



# Saint Rafka Maronite

*Catholics of the East in the Upstate!*  
1215 S. Highway 14, Greer, SC 29650 864.469.9119  
[saintrafka.org](http://saintrafka.org) [saintrafkagreenville@gmail.com](mailto:saintrafkagreenville@gmail.com)

September 23, 2018



## 2nd Sunday of Holy Cross

Symbols and signs have a great power. Whether it be a company logo, that identifies for us a brand, or a signature, which communicates a person's approval of to whatever it is attached, an identity is communicated. Along with that identity, the personal credibility of the person or thing to whom the sign belongs is accessed by it. The cross is both sign and signature of Christ, accessible to us at every hour.

In former times, especially when most people could not read, a king's sign was extremely important. If an order was issued by the king, it came into force when he added his seal. Similarly, when his soldiers would go to war they would carry his sign on a banner to show the soldiers acted on his behalf.

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](mailto:chancerystmaron@verizon.net)

**Rev. Bartholomew Leon,**  
Administrator,  
[bartleon@gmail.com](mailto:bartleon@gmail.com)

### Pastor's Advisory Council

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Continued next page

So the King of Kings, Jesus Christ, has likewise given us His symbol – the cross. At our baptisms, the priest drew the sign of the cross over us, which claimed us for Christ, as he said, “May he/she be signed a simple lamb of Your flock; by Your sign, may he/she be numbered among Your spiritual herd and enter Your sheepfold. May he/she be mixed with Your sheep and become Yours...” By the sign of the cross, we become Christ’s – as His followers and His siblings, heirs of the Father. Just like a royal person has a crest, we have taken the sign of the cross as our family crest, and we become divine sons and daughters of God.

The same baptism prayers continues and expresses a second reason why we are given the sign of the cross, “...May he/she be protected from all evils. By the sign of the glorious Trinity, may You sanctify him/her and may he/she come to a second birth, singing glory and offering thanks to You...” The sign of the cross acts like the banner soldiers would carry into war, to protect us from harm and give us the help of our King. It is our “Armor of Righteousness and Helpful Companion” as we call it on the Feast because it is the sign by which Christ chose to save the world. When we sign ourselves with it and invoke the Trinity, we receive an overflowing of invisible assistance. As expressed by a Syriac hymn:

In the evening I sign my limbs with the cross  
and You have made it my guard night and day.  
In the middle of the night when the Evil One comes he sees the cross.  
He flees from it and hides himself in the dark place  
and in the morning I rise to sing You praise, O Lord  
(Trans. from Syriac Maronite Thursday Vespers)

We carry with us every day the sign of the cross the Church marked us with on our baptism. As St. Paul says, “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (Gal. 2:20) for “all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ” (Gal. 3:27). The whole almighty power of Christ, Who conquered death and Satan by the cross, we have put on in baptism. Each time we sign ourselves with His cross, we obtain all the assistance of that power.

**Subdeacon Michael Shami**

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# Abouna's Corner



Due to my vacation, this feature will be absent for this weekend. Pray for me as I travel back to the USA.

Thanks to all who helped with the funeral of Ghassan Eid and those who braved the bad weather to come to liturgy last weekend. It was the weekend of the perfect storm!

The funeral for **+Marianne Hume** will be celebrated on Tuesday, September 25, 12 Noon, at Saint Mary's. May she rest in peace and may her memory be eternal.

# *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

**4 p m M a s s**  
**for the Spiritual Children of St Pio with Blessings of the Relic**

Saint Rafka Maronite Catholic Church  
1215 S. Highway 14  
Greer, SC 29651  
Wickett Hall

*Refreshments will be served \* Pray, hope and don't worry!*

## NEW!!! Saint Rafka Parish Directory Online

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

Please follow us at @saintrafkagreenville on **Instagram** and/or St. Rafka Maronite Church on **FaceBook**.



### 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.



## Engaged Encounter

The final weekend of 2018 will be November 17-18 at St. Mary Magdalene in Simpsonville, The cost is \$160.00. Please register on our website: [cee-sc.org](http://cee-sc.org).

