St. Rita Catholic Church

January 18, 2026
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

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.

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.

SUNDAY BREAKFAST
this Sunday after the 8:00 & 9:30 Mass in the Holy Family Center

BLOOD DRIVE on the LifeShare Bus
this Sunday, January 18, 8:00 AM - 12:30 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.
You can also view all our Live Streamed Masses anytime on our website, www.strita.org.

Saturday, January 17
4:00 -Mass for Angela Bender, Judy Bordelon, Kaleb Clark, Helen Harrod, Nathan Krig, Freddie Lavespere, Natalie Mendel, Mary Lee Robichaux, Zachary Veillon, Intention of Marcus Descant

Sunday, January 18
8:00 -Mass for Brent Bordelon, Sr.
9:00 -Sunday Breakfast (HFC)
9:30 -Mass for Irvin Douzart
10:30 -Sunday Breakfast (HFC)
11:00 -Mass for the congregation of St. Rita Parish
-Children's Church (ages 4 - 7)
12:30 -Spanish Mass for deceased members of the Spanish Community
5:30 -Mass for Charles Glorioso
6:30 -High School Youth Group (HFC)

Monday, January 19
8:00 -Mass for Al Schexnaider

Tuesday, January 20
8:00 -Mass for Howard & Sadie Shores
8:30 -Breakfast Club (HFC)
10:00 -Mass for Annette Merritt (Lexington House)
5:15 -Adult Choir Practice (Choir Room)
6:00 -ACTS Men's Team Meeting (HFC)

Wednesday, January 21
8:00 -Mass for the intention of Gene & Diann Prevot
4:30 -Wednesday Evening Meal (HFC)
6:00 - Faith Formation Pre-K - 5th
- 6th, 7th & 8th Grade Youth Group
-11th Grade Confirmation

Thursday, January 22
8:00 -Mass for Curtis Meaux
8:30 -Breakfast Club (HFC)
5:30 -OCIA Meeting (Moreau Room)

Friday, January 23
8:00 -Mass for the Ardoin Family, Zachary Veillon

Saturday, January 24
4:00 Mass for Odell Carlino, Anthony Iannuzzi, Vivian Iannuzzi, Zachary Veillon

Sunday, January 25
8:00 -Mass for John & Amie Saucier
9:30 -Mass for Zachary Veillon
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 Geraldine Lacaze
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: 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 Tristin Jusselin. 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: 67: Is 8:23-9:3 Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 1 Cor 1:10-13,17 Mt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17

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: Meat Sauce, Spaghetti, Green Salad, Garlic Bread, Dessert and Tea. Cost is $6.00 for dine in or take out. Cook Team is Rae Hair, Jerri Forbis, Rodney Feazell, Gerard Labbe, Brenda Daenen, Alan Daenen, Diana Basco, Mike Sawrie, Marline Sawrie, Bennie Vandersypen, Cheryl Verzwyvelt, Carl Verzwyvelt and servers this week are Lisa Labbe, Barbara Barham, Mike Barham, Michael Wynn. Please join us for delicious food and fellowship!

CHURCH OFFICE is closed on Monday, January 19 in observance of Martin Luther King Holiday.

OUR OFFERTORY GIFTS

Regular Collection	
Sunday Gifts week of January 11	**$ 17,217.00**
Online & EFT Gifts January 11	**$ 7,997.00**
Yearly One Time Gift	**$ 20,000.00**
Contributions January 11	**$ 45,214.00**
BLDG/Main Fund January	**$ 1,415.00**
BLDG/Main Online & EFT January	**$ 275.00**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED AND THE CONSOLATION OF THEIR FAMILIES: Geri Babin, Bobby Ray Bolton

OUR SICK: Carl Carlin, Anthony Griffin, Dot McWhorter, Darlene Morovich, Mike Pourciau, Bob Sylvia, Patti Williams

