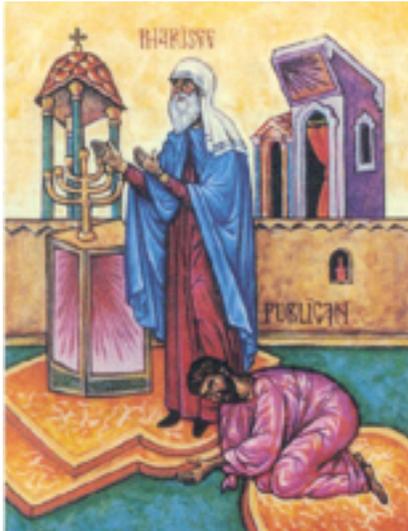




Saint Rafka Maronite

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

September 2, 2018



16th Sunday of Pentecost

The Syriac tradition is rich with saints that draw the heart and mind to contemplation of God in many diverse ways. This past Saturday (September 1) was the feast of St. Simeon the Stylite who, according to tradition, died this Sunday. St. Simeon was a contemporary of St. Maron in the same area of Syria, and they probably knew each other. Like St. Maron, St. Simeon was known for being a devote hermit with disciples, and practiced the monasticism that we so often say defines the Syriac tradition. Each saint lived a holy life that shows us the way to God. The same is true for St. Simeon.

St. Simeon was known as a “Stylite” because he sat upon a *style* – a pillar. From there, he lived out the rest of his life fasting and praying. How odd it sounds that a saint should aspire to holiness by sitting on a pillar! But it is not the pillar that made him holy nor is it why he is a saint. St. Simeon, like

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

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the other great monks of his time, like St. Maron, sought to make God the very center of his life. To do so, he put distance between himself and the things of this world – quite literally. St. Simeon sat upon his pillar, far from material desires and cares to focus his life on God.

So should we all leave our lives and sit upon pillars? Probably not. But the asceticism, that is the spiritual practices, of St. Simeon are venerable because they show the saint's aspiration to be near God by refusing the distractions of this fleeting world. This world fades away but God remains forever, and as our Lord teaches us, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal" (Matt. 6:19-20). St. Simeon built up his heavenly treasures by his endeavors upon the pillar. There is certainly a time for action, and there is also a time for prayer. Prayer is not a last resort, but what our Lord instructed us by His own example both in the desert and before His life-giving Passion. In fact, in our tradition, we do not create a dichotomy between prayer and action – prayer is an action! Just as Job strove against Satan in the actions of his life, so too did St. Simeon in his prayer upon the pillar, as our prayers draw the parallel:

Who has looked in the world to see these two are similar, blessed Simeon and righteous Job? For they both conquered the Evil One and his entire army, and they pleased God with virtuous deeds. (Trans. from the Syriac Maronite Vespers for the Feast of St. Simeon)

Asceticism is not just for stylites or monks, but it is something that defines Christianity, and more specifically Syriac Christianity. Though we might not sit upon literal pillars, we should sit upon spiritual ones. And in simple ways we can bring about this striving to separate ourselves from the passing world and draw nearer to God. Fasting is commonly mentioned in the Syriac tradition precisely because of this – it affords us time to think less of something as commonplace and ubiquitous as food to devote more time in the day to prayer, speaking with God. Asceticism is not about depriving ourselves of something, but focusing on the truly important – fasting does not seek hunger, but greater attention for God. The Eastern Fathers asked the faithful to fast Wednesdays and Fridays as a way of sanctifying the week and refocusing on God in this noisy, busy world. Perhaps we are not called to the amazing feat of sitting on a pillar for thirty years, but just as Job is compared to St. Simeon though they led very different lives, God also calls us to the same holiness. Let us join St. Simeon upon the spiritual pillar and seek God with our whole hearts. What greater or more imperishable treasure can be built up than our relationship with God?

Subdeacon Michael Shami

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Digital Parish Directory - Update!!!! Up and Running!!!

The Online Parish Directory is live! Problems??!! Call Joe at 864.469.9119!!

The Directory is online and ready to view and edit!!! BUT, there are problems!!

The directory is fine. The invitations that were sent to your email address are time sensitive. We had no idea! Also, if you have changed email addressed since you gave us your information, the software does not recognize the new address. Let us know and we can fix the problem. Thanks to all who have updated their profiles with new addresses, email address and pictures.

Any other questions? Email or call Joe: secretary@saintrafka.org or 864.469.9119.

NEW!!! Saint Rafka Parish Directory Online

First time to the site? Register [here](#). Call Joe for help first.

Already registered? Click [here](#).

NEW!!!! Please follow us at @saintrafkagreenville on **Instagram**.

After 30 years of serving the community, **St. Anthony's Catholic Store** is closing its doors. We will be having a storewide clearance sale while supplies last.

While we are sad to close our doors, we look forward to the doors that God will be opening for us and our family. The friendships that were formed during our time here will forever be cherished in our hearts and you will all be in our thoughts and prayers.

God Bless,
The Bruce Family

National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children

Memorial Service for Victims of Abortion, Saturday, September 8, at 9:15 a.m., St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church, 2252 Woodruff Rd., Simpsonville, SC 2968. On Saturday, September 8, pro-life Americans throughout the country will gather at the gravesites of aborted babies and other memorial sites dedicated in their honor for the Sixth annual National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children. Solemn vigils will be held at these sites to commemorate the more than 55 million children who have lost their lives to legal abortion since 1973, and to remind our society of the humanity of the unborn child. Together, let us remember the victims of abortion and pray for a final end to this injustice in our land during the National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children. Contact respectlife@smmcc.org.