# FESTA della Notte

(Feast of the Night)

Saturday, 20 October 2018

Galileo Hall, Campus of St. Mary's Church

6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Hors d'oeuvres

Elegant Italian Gourmet Dinner Buffet

Dessert Table

Wine and Beer (first two nights free, donating afterward)

Dancing to the tunes of Father Pat and Co.

Dress: Business Casual

\$50 per person

Proceeds to be donated to various charities

Contact: Ella Caryfield 864.325.0587 or [ellacaryfield@att.net](mailto:ellacaryfield@att.net)

**DEADLINE TO RESERVE SEAT: 10 October 2018**

(No seats will be sold at the door.)



Get here and pay reservation form with check to: Sponsored by St. Mary's Council of Catholic Women

St. Mary's Council of Catholic Women

Festa della Notte Reservation Form

Name(s): 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

Table (10 seats) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of seats: \_\_\_\_\_ at \$50 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  OR  07w Table (10 seats) at \$500

Make check payable to: SMCCW

Mail to: SMCCW Treasurer, P.O. Box 1505, Greenville, SC 29602

# Calendar of Events

## September

- 22, 4 PM, Vigil Liturgy, **2nd Holy Cross**
- 23, 11 AM, Divine Liturgy
  - 5 PM, Byzantine Liturgy
  - 7 PM, Last Chance Divine Liturgy
- 24, 6 PM, Prayers and Squares
- 25, 6:30 PM, *Ramsho* and Veneration of Relics
- 26, 7 PM, Divine Liturgy
  - Anointing of the Sick
- 29, 4 PM, Vigil Liturgy, **3rd Holy Cross**
- 30, 11 AM, Divine Liturgy
  - 7 PM, Last Chance Divine Liturgy

## October

- 1, 6 PM, Prayers and Squares
- 2, 7 PM, *Ramsho* of the Maronite Saints
- 3, 7 PM, Divine Liturgy, Anointing of the Sick
- 6, 11 AM, Middle Eastern Food Festival
  - 4 PM, Vigil Liturgy, **4th Holy Cross**
- 7, 11 AM, Divine Liturgy
  - 3 PM, Holy Hour
  - 7 PM, Last Chance Divine Liturgy
- 8, 6 PM, Prayers and Squares
- 9, 7 PM, *Ramsho* of the Maronite Saints
- 10, 7 PM, Divine Liturgy, Anointing of the Sick
- 13, 4 PM, Vigil Liturgy, **5th Holy Cross**
- 14, 11 AM, Divine Liturgy
  - 3 PM, Korean Liturgy
  - 7 PM, Last Chance Divine Liturgy



*Ramsho* and Blessing with the relics of Saints Rafka, Sharbel Nimatullah, and the Massabki Brothers Tuesday evening, 7:00 PM, Saint Rafka Church. Come to offer the evening sacrifice and ask God's blessing, healing, mercy and compassion through these holy men and women. Bring a friend!



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**5<sup>th</sup> Annual**

# **Festival** *Of* **Lebanon**



**Saturday September 22, 2018**

**11 AM — 7 PM**

**St. Matthew Catholic Church  
8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy,  
Charlotte NC 28277**

**Something for  
everyone to enjoy!**

**Exquisite  
Lebanese Food & Sweets**



**Entertainment**

**Souvenir Shop**

**Raffle Drawing**

**&**

**Fun for the entire family**

**One Day Free Admission**

**\$2.00 Value**

**[Children under 13 Free!]**

**Free Parking**

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**Hosted by**

**Saint Stephen Maronite Catholic Church**

**[www.ststephenmaronite.org](http://www.ststephenmaronite.org)**



Bring your family and friends to join in the celebration.  
Come taste food from a variety of countries that make up  
the rich heritage of the people of St. Mary Magdalene.

# INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

FOOD  
FOLKLORE DANCE  
MUSIC



FLAG PROCESSION  
GAMES  
FACE PAINTING

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2018**  
**3 P.M. - 10 P.M.**

St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church  
2252 Woodruff Road, Simpsonville, SC 29681 — 864-288-4884 — [SMMCC.ORG](http://SMMCC.ORG)



Prince of Peace Catholic Church & School

presents

# POP toberfest

Join us for our back-to-school event!

