

St. Rita Catholic Church

December 28, 2025
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

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. 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.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

May God Bless you and your family in 2026!

NEW YEAR'S DAY SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD *Holy Day of Obligation*

Vigil Masses, Wednesday, December 31, 4:00 PM
Mass, Thursday, January 1, 8:00, 11:00 AM

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 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)
Monday, December 29
8:00 -Mass for Frank & Angelina Cartello
Tuesday, December 30
8:00 -Mass for Kathy Fryer Thomas
8:30 -NO Breakfast Club (HFC)
10:00 -Mass for Annette Merritt (Lexington House)
5:15 -Adult Choir Practice (Choir Room)

Wednesday, December 31

8:00 -Mass for Mary Lee Robichaux
4:00 -Mass for Gerald Leglue

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

8:00 -NO Breakfast Club (HFC)
8:00 -Mass for Robert L. Thiels
11:00 -Mass for Parker Leglue

Friday, January 2

8:00 -Hyacinthe "Hiway" Mathews Bailey

Saturday, January 3

4:00 -Mass for Rosalie V. Mathews

Sunday, January 4

8:00 -Mass for Peter Scalfano

9:30 -Mass for Lillian Kramer Villemez

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: 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 in memory of Joan Andries by Elizabeth Holmes; in memory of 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 Edward Joseph Rachal. 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:21: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10 Acts 10:34-38 Mt 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.

NO WEDNESDAY EVENING MEAL until January 7, 2026.

OUR OFFERTORY GIFTS

<i>Regular Collection</i>	
Sunday Gifts week of December 21	\$ 23,093.10
Online & EFT Gifts December 21	\$ 11,298.00
Contributions December 21	\$ 34,391.10
BLDG/Main Fund December	\$ 415.00
BLDG/Main Online & EFT Dec	\$ 560.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

OUR SICK: Stan Fryer, Anthony Griffin, Ashley Henshaw, Curtis Meaux, Kip Pelto, Mike Pourciau, Carmen Robichaux, Bob Sylvia, Patti Williams

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 Billeaudeau, 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, Zadi 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, Staff SFC Robert Crawford, Lance Cpl. Amy Fogleman, Lt. Col. Mike Frazier, Am1 Michael John, LCLP Roberto Lopez, 1st Lt. Jackie E. Mathews, CW1 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.

CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAYSCHEDULE: For the New Year holidays please note that the parish offices will be closed on the following days; 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 30 - January 6, 2026.

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.

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 Our Music Ministers, Thomas Robichaux, Director of Music, Elizabeth Nix, and Cantors Julie DeKeyzer, Marc Daniels, and Janet Cargle, the Choristers and all our 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: Through your generosity we collected \$5,031 for our Christmas Families!!! We were able to adopt 9 families with 25 children. The spirit of giving is truly alive at St. Rita!! Thank you all for your generosity!! – *Fr. Raj & Courtney Brinkman*

BEGIN THE NEW YEAR WITH ONLINE 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** 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 for June 2026 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: It’s not too late to 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 11 bulletin. Donations for the decorating fund is **\$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.** Thank you for your support!

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. The next meeting is Thursday, January 8 at 5:30 PM in the Holy

Family Center. We will have elections for officers at this meeting. – *Gina Lachney, President*

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*

ST. RITA CHURCH BLOOD DRIVE Sunday, January 18, 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.

CLOSING MASS FOR THE JUBILEE YEAR: PILGRIMS OF HOPE: The closing Mass for the Jubilee Year of Hope will be held on Sunday, December 28 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Alexandria. Over the past year, hundreds of people from across the diocese participated in the Jubilee Year of Hope pilgrimage. Every pilgrimage site in our diocese distributed hundreds of passports and thousands of stickers. We are overwhelmed with the number of completed passports being received weekly. Please note, if you are attempting to complete the pilgrimage, the pilgrimage site churches may take up their passport stickers and other materials after the closing Mass on Sunday, December 28, so make sure you complete your pilgrimage before then. We will accept your completed passports in the mail into the beginning of 2026 but to ensure you receive a completion certificate signed by Bishop and a limited-edition commemorative coin, please don’t delay.

HEART OF LOUISIANA CREDIT UNION: If you or any member of your family are parishioners of St. Rita Church, you are eligible to join Heart of Louisiana Credit Union. By joining you begin a lifetime of benefits. Your savings deposited earn dividends and loans can be made for any purpose. All deposits are insured up to \$250,000. Stop by any of our locations or call 473-4562 for more information.