Calendar of Events

September

- 1, 4 PM, Vigil Liturgy, **16th Pentecost**
2, 11 AM, Divine Liturgy
3 PM, Holy Hour
7 PM, Last Chance Divine Liturgy
3, Labor Day
4, 7 PM, *Ramsho* of the Maronite Saints
5, 7 PM, Divine Liturgy, Anointing of the Sick
6, 5:30 PM, First Thursday Pasta Supper
8, 4 PM, Vigil Liturgy, **Holy Cross**
9, 11 AM, Divine Liturgy
4:30 PM, Korean Mass
7:00 PM, Last Chance Divine Liturgy
10, 7 PM, Knights of Columbus Meeting
11, 7 PM, *Ramsho* of the Maronite Saints
12, 7 PM, Divine Liturgy, Anointing of the Sick
15, 4 PM, Vigil Liturgy, **2nd of Holy Cross**
16, 11 AM, Divine Liturgy
4:30 PM, Korean Mass
7:00 PM, Last Chance Divine Liturgy
18, 7 PM, *Ramsho* of the Maronite Saints
19, 7 PM, Divine Liturgy, Anointing of the Sick
22, 4 PM, Vigil Liturgy
23, 11 AM, Divine Liturgy
5 PM, Byzantine Liturgy
7 PM, Last Chance Divine Liturgy
25, 6:30 PM, *Ramsho* and Veneration of Relics
26, 7 PM, Divine Liturgy



Ramsho and Blessing with the relics of Saints Rafka, Sharbel, Nimatullah and the Massabki Brothers will resume on **September 4** at 7 P.M.



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Don't let your eyes look here and there, and don't look on someone else's beauty, so that the devil will not conquer you with the help of your eyes.



Fr. Frank Pavone



Fr. Bill Casey



Fr. Brian Mullaly, OP



Doug Barry



Dr. John Bruchalski
Former Abortionist
Pro-life M.D., OB/GYN



Jeff Cavins

6th Marian Eucharistic Conference
November 10 - 11, 2018

Mary, Mother of the Eucharist



Our Lady of Guadalupe

Hilton Hotel

45 West Orchard Park Drive,
Greenville, SC 29615

General Admission: \$80
Youth: \$ 40

Saturday and Sunday buffet lunches are included. All are required to register by October 27

The Most Reverent
Robert E. Guglielmo
Bishop of Charleston
Celebrant / Homilist



Saturday, Nov. 10

Doors open: 7:30 am

Mass: 8:30 am,

Talks,
Buffet Lunch,
Confessions



Sunday, Nov. 11

Doors open: 7:50 am

Mass: 8:30 am,

Talks,
Buffet Lunch,
Confessions

For more information, please call (864)354-7160
or go to www.meconferencesc.net

Registration after Oct. 27, \$ 90

Registered by October 27 by mail. Registration after Oct. 27: \$90
We offer gluten free meals.



Prayers & Squares

Prayers and Squares is a prayer ministry that also involves making prayer quilts and prayer squares for those facing medical, spiritual, emotional difficulties, or anyone in the Parish that is active duty military. Don't know how to quilt? That's ok, we can teach you. Not interested in sewing? That's ok, we will need help with staying organized, record keeping and correspondence. What is needed are willing hearts and hands to do God's work and pray together for those in need, and each other too.

A prayer quilt or square, once requested, is made and tied with each knot representing a prayer for that individual and their specific needs. The recipient must be willing to receive the quilt and the prayers. The purpose of the group is not to give away quilts, but to offer a physical representation of God's love and the prayers of the community. A recipient is able to wrap themselves in prayer during a difficult time. The quilt itself has no power, but the prayers offered do.

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

Special Holy Hour

In place of our regular Holy Hour this Sunday, we will have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Chaplet of Mercy, *Ramsho* (Vespers/Evening Prayer) and prayers for the Church in this time of crisis, concluding with Benediction. Please join us to offer prayers for the deacons, priests and bishops who are faithful and for forgiveness and mercy for those who have sinned. This is the time for faithful Catholics to come together to pray and ask God's healing and Grace upon the Church. Please join us this Sunday, September 2 at 3 PM.

<p>5th Annual</p> <p>Festival</p> <p><i>Of</i></p> <p>Lebanon</p> 	<p>Saturday</p> <p>September 22, 2018</p> <p>11 AM – 7 PM</p> <p>St. Matthew Catholic Church 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy Charlotte NC 28277</p> <p>Something for everyone to enjoy!</p>
<p>Hosted by : Saint Stephen Maronite Catholic Church</p>	

Help!

Volunteers needed for:

BBQ Chefs

Set up

Clean up

Face painters

Free event cooks

2018

Sponsors Needed

Food

Advertising and Signs

Paper Goods

Contact:

Paula Howard-Casby:

pjhoward74@hotmail.com

Joan Craven:

joanlcraven@yahoo.com

FESTIVAL NEEDS

== *Saint Rafka* ==
• **Food Fest** •

Middle Eastern Delights!

The Novena for the Abuse Crisis | Accountability, Transparency and Healing

Father in Heaven, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Holy Spirit, comfort us, give us clarity, and bring light to this darkness and evil.

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Saint Peter, pray for the Church, that it may be re-built, healed, and made holy.

St. Charles Lwanga and St. Monica, pray for the abused, the survivors and for justice.

St. Catherine of Siena, pray for reform and restoration of the clergy.

