

St. Rita Catholic Church

September 7, 2025
Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

4401 Bayou Rapides Road
Alexandria, LA 71303

Office Hours Monday - Thursday 7:30 AM - 3:00 PM
Closed on Fridays

Church Office: 318-445-7120; FAX: 318-448-0704
Religious Education: 318-445-7141 ext 217
St. Vincent de Paul: 318-619-0056
Sacristy: 318-448-9599
EMERGENCIES: 318-445-7141 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: 318-445-7141

Rev. Anthony Dharmaraj, MSFS., Pastor (ext 212)
Rev. Joshua Burch, Associate Pastor (ext 211)
Deacon Kenny Sayes, Permanent Deacon (318-451-4555)
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 Sophia Scully, Director of Youth Ministries
Mr. Conrad Ducote, Director of Maintenance & Buildings
Dr. Thomas Robichaux, Director of Music

BAPTISMS:

Contact Debbie Brown, 318-445-7141 ext 214

MARRIAGE PREPARATION:

Contact Debbie Brown, 318-445-7141 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.

BLESSED MOTHER'S BIRTHDAY

Monday, September 8

Join us after the 8:00 Mass for Donuts and Cupcakes in the Church Foyer

"WHEN YOU PRAY"

begins this Monday, September 8th, 6:00 PM in Holy Family Center

LIVE STREAMED Masses every week at 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, September 6

4:00 -Mass for Sherman Cook, Bridget Legendre Darlington, Melba Ducote Dutton, Frances Finney, Duane G. Fruge, Brenda Welch Gremillion, Kayla Lemoine James, Vivian Johnson, Jr., Rebecca Fruge Lachney, Warren Moreau, Michael Perry, Jr., Gerald A. & Mary Lee Robichaux, Michael Robichaux, Steve Stolzer, Intention of George & Lisa Hardy

Sunday, September 7

8:00 -Mass for Norm Olson

9:30 -Mass for the Charlene Beurlot
11:00 -Mass for the congregation of St. Rita Parish
-Children's Church (ages 4 - 7)

12:30 -Spanish Mass for the Spanish Community

5:30 -Mass for Paul & Peggy Marcotte

Monday, September 8

8:00 -Mass for Nina Claire Mathews

8:30 -Birthday Celebration for Blessed Mother (Church Foyer)

Tuesday, September 9

8:00 -Mass for Michael Boatner

8:30 -Breakfast Club (HFC)

Wednesday, September 10

8:00 -Mass for Mary Alice Weston

4:30 -Wednesday Evening Meal (HFC)

6:00 -Faith Formation Pre-K - 5th (Church Foyer)

-6th, 7th & 8th Grade Youth Group (HFC)

-11th Grade Confirmation (Church)

6:00 -Choir Practice (Choir Room)

Thursday, September 11

8:00 -Mass for Vivian Johnson
 8:30 -Breakfast Club (HFC)
 10:00 -Mass for Edwin Crouch (Lexington House)

Friday, September 12

8:00 -Mass for O'dell Carlino, Judge Robert Jackson, Gerald Leglue, Parker Leglue, Helen Mathews, Sid Rud, Zachary Veillon, David Voelker

Saturday, September 13

4:00 -Mass for Frank & Angelina Cortello, James F. Curley, Sr., Leona Deshotel, Stanley G. Desselle, Percy J. Legendre, Jr., Bob & Leah Leonard, Michael Marchand, Helen Mathews, Warren Moreau, Michael Robichaux, Steve Stolzer, Janet Thiels, Raymond Villmarette

Sunday, September 14

8:00 -Mass for Peter Scalfano
 9:30 -Mass for Irving Douzart
 11:00 -Mass for the congregation of St. Rita Parish
 -Children's Church (ages 4 - 7)
 12:30 -Spanish Mass for Hilton & Mable Vead
 5:30 -Mass for the Ardoin Family

