

# Saint Rafka

**Catholics of the East in the Upstate!**



## Glorious Resurrection Season of Easter

Saint Rafka Maronite Catholic Church is a Parish of the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn. The Antiochene Syriac Maronite Church is one of over twenty Eastern and Oriental Catholic Churches in communion with the Bishop of Rome. Led by His Beatitude, **Bechara Boutros Rai**, Patriarch of Antioch and all the East in Berke, Lebanon, the Syro-Maronite Church has parishes and missions on six continents. Saint Rafka Parish was established as a mission in 2002. The community grew and flourished and was raised to the rank of parish in 2021.

**Most Rev. Gregory  
John Mansour**

**Bishop**

109 Remsen Street,  
Brooklyn, NY, 11201  
718.237.9913

[chancery@stmaron.org](mailto:chancery@stmaron.org)

**Father Bartholomew  
Leon**

**Pastor**

1215 S. Highway 14  
Greer, SC 29650  
864.469.9119

[bartleon@gmail.com](mailto:bartleon@gmail.com)

**Father Assistant  
Parochial Vicar**

1215 S. Highway 14  
Greer, SC 29650  
864.469.9119  
XXX

## OFFICE HOURS

10:00 AM - 4:30 PM  
Monday - Friday

## DIVINE LITURGIES

The Divine Liturgy is  
celebrated on

Saturday,  
4 PM Vigil  
Sunday, 8:30 AM  
11:00 AM  
Tuesday, 10:00 AM  
Wednesday, 7:00 PM  
Thursday 10:00 AM  
Friday, 10:00 AM  
Holy Days  
**As Announced**

## CONFESSIONS

Saturday, 3:15 PM  
Sunday 10:15 AM  
Wednesday 6:30 PM  
Weekdays before  
liturgy as requested

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

Joseph Chebeir  
Paula Howard-Casby  
Tom Judge  
[Dee Kalata](#)  
[Ron Rossi, Sr.](#)  
Marlene Saad  
Richard Sleiman

**Joseph Chebeir**  
Financial Administrator  
864.469.9119  
[Joe Chebeir](#)



**Bill Leon**  
Secretary  
864.469.9119  
[Bill Leon](#)

**Sam Jordan Alamat**  
Organist  
[Sam Alamat](#)

**Nadia Najm**  
Choir Director  
**Scott Herr**  
Assistant Director  
[Nadia Najm](#)  
[Scott Herr](#)

**Jessica Dagher Allen**  
First Holy Communion  
[Jessica Allen](#)  
**Lisa Advent**  
MRE Students  
[Lisa Advent](#)

**Lisa Advent**  
MYO/MYA Leader  
[Lisa Advent](#)

**Knights of Columbus**  
**Jim Dyer**  
Grand Knight  
[Jim Dyer](#)

**Marlene Saad**  
Scripture Sharing  
[Marlene Saad](#)  
If Interested, Call  
864.580.1054

**Marie Kidd**  
Food Pantry  
[Marie Kidd](#)

**Hospitality Committee**  
[Marie Kidd](#)  
[Hannan Saade](#)  
[Mark Duffy](#)

**Bridget Nevin**  
Garden Club  
[Bridget Nevin](#)

**Candice King-Palgut**  
Prayers and Squares  
[Candice King-Palgut](#)  
Type to enter text

**Building Committee**  
**Phase 1**  
Richard Sleiman  
Thomas Judge  
Ron Rossi, Sr.

**Anthony Sloan**  
Men's Bible Study  
Monthly Meeting  
Email for details  
[Anthony Sloan](#)



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## MASS INTENTIONS

Mass intentions are a good way to remember and pray for your loved ones, alive or deceased.

If you would like to request an intention please remember to submit your intentions for Liturgy ASAP by calling the parish office at 864.469.9119 or by email at [bill@saintrafka.org](mailto:bill@saintrafka.org). Please remember that it is rare to be able to have your intention the following Sunday! **Masses are now generally booked up about three months in advance.**

## BAPTISM & CHRISMATION

Baptism in the Maronite Rite is always accompanied by *Chrismation* (Confirmation). Both Sacraments are given by a priest, and always in the same ceremony. Preparation to receive the Sacraments of Baptism and Chrismation is required. We encourage this to happen before the birth of your child. Please contact the [Church Office](#) for more details.

## ANOINTING OF THE SICK

The Anointing of the Sick is routinely offered during the Divine Liturgy on Wednesday evening and during pastoral visits by the priest to homebound and ill parishioners. Let me know if you will be in the hospital or have other special needs. Contact the [Church Office](#).

