



Saint Rafka Maronite

Catholics of the East in the Upstate!
1215 S. Highway 14, Greer, SC 29650 864.469.9119
saintrafka.org saintrafkagreenville@gmail.com

February 11, 2018



Sunday of the Miracle at Cana Entrance into Great Lent

A great banquet requires great planning. Anyone who hosts guests knows the anxiety of arranging a perfect party. In today's reading from Gospel, Jesus saves the hosting couple from utter embarrassment at their own wedding when they run out of wine – the main drink of the day. In His mercy, Christ performs His first miracle by turning six huge jars of water into wine – and not just any wine, but the best vintage. While it might seem strange that we commemorate a party before the start of the fasting of Lent it is no accident. The following Sundays of the Lent all commemorate the merciful acts of our Lord, the Lover of Mankind, on those whom He takes pity (such as the Leper next week, Mark 1:35-43). Each merciful act of Christ in healing the sick and suffering reveals to humanity that He is the Divine Physician Who has come to heal our souls and bodies. But all this climaxes with a banquet. Before His passion He gave us His body and blood, which truly given

Continued next page

Saint Rafka Maronite Church is a Catholic Parish of the Antiochene Syriac Maronite Church, Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn, NY, **Most Rev. Gregory John Mansour**, Bishop, 109 Remsen Street, Brooklyn, NY, 11201, 718.237.9913. chancerystmaron@verizon.net

Rev. Bartholomew Leon,
Administrator,
bartleon@gmail.com

Pastor's Advisory Council
Ramiz Askar,

Marlene Saad Secretary

Richard Sleiman, Chairman

Paul Sleiman, **Linda Wickett**,

Jack Yacu

Finance Committee

George Azan, **Joseph Chebeir**, Chairman

Tony Sleiman, **Paula Howard-Casby**

Administration

Richard, Wickett, *Financial Secretary*

Joseph Chebeir, **Scott Herr**,
Administrative Assistants to the Pastor



Trust In Us

Our security business is based in Greenville, SC.
We provide the best security systems for home and business.
Ensuring your Family and Assets are protected.

864.288.1400

priority1security.com

when crucified and shed the following day, at the Last Supper – a banquet. The banquet at Cana points us to what to await at the end of Lent – the commemoration of Christ, Life Himself, giving us the flesh of life at His banquet. And these two banquets point to the ultimate banquet in the resurrected glory of Easter at the end of time in heaven, which we celebrated at the Consecration of the Church, for the Church is the wedding party preparing for the banquet. For this reason, before we begin fasting we recall the banquet of Cana, which Christ gave us as a foreshadowing.

When we receive an invitation to a party we make sure not to fill up on junk food that day. In fact, sometimes we do not eat so that we can eat more delicious food at the banquet. Similarly, in the spiritual life we must prepare for the banquet of Holy Thursday, Easter, and the end of time to enjoy it properly with Christ. If we fill our souls with junk food pleasures of this world to fulfill our immediate desires, like Adam in the Garden eating the apple, we have less room for God. This is why Christ has given us a powerful means of preparing spiritually, which we traditionally associate with Lent – fasting. If Adam had fasted, he would not have transgressed the commandment of God when tempted by Satan. Christ shows us, when He fasts and is tempted by Satan, that He triumphs over him (Matt. 4:1-11). Fasting controls our passions, and is an imperative of Christ, which He reminds will be rewarded by the Father (Matt. 6:18).