St. John Vianney, pray for the holiness of priests and bishops.

St. Benedict, pray that this evil be cast out of the Church.

St. Anthony, pray for us to find the way forward.

St. Paul, pray for the bishops that they may be fearless in confronting other bishops.

St. Augustine, pray for true repentance and transparency.

St. Dymphna, pray for consolation for the heartache, depression and anxiety this evil has caused.

Our Lady of Sorrows, pray for us!

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-Menge**, 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 or see Alex after the Liturgy.

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! **Thanks for your help with this project and the books you have brought in - keep them coming!**

Lay Dominicans

Almost since its beginning, the laity has been in ministry and fully incorporated into the Dominican Order. They are lay man and women from every walk of life, living out their Baptismal promise through the ministry founded by St Dominic.

If you would like to learn more about the life and charism of Lay Dominicans and how they share in the apostolic mission of the Dominican Order through the Four Pillars: Prayer, Study, Community and Apostolic Preaching, join us on 23 Sunday, September at 3p, at St Mary's Church in Sacred Heart Hall (upstairs). For additional information, please contact **Linda Head, OP** at 864.268.0746.





Sunday, September 2 First Sunday of the Month

Second Collection
Building Fund

Many thanks for your generosity!



Special First Sunday Holy Hour

**Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed
Sacrament**

Chaplet of Mercy

Confessions

Evening Prayer

Sunday, September 2, 2018

Saint Joseph's Indian School

Many friends ask how they can help Native American children in need in ways other than monetary donations. The following is a list of items always put to good use in caring for our Lakota (Sioux) boys and girls. The most important needs at this time are: Clean and Clear Advantage 3-1 exfoliating cleanser with 5% benzoyl peroxide acne medication, Athlete foot powder, Clotrimazole cream, Hydrocortisone Cream, Body Wash* (Both men's and woman's), Hair Conditioner, Athletes foot spray, Band aids, Bath puffs, Unscented Body Lotion (boys or girls can use), Girls dress shoes and sandals (sizes 1-7), Boys and girls athletic pants (sizes 6-20), Boy's underwear (briefs and boxers), Cerave Cream, Children's 8 hr Robitussin cough and cold, alcohol free, WITHOUT PHENYLEPHRINE, Aveeno Body Wash, Aveeno lotion, Pillows, Cotton balls, Facial tissues, Tennis Shoes (Sizes 1-7), Long athletic shorts (all sizes), All types of children clothing (8-20)

Puritans Pride Chewable Vitamins, Cetaphil facial cleanser, Acne facial wipes, Viniferamine Silicone 4 ounce cream, Ibuprofen, Tylenol 325 mg and 500 mg tablets, Tylenol or Ibuprofen Children's dose liquid or chewable, Head and Shoulders Shampoo.

Simply bring your items to Wickett Hall and there is a box to receive these articles! Thanks!

SAVE THE DATE

OCT
06

FALL MIDDLE-EASTERN FOOD FESTIVAL



SAINT RAFKA MARONITE CHURCH

11am - 6pm

Bring your healthy appetite to taste our delicious homemade Middle Eastern food and pastries at our Fall Food Festival. There will be Music, Face painting, and many other fun activities. Please join us. Stay tuned for additional details as the date approaches!!!!

Face



3Oud



Painting



Dabke



1215 S. Highway 14
Greer, SC 29650
864.469.9119

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saintrafkagreenville@gmail.com

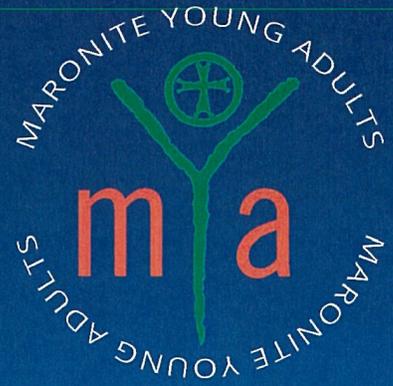
Middle Eastern Food Festival

<i>Kafta</i>	<i>Chicken or Beef</i>	<i>\$8.00</i>
<i>Falafel</i>	<i>Sandwich</i>	<i>\$6.00</i>
<i>Fatiah</i>	<i>Meat or Spinach</i>	<i>\$2.00 each or \$20.00 dozen</i>
<i>Kibbee</i>	<i>2 Pieces</i>	<i>\$5.00</i>
<i>Grapeleaves</i>	<i>2 Rolls</i>	<i>\$1.00</i>
<i>Yucni with Beans</i>	<i>Bowl</i>	<i>\$5.00</i>
<i>Hummis</i>	<i>With Bread</i>	<i>\$3.00</i>
<i>Fatouch</i>	<i>Salad</i>	<i>\$2.00</i>
<i>Baclava</i>	<i>Piece</i>	<i>\$2.00 or \$20.00 per dozen</i>
<i>Mamoul</i>	<i>Piece</i>	<i>\$2.00 or \$20.00 per dozen</i>
<i>Rybi</i>	<i>Piece</i>	<i>\$1.00 or \$10.00 dozen</i>
<i>Hot Dog</i>	<i>Chips and Drink</i>	<i>\$2.00</i>
<i>Lemonade, Ice Tea</i>	<i>Glass</i>	<i>\$1.00</i>
<i>Water, Coffee</i>	<i>Bottle/Cup</i>	<i>\$1.00</i>