## THE MYSTERY OF CROWNING (MARRIAGE)

Couples must contact the pastor **at least** six months prior to the desired date of the wedding. To initiate the marriage preparation process or if you have questions for weddings taking place at Saint Rafka. Contact the [Church Office](#).

## PARISH REGISTRATION

Registration forms and welcome packets are available in the church office and the vestibule. Membership is a condition for the reception of the sacraments of baptism/confirmation, first reconciliation, first Eucharist, and Crowning (marriage). Registration is also required before the parish can issue a sponsorship certificate for those asked to be sacramental sponsors. You must be a registered, contributing member for at least three months before a certificate is provided.

## YOUTH MINISTRY

Teenagers are invited to join our Maronite Youth Organization, aka MYO. Contact **Lisa Advent** [lisaadventphotography@gmail.com](mailto:lisaadventphotography@gmail.com) for more information.

## Ramsho (Evening Prayer)

Join us on Tuesday at 5:45 PM for evening prayer and prayers of intercession to Saint Sharbel.

## WICKETT HALL AND ASHY PAVILION

Wickett Hall and Ashy Pavilion can be used by our registered and supporting parishioners for family events, reunions, etc. Others may request permission to rent the Hall or Pavilion. Please contact the [Church Office](#).

## MARONITE RESOURCES

Daily [readings](#) for the Divine Liturgy.  
Daily morning prayer and evening prayer of the Divine Office [here](#).

## TRAVELING AND NEED TO GO TO MASS?

Where to go to Mass when traveling? Look here!  
[MassTimes.org](http://MassTimes.org)  
[The Catholic Directory](#)  
[Parishes Online](#)

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Please follow us at @saintrafkagreenville on **Instagram** and/or **St. Rafka Maronite Church** on **Facebook**. <http://www.facebook.com/strafka>  
Also [YouTube](#)!

## SAINT RAFKA FOOD PANTRY

Established in 2019, the Saint Rafka Food Pantry is for those who need immediate food assistance. Need food? Call the church office or come by, 10 AM - 2 PM. You can also email **Marie Kidd** who is coordinating this project. All gifts of food are anonymous. Donations of food are accepted either at the Church Office or the back of the church.

## SCRIPTURE SHARING

Scripture haring discussion following the Carmelite Way with Saint Therese of the Little Flower and Saint John of the Cross

**IN DEFENSE OF CHRISTIANS** [IDF](#) Individuals banning together help and make know the plight of the Christians in the Middle East and their suffering.

**SHRINE OF THE PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS** in the United States. [Video here](#).

## Scripture Readings

Jonah 2:1-11

But the LORD sent a great fish to swallow Jonah, and he remained in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. Jonah prayed to the LORD, his God, from the belly of the fish: Out of my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me; From the womb of Sheol I cried for help, and you heard my voice. You cast me into the deep, into the heart of the sea, and the flood enveloped me; All your breakers and your billows passed over me. Then I said, "I am banished from your sight! How will I again look upon your holy temple?" The water surged around me up to my neck; the deep enveloped me; seaweed wrapped around my head. I went down to the roots of the mountains; to the land whose bars closed behind me forever, But you brought my life up from the pit, O LORD, my God. When I became faint, I remembered the LORD; My prayer come to you in your holy temple. Those who worship worthless idols abandon their hope for mercy. But I, with thankful voice, will sacrifice to you; What I have vowed I will pay: deliverance is from the LORD. Then the LORD commanded the fish to vomit Jonah upon dry land.

I Corinthians 15:12-26

If Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised.



For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler 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.

Mark 16:1-8

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back.

As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But

go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.' So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

## Reflection

We the Church and her children, celebrate today, Jesus' glorious resurrection. In the *Mazmooro* we proclaim:

The Church and her  
children rejoice,  
for the Good Shepherd has risen.  
He laid down his life for his sheep  
and saved them by his resurrection.

Not only the Church but all of creation is rejuvenated and refreshed by the resurrection of Christ, as we hear in the *Qolo*:

Today all creation rejoices  
and exults in praise,  
for the son of God has been  
raised from the tomb in glory.

And the Risen Lord is now our food from today-on and for life eternal:

The holy and faithful Church looks  
at Christ on her altars,  
where his body is made food  
and his blood a spiritual drink.

Every day the Church takes  
delight in Christ  
and will find joy with him  
in the heavenly kingdom.

