

St. Rita Catholic Church

December 17, 2023
Third 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



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.

ADORATION CHAPEL CLOSED

Monday, December 18 for approximately 6 weeks

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

see back of bulletin for schedule

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, December 16

4:00 -Mass for Cheryl Arbour, Andy Beaubouef, Jean Brunson, Bob & Leah Leonard, Bob Mahfouz, James Marien, Mary Margaret Matassa, Shawn Mathews, Gerald & Mary Robichaux, Sr.

5:30 -Mass for Missy Metrejean, Wally Metrejean

Sunday, December 17

8:00 -Mass for Marion Polk

9:30 -Mass for Ronnie Hair

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

12:30 -Spanish Mass for the Spanish Community

5:30 -Mass for Louise Bordelon

6:30 -High School Youth Christmas Party (HFC)

Monday, December 18

8:00 -Mass for Leta Juneau

Tuesday, December 19

8:00 -Mass for Al Schexnaider

10:00 -Mass at Lexington House for the intention of Fr. Taylor Reynolds

6:00 -Men's ACTS Team Meeting (HFC)

6:00 -NO OCIA (Moreau Room)

5:00 -NO Spanish Faith Formation (KC Room)

6:30 -Choir Practice (Choir Room)

Wednesday, December 20

8:00 -Mass for Kenneth Dufour

Thursday, December 21

8:00 -Mass for Rayland Beurlot

6:00 -NO High School Youth Bible Study (Youth Room)

Friday, December 22

8:00 -Mass for Andy Beaubouef, Billie Jeansonne, Billie Jeansonne, Mary Margaret Matassa, Shawn Mathews, Sid Rud, David Voelker

Saturday, December 23

4:00 -Mass for Jean Brunson, Leta Juneau, John Tyler Lyles, James Marien, Paul & Peggy Marcotte, Mary Margaret Matassa, Gerald & Mary Robichaux, Sr., for the intention of Francis Hines on his 10th birthday

5:30 -Mass for Mary Difulco

Sunday, December 24

8:00 -Mass for Billie Jeansonne

9:30 -Mass for Leta Juneau

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

12:30 -Spanish Mass for Spanish Community

All Christmas Masses are for the intention of our parish family, living and deceased. Confessions will be heard from 3:15 - 3:50 PM.

4:00 -Mass for all living & deceased of the parish

5:30 -Mass for all living & deceased of the parish

12:00 -Mass for all living & deceased of the parish

Monday, December 25, Christmas Day

8:00 -Mass for all living & deceased of the parish

11:00 -Mass for all living & deceased of the parish

12:30 -Spanish Mass for all living and deceased of the parish

This year Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday. Your Sunday obligation can be fulfilled by any of our regularly scheduled Saturday or Sunday Masses. Your Christmas obligation can be fulfilled starting at our 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Mass or any of the Masses after 4:00 PM Christmas Eve.

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 Marvin Finney by Frances Finney and Family; Marion Polk by Beverly Polk. 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 Carlynn Gardner. 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 61:1-2a, 10-11 Lk 1:46-50, 53-54 1Thes 5:16-24 Jn 1:6-24 Jn 1:6-8, 19-28 Catechism 7569-769

ADORATION CHAPEL: WILL BE CLOSED from MONDAY DECEMBER 18TH for 6 weeks for construction of the new canopy. We will send emails to everyone who signed for the code when we reopen the chapel. Thank you for your patience during this construction.

Sacred Heart in Pineville has an adoration chapel 24/7. You have to go the church office, Monday - Thursday, 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM to get the code.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor has adoration on Fridays 7:00 - 5:00 in the church.

NO WEDNESDAY EVENING MEAL until Wednesday, January 10, 2024.

OUR OFFERTORY GIFTS

Regular Collection	
Sunday Gifts the week of December 10	\$ 18,716.50
Online & EFT Gifts December 10	\$ 9,077.00
Contributions for December 10	\$ 27,793.50
Holy Day Collection, December 8	\$ 2,866.00
BLDG/Maintenance Fund December	\$ 530.00
BLDG/Main Online & EFT December	\$ 620.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED AND THE CONSOLATION OF THEIR FAMILIES: Carlynn Gardner

OUR SICK: Shirley Agliano, Jeannine Babineaux, Theresa Brocato, Jerry Brown, Sis Delrie, Ebron Dunn, Brenda Evans, Catherine Lacour, Paul Medica, Jr., Ed Medlin, Georgiana Robinson, Johnny Williams, Mary Winn

