



# St. Rita News

The new monthly newsletter serving Saint Rita Parish

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## Learn More About the St. Rita Homeschool Group!

by **Kim Barry**  
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The St. Rita Homeschool Group actually has its genesis in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. A couple of years ago, I was in adoration and suddenly felt called to start a children's Holy Hour. There were some afternoon slots at the time that needed filling, so I asked Fr. Gee about it, and we decided that I would start in the fall of that year and do it during the 2:30-3:30 hour, which I hoped would be a good time for homeschoolers to come, and then we'd plan to play at the school playground afterwards.

I was homeschooling already, and looking for ways to get some recreational time for my daughter with other homeschoolers which didn't involve driving too far away on a regular basis, as had always been the case before. At first, there were only a few interested families, and there were many, many weeks of just sitting alone in the church with my daughter waiting for someone to come along and join us. I thought about giving up on the idea. But then a friend of mine, Marlene Brown, had the idea of asking for a Level 1 Atrium session for homeschoolers, and scheduling it during the children's holy hour, so that parents could drop off their 3-6 year olds and take the rest of the family to adoration. We tried it, and it worked out beautifully this past year. Our numbers grew and participation became much more regular.

Also this past year, I and several other families belonged to a Friday homeschool co-op at St. Louis which was a great blessing to our families. Interestingly, though, as time went on, the number of St. Rita families began to outnumber families from St. Louis and other parishes. I also began to notice more and more of our parish friends turning to homeschooling in general, and it became clear that we needed a more official group of our own, here at St. Rita's. So I sent out a survey to all the people I knew in the parish who either were homeschooling, or planning on it for the following year, or even just considering it, to find out what people might be looking for in a homeschool group here.

The results of that survey clearly indicated that our



*The Atrium in the St. Rita Parish Center*

families are most interested in informal, recreational types of events, so we have begun planning field trips, weekly clubs, park days, mom's nights and things of that nature. We will keep our Wednesday children's Holy Hour, because I truly think that is what will hold us together as a group and help us to bear fruit for the Kingdom in our families. We are also hoping to plan some other spiritual events, like a morning of recollection for moms, All Saints party, May Crowning, and perhaps a Lenten soup supper. St. Rita School also allows our participation in certain extracurriculars like band, boxing, track and even Latin class, for which we are truly grateful! We keep it really simple. There are no officers, no dues or fees, and no mandatory meetings. My feeling is that our first vocation is to our families, and the needs or wants of a homeschool group should never interfere with that. We're just here to be a support system to those who are new to the adventure of homeschooling, so moms can volunteer to head things up according to what they are interested in and able to do. Already this summer we have had a pool party and gone berry picking at Butler's Orchard. Homeschoolers and those considering homeschooling are always welcome to join in the fun! If you wish to be added to the email list, I can be contacted at [kimberlyfbarry@gmail.com](mailto:kimberlyfbarry@gmail.com).



### **New Weekday Mass and Confession Schedule**

*effective August 5th*

Monday-Friday: Mass 7 a.m

Monday-Friday: Confessions 7 p.m.

Monday-Friday: Mass 7:30 p.m. (Traditional Latin Mass on Tuesday and Thursday)



*St. Rita's Annual  
Catholic Camp for Kids  
Dedicated to Our Lady*



**THANK YOU** to all the volunteers who made our annual Catholic Camp for Kids a success! The kids spent a week focused on Mary, including building grottos around our parish grounds for Our Lady, and had lots of fun – including the annual water balloon fight! *May Our Lady continue to watch over and guide all Saint Rita children this summer!*

*Note From Fr. Gee on New Procedure For Receiving Communion (in "Beta Testing"!)*

As we look to improve our worship and devotion to God, we realize that the reception of Communion can sometimes seem overly long and rushed. Therefore, we are trying out a simple change in the reception at the 11 a.m. Mass and if it succeeds, then at all the Masses. We ask that instead of arriving one at a time at the Communion rail, that you would come up by twos. So there will now be two people side by side and as one receives that spot is filled with someone from behind. This enables the recipient to have a little time at the rail to prepare to receive our Lord in the Eucharist, as well as makes the whole process more efficient.

**■ LIVING OUR FAITH**

**Baptisms**

- + James Brennan Oliver, June 1
- + Annemarie Frances Chalk, June 15
- + Chanele Angel Gainey, June 15
- + Princess Lucy Gainey, June 15
- + Lucy Agnes Cox, June 24
- + Connor Austin Brown, June 29
- + Anseley Marie Brown, June 29

**Weddings**

- + Mark Christopher Mayhugh and Erin Corbett Armstrong, June 15
- + David Paul Cote and Isabel Carmen Maria DeLa Puente, June 21
- + Daniel Anthony Gulino and Clair Allison Soyans, June 22
- + Jose Zavala and Kimberlin Hernandez, June 23
- + Mitchell Timothy Boersma and Rosemary Irene Thomas, June 29

**Get Involved!**

*We're looking for another co-editor and/or contributors for this newsletter. If you can give of your time and talent for this once a month ministry, please contact [catherine.feil@gmail.com](mailto:catherine.feil@gmail.com) or [erinmchurch@gmail.com](mailto:erinmchurch@gmail.com). Do you have ideas for future items in the parish newsletter, or would you like to submit a feature for publication? All submissions can be directed to our editors: Catherine Feil ([catherine.feil@gmail.com](mailto:catherine.feil@gmail.com), or 703.671.0402) or Erin Church ([erinmchurch@gmail.com](mailto:erinmchurch@gmail.com)). Thank you!*