In the pastoral care of the Church, the canonical obligation of fasting is not regularly required (i.e. it is not a mortal sin if you do not fast), but it is also not required to bring armor to battle, and as the Syriac Father Aphrahat tells us fasting is “Accounted like treasure in heaven. It is armor against the Evil One, and a shield against the Enemy’s arrows” (On Fasting). Fasting is an integral part of our tradition for thousands of years because of the spiritual assistance it grants. One should try to do as much as they healthily can. According to the Maronite tradition, fasting is not eating until noon Monday through Friday, followed by two meals of just what one needs to eat, and it excludes animal products (meats/fish with a spine, dairy, egg) and alcohol. It is daunting at first but one must remember it is for one’s preparation to receive the Risen Christ and the Kingdom. Of course, our tradition is also very sensible – we are not legalists, but adherents to the Spirit. If this fast is too much, one should ask their priest how they can make it more manageable – perhaps try just Wednesday and Friday this Lent or abstaining from meat. But the important thing to remember is that it is not an athletic competition to see how much we can not eat, but preparation for Christ’s coming, both back from the dead at Easter and on the last day.

But fasting does not just include not eating. St. Isaac of Nineveh reminds us there are spirits besides angels that do not eat but they also do not pray – demons. Fasting is an opportunity to remove the junk food from our lives during a fasting period to focus better on the spiritual life. If one, for instance, does do the fast above they could replace breakfast with praying a couple psalms from the Book of Psalms. Ultimately, we must prepare our whole selves for Christ, not just our stomachs. Aphrahat, once again, says that your body, which is a temple of God, has one doorway through which the King Jesus Christ enters for communion. A man would not drag manure and trash out the door a king will enter – likewise, as we fast, we must strive to fast from all sorts of hateful language, gossip, and trouble-making for our Lord said, “That which enters man does not defile him but what comes out of him from the mouth defiles him” (Matt. 15:11).

Seminarian Michael Shami

© 2018 Saint Rafka Maronite Catholic Church, Greer, SC.

All rights reserved.



Abouna's Corner



Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Cold and rain, ice pellets and rain, more cold and more rain! Welcome to winter in South Carolina! My question to the Lord has always been, "Why on the weekend??"! Most of these weather events fall on Sunday and Holy Days. These days certainly try the faith of the pastor!

On Monday, we will celebrate the funeral liturgy at 11 AM for **George Sijon** who fell asleep in the Lord on February 1. Burial to follow at Woodlawn. Check the Thomas McAfee Funeral Home [website](#) for more details. Please continue to keep **Norma** and her family in your prayers.

Also on Monday, we begin the season of Great Lent. The Liturgy will be celebrated and ashes will be distributed at 7 PM. Please see the Fasting Regulations further back in the bulletin.

Last Sunday I received a call that one of our old parishioners, **Peter S. Zogby**, had died. Peter was a Maronite from Utica, NY and moved down south about the time we started having liturgies in Gallivan Hall. Peter and his wife **Kim** were a constant presence each weekend, traveling from Hartwell, GA. Peter and Kim later moved to Athens, GA, but kept in touch. I went several times to visit in Georgia and was able to give him the last rites and the holy Eucharist. Peter will be buried this Wednesday from his beloved home church of Saint Louis Gonzaga in Utica. Obit [here](#). May he rest in peace and may his memory be eternal.



As Great Lent approaches, please remember that each weekday evening of the season we will celebrate *Ramsho* (Evening Prayer) at 7 PM. On Fridays, *Ramsho* will conclude with the Benediction of the Cross.

See you in Church! *Salaam!*

Ab. Bart

Calendar of Events

February

- 10, 4 PM, Vigil Liturgy **Cana Sunday**
11, 11 AM, Divine Liturgy
7 PM, Last Chance Divine Liturgy
12, 7:00 PM, **Divine Liturgy and Ashes**
13, 7:00 PM, KC Meeting, Wickett Hall
14, 7 PM, *Ramsho* and Eucharist
15, 7 PM, *Ramsho*
16, 7 PM, *Ramsho* and
Benediction of the Cross
17, 4 PM, Vigil Liturgy, **Sunday of the Leper**
18, 11 AM, Divine Liturgy
7 PM, Last Chance Divine Liturgy
19, 6:30 PM, English/Arabic ESL Classes,
Francis House
7 PM, *Ramsho*
20, 7 PM, *Ramsho*
21, 7 PM, *Ramsho* and Eucharist
22, 7 PM, *Ramsho*
23, 7 PM, *Ramsho* and
Benediction of the Cross
24, 4 PM, Vigil Liturgy,
Hemorrhaging Woman
25, 11 AM, Divine Liturgy
7 PM, Last Chance Divine Liturgy
26, 6:30 PM, English/Arabic ESL Classes,
Francis House
7 PM, *Ramsho*
27, 7 PM, *Ramsho*



