



The St. Rita Magazine

SOMETHING DIFFERENT

We're doing something different at St. Rita. We call it *The St. Rita Magazine*.

Throughout our history, the monthly newsletter has come to you in various forms and under numerous titles. What you have in your hands, *The St. Rita Magazine*, marks a new way to communicate with you. In the past, we've always been willing to change for the better, which is exactly what we're doing here.

Our goal is to offer information about what's going on in the Parish and the School more efficiently and affordably, offering you news about our community that's written locally by members of the community.

We hope to publish *The St. Rita Magazine* quarterly, with a mind to giving you a clear and succinct picture of what's going on and upcoming in our great community. We're starting small, just four pages this first issue, but we hope to grow, offering more quality content, helpful to you.

I want this magazine to be an instrument of belonging, offering what you need and want to know so you can get involved in the community as God calls you.

And, of course, he is calling you! So come, belong!

pax,

FR. JOSHUA

ST. RITA LENTEN SUPPERS

Fridays in Lent, join us in the Dining Hall beginning at 6:15pm for delicious soup and salad, pasta and bread, all prepared with love and the skills of a gourmet! Over the years, Friday Suppers at St. Rita have come great events, full of life and joy and fellowship, not to mention excellent food!

If you're looking for something to do in Lent, come to our Lenten Supper at 6:15pm and then walk over to the Church for Stations of the Cross at 6:45pm. It's a wonderful way to wind down a busy week and refocus on the Lord. See you there!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Handel's Messiah	2
Here's Your Cross!.....	2
Mighty is Her Call	3
Lent & Easter at St. Rita.....	3
Our Knights are Winners!....	3
From the Principal	4

Don't Want to Get The St. Rita Magazine?

Easy! Just email Vilma, our Registrar, and she will kindly take you off the list!

vricciardi@stritaparish.net

YOUTH & CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Let's be honest, many think Lent a gloomy time of sacrifice and penance. But, really it's so much more. A season of desert grace, in Lent we're called to focus on repentance and renewal. So how can your family fully receive the desert grace Lent has to offer?

Through **prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.**

Make time for these sacred acts as a family, and you'll see the real beauty of Lent. Doing so, your family can journey grow together more fully in a relationship with Jesus.

May your families live in peace and joy throughout Lent and the Easter season!

LITURGY & FINE ARTS

Handel's Messiah: *A Life-changing Experience*

Currently on display at New York City's Metropolitan Museum is a one-fourth scale recreation of Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel ceiling. The lines for this exhibit are out the door because, for many, this is as close as they may ever come to seeing the real thing. So, when a true icon of Western civilization suddenly appears to us, it's something we must take advantage of.

Handel's Messiah is one such iconic work. On Saturday, May 19 at 7:00pm, the Saint Rita Choir, professional orchestra, and our wonderful soloists will present this entire work. Yes, you will hear the famous "Hallelujah" chorus in

all its splendor, but there is so much more to behold. Born of divine inspiration and composed in a mere 28 days, Handel's oratorio tells nothing less than the birth, passion, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. No one in history before or since has accomplished this feat so beautifully, so dramatically, or so powerfully. Please mark this date on your calendar for you and your entire family. Its glory will linger forever with you and your children. And it might just change your life.



“Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.”

- Genesis 3:19

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY 14

“No work is good without grace and without love.”

-Bl. John Henry Newman

- † 6:25 am
- † 8:00 am (*School Mass*)
- † 12:10 pm
- † 5:30 pm
- † 7:00 pm (*Bilingual*)



Ashes will be distributed during Masses only.

2

FAITH FORMATION

Welcome! Here's Your Cross!

When you see a somewhat large wooden cross around your pew-mate's neck, say a little prayer for him or her. It is likely the case that you are sitting next to a *catechumen* or a *candidate* from the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (R.C.I.A.)!

R.C.I.A. is a revitalization of an ancient process in the Church which aims at a systematic introduction to the content and experience of the Catholic faith. As a period of reflection, prayer, instruction, formation, and discernment, it is one marked by many spiritual blessings. To be a part of this ministry is to witness God “wooing” souls with many graces. On the other hand, it is also a time fraught with spiritual perils, temptations, and vexations as seekers come to fundamental decisions about the trajectory of their lives. Those inquiring after Truth are bound to be both inspired and challenged by it, and your prayerful care is an essential part of the process.

The wooden cross you see was given at the Rites of Acceptance and Welcome. The first was celebrated for “catechumens,” those seeking Baptism, while the second was for “candidates,” those who have been baptized in another faith tradition and are now seeking full communion with the Catholic Church. These and other rites are signposts along the way, and it is with great joy that we embrace their journey as an extension of our own.

There are some in our community that have dedicated a good deal of time and energy to be more intimately involved with this vital ministry, but it really falls to the *whole* parish community to spiritually foster the respective walks of our catechumens and candidates. Let us all join with one heart in being a place of true welcome and deep solidarity.