Reflecting on the Gospel of the Resurrection, the women at the tomb, as well as on the Parable of the Virgins' awaiting their Lord's coming, the Church prays at the *Etro*:

*O Lord, the fragrant Sea, the women carried perfume to the tomb in order to embalm your holy body. Yet, you are the sweet aroma for the life of every soul. Accept our incense and* 5

*grant that, like the blessed women, we may hasten to you, and be refreshed by your life-giving fragrance.*

Likewise the letter of Saint Paul today enlightens our minds with how Christ Jesus bears the "first-fruits" of this new creation that has sprouted through his resurrection, and which will come to completion in his return, as death is swept away.

In the *Hoosoyo*, the Church calls Christ the *Never Ceasing Light* and the *Maker of life* who by his incarnation entered into our world of sleep and awakened us with his *living voice*, bringing about our redemption and new life:

Yesterday his side was pierced  
by a lance,  
and today, in his compassion,  
he opened up for us the waters  
of baptism.

And now, the Bride, asks for herself and her Children:

as you saved us by your passion  
and granted us life by your resurrection,  
so now clothe our bodies  
with the power of your Spirit,  
that we may all shine in the robe of glory  
and be able to meet you, O Christ,  
the true Bridegroom.

Therefore let us *say: Hosanna*: He is risen! Let us rejoice and celebrate in the Trinity, with the heavenly Father – the Father of Mercies – whose Son was dead – and now has come back to life! (Lk: 15-24), and (Ps. 118: 22-24).

*Truly He Is Risen!*

**Steven Bonian, S.J.**

# Abouna's Corner

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

The Lord is truly Risen!! Let us be glad and rejoice!

This year we also celebrate Easter at the same time as our Orthodox brothers and sisters. May His Holy Resurrection help heal the divisions of the past and bring us together into One Church, One Body!

As you well know, during our high holy days, we have lots of guests. Please be kind and patient! Also be observant of proper parking on our property and not on the neighbor's lawn. Use some of the space in our back lot for parking, not just along the roadway. Also, no double parking! Thanks!

Thanks to all who have Memorials listed in our **Easter Flower** list. Thank you for your generosity in providing the flowers for Easter!

The Pot Luck Luncheon last Sunday was a great success and I am grateful to those who cooked food in the kitchen, who brought food and beverage and helped with the serving and cleaning. It was a great enterprise and everyone seemed to have a wonderful time. Thanks again!

We hit a record on Holy Wednesday. We began confessions at 9 AM and the line started getting longer and longer. Between Father Pat and I, we literally heard hundreds of confessions. At one point someone counted 80 people waiting in line. Some people waited as long as two hours to give their confession. They waited a very quiet and prayerful church. For priests, it was a long day, but I know God is pleased with our work. On Holy Thursday, I learned that other priests in the area were hearing confessions in their churches at the same time. There can't be a sinner left in Greenville County!

Thanks to all who took the time out of your busy schedules to come and pray with us throughout Holy Week. The Church has given us such a beautiful liturgies that draw us into prayer and contemplation of the great mysteries of salvation.

**Vacation Bible School** is coming soon in July. A flyer is posed further back in the bulletin and our website has an online application form to fill in which goes directly to **Lisa Advent**. Sign up early! For more details, go [here](#).

Please remember to pray for all who are sick and shut in, unable to be with us in person. Pray for those family members who are their care takers. They need rest and refreshment to continue their ministry of love and care. Saint Rafka, pray for us!

We have a parishioner who lives in the Five Forks area who needs a ride to Church at this time. This parishioner likes to attend the 11 AM Mass. Live close by? Like to help? Contact [Abouna](#) for more details.

Have a holy and prayerful Easter! See you in Church!

Ab. Bart

**Want to Learn Arabic???**

Mouna Ayoub is offering to teach Arabic on Thursday evenings at 6:00 PM at Francis House conference room.

## The Servants of Mary and Joseph Lay Carmelite Community

The Lay Carmelite is called to the Family of Carmel to be deeply involved in the mission of the Church and to contribute to the sanctification of the secular world through our charisms of prayer, community and service.

The Community meets on the First Saturday of every month from 9:00 AM - 1:30 PM at Saint Joseph Catholic Church, 1200 Cornelia Rd, Anderson, SC for the Liturgy of the Hours, Mass and meeting.