**Saturday, October 6**

**6-9:30 pm**

## Admission includes:

- Three inflatables, including one for smaller kids
- Carnival-style games and prizes
- Toddler Pumpkin Patch
- Cotton candy, popcorn, sno-cones, funnel cakes
- Cornhole tournament
- Face painting and wacky hair salon
- Balloon animals
- Haunted hallway, suitable for ALL ages this year!

## Extras:

- Food trucks
  - Cash only, please
- Beer garden
  - \$10 for a beer bracelet
  - ID required
- Cake walk
  - \$5 buy-in

Return this portion to the school office with a check made out to **POP PTO**.

You will pick up your tickets at the WILL CALL Station at the event.

- Entry fee: \$5 per person (\$20 max per family)
- Children 2 and under: FREE
- Beer bracelet: \$10 (must be purchased at the event; valid ID required)
- **NOTE: This year, food will be available for purchase at two food trucks on site.**

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Tickets: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_



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*Catholic Church & School*  
1301 Ruddy Creek Road • Eugene, OR 97407  
[www.princeofpeaceparish.org.net](http://www.princeofpeaceparish.org.net)

# 6th Marian Eucharistic Conference

November 10 - 11, 2018

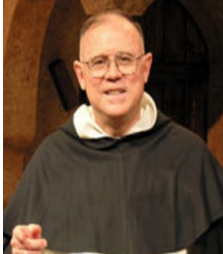
## Mary, Mother of the Eucharist



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



## 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](http://www.meconferencesc.net)

Registration after Oct. 27, \$ 90

Registered by October 27 by mail. Registration after Oct. 27: \$90

**We offer gluten free meals.**

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



## Prayers & Squares

**NEW!!!**

The Saint Rafka Prayers and Squares Quilt will meet on Monday evenings from 6-9pm in Wickett Hall. There are a couple of extra sewing machines for use in the hall, but if you have a portable machine please bring it with you, as well as an extra pair of small scissors if you have them. Even if you have never sewn before, it is very easy to learn, so don't be afraid to try. There are kits already made up for

prayer squares. If you are not interested in quilting but would like to support us in our efforts, there are a few things that we need. Steam Irons, 1-2 Ironing boards, sewing thread in shades of gray, white, cream and blue. But neutral shades of gray and white are the most used. Pins, needles, scissors, extra working sewing machines, card stock for making tags for the quilts would also be helpful. We have a lot of prayers, work, and friendship to offer. See you this week!

**Prayers and Squares** is a prayer ministry that 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.

Blessed be the tie that binds.



# 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



**40 Days for Life** You are invited to join other Christians throughout the Upstate to take part in our local 40 Days for Life effort from September 26 through November 4.

40 Days for Life, an ecumenical prayer campaign to end abortion, began in College Station, Texas. It has expanded not only nationally, but internationally since its inception in 2007. There are two campaigns a year, one beginning on Ash Wednesday for 40 days of Lent. The Fall campaign begins on the fourth Wednesday of September. These prayer campaigns are initiated and organized at the grassroots level in communities throughout the nation and abroad. Prayer, fasting and public vigil at the abortion facility are key components. The National Organization requires anyone participating in a campaign sign a promise to conduct themselves in a peaceful, respectful manner. Many believe the Holy Spirit is using this movement to end abortion and at the same time bring people of many faiths together.

To find out more and sign up to help please visit: [www.40daysforlife.com/greenville](http://www.40daysforlife.com/greenville) and [www.facebook.com/40daysgreenville](http://www.facebook.com/40daysgreenville) or contact *Judy Masterson 1-864-506-0964*.

Help to spread the word to others about this important life-saving effort.

**40 Days for Life Kickoff Rally** Saturday, Sept 29<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am – 10:30 am, Greenville Women's Clinic, 1142 Grove Rd. Guest speakers: Dr. Robert Jackson, Jr. MD, family medicine specialist and author of *The Family Doctor Speaks: The Truth About Life*; Carrie Gifford and Patty McGrath, Sidewalk Advocates for Life update. Music will be provided by the For Life Praise Band with Mark and Robin Wills. At the close of the event Rob Wess, Director of Construction for Piedmont Women's Center, will take those interested on a tour of the new facility. Parking is at Grove Road Baptist Church. Call Judy 1-864-506-0964

**Life Chain** - Sunday, Oct 7<sup>th</sup>, 2:30 – 3:30 pm, Woodruff Road, Greenville. Please join others across the country for this peaceful, prayerful, public witness for the sanctity of human life. Call Valerie for signs and to find out where your church is assigned on the route. 864-297- 8838.

