



# St. Rita

Catholic Church

6254 VALLEY KNOLL DRIVE • ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 61109  
815.398.0853 • www.stritarockford.org

“As the family goes,  
so goes the nation,  
and so goes the  
whole world  
in which  
we live.”

ST. JOHN PAUL II

Day of Prayer  
for the Legal  
Protection of  
Unborn Children

**January 15-16**  
**Second Sunday in**  
**Ordinary Time**

**Fr. Brian Grady**  
Pastor

**Fr. James C. Canova**  
Associate Pastor

**Deacon Robert Collins**  
**Deacon Kevin Hunter**  
**Deacon John Huntley**

**MASS TIMES**

*Weekdays*

Monday –Saturday .....8:15am

*Weekend*

Saturday (Vigil) .....4:30 pm  
Sunday ...8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am

*Confessions*

Tuesdays .....6 - 7 pm  
Saturdays 8:45 - 9:30 am and  
3:30 - 4:15 pm

*Adoration*

M - F ..... 3 - 8 pm (Chapel)  
**Tuesday ..... 6 - 7 pm (Church)**

**Holy Days:** Mass schedule may vary.  
Please check bulletin,  
website or call the Church Office

***Baptisms/Weddings***

Please call the parish office to  
arrange baptisms and weddings.

**OFFICE HOURS**

Monday thru Friday 9 to 5 pm  
CLOSED for lunch 12:30-1:30pm

### St. Agnes, Virgin & Martyr Feast Day, January 21



St. Agnes of Rome was born in 291 AD and raised in a Christian family. The name "Agnes" is similar to the Latin word *agnus*, which means "lamb". For this reason depictions of Saint Agnes often include a lamb. The name actually comes from a Greek word which means "chaste, pure, sacred".

Agnes is a patron saint of chastity, gardeners, girls, Girl Scouts, engaged couples and victims of rape. Agnes was very beautiful and belonged to a wealthy family. Her hand in marriage was highly sought after, and she had many high ranking men chasing after her. However, Agnes made a promise to God never to stain her purity. Her love for the Lord was great and she hated sin even more than death!

Whenever a man wished to marry Agnes, she would always say, "Jesus Christ is my only Spouse." In one incident, Procop, the Governor's son, became very angry when she refused him. He tried to win her for his wife with rich gifts and promises, but the beautiful young girl kept saying, "I am already promised to the Lord of the Universe. He is more splendid than the sun and the stars, and He has said He will never leave me!"

In great anger, Procop accused her of being a Christian and brought her to his father, the Governor. The Governor promised Agnes wonderful gifts if she would only deny God, but Agnes refused. He tried to change her mind by putting her in chains, but her lovely face shone with joy.

Next he sent her to a place of sin, but an Angel protected her. At last, she was condemned to death. Even the pagans cried to see such a young and beautiful girl going to death. Yet, Agnes was as happy as a bride on her wedding day. She did not pay attention to those who begged her to save herself. "I would offend my Spouse," she said, "if I were to try to please you. He chose me first and He shall have me!" Then she prayed and bowed her head for the death-stroke of the sword.

The stories go on to explain that another man presided over Agnes' trial after Sempronius excused himself. The new man sentenced Agnes to death. At first, Agnes was tied to a stake, but either the wood would not burn or the flames parted away from her. This prompted an officer to draw his sword and behead the girl. It is believed that her blood, which poured out to the stadium, was soaked up with cloths by Christians. She died a virgin-martyr at the age of 12 or 13 on January 21, 304.

Agnes was buried beside the Via Nomentana in Rome. Her bones are currently conserved beneath the high altar in the church of Sant'Angese fuori le mura in Rome, which was built over the catacomb that held her tomb. Her skull is preserved in the church of Sant'Agnese in Agone in Rome's Piazza Navona. In 1858, Father Caspar Rehr, an Austrian missionary founded the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes.

St. Agnes is widely known as the patron saint of young girls. She is also the patron saint of chastity, rape survivors and the Children of Mary. She is often represented with a lamb, the symbol of her virgin innocence, and a palm branch, like other martyrs. She is shown as a young girl in robes holding a palm branch with the lamb either at her feet or in her arms.

Her feast day is celebrated on January 21. On her feast day, it is customary for two lambs to be brought in to be blessed by the pope. On Holy Thursday the lambs' wool is removed and woven into the pallium the pope gives to a newly consecrated archbishop as a sign of his power and union with the pope.