Catholic men or women interested in learning more may contact Jon at [joanelizabethrn@gmail.com](mailto:joanelizabethrn@gmail.com)



## Church Offerings and Attendance

March 23, 2025		
4 PM	102	\$1499.00
8:30 AM	40	\$428.00
11 AM	209	\$1983.00
Mail		\$600.00
PayPal/Electronic		\$130.00
Total	<b>351</b>	\$4,640.00
Budget 2025	<b>230</b>	<b>\$4,350.00</b>
+/-	<b>121</b>	<b>\$290.00</b>
<b>Year to Date</b>		\$66,995.00
Budget for year +/-		<b>\$1,745.00</b>
<b>Building Fund</b>		\$0.00
Mail In	0	\$0.00
12:00 AM	0	\$0.00
11:00 AM	0	\$0.00
Total	0	<b>\$0.00</b>
Holy Hour		0
Funeral		0
<b>2025 Totals</b>		
4:00 PM		1303
8:30 AM		474
11 AM		1895
Weekday Masses		1102
Holy Hour		76
Holy Day		221
Special Liturgy		57
Funerals		150
Weddings		60

## Average Attendance

4 PM	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
<b>87</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>126</b>

### Facts regarding our bulletin!

Bulletins emailed last weekend: 419 -

Percentage opened 67% -

**Opened emails: 282 + Unopened emails: 137 -**

## Masses, Sanctuary Lamp & 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 this week for a special intention of Margaret L. Kelly.](#)

To have flowers for a memorial of a loved one, please use the envelope provided at the entrance. Donation is \$50.00 per Sunday.

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). Envelopes for Masses also available at the door of the church.



**CATHOLIC**  
INFORMATION CENTER

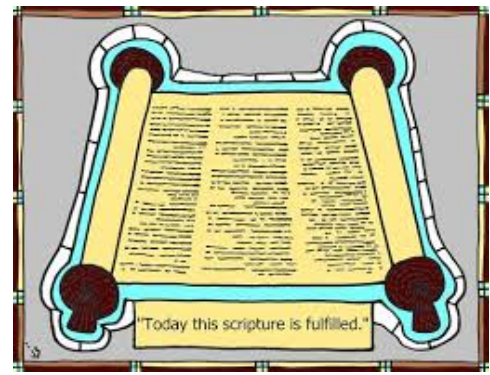
<https://catholic.center/>





## Liturgical Readings

Old Testament (Arabic) Jonah 2:1-11	<b>Rania Sammour</b>
New Testament (English) I Corinthians 15:12-26	<b>Heather Sijon</b>



## Mass Intentions

<b>April 19 - 20</b>	<b>Glorious Resurrection</b>	
<b>Saturday, 4 PM</b>	<b>+Christie Foertsch Clark</b>	Don & Lyn Foertsch
<b>Sunday, 8:30 AM</b>	<b>Andy Frisari, Happy Birthday</b>	Ceil Hermes
<b>Sunday 11:00 AM</b>	<b>+Frances Hykes</b>	Amos Hykes
<b>Tuesday, 10:00 AM</b>	<b>In Honor of Gregory's Holy Guardian Angel</b>	Barb Mytych
<b>Wednesday, 7:00 PM</b>	<b>+Joseph Frisari</b>	John & Sharon
<b>Thursday 10:00 AM</b>	<b>In Honor of Lee's Holy Guardian Angel</b>	Barb Mytych
<b>Friday, 10:00 AM</b>	<b>+Leonard</b>	Ceil & Andy
<b>April 26 - 27</b>	<b>Bright Sunday</b>	
<b>Saturday 4 PM</b>	<b>+Joseph Frisari</b>	Richard & Paula
<b>Sunday, 8:30 AM</b>	<b>+Joseph Frisari</b>	John & Sharon
<b>Sunday 11:00 AM</b>	<b>Holy Trinity's &amp; Holy Family's Blessing Upon Fr. Bart &amp; Parish</b>	Barb Mytych
<b>Tuesday, 10:00 AM</b>	<b>In Honor of My Holy Guardian Angel</b>	Barb Mytych
<b>Wednesday, 7:00 PM</b>	<b>Gerald (Gerry) Ozzmio 85th Birthday</b>	Lenore Ozzimo
<b>Thursday 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Holy Souls in Purgatory</b>	Barb Mytych
<b>Friday, 10:00 AM</b>	<b>In Reparation for Sin</b>	Barb Mytych

All men of the parish are invited to join men from Prince of Peace Parish for breakfast and fellowship. The Catholic Men's Breakfast meets on the first Thursday of each month at 8:00 AM at the Eggs Up Restaurant, 3935 Pelham Road, Greenville. Please join us and feel free to bring a friend! Any questions call Jack Stewart, 864 787-7592.

