

## St. John Parish

126 Hickory Street  
Strawn, TX 76475

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 p.m. (English),  
Reconciliation: Before Mass

**++Feast Day of the Week++**

### St. Rita

Saint Rita (*Margherita Lotti*) was born in 1381 in the city of [Roccapiorena](#) (near [Spoleto, Umbria, Italy](#))<sup>[2]</sup> where various sites connected with her are the focus of pilgrimages. Her parents, Antonio and Amata Ferri Lotti, were known to be noble, charitable persons, who gained the epithet *Conciliatore di Cristo* (English: *Peacemakers of Christ*).<sup>[1]</sup> According to pious accounts, Rita was originally pursued by a [notary](#) named *Gubbio* but she resisted his offer. She was married at age twelve to a nobleman named Paolo Mancini. Her parents arranged her marriage, a common practice at the time, despite her repeated requests to be allowed to enter a [convent](#) of religious sisters. Her husband, Paolo Mancini, was known to be a rich, quick-tempered, immoral man, who had many enemies in the region of [Cascia](#). Rita had her first child at the age of twelve.

Rita endured his insults, physical abuse, and infidelities for many years. According to popular tales, through humility, kindness, and patience, Rita was able to convert her husband into a better person, more specifically renouncing a family [feud](#) known at the time as *La Vendetta*. Rita eventually bore two sons, Giangiacomo (Giovanni) Antonio, and Paolo Maria, and brought them up in the Christian faith. As time went by and the family feud between the Chiqui and Mancini families became more intense, Paolo Mancini became congenial, but his allies betrayed him and he was violently stabbed to death<sup>[2]</sup> by Guido Chiqui, a member of the feuding family.

Rita gave a public pardon at Paolo's funeral to her husband's murderers.<sup>[2]</sup> Paolo Mancini's brother, Bernardo, was said to have continued the blood [family feud](#) and hoped to convince Rita's sons to seek revenge. Bernardo convinced Rita's sons to leave their [manor](#) and live at the Mancini [villa](#) ancestral home. As her sons grew, their characters began to change as Bernardo became their tutor. Rita's sons wished to revenge their father's murder. Rita, fearing that her sons would lose their souls, tried to persuade them from retaliating, but to no avail. Accordingly, she petitioned God to take her sons rather than submit them to possible [mortal sin](#) and [murder](#). Her sons died of [dysentery](#) a year later, which pious Catholics believe claim was God's answer to take her prayer, taking them by natural death rather than risk them committing a mortal sin punishable by [Hell](#).

After the deaths of her husband and sons, Rita desired to enter the [monastery](#) of [Saint Mary Magdalene](#) in [Cascia](#) but was turned away. Although the convent acknowledged Rita's good character and piety, the nuns were afraid of being associated with her due to the scandal of her husband's violent death. However, she persisted in her cause and was given a condition before the convent could accept her: the task of reconciling her family with her husband's murderers. She implored her three patron saints ([John the Baptist](#), [Augustine of Hippo](#), and [Nicholas of Tolentino](#)) to assist her, and she set about the task of establishing peace between the hostile parties of Cascia.<sup>[3]</sup> Popular religious tales recall that the [bubonic plague](#), which ravaged Italy at the time, infected Bernardo Mancini, causing him to relinquish his desire to feud any longer with the Chiqui family. She was able to resolve the conflicts between the families and, at the age of thirty-six, was allowed to enter the monastery.<sup>[4]</sup> Pious Catholic legends later recount that she was transported into the monastery of Saint Magdalene via [levitation](#) at night into the garden courtyard by her three patron saints. She remained at the monastery, living by the [Augustinian Rule](#), until her death from tuberculosis on 22 May 1457.<sup>[5]</sup>

-Wikipedia

## St. Rita Parish

1109 Blackwell Road  
Ranger, TX 76470

Sunday Mass: 8:00 a.m. (English)  
Reconciliation: Half Hour before Mass



### Parochial Administrator: Father Reehan Antony

Parish Office Telephone: 254-647-3163.

If you need a priest (Fr. Reehan) in an emergency (hospital, etc.),  
please call 682-207-8557

### Weekday Events in Your Parish/Eventos Durante la Semana de su Parroquia

St. Francis, Eastland Monday – Rosario (Rosary in Spanish), 7 p.m.  
Tuesday – Estudio Biblico (Bible Study in Spanish), 7:30 p.m.  
Friday – Oracion (Evening Prayer), 7 p.m.  
Holy Rosary, Cisco Wednesday – Rosary 9 a.m., then coffee & donuts  
1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after Rosary  
Sunday – Bible Study on the Gospel of Matthew, 5 p.m.

### Calendar of Events/Calendario de Eventos

May 22 St. Rita's Church Feast Day Mass at 6pm. Potluck to follow.

### Pope's Prayer Intentions

May 02, 2017

The prayer intention of Pope Francis for May 2017 is "that Christians in Africa, in imitation of the merciful Jesus, may give prophetic witness to reconciliation, justice, and peace."

This year the Vatican has inaugurated a new system for announcing the Pope's monthly prayer intentions. Rather than announcing two intentions (one general intention, one for the missions) in advance each month, the Pope is working with the Apostleship of Prayer to create a video message promoting one intention each month, while allowing for the possibility of additional urgent intentions.

-Catholic World News

## St. Francis Xavier Parish

Halbryan and Foch Street  
Eastland, TX 76448

Sunday Mass: 9:45 a.m. (Spanish)  
Reconciliation: Half Hour before Mass

<http://stfranciseastland.org/>

## Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Parish

1108 Avenue F  
Cisco, TX 76437

Sunday Mass: 11:30 a.m. (English)

Reconciliation: After Mass

[www.cisoholyrosary.com](http://www.cisoholyrosary.com)

### STEWARDSHIP May 20-21, 2017

St. John.	657.00
St. Rita.	815.75
St. Francis.	643.78
Holy Rosary.	845.00

*May God bless you for your generosity.*

### Mass Intentions

Holy Rosary Intention of Fr. Kyle Walterscheid, on the 15th Anniversary of his Ordination. Requested by: Holy Rosary Altar Society.

### Special collection

Next week, our second collection is for the Catholic Communication Campaign. This campaign connects people with Christ, here and around the world in developing countries, through the internet, television, radio, and print media. fifty percent of funds collected remains in our diocese to fund local communications efforts. your support helps spread the gospel message! To learn more, visit [www.usccb.org/cc](http://www.usccb.org/cc). please be generous.

### For Emergencies

Please call or email Dn. Ed in any emergency.

He can be reached at:

Phone: [+1 \(830\) 998-5570](tel:+1(830)998-5570)

Email: [edferguson@ctesc.net](mailto:edferguson@ctesc.net)

### Fr. Reehan's vacation

Father Reehan will go to India to visit his parents from May 23 to June 23. Anything needing his attention, needing any sacraments, in those days please meet him as soon as possible

### MASSES THIS WEEK

Monday: St. Rita's at  
6:00pm

\*No weekday masses from  
May 24-June 23, 2017\*

### youth fund raising.

please with help the youth fundraising on June 10. Look at the notice board for more info.

### Save the date

VBS- June 26-30, at St. FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH HOUSE. More info to follow.