

St. Rita Catholic Church

March 8, 2026
Third Sunday of Lent

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)

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.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

begins this Sunday, don't forget to spring forward!!

LENTEN DAY FOR CONFESSION

"The Light is on for You"

Thursday, March 12, 5:00 - 7:00 PM

KC COUNCIL #1134 SHRIMP DINNERS, March 13

4:30 - 6:30 PM in Holy Family Center, Dine In & Drive Thru

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, March 7

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

Sunday, March 8

8:00 -Mass for Zachary Veillon
9:30 -Mass for Irvin Douzart
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)

Monday, March 9

7:45 -Morning Prayer (Church)
8:00 -Mass for Michael Robichaux

Tuesday, March 10

7:45 -Morning Prayer (Church)
8:00 -Mass for Howard & Sadie Shores
8:30 -Breakfast Club (HFC)
10:00 -Mass for Natalie Mendel (Lexington House)

5:15 -Adult Choir Practice (Choir Room)

Wednesday, March 11

7:45 -Morning Prayer (Church)

8:00 -Mass for Bernice Duplissey

4:30 -Wednesday Evening Meal (HFC)

6:00 -Faith Formation PreK-5, 6th, 7th, & 8th,

-11th Grade Confirmation

Thursday, March 12

7:45 -Morning Prayer (Church)

8:00 -Mass for Gerald & Mary Lee Robichaux, Sr.

8:30 -Breakfast Club (HFC)

5:30 -OCIA Meeting (Moreau Room)

Friday, March 13

7:45 -Morning Prayer (Church)

8:00 -Mass for Rev. Bob Courville, James F. Curley, Sr., James Louis Dekeyzer, Curtis Meaux, Janet Thiels, Kevin Thiels, Zachary Veillon

2:00 -Way of the Cross (Church)

5:30 -Way of the Cross (Church)

7:00 -Spanish Way of the Cross (Church)

Saturday, March 14

4:00 -Mass for Odell Carlino, Kaleb Clark, Leon & Myrtis Daigre, Ben & Elder Domico, Marvin & Francis Finney, Freddie Lavespere, Richard Love, Joey Mathews, Natalie Mendel, John Marzullo, Rev. Chris Nayak, Janet Thiels, Raymond Villmarette

Sunday, March 1

8:00 -Mass for Judy Bordelon

9:30 -Mass for Brent Bordelon, Sr.

-Catholic Daughters Mass

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 Geraldine Lacaze

6:30 -High School Youth Group (HFC)

ALTAR FLOWERS are not allowed during the season of Lent. If you are interested in donating fresh flowers for the altar after Easter, 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 Joan Vanderlick. 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: Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a Ps 23:1-6 Eph 5:8-14 Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

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: Red Beans and Sausage, Rice, Steamed Cabbage, Cornbread, Dessert and Tea. Cost is \$6.00 for dine in or take out. Cook Team this week is Diana Basco, Alan Daenen, Brenda Daenen, Rodney Feazell, Gerard Labbe, Rae Hair, Bennie Vandersypen, Carl Verzwylt, Cheryl Verzwylt, Sharon Yarbrough, Wayne Yarbrough. The Servers are Barbara Barham, Mike Barham, Lisa Labbe, Bennie Vandersypen, Michael Wynn.

KC COUNCIL #1134 FRIDAY FISH DINNERS on Friday, March 13, 4:30 - 6:30 PM in the Holy Family Center. Menu: Fried Fish, French Fries, Hush Puppies, Coleslaw. Cost \$12.00 per plate, take outs available.

OUR OFFERTORY GIFTS

<i>Regular Collection</i>	
Sunday Gifts week of March 1	\$ 16,299.00
Online & EFT Gifts March 1	\$ 4,567.00
Contributions March 1	\$ 20,866.00
Lent Weekday Collection	\$ 2,978.26
BLDG/Main Fund March	\$ 920.00
BLDG/Main Online & EFT March	\$ 85.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

The waters of Baptism make us part of the new covenant in Christ. But the Bishops' pastoral letter on stewardship reminds us that "there is fundamental obligation arising from the Sacrament of Baptism... that people place their gifts, their resources - their selves - at God's service in and through the Church." Prayerfully consider supporting your parish by weekly contribution and the diocesan church by contributing to the Annual Diocesan Appeal. Please take time to prayerfully consider what you are able to give in support of our diocesan Church.