Video on the Sainted Massabki brothers on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/NoursatEnglish/videos/1008068293229859>

# Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>20 Glorious Easter</b> 8:30 AM, Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy	21	22 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow	23 6:00 PM, Marian Catechists 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy	24 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	25 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	26 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy
<b>27 New Sunday</b> 8:30 AM, Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy 3:00 PM, Divine Mercy Celebration	28	29 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow	30 6:00 PM, Marian Catechists 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy	<b>May 1</b> 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	2 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy First Friday Devotions	3 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy
<b>4 3rd Easter</b> 8:30 AM, Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy 3:00 PM, Holy Hour 5:00 PM, Korean Mass	5	6 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow	7 6:00 PM, Marian Catechists 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy	8 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	9 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	10 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy
<b>11 4th Easter</b> 8:30 AM, Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM, Syro-Malabar Liturgy	12	13 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow	14 6:00 PM, Marian Catechists 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy	15 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	16 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	17 Ordination of Abouna Joe Chebli, NJ 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy



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[www.thomasmcafee.com](http://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

## Saints of the Day

### March

April 23, Saint George the Martyr  
April 25, Saint Mark the Evangelist  
April 27, Saint Simon the Apostle  
April 29, Saint Catherine of Sienna  
April 30, Saint James, Son of Zebedee  
May 1, Saint Jeremiah the Prophet  
May 4, Saint Monica  
May 8, Saint John the Evangelist  
May 9, Saint Isaiah the Prophet  
May 10, Saint Simon the Zealot, Apostle  
(Confederate Veterans Day)  
Day of Coptic-Catholic Friendship  
May 12, Saint Epiphanius, Bishop of Cyprus

## Prayer List

Margie Makowski-Seif, Margaret L. Kelly, Anthony Gwynn, Karen Krings, John Davis, Pat Moore, Deacon Bob Smith, Anna Maria Portilla, Sandra Reece, Charles Howard, Marcia Palmer, Mary Howard, Lisa Moman, Leslie Ziminsky, Dan Beckman, Lisa Bolt, Crysten Yammine, L. Mary Killough, Thomas Sloan, Ciera D, Philomena Reed, Rick Argon, Sister Mary Emmanuel, OSC, Hewitt Dickerson, Brielle Sheriff, Carol, Gina, Jeni Yacu, Rodena and Bruce Thompson, Andrea Emilia Bernabey, Nadim Chebeir, Mike, Leo, B J Dursse, Deacon Dick Murtaugh, Vicki Gosnell, Sam Clutter, Michael Tierney, Paul Shimow, Betty Mileski, Doug Logan, Rita Charbonete, Frances Danton, Diane Hickey, Alan Frechette, Jacob and Jaxson Rivera, Andrea Wise, Patrizia, Susan Clarke, Andy Frisari, Beth, Mary Dowden, Karen Rodgers, Nancy Georgion, Rosemary & Jim King, Mark Knight, Stephen Wedgeworth, MR, Hilda Hix, Catherine Caul, Albert Martin, Nanine D'Aquin, Elizabeth Fallet, Anthony Kozakiewicz, Bill Riley, KG, Linda Crosby, Jenny Gould, Maurice Mercier, Breese, Jennifer Payne, Matt Smith, Tammy Lopez, Anthony Fagliarone, Fernando, Carolyn Groner, Tim Eaton, Kelly Mullens, Carol Craven, Mel Casby, Vincent Howard, K.F., Eileen Howard, Jack Campbell, Hilda Hix, Sue Bauer, Chrisoula, Theresa Woodson, Noah Scott Kestler, Art and Judy Pape, Suhail Yousiff, Tom Craven, Jr., Michael Rau, Chris Davis, Pixie Geren, Mike Dyer, Christian Pereira, Art Newton, Recovery of RS, Claire Barnett, Ethel Brassel, Katrina Shunk, George Vargo, Irma Galvan, Mary Cleary, Joe

## Birthdays

### April

19, Suhair Nmair  
19, Nemr Farhat  
19, Caedmon Sandifer  
21, Deacon Dick Murtaugh  
21, Francois Sleiman  
24, Diana Cox  
25, Mark Kalata  
25, Rony Aazan  
26, Peter Bouharoun  
26, Michelle Sleiman  
27, Deanna Paris  
27, Dr. Fahd Zarrouf  
28, Farid Hayek  
30, Catherine Vaughan  
30, J. Michael Sandifer

