

St. Rita Catholic Church

May 3, 2026
Fifth Sunday of Easter

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)

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.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS RAFFLE & BAKE SALE

this weekend after all Masses

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, May 2

8:00 -Mass for Geri Babin, Mary Ann Brame, Christopher Hinton, William (Bill) Hinton, Jr., William Ralph & Violet Hinton, Sr., Anthony & Vivian Iannuzzi, Georgine Lauve, Gerald A. & Mary Lee Robichaux, Sr., Michael Robichaux, H.A. Thiels, Kevin Thiels, Clair Gremillion Weeks

Sunday, May 3

8:00 -Mass for Peter Scalfano
9:30 -Mass for Lillian Kramer Villemez
11:00 -Mass for all living & deceased members of the parish
12:30 -Spanish Mass for the intention of the Knights of Columbus Council #1134
5:30 -Mass for Delores Distefano
6:30 -High School Youth Group (HFC)

Monday, May 4

8:00 -Mass for Kevin Thiels

Tuesday, May 5

8:00 -Mass for Wally Metrejean

8:30 -Breakfast Club (HFC)
10:00 -Mass for the intention of the Knights of Columbus Council 1134 (Lexington House)
5:15 -Adult Choir Practice (Choir Room)

Wednesday, May 6

8:00 -Mass for Darlene Morovich
5:30 -Choristers (grades 3-8) Rehearsal
6:00 -LAST Faith Formation PreK-5, May Crowning
-LAST 6th, 7th & 8th Grade Youth May Crowning

Thursday, May 7

8:00 -Mass for Mary Jane Wilde
8:30 -Breakfast Club (HFC)

Friday, May 8

8:00 -Mass for Frank & Angelina Cortello, Frank Grimes, Sr., Georgine Lauve, Jessie Kimble, Curtis Meaux, Peter Scalfano, Zachary Veillon

Saturday, May 9

4:00 -Mass for Odell Carlino, Kaleb Clark, Leon & Myrtis Daigre, Nathan Krig, Freddie Lavespere, Bob & Leah Leonard, Richard Love, Curtis Meaux, Natalie Mendel, Darlene Morovich, Mary Lee Robichaux, Souls in Purgatory

Sunday, May 10, Mother's Day

8:00 -Mass for all living & deceased Mothers
9:30 -Mass for all living & deceased Mothers
11:00 -Mass for the congregation of St. Rita Parish
-Children's Church (ages 4 - 7)
12:30 -Spanish Mass for all living & deceased Mothers

5:30 -Mass for all living & deceased Mothers
 6:30 -High School Youth Group (HFC)

ALTAR FLOWERS were provided in loving memory of Michael Robichaux by his sister Laura Robichaux. 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 Ben & Elder Domico & Marvin & Frances Finney by Roger Finney. 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 Bob Sylvia. 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 8:5-8, 14-17 Ps 1-7, 16-201 Pt 3:15-18 Jn 14:15-21

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. **We remind you not to give the code to anyone, and please do not open the door for anyone.**

OUR OFFERTORY GIFTS

<i>Regular Collection</i>	
Sunday Gifts week of April 26	\$ 17,190.00
Online & EFT Gifts April 26	\$ 5,767.00
Contributions April 26	\$ 22,957.00
BLDG/Main Fund April	\$ 445.00
BLDG/Main Online & EFT April	\$ 715.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

2026 Annual Diocesan Appeal

St. Rita Goal	\$85,423.00
Pledged to Date	\$80,706.00
Paid to Date	\$68,016.10
Still Needed	\$ 4,717.00

OUR SICK: Joey Gilbert, Martha Kay Gleason, Bobbie Leckie, Gene Leckie, Sherry Reese, Robert Rini, Gloria Verzwylvelt

RECOVERING, CONVALESCING OR ONGOING TREATMENT: Brandon Ashley, Pierce Babineaux, Phillip Brouillette, Robert Flowers, Anthony Griffin, Shirley Hebert, Patrick Laborde, Paul Medica Jr., Caroline Pearson, Marie Pizzo, Mike Pouriau, Zachary Price, Chad Scroggs, Brad Stewart, Erica Stewart

OUR SHUT-INS: Clifton Babineaux, William Barnidge, Mureil Beach, Doris Lachney Billeaudeau, Sadie Blakesley, Lou Blalock, Mike Blalock, Joseph "Napp" Brouillette, John Broussard, Frances Chatman, Donald Coco, Glenda Coleman, Alice Cosenza, Kay Costantino, Julia Cunningham, Ann Craft, Lorraine Crawford, 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, Muriel Gauthier, Irma Gonzaque, Christy Goutee, Peggy Guillory, Elizabeth Holmes, Patti Holmes, Dorothy Huber, Martha Johnson, Gerald Lachney, Harry Lachney, Opal Lachney, Catherine Lacour, Marvin Lee, Deanna Lemoine, Gail Lobdell, Joseph Longo, Zadie Marcotte, Susan McKinney, Dot McWhorter, Sam Medica, Frances Messer, Frances Metoyer, Berl Moreau, Marilyn Naviaux, Jennifer Odom, Jessie Onichea, Sr., Billie Phillips, Vicki Pendergrass, Marie Pizzo, Gayle Porto, Guy Porto, Willis Rabalais, Joan Rachall, Patricia Ranson, Nanette Redman, M.L. Revelett, Robert Revilla, Marguerite Robin, Patsy Robinson, M. Sellers, David Stafford, Adrienne Stevens, Ecxie Strange, Susan Turner, Mary Vanderlick, Anna Villemarette, Audrey Ward, Donna White, 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, 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.

CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS COLLECTION: Nearly 40% of dioceses in the United States and its current and former territories are unable to fund the essential pastoral work their communities need. Your support for this appeal helps them meet these faith formation and sacramental needs. The Diocese of Alexandria is considered a "mission diocese" and receives funding from this appeal. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this appeal. Find more information at www.usccb.org/home-missions

IF YOU USE Rapides Regional Medical Center: A small reminder for all our Parishioners who may be admitted to Rapides Regional Medical Center in Alexandria. Sometimes when going through admitting, the hospital worker may neglect to ask for the patient's religious affiliation. The result is the patient is not listed on the roster as Catholic and the hospital's Catholic ministry team is unaware that you are in the hospital. Please remember to mention this during the admitting procedure.

LAST FAITH FORMATION CLASSES – Crowning of the Blessed Mother for grades Pre-K - 5th and 6th, 7th and 8th this Wednesday, May 6. All students are asked to bring flowers to crown the Blessed Mother. After the crowning we will have our end of the year party. Thank you to all the volunteer teachers and aides who volunteered this past year. We appreciate all that you do!
–Courtney Brinkman

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to Donnie Bolton our Wednesday Evening Meal Coordinator for the last 14 years of service. Donnie is “retiring” from the Wednesday Evening Meals. We want to thank him for all of his hard work and volunteering for the past 14 years! We want to welcome Pat Arcement, who is taking over as the new Wednesday Meal Coordinator. We look forward to working with Pat!!

CHORISTERS (Grades 3 - 8)REHEARSAL on Wednesday, May 6 at 5:30 PM in the choir room.

BELLE GRANDE NURSING & REHABILITATION CENTER: Beginning on Thursday May 14 we will have Mass at Belle Grande on Versailles every Thursday, at 10:00 AM in addition to Mass at Lexington House on Tuesdays at 10:00 AM. If you would like to volunteer at either one on these facilities to help with Mass, please call Deacon Kenny Sayes at 318-451-4555.

ST. PIUS X ADORATION CHAPEL: Answer the call to prayer by signing up for one hour of Adoration using the parish’s new scheduling website. Eucharistic Adoration gives us the opportunity to keep watch with Our Lord, honoring His sacrament. To sign up, visit the website at <https://adorationpro.org/ritaalexandria> See the bulletin insert for more details.

2026 WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES: If you are celebrating a 25, 40, 50, 60, 65 or 70th wedding anniversary in 2026, we would like to honor you on Sunday, February 14, 2027 at the 11:00 Mass and present you with a Papal Blessing in honor of your marriage from the Holy Father. If you would like to participate, please call the Church Office at 445-7141 ext 214. We have to order the blessing early. Deadline for calling is July 1, 2026.

GRADUATING SENIORS MASS on Sunday, May 17 at 5:30 PM Mass. Please wear your cap and gown! Please email a picture of your senior to cbrinkman@strita.org.

FAITH FORMATION Registration for the 2026-2027 School Year! Registration is NOW OPEN! You can register on our website, www.strita.org for grades PK thru 5th grade! Classes will start on Wednesday, September 2, 2026.

FAITH FORMATION - 6th 7TH & 8TH GRADE YOUTH 2026-2027 School Year: Registration is NOW OPEN!! You can register on our website, www.strita.org. Classes start on Wednesday, September 2, 2026.

ATTENTION ALL 11TH GRADERS CONFIRMATION 2027 registration is NOW OPEN! Our confirmation program is a ONE year program for students that are entering their JUNIOR year. Classes will begin on September 3, 2026. Classes include BOTH Menard and public school students. You can register on our website, www.strita.org.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will be held June 8 - 12, 8:00 AM - 12:00. Cost is \$25 per child, max \$100. You can go online at www.strita.org and hit the Fain Forest Falls button to register your child (PK- Gr. 6) or as a volunteer (Gr. 7 - Adult). For more information, contact Courtney Brinkman at 445-7141 ext 217. **Volunteers grade 7 - Adults can register OnLine as well!** If you would like to make a donation for VBS, you can use the envelope in your monthly packet or a pew envelope and drop in the collection basket.

ST. RITA FAMILY DAY AT MARYHILL on Saturday, May 30th, 1:00 PM. Join us for games, food, and fellowship. Fun for everyone all ages! All are welcome, please join us!!

MANNA HOUSE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS on the first Tuesday of every month from 10:00 AM to 1:15 PM, providing meals to those in need. If you are interested in volunteering, please email at cenlamannahouse@gmail.com.

--Jessica Viator, Executive Director

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS BISHOP DESMOND will have their annual raffle and bake sale after all Masses this weekend. Please support their fund raiser.