



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 11, 2026: Twenty-Eighth 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

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.



One day Teresa of Avila (Feast: October 15) was coming down the steps of her convent when she saw a beautiful young boy. The Child spoke to her and said: "Who are you?" Teresa answered: "I am Teresa of Jesus, who are you?" The Child answered: "I am Jesus of Teresa!"

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 12, 2026

Monday of the Twenty-Eighth Week in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Fr. Nicholas Schierer

7:30 pm Fr. Nicholas Schierer

Tuesday, October 13, 2026

Tuesday of the Twenty-Eighth Week in Ordinary Time

7:00 am Tommy Hart

Wednesday, October 14, 2026

Saint Callistus I, Pope and Martyr

7:00 am Patricia Sullivan ☩

7:30 pm Robert and Cecilia Jaminet

Thursday, October 15, 2026

Saint Teresa of Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

7:00 am The Maclean Family

Friday, October 16, 2026

Saint Hedwig, Religious; Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, Virgin

7:00 am Joseph Durel

7:30 pm Todd Sansint ☩

Saturday, October 17, 2026

Saint Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop and Martyr

8:00 am Project Rachel Ministries

5:00 pm Aurelio Miller

Sunday, October 18, 2026

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00 am The Collard Family

8:00 am Vivian Moran

11:00 am Missa Pro Populo

1:00 pm Estela Lemus

Additional Mass Intentions this Week:

The President, Allie Petrone, Noah Arvizu, Santiago Soutuyo ☩

Christ House Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed for an upcoming dinner service at the Christ House Shelter on **Sunday, October 25 at 5:00 pm**. Most importantly, we are looking for volunteers to cook a batch of beef stew or make brownies or cookies and deliver the food to the shelter between **4:15-4:30 pm** that day. We may also have a few slots open for volunteers to package food and serve meals. If interested, please contact Eric Co at ericco9@yahoo.com or **713-206-8759**.



Upcoming Second Collections

October 18: World Mission Sunday

October 25: Porto Charities: Special Kids/Special Needs

Thank you for your continued generosity!

Coffee and Donuts

Please join us for Coffee and Donuts in the School Hall on **Sunday, October 18**, after all Masses, starting after the 8:00 am Mass.



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

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, 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/>.



Baptism Classes

The next **Spanish Baptism Class** will take place on **Wednesday, October 14**, 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.

PRAY. FAST. VOTE NO.

**PLEASE JOIN US EVERY FRIDAY
IN OCTOBER AT 7:00 PM FOR
STATIONS OF THE CROSS**



The Parish Office will be closed on **Monday, October 12**, in observance of Columbus Day.

This Week at St. Rita

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

Monday, October 12, 2026

Parish Office Closed in Observance of Columbus Day

5:30 pm Legión de María (en Español)

7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study

Tuesday, October 13, 2026

7:00 pm Hispanic Bible Study

Wednesday, October 14, 2026

No Homeschool Holy Hour

5:30 pm Spanish Baptism Class

6:00 pm Middle School Youth Ministry

6:30 pm Legion of Mary

Thursday, October 15, 2026

4:00 pm Junior Legion of Mary

6:30 pm High School Youth Ministry

Friday, October 16, 2026

7:00 pm Stations of the Cross

7:30 pm Women's Group

8:00 pm St. Rita Young Adult Men: Smoke N'Sense

Saturday, October 17, 2026

10:00 am Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

6:30 pm Hispanic Young Adult Group

Sunday, October 18, 2026

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

2:00 pm Ritual de Iniciación Cristiana para Adultos

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

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 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!

First Night
on
October
14th!



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

Women's Group Meeting

Dear Women of St. Rita—Come join other parish women as we gather to pray, visit, and explore our Faith on **Friday, October 16**, from **7:00-8:30 pm**, in the Parish Center. We will gather with refreshments and conversation, then the Rosary at **7:30 pm**. After the Rosary will be a facilitated discussion about assisting the souls in Purgatory. Hope to see you there!



Fall/Winter Clothing Drive



As part of the Diocesan Week of Service, St. Rita Parish and School will conduct a Fall/Winter Clothing Drive. This powerful witness of our faith is "Love in Action - Service in Community." Collection will be on the weekends of **October 31/November 1** and **November 7-8**, with distribution **November**

14. Check the parish website for more details.

Please Pray for These St. Rita Parishioners

For all those discerning Religious Vocations:

Sr. Catherine Lucia Phoebe Addington, Daughters of St. Paul; Hannah Hermann, Postulant, Daughters of St. Paul; Br. Nathaniel Labs, Order of Preachers; Sr. Giovanna Lamarra, Benedictines of Mary, Queen of Apostles; Mark Martinez, Archdiocese of Santa Fe; Seminarians for the Diocese of Arlington, especially John Murphy and Daniel Uswick

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



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2026

All high school students are invited!

If your high school student would like to participate in RALLY, please complete the permission form, available on our website or in the Russell Road Vestibule, and return it to ngoitiandia.strita@gmail.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.

News from the Diocese and Beyond

Chesterton Academy of Christ the King Open House

Discover Chesterton Academy of Christ the King, a classical high school in the Catholic tradition dedicated to forming students in faith, reason, virtue, and truth. Join us for our Fall Open House on **Saturday, November 7** from **3:00–4:30 pm** on our campus at **Saint Lawrence Church in Alexandria**. Families are invited to learn more about the school, meet members of the faculty, and see what makes a Chesterton education truly special. To RSVP scan the QR Code, or visit our website at Chesterton-ChristTheKing.org.



St. Jerome Institute of Northern Virginia Open House

Come and see the St. Jerome Institute of Northern Virginia! A new high school in Falls Church, we prioritize seminar-style classrooms; an integrated Catholic curriculum; low-tech learning; and cultivating friendships, joy, and wonder. Bring your questions to our Open House on **Saturday, November 14**, from **3:00–5:00 pm**, and enjoy refreshments, a seminar demonstration for parents, and a seminar sample for students! For more information about the St. Jerome Institute, please visit <https://www.stjeromeinstitute.org/nova>.

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