Lenten Devotions

Please join us each weekday evening of Great Lent at 7:00 PM for *Ramsho*, the Evening Prayer of the Church. On Wednesdays the Eucharist will be celebrated. On Fridays Benediction of the Cross will follow. Bring a friend and experience this simple yet beautiful evening sacrifice.



Mark Advent, Owner

Advent Home Services

Plumbing - Electric - Repair - Install

- Quality Workmanship
- Excellent Troubleshooting Skills
- Reasonable Pricing
- Respectful Attitude

Small Jobs Welcome!!!

864.414.6957 864.420.5041

ACA  FREWOOD

Mike Freeman, GMB
Licensed Residential Contractor

864.505.4081  mike@acafreewood.com
Fax 864.640.8327

2017 Financial Statements

We thank you for your generosity to Saint Rafka Church. The **2017 Donation Statements** can be obtained from the church office by calling Joe Chebeir at 864.469.9119 or by sending an email to either secretary@saintrafka.org or saintrafkagreenville@gmail.com. If you need a printed statement, let Joe know so he can mail it to you or have it in the foyer of the church when you come to Liturgy on Sunday.

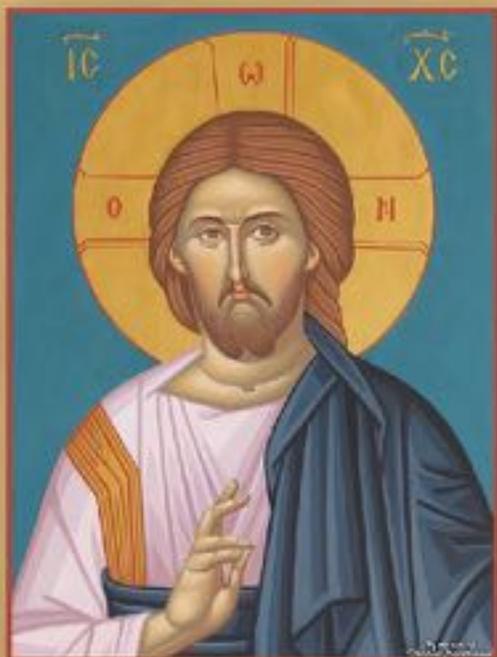
Icon Painting Workshop

St. Rafka Catholic Church, Greenville, South Carolina

Experience the unique spiritual world of the Byzantine Era through icon painting

July 16-21, 2018

St. Rafka Catholic Church
Greenville, South Carolina



Join us on this six day intensive course under the direction of visiting master iconographer and expert instructor Theodoros Papadopoulos from Greece. This Christ Pantocrator icon will "come alive" as he will guide you step by step, through the ancient techniques of Byzantine Iconography. Let us journey together, discovering anew, this traditional artistic expression of theology and spirituality often called the "meeting place of the Divine". Whether you are absolutely beginner or an advanced artist, this workshop offers an opportunity to learn and refine your techniques in this sacred art.

Your tuition fee of \$680 includes most supplies including boards, pigments and brushes.

Space is limited and early registration is suggested.

For enrollment and more information, visit the website

www.theodoreicons.com/sc

or contact Ms Aziza Stansberry at:

Stansberry.azizaX@gmail.com phone number: 8645061924

Vocation to the Priesthood?

Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Seminary will be holding a discernment weekend from **Friday April 13 to Sunday April 15 in Washington DC**. If you know of anyone discerning a vocation to the priesthood, or would like to know more, please give him Fr. Dominique Hanna's phone number [\(404-525-2505\)](tel:404-525-2505).

The most up to date **Maronite Voice** is always available [here](#).

