



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

October 4, 2026: Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

CLERGY AND STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Christopher P. Christensen fccc41@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	

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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

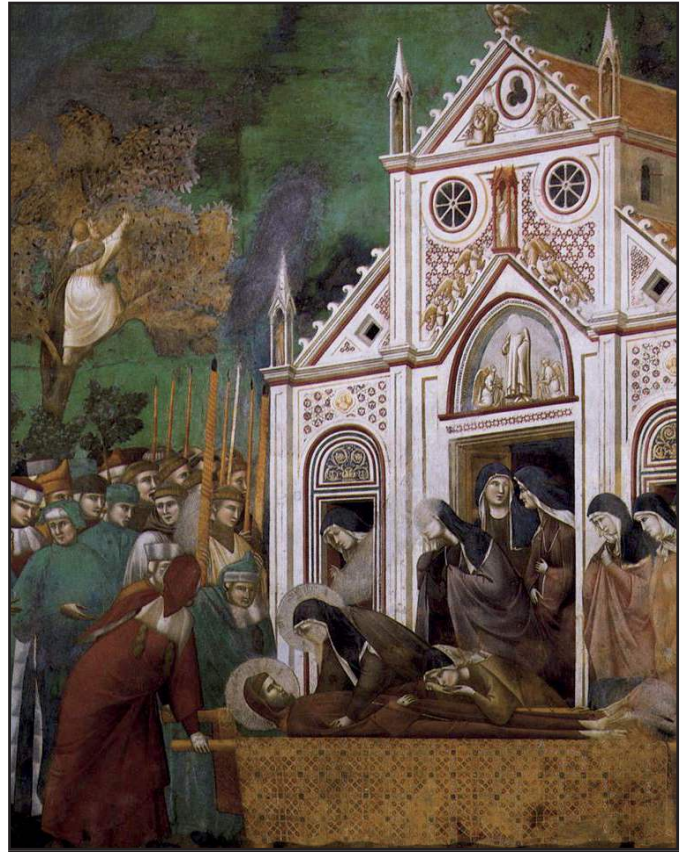
Please contact the Parish Office to make arrangements to attend a Baptism preparation class or to schedule Baptism. Please note that it is possible for expectant parents to attend the preparation class before the birth of their child.

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.



*St. Francis Mourned by St. Clare (Giotto)
2026: 800th Anniversary of the Death of St. Francis
(Feast Day: October 4)*

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)

EUCCHARISTIC 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, October 5, 2026

Saint Faustina Kowalska, Virgin;

Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, Priest

7:00 am Vinia Anchiraico

7:30 pm Nicholas Von Guggenberg ☩

Tuesday, October 6, 2026

Saint Bruno, Priest; Blessed Marie Rose Durocher, Virgin

7:00 am Patricia Sullivan ☩

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

Our Lady of the Rosary

7:00 am Bernardo Brooks ☩

7:30 pm The President

Thursday, October 8, 2026

Thursday of the Twenty-Seventh Week in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Fr. Martin McGuill ☩

Friday, October 9, 2026

Saint Denis, Bishop, and Companions, Martyrs;

Saint John Leonardi, Priest

7:00 am Debbie Beck

7:30 pm Robert McKinnon ☩

Saturday, October 10, 2026

Saturday of the Twenty-Seventh Week in Ordinary Time

8:00 am Michael and Patricia

5:00 pm William Lowe ☩

Sunday, October 11, 2026

Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Fr. Nicholas Schierer

8:00 am Vere Gaynor ☩

9:15 am The Von Guggenberg Family

11:00 am Missa Pro Populo

1:00 pm Johnny Sanjinez ☩

Additional Mass Intentions this Week:

Paula Andrea Fernandez, Alexsandra Oakes, Francisco B. Paredes, Jr. ☩

Archconfraternity of the Holy Face

All are welcome to join us for the next meeting of the Archconfraternity of the Holy Face on **Sunday, October 11**, 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/>.



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!

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!

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.

St. Rita Men's Fellowship Meeting

The St. Rita Men's Fellowship will meet on **Friday, October 9**, 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, “Servant of Christ.” 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

Sunday, October 4, 2026

10:30 am -12:30 pm Young Adult Brunch
2:00 pm Ritual de Iniciación Cristiana para Adultos
4:30 pm Solemn Vespers
6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

Monday, October 5, 2026

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

Tuesday, October 6, 2026

7:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

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

Thursday, October 8, 2026

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

Friday, October 9, 2026

7:30 pm Men's Fellowship

Saturday, October 10, 2026

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

Sunday, October 11, 2026

2:00 pm Ritual de Iniciación Cristiana para Adultos
3:45 pm Archconfraternity of the Holy Face
4:30 pm Solemn Vespers
6:00 pm Hispanic Prayer Group

PRAY. FAST. VOTE NO.

Bishop Michael F. Burbidge calls all the faithful in the Catholic Diocese of Arlington throughout October to pray and fast, asking God to convert minds and hearts, transform lives, and inspire all Catholics to **vote "No"** on Virginia's Ballot

Questions #1 and #2. Voting is now underway.

PRAY.

- ✝ Pray the **Rosario** on Sundays
- ✝ Pray the **Stations of the Cross** on Fridays

FAST.

- 🚫 **Fast from social media** on Sundays
- 🚫 Commit to **one daily meal** and **no meat** on Fridays

VOTE.

