

St. Rita Catholic Church

December 31, 2023

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

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.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

May God Bless you and your family in 2024!

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.

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

Monday, January 1, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

8:00 -Mass for Al Schexnaider

11:00 -Mass for Louise Bordelon

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

Tuesday, January 2

8:00 -Mass for Hyacinthe "Hiway" Mathews Bailey
 10:00 -Mass at Lexington House for the intention of Henry Ardoin
 6:00 -**NO** OCIA (Moreau Room)
 5:00 -**NO** Spanish Faith Formation (KC Room)
 6:30 -**NO** Choir Practice (Choir Room)

Wednesday, January 3

8:00 -Mass for Rosalie V. Mathews

Thursday, January 4

8:00 -Mass for Gerald Leglue
 6:00 -**NO** High School Youth Bible Study (Youth Room)

Friday, January 5

8:00 -Mass for Louise Bordelon, Sid Rud, Janet Thiels, David Voelker

Saturday, January 6

4:00 -Mass for Pauline Crawford, Clifford Juneau, Laura Longo, Michael Robichaux

Sunday, January 7

8:00 -Mass for Pete Snow
 9:30 -Mass for Stephen Ardoin
 11:00 -Mass for the people of St. Rita Parish
 12:30 -Spanish Mass for Spanish Community
 5:30 -Mass for Michael L. Marchand

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 If you are interested in donating fresh flowers for the altar in memory of a loved one or in celebration of special occasion, call the church office at 445-7141 ext 214. **Flowers are \$100 for both arrangements.**

ALTAR SANCTUARY LAMPS were provided in loving memory of Maynette Dobard by Denise Dobard. 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 Johnny Williams. 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: Is 60:1-6, Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13 Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 Mt 2:1-12 Catechism 528

CRY ROOMS: There are four cry rooms located at the back of church to be used by a parent with a young child(ren). Due to limited space, cry rooms are for ONE parent and infant or small child. In most cases, children that are toddler age are in most need of these rooms. Children, kindergarten age and above, should not be in the cry rooms unless they are with a younger siblings. 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 24	\$ 13,660.00
Online & EFT Gifts December 24	\$ 2,752.00
Contributions for December 24	\$ 16,412.00
Christmas Collection	\$ 11,891.00
BLDG/Maintenance Fund December	\$ 530.00
BLDG/Main Online & EFT December	\$ 985.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

OUR SICK: Theresa Brocato, Meta Doggett, Irving Douzart, Brenda Evans, Bettie Jeansonne, Bobbi Leckie, Gene Leckie, Paul Medica, Jr., Georgiana Robinson, Elda Schoolcraft, Darrell Wilmore, Patsy Wilmore, Mary Winn, Tonya Wood

RECOVERING, CONVALESCING OR ONGOING TREATMENT: Shirley Agliano, Jeannine Babineaux, Pierce Babineaux, Bobbi Chatelain, Sis Delrie, Belinda Guillory, 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, 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, Zadi 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 CLOSED: The parish offices will be closed on the following days; 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.

LATIN AMERICA COLLECTION: For many in Latin America and the Caribbean, a rising secular culture, difficult rural terrain, and a shortage of ministers all present obstacles to practicing the faith. Your support for the collection provides lay leadership training, catechesis, priestly and religious formation, and other programs to share our Catholic faith with those who long to hear the Good News of Christ. To learn more about how your gifts make a difference, visit www.usccb.org/latin-america 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.

MANY THANKS:

To all of our Volunteer Sacristans and those who assist with the linens and candles throughout the year. You are all a great blessing especially at Christmas time; thank you for your many dedicated hours!!!

To Music Ministers, Brittany Nugent, Director of Music, Janet Cargle, Julie DeKeyser, Marc Daniels Cantors, Choristers and all our other musicians for the beautiful music they provided our parish family this Advent and Christmas season.

To the Altar and Rosary Society, Parish Staff and their volunteers for decorating the church for Christmas. **Thank you also to those who contributed to the Christmas Flower Fund.**

It was beautiful and truly helps enhance our liturgies!

—Fr. Raj

SPECIAL THANKS to everyone who donated socks for the Catholic Daughter Christmas Drive for the patients at St. Christina's Nursing Home.

—Ona Wilson, Regent

5th SUNDAY ROSARY this Sunday after the 9:30 AM Mass, led by KC Council #1134. Everyone is invited to join us. —Donnie Bolton, Grand Knitht

IF YOU OR A FAMILY MEMBER IS ADMITTED TO THE HOSPITAL please let us know! During office hours you may call 445-7120. If you are admitted to the hospital after office hours or on the weekend, please call 445-7141 ext 4.

If you have a surgery scheduled in advance, you may see one of the priests in the Sacristy or confessional before Mass, or call us at anytime. Please remember in emergencies to call us at 445-7141 ext 4. This will ensure that a priest or one of our hospital visitors from St. Rita will be able to see you. We will also know to pray for you in a special way!

—Fr. Raj

OFFERTORY PROCESSION: If you would like to participate in the offertory procession by bringing up the gifts of bread and wine at Mass, then let an usher know before Mass! Our ushers don't always know who would be willing to participate in this way, so volunteer!

—Fr. Raj

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.

—Etta Ohrt

ST. RITA CHURCH BLOOD DRIVE Sunday, January 14, 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM on the LifeShare Bus at church. Support your community, our church parish. Save a life by donating blood. All donors will receive a t-shirt and refreshments.

ST. RITA ALTAR AND ROSARY SOCIETY:

January is the month for all members to renew their dues. Dues are \$10.00 annually. You may mail your dues to St. Rita Altar Society, 4401 Bayou Rapides Rd., Alexandria, LA 71303 or drop in collection basket marked St. Rita Altar and Rosary dues.

—Debbie Brown, President