

St. Rita Catholic Church

February 26, 2023
First Sunday of Lent

4401 Bayou Rapides Road
Office Hours Monday - Thursday 7:30 AM - 3:00 PM
Closed on Fridays
Alexandria, LA 71303

Church Office: 445-7120; FAX: 448-0704
Religious Education: 445-7141 ext 217
St. Vincent de Paul: 473-0887
Sacristy: 448-9599
MEDICAL EMERGENCIES: 445-7141 ext 4
Website: <http://www.StRita.org> Check our website for individual email addresses.
Download our parish app by visiting [myparish](#) on your Smart Phone's app store.



St. Rita
CATHOLIC CHURCH
the hands and heart of Christ



Code QR for
OnLine Giving
St. Rita Website

Dial Direct to Extensions: 445-7141

Rev. Anthony Dharmaraj, MSFS., Pastor (ext 212)
Rev. David Braquet, Sacramental Assistance
Deacon Kenny Sayes, Permanent Deacon
Mrs. Debbie Brown, Parish Manager (ext 214)
Ms. Etta Ohrt, Director of Finance & Personnel (ext 210)
Mrs. Courtney Brinkman, Director of Youth Religious Education (ext 217)
Miss Brittany Nugent, Director of Music Ministry
Mr. Maxwell Moreau, Director of Buildings & Maintenance
Miss Kathryn Velotta, Director of Youth Ministries

BAPTISMS:
Contact Debbie Brown, 445-7141 ext 214

MARRIAGE PREPARATION:
Contact Debbie Brown, 445-7141 ext 214
(6 months prior to desired wedding date)

ANointing OF THE SICK:
Ask in the sacristy before or after any
Mass or contact Fr. Dharmaraj

CONFESSIONS:
Saturdays, 3:30 - 3:55, or 15 minutes
before any Mass or by appointment.

LENTEN MISSION "NEW LIFE IN CHRIST"

March 6, 7, & 8th, see bulletin insert for more information

LENTEN "STATIONS of the SEVEN CHURCHES" PILGRIMAGE

Monday, March 13, call the church office to reserve your spot!

KC COUNCIL #1134 FISH FRY, FRIDAY, MARCH 3

4:30 - 6:30 PM in Holy Family Center, Dine In & Drive Thru

LIVE STREAMED Masses every week are 4:00 PM Saturday and at 8:00 AM on Wednesday. The 8:00 AM Wednesday Mass can also be heard on Radio Maria at 580 AM.
Please join us on FaceBook or at www.strita.org.
You can also view all our Live Streamed Masses anytime on our website, www.strita.org.

Saturday, February 25

4:00 -Mass for Leon & Myrtis Daigre, Mary Lee Lazarone, Richard Love, John Tyler Lyles, Mary Margaret Matassa, Missy Metrejean, Wally Metrejean, Mary Robichaux,

Alice Belgard Rush, Tina Saucier, Jody Snow, Kayla Spangler, Michael Turner

5:30 -Mass for Clifford & Ina Juneau

Sunday, February 26

8:00 -Mass for Frances Severance

9:30 -Mass for John Tyler Lyles

11:00 -Mass for the people of St. Rita Parish

12:30 -Spanish Mass for the Spanish Community

5:30 -Mass for Mary Robichaux

6:30 -High School Youth Group (HFC)

Monday, February 27

7:45 -Morning Prayer (Church

8:00 -Mass for Ruby Bohrer

6:00 -Adoration & Benediction (Church)
 6:00 -Acts Ladies Team Meeting (HFC)
Tuesday, February 28
 7:45 -Morning Prayer (Church)
 8:00 -Mass for Mary Robichaux
 10:00 -Mass at Lexington House for Annette Merritt
 6:30 -Choir Practice (Choir Room)
 6:00 -RCIA (Moreau Room)

Wednesday, March 1

7:45 -Morning Prayer (Church)
 8:00 -Mass for Gerald Leglue
 4:30 -Wednesday Evening Meal (HFC)
 6:00 -Faith Formation CCD grades PreK- 5 (HFC)
 6:00 -6th, 7th, & 8th grade Youth Group (HFC)
 6:00 -Confirmation (KC Meeting Room)

Thursday, March 2

7:45 -Morning Prayer (Church)
 8:00 -Mass for Ronnie Hair

Friday, March 3

7:45 -Morning Prayer (Church)
 8:00 -Mass for Melvin Hicks, Jr., Mary Margaret Matassa, Paul & Peggy Marcotte, Sid Rud, Rickey Sayes, Shirley Sayes, Kayla Spangler, David Voelker
 2:00 -Way of the Cross (Church)
 4:30 -KC Fish Fry (HFC)
 5:30 -Way of the Cross (Church)
 7:00 -Spanish Way of the Cross (Church)