ALTAR FLOWERS were provided in memory of Paul & Peggy Marcotte by their children Michael Marcotte & Alisa Brasseur. If you are interested in donating fresh flowers for the altar, call the church office at 445-7141 ext 214. **Flowers are \$100 for both arrangements.**

ALTAR SANCTUARY LAMPS were provided in memory of Delores Distefano by Richard & Merrillyn Norem; and Michael Robichaux by his family. 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 Audrey Jusselin. 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: Nm 21:4b-9 Ps 78:1b-2, 34-38 Phil 2:6-11 Jn 3:13-17

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, 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: Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Corn, Roll, Dessert and Tea. Cost is \$6.00 for dine in or take out. Cook Team and Servers this week is the Altar & Rosary Society.

OUR OFFERTORY GIFTS

<i>Regular Collection</i>	
Sunday Gifts week of August 31	\$ 15,948.50
Online & EFT Gifts August 31	\$ 5,254.00
Contributions August 31	\$ 21,202.50
BLDG/Main Fund August	\$ 1,157.50
BLDG/Main Online & EFT August	\$ 685.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED AND THE CONSOLATION OF THEIR FAMILIES: Heyman Bohrer, Janice Lachney

OUR SICK: Brandon Ashley, James Manuel, Curtis Meaux, Barbara Trotter

RECOVERING, CONVALESCING OR ONGOING TREATMENT: Pierce Babineaux, Greg Beavers, Phillip Brouillette, Shirley Hebert, Dorothy Hill, Patrick Laborde, Geraldine Lacaze, Judy McClaran, Paul Medica, Jr., Beverly Mitchell, Cynthia Parker, Caroline Pearson, Zachary Price, Edward Rachal, Helen Schexnaider, Paul Socia, Brad Stewart, Erica Stewart, Patti Williams, Wanda Williams

OUR SHUT-INS: Clifton Babineaux, Doris Lachney Billeau, Sadie Blakesley, Lou Blalock, Mike Blalock, Sharon Bringol, Joseph "Napp" Brouillette, John Broussard, Frances Chatman, Donald Coco, Renee Crooks, Julia Cunningham, Benny David, Deborah Davidson, Betty Dekeyzer, Carolyn Dekeyzer, Joyce DeKeyzer, Pat Despino, Juanita Dodd, Elizabeth Drake, Reginald Dubroc, James Dupont, Maurice Evans, Mary Fontenot, Betty Gauthier, Linda Gauthier, Muriel Gauthier, Celia Gilmore, Irma Gonzaque, Christy Goutee, Helen Harrod, Elizabeth Holmes, Patti Holmes, Gerald Lachney, Catherine Lacour, Georgine Lauve, Lewis Lauve, Marvin Lee, Deanna Lemoine, Joseph Longo, Zadie Marcotte, Dot McWhorter, Sam Medica, Berl Moreau, Marilyn Naviaux, Clea Perry, Billie Phillips, Lee Procel, Willis Rabalais, JoAnn Rachall, Nanette Redman, Patsy Robinson, James Schoolcraft, Adrienne Stevens, Susan Turner, Joan Vanderlick, Anna Villemarette, Angela Williamson, Ruth Wilson, Anita Wooley, Barbara Wynn

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY: CW02 Brad Canrak, Major Brian J. Clayton, CW3 Ron Cole, Staff SFC Robert Crawford, Lance Cpl. Amy Fogleman, Lt. Col. Mike Frazier, LCLP Roberto Lopez, 1st Lt. Jackie E. Mathews, PO2 Nicholas Peralta, CWT1 Christian Perkins, E2 Connor Phillips, Sgt. Cole Pleche, PFC Brandon Rashall, Major 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.

BLESSED MOTHER'S BIRTHDAY is Monday, September 8, we will celebrate after the 8:00 Mass with donuts, cupcakes and coffee in the church foyer. Please join us!