A Unique Parishioner Call for Help

Dear Friends,

Re: **End-Stage Kidney Disease**

Some of you may already know: I have end-stage kidney disease. My kidneys do not work well enough to keep me alive, and my treatment options are limited to dialysis or kidney transplant.

Regular hemodialysis treatments, three times per week for four hours at a time, help my kidneys do their job and keep me alive. But a transplant would offer me the ability to live a longer, healthier, more normal life and with more freedom.

Finding a kidney for a transplant is not easy. There are 100,000+ people, just like me, on the waiting list for a deceased donor kidney. Time is not on our side. Some die while waiting. I've been waiting nearly six years, about a year longer than the average wait time of five years.

There is another option: receiving a kidney from a living donor. Asking a family member or a friend to donate a kidney is very difficult for me, extremely personal, takes much thought and involves your family's consideration. Your decision will not affect our relationship, and I absolutely do not want a donor feeling pressured in any way.

You may not know a lot about living donation, which I did not until recently. Understandably, many people are fearful of surgery and what living with one kidney will mean for them. Here's some basic information about kidney donation:

- Most people are born with an extra kidney - only one is needed to live a long, healthy life.
- As a living donor, you will have a separate team of Healthcare professionals to evaluate you. Their job is to help YOU understand the risks and benefits, looking out for YOUR best interests.
- Cost of your evaluation and surgery will be covered by my insurance; the hospital can provide to you more information.
- Most donor surgery is done laparoscopically, meaning through tiny incisions.
- Recuperation is usually fairly quick, generally two weeks, for people with desk jobs, to six weeks, for jobs involving heavy lifting.

What is a paired kidney exchange? Roughly one-third of kidney failure patients with a willing living donor will be unable to receive the kidney because of incompatibility. In a paired kidney exchange, a donor may donate their kidney to another recipient in exchange for a compatible kidney for their loved one.

Before deciding, you can explore the living donation program by calling MUSC's Kelly Canavan, my Living Donor Coordinator, at [843-792-1594](tel:843-792-1594).

A living donation may not be right for you, but you can still help. Please help by sharing my story, spreading the word about kidney disease, raising awareness of living donation and helping me and the many others on the waiting list.

Thank you for reading and for your concern and for your help in spreading the word about kidney disease.

Appreciatively, Joe Baranski [864-201-2480](tel:864-201-2480) Greer, SC

November 25, 2017



SAINT STEPHEN MARONITE CATHOLIC CHURCH

A member of the Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn, NY

Visit the [homepage](#) of our neighbors to the north of us. Saint Stephen is under the leadership of **Father Elias Khalil** and is growing in Grace and numbers.

Religious Education - First Holy Communion Preparation

Is your child ready for the reception of First Penance and Holy Communion? Parishioner **Alex Roman**, a professional teacher, has volunteered to teach in our religious education program. Other children, post Holy Communion, are also welcome to these classes. Contact the Church Office to register.

Adult Religious Education

Religious formation never ends! We are never too old to learn! Adult Religious Education Classes meet at 7:15 PM, right after the *Ramsho* and Devotions in Wicket Hall. This fall, the class will concentrate on the Divine Liturgy and the Holy Mass of the various Churches, their structures, similarities and differences. We will also examine the Liturgical Year and the Liturgy of the Hours. Join us and bring a friend who may be interested in learning about the Maronite Church and liturgy.

English/Arabic Classes

We now have English classes (ESL), which will be team taught by **Alex Roman**, **Shea Menge**, and **Scott Herr**. The Arabic lessons will follow, and they will be taught by **Mona Ayoub Achi**. Class begins at 6:30 PM in Francis House. Free and open to all.

إبتداءً من نهار الإثنين ٢ تشرين الأول، ٢٠١٧ الساعة ٦,٣٠ مساءً في منزل فرنسيس،
وأُسبوعياً يُعطي "سكوپ هر"، "أليكس رومان" و "شي منجي" دروساً في اللغة
الانكليزية، يتبعها دروساً في اللغة العربية تُعلّمها "منى العشي". تُعطى هذه الدروس
مجاناً ونُرحب بجميع المشاركين.

