



St. Rita News

The new monthly newsletter serving Saint Rita Parish

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE: Social Groups in Our Parish; Weddings, Baptisms & Funerals; Upcoming Events; Understanding the Latin Mass

Three Altar Boys Leaving for College

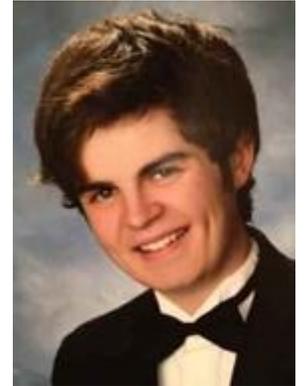
Three St. Rita Parish altar boys graduated from Catholic high schools earlier this summer and are leaving for college -- **Cliff Louison** (Bishop O'Connell), **Juan Carlos Monhart** (Paul VI), and **William Rodger** (Bishop Ireton). What makes this news compelling is that they have been dutifully serving our parish since the 3rd and 4th grades, that is to say, for 9 and 10 years. In choosing to continue to serve as altar boys throughout high school, Cliff, Juan Carlos and William have provided guidance and good examples to the younger servers.



Louison



Monhart



Rodger

Fulfilling their duties at Sunday, Holy Day, Wedding, Funeral, and other special Masses, the altar boys assist our priests and serve our parish. Of the 46 current servers, almost 40 percent are in high school.

The three seniors will continue their studies as follows – Cliff Louison (Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Va.); Juan Carlos Monhart (Radford University in Radford, Va.); and William Rodger

(Appalachian State University in Boone, N.C.). On behalf of all the priests and parishioners they have served in the last decade, we are grateful for their dedication as St. Rita Altar Boys, and wish them success and God's blessings in college.

If you're in the 4th grade or above, have received your First Communion, and would like to follow in the footsteps of Cliff, Juan Carlos and William, please email Mr. McKeague at mckeague6@cox.net.



Thank You!

The St. Rita Knights of Columbus Council joined forces with the St. Rita School PTO for a summer service project to renovate the faculty lounge at St. Rita School. *Thanks to Paul and Leigha Doerrer for coordinating this effort, and thanks to all the Knights for their hard work throughout the summer to create a functional space for our parish school and CCD teachers & staff!*

Parish Life



St. Rita's has many wonderful organizations which provide vital services to the parish and to the wider community. Below, we offer an in-depth look into the work these organizations are doing. This month, we focus on social groups:

Fathers' Group

The St. Rita Father's group meets the second Friday of every month at 7:30 pm, for prayer, fellowship and support Prayer intentions. Meetings are sometimes led by one of the parish priests, or consist of a group discussion moderated by one of the members, on topics relating to the members' vocations as Catholic husbands and fathers. Each meeting begins with a Rosary in the church, and then moves to the parish center for beer and pizza. Recent non-meeting activities have included a chartered fishing trip on the Chesapeake Bay, and a family picnic hosted at one of the member's homes. Membership is not a firm commitment; members attend when they can, and appreciate the chance to get to know those who might otherwise be only passing acquaintances. Next meeting is August 10, and looking ahead, the group is planning a joint meeting with the parish Women's Group on Sept. 21. All parish fathers and fathers-to-be are welcome.

Contact: Rick Strobach, rick.strobach@gmail.com

Mother's Group

The St. Rita's Mothers' Group meets every Thursday at 10:30am in the Parish Center or at a local park. The children play and the mothers spend time sharing in fellowship. We welcome all mothers to join us! There is no commitment to attend every week; please come as often as you like. Please contact Laura Eckel at laura_eckel@yahoo.com to be put on the email list and to find out where we meet each week.

Contact: Laura Eckel, laura_eckel@yahoo.com

STARS

The STARS are a group of parishioners generally about 50 years of age or older, although adults of all ages are welcome to join the STARS for talks and activities. They join together for activities, fun, and friendship. STARS is an acronym for the types of events the group sponsors: Social, Travel, Adventure, Religious, and Service. The goal is to provide our members with a variety of events that will strengthen their faith and be a cause for joy and goodwill. Past activities have included a Lenten reflection with a Rosary and reflections from Father Gee and Deacon Dixon and a visit to the priests' retirement villa to decorate for Christmas. The group generally meets around once per month, but parishioners need make no special commitment to join the STARS for activities. Potential upcoming activities include

a Washington Nationals baseball game and a group picnic.