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY COLLECTION: Since 1903, **The Catholic University of America** has been blessed by the generosity of parishioners around the country through the National Collection. Catholic University is the national university of the Catholic Church. Gifts to this collection support students during this crucial time and help the University conduct critical research that will serve parishes and dioceses throughout the country. You may use the envelope in your monthly packet or a pew envelope clearly marked. Please be generous to this collection.

CHURCH PASTORAL PLANNING: As part of the Together as One Church pastoral planning process, parishioners are invited to participate in upcoming Regional Planning Area Sessions. These gatherings will provide an opportunity to hear about the proposed parish models, ask questions, and share feedback that will help shape the future of our diocese.

Our church parish/mission is part of Central 1, 2 & 3, and our session will be held on: Saturday, September 20, 2025, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Alexandria.

Please make plans to attend and add your voice to this important conversation.
– Fr. Raj

NEW YOUTH MINISTER: Katheryn Velotta has resigned as Youth Minister, we want to thank her for her many years of service. However, she will still volunteer with the youth group. Please join us in welcoming Sophia Scully, as our new youth minister.

SPECIAL THANKS to the Altar & Rosary Society for purchasing the new Candle Sticks for the church. Your generosity is always appreciated.

CATECHETICAL SUNDAY 2025: “Always be ready to give an explanation...for a reason for your hope”, 1 Peter 3:15, which calls people to share their faith with gentleness and respect will be celebrated on Sunday, September 21. We invite and encourage all Faith Formation Teachers and aides, Confirmation team, Youth Ministry team, Bible Study/Adult Education facilitators, and the OCIA team to be present for a commissioning at the 11:00 AM Mass. We thank you for the great ministry you provide to our parish!

–Courtney Brinkman, Fr. Raj

CATHOLIC INQUIRY (OCIA – Order of Christian Initiation of Adults): Are you interested in knowing more about the Catholic faith or joining the Catholic Church? The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is the process for adults who desire to join the Catholic faith and for those seeking more information on the Catholic Church. OCIA is also be a method for Catholics to complete their reception of the initiation sacraments. For more information, call the church office. Classes begin Thursday, September 25 at 5:30 PM in the Moreau Room. – Jerry & Gwen Deville

ST. RITA CHORISTERS initial gathering to sign up for students in grades 2nd to 6th on Wednesday, September 3rd from 4:30 - 5:30 PM in the St. Cecilia Room in the Holy Family Center. If you would like more information, contact our Music Director, Thomas Robichaux at thomasrobichaux@bellsouth.net.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP will have a meet and greet this Sunday, after the 5:30 PM Mass in the youth room. All high school students in grade 9 - 12 are invited to join us.

“WHEN YOU PRAY” is a series exploring the riches of the Catholic tradition of prayer. The program consist of 7 lessons with videos filmed on location in Italy. The first session begins THIS Monday, September 8th with the final session on Monday, November 3rd. Meetings will be at 6:00 - 7:30 pm in the Holy Family Center. There is no cost to attend the program.

ST. RITA WOMEN’S ACTS RETREAT: Applications are now being accepted for the St. Rita ACTS Women’s Retreat, to be held November 13-16 at Maryhill Renewal Center. Application forms are available in the church foyer or on the website at www.strita.org.

Deadline for applications will be September 18, so we encourage you to submit your application form as soon as possible. For more information about the retreat, please email to stritaacts@outlook.com or contact one of the following, Amy Yarbrough 318-542-9386, Heather Johnson 318-290-4354 or Marie Wilson 318-419-3223.

ST. RITA FALL FESTIVAL 2025

Saturday, October 25

& Sunday, October 26

Watch the bulletin for more information!

Donations are needed for our SILENT AUCTION such as furniture, antiques, collectibles, etc.....

And for BINGO donations of new household items, toys, etc.....

Your donations may be dropped off at the MAINTENANCE SHOP located behind the Holy Family Center between the hours of 7:00 AM and 2:00 PM, Monday - Thursday ONLY.

Contact Debbie Brown, 445-7141 ext 214 for further information.