RECOVERING, CONVALESCING OR ONGOING TREATMENT: Brandon Ashley, Pierce Babineaux, Meryl Beach, Phillip Brouillette, Shirley Hebert, Ashley Henshaw, Patrick Laborde, Paul Medica, Jr., Caroline Pearson, Zachary Price, Carmen Robichaux. Karen Schrock, Brad Stewart, Erica Stewart, Joe Velotta

OUR SHUT- INS: Clifton Babineaux, Mureil Beach, Doris Lachney Billeaudeau, Sadie Blakesley, Lou Blalock, Mike Blalock, Joseph "Napp" Brouillette, John Broussard, Frances Chatman, Donald Coco, 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, 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, Pat Lohman, Marvin Lee, Deanna Lemoine, Joseph Longo, Zadie Marcotte, Dot McWhorter, Sam Medica, Berl Moreau, Marilyn Naviaux, Jennifer Odom, Cleta Perry, Billie Phillips, Willis Rabalais, Joan Rachall, Nanette Redman, Patsy Robinson, M. Sellers, David Stafford, Adrienne Stevens, Susan Turner, Joan Vanderlick, Anna Villemarette, Audrey Ward, 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, Am1 Michael John, LCLP Roberto Lopez, 1st 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. 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.

WELCOME TO St. Rita Parish, new parishioners, Maricela Arellano; Roger Finney; David Foster; Monique Rozands and their families.

2025 END OF THE YEAR CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS were emailed last week. We also mailed 161 statements to those that did not have a email address. If you would like to send your email address to us, please email etta@strita.org. If you did not receive a statement, please call Etta Ohrt at 445-7141 ext 210.

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. 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/

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*

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

MEMORIAL MASS will be celebrated on Saturday, January 24 at 4:00 PM Mass for all members of St. Rita Church who have died July 1 - December 31, 2025. Those to be remembered are; Heyman Joseph Bohrer, Juliette "Judy" Bordelon, Lee LaVern Cargle, Sr., Edwin Crouch, Stanley "Stan" Thomas Fryer, Helen Fay Harrod, Audrey Ann Jusselin, Tristen Jusselin, Geraldine R. Lacaze, Donald Lee Lachney, Janice Lachney, Joseph Louis Mathews, Freda Renee McDonald, Edward Joseph Rachal, and Betty Clair Wilmore. ***This Mass will be Live Streamed on our FaceBook page and our website.***

DISPLAY FOR MEMORIAL MASS: If you lost a loved one from July 1 - December 31, 2025, we will have a table set up in the church foyer for you to display 1 (ONE) framed picture of your loved one. Please put your contact information on the picture, so that we can return to you. The table will be set up in the foyer the weekend of January 17 - 18.

ST. RITA CHURCH BLOOD DRIVE Sunday, January 18, 8:00 AM - 12:30 PM on the LifeShare Bus. Please support the community and church parish by donating blood.

FULLNESS OF TRUTH: 5th Annual Lenten Catholic Family Diocesan Evangelization Conference entitled, *"Why We're Catholic: Effectively Sharing the Hope Within You!"* will be hosted by St. Rita Catholic Church on February 20th -21st, and is designed to practically prepare Catholics for fruitful discipleship. So, equip yourselves with the "spot-on" preaching of Lafayette's Rev. Michael Russo; the practical "rules of engagement" strategies of Catholic Apologist & Evangelist John Martignoni; and the no-nonsense, disarming tactics of dynamic Podcaster & Author Patty Schneier, as they explore how you can use time-tested methods for bringing loved ones back - or into - the Church right now. We are in urgent times…the passive wait-and-see approach to evangelization is no longer an option! Don't Miss It! To register, for room reservations, and schedule, visit www.fullnessoftruth.org/ALX26 or call: 877.218-7884.

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. applications are due NOW, please 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!!

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.
– Gina Lachney, President

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS COURT BISHOP DESMOND #1459: January is the month for all members to renew their dues. Dues are $30 annually. You can turn in your dues at the January meeting to Cindy Campbell, Financial Secretary or mail your dues to Cindy Campbell, Financial Secretary, 4908 Canal Dr., Alexandria, LA 71303. Please make checks payable to: CDA Court Bishop Desmond.