

St. Rita Catholic Church

December 14, 2025
Third Sunday of Advent

4401 Bayou Rapides Road
Alexandria, LA 71303

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



St. Rita
CATHOLIC CHURCH
the hands and heart of Christ

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.

Code QR for
OnLine Giving
St. Rita Website



Dial Direct to Extensions: 318-445-7141

Rev. Anthony Dharmaraj, MSFS., *Pastor* (ext 212)
Rev. Joseph Xavier Vethamanicka, *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 Devon Powell, *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. Joe

CONFESSIONS:

Saturdays, 3:30 - 3:55, or 15 minutes before any Mass or by appointment.

"THE SEVEN PILLARS OF CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY"

*A Christmas gift to you from the St. Rita ACTS Community
Books are available in the church foyer after all Masses*

COVE CREST PARENT INFORMATIONAL MEETING

*for all High School Students on Sunday, December 14, 6:30 PM
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, December 13

4:00 -Mass for Charlene Beurlot, Kaleb Clark, Bridget Legendre Darlington, Duane G. Fruge, Weston C. Johnson, Jr. & Vivian Johnson, Rebecca Fruge Lachney, Freddie Lavespere, Natalie Mendel, Wally Metrejean, Michael Robichaux, Sylvia Toves, Mable & Hilton Vead

Sunday, December 14

8:00 -Mass for Hilton & Mable Vead
9:30 -Mass for Vivian Johnson
11:00 -Mass for the congregation of St. Rita Parish
-Children's Church (ages 4 - 7)

12:30 -Spanish Mass for Sylvia Toves
1:00 -Altar & Rosary Christmas Party (HFC)
5:30 -Mass for the Ardoin Family
6:30 -High School Youth Group (HFC)
6:30 Cove Crest Parents Meeting (HFC)

Monday, December 15

7:00 -Mass for Vivian Johnson

Tuesday, December 16

8:00 -Mass for the intention of Kitty Michiels
8:30 -Breakfast Club (HFC)
10:00 -Mass for Sylvia Toves (Lexington House)
5:15 -Adult Choir Practice (Choir Room)

Wednesday, December 17

8:00 -Mass for Brenda Gremillion
5:00 -Choristers (Choir Room)
4:30 -NO Wednesday Evening Meal (HFC)
6:00 -NO Faith Formation Pre-K - 5th
-NO 6th, 7th & 8th Grade Youth Group
-NO 11th Grade Confirmation

Thursday, December 18

8:00 -Mass for Gene & Lela Bordelon

8:30 -Breakfast Club (HFC)
 5:30 -OCIA (Moreau Room)

Friday, December 19

8:00 -Mass for Joan Andries, Frank & Angelina Cortello, Helen Harrod, Vivian Johnson, Janice Lachney, Bessie LeJeune, Michael Robichaux, Al Schexnaider

Saturday, December 20

4:00 -Mass for Charlene Beurlet, Kaleb Clark, Mary Erin Curley, Stanley Gene Desselle, Freddie Lavespere, Percy J. Legendre, Jr., Bob & Leah Leonard, Paul & Peggy Marcotte, Natalie Mendel, Norm Olson, Michael Perry, Jr., Michael Robichaux, Peter Scalfano, Raymon Villmarette

Sunday, December 21

8:00 -Mass for Lee Cargle Sr.
 9:30 -Mass for Bo Faircloth
 11:00 -Mass for the congregation of St. Rita Parish
 -Children's Church (ages 4 - 7)
 12:30 -Spanish Mass for living & deceased members of the Spanish Community
 5:30 -Mass for Delores Distefano
 6:30 -High School Youth Group (HFC)

ALTAR FLOWERS: Flowers are not allowed on the altar during advent. If you are interested in donating fresh flowers for the altar after advent, 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 & Merrilyn Norem; and Michael Gerald 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 all deceased parishioners of St. Rita. 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: Is 7:10-14 Ps 24:1-6 Rom 1:1-7 Mt 1:18-24 Catechism 1950-1964

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.

NO WEDNESDAY EVENING MEAL until January 7, 2026.

OUR OFFERTORY GIFTS

Regular Collection	
Sunday Gifts week of December 7	\$ 16,634.50
Online & EFT Gifts December 7	\$ 9,346.89

Contributions December 7	\$ 25,981.39
Holy Day Collection December 8	\$ 3,657.00
BLDG/Main Fund December	\$.00
BLDG/Main Online & EFT Dec	\$ 170.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

OUR SICK: Anthony Ammal, Anthony Griffin, Ashley Henshaw, Curtis Meaux, Kip Pelto, Mike Pourciau, Bob Sylvia