10th Annual MYA Conference Presents

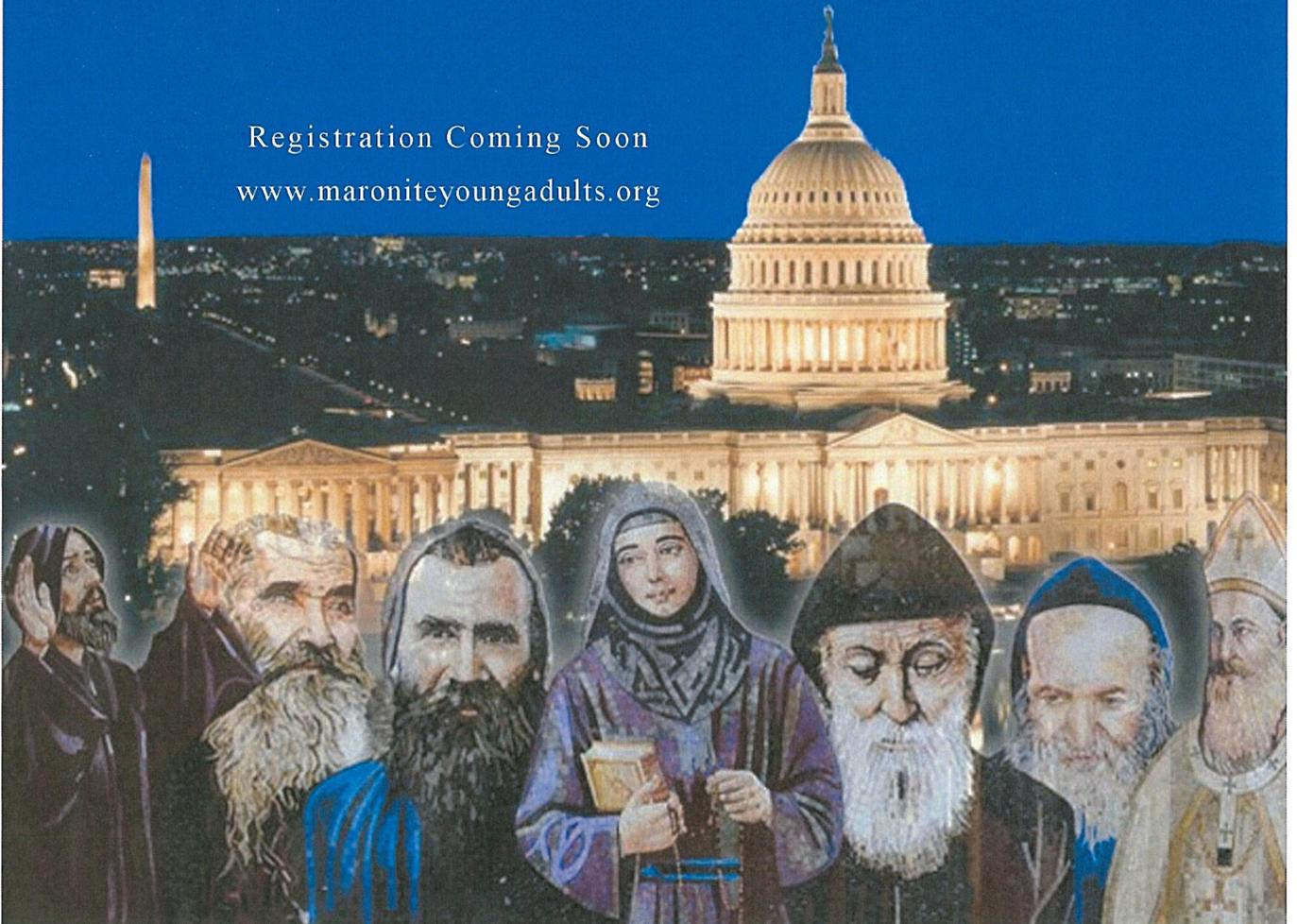
MARONITE IDENTITY AND SPIRITUALITY



October 5th-7th

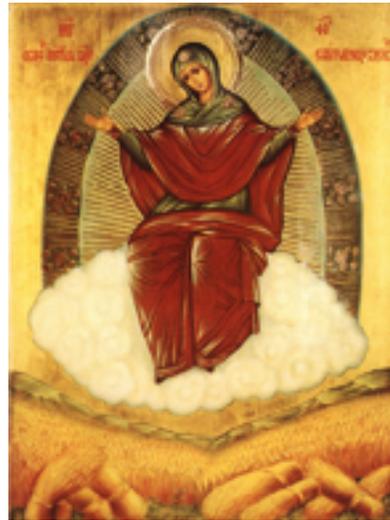
Washington DC

Registration Coming Soon
www.maroniteyoungadults.org



Prayer List

Theresa Woodson, Noah Scott Kestler, Mary Philips, Art and Judy Pape, Suhail Yousiff, Tom Craven, Jr., David Gibbons, Michael Rau, Chris Davis, Raymond Trinidad, Theresa Woodson, Joe Treacy, Marguerite LaBella, Dakota Miller, David Olmsted, Okshana Stachiw, Pixie Geren, Mike Dyer, Christian Pereira, Houda Askar, Jack D'Aquin, Moe 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, George Vargo, Dan Steinker, Irma Galvan, Mary Cleary, Joe Lemire, Mary Anne McAfee, Lois Taylor, Virginia LaFave, Nabeel Howard, Father M. T. Phillips, Paul Cote and Family, Paul Bussemey, Ramza Sleiman, 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, 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, Adrian Kassentar, Beth Hopsecger, Mark Barnard, Janice Radich, Paula Lemire, Becky Jarvis, Lillian Moon, Vito Fortuna, Sam Howard, Jr., Betty Braun, Deanne Valencia, Katie Frank, Beverley Davis, John Fender,