Saturday, March 4

4:00 -Mass for Alfred Bordelon, Sr., Joyce Bordelon, Rhonda Bordelon, Frank Crooks, Leon & Myrtis Daigre, Weston Charles Johnson, Jr., Richard Love, John Tyler Lyles, Mary Margaret Matassa, Dewitt E. Roberts, Gerald A. Robichaux, Michael Gerald Robichaux, Rivers Wilson
 5:30 -Mass for Ardoin Family

Sunday, March 5

8:00 -Mass for DeAnna Ackel
 9:30 -Mass for Charles Roberts
 11:00 -Mass for the people of St. Rita Parish
 12:30 -Spanish Mass for the Spanish Community
 5:30 -Mass for Louis Joseph
 6:30 -High School Youth Group (HFC)

ALTAR FLOWERS are not allowed during the season of Lent. If you are interested in donating fresh flowers for the altar, call the church office at 445-7141 ext 214. *Flowers are \$75 for both arrangements.*

ALTARSANCTUARYLAMPS: If you are interested in having a loved one remembered by providing the sanctuary lamps, call the church office at 445-7141 ext 214. Cost is \$7.50 per candle.

BEREAVEMENT CANDLE this week is in memory of Shirley Sayes. The Bereavement Blue candle is located next to the Blessed Mother Statue. Each week the candle will be in memory of deceased parishioners who have died in the previous weeks.

ADORATION CHAPEL: The Blessed Sacrament is reserved for adoration by all the faithful in the St. Pius X Chapel located in the rear of the Church building.

Hours are 6:00 AM - 8:00 PM. To obtain the combination for the chapel stop by the church office at 4401 Bayou Rapides Road, Bldg C, during office hours. *We remind you not to give the code to anyone, and please do not open the door for anyone.*

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: 25: Gn 12:1-4a Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22 2 Tm 1:8b-10 Mt 17:1-9
 Catechism 554-556; 1023-1029

WEDNESDAY EVENING MEAL 4:30 - 6:00 PM in the Holy Family Center, this week's menu: Lasagna, Green Salad, Garlic Bread, Dessert and Tea. Cost is \$6.00 for dine in or take out. Cook Team this week is Altar & Rosary Ladies; Jeannie Babineaux, Lynn Black, Debbie Brown, Theresa Deselle, Rae Hair, Gina Lachney, Hope Lachney, Alan & Brenda Daenen. The servers are Elaine Acosta, Susan Babineaux, Maxine Beard, Lisa Collins, Elaine Haworth & Ann LaHood. Please join us for delicious food and fellowship!

OUR OFFERTORY GIFTS

<i>Regular Collection</i>	
Sunday Gifts the week of February 19	\$ 16,278.11
Online & EFT Gifts February 19	\$ 8,857.00
Contributions for February 19	\$ 25,135.11
BLDG/Maintenance Fund February	\$ 1,490.00
BLDG/Main Online & EFT February	\$ 1,045 .00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

2023 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL:

The waters of Baptism make us part of the new covenant in Christ. But the bishops' pastoral letter on stewardship reminds us that "there is a fundamental obligation arising from the Sacrament of Baptism....that people place their gifts, their resources – their selves – at God's service in and through the Church." Prayerfully consider supporting your parish by weekly contributions and the diocesan church by contributing to the Annual Diocesan Appeal.

OUR SICK: Kayla Busby, Crystal Herde, Billie Jeansonne, Charlotte Pearson, Chad Scroggs, Joan Vanderlick.

RECOVERING, CONVALESCING OR ONGOING TREATMENT: Pierce Babineaux, Barbara Barham, Carolyn Branigan, Phillip Brouillette, Jean Brunson, Cecilia Couvillion, Lillian Deville, Stacy Ford, Mary Beth Graddy, Pat Guillory, Marge Harrington, James Ray Lachney, Laura Murchison, Mary Priya, Jonathan Rhea, Donna Robinson, Karen Schrock, Eutan Suire, Kara Franks Thomas, Cyndee Whittington, Mary Winn