- 🗳 **Vote early in-person** until October 31
- 🗳 Make a plan to **vote with family and friends**

Election day is November 3. Scan for Virginia election resources and more information about all that is at stake.



ORA. AYUNA. VOTA NO.

Mons. Michael F. Burbidge invita a todos los fieles de la Diócesis Católica de Arlington a orar y ayunar durante todo el mes de octubre, pidiendo a Dios que convierta las mentes y los corazones, transforme vidas e inspire a todos los católicos a **votar «No»** en las preguntas **n. 1 y n. 2** de la boleta electoral de Virginia. La votación ya está en marcha.

ORA.

- ✝ Reza el **Rosario** los domingos.
- ✝ Reza el **Vía Crucis** los viernes.

AYUNA.

- 🚫 Ayuna de las redes sociales durante unas horas los domingos.
- 🚫 Comprométete a hacer una sola comida al día y no comer carne los viernes.

VOTA.

- 🗳 Vota anticipadamente en persona hasta el **31 de octubre**.
- 🗳 Haz un plan para votar **con familiares y amigos**

El día de las elecciones es el 3 de noviembre. Escanea para consultar recursos electorales de Virginia y obtener más información sobre todo lo que está en juego.



THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN LIFE & MARRIAGE

calls for a consistent, universal response from Catholics to protect and preserve objective goods by which God blesses humanity.

As Catholics, we vote no on these ballot measures:

○ YES **BALLOT 1: "Virginia Right to Reproductive Freedom Amendment"**

- Eliminates common-sense health and safety regulations
- Allows unregulated abortion even for healthy babies up to birth for any reason with no limits
- Pushes parents out of irreversible, life-altering decisions involving their underage daughters
- Encourages even non-physicians to operate unlicensed abortion businesses

○ YES **BALLOT 2: "Virginia Remove Constitutional Same-Sex Marriage Ban Amendment"**

- Enshrines radical gender ideology through "sex" and "gender" language
- Conscience rights and religious liberty protections would be effectively denied
- Commercial surrogacy would continue to exploit vulnerable women and violate the rights of children

Pledge to Vote: CatholicsVoteNo.com

CATHOLICS VOTE NO



LA PROTECCIÓN DE LA VIDA HUMANA Y DEL MATRIMONIO

exige una respuesta coherente y universal por parte de los católicos para proteger y preservar los bienes objetivos con los que Dios bendice a la humanidad.

Como católicos, votamos no a estas medidas electorales:

○ SI **1: «Enmienda de Virginia sobre el Derecho a la Libertad Reproductiva»**

- Elimina las regulaciones de salud y seguridad basadas en el sentido común
- Permite el aborto sin regulación, incluso de bebés sanos hasta el momento del nacimiento, por cualquier motivo y sin límites
- Excluye a los padres de decisiones irreversibles que cambian la vida y que involucran a sus hijas menores de edad
- Permite incluso que personas que no son médicos operen negocios de aborto sin licencia

○ SI **2: «Enmienda de Virginia para Eliminar la Prohibición Constitucional del Matrimonio entre Personas del Mismo Sexo»**

- Consagra una ideología de género radical mediante el uso del lenguaje de "sexo" y "género".
- Los derechos de conciencia y las protecciones de la libertad religiosa quedarían, en la práctica, anulados.
- La gestación subrogada comercial continuaría explotando a mujeres vulnerables y vulnerando los derechos de los niños.

Comprométete a votar: CatolicosVotanNo.com

CATÓLICOS VOTAN NO





Knights of Columbus Food Drive!

Bag-Pick Up: Following Mass October 10th and 11th
Bag Collection: Following Mass October 17th and 18th

The St. Rita *Knights of Columbus* are partnering with the *Mother of Light Center* to provide necessary items to thousands of families living in the St. Rita neighborhood. Your generosity is needed! Essential supplies include:

Food Items:

- **Rice** – 2 lb. bags (plain, no seasonings or boxed) white
- **Beans** – Dried red beans, black beans, or pinto beans
- **Boxed Healthy Cereal or Oatmeal**
- **Pasta** – Any variety (no lasagna), including macaroni and cheese
- **Canned Goods** – Corn & Tomato Sauce
- **Instant Corn Tortilla Flour** – *MASECA brand* (not cornmeal)
- **Cooking Oil** – Canola or corn (24 oz. or less)
- **Canned Tuna or Chicken**

Household Items:

- **Laundry Detergent**
- **Dish Soap**
- **Hygiene Essentials** – Soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, and conditioner (*family size preferred*)
- **Diapers** – Sizes 4, 5, and 6 (all sizes welcome!)
- **Baby Wipes**
- **Baby Shampoo**
- **ZipLock Bags** – Quart size & gallon size

For more information about the Mother of Light Center, contact Matilde Alvarado at motheroflightcenter@gmail.com.

For more information about the St. Rita's Knights of Columbus, contact Rick Strobach at rick.strobach@gmail.com.

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

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*RUN WITH PURPOSE.
BUILD COMMUNITY.
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REGISTER TODAY!



www.StRita5k.com



Volunteer Opportunities
on Parent Square Soon!



Interested in Becoming Catholic?

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. 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](mailto:Chloe.Holloway@cholloway.strita@gmail.com) at cholloway.strita@gmail.com.



ST. RITA HIGH SCHOOL
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 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
 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!

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](mailto:vivian.b.moran@gmail.com) at vivian.b.moran@gmail.com or call or text her at (703) 888-8196.



News from the Diocese and Beyond

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, Charles Stulb



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