**Rosaries Coast to Coast** – Sunday, Oct 7<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 – 5:00 pm at local Catholic Churches following the Life Chain. People are asked to participate in **Rosary Coast to Coast** as an Act of Reparation calling upon God through the powerful intercession of Our Lady of the Rosary to heal our country and return it to holiness.

**Rosaries for Life** - Pray 5 decades daily from Sept 26<sup>th</sup> – Nov 4<sup>th</sup>. Turn in your counts at your local parish or email your count each week to [rosaries4life@gmail.com](mailto:rosaries4life@gmail.com).

# 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

[saintrafka.org](http://saintrafka.org)  
[saintrafkagreenville@gmail.com](mailto: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>



**Help!**  
 Volunteers needed for:  
 BBQ Chefs  
 Set up  
 Clean up  
 Face painters  
 Free event cooks

**2018**

**Sponsors Needed**  
 Food  
 Advertising and Signs  
 Paper Goods

**FESTIVAL NEEDS**

== *Saint Rafka* ==  
**• Food Fest •**  
 Middle Eastern Delights!

**Contact:**  
 Paula Howard-Casby:  
 pjhoward74@hotmail.com  
 Joan Craven:  
 joanlcraven@yahoo.com

# JOIN THE ORDER OF SAINT SHARBEL

TO SUPPORT THE EDUCATION OF MARONITE SEMINARIANS  
AND HELP SECURE THE FUTURE OF THE MARONITE CHURCH  
IN THE UNITED STATES



Please note that this picture was taken at Father Aaron's ordination two years ago!



## JOIN THE ORDER OF SAINT SHARBEL TODAY

Enroll online at [www.orderstsharbel.org](http://www.orderstsharbel.org) or in your Parish.

For more information about the Order, contact Order of Saint Sharbel President Bernadette Shalhoub at [bbshalhoub@aol.com](mailto:bbshalhoub@aol.com) or ask your Parish Priest.

If you are interested in becoming a Priest, Religious Sister, or Deacon contact Vocations Director Father Dominique Hanna at (718) 624-7228 & [cathrectory@verizon.net](mailto:cathrectory@verizon.net)



## Prayer List

Helen Francis, Beth Hopsecge, Donna Nedzwecki, Leo Miller, David Snell, 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 24, **Saint Thecla**, First Woman Martyr

September 29, Saint Rouhanna the Cantor,  
Confessor and Saint Cyricus the Wanderer

September 30, Saint Gregory, Bishop of Armenia &  
His Companions, Confessors

October

October 1, Saint Theresa of the Little Flower and  
Saint Ananias The Apostle

October 2, Saints Cyprian and Justina, Martyrs

October 4, Saint Francis of Assisi, Confessor

October 6, Saint Thomas, Apostle

October 7, Saints Bacchus and Sarkis (Sergius),  
Martyrs

October 8, Saint Pelagia (Margaret) Confessor

October 9, Saint James, Apostle, Brother of the Lord

October 15, Saint Theresa of Avila, Confessor

The Holy Fathers of the Seventh



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# Liturgical Items

## Liturgical Readings

Feast	New Testament	Gospel
2nd Holy Cross	1 Cor. 15:19:34	Matt 24:1-14
English	B J Dursse	
Arabic	Fadi Nassif	<b>New!</b> To review the readings online, go <a href="#">here</a> .