# Mass Schedule and Intentions



## TUESDAY ROSARY JANUARY The Holy Name of Jesus

This month we celebrate the Feast of Mary the Mother of God. Join us on Tuesday nights at 5:30 PM in the Church to pray the Angelus, Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet. Let us also remember that in January we pray for all those affected by the passing of Roe vs. Wade especially on Tuesday, January 18, four days before the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. We will pray for all infants who have lost their lives due to an abortion.

Pope Francis's intention for January is:

*For true human fraternity: We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.*

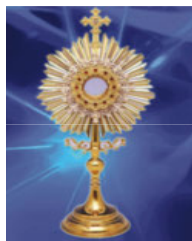
Consider staying after the Rosary to spend time of prayer in Adoration of Our Precious Lord.

### PRAYERS FOR OUR SICK AND HOSPITALIZED

The current list of our sick and hospitalized are as follows:

*Caleb Eckerstrom, Larry McConnell, Valerie Guyer, RoseMary Hillmer, Jerry Heiting*

To add or remove the name of a sick person, please call the parish office at: **(815) 398-0853** or email: [parishoffice@stritarockford.org](mailto:parishoffice@stritarockford.org). To protect everyone's privacy, only names emailed or called in by family members will be added. To keep our list more manageable and open to all, names submitted will remain on the list for one (1) month. If you would like an extra month, please call the parish office so that we may add it back on.



### STAY TUNED FOR EXCITING NEWS REGARDING EUCHARISTIC ADORATION!

We are in the process of transitioning how we do Eucharistic Adoration here at St. Rita's! This is exciting news!

The Pre-K room in the old Narthex is in the process of being converted to a Perpetual Adoration Chapel. Our hope is to have the Chapel up and running in the New Year. Please stay tuned to the bulletin in the weeks ahead for more information.

### NEED PRAYER ?

Please call our Prayer Line  
(815) 226-4376



### Monday, January 17• St. Anthony

8:15am † Nathan Gyllin (James Roppo)

### Tuesday, January 18• Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

8:15am † Joseph O'Hara (Family)

### Wednesday, January 19• Weekday

8:15am † Janet Marille (Lindquist Family)

### Thursday, January 20• Sts. Fabian & Sebastian

8:15am † Darlene Ruefer (Susan Verace)

### Friday, January 21• St. Agnes

8:15am In Thanksgiving (Sharen heiting)

### Saturday, January 22• Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of the Unborn

8:15am † Patricia Caliente (Respect Life Group)

#### Vigil for the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30pm † Elisa Hendricks (Reyes Family)

### Sunday, January 23• 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00am † Shawn Murphy (Ann Newman)

9:30am † Margaret Willburn (Beaufils Family)

11:00am People of St. Rita

## SANCTUARY LAMP MEMORIALS

Memorial candles are located near the tabernacles and in front of the St. Rita icon. Consider offering a candle in memory of someone special or as a special intention. Candles for the week of **Jan. 16 - 22** are being offered for:



**Chapel:** Special Intention for the Staehling Family

**Church:** † Gary Smith (Carol Smith)

**St. Rita:** † Pauline Misiunas (Dorothy Cieskus)

### Readings for the week of January 9, 2022

Sunday: Is 62:1-5/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10 [3]/  
1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11

Monday: 1 Sm 15:16-23/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and  
23/Mk 2:18-22

Tuesday: 1 Sm 16:1-13/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 27-28/Mk  
2:23-28

Wednesday: 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51/Ps 144:1b, 2,  
9-10/Mk 3:1-6

Thursday: 1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7/Ps 56:2-3, 9-10a, 10b-  
11, 12-13/Mk 3:7-12

Friday: 1 Sm 24:3-21/Ps 57:2, 3-4, 6 and 11/Mk  
3:13-19

Saturday: 2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27/Ps 80:2-3, 5-7/  
Mk 3:20-21

Next Sunday: Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/  
1 Cor 12:12-30 or 12:12-14, 27/

### IN MEMORY OF

**Catherine Kindstrom**  
(wife of Jerry)



# How can I repay the Lord for His goodness to me?

## We are a Stewardship Parish

### *Contributions for January 8-9*

Stewardship of Treasure (138).....	\$6,197.00
Loose Collection .....	\$432.00
Electronic Transfers (35) .....	\$2,940.00
Christmas (4) .....	\$1,150.00
Solemnity of Mary (6) .....	\$145.00