Saints We Celebrate

September 1, Saint Simon the Stylite

September 2, Saint Mamimas, Martyr

September 5, Saint Sharbel, Bishop of Edessa and His Sister, Confessors

September 6, Saint Michael the Archangel

September 8, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

September 9, Saints Joachim and Ann, Parents of the Virgin Mary

September 14, Exaltation of the Holy and Life-Giving Cross

September 15, Saints Sassine and Shaina, Confessors

September 16, Saint Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, Martyr

September 17, Saint Sophia and Her Daughters

September 22, Saint Phocas, Disciple of John, Martyr



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Liturgical Items

Liturgical Readings

Feast	New Testament	Gospel
16th Pentecost	Romans 8:18-27	Luke 18:9-14
English	Tom Craven	
Arabic	Najah Khawaja	New! To review the readings online, go here .

Mass Intentions

September 1 & 2	Intention	Donor
Saturday, 4 PM	Intentions of the Parishioners	
Sunday, 11 AM	Joe Chebeir, Safe Travel, Family Blessing	
Sunday, 7 PM	+Lorraine Philips	Susan and Dan Beckman
Wednesday, 7 PM	Open	
September 8 & 9		
Saturday, 4 PM	Jane & Sam Howard, 50th Wedding Anniversary	Family
Sunday, 11 AM	+Eleanor Kelly, RIP	Marie Kidd
Sunday, 7 PM	Open	
Wednesday, 7 PM	Safe Travels for Abouna and Joe	

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.** If you would like a Mass offered for your loved ones, please call the church office at 864.469.9119 or secretary@saintrafka.org. The Sanctuary Candle burns this month in loving memory of **+Curtis Manning**, 6th Anniversary, by his wife, Bernadette Mileski. Flowers on the altar this week are in memory of **+Lorraine Phillips**.



Church Offerings and Attendance

August 26	Saturday 4 PM	Sunday 11 AM	Sunday 7 PM	Total	Budget per week	+/-	Wed. 7 PM
People	64	96	52	212	170	42	17
Collection	\$1209.00	\$956.00	\$430.00	\$2595.00	\$2,800.00	-\$205.00	0
Average per person	\$18.89	\$9.96	\$8.27	\$12.24		Holy Hour	
				\$0.00		Ramsho	0
Average	0	0	0			YTD	\$99,683.00
Average Attendance	71	80	35	Average 186			
Budget YTD	\$97,188.00	YTD	\$99,683.00	Budget +/-	\$2,495.00		

Offerings



Attendance Year to Date	
4:00 PM	2188
11:00 AM	2488
7:00 PM	1106
Wednesday 7 PM	483
First Sunday	141
Ramsho	46
Holy Day	129
Special Liturgy	459
Funerals	160
Weddings	70

How are these totals calculated?

One total graphed **to the left** is through **donations** each week, compared to the previous year.

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

Date	Emails Sent	% Opened	% Clicked
August 26	517	36.2%	15.1%
August 19	517	33.7%	14.1%
Difference	0	2.5%	1%