A petition is to support Christians in the Middle East who have courageously stayed in their countries or are returning to them. Please visit and [sign](#).

The Fast of Nineveh for the Chaldean Church of the East begins on January 22 and ends on January 24. Let us pray for the people of the East Syrian Churches who observe this holy fast to prepare for the coming of Great Lent.

Prayer List

Mike Dyer, Christian Pereira, Houda Askar, Jack D'Aquin, Maurice Mercier, Ed Rauch, Art Newton, Mike Georgion, Nancy Georgion Jack Yacu, Houda Askar, Montaha Achi, Jim Hopsecger, Recovery of RS, Ashley Mullinex, Bill McAfee, Bill Leon, Sr., Charley Dusthimer, Bernadette Smith, Claire Barnett, Hans Wascom, Ethel Brassel, Katrina Shunk, Chuck Wilson, George Vargo, Dan Steinker, Irma Galvan, Mary Cleary, Joe Lemire, Mary Anne McAfee, Tish Oney, Lois Taylor, Virginia LaFave, Nabeel Howard, Father M. T. Phillips, Paul Cote and Family, Paul Bussemey, Ramza Sleiman, Moe Mercier, Joan Bussemey, Special Intention by Abouna, Bob Brown, Joe Durham, Michael Bays, Patrick Lavelle, Tara Galvin, Susan Connor, Bill Hines, Beth Banks, Andrea Fiorni-Frazier, Shawn Sexton, Robert Mercier, James and Kaleigh, Mark Pelletier, Antonella, Stephanie, Derek Gerard Solomon, JoAn Salloum, Susie, Jim Hopka, Family of Colbert Arthur, Berma Darlene Bell, Terry Vadnais, Elaine Gillen, Amy Hunter, Shawn Sexton, Cindy Miller, Adrian Kassentar, Beth Hopsecger, Mark Barnard, Special Intention of MKS, Janice Radich, Paula Lemire, Becky Jarvis, Lillian Moon, Vito Fortuna, Sam Howard, Jr., Betty Braun, Deanne Valencia, Sister Mary Emmanuel, Katie Frank, Beverley Davis, Maryanne Polidoro, John Fender, Nancy Gegorian, Thomas Shaluly

Someone in need of prayer? Let me know!



Saints We Celebrate

February 12, Saint Melatius of Antioch, Confessor

February 15, **Coptic Martyrs of Libya**, 2015

February 18, Pope Saint Leo I, Confessor

February 19, 300 Martyrs of Soor (Tyre)

February 20, Saint James the Hermit, Confessor

February 21, Saint Ostatius, Patriarch of Antioch, Confessor

February 22, The Chair of Peter in Antioch



HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING_{INC.}

"Great Service is what we do."

864-879-4AIR

TIM GILSON - Owner/President
Licensed & Insured

257 N. RUTHERFORD RD.
GREER, SC 29651

RESIDENTIAL REPAIRS & INSTALLATION
www.gsmechanicalheatingandair.com • gsmechanical@att.net

Liturgical Items

Liturgical Readings

Feast	New Testament	Gospel
Cana	Rom. 14:14-23	John 2:1-11
English	Marlene Saad	
Arabic	Nazar Yacu	New! To review the readings online, go here .