## 2022 Calendar Raffle

### Tickets are now on sale!

There is still time to buy your raffle tickets. These make wonderful holiday gifts and are a great way to help our school. Completed ticket stubs and donations may be returned to the church office, placed in the weekly collection basket, or mailed to the church office. Please direct calendar raffle questions to: Nikki Collins (815)621-7808,



## DIOCESE OF ROCKFORD

# MASS FOR LIFE

Celebrated by  
BISHOP MALLOY

JANUARY 22, 2022 - 10:00 AM

ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH  
10307 DUNDEE-HUNTLEY RD - HUNTLEY, IL

## St. Elizabeth Center Monthly Collection



For the month of January we will be concentrating on collecting new or gently used linens (sheets, towels, blankets, pillows, etc.). But as you know, they will accept most anything. Remember paper/plastic grocery bags as well as metal clothes hangers are always needed. Thank you for continuing to support this worthy charity that touches the lives of so many people.



SOCIETY OF  
ST. VINCENT  
de PAUL

**For help call 815-398-6060**

**svdp@stritarockford.org**

**All calls are confidential**

In the Gospel today, at the wedding feast of Cana, Jesus reveals Himself to His disciples and they begin to believe in Him. Everyday, God also gives us signs of His love and so we also can respond in faith and trust.

Your continued generosity to St. Vincent de Paul becomes a sign of God's love to those who are suffering, and you give them reason to believe and to trust. Thank you.

**Knights of Columbus have volunteered to host "Donut Sunday" on January 16, in Wahl Hall after all Masses.**

Many of our parishioners have requested that we resume "Donut Sunday" at St. Rita's. This can only happen if we can get volunteers to help host this social hour once a month. If you are willing to volunteer, please call the Church Office to sign-up. Thank you.



# Sock Drive



THOSE WHO HELP THE MOST NEEDY IN OUR COMMUNITY NEVER HAVE ENOUGH SOCKS TO GIVE AWAY. THIS WINTER, LET'S ALL PITCH IN TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. WE WILL BE COLLECTING NEW SOCKS AT ST. RITAS THE WEEKENDS OF:  
**JANUARY 22-23**  
&  
**JANUARY 29-30**

## MAGNIFICAT SUBSCRIBERS

Your **FEBUARY** issue of the Magnificat is available for pick-up in the Church Narthex. They are in the black box which is on the wooden bench. All issues are labeled and organized alphabetically by last name.

The cup of salvation I will raise; I will call on the Lord's Name.

**RISE UP**  
YOUTH MINISTRY



**TUESDAY HANG OUT**



**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**3PM - 4:30PM SNACKS & DRINKS, GAMES, AND FELLOWSHIP!**

**BL. CHIARA ROOM**

**RISE UP**  
YOUTH MINISTRY

**HIGH SCHOOL**



**TUESDAY HANG OUT**



**7PM - 8:30PM SNACKS & DRINKS, GAMES, AND FELLOWSHIP!**

**BL. CHIARA ROOM**

# BOYLAN

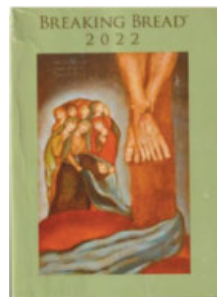


**SHADOW DAYS**  
RUNNING ALL 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR  
REGISTER AT [BOYLAN.ORG/SHADOWDAY](http://BOYLAN.ORG/SHADOWDAY)

**HIGH SCHOOL PLACEMENT EXAM**  
SATURDAY, JANUARY 22 / 8:00AM - 11:30AM  
CHECK-IN: 7:45AM @ STUDENT ENTRANCE (DOOR D)

Incoming freshmen for the 2022-2023 school year can register now for Boylan's High School Placement Test to help determine best course placements.  
REGISTER AT [BOYLAN.ORG/HSPT](http://BOYLAN.ORG/HSPT)

Questions? Contact Emily Schubert at [eschubert@boylan.org](mailto:eschubert@boylan.org) or by phone at 815-877-0531 x226



**2022 BREAKING BREAD BOOK**  
We have re-ordered 30 more Breaking Bread books. They will be available for the purchase price of \$10 in the Church Office. If you want to own your own Breaking Bread Book, please call the Church Office and sign-up for your book.

