

St. Rita Catholic Church

September 14, 2025

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

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.

CATECHETICAL SUNDAY 2025 next Sunday at the 11:00 AM Mass

“Always be ready to give an explanation...for a reason for your hope”

VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON

Sunday, September 21 after the 11:00 Mass in the 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 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

Monday, September 15

8:00 -Mass for Elizabeth Ann Remillard
6:00 “When You Pray” Bible Study (HFC)

Tuesday, September 16

8:00 -Mass for Michael Robichaux
8:30 -Breakfast Club (HFC)

Wednesday, September 17

8:00 -Mass for Frank & Angelina Cortello
4:45 -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 18

8:00 -Mass for Mrs. Charles Dekeyzer
8:30 -Breakfast Club (HFC)
10:00 -Mass for Joan Andries (Lexington House)
5:00 -Catholic Daughters (HFC)

Friday, September 19

8:00 -Mass for Charlene Beurlot, Frances Finney, Vivian Johnson, Michael Robichaux, Al Schexnaider, Walter

Vanderlick, Zachary Veillon, Intention of the Veillon Family

Saturday, September 20

4:00 -Mass for Brent Bordelon, Sr., Jakamiah B. Cezar, Kaleb Clark, Mary Erin Curley, Weston C. Johnson, Jr., and Vivian Johnson, Freddie Lavespere, Natalie Mendel, Wally Metrejean, Norm Olson, Michael Perry, Jr., Michael Robichaux, Tyler Thiels

Sunday, September 21

8:00 -Mass for Warren & Eula Moreau
9:30 -Mass for the Frank & Angelina Cortello
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 Michael Laborde

ALTAR FLOWERS were provided in memory of Rev. Msgr. A. Olinger, Rev. Msgr. Bruce Miller, Sister Agnes Rose, C.D.P., by Martha Kay Gleason. 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 Earleen Baillio by Bobby Baillio; and Joan Andries by Elizabeth Holmes. 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 Barbara Fruge. 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: Am 8:4-7 Ps 113:1-2, 4-8 1 Tm 2:1-8 Lk 16:1-13 or 16:10-13 Catechism 2407-2418 or 2419-2436

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: Fried Pork Chop, Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Roll, Dessert and Tea. Cost is \$6.00 for dine in or take out. Cook Team and Servers are: Flo Sanders, Carl & Cheryl Verzwuyvelt, Katherine Beard, Alan & Brenda Daenen, Heather Reynaud, Theresa DeSelle, Earline Pentecost, Mike & Marlene Sawrie, Harry & Mary Vermaelen.

OUR OFFERTORY GIFTS

Regular Collection	
Sunday Gifts week of September 7	\$ 20,826.50
Online & EFT Gifts September 7	\$ 8,584.89
Contributions September 7	\$ 29,411.39
BLDG/Main Fund September	\$ 195.00
BLDG/Main Online & EFT Sept	\$ 170.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

OUR SICK: Brandon Ashley, Angie Carlino, Bruce Hirsch, 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 Billeaudeau, 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, Bettye 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, Harry Lachney, Opal 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.

WELCOME TO St. Rita Parish, new parishioners, Davie and Samantha Bryant; Mimi Hardy. Please join us in welcoming them to our parish family.

"WHEN YOU PRAY" is a series exploring the riches of the Catholic tradition of prayer. They meet on Mondays at 6:00 PM in the Holy Family Center.

RETIRED PRIESTS COLLECTION for our priests who have reached retirement age after years of faithful and dedicated service to the Diocese. With costs continually escalating, the monthly retirement benefit for our retired priests must be adjusted periodically as well. We appreciate your generosity in helping to assure that the needs of our retired priests will continue to be met, and ask that you remember them in your prayers. You may use the envelope in your monthly packet, or a pew envelope clearly marked and drop in the collection basket.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF CENTRAL LOUISIANA: Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana has helped hundreds of people in need by providing Mental Health Services, Disaster Response, and Basic Needs Assistance. Their efforts have impacted over hundreds of individuals and families across the four deaneries of the diocese. Interns and volunteers give their time and talent; however, this work requires funds to address the physical needs of residents. You may use the envelope in your monthly packet, or a pew envelope clearly marked and drop in the collection basket. To learn more visit www.cccenla.org

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

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. For more information, call the church office. Classes begin Thursday, September 25 at 5:30 PM in the Moreau Room. – Jerry & Gwen Deville

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP meet on Sundays, after the 5:30 PM Mass in the youth room. All high school students in grade 9 - 12 are invited to join us.

ST. RITA CHORISTERS for students in grades 2nd through 12th meet on Wednesdays, from 4:45 - 5:45 PM in the St. Cecilia Room in the Holy Family Center. All children in grades 2nd and above are invited to join us. If you would like more information, contact our Thomas Robichaux at thomasrobichaux@bellsouth.net.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS COURT BISHOP DESMOND will meet on Thursday, September 18 at 5:00 PM in the Holy Family Center. All ladies of the parish are invited to join us.

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.

KC COUNCIL #1134 GUN RAFFLE: 30 Day Gun Give A Way: \$30 per ticket, ticket good for the entire month. Rifles, Shotguns, Pistols, etc.... Winner determined by “Pick 3” drawing every day during the month of December, except Christmas Day. **Tickets can be purchased at the church office or from any KC Council #1134 member.** For more information contact call, David (481-0046) or Al (201-0191).

ST. RITA FALL FESTIVAL 2025

Saturday, October 25
& Sunday, October 26

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.