Mass Intentions

February 10 & 11	Intention	Donor
Saturday, 4 PM	Living & Deceased Family & Friends of Joe	Andy & Ceil Frisari
Sunday, 11 AM	+Tasha Grieg and Departed Family - Jacob and Foleschkuff Family Members	Faris and Aida Farah
Sunday, 7 PM	Living & Deceased Family & Friends of Vinnie & Isabel	Andy & Ceil Frisari
Monday, 7 PM	Intentions of the Parishioners	
Wednesday, 7 PM	Living & Deceased Family & Friends of Josephine	Andy & Ceil Frisari
February 17 & 18		
Saturday, 4 PM	Living & Deceased Family & Friends of Ann	Andy & Ceil Frisari
Sunday, 11 AM	+Stephanie Dannels	Tom and Joan Craven
Sunday, 7 PM	Living & Deceased Family & Friends of Paul	Andy & Ceil Frisari
Wednesday, 7 PM	Living & Deceased Family & Friends of Richard & Paula	Andy & Ceil Frisari

Sanctuary Lamp and Flowers

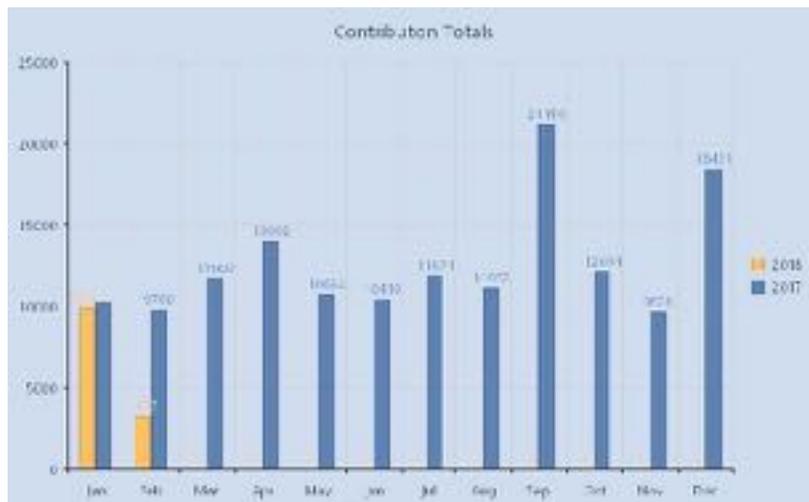
To have the Sanctuary Light for your relatives or intentions, please use the envelope provided at the entrance. Donation is \$5.00. **The Sanctuary Candle burns for these Intentions from Sunday thru Saturday.** The Sanctuary Candle burns in honor of and for the intentions of **Maurice (Moe) Mercier** by his wife, Lorraine.



Church Offerings and Attendance

February 4	Saturday 4 PM	Sunday 11 AM	Sunday 7 PM	Total	Budget per week	+/-	Wed. 7 PM
People	84	68	0	152	170	-18	
Collection	\$2025.00	\$702.00	0	\$2727.00	\$2,800.00	-\$73.00	0
Average per person	\$24.11	\$10.32		\$17.94		Holy Hour	0
Building Fund	\$594	\$222.00	0	816		<i>Ramsho</i>	4
Average	\$7.07142857	\$3.26		3543		YTD	\$13,736.00
Average Attendance	70	62	38	164			0

Offerings



Attendance Year to Date	
4:00 PM	349
11:00 AM	311
7:00 PM	152
Wednesday 7 PM	67
First Sunday	21
Ramsho	16
Holy Day	0
Special Liturgy	10
Funerals	65
Weddings	0

How are these totals calculated?

One total graphed **to the left** is through **donations** each week.

The totals to the **to the right** are counted by the ushers during the Divine Liturgy and tabulated.

Date	Emails Sent	Opened	% Opened
February 4	512	509	53.5%
January 28	518	402	34.2%
Difference	6	107	19.3%

Scripture Readings for Sunday

First Sunday of Great Lent: Cana Sunday

Letter to the Romans 14,14-23.

I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean.

If your brother or sister is being injured by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. Do not let what you eat cause the ruin of one for whom Christ died.

So do not let your good be spoken of as evil. For the kingdom of God is not food and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. The one who thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and has human approval.

Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual edification.

Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God. Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for you to make others fall by what you eat;

it is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that makes your brother or sister stumble. The faith that you have, have as your own conviction before God. Blessed are those who have no reason to condemn themselves because of what they approve. But those who have doubts are condemned if they eat, because they do not act from faith; for whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.

Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint John 2,1-11.

