

# St. Rita Catholic Church

December 3, 2023  
First Sunday of Advent

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

Church Office: 445-7120; FAX: 448-0704  
Religious Education: 445-7141 ext 217  
St. Vincent de Paul: 473-0887  
Sacristy: 448-9599  
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



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Dial Direct to Extensions: 445-7141

**Rev. Anthony Dharmaraj, MSFS., Pastor** (ext 212)  
**Rev. Joshua Burch, Associate Pastor** (ext 211)  
**Deacon Kenny Sayes, Permanent Deacon** (451-4555)  
**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**  
**Ms. Kathryn Velotta, Director of Youth Ministries**  
**Mr. Conrad Ducote, Director of Maintenance & Buildings**

**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. Raj or Fr. Joshua

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

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## ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY SALE

*Baked Goods, Raffle Tickets Wine, 2024 Calendars, etc....  
this weekend after all Masses*

## ST. NICHOLAS DAY CELEBRATION FOR CHILDREN (Infants through 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade)

**Monday, December 4, 6:30 - 8:00 PM in the Holy Family Center**

## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY, HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

*Vigil Masses on Thursday, December 7 at 4:00*

*Masses on Friday, December 8 at 7:00, 8:00 AM, 12:05 noon & 5:30 PM*

## CONTEMPORARY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

*Thursday, December 7 at 7:00 PM*

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**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](http://www.strita.org). You can also view all our Live Streamed Masses anytime on our website, [www.strita.org](http://www.strita.org).

### Saturday, December 2

4:00 -Mass for Victor Beaudoin, Jean Brunson, Weston Charles Johnson, Jr., Leta Juneau, John Tyler Lyles, Bob Mahfouz, James Marien, Mary Margaret Matassa, Missy Metrejean, Wally Metrejean, Rose Ponthieux, Intention of Trey & Lori Decker & family  
5:30 -Mass for the Ardoin Family

**Sunday, December 3**

8:00 -Mass for Houston, Lucille, & Paul Dunn  
 9:30 -Mass for Marvin Finney  
 11:00 -Mass for the people of St. Rita Parish  
 12:30 -Spanish Mass for the Spanish Community  
 5:30 -Mass for Andy Beaubouef, Shawn Mathews  
 6:30 -High School Youth Group Meeting (HFC)

**Monday, December 4**

8:00 -Mass for Leta Juneau

**Tuesday, December 5**

8:00 -Mass for Kenneth Dufour  
 10:00 -Mass at Lexington House for Leta Juneau  
 6:00 -Men's ACTS Team Meeting (HFC)  
 6:00 -OCIA (Moreau Room)  
 5:00 -Spanish Religious Education (KC Room)  
 6:30 -Choir Practice (Choir Room)

**Wednesday, December 6**

8:00 -Mass for Billie Jeansonne  
 4:30 -Wednesday Evening Meal (HFC)  
 6:00 -Faith Formation Pre-K - 5<sup>th</sup> (Church Foyer)  
       - 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Youth Group (HFC)  
       - 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation (Church)

**Thursday, December 7**

8:00 -Mass for Beverly Bohrer  
 4:00 -Mass for Zachory Veillon  
 6:00 -High School Youth Bible Study (Youth Room)

**Friday, December 8**

7:00 -Mass for Louise Bordelon  
 8:00 -Mass for Sid Rud  
 12:05 -Mass for David Voelker  
 5:30 -Mass for Tyler Brent Thiels & the Thiels family

**Saturday, December 9**

4:00 -Mass for Jean Brunson, Leta Juneau, Hank Lichtman,  
       John Tyler Lyles, James Marien, Mary Margaret Matassa,  
       Gerald & Mary Robichaux, Sr.  
 5:30 -Mass for Paul & Peggy Marcotte

**Sunday, December 10**

8:00 -Mass for U.J. Henry  
 9:30 -Mass for Gerald Leglue  
 11:00 -Mass for the people of St. Rita Parish  
 12:30 -Spanish Mass for the Spanish Community  
 5:30 -Mass for Cheryl Arbour  
 6:30 -High School Youth Group Meeting (HFC)

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are not allowed during the season of Advent. 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.**

**ALTAR SANCTUARY LAMPS** were provided in loving memory of Lucille Dunn by Marilyn Price; and Family & friends of Anita Wooley. 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 deceased members of the parish. 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.

**READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK:** 2: Is 40:1-5, 9-11  
 Ps 85:9-14 2 Pt 3:8-14 Mk 1:1-8

**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 3822 Bayou Rapides Road, during office hours. **We remind you not to give the code to anyone, and please do not open the door for anyone.**

**WEDNESDAY EVENING MEAL** 4:30 - 6:00 PM in the Holy Family Center, this week's menu: Hot Tamales, Charro Beans, Mexican Rice, Roll, Dessert, and Tea. Cost is \$6.00 for dine in or take out. **Cook Team and Servers** this week are members of the Spanish Community. For more information call 445-7141 ext 214. Please join us for delicious food and fellowship!

**OUR OFFERTORY GIFTS**

<i>Regular Collection</i>	
<b>Sunday Gifts the week of November 26</b>	<b>\$ 14,175.00</b>
<b>Online &amp; EFT Gifts November 26</b>	<b>\$ 3,187.00</b>
<b>Contributions for November 26</b>	<b>\$ 17,362.00</b>
<b>BLDG/Maintenance Fund November</b>	<b>\$ 1,110.00</b>
<b>BLDG/Main Online &amp; EFT November</b>	<b>\$ 905.00</b>

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY**

**OUR SICK:** Shirley Agliano, Sis Delrie, Paul Medica, Jr., Bob Morrisette, Marguerite Robin, Georgiana Robinson, Karen Schrock, Donnie Welch

**RECOVERING, CONVALESCING OR ONGOING TREATMENT:** Pierce Babineaux, Theresa Brocato, Danny Cezar, Bobbi Chatelain, Nona Dorgan, Caroline Pearson, Donnie Rivers, Pam Rivers, Larry Robin, Renie Saucier, Kathy Fryer Thomas, Jackie Whitcher, Mary Winn

**OUR SHUT- INS:** Shirley Agliano, Joan Andries, Sadie Blakesley, Lela Bordelon, Joseph "Napp" Brouillette, Shirley Brouillette, Vergie Clay, Aline Cicardo, Elise Coco, Donald Coco, Doris Constance, Bennye David, Deborah Davidson, Pat Despino, Odean Deville, Juanita Dodd, Elizabeth Drake, Nathan Ducote, Cecilia Dunn, Ebron Dunn, Emalae Dunn, Jennifer Dunn, Regina Dunn, James Dupont, Grace Ellis, Brenda Evans, Micki Faraldo, Mary Fontenot, Philip Frank, Linda Gauthier, Celia Gilmore, Irma Gonzaque, Elizabeth Holmes, Patti Holmes, Barbara Johns, Audrey Jusselin, Gerald Lachney, Kathy Lacour, Marvin Lee, Deanna Lemoine, Josephine Marcotte, Zadie Marcotte, Patty Marian, Helen Mathews, Mildred McCarthy, Nettie Medica, Gladys Morris, Cleta Perry, June Peterson, Bettie Piazza, Lee Procel, Anita Ray, Nanette Redman, James Schoolcraft, Bobby Thevenote, Susan Turner, Jenny Valley, Virginia Verzwylt, Anna Villemarette, 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, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jackie E. Mathews, Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Jeremy McKnight, PO2 Nicholas Peralta, Sgt. Cole Pleche, PFC Brandon Rashall, 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](mailto:dbrown@strita.org). Please keep all military and their families in your prayers.

