



# Saint Rita Church

## St. Rita Mission Statement

We, the community of St. Rita's, welcome all to share in the richness of our Catholic Heritage.

We worship God and celebrate the gift of Jesus Christ in Word and Sacrament, and commit ourselves to outreach & service to all in our community.

We invite you to join us.

### Parish Staff

Rev. Sebastine Bula, VC Pastor  
Rev. Martin Njoalu, VC Parochial Vicar  
Ms. Yvette Armendariz, Office Manager  
Ms. Gwyneth Varn, Bookkeeper  
Mrs. Anya Artigiani, Spiritual Director  
Minister of Liturgical Environment  
Mrs. Kathleen Silverthorne, Minister of Liturgical Environment  
Mr. Stephen Iverson, Music Director  
Ms. Candace Brown, Choir Director  
Ms. Lynette Shaw, Choir Pianist  
Jan Brown, Mandolin Player  
Marge Bean, Choir Member  
Barbara Czelusta, Choir Member  
Marcie Leach, Choir Member  
Anne Mulvaney, Choir Member  
Madeleine Sloane, Choir Member  
Mr. Andrew "Shane" Barreras, Organist

### Parish Office & Rectory 415-456-4815

100 Marinda Drive  
Fairfax, CA 94930

Fax: 415-456-3677  
saintritafairfax@att.net  
www.SaintRitaChurch.org

Monday through Friday: Office Hours 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

### Religious Education

Please contact the Rectory.

### St. Vincent de Paul Society

Monday through Friday

415-454-6420

### Mass Schedule

**Weekdays:** 7:30 AM

**Saturday:** 7:30 AM, 5:00 PM Vigil

**Sunday:** 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

**Saturday:** 4-4:30 PM or by appointment

### Sacrament of Baptism

New or expectant parents should contact the rectory to schedule a pre-Baptismal preparation class for parents and godparents, and to select a date and time.

### Sacrament of Marriage

Engaged couples should contact the rectory at least six months before the desired date of their marriage.

### Sacrament of the Sick or Communion Visit

Please call the rectory for an appointment.

### Christian Burial

Please call the rectory before or during your meeting with the funeral director.

### St. Rita Parish Hall

The parish hall is available for rent to parishioners and non-profit organizations. Please call rectory for information.

**Sunday, 1 December 2024**  
**First Sunday of Advent**

**Advent Starts This Sunday**

With Advent here, please take a few minutes a day and use *Pilgrims of Hope*, Advent Reflections for the Jubilee Year by Pope Francis to grow closer to Jesus before Christmas.

Copies of the booklet are located in the pews.



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**Quote of the Week**

“Advent is a time to slow down,  
listen, and look for God’s presence  
in our lives.”

– Pope Francis

**2025 Offering Envelopes**

Your personalized 2025 offering envelope boxes are available in the back of the Church.

If you would like to participate in this program, please email Yvette @ yarmendariz@strita.edu.

**2024 Christmas Giving Tree Project**

St. Rita’s Parish is very pleased to once again sponsor our annual Christmas Giving Tree. The Giving Tree project will again work the same way as the previous three years. We are asking for monetary donations so that we may purchase Target gift cards. Each of our SVdP families will receive gift cards based on the number and ages of the children in the family. We will distribute these cards early so parents can shop for their children.

[We would hope to have the donations by December 16th.](#) There are donation envelopes on the tree if you would like to use them. The envelopes can be placed in the collection.

If you prefer to mail a check you can send to:

SVdP/St. Rita Conference  
P.O. Box 564  
Fairfax, CA 94978

We are so grateful to our St. Rita Parishioners who are always so generous to those in need around us.

If you have any questions, please contact:  
Barbara Maloney  
(415) 456-6560 or Redmaloney1@gmail.com

**Lectors:**

**Saturday 5:00 PM** Mike I. (L)

**Sunday 9:00 AM** Kevin B. (L)

**11:00 AM** Starla S. (L)

*The Sanctuary Lamp*

*Beginning December 1st, the visual  
reminder of the Real Presence of our  
Lord in the  
Eucharist burns in memory of*

*Joe Allen*

*Week of 1 December – 7 December 2024*

The Sanctuary Lamp is available for your  
special intention. Call the rectory:  
415-456-4815

**Sunday, 1 December 2024**  
**First Sunday of Advent**

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Sat. 30 November 7:30 AM  
5:00 PM † Julie Isetta