## Anniversaries

### April

21, Nabil and Soraya Chackal  
24, Lorraine and Maurice Mercier  
25, Richard and Afaf Sleiman  
25, Sam and Sherri Sandbothe  
26, Khader & Nehad Jadallah

## Necrology

+Doris Howayeck Howard, April 20, 2018  
+Hind Khawaja Michael, April 22, 2008  
+Ruby Dumit, April 25, 2012  
+Amjed Yacu, May 1, 2015  
+Greg Howard, May 6, 2017  
+Anwar Yacu, May 8, 2003  
+Paul Gallagher, May 11, 2014  
+Montaha Achi, May 12, 2023  
+Chadi Eugene Aoun, May 21, 2024

### Important Dates to Remember

Easter, April 20

Ordination of Abouna Joseph, May 17

First Holy Communion, May 18

Pentecost, June 8

2026 *Hafli*, April 18



**There are still places available for this workshop.**

## **Icon Painting Workshop**

**July 7-12, 2025**

**Greenville, South Carolina**

**St. Rafka Maronite Catholic Church**

**Join us on this six-day intensive icon painting course where we will captivate you in the art of the Byzantium painting technique. During the course we'll write (paint) the icon of St. Michael the archangel.**

**This “St. Michael” icon will come alive before you as the visiting master iconographer and expert instructor, Theodoros Papadopoulos from Greece, guides 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 absolute beginner or an advanced artist, this workshop offers an opportunity to learn or refine your techniques in this sacred art.**

**The techniques of painting will be taught in a clear and concrete way enabling the students to follow the instructor for an outcome of a beautiful icon.**

**The course focuses on the art of egg tempera painting. Our goal is for students to understand and learn the artistic practices as well as the philosophy of Orthodox Iconography. The coursework is divided into individual steps; the instructor explains the principles and then demonstrates each phase in detail, answering all questions. Through the process of demonstrations the stages as well the whole method of painting an icon will be presented. From the very beginning to the completion of the course, every student will work on his or her painting with assistance by the instructor.**

**The size of the icon is 13.50X10 inches.**

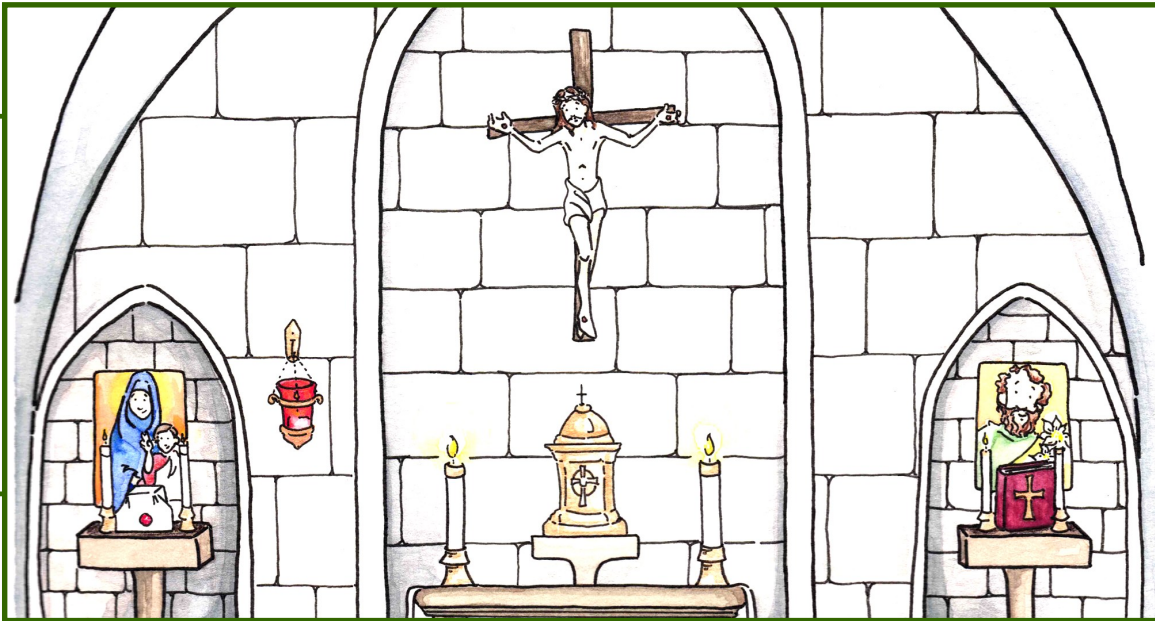
More info at <https://theodoreicons.com/sc>

Nevertheless, there is a possibility, if progress of the courses, to extend the schedule by one hour every day throughout the workshop and finish each day at 5:30 pm.