Contact: Jane Quinn, 703-549-2561 or maryquinn@aol.com

Women's Group

The Women's Group exists to provide spiritual, educational, and social support for married women at Saint Rita's. The group usually meets the third Friday of each month at 7:30 pm in the Parish Center. Twice a year, the Women's Group has a combined meeting with the Fathers' Group. New members are always welcome and membership involves no commitment whatsoever; women can simply attend as they are able. Meetings generally include a speaker, though the group has also hosted occasional book discussions. Past discussions and speakers include: "Communication in Marriage/The New Mass Translation: More Similar than You Think," with Father Gee; "The Virtue of Fortitude," with Father De Celles; "Bringing the Gospel to those who serve: The Life and Ministry of our Military Priests," with Father Marciano; "Mary Our Model: Virtues of Womanhood," with licensed clinical psychologist Dr. Lisa Klewicki; "Be Mary," a talk on the cycles of spiritual and personal growth that each woman is called to as her mission unfolds as daughter, bride, spouse, and mother, with Sister Claire Hunter, F.S.E.

Contact Nancy McKeague, 703-768-1474 or mckeague6@cox.net

St. Rita Young Adults

Have you noticed delicious breakfast scents wafting from the Parish Center after the 11am mass? No, it's not a Knights of Columbus pancake breakfast (although we all love those!), it's the Young Adult Coffeehouse held every first and third Sunday after the 11am mass. And, coffeehouse is a bit of a misnomer, it's more like a full homemade breakfast! It's a surprise every weekend but you might just come across homemade biscuits and gravy, scrumptious baked goods, or pancakes. This is only one of many regular events on our vibrant Young Adult group's calendar.

St. Rita's Young Adults aim to create a sense of community through spiritual, social, service, and physical activities. During the summer, they had stellar attendance at monthly Holy Hour and happy hours on first Fridays at 7pm. They also serve dinner three times a year at Christ House and are looking forward to working regularly with the Missionaries of Charity. Come October, they are forming a team for the Marine 10K in honor of seminarians.

All young adults from age 21 to 40, both single and married, are welcome at Young Adult events! For more information, check out their blog at saintrita.wordpress.com or Facebook (search for "St. Rita Young Adults")

Contact: Theresa Hardy at staitayoungadults@gmail.com.



Baptisms at St. Rita

- + Thomas Ruiz Heslep (July 21)
- + Stefani Romero Vail (July 28)
- + Liliana Jasmin Ventura (July 28)
- + Adaliz Janela Magana (July 28)
- + Adriana Belinda Magana (July 28)

Funerals at St. Rita

+ **Rev. Clarence Watkins** (July 14)
 Father Watkins died on July 9 at the age of 79. Father Watkins was the pastor of St. Rita's from 1992 until his retirement in 2000, and is fondly remembered by many parishioners. Please pray for the happy repose of his soul. May he rest in peace!

+ *May the Souls of the Faithful Departed, through the Mercy of God, Rest in Peace! +*



June Weddings at St. Rita

- + Nathaniel Stephen Zebrowski & Kristin Ann Olson (July 7)
- + Thomas Farrell Cox & Nicole Marie Smith (July 28)

St. Rita's is Growing!

Between January 1-June 30, 2012, **262 new households** registered (which includes 63 single individuals).

Do you know of a parishioner who is ill, and in need of prayers? Or a parishioner who is serving in the armed forces, overseas? We will be happy to publish their names so that fellow parishioners can pray for them. Please contact Catherine Feil (catherine.feil@gmail.com, or 703.671.0402) or Erin Church (erinmchurch@gmail.com).

■ UPCOMING EVENTS IN OUR DIOCESE

Diocesan Young Adults Mass

Sunday, August 5 at 7:30pm

The 5th Annual Young Adults mass with Bishop Love de will be held on Sunday, August 5 at St. Rita's at 7:30pm followed by a reception in the school hall.

Theology on Tap

Every Monday through August 22 from 7pm-8:30pm

Theology on Tap: A summer six pack runs every Monday until August 22. ToT focuses on topics of faith and contemporary issues that directly affect the lives of young adults (ages 21-39). ToT is held at Pat Troy's "Ireland's Own" in Old Town Alexandria from 7-8:30 PM.

Silent Mini-Retreat for Women

Tuesday, August 7 from 7:30pm-9:30pm

Sponsored by Opus Dei at St. Leo the Great in Fairfax on August 7 from 7:30-9:30pm. Contact Peg at (703) 620-4945.

Saint Paul Story Time

Thursday, August 9 and 23 from 10:30am-11am

The Daughters of St. Paul invite you to a free children's story time. There will be faith-filled stories, activities, and songs geared toward 3-5 year-olds with parent or

guardian; siblings welcome. Registration appreciated: call 703.549.3806, or email alexandria@paulinemediamedia.com. Held at Pauline Books & Media, 1025 King Street (on the corner of King and Henry), in Old Town Alexandria.

"Beauty and Sacred Music"

August 10 and 12 at 7:30pm

A lecture presented by the Institute of Catholic Culture at St. Ambrose Church in Annandale on August 10 and 12 at 7:30pm. Contact Sabatino Carnazzo at (703) 504-8733.

Altar Server Picnic

Thursday, August 16 from 10am to 2pm

At Lake Fairfax Park, Reston on August 16 from 10am-2pm. Register with a parish group or the Office of Vocations at (703) 841-2514.