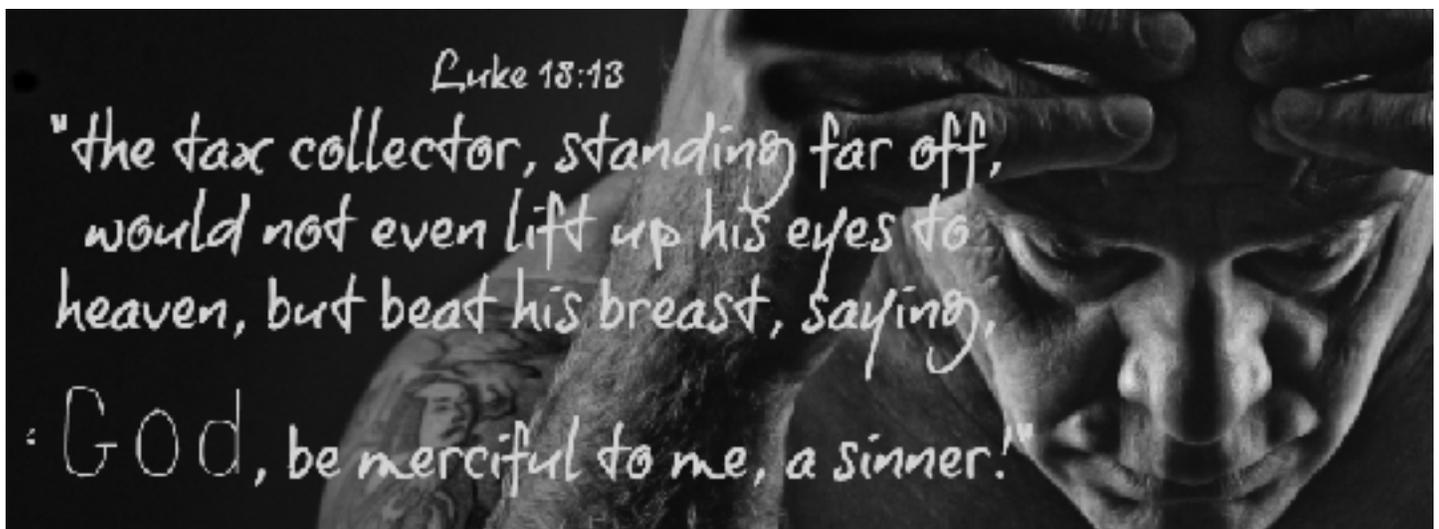
Scripture Readings for Sunday

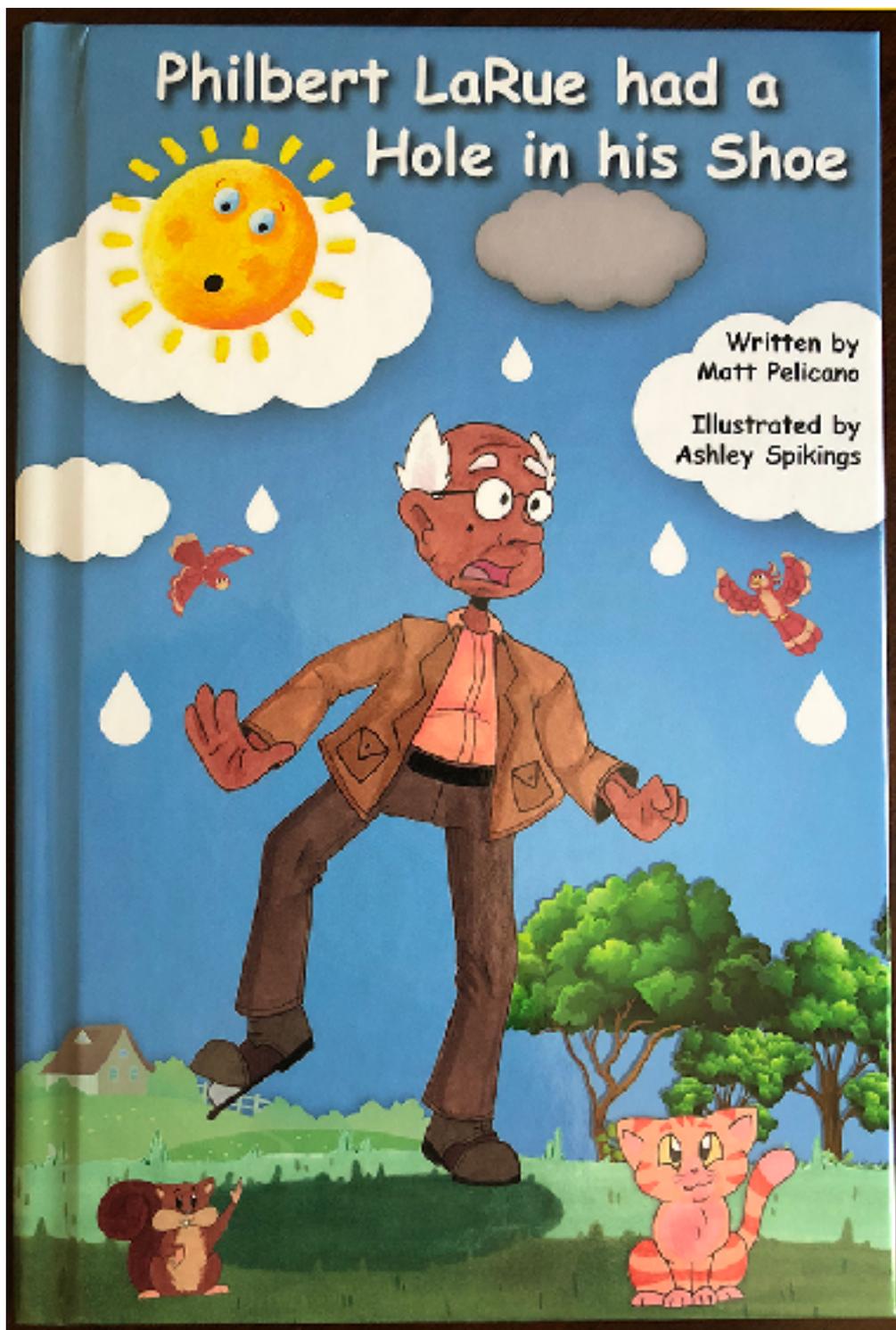
Romans 8:18-27

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us. For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God; for creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it, in hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that sees for itself is not hope. For who hopes for what one sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait with endurance. In the same way, the Spirit too comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit itself intercedes with inexpressible groanings. And the one who searches hearts knows what is the intention of the Spirit, because it intercedes for the holy ones according to God's will.

Luke 18:9-14

He then addressed this parable to those who were convinced of their own righteousness and despised everyone else. Two people went up to the temple area to pray; one was a Pharisee and the other was a tax collector. The Pharisee took up his position and spoke this prayer to himself, O God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of humanity greedy, dishonest, adulterous or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, and I pay tithes on my whole income. But the tax collector stood off at a distance and would not even raise his eyes to heaven but beat his breast and prayed, O God, be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, the latter went home justified, not the former; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted.





Great Children's Book!

Looking for a high quality, fun book for kids? Here you go! Written by **Matt Pelicano**, our webmaster. A great story illustrated by **Ashley Spikings**, a high school student that will delight children and adults alike. Matt will be at Saint Rafka on the weekend of September 1 & 2 to sell and autograph his book. Congrats to Matt for a job well done!



SEPTEMBER PASTA SUPPER

Lasagna Bolognese, Meatless Lasagna, tossed salad, chocolate cake. \$10.00 per person. Yum!!!