# Vacation Bible School 2025

St. Rafka Maronite Church  
1215 SC-14, Greer, SC 29650  
[saintrafkagreenville@gmail.com](mailto:saintrafkagreenville@gmail.com)



## Exploring the Maronite Divine Liturgy

Children (ages 3-12) are welcome to join us each day as we learn about worshipping God through our Maronite Divine Liturgy with prayer, music, crafts, games, and more!

**July 21 - 24 (Monday - Thursday)**

9:00 am - 1:45 pm (Lunch & snacks provided)

Each day begins with Daily Divine Liturgy (Mass) in the Church at 9:00 am

*For more information*

**Lisa** at (864) 414-6957 or **the Church Office** at (864) 469-9119

Email: [saintrafkagreenville@gmail.com](mailto:saintrafkagreenville@gmail.com)

**Registration Deadline:** July 6, 2023

*“I will enter your House, O Lord,  
and worship before your throne.”*

# St. Rafka's Garden Club



**Spring is in  
the air!**

## Adopt-A-Pot Event

Help us beautify St. Rafkas by adopting a pot!  
We want to fill the pots with flowers and we need your help.  
The donation requested is \$35.  
Pots will have markers in them starting Saturday APRIL 5<sup>th</sup>.  
2 new pots to be added to Wickett Hall.  
We will provide envelopes at the back of the church for you to place  
the markers in, print your name and donation in the envelope.  
APRIL 25 is deadline for Adopt a Pot submissions.

Planting the pots will take place May 5<sup>th</sup>!  
Thank you for your support!

## Adopt-A-Pot Event

نادي حديقة القديسة رفقة  
أقبلنا على الربيع  
وكان موعد فترة تبني أصيص

نتأمل ان تساعدونا في تجميل كنيسة القديسة رفقة من خلال تبني أصيص!

نريد ملء الأواني بالزهور ونحتاج إلى مساعدتكم.

التبرع المطلوب هو 35 دولارًا.

ستحتوي الأواني على علامات بدءًا من يوم السبت 5 أبريل.

سيتم إضافة أصيصين جديدين إلى قاعة ويكيت.

سنوفر مطاريق في الجزء الخلفي من الكنيسة لتضعوا العلامات فيها، وتطبعوا اسمكم وتبرعكم في  
المظروف.

25 أبريل هو الموعد النهائي لتقديم طلبات تبني أصيص.

سيتم غرس الأواني في 5 مايو!

شكرًا لدعمكم!

Contact or text Bridget anytime at 864-775-8709 with any questions.



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# Easter Flower Memorials

In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Cornelius Clenan  
In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Lang  
In Memory of Catherine Bannister  
In Memory of Stink Fisk  
In Memory of Hy Hordwitch  
In Memory of Patrick Bannister  
In Memory of David Osborne  
In Memory of John Bannister  
In Memory of Living and Deceased Family Members  
In Memory of Paul Bussemey  
In Memory of the Dagher Family  
In Memory of Bill & Frances Rogers  
In Memory of Jules & Ann Dursse  
In Memory of Freddie and Martina Farge  
In Memory of Peter Lagosky Family  
In Memory of William M. Englert, Jr.  
In Memory of Richard A. Wickett  
In Memory of Richard Anthony Kalata  
In Memory of Anthony Joseph Kalata, Jr.  
In Memory of Dolores, George & George II, Harvey  
In Memory of Helen, Alfred & Henry Wickett  
In Memory of Catherine & Anthony Kalata, Sr.  
In Memory of Hartsel & Betty Wilson  
In Memory of Captian Joseph & Margaret W. Leon  
In Memory of Families of Ken & Annie Migut  
Curtis Ray Manning  
Stanley & Sophie Mileski  
Peggy & Donald Shunk  
Stanley E. Mileski  
Felix & Martha Krasinski  
Frank & Mary Mileski  
In Memory of Lillian & Anthony DeLuca  
In Memory of Barbara Sanfilippo  
In Memory of John & Geraldine Wheaton  
In Memory of Mary C. Sanfilippo  
In Memory of Skijon and Michael Families  
In Memory of George & Norma Sijon

