

St. Rita Catholic Church

February 1, 2026
Fourth 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.



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.

BLESSING OF THE THROATS AFTER ALL MASSES THIS WEEKEND *in honor of the Feast of St. Blaise*

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 31

4:00 -Mass for Jerry Brown, Kaleb Clark, Leon & Myrtis Daigre, Freddie Lavespere, Richard Love, Joey Mathews, Natalie Mendel, Wally Metrejean, Gerald & Mary Lee Robichaux, Sr., Michael Robichaux, Zachary Veillon, Raymond Villmarette, Souls in Purgatory

Sunday, February 1

8:00 -Mass for Judy Bordelon
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 deceased members of the Spanish Community
5:30 -Mass for Delores Distefano
6:30 -High School Youth Group (HFC)

Monday, February 2

8:00 -Mass for Laura Longo

Tuesday, February 3

8:00 -Mass for Geri Babin
8:30 -Breakfast Club (HFC)
10:00 -Mass for Edna Rabalais (Lexington House)
5:15 -Adult Choir Practice (Choir Room)
6:00 -ACTS Men's Team Meeting (HFC)

Wednesday, February 4

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

Thursday, February 5

8:00 -Mass for Janice Lachney
8:30 -Breakfast Club (HFC)
5:30 -OCIA Meeting (Moreau Room)

Friday, February 6

8:00 -Mass for Frank & Angelina Cortello, Sid Rud, Janet Thiels, Zachary Veillon, David Voelker

Saturday, February 7

4:00 Mass for Helen Harrod, Christopher Hinton, William (Bill) Hinton, Jr., William Ralph & Violet Hinton, Sr., Nathan Krig, Bob & Leah Leonard, Curtis Meaux, Gerald & Mary Lee Robichaux, Sr., Michael Robichaux, Zachary Veillon, Clair Gremillion Weeks, Intention of Marcus Descant

Sunday, February 8

8:00 -Mass for Peter Scalfano

9:30 -Mass for 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 -High School Youth Group (HFC)

ALTAR FLOWERS were provided in loving memory of Ross, Jo & Chris Giamanco by Scott & Karen Reed. 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 John Williams, Jr., by Barbara Mitchell. 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 Curtis Meaux. 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 58:7-10 Ps 112:4-9 1 Cor 2:1-5 Mt 5:13-16

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: Enchiladas/Ground Beef, Pasta in cheese sauce, Green Salad, Dessert and Tea. Cost is \$6.00 for dine in or take out. Cook Team and Servers are the Spanish Community. Please join us for delicious food and fellowship!

OUR OFFERTORY GIFTS

<i>Regular Collection</i>	
Sunday Gifts week of January 25	\$ 7,445.30
Online & EFT Gifts January 25	\$ 6,319.00
Contributions January 25	\$ 13,764.30
BLDG/Main Fund January	\$ 1,610.00
BLDG/Main Online & EFT January	\$ 665.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED AND THE CONSOLATION OF THEIR FAMILIES: Dr. Robert Antoon, David Deville

OUR SICK: Larry Bordelon, Debbie Brown, Robert Flowers, Baby Dorothy Tatum Kanada, Darlene Morovich, Helen Schexnaider, Bob Sylvia

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

OUR SHUT- INS: Clifton Babineaux, Mureil Beach, Doris Lachney Billeau, 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 Gonzague, 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, Zadi 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.

CHURCH IN LATIN AMERICA COLLECTION: Many in Latin America and the Caribbean find that a rising secular culture, difficult rural terrain, and a shortage of ministers all present obstacles to practicing the faith. Your support for the collection provides lay leadership training, catechesis, priestly and religious formation, and other programs to share our Catholic faith with those who long to hear the Good News of Christ. To learn more about how your gifts make a difference, visit usccb.org/latin-america.

ASH WEDNESDAY COLLECTION: On Ash Wednesday, February 18, we will take up the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. This collection supports the Church in more than 25 countries that are still struggling to recover from former communist rule. It also aids communities throughout the region that are affected by the war in Ukraine. Funds support pastoral care, catechesis, renovations of church properties, and seminary formation. Your contribution restores the Church and builds the future in this region. You can find more information at www.usccb.org/ccee.

FEAST OF ST. BLAISE is Tuesday, February 3. As is traditional around his feast day, we will have the Blessing of the Throats at all Masses this weekend. The final blessing at Mass will be the General Blessing of the Throats. While this General Blessing carries the same grace, we will offer individual blessings after Mass for those who desire to receive it!

ANNIVERSARY COUPLES who will be honored next weekend, February 8 at the 11:00 AM Mass with a Papal Blessing from Pope Leo XIV. Those couples in our parish to be honored are:

25 years; Rocky & Amy Bonnette, Jade & Candace Losavio

40 years; Philip & Roberta Chatelain, Kenny & Cindy Sayes

50 years; Michael & Kay Buck, Patrick & Nancy Kelly, Gene & Diann Prevot

60 years; Pierre & Rosalind Allemond, Clifton & Jeannine Babineaux, Frank & Mary Jane Close, Stanley & Leslie Fryer, Harold & Louise LaJaunie, Terry and Carol Mayeux

65 years; John & Beverly Wilmore

70 years; Jerry & Kiki Patton

Please join us in congratulating these couples.

HUGS - “Helping You Gain Strength” a Support Group that helps any Widow or Widower through Grief. This group is designed to bring comfort and hope to anyone facing loss of a spouse—whether through sudden death or a terminal illness. Participants will find strength to experience and take steps toward a meaningful new chapter in their life. Each session blends practical tools with encouragement in a caring group setting. The group will meet once a month on the 3rd Thursday of the Month, beginning on Thursday, February 19, 2:00 - 4:00 PM in the Moreau Room. If you are interested in joining, please call Lori Paulk at 318-451-1737 or Debbie Brown at 318-447-4641.



SENIOR CITIZENS MARDIGRAS POTLUCK & BINGO Thursday, February 12th from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM in the Holy Family Center. Bring your favorite potluck, we will provide the meat and drinks.

ST. RITA VOLUNTEERS needed at MANNA HOUSE the first Tuesday of every month, beginning at 10:00 AM. If you would like to volunteer, please call 318-445-9053 or email cenlamannahouse@gmail.com Please consider volunteering at the Manna House.

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 Friday, February 20th beginning with 5:30 PM Stations of the Cross and ending at 9:00 PM and Saturday February 21st beginning with Holy Rosary at 7:30 AM and ending with 4:00 PM Mass. This conference 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 to be held February 26 - March 1 at Maryhill Renewal Center. 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.

ST. RITA ALTAR AND ROSARY SOCIETY: will meet on Thursday, February 12 at 5:30 PM in the Holy Family Center. Bring a Valentine gift to play Dirty Cupid!! All ladies of the parish are invited to join us.

– Gina Lachney, President

“BREAKING THROUGH GRIEF” Weekly Support Group: Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana offers an eight-week program, Breathing through Grief, designed to bring comfort and hope to anyone facing loss—whether through death, illness, broken relationships, or other life-altering changes. Rooted in faith and guided by grace, this program provides a safe haven for sharing, embrace healing, and discover that even in the emptiness, God is near and new beginnings are possible.

Participants will find strength to renew their spirit, experience inner peace, and take intentional steps toward a meaningful new chapter in life. Each session blends practical tools with spiritual encouragement in a caring group setting, fostering resilience and hope throughout the journey. The program begins Monday, February 2, from 5:30 to 7:00 PM in the St. Joseph Catholic Center Conference Room at 4400 Coliseum Boulevard in Alexandria. For more details or to register, call Catholic Charities at 318-445-6424, Ext. 506.