## Mass Intentions

September 22 & 23	Intention	Donor
Saturday, 4 PM	<b>Spiritual Children of Padre Pio</b>	<b>Andy and Ceil Frisari</b>
Sunday, 11 AM	<b>+Bill Rogers, 2nd Anniversary (9/25)</b>	<b>BJ Dursse</b>
Sunday, 7 PM	<b>Pratt Family</b>	
Wednesday, 7 PM	<b>+Brother David Cobos, OSB</b>	<b>Abouna</b>
September 29 & 30		
Saturday, 4 PM	<b>Open</b>	
Sunday, 11 AM	<b>+Samir Kerzzo</b>	<b>Maama and Jennifer Kerzzo</b>
Sunday, 7 PM	<b>Open</b>	
Wednesday, 7 PM	<b>Open</b>	

## 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](mailto:secretary@saintrafka.org).



# Church Offerings and Attendance

September 16	Saturday 4 PM	Sunday 11 AM	Sunday 7 PM	Total	Budget per week	+/-	Wed. 7 PM
People	74	32	25	131	170	<b>-39</b>	0
Collection	\$940.00	\$591.00	\$357.00	\$1888.00	\$2,800.00	<b>-\$912.00</b>	0
Average per person	\$12.70	\$18.47	\$14.28	\$14.41		Holy Hour	0
Building Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			Ramsho	0
Average	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			YTD	<b>\$106,440</b>
Average Attendance	75	83	38	Average 197			
Budget YTD	<b>\$105588.00</b>	YTD	<b>\$106,440</b>	Budget +/-	<b>\$852.00</b>		

## Offerings



Attendance Year to Date	
4:00 PM	2421
11:00 AM	2668
7:00 PM	1228
Wednesday 7 PM	519
First Sunday	171
Ramsho	46
Holy Day	129
Special Liturgy	459
Funerals	160
Weddings	70
Pasta Supper	514

## 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
September 16	514	194	74
September 9	514	173	91
Difference	<b>1</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>17</b>

## Scripture Readings for Sunday

1 Cor. 15:19:34

**I**f for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are the most pitiable people of all. But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead came also through a human being. For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order: Christ the firstfruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ; then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father, when he has destroyed every sovereignty and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death, for "he subjected everything under his feet." But when it says that everything has been subjected, it is clear that it excludes the one who subjected everything to him. When everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will [also] be subjected to the one who subjected everything to him, so that God may be all in all. Otherwise, what will people accomplish by having themselves baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, then why are they having themselves baptized for them? Moreover, why are we endangering ourselves all the time? Every day I face death; I swear it by the pride in you [brothers] that I have in Christ Jesus our Lord. If at Ephesus I fought with beasts, so to speak, what benefit was it to me? If the dead are not raised: "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." Do not be led astray: "Bad company corrupts good morals." Become sober as you ought and stop sinning. For some have no knowledge of God; I say this to your shame.

Matthew 24:1-14

**J**esus left the temple area and was going away, when his disciples approached him to point out the temple buildings. He said to them in reply, "You see all these things, do you not? Amen, I say to you, there will not be left here a stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down." He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples approached him privately and said, "Tell us, when will this happen, and what sign will there be of your coming, and of the end of the age?" Jesus said to them in reply, "See that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Messiah,' and they will deceive many. You will hear of wars and reports of wars; see that you are not alarmed, for these things must happen, but it will not yet be the end. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be famines and earthquakes from place to place. All these are the beginning of the labor pains. Then they will hand you over to persecution, and they will kill you. You will be hated by all nations because of my name. And then many will be led into sin; they will betray and hate one another. Many false prophets will arise and deceive many; and because of the increase of evil-doing, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who perseveres to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached throughout the world as a witness to all nations, and then the end will come."

## 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!

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# Catholic Radio in S.C. 2018 Radiothon

The 2018 Radiothon will be **THIS** Thursday & Friday September 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>. Radiothon always has a theme and every year we ask for God's guidance when choosing. Last year was the 100<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](http://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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## Birthdays

### September

24, Sharbel Feghali  
25, Natallia Hermiz

### October

1, Wayne Reece  
1, Nedhal Hermiz  
2, Isabelle Chebeir  
8, Rachel Monseur Howard  
8, Elyse Fisher Howard  
8, Joseph Hanna  
8, Ignatius Lakadosch  
8, Crysden Trent



## Anniversaries

### October

1, Francois and Michelle Sleiman  
20, Paul and Joan Bussemey  
22, Patrick and Tamara Yono

## Necrology

### September

+Edna Lizabeth Seman, September 27,  
2006

### October

+Samuel Howard, Sr., October 2, 2014



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

### 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.](#)



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