Sun. 1 December 9:00 AM † Carol Bennetts

Sun. 1 December 11:00 AM † Rod Nielsen

Mon. 2 December 7:30 AM

Tue. 3 December 7:30 AM

Wed. 4 December 7:30 AM

Thur. 5 December 7:30 AM

Fri. 6 December 7:30 AM

Sat. 7 December 7:30 AM  
5:00 PM † John Legnitto

Sun. 8 December 9:00 AM † Marguerite Kelly

Sun. 8 December 11:00 AM † Patricia Kitsman

*Pray for...* Erin Saunders, Wayne Lamb, Robin Marci, Marie Gabel, Ron Tamm, Rob Nelson, Cabot Maloney, Pete Doyle, Iris Rivera, Claudine Woeber, Susan Maynard, Irene DeVita, Peggy Aronoff, Robert Wagner, Vanessa Ortiz, Frank Doyle, Leila Rodrigues, Darren Crofe, Anne Bersaglieri, Matthias & Rendi Keller, J. Burke, Caine Starelli, Don Douglas, Lauren Jenkins, Yolanda Chapman, Norine Maloney, Sienna Giddings, Ryder Morford, Eric Estigoy, Ron Douglas, Greg Herbert, Dolores Barringer, Victoria Granucci, Louis Felipe Miranda, Joan Barker, Marla Mulligan, Pat Morrison, Howard Schwartz, Linda Schwartz, Asher Norvell, Marisa Giannini, Cathy Giannini, Diane Giannini, Marisina Giannini, Sally Norton, Vince Kehrlein, Stace Narbutas, Javier Martinez Angel, David Martin, Scott Costello, Jane Ritchie, Jeff Barnaby, Edwin Ahrens, Brian Jaeger, Deborah Young, Melanie LaCome, Veronica Hernandez, Joe LaCome, Diane Hain, Peter Dunselman, Josie Sanchez, Mike Abballo, Alice Bauer, Bob Testa, Cynthia Ann Thompson Smith, Ramona Hodges, Isabel Armendariz, Duffy McDermott, L. Colin, Gabrielle Trevino, Blake D., Marilyn S., Shirley B., Brian Bailey-Gates, Serena Greer and those preferring anonymity.

**SUNDAY COLLECTIONS**

**24 November 2024**  
**For the Parish ... \$2029.00**

**AAA 2024**

Collected as of 26 November 2024...\$11967.00  
**(45.88% of goal)**

**32** Households Participating

(658 Registered Households)

**Goal ...\$26,082.00**

**Next Saturday**

**A Day of Reflection – For Women**

DATE: **Saturday, December 7, 2024**

REFLECTION: A DAY OF REST WITH MARY

“UNEXPECTED LISTENING”

TIME: 9:30am – 12:30pm ~ Reflection (St. Rita Church) (Please arrive no later than 9:15am)

12:30pm – 1:30pm ~ Lunch (St. Rita Hall)

COST:\$5.00 Registration Fee

**Christmas Poinsettias**

Parishioners can bring their offerings of poinsettias and remembrances to the **Rectory Office** on the following days:



**Tuesday, 17th — Friday, 20th**  
**(9:00AM — 1:00PM)**

The forms can be found at the exits of the Church.

## THE ADVENT WREATH

By the Middle Ages, Christians adapted the tradition of the Advent wreath as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas. Christ is “the Light that came into the world” to dispel the darkness of sin and to radiate the truth and love of God” (John 19-21).

The symbolism of the Advent wreath is beautiful. The wreath is made of various evergreens, signifying continuous life. Laurel signifies victory over persecution and suffering; pine, holly and yew, immortality; and cedar strength and healing. Holly’s prickly leaves remind us of the crown of thorns. The circle of the wreath symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, the everlasting life found in Christ. Any pinecones, nuts, seedpods used to decorate the wreath also symbolize life and resurrection.

The candles represent the four weeks of Advent. Three candles are purple, and one is rose. The first candle is purple candle, lit on the first Sunday of Advent, represents HOPE - as we anticipate the birth of Christ and celebrate the beginning of a new liturgical season. Sometimes called the “Prophecy Candle”.

The second candle is also purple and represents PEACE - often called the “Bethlehem Candle” - calls to mind Joseph and Mary’s trip to Bethlehem where Jesus is coming to bring forth His Kingdom of Peace. Both the first and second candles are lit on the second Sunday.

The third candle is rose/pink and represents JOY - often called the “Shepherd’s Candle” - taking us back to the joyful anticipation of the shepherds as they journeyed to see Jesus. All three candles are lit on “Gaudete Sunday”.

The fourth candle is purple and represents LOVE - and is called the “Angel’s Candle” - reminding us that God sent His only Son for us as we await the new Kingdom of God on earth. All the candles are now lit.