RECOVERING, CONVALESCING OR ONGOING TREATMENT: Brandon Ashley, Pierce Babineaux, Meryl Beach, Pat Belaire, Phillip Brouillette, Jason Chumley, Baby Brycen Foster, Shirley Hebert, Patrick Laborde, James Manuel, Paul Medica, Jr., Bob Martin, Caroline Pearson, Zachary Price, Edward Rachal, Karen Schrock, Brad Stewart, Erica Stewart, Joe Velotta

OUR SHUT-INS: Clifton Babineaux, Doris Lachney Billeau, Sadie Blakesley, Lou Blalock, Mike Blalock, Judy Bordelon, Sharon Bringol, Joseph "Napp" Brouillette, John Broussard, Frances Chatman, Donald Coco, Renee Crooks, Julia Cunningham, Bennye 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, Irma Gonzague, Christy Goutee, Peggy Guillory, 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, Jennifer Odom, Clea Perry, Billie Phillips, Willis Rabalais, JoAnn Rachall, Nanette Redman, Patsy Robinson, James Schoolcraft, Adrienne Stevens, Susan Turner, Joan Vanderlick, Anna Villemarette, Angela Williamson, Ruth Wilson, Anita Wooley

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, Am1 Michael John, LCLP Roberto Lopez, 1st Lt. Jackie E. Mathews, CW1T1 Christian Perkins, E2 Connor Phillips, Sgt. Cole Pleche, PFC Brandon Rashall, Major Timothy C. Turner, Cdr Claire Marie Vidrine. 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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR POLICE OFFICERS & FIRST RESPONDERS: Due to confidentiality and safety, we will not print their names. Please keep all Police Officers & First Responders in your prayers.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS: Aging religious need your help. "Your support acknowledges that we continue the mission of Christ even in our retirement," says Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart, Sister Celeste Burgos, 80. Donations provide for the care, medicine, and daily needs of over 24,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who have dedicated their lives to service. Please give to the Retirement Fund for Religious. You may use the envelope in your monthly packet or a pew envelope marked and drop in the collection basket. Please be generous to this collection.

PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE: For the Christmas holidays please note that the parish offices will be closed on the following days; Wednesday, December 24, Thursday, December 25, Tuesday, December 30, Wednesday, December 31 and Thursday January 1. *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 23 - December 26th and Wednesday, December 31st, and Thursday, January 1st.

DONATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS FAMILIES: As a parish family, we have adopted 5 families with 21 children this year. If you would like to make a monetary donation for the families, you may do so with a pew envelope. Mark it Christmas Families and drop in the collection basket. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

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.

ATTENTION ALL KINDERGARTEN AND 1ST GRADE PARENTS: We would like to invite your children to sing with the Choristers at the Christmas Eve 5:30 PM Mass. There will be a rehearsal on Wednesday, December 17 at 5:00 PM in the choir room. For more information contact Thomas Robichaux at thomasrobichaux@bellsouth.net.

BEGIN THE NEW YEAR WITH ONLINE 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 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. RITAMEN'S ACTS RETREAT: Applications are now being accepted for the St. Rita ACTS Men's Retreat, to be held February 26 - March 1 at Maryhill Renewal Center.

Application forms are available on the round table in the church foyer or on the website at www.strita.org. Limited space available, deadline for applications will be January 6th, so we encourage you to submit your

application form as soon as possible.

For more information about the retreat, please contact one of the following, Davis Bordelon 318-321-9750, Eric Meaux, 318-290-4390 & Scott Speir 318-452-3293.

A GIFT FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON from the ST. Rita ACTS Community. Members of our St. Rita ACTS Core Team will be in the foyer before and after each Mass this weekend handing out books, *The Seven Pillars of Catholic Spirituality* purchased as a gift for the Christmas season. The book chosen is meant to help readers establish long-term spiritual habits and a deeper prayer life. Please stop by the table in the foyer and pick up one of the available books.

2026 CALENDARS are here!!! You can get your calendar in the sacristy before or after Mass or the church office. Calendars are \$2 each.

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 18 bulletin. Poinsettia's cost **\$15** each. 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.** Money collected in the flower envelopes at Christmas and Easter is used to decorate the church at Christmas and Easter and also for flowers on the altar throughout the year. Thank you for your support!

SPECIAL THANKS to everyone who supported the Altar & Rosary Sale and Raffle this past weekend, it was a huge success.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE RAFFLE WINNERS! The winners were, 1st prize, Lisa Collins, 2nd prize – Jackie Haskins; 3rd Prize – Stacy Auzenne.

WINE AVAILABLE: We have 4 cases of wine left. If you would like to purchase a bottle or case, stop by the church office, Monday - Thursday, 7:30 am - 2:30 pm. Wine is \$15 per bottle.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS CHRISTMAS PROJECT: The Catholic Daughters Court Bishop Desmond are collecting men's and women's socks for the residents at St. Christina Nursing Home for their Christmas stockings. There are boxes in the church foyer until December 22 for you to drop off your donation. Thank you.