**RETIRED FUND FOR RELIGIOUS:** "Religious are blessed to serve," says Dominican Father Bertrand Ebben, age 90. Please donate to the Retirement Fund for Religious the week of Dec. 10. Your gift will provide essential care for nearly 25,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who have dedicated their lives to serving others. Let us show our gratitude to these selfless individuals by giving generously. You may use the envelope in your monthly packet or a pew envelope marked and drop in the collection basket. Please be generous to this collection.

**ANOINTING OF THE SICK AFTER ALL MASSES NEXT WEEKEND:** The law of the Church regarding eligibility is as follows: "The anointing of the sick may be administered to the faithful who have the use of reason (age 7 and above) and *begin to fall into danger as a result of illness or old age*...among those who may be anointed, the Ritual mentions in particular: those undergoing surgery whenever a serious illness is the reason for the surgery; elderly people who have become notably weakened even though no serious illness is present; sick children if they have sufficient use of reason to be strengthened by this sacrament."

**ALL EUCHARISTIC SERVERS WHO TAKE COMMUNION TO OUR HOMEBOUND SHUT-INS:** Please take note that the priests will be visiting the homebound shut-ins on Friday, December 8. Please do not take communion to your shut-ins this upcoming week. Thank you for all that you do. We and the shut-ins are very appreciative.

**LITURGY OF THE HOURS:** Monday - Friday at 7:45 am in church. Please join us!

**MANY THANKS** to all who made donations of food and money to our Thanksgiving Drive for the poor. We collected \$3,193 in monetary donations. All food items and money collected were donated to the Manna House. Your generosity is amazing!

**SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of the Blessed Virgin Mary,** Friday, December 8 is a Holy Day of Obligation! Vigil Masses will be on Thursday, December 7 at 4:00. Masses on Friday, December 8 will be at 7:00 & 8:00 AM; 12:05 noon & 5:30 PM.

**CONTEMPORARY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION** Praise and Worship on Thursday, December 7 at 7:00 PM. All are welcome.

**CHRISTMAS FAMILIES:** As a parish family, we will adopt several families again this year. If you would like to make a donation for the families, you may do so with a pew envelope. Mark it Christmas Families and drop it in the collection basket.

— Mrs. Courtney Brinkman

**ALTAR AND ROSARY SOCIETY RAFFLE & BAKE SALE** after all Masses this weekend in the church foyer. **Raffle Prizes** are 1<sup>st</sup> prize – Crystal Rosary, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize – 24" Wall Crucifix; 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize – Porcelain Nativity. Tickets are \$1.00 each. Drawing is Sunday December 3 at 12:00 noon. Raffle tickets can also be purchased at the church office. Wine will be available for a \$12 donation. 2024 Calendars will be available for \$2.00.

**CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS CHRISTMAS PROJECT:** The Catholic Daughters Court Bishop Desmond are collecting white socks for the patients at St. Christina Nursing Home for their Christmas stockings. There are boxes in the church foyer for your to drop off your donation. Thank you.

**CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL FLOWER FUND:** Remember your loved ones by donating to the Christmas flower fund. A list of the donors and the names of those being remembered will be published in the January 15 bulletin. Donations for the decorating fund is **\$15**. Make checks payable to the St. Rita Altar and Rosary Society, and please include the name(s) of those to be remembered. **Please print the names on the envelope, so we can read the spelling of the names.** Thank you for your support!

**ATTENTION ALL  
Public & Private School Students  
JR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP**

grades 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesdays 6-00-7:00 PM  
**Wednesday, December 6**  
Life Teen Edge Lesson:  
How do I go to confession?

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**HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH**  
grades 9 - 12<sup>th</sup>  
Sundays, 6:30 PM  
**Sunday December 3**  
Life Teen Lesson:  
Advent Lesson

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**Both Groups will meet in the Holy  
Family Center**

For more information contact:  
Miss Kathryn Velotta, 623-5337