Gail M. Bannister  
Gail M. Bannister  
Gail M. Bannister  
Gail M. Bannister  
Gail M. Bannister  
Gail M. Bannister  
Gail M. Bannister  
Gail M. Bannister  
Gail M. Bannister  
Marie Bentz  
Joan Bussemey  
Luke Dagher  
Michael & BJ Dursse  
Michael & BJ Dursse  
Marcel Farge  
Eileen Howard  
Eileen Howard  
Kalata, Wickett & Wilson Families  
Kalata, Wickett & Wilson Families  
Kalata, Wickett & Wilson Families  
Kalata, Wickett & Wilson Families  
Kalata, Wickett & Wilson Families  
Kalata, Wickett & Wilson Families  
Kalata, Wickett & Wilson Families  
Abouna Bart  
Ken & Anne Migut  
Bernadette Mileski  
Bernadette Mileski  
Bernadette Mileski  
Bernadette Mileski  
Bernadette Mileski  
Bernadette Mileski  
Bernadette Mileski  
Helen & Billy Rouch  
Deacon Joe Sanfilippo  
Deacon Joe Sanfilippo  
Deacon Joe Sanfilippo  
Ann Sijon  
David & Heather Sijon



## Mary's Mantle Daily Rosary Group

Daily Rosary group that meets by Zoom. Call opens at 8:30pm each day. Info at [rosary400@gmail.com](mailto:rosary400@gmail.com).

The session consists of:

Call for Intentions

Prayers

- Unity Prayer
- Rosary
- Hail Holy Queen or Salve Regina
- Spiritual Communion
- Seasonal Novena or Selected Prayer
- (Currently we are praying the "Let Love Litany")
- (Optional) practice of Silence and contemplative prayer (On Mondays, right after the Rosary)
- (Optional) Brief discussion of spiritual book or scripture - (Tuesday - Sunday)

Zoom call closes between 9:30 and 9:45



Participants may attend for the Rosary & prayers only, or join for the entire call.

## Kid's Quilts

This year, Blessed Trinity Catholic Church, 901 River Road, Greer, SC, will be sewing the precut kits of "Kids Quilts" again in the church commons. We are inviting all ladies and your sewing friends who have a sewing machine to come and sew on Saturday, April 26th and on May 3rd from 9 am to 1 pm, at the Commons of Blessed Trinity Catholic Church. The completed quilts will go to Birth Right, Ronald McDonald House and/or Shriners Children's House. This is a worthwhile Charity Event.

Please bring your sewing machine, all necessary accessories in order to sew, and the electric cord for your machine with you. If you are able to help please RSVP or if you have any questions, please call Emily Boisvert at 864-468-5274. We need your help. THANK YOU.



## Saint Rafka Food Pantry

In May of 2020 our parish established a food pantry. There are so many hungry people around us, including parishioners and friends of the parish. We have established an area in Wickett Hall for a storage area and a section of the freezer for this purpose. Want to bring food? Bring it during office hours (10 AM - 2 PM) or drop it in the foyer of the church. Need food? Contact **Marie Kidd** (864)202.0317. Marie will handle the details, assisted by **Mark Duffy** and **Bill Leon** at the the church office. Thank you for sharing of your abundance with those less fortunate during this difficult period.

## Food Pantry Needed Food Items

### FOOD GIFTS CARDS or MONEY DONATIONS

Macaroni & Cheese in the boxes  
Velveeta Macaroni & Cheese  
Hamburger Helpers  
Cold Macaroni Pasta in the boxes  
Spaghetti noodles (only) No rotini or egg noodles needed at this time!  
Spaghetti sauces in jars or in the cans  
Dinty Moore Beef Stew in the cans  
Tuna in the cans  
Spam  
Chili Bean in the cans  
Salmon in the cans  
Campbell Soups (Any kind)  
Peanut Butter (Creamy Style) in jars  
Any jellies (Strawberry, Peach, Raspberry, etc)  
Jello Puddings or Jello in the boxes  
Saltine Crackers, Vanilla Wafers, Oreo Cookies Graham Crackers, etc  
Cereals in the boxes for Adults and Children  
Oatmeal packages in the boxes  
Canned peas, carrots, green beans, etc  
Canned pears, peaches, applesauce, pineapple or in small plastic containers

## Support Those Who Support Us!

### Personal Care Assistant

**Joan Songer**, Personal Care Assistant with 20 years experience ministering to people in their homes. CNA nursing training at Greenville Technical College.

Cell: (864)434-2445  
References available.  
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**Saint Rafka Council #15519**

2nd Monday of the Month, 7 PM, Wickett Hall



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