

# St. Rita Catholic Church

January 4, 2026  
The Epiphany of the Lord

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)

#### ANOIDING 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.

## WEDNESDAY EVENING MEALS

*start back this Wednesday, January 7, 4:30 - 6:00 PM*

## FAITH FORMATION -- Grades PreK - 5, - 6, 7 & 8 GRADE YOUTH GROUP & CONFIRMATION

*resume this Wednesday, January 7, 6:00 PM*

**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](http://www.strita.org). You can also view all our Live Streamed Masses anytime on our website, [www.strita.org](http://www.strita.org).

#### 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)

#### Monday, January 5

8:00 -Mass for Pete Snow

#### Tuesday, January 6

8:00 -Mass for Kaleb Clark

8:30 -Breakfast Club (HFC)

10:00 -Mass for Edna Rabalais (Lexington House)

5:15 -Adult Choir Practice (Choir Room)

#### Wednesday, January 7

8:00 -Mass for the intention of Margarita Iannuzzi

#### Thursday, January 8

8:00 -Mass for the intention of baby Kanada

8:30 -Breakfast Club (HFC)

#### Friday, January 9

8:00 -Mass for Brent Bordelon, Sr., Sid Rud, John & Amie Saucier, Janet Thiels, Zachary Veillon, David Voelker

#### Saturday, January 10

4:00 Frank & Angelina Cortello, Leon & Myrtis Daigre, Christopher Hinton, William (Bill) Hinton, Jr., William Ralph & Violet Hinton Sr., Bob & Leah Leonard, Richard Love, Gerald A. & Mary Lee Robichaux, Sr., Michael Robichaux, Zachary Veillon, Raymond Villmarette, Clair Gremillion Week

#### Sunday, January 11

8:00 -Mass for Marion Polk

9:30 Michelle Loewer

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 Paul Dunn  
 6:30 -NO 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** were provided in loving memory of Paul Dunn by his sister Marilyn Price. 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 Stanley (Stan) Thomas Fryer. 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.

**WEDNESDAY EVENING MEAL:** 4:30 - 6:00 PM in the Holy Family Center, this week's menu: Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Corn, Roll, Dessert and Tea. Cost is \$6.00 for dine in or take out. Cook Team and servers this week are the Altar and Rosary Society. Please join us for delicious food and fellowship!

**OUR OFFERTORY GIFTS**

<i>Regular Collection</i>	
<b>Sunday Gifts week of December 28</b>	<b>\$ 15,154.10</b>
<b>Online &amp; EFT Gifts December 28</b>	<b>\$ 3,232.00</b>
<b>Contributions December 28</b>	<b>\$ 18,386.10</b>
<b>Christmas Day Collection</b>	<b>\$ 11,554.00</b>
<b>BLDG/Main Fund December</b>	<b>\$ 505.00</b>
<b>BLDG/Main Online &amp; EFT Dec</b>	<b>\$ 585.00</b>

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY**

**The three wise men who came from the East to pay homage to the infant Jesus brought Him rich gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh as part of their worship. What gifts have I brought to this celebration to offer to the newborn Savior?**

**FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED AND THE CONSOLATION OF THEIR FAMILIES:** Stanley (Stan) Thomas Fryer

**OUR SICK:** Anthony Griffin, Curtis Meaux, Mike Pourciau, 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, Ashley Henshaw, Patrick Laborde, James Manuel, Paul Medica, Jr., Bob Martin, Caroline Pearson, Zachary Price, Edward Rachal, Carmen Robichaux. 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, 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, Irma Gonzague, 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, Staff SFC Robert Crawford, Lance Cpl. Amy Fogleman, Lt. Col. Mike Frazier, Am I Michael John, LCLP Roberto Lopez, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jackie E. Mathews, CWT1 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](mailto: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 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.

**THE CHURCH TODAY COLLECTION:** Every month, this 20-page newspaper is mailed FREE to every Catholic household in the diocese. All donations to this special collection go directly to the Church Today to help defray the cost of printing and mailing. Your donation also defrays the cost of our digital outreach via the diocesan website [www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org). If you, or someone you know, would like to receive the Church Today FREE each month, call 318- 445-6424, ext 209 to request it or sign up at <https://www.diocesealex.org/the-office-of-communications/>

**OFFERTORY PROCESSION:** If you would like to participate in the offertory procession by bringing up the gifts of bread and wine at Mass, then let an usher know before Mass! Our ushers don't always know who would be willing to participate in this way, so volunteer!

**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 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](http://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, 10<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup> 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*

**2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE FAITH FORMATION SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** is on Wednesday, January 21 at 6:00 PM in Church. *—Courtney Brinkman*

**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](http://www.strita.org). Limited space available, deadline for applications will be January 6<sup>th</sup>, 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 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Registration can be completed on the St. Rita website or by contacting Devon Powell at 850-748-1437 or email: [devpow1@outlook.com](mailto:devpow1@outlook.com). Spaces are limited!!

**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*

**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.

**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.

