



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 26, 2026: Twenty-Sixth 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.



*"Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ."
St. Jerome (Feast: September 30)*

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 28, 2026

Saint Wenceslaus, Martyr;

Saint Lawrence Ruiz and Companions, Martyrs

7:00 am Dolores King †

7:30 pm Maria O'Shea †

Tuesday, September 29, 2026

Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels

7:00 am The President

Wednesday, September 30, 2026

Saint Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church

7:00 am Lauren O'Neill

7:30 pm Violet Aulenbach †

Thursday, October 1, 2026

Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

7:00 am Jon and Elisa Schnur

Friday, October 2, 2026

The Holy Guardian Angels

7:00 am Maria Angela Casabo †

7:30 pm Aurelio Miller

Saturday, October 3, 2026

Saturday of the Twenty-Sixth Week in Ordinary Time

8:00 am Robert King †

5:00 pm Margaret Linman †

Sunday, October 4, 2026

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Millie Fischer †

8:00 am Martha Von Guggenberg

11:00 am Missa Pro Populo

1:00 pm Santos Carmen Sanchez †

Additional Mass Intentions this Week:

Maureen Arroyo Fox †, Aileen Warren, Valeria Fernandez, Chloe Holloway

August 2026 Collections

Regular Offertory:	\$38,468
Parish Giving Offertory:	\$67,316
Repairs & Replacements:	\$2,171
Parish Giving Repairs & Replacements:	\$6,944
Poor Box:	\$2,017
Parish Giving Poor Box:	\$3,531

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, October 3**. 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.

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!

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

Seven Sisters Apostolate – Invitation to Join

The Seven Sisters Apostolate is a beautiful ministry of intercessory prayer in which seven women commit to offering one Holy Hour per week for the spiritual needs of a parish priest. It is a quiet but powerful way to support the priests who faithfully shepherd our parish.

"Jesus knows better than any of us how much these men need prayers to get through their daily life and He loves that we spend at least one hour each week with Him in Adoration praying for those needs." (Mary, Minnesota)

We are renewing our parish group that is now assigned to pray for Fr. Nyce since Fr. Schierer's departure. All Catholic women are invited to prayerfully consider joining this apostolate. If you feel drawn to deepen your own relationship with Christ while lifting up a priest in prayer, this may be the Holy Spirit's nudge. To learn more or to sign up, please contact **Mary McClusky** at maryjamine@hotmail.com. May the Lord stretch our hearts in love and make our parish a place where our priests are supported by prayer.

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 (today)**. 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 hamedo@gmail.com. We practice at 8:15 pm on Tuesday evenings and 8:00 am Sunday mornings in the Parish Center Conference Room.



This Week at St. Rita

Sunday, September 27, 2026

2:00 pm	Ritual de Iniciación Cristiana para Adultos
4:30 pm	Solemn Vespers
6:00 pm	Hispanic Prayer Group

Monday, September 28, 2026

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

Tuesday, September 29, 2026

7:00 pm	Hispanic Bible Study
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Wednesday, September 30, 2026

2:30 pm	Homeschool Holy Hour
6:30 pm	Legion of Mary

Thursday, October 1, 2026

4:00 pm	Junior Legion of Mary
6:30 pm	High School Youth Ministry

Friday, October 2, 2026

No events scheduled

Saturday, October 3, 2026

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

Sunday, October 4, 2026

2:00 pm	Ritual de Iniciación Cristiana para Adultos
4:30 pm	Solemn Vespers
6:00 pm	Hispanic Prayer Group



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
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!



Date Night

Married & Engaged Couples

—★—
Saturday, October 24

5:00 pm – 8:30 pm

St. Rita School Hall

—★—
Strong marriages are the foundation of strong families. Join us for Date Night at St. Rita!

Drop the kids off for free childcare at the School Hall, then join us for refreshments and a short discussion on marriage led by Deacon Dixon in the Parish Center. After that, head out with your spouse to the restaurant of your choice, just be back by 8:30pm if you are taking advantage of the childcare.

This is our first time offering childcare for Date Night. Space is limited to 40 children, so register early.

Scan to register



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



*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 ngoitiandia.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.



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**.

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.

Upcoming Second Collections

October 4:	Repairs and Replacements
October 18:	World Mission Sunday
October 25:	Porto Charities: Special Kids/Special Needs

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

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 a cabo **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.

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