilo,
 en inglés y español, basado en el modelo Entering Canaan (2
 retiros separados en 1 ubicación). Habrá una oportunidad de
 escuchar de una participante anterior y de otras que han encontrado
 la sanación. No está sola. Tome el primer paso. Para preguntas
 confidenciales, llame al Proyecto Raquel: (703) 841-2504 o [info@
 ayudadespuesdelaborto.org](mailto:info@ayudadespuesdelaborto.org).

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