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there.

Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.

When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.'

His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.'

Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons.

Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim.

He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it.

When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not

know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.'

Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

A Reflection on the Day from the Old Testament

Jonah 3:1-10

The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: Set out for the great city of Nineveh, and announce to it the message that I will tell you. So Jonah set out for Nineveh, in accord with the word of the LORD.

Now Nineveh was an awesomely great city; it took three days to walk through it. Jonah began his journey through the city, and when he had gone only a single day's walk announcing, "Forty days more and Nineveh shall be overthrown," the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast and all of them, great and small,* put on sackcloth.

When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. Then he had this proclaimed throughout Nineveh: "By decree of the king and his nobles, no man or beast, no cattle or sheep, shall taste anything; they shall not eat, nor shall they drink water. Man and beast alike must be covered with sackcloth and call loudly to God; they all must turn from their evil way and from the violence of their hands. Who knows? God may again repent and turn from his blazing wrath, so that we will not perish." When God saw by their actions how they turned from their evil way, he repented of the evil he had threatened to do to them; he did not carry it out.

Lost and Found

Many items are left in the church and generally keep them in on the table with the liturgy books, etc. We have lots of glasses and cell phones!

Loose a ring? Call Joe at the office 864.469.9119 to describe it to have it returned to you!

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

Thomas  *McAfee*
F U N E R A L H O M E S

Catholics serving Catholics

www.thomasmcafee.com

Downtown Chapel
639 North Main Street
Greenville, SC 29601
(864) 232-6733

Northwest Chapel
6710 White Horse Road
Greenville, SC 29611
(864) 294-6415

Southeast Chapel
1604 NE Main Street
Simpsonville, SC 29681
(864) 688-1600

Attention all women of the diocese of Charleston! **Magnificat-Greenville, SC Chapter** is hosting its next meal on **Saturday, February 10, 2018, 9am to Noon**, at Hilton Greenville, 45 West Orchard Park Dr., Greenville, SC 29615. Join us for fellowship, praise and worship, and be inspired by our guest speaker **Donna Buzzell**. Come hear how the Lord turned Donna from a bitter and rebellious woman to a woman full of the Holy Spirit and devoted to serving Him. For more information go to our www.magnificat-ministry.org under Chapter Webpages. Tickets are \$25 and may be purchased by mailing a check payable to *Magnificat-Greenville*. Along with payment, please include your name, phone number, email, home address, and parish, and mail to **Beth Snyder, 151 Lake Lyman Heights, Lyman SC 29365** by **January 31st**. Reserve your ticket early as seating is limited. For more information call **Lucille Irving** [864-967-7463](tel:864-967-7463).

Books for Prisoners

Catholic volunteers to the Greenville County Detention Center are in need of paperback (**only paperback**) books for the inmate library. We will set up a box in Wickett Hall to place your books into and these will be collected by **Sharon Bookbinder**, a volunteers from Prince of Peace Church. This is a great way to un-clutter and help those in prison by giving them reading materials. Thanks for your help and assistance!

Lenten Regulations

Fast & Abstinence: Ash Monday and Great Friday of the Crucifixion are days of **total abstinence from meat and all meat products**. In addition to being days of abstinence from meat and meat by products, they are days of mandatory fast, i.e., NOTHING but water is consumed from midnight until noon. One main meal may be consumed after noon. **Water and medicine do not break the fast**. The law of abstinence binds all Maronite Catholics over fourteen (14) years of age. The law of fasting binds all Maronite Catholics between the age of eighteen (18) and sixty (60). *You are encouraged to fast on all Wednesdays and Fridays of Great Lent; and as many additional days as you find appropriate.*

Services for Great Lent: The Services for Great Lent will take place every weekday evening, Monday thru Friday. On Monday thru Thursday, the Lenten *Ramsho* (Evening Prayer) will be celebrated. On Friday evening at 7:00 PM., *Ramsho* along with the traditional Maronite Benediction of the Cross will be celebrated.