FIRST
THURSDAY

09/06/18

GREENVILLE DEANERY COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

The next General Membership Meeting of the Greenville Deanery of the South Carolina Council of Catholic Women is Sunday, 16 September 2018. We will meet on the campus of the St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, 204 Douthit Street, Greenville, in the cafeteria. The meeting will begin at 2:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided by the members of the St. Anthony of Padua Women's Counsel. All Upstate women are invited to join us as we make plans to serve the church and communities for the 2018-2019 year of Deanery Council. Share your talents! Contact President, Jessie Bowens at 864-420-1985 or jbowens@charter.net for questions.



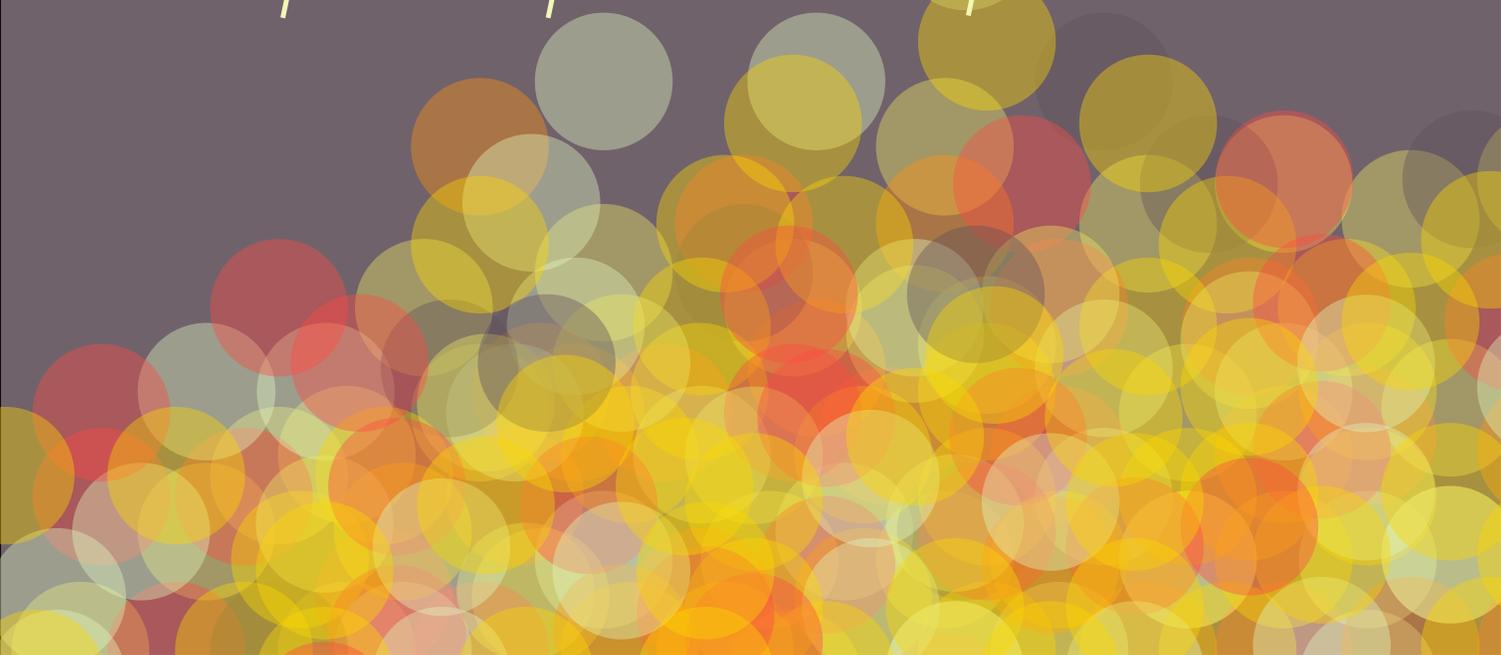


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Catholic Radio in S.C. 2018 Radiothon

The 2018 Radiothon will be Thursday & Friday September 27th & 28th. Radiothon always has a theme and every year we ask for God's guidance when choosing. Last year was the 100th Anniversary of the Fatima Apparitions, so the choice was obvious. While continuity with last year is important, each Radiothon also needs something a little different. So, let me share a story about a young woman of Faith with you.

Adele Brise was born in Belgium in 1831. She came with her parents as they immigrated to Wisconsin in 1855. In early October 1859, Adele saw a woman clothed in white standing between two trees: one a maple, the other hemlock. She was frightened by the vision and prayed until it disappeared.

On October 9, 1859, she saw the apparition a second time while walking to Mass in the community of Bay Settlement. She asked her parish priest for advice, and he told her that if she saw the apparition again, she should ask it, "In the Name of God, who are you and what do you wish of me?"

That same day, she saw the apparition a third time, and when she asked the question, "What more can I do, dear Lady?" the Lady's direction was simple: "Gather the children in this wild country and teach them what they should know for salvation."

"But how shall I teach them who knows so little myself?" Adele asked.

The Lady replied, "Teach them their catechism, how to sign themselves with the sign of the Cross, and how to approach the sacraments; that is what I wish you to do. Go and fear nothing. I will help you." Adele devoted the rest of her life to the task.

Such a fervent yet humble person is an inspiration for all of us. That's why the theme for the 2018 Radiothon will be "Our Lady of Good Help." We hope to bring attention to the Shrine in Champion, Wisconsin dedicated to these apparitions, the only apparitions in the United States which are approved by the Catholic Church.