Mighty is Her Call



A MOTHER'S RETREAT, FOR YOU!

MIGHTY IS HER CALL A Retreat for Catholic Mothers

This Lent, St. Rita's Mother's Ministry will be hosting a mothers' retreat, "Mighty Is Her Call," to offer a day of restoration and encouragement for Catholic moms. Mothers give great portions of their lives—in many cases, some aspect of their careers, personal development, not to mention giving their bodies for a time - to build their families. As such, this day is our gift to moms, giving them a chance to reflect on the importance of their vocation, relax, and remember just how powerful, meaningful, and Christ-filled their role as a mother is.

The retreat includes inspiring talks, time for personal prayer, Mass and the opportunity for Confession. Mothers will be given new tools for self-care, new insight into prayer, and support for the challenge of raising faithful Catholics in the midst of an increasingly secular culture. Please join us as we work on this great endeavor together!

The retreat is on Saturday, **March 24** from 8am-3pm.
Register at catholicmothersretreat.com.
Registration is \$20 on the website or \$30 at the door.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

St. Rita Knights Receive National Award

Our St. Rita Knights earned the distinction of Double Star Council, one of the organization's top awards, for 2016-2017. The organization's headquarters, in New Haven, Connecticut, made the announcement. The award recognizes a council for not only meeting, but far exceeding the requirements of membership, recruitment and retention, promotion of the fraternal insurance program and a dedication to sponsoring service-oriented activities. The award was presented by the Honorable Tom Fuller, district deputy, and SK Roy Rabenaldt, diocesan deputy, at a special ceremony during the council's annual Christmas celebration on December 8, 2017.

"Receiving the recognition of Double Star Council is quite an honor for us and I do mean us. This type of honor can be directly attributed to the countless hours put in by so many of the men of this council. For each and every one of those members, I accept this award." proclaimed SK Rich Duke, past Grand Knight of Council 11169.

The Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic lay organization. It provides members and their families with volunteer opportunities in service to the Church, their communities, families, and the youth of their community. With more than 1.9 million members in over 15,000 councils around the world, the Knights of Columbus annually donates more than \$177 million and 75 million hours of service to charitable causes.



For more information about council 11169 contact Grand Knight Davis Stack 972-467-4896 or past GK Rich Duke 214-704-0927.

LENT & EASTER AT ST. RITA

Ash Wednesday, February 14

Masses at 6:25am, 8:00am, 12:10pm, 5:30pm, 7:00pm (Bilingual)

Daily Masses

6:25am & 5:30pm
plus 8:00am on Wednesday & Friday

Confessions

Thursdays at 7:30pm
Saturdays at 9:00am

Holy Hour

Thursdays at 7:15pm

Fridays in Lent

6:15pm, Poor Man's Supper (Dining Hall)
6:45pm, Stations of the Cross (Church)
7:30pm, Via Crucis (Español) (Church)

Parish Penance Service

March 22 at 7:00pm

The Light is On for You

March 28, 6:30-9:00pm

Solemn Vespers

March 11 at 4:30pm
April 8 at 4:30pm
May 13 at 4:30pm

Holy Week

Wednesday, March 28
Tenebrae at 8:00pm

Holy Thursday, March 29

Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00pm
No Holy Hour or Confessions

Good Friday, March 30

12:00pm - At the Foot of the Cross
3:00pm - Celebration of the Lord's Passion
7:00pm - Via Crucis y Veneración de la Cruz

Easter Masses

March 31, The Great Vigil at 8:30pm
April 1, Easter Sunday
7:30am in the Church
9:00am in the Church
10:45am in the Church & Sweeney Hall
12:30pm in the Church (Bilingual)
5:30pm in the Church

Handel's Messiah

Saturday, May 19 at 7:00pm

**St. Rita Catholic
Community**

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Belong

COMMON GROUNDS COFFEE

Brew Unto Others

*Did you know you can
relax with a cup of coffee
at St. Rita?*

Sundays

8am-11:30am

Monday-Friday

7am-11:30am



ST. RITA SCHOOL

From the Principal

Wow! My first six months at St. Rita Catholic School have flown by! I feel extremely blessed to have been chosen as the new Principal and appreciate the hospitality shown to me and my family by the St. Rita community. I am enjoying getting to know the talented faculty, staff, parents, alumni and students and am so impressed with how generous our families are with their time, talent and treasure. Furthermore, I am excited about continuing this ministry's 50+ year tradition of excellence in its mission of fostering spiritual, intellectual, social and physical growth in the children entrusted to the School's care. I believe in a shared-leadership style and have been working with my talented team of teachers and leaders on an implementation plan for new initiatives such as a Service Learning Program, a Student Success Center, One-to-One Technology in the classroom and all that is involved in making these initiatives happen. Please watch for more details about these programs via *The St. Rita Magazine*, our school's Facebook page, and our School website. Exciting times are ahead!

Sincerely,

Dr. Carol Walsh

