

St. Rita Catholic Church

December 21, 2025
Fourth 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 (850-748-1437)
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.

ADORATION & BENEDICTION

Monday, December 22, 6:00 PM

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

MASSES FOR CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve: Wednesday, December 24,

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

Christmas Choir Prelude 11:30 PM

MIDNIGHT MASS 12:00 Midnight

Christmas Day: Thursday, December 25

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

Confessions on Wednesday, Christmas Eve, 3:00 - 3:55 PM

4:00 PM & Midnight Mass WILL BE LIVE STREAMED

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 20

4:00 -Mass for Charlene Beurlot, 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)

Monday, December 22

- 8:00 -Mass for Lula Labatat

Tuesday, December 23

- 8:00 -Mass for Michael Robichaux
- 8:30 -NO Breakfast Club (HFC)
- 10:00 -Mass for Annette Merritt (Lexington House)
- 5:15 -Adult Choir Practice (Choir Room)

Wednesday, December 24

- 8:00 -NO Mass

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 -Children's Mass for all living & deceased of the parish
- 12:00 -Mass for all living & deceased of the parish

Thursday, 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

Friday, December 26

- 8:00 -Mass for Odell Carlino, Frank & Angelina Cortello, Leona Deshotel, Rev. Joe Haisber, Michael Laborde, Sid Rud, David Voelker

Saturday, December 27

- 4:00 -Mass for Charlene Beurlet, Kaleb Clark, Vivian Johnson, Freddie Lavespere, Percy J. Legendre, Jr., Michael Marchand, Paul & Peggy Marcotte, Natalie Mendel, Warren Moreau, Michael Perry, Jr., Michael Robichaux, Sylvia Toves, Mable & Hilton Vead

Sunday, December 28

- 8:00 -Mass for Joan Andries
- 9:30 -Mass for Paul & Peggy Marcotte
- 11:00 -Mass for the congregation of St. Rita Parish
- Children's Church (ages 4 - 7)
- 12:30 -Spanish Mass for Spanish Community
- 5:30 -Mass for Charlene Beurlet
- 6:30 -NO 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 Earleen Baillio by Bobby Baillio; and T.D. & Amy Prestridge by Mary Faircloth. 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 Judy Bordelon. 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: 17: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 Ps 128:1-5 Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

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.

NO WEDNESDAY EVENING MEAL until January 7, 2026.

OUR OFFERTORY GIFTS

Regular Collection	
Sunday Gifts week of December 14	\$ 19,829.50
Online & EFT Gifts December 14	\$ 4,137.00
Contributions December 14	\$ 23,966.50
BLDG/Main Fund December	\$ 280.00
BLDG/Main Online & EFT Dec	\$ 260.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED AND THE CONSOLATION OF THEIR FAMILIES: Judy Bordelon

OUR SICK: Anthony Ammal, Anthony Griffin, Ashley Henshaw, Curtis Meaux, Kip Pelto, Mike Pourciau, Carmen Robichaux, 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, 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 Gonzaque, Christy Goutee, Peggy Guillory, Elizabeth Holmes, Patti Holmes, Martha Johnson, 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, Cleta 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, StaffSFC Robert Crawford, Lance Cpl. Amy Fogleman, Lt. Col. Mike Frazier, Am1 Michael John, LCLP Roberto Lopez, 1st Lt. Jackie E. Mathews, CW11 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.

ADORATION & BENEDICTION on Monday, December 22 at 6:00 PM Please join us.

CHURCH 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 - January 6, 2026.

ALL EUCHARISTIC SERVERS WHO TAKE COMMUNION TO OUR HOMEBOUND SHUT-INS: Please take note that the priests and deacon will be visiting the homebound shut-ins on Monday, December 22. Please do not take communion to your shut-ins this upcoming week. Thank you for all that you do.

CHURCH VOCATIONS: 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, 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. Please give generously.

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

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

–Marilyn Price, Regent

DONATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS FAMILIES: As a parish family, we have adopted 8 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. 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.

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. –*Etta Ohrt*

ST. RITA MEN'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.

COVE CREST REGISTRATION is now open for current 8th graders through 12th grade. Registration can be completed on the St. Rita website or by contacting Devon Powell at 850-748-1437 or email: devpow1@outlook.com. Spaces are limited!!

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!

SPANISH COMMUNITY invites all parishioners to join them and experience a **Spanish “Posada” on Sunday, December 21, 1:30 PM** in the Holy Family Center. A **Posada** a play about the Nativity. *Las Posadas commemorates the journey that Joseph and Mary made from Nazareth to Bethlehem in search of a safe refuge where Mary could give birth to the baby Jesus.* There will also be caroling. Refreshments will be served. –*Anna Martinez*