Please consider supporting us in this endeavor by visiting the website: ShrineofOurLadyofGoodHelp.com and by praying about how you might help Catholic Radio in South Carolina. Please share this information with your friends and family and encourage them to use our Radiothon pledge line: 864-877-8458. Or, the 24/7 website is www.CatholicRadioInSC.com. Thank you, in advance, for your consideration and your prayers. May God bless you for all you do in accordance with His Will.

Michael Brennan

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Celebrate!

Vigil Feast of Saint Padre Pio of Pietrelcina

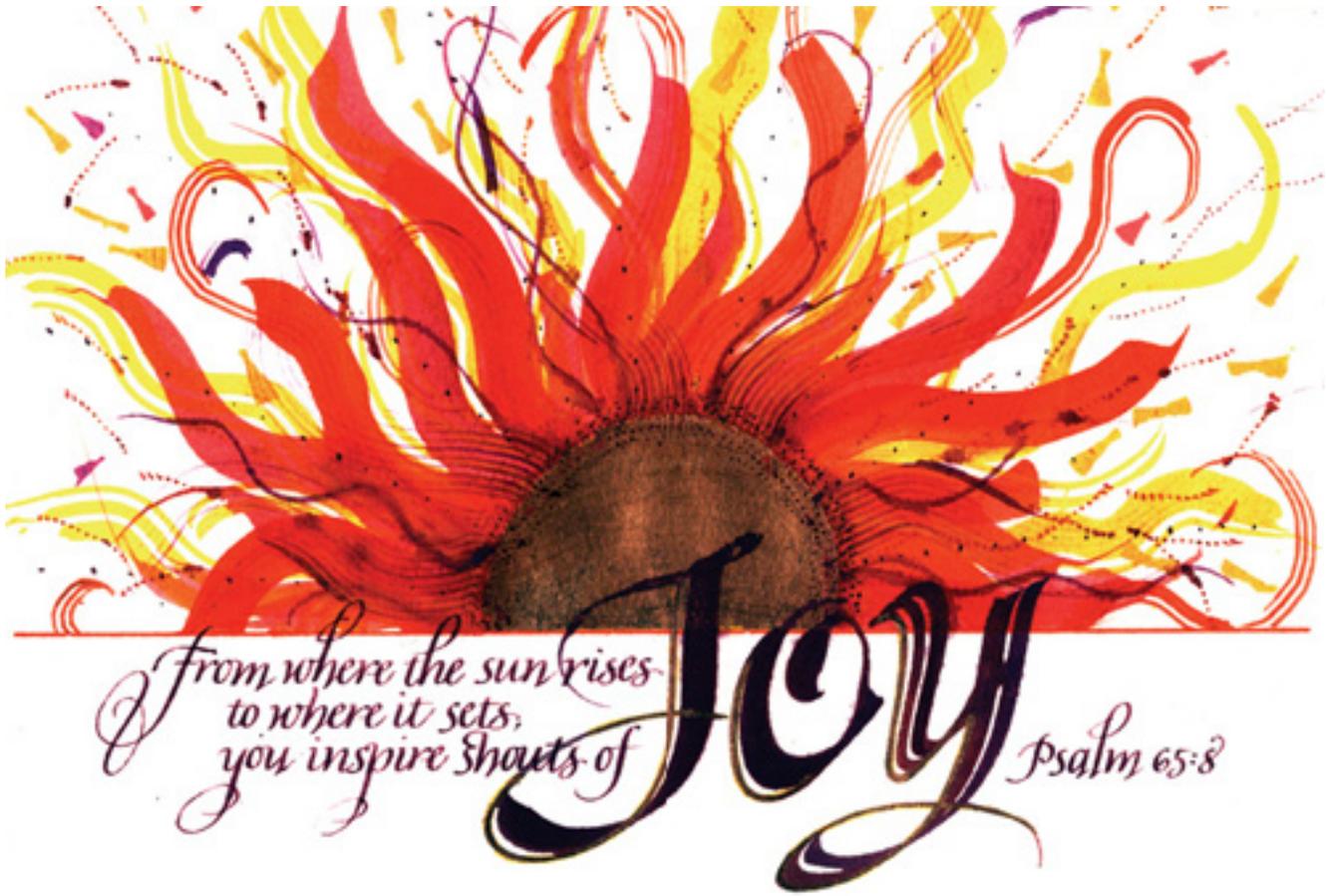
Saturday, September 22, 2018 at 2 pm

**Presentation with First Class
Relic of Saint Padre Pio**

**Andrew Frisari's Recollections & Impressions
from a family pilgrimage to
San Giovanni Rotondo in 1951**

**Saint Rafka Maronite Catholic Church
1215 S. Highway 14
Greer, SC 296541
Wickett Hall**

Refreshments will be served



Birthdays

September

- 3, Charlotte Jane Bibbes
- 4, Patrick Yono
- 6, Reem Namouz
- 8, Brave Lucien Valitchka
- 10, John Davis, MD
- 10, Karl Warda
- 16, Harry Lakadosch
- 16, William (Bill) Francis, Sr.
- 17, Thomas Howard
- 20, Amy Saad
- 21, Alan Howard



Anniversaries

September

- 1, Jack and Maureen Yacu
- 3, Richard and Linda Wickett
- 6, Fady and Roberta Nassif
- 8, Fredy and Marie Feghali

Necrology

September

- +Sami Ghannam, September 3, 2010
- +Lorraine Phillips, September 3, 2015
- +Msgr. Ron Beshara, September 5, 2011
- +Catherine (Kitty) Francis Norman, September 15,



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](#)

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