OUR SHUT-INS: Joan Andries, Victor Beaudoin, Lela Bordelon, Joseph "Napp" Brouillette, Shirley Brouillette, Vergie Clay, Aline Cicardo, Elise Coco, Donald Coco, Doris Constance, Bennye David, Deborah Davidson Odean Deville, Juanita Dodd, Mary Doine, Elizabeth Drake, Cecilia Dunn, Ebron Dunn, Emalae Dunn, Jennifer Dunn, Regina Dunn, James Dupont, Mary Fontenot, Philip Frank, Gordon Frederick, Linda Gauthier, Celia Gilmore, Irma Gonzaque, Jessie Griffin, Elizabeth Holmes, Patti Holmes, Barbara Johns, Leta Juneau, Billie Jeansonne, Audrey Jusselin, Donna Leblanc, Gerald Lachney, Iris Ruth LeJeune, Deanna Lemoine, Josephine Marcotte, Zadio Marcotte, Patty Marian, Helen Mathews, Sam Medica, Gladys Morris, Constance Nasello, Yvonne Perrin, Cleta Perry, June Peterson, Bettie Piazza, Beverly Polk, Rose Ponthieux, Anita Ray, Nanette Redman, James Schoolcraft, Bobby Thevenote, Susan Turner, Virginia Verzwylt, Willie Voorhies, Veronica Walters, Betty Wilmore, Marilyn Ruth Wilson, Pamela Wilson, Anita Wooley, Barbara Wynn

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY: CW02 Brad Canrak, Major Brian J. Clayton, CW3 Ron Cole, Staff Sgt. Robert Crawford, Lance Cpl. Amy Fogleman, Major Mike Frazier, 1st Lt. Jackie E. Mathews, Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy McKnight, PO2 Nicholas Peralta, Sgt. Cole Pleche, PFC Brandon Rashall, Capt. Rachel Salpietra, Capt. Sean P. Turner, Capt. Timothy C. Turner. If you have members of your family who have been called to active military duty, or are already on active duty, please call 445-7141 ext 214. or e-mail us at dbrown@strita.org. Please keep all military and their families in your prayers.

ALMSGIVING "Water quenches a flaming fire, and alms atone for sins" (Sirach 3:29). And, Jesus said, "But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing so that your almsgiving may be secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you" (Matthew 6:3-4). In this Lenten season there will be several appeals made to you for "alms." Such giving is above and beyond a tithe. Options are presented so that your heart will be moved by that one program or thing which you feel you wish to support. This then is an important spiritual tool for your Lenten journey and not "fund-raising."

LENTEN "STATIONS OF THE SEVEN CHURCHES" PILGRIMAGE:

Join us on Monday, March 13 for this Pilgrimage.

We will start with Mass at 8:00 AM at St. Rita. Then we will travel by bus to 7 Churches; Mary Mother of Jesus, Woodworth; St. Martin Church. Lecompte; St. Juliana Church, St. James Church, St. Frances Cabrini in Alexandria and Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Pineville. Ending with lunch in the Holy Family Center.

The pilgrimage to each church corresponds to the seven "stops" or "stations" of the via crucis that were made by Jesus on his way to Calvary.

The tradition originated out of praying the Stations of the Cross. The Seven Churches Visitation originated in Rome and typically credited to St. Philip Neri and is practiced by Catholics around the world.

The 7 Churches visitation is a powerful way to spend time meditating on Christ's sacrifice of love for the salvation of souls in preparation for the joy of Easter. There is something special about visiting churches...It is not just because of the opportunity to visit other parishes, it's because of intentionally seeking Christ to spend time with Him and contemplating the gift of His Love.

To reserve your spot for this Pilgrimage, call the church office at 445-7141 ext 214. Spots are limited.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND BENEDICTION on Monday, February 27, 6:00 PM. All are invited to join us.

EASTER FLOWER FUND: Remember your loved ones by donating to the Easter flower fund. A list of the donors and names of those to be remembered will be published the Sunday after Easter. Easter flowers are **\$15**; make checks payable to St. Rita Altar and Rosary Society. You may use the Easter Flower Offering envelope in your monthly packet or an Easter Flower envelope located in the hymnal racks in the pews and drop it in the collection basket.

— Altar & Rosary Society

WIDOWED, SEPARATED OR DIVORCED? Don't know where to turn? Struggling with grief or loss? Beginning Experience of Alexandria is registering now for a weekend that provides an individual with the opportunity to encounter self and to grow with a purpose to achieve inner peace. The experience is to help close the door gently on the past and move on with renewed hope. **The weekend will be held at Maryhill Renewal Center on March 24–26, 2023.** For more information www.beginningexperience.org or to register contact Anna at 448-1990, 452-2678 or asweat7@aol.com.

LENT 2023

MORNING PRAYER before 8:00 AM Mass

Monday - Friday, 7:45 AM

WAY OF THE CROSS

Fridays, 2:00 PM, 5:30 PM & 7:00 PM Spanish

LENTEN MISSION

"New Life in Christ"

March 6, 7, & 8, 6:30 PM

LENTEN "STATIONS of the SEVEN

CHURCHES", Monday March 13

PARISH PENANCE SERVICE

Thursday, March 30, 6:30 PM

KC Council #1134 FISH FRY

Fridays, March 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31

4:30 - 6:00 PM in the Holy Family Center

\$10.00 per plate, Drive Thru & Dine In