

# St. Rita Catholic Church

March 29, 2026

## Palm Sunday of the Passion 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)

### 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.

## PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD!

*Please gather in the Church courtyard prior to Mass for the Blessing and Procession of Palms!*

## JOIN US FOR HOLY WEEK SERVICES

*Holy Thursday, Mass of the Lord's Supper, 5:30 PM*

*Good Friday, Way of the Cross, 12:05 PM*

*Good Friday, Passion & Veneration of the Cross, 5:30 PM*

*Holy Saturday, The Vigil of Easter, 8:00 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, March 28

4:00 -Mass for Jerry Brown, Odell Carlino, Kaleb Clark, Erin Curley, Anthony & Vivian Iannuzzi, Freddie Lavespere, Curtis Meaux, Natalie Mendel, Wally Metrejean, Darlene Morovich, Mary Bella Picculti, Raymond Villmarette, Intention of Margarita Iannuzzi

### Sunday, March 29, Palm Sunday

8:00 -Mass for Percy Legendre, Jr.

9:30 -Mass for Curtis Meaux

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 the Ardoin Family

6:30 -High School Youth Group (HFC)

### Monday, March 30

7:45 -Morning Prayer (Church)

8:00 -Mass for Rev. Bob Courville

### Tuesday, March 31

7:45 -Morning Prayer (Church)

8:00 -Mass for Howard & Sadie Shores

8:30 -NO Breakfast Club (HFC)  
 10:00 -Mass for the intention of Robert Rini (Lexington House)  
 5:15 -Adult Choir Practice (Choir Room)

**Wednesday, April 1**

7:45 -Morning Prayer (Church)  
 8:00 -Mass for Janet Thiels  
 8:30 -Communion to all homebound Shut-Ins by priests and deacon  
 4:30 -NO Wednesday Evening Meal (HFC)  
 6:00 -NO Faith Formation PreK-5, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, & 8<sup>th</sup>,  
 -NO 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation

**Holy Thursday, April 2**

**Mass is only permitted in the evening, no 8:00 AM Mass**  
 NO communion to the shut-ins until Easter Sunday.

**PASCHAL TRIDUUM BEGINS- LENT ENDS**

5:30 -Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper with Washing of the Feet.

Exposition will take place on the side altar next to the door leading to the parking lot. Adoration Chapel will be closed. The following schedule is a guide to try to ensure that there is always someone in church during the time of solemn exposition. You are welcome at any time if you cannot make the suggested time.

**Solemn Adoration**

7:00-8:00 -ACTS, Altar & Rosary & parishioners  
 8:00-9:00 -ACTS, Catholic Daughters & parishioners  
 9:00-10:00 -ACTS, Hispanic Community & parishioners  
 10:00-11:00 -High School Youth & parents & parishioners  
 11:00-12:00 -Knights of Columbus & parishioners  
 12:00 -Solemn Adoration ends

**Good Friday, April 3**

**DAY OF FAST AND ABSTINENCE**

Mass is never celebrated on this day. Eucharist is not present for adoration.

12:05 -Way of the Cross  
 5:30 -Celebration of the Lord's Passion with Veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion

**Vigil of Easter, Saturday, April 4**

8:00 -Lighting of fire in Courtyard (We will enter the church together. Church will be locked until we enter.)  
 -Mass of Vigil: Service of Light, Liturgy of the Word, Confirmation, First Eucharist  
 -Mass intention for all living and deceased members of the parish

**Easter Sunday, April 20**

**Eucharist is not present for adoration in the Chapel until after the 8:00 AM Mass**

8:00 -Mass for all living & deceased members of the parish  
 9:30 -Mass for all living & deceased members of the parish  
 11:00 -Mass for all living & deceased members of the parish  
 12:30 -Spanish Mass for all living & deceased members of the parish  
 5:30 -Mass for all living & deceased members of the parish

**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** were provided in loving memory of Sam & Theresa Mathews on their Anniversary and her birthday by Jim & Gloria Verzwylt. 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 Patricia Lohman. 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:** Acts 10:34a, 37-43 Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8 Jn 20:1-9 or 41: Mt 28:1-10

**ADORATION CHAPEL:** Please note that the St. Pius X Adoration Chapel will be closed beginning on Holy Thursday at 7:00 AM until after the 8:00 AM Mass on Easter Sunday. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be observed following the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper until midnight. Please refer to the above Calendar for the suggested times for organizations.