Fasting & Feasting: Learning to Live the Catholic Tradition

Thursday, August 23 @ 7:30 pm

A lecture presented by the Institute of Catholic Culture by John Cuddeback, PhD at Holy Spirit Church Hall 8000 Braddock Road, Annandale, VA 22003.

Getting to Know the Traditional Latin Mass

(PART I OF II)

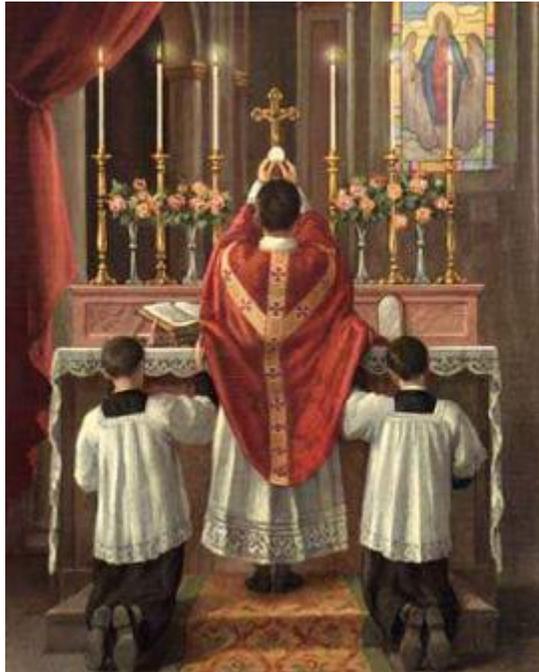
Did you know that St. Rita's offers a Traditional Latin Mass every Thursday night at 7:30 pm? Below, an introduction to this beautiful liturgy, for those who may not be familiar with it...

Five years ago this summer, Pope Benedict wrote *Summorum Pontificum*, an apostolic letter broadening the use of the Mass according to the 1962 missal (often also called the Mass of St. Pius V, the Traditional Latin Mass, or the Tridentine Mass). This form of the Mass dates back to the first written copy of the prayers of the Mass, the Leonine Sacramentary, in the 6th century, and was codified and made universal in the 16th century, after the Council of Trent. While its use had never completely ceased, it was very limited after the introduction of the Mass of Pope Paul VI in 1969 (often called the "Novus Ordo," or "New Mass").

In *Summorum Pontificum*, Pope Benedict put forward a set of instructions for the use of the Traditional Latin Mass, and gave a framework for understanding its place in the Church today. He designated the post-Vatican II Mass as the "Ordinary Form," and the older rite the "Extraordinary Form," and said that the EF "must be given due honour for its venerable and ancient usage." As the Pope wrote in his Letter to the Bishops, which accompanied *SP*:

It was presumed that requests for the use of the 1962 Missal would be limited to the older generation which had grown up with it, but [since Vatican II] it has clearly been demonstrated that young persons too have discovered this liturgical form, felt its attraction and found in it a form of encounter with the Mystery of the Most Holy Eucharist, particularly suited to them....

There is no contradiction between the two editions of the Roman Missal. In the history of the liturgy there is growth and progress,



but no rupture. What earlier generations held as sacred, remains sacred and great for us too.... It behooves all of us to preserve the riches which have developed in the Church's faith and prayer, and to give them their proper place.

Though the Extraordinary Form may at first seem complex and unfamiliar, a little patience in getting to know this Mass will be richly rewarded, as familiarity reveals the unique beauty of its prayers and devotions. As Pope John Paul II said, in a 2001 address:

In the Roman Missal of Saint Pius V [the "Extraordinary Form"], as in several Eastern liturgies, there are very beautiful prayers through which the priest expresses the most profound sense of humility and reverence before the Sacred Mysteries: they reveal the very substance of the Liturgy.

Though the Extraordinary Form is, of course, in Latin (which to this day remains the universal language of the Church!), it is not necessary to know Latin to worship at this Mass and appreciate its beauty. The EF can easily be followed using a missal that displays the Latin and its English translation side-by-side, and which explains the order of the Mass, which is not identical to the Ordinary Form that most Catholics are familiar with.

Following along with the aid of a missal allows one to begin to understand many of the aspects of the Extraordinary Form that might at first seem foreign--the fact that the priest faces away from the people, the fact that many of the priest's prayers are inaudible, the different order and rituals--and to move past the differences between the two forms, to an appreciation of the unique beauty, reverence and theological richness of this ancient liturgy, which countless faithful Catholics before us knew and cherished.

Next month: Frequently Asked Questions about the Extraordinary Form, and Resources for Learning More.

About Your Parish Newsletter

Do you have ideas for future items in the parish newsletter, or would you like to submit a feature for publication? Is there an upcoming event of interest to St. Rita's parishioners that we should know about? All submissions can be directed to our editors: Catherine Feil (catherine.feil@gmail.com, or 703.671.0402) or Erin Church (erinmchurch@gmail.com).