OUR SICK: Brandon Ashley, Jude Geiger, Bob Martin, Marie Pizzo, Robert Rini, Linda Sanders, Bob Sylvia, Anita Wooley

RECOVERING, CONVALESCING OR ONGOING TREATMENT: Pierce Babineaux, Brian Blalock, Almete Bonnette, Phillip Brouillette, Robert Flowers, Anthony Griffin, Shirley Hebert, Baby Dorothy Tatum Kanada, Patrick Laborde, Caroline Pearson, Zachary Price, William Rouege, Karen Schrock, Helen Schexnaider, Chad Scroggs, Brad Stewart, Erica Stewart 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 Gonzaque, Christy Goutee, Peggy Guillory, Elizabeth Holmes, Patti Holmes, Martha Johnson, Gerald Lachney, Harry Lachney, Opal Lachney, Catherine Lacour, Lewis

Lauve, Marvin Lee, Deanna Lemoine, Joseph Longo, Zadi Marcotte, Dot McWhorter, Sam Medica, Berl Moreau, Marilyn Naviaux, Jennifer Odom, Cleta Perry, Billie Phillips, Gayle Porto, Guy Porto, Willis Rabalais, Joan Rachall, Nanette Redman, Patsy Robinson, M. Sellers, David Stafford, Adrienne Stevens, Susan Turner, 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, Aml 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, David and Michele Foster; Donna Hebert; Thomas Mathews and their families. Please join us in welcoming them to our parish family.

LENTEN WEEKDAY COLLECTION: As is our tradition, we will take a collection at the 8:00 AM weekday Masses throughout Lent. The money collected will be divided for the Manna House and St. Francis de Sales Parish in Edingeni, Malawi. If you do not attend weekday Masses and would like to make a donation, you may do so using a pew envelope and mark it Lent Collections.

BLACK & INDIAN MISSIONS COLLECTION: This collection exists to help diocesan communities to build the Church and preach the Gospel of Jesus among the African American, Native American, and Alaska Native people of God. It supports parish life and catechesis, evangelization, Catholic education, and vocations in Black and Indian Missions across the United States. Please give generously.

THANK YOU to the Altar and Rosary Society for paying to have the old candlesticks refinished. They are beautiful!!

LENTEN DAY OF CONFESSION "The Light is on for You" on Thursday, March 12, 5:00 - 7:00 PM. We will have several priests for confessions.

IF YOU ARE SICK AND CONVALESCING AT HOME, and are unable to attend Mass and would like to receive Holy Eucharistic, please call Etta Ohrt at 445-7141 ext 210. We do not always know when someone is sick, and homebound, please call us and let us know, so we can check on you!

EASTER FLOWER FUND: Remember your loved ones by donating to the Easter flower fund. A list of the donors and names of those to be remembered will be published the Sunday after Easter. Easter flowers are \$15; make checks payable to St. Rita Altar and Rosary Society. You may use the in your monthly packet or an Easter Flower envelope located in the hymnal racks and drop it in the collection basket.

ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY will meet on Thursday, March 12 at 5:30 PM in the Holy Family Center. All ladies of the parish are invited to join us.
-Gina Lachney, President

MARK YOU CALENDARS: St. Joseph Altar, Sunday March 22 with Blessing of the Altar and a free Fish and Spaghetti lunch after the 11:00 Mass.

STEBENVILLE SOUTH YOUTH CONFERENCE, "For the battle belongs to the LORD." will be held June 26 - 28 at the Coliseum in Alexandria. Fee is \$170 per student, St. Rita will pay \$70 towards the fee for registered St. Rita Parishioners. To register, go to our website www.strita.org and click on the Steubenville South button. For more information contact, Devon Powell at 850-748-1437.

LENT 2026

MORNING PRAYER before 8:00 AM Mass

Monday - Friday, 7:45 AM

WAY OF THE CROSS

Fridays, 2:00 PM, 5:30 PM & 7:00 PM Spanish

LENTEN DAY FOR CONFESSION

The Light is on for You

Thursday, March 12, 5:00 - 7:00 PM

ST. JOSEPH ALTAR

Saturday, March 21 after 4:00 Mass

Sunday, March 22, Blessing & Meal
after 11:00 Mass

FAITH FORMATION PENANCE SERVICE

Wednesday, March 25, 6:00 PM

KC Council #1134 FISH FRY

Fridays, March 13, 27

KC COUNCIL SHRIMP DINNERS

Fridays, March 20

\$12.00 a plate, Drive Thru - Dine In
4:30 - 6:30 PM in the Holy Family Center