**NO WEDNESDAY EVENING MEAL** on Wednesday, April 1 due to Holy Week. The next meal will be April 8.

**OUR OFFERTORY GIFTS**

<i>Regular Collection</i>	
<b>Sunday Gifts week of March 22</b>	<b>\$ 12,054.50</b>
<b>Online &amp; EFT Gifts March 22</b>	<b>\$ 4,525.36</b>
<b>Contributions March 22</b>	<b>\$ 16,579.86</b>
<b>Lent Weekday Collection</b>	<b>\$ 6,291.62</b>
<b>BLDG/Main Fund March</b>	<b>\$ 1,045.00</b>
<b>BLDG/Main Online &amp; EFT March</b>	<b>\$ 725.00</b>

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY**

<b>2026 ADA Goal</b>	<b>\$85,423.00</b>
<b>Pledged to Date</b>	<b>\$60,839.00</b>
<b>Paid to Date</b>	<b>\$53,082.40</b>
<b>Still Needed</b>	<b>\$24,584.00</b>

All that we have and all that we are comes from the Lord. "We are truly his handiwork," says St. Paul in the second reading. "Created in Christ Jesus to lead a life of good deeds with god prepared for us in advance.

This weekend is our parish's 2026 Annual Diocesan Appeal in-pew weekend. In the past weeks you might have received a letter from Bishop Marshall asking for your support of the annual appeal. After the homily parishioners who have not yet pledged to the ADA will have an opportunity to join with Catholics throughout the Diocese to support the diocesan church.

**FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED AND THE CONSOLATION OF THEIR FAMILIES:** Kevin Jeansonne

**OUR SICK:** Jennifer Aguilar, Brandon Ashley, Marc Belgard, Katherine Brister, Jude Geiger, Madi Lester, Marie Pizzo, Mike Pouriau, Merl Rachal, Marlon L. Revelett, Robert Rini, Linda Sanders, Bob Sylvia

**RECOVERING, CONVALESCING OR ONGOING TREATMENT:**

Pierce Babineaux, Larry Bordelon, Phillip Brouillette, Robert Flowers, Anthony Griffin, Shirley Hebert, Patrick Laborde, Paul Medica Jr., Caroline Pearson, Zachary Price, William Rouege, Chad Scroggs, Brad Stewart, Erica Stewart

**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, 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, Lewis Lauve, Marvin Lee, Deanna Lemoine, Joseph Longo, Zadie 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, 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, 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.

**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.

**CHRISM MASS** will be celebrated by Bishop Robert Marshall at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral on Tuesday, April 2 at 11:00 AM.

**CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION:**

Funds from this collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to vulnerable people here and abroad. Next week, please give generously to the collection and reveal Christ's love to those most in need. Learn more about the collection at [www.usccb.org/catholic-relief](http://www.usccb.org/catholic-relief). Please give generously.

**GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION FOR THE HOLY LAND: Pontifical Good Friday Collection,** which helps Christians in the Holy Land. Through the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you stand in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land as a witness of peace, supporting Catholics there in parishes

and schools, maintaining Christian shrines and caring for refugees in the Holy Land. You may use the envelope in your monthly packet or a pew envelope clearly marked and drop it in the collection basket.

**ATTENTION ALL EUCHARISTIC SERVERS WHO TAKE COMMUNION TO OUR HOME BOUND SHUT - INS**

– Please take note that the priests and deacon are scheduled to visit the home bound shut-ins on Wednesday. You will not need to take communion to your shut-ins this week. Thank you for all that you do.

**SPECIAL THANK YOU** to everyone who donated baked items and monetary donations for the St. Joseph Altar. Thanks also to Debbie Brown, Conrad Ducote, Jody Herring, and the Altar & Rosary Society ladies who set up the St. Joseph Altar, and served the meal and Mr. Donnie Bolton and the KC Council #1134 who prepared the meal. We collected \$1,529 in donations for the Manna House. All left over food and baked goods was taken to the Manna House. The altar was beautiful and was enjoyed by all. – Fr. Raj

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**

**Confirmation for 11<sup>th</sup> Graders** is Friday, April 17 at 6:00 PM.

**First Communion for 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders** is Saturday, April 18 at 4:00 PM Mass.

**Vacation Bible School** is June 8 - 12, 8:00 AM - 12:00 noon. For more information, contact Courtney Brinkman at 445-7141 ext 215.

**EASTER FLOWER FUND:** It's not too late to 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.

**6th ANNUAL ST. RITA GOLF CLASSIC** benefitting the Youth Groups will be held Monday, April 6 at Links on the Bayou Golf Club.

Tournament format is 4-person scramble, each team member will pay an entry fee of \$125 and includes one mulligan.

Sponsorships available: Golf Cart Screen Ad \$25; Hole Sponsor \$150; Team Play \$500, includes team registration; Team Sponsorship Package \$600, includes team registration and 1 Hole Sponsor ad. (\$50 savings). Lunch and check-in at 12:00 p.m. Shotgun start at 1:00 p.m. To register or buy a sponsorship contact Etta Ohrt at 445-7141 ext 210.