RECOVERING, CONVALESCING OR ONGOING TREATMENT: Pierce Babineaux, Bobbi Chatelain, Nona Dorgan, Jason Holt, Bob Morrisette, Caroline Pearson, Donnie Rivers, Karen Schrock, Kathy Fryer Thomas, Donnie Welch, Jackie Whitcher

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, Luanne Davis, Pat Despino, Odean Deville, Juanita Dodd, Elizabeth Drake, Melba Ducote, Nathan Ducote, Cecilia Dunn, Ebron Dunn, Jennifer Dunn, Regina Dunn, James Dupont, Grace Ellis, Brenda Evans, Micki Faraldo, Mary Fontenot, Patsy Franks, Linda Gauthier, Celia Gilmore, Gracie Glorioso, Irma Gonzaque, Elizabeth Holmes, Patti Holmes, Barbara Johns, Audrey Jusselin, Gerald Lachney, Catherine Lacour, Norris LaFleur, Marvin Lee, Deanna Lemoine, Josephine Marcotte, Zadie Marcotte, Helen Mathews, Mildred McCarthy, Sam Medica, Gladys Morris, Cleta Perry, Billie Phillips, Lee Procel, Anita Ray, Nanette Redman, Larry Robin, Sr., Marguerite Robin, James Schoolcraft, Jean Serio, David Stafford, Adrienne Stevens, Susan Turner, Virginia Verzwylt, Anna Villemarette, Willie Voorhies, Betty Wilmore, Marilyn Ruth Wilson, Patricia 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, 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. Please keep all military and their families in your prayers.

PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE: For the Christmas holidays please note that the parish offices will be closed on the following days; Monday, December 25, Tuesday, December 26 and Monday, January 1 and Tuesday, January 2.

If you have an emergency for someone who is seriously ill or dying, please call 445-7141 ext. 4 and a priest will be paged to answer your call.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL STORE will be closed the week of December 26 - December 29th.

WELCOME TO St. Rita Parish, new parishioners, Dillan & Logan St. Aubin and their family. Please join us in welcoming them to our parish family.

ARE YOU NEW TO OUR PARISH OR HAVE NOT REGISTERED HERE? If you have not registered, we encourage you to do so. It is important that you do register if you attend church here regularly. That way you will be sure to receive information and services that our parish offers. Please fill out a registration form found in the bulletin racks and drop it in the collection basket or mail it to 4401 Bayou Rapides Road, Alexandria, LA 71303. Some of our young families that grew up in this parish think they are automatically registered parishioners. If you are not sure if you are registered, call 445-7141 ext 214 and we will check your status for you.

CHURCH VOCATIONS COLLECTION: This collection is taken throughout our diocese for the education and formation of our priests. Through the Church Vocations collections, your generosity and prayers allow the church to continue to provide priests, religious sisters and brothers to serve our spiritual and physical needs. You may use the envelope in your monthly packet or a pew envelope clearly marked and drop it in the collection basket. Please be generous.

HOMEBOUND SHUT INS: The priests and deacon will visit our homebound shut ins with communion, a poinsettia and a 2024 calendar on Thursday, December 21st. If you take communion to a shut-in weekly, you do not have to visit them this week.

2024 CALENDARS are still available for \$2.00. If you would like a calendar, stop in the Sacristy after Mass or the church office.

CHRISTMAS FAMILIES: As a parish family, we have adopted 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

SPECIAL THANKS to the high school youth group for wrapping all the presents for our families!! Your help was greatly appreciated!!!

– Mrs. Courtney Brinkman

SPANISH COMMUNITY invites all parishioners to join them and experience the Spanish Culture at the following event. Please plan to join us!

Spanish “Posada” on Sunday, December 17, 1:30 PM in the Holy Family Center. A **Posada** a play about the Nativity. *Las Posadas commemorates the journey that Joseph and Mary made from Nazareth to Bethlehem in search of a safe refuge where Mary could give birth to the baby Jesus.* There will also be caroling. Refreshments will be served.

– Mrs. Anna Martinez

BEGIN THE NEW YEAR WITH ONLINE OR EFT GIVING where you can create or alter your contribution schedule at any time. You can also see reports of your contribution history that you can use for your records. By clicking the “OnLine Giving” link at www.strita.org you can take care your contributions yourself.

EFT Electronic Funds Transfer directly from your bank accounts or your credit/debit card.

EFT offers many benefits to the church and you, the parishioner. EFT transactions can be scheduled weekly on Monday, 10th, 20th or 30th of the month and allows you to make a contribution even if you are unable to attend a service.

To sign up for EFT, call 445-7141 ext 210 and we will mail a form to you. We will take care of setting everything up for you.

–Mrs. Etta Ohrt

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 14 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!

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.