

St. Rita Catholic Church

December 24, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Advent
The Nativity of the Lord

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.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

MASSES FOR CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve: Sunday, December 24,

4:00 & 5:30 PM (Children's Mass with a special visitor)

MIDNIGHT MASS 12:00

Christmas Day: Monday, December 25

8:00 & 11:00 AM; 12:30 PM in Spanish

Confessions on Sunday, Christmas Eve, 3:00 - 3:50 PM

4:00 pm & Midnight Mass WILL BE LIVE STREAMED

NEW YEAR'S DAY SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

(is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year)

Vigil Masses, Sunday, December 31, 4:00 & 5:30 PM

Mass, Monday, January 1, 8:00, 11:00 AM, 12:30 Spanish Mass

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.

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.

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

Tuesday, December 26

8:00 -Mass for Patsy Myers

10:00 -Mass at Lexington House for the intention of Leta Juneau

6:00 -**NO** OCIA (Moreau Room)

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

6:30 -**NO** Choir Practice (Choir Room)

Wednesday, December 27

8:00 -Mass for Kenneth Dufour

Thursday, December 28

8:00 -Mass for Gerald Leglue

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

Friday, December 29

8:00 -Mass for Bob Mahfouz, James Marien, Mary Margaret Matassa, Mary Lee Robichaux

Saturday, December 30

4:00 -Mass for Andy Beaubouef, Victor Beaudoin, Leon & Myrtis Daigre, Weston Charles Johnson, Jr., Richard Love, John Tyler Lyles Mary Margaret Matassa, Paul & Peggy Marcotte, Shawn Mathews, Missy Metrejean, Wally Metrejean, Gerald & Mary Robichaux, Sr.

5:30 -Mass for Leta Juneau

Sunday, December 31

8:00 -Mass for Mary Lee Robichaux

9:30 -Mass for the intention of Jerry & Gwen Deville

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

12:30 -Spanish Mass for the Spanish Community

4:00 -Mass for Weston Charles Johnson, Jr.,

5:30 -Mass for John Tyler Lyles

5:30 SATURDAY EVENING MASS: After much prayerful discernment, I have decided to cancel the 5:30 PM Mass on Saturday, beginning January 6. The attendance at this Mass has declined over the past years and in December the Diocese informed me they were no longer providing us with a priest for the Spanish Mass. It is now our responsibility to provide a priest for the Spanish Mass. I want to thank Earl and Diana Basco for serving as sacristans at this Mass for 25 years. Your dedication is greatly appreciated.
—Fr. Raj

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 by the family and 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 Ed Medlin. 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: 18: Nm 6:22-27
Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8 Gal 4:4-7 Lk 2:16-21

CRY ROOMS: There are four cry rooms located at the back of church. Ideally cry rooms are for ONE parent and infant or small child. Actually, it is the toddlers who are loud and can't be corrected yet, who need the cry rooms the most. Certainly children kindergarten age and above should not be in the cry rooms. The rest of the family should be seated in the regular pews. This will allow space for those who need to use the cry rooms.

ADORATION CHAPEL: IS CLOSED until the end of January 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.

OUR OFFERTORY GIFTS

<i>Regular Collection</i>	
Sunday Gifts the week of December 17	\$ 17,243.43
Online & EFT Gifts December 17	\$ 9,335.00
Contributions for December 17	\$ 26,578.43
BLDG/Maintenance Fund December	\$ 530.00
BLDG/Main Online & EFT December	\$ 960.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED AND THE CONSOLATION OF THEIR FAMILIES: Ebron Dunn, Ed Medlin, Alvin Lilley, Msgr. Steve Testa, Johnny Williams

OUR SICK: Shirley Agliano, Jeannine Babineaux, Theresa Brocato, Knight Doggett, Meta Doggett, Irving Douzart, Brenda Evans, Belinda Guillory, Bettie Jeansonne, Bobbi Leckie, Gene Leckie, Paul Medica, Jr., Georgiana Robinson, Elda Schoolcraft, Mary Winn, Tonya Wood

RECOVERING, CONVALESCING OR ONGOING TREATMENT: Pierce Babineaux, Bobbi Chatelain, Sis Delrie, Bob Morrisette, Caroline Pearson, Donnie Rivers, Karen Schrock, Kathy Fryer Thomas, Donnie Welch, Jackie Whitchee

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, Jennifer Dunn, Regina Dunn, James Dupont, Grace Ellis, Brenda Evans, Micki Faraldo, Mary Fontenot, Patsy Franks, Linda Gauthier, Celia Gilmore, Gracie Gloriosio, 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, Clea 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 Woolley, 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.

SPECIAL THANKS to the Altar and Rosary Society for providing a poinsettia and 2024 Calendar to our home bound shut-ins and our shut ins in Lexington House Nursing Home.

SPECIAL THANKS: Through your generosity we collected \$3,884 which includes \$750 from our CCD children for our Christmas Families!!! We were able to adopt 10 families with 22 children. The spirit of giving is truly alive at St. Rita!! Thank you for your generosity!!

– Fr. Raj & Mrs. Courtney Brinkman

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.

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!