CALLING ALL WOMEN OF ST. RAFKA MISSION!!

“The foundation and core in forming a Maronite Community should cover social, spiritual and financial needs”.....said Bishop Hector Doueihi when forming St. Rafka community.

Women of our parish are all invited to meet on Sunday, February 18th after the 11 AM Liturgy in Wickett Hall to explain and discuss the formation, of what most Maronite Parishes have nationally, a women’s service and social group within the parish. This is to help serve the needs of our church and pastor, as well as to unite and provide spiritual and cultural experience.

For more information please contact Marlene Saad (864) 574 9722
Hope to see you soon.



Lent is coming.....

Have you thought about what you
will eat?

A.



B.



If you choose A, enjoy!

If you choose B, come to the

Knights of Columbus Council 1668 Fish Dinners!

Every Friday during Lent starting
February 16th (except Good Friday)

6pm doors open

762 Mauldin Road, Greenville

\$10/ adult, \$6 per child, \$35 family max.

Several varieties of fish, sides, dessert, tea and water
included. Cash Bar available.



Hope to see you there!!!



Birthdays

February

- 10, Bernadette Mileski
- 13, Donna Zeimetz
- 14, Peri Hill
- 15, Nabel Souri
- 18, Pascale Sleiman
- 18, Isabella Marie Saad
- 20, Christine Howard
- 23, Judy Mathis
- 26, Chorbishop Michael G. Thomas
- 26, Heather Sijon
- 26, Jordan Plumblee
- 27, Aimee Bryant



Anniversaries

February

- 14, Bill and Mary Anne McAfee
- 19, Leroy and Marie Howard



Necrology

- +Michael Gorgis Issa, February 13, 2014
- +Sylvia Lufty Jebaily, February 13, 2015
- +Tasha Georges Greige, February 14, 2015
- +Stephanie Jean Tabish Dannels, February 16, 2008



Video on the life of Saint Sharbel

English subtitles. [Click here.](#)

Prayers to Saint Sharbel and Saint Rafka

You can always have your intentions prayed for at the monastery where Saint Sharbel is buried. [Click here.](#)

Prayers to Saint Rafka

Click [here.](#)

Ashy Pavilion

Please remember that registered and supporting parishioners are free to use the Ashy Pavilion for family events, reunions, parties, etc. Others are welcome to rent the facilities. More information? Contact Richard Wickett here.

Coffee Socials

If you would like to sponsor a Coffee Social *In Memory Of* or *In Honor Of* someone, please call or email the office to let us know.

Wickett Hall

Newly refurbished Wickett Hall can be used by our registered and supporting parishioners for family events, reunions, etc. Others may request permission to rent the Hall. Contact Richard Wickett.

Masses Online

Where to go to Mass when traveling? Look here!

MassTimes.org
[The Catholic Directory](#)
[Parishes Online](#)



Women's Discernment Retreat

April 6-8, 2018

**How is God calling me to serve through the gift of my life?
What is my mission in the life of the Church?**



**The Lord is my shepherd
there is nothing I shall
want... Psalm 23:1**

Hosted by the Maronite Servants of Christ the Light

WHAT *Prayerfully reflect on the Lord's will for your life and how to discern your call.*

WHO: Women between the ages of 18-35 who are open to discerning marriage or religious life or single life of service.

WHERE: Mother of the Light Convent, 356 Tucker Rd Dartmouth MA 02747.

WHEN: Friday April 6 at 7pm with supper. Concludes Sunday April 8 at 3pm.

COST: Suggested donation \$100 to help cover some expenses.
Includes all meals and accommodation.
Please bring your own toiletries and towels.

Register by: Sunday March 25

Contact: To register for the weekend or to find out more information:
Sister Marla Marie Lucas sister@maroniteservants.org or 202-213-7700

The weekend will include:

- *Divine Liturgy, Confession, Eucharistic Adoration
- *Talks on Religious life, Marriage & Vocational Discernment
- *Fellowship with other young women

www.maroniteservants.org