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<https://relevantradio.com/support/create-your-free-will/#>

**PREPARE AHEAD**

**TAX TIME**

St. Rita will be sending out charitable contribution statements soon. The statements go out by **e-mail**. If you need to update your e-mail, address and phone number, please do so as soon as possible. Contact the Church Office or e-mail us at: [parishoffice@stritarockford.org](mailto:parishoffice@stritarockford.org) with your current information so that we can change our records. If you **do not** have an e-mail address, a paper copy will be available after January 31 in the Church Office.



## **Adult Catechism Scripture Series 2022**

7:00 - 8:30 pm

St. Rita, Rockford - Facilitated by *Fr. James Canova*

Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in Wahl Hall:

**Old Testament Prefigures** (*Jesus, Mary, the sacraments, the pope, etc. in the Old Testament? Hmmmmn!*)

Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in Wahl Hall:

**The Sacrifice in the Old Testament...** (*...the Crucifixion, and the Mass*)

Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in Wahl Hall:

**An Overview of the Books of Scripture** (*Omnibus et Singulis*)

Monday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7 pm in Wahl Hall:

**Scripture - The Written Tradition** (*Where did the bible come from, inspiration, interpretations, etc.*)

Monday, June 27<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in Wahl Hall:

**Old Testament Prophets** (*Urim and Thummim – NOT!*)

Monday, July 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in Wahl Hall:

**The Gospels** (*Hello and Goodbye!*)

Monday, August 29<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in Wahl Hall:

**The Miracles of Jesus** (*Look Ma – No Hands!*)

Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in Wahl Hall:

**The Parables of Jesus** (*... you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children*)

\*\*\*Please register in advance with St. Rita's parish office\*\*\* (815) 398-0853

# SUBJECT TO CHANGE

### **F.I.R.E - Family Immersed Religious Education**

Last Saturday, the F.I.R.E. group met for the 4th time beginning with Mass at 4:30 pm. Following Mass, each family shared a meal and a family discussion together in Wahl Hall. Then back to the Church for a special speaker explaining prayers said during Mass which was very enlightening for both students and parents. After the presentation, families had the opportunity to work on activities where they were challenged to put those prayers in order. The evening ended with Father leading us in prayer and a Blessing.



# SAINT RITA DIRECTORY

## PASTORAL STAFF

**Pastor Fr. Brian Grady** ..... 815-398-0853 x204  
 Email.....bgrady@rockforddiocese.org  
**Associate Pastor Fr. James Canova** ..... 815-398-0853 x203  
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 Email .....jchuntley49@gmail.com  
**Deacon, Kevin Hunter**..... 815-633-5107  
 Email .....lamhunter@comcast.net  
**Deacon, Robert Collins**..... 815-904-0335  
 Email .....robertcollins@comcast.net  
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**Principal, Patrick Flanagan** ..... 815-398-3466 x221  
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**Catechesis and Evangelization Assistant**  
*Teddy Pfundstein*..... 815-398-0853 x208  
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**Coordinator of Liturgical Music**  
*Cheryl Hochstetler* ..... 815-721-3130  
 Email.....teachflute03@gmail.com

## Parish Secretary

*Kathleen Behrens*..... 815-398-0853  
 Email.....parishoffice@stritarockford.org

## Parish Secretary

*Becky O'Hara*..... 815-398-0853  
 Email.....parishoffice@stritarockford.org

## Parish Secretary

*Jean Peterson*..... 815-398-0853  
 Email .....parishoffice@stritarockford.org

## School Secretary

*Carrie Petrak*..... 815-398-3466 x220  
 Email .....schooloffice@saintritaschool.org

## PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

**Athletics, Joe Sutherland**..... 815-222-7808  
**Catholic Women's Fellowship, Janine Pigue**..... 815-262-4813  
**Finance Council, Todd Hughes**..... 815-670-1654  
**Knights of Columbus #7624, Jason Sturges**.....  
[grandknight7624@gmail.com](mailto:grandknight7624@gmail.com)  
**Pastoral Council, Mike Peck** ..... 815-494-8968  
**Homebound Ministry, Dan Burd** ..... 815-222-8261  
**Respect Life, Mary Kinney**..... 815-519-7066  
**Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Laura Ortiz**..... 815-262-0206

## SUPPORT STAFF

### Parish Office

Email.....parishoffice@stritarockford.org

St. Rita Catholic Church, Rockford, IL

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