

Saint Rafka

Catholics of the East in the Upstate!



Healing of the Blind Man Season of Great Lent

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

**Father Bartholomew
Leon**

Pastor

1215 S. Highway 14
Greer, SC 29650
864.469.9119

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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*Our security business is based in Greenville, SC.
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864.288.1400

priority1security.com

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. 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 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
[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 sharing 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

Isaiah 42:6-8; 16-18

I, the LORD, have called you for justice, I have grasped you by the hand; I formed you, and set you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, To open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness. I am the LORD, LORD is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. I will lead the blind on a way they do not know; by paths they do not know I will guide them. I will turn darkness into light before them, and make crooked ways straight. These are my promises: I made them, I will not forsake them. They shall be turned back in utter shame who trust in idols; Who say to molten images, "You are our gods." You deaf ones, listen, you blind ones, look and see!

II Corinthians 10:1-7

I myself, Paul, appeal to you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ I who am humble when face to face with you, but bold towards you when I am away! I ask that when I am present I need not show boldness by daring to oppose those who think we are acting according to human standards. Indeed, we live as human beings, but we do not wage war according to human standards; for the weapons of our warfare

are not merely human, but they have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every proud obstacle raised up against the knowledge of God, and we take every thought captive to obey Christ. We are ready to punish every disobedience when your obedience is complete. Look at what is before your eyes. If you are confident that you belong to Christ, remind yourself of this, that just as you belong to Christ, so also do we.

Mark 10:46-52

They came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!' Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, 'Son of David, have mercy on me!' Jesus stood still and said, 'Call him here.' And they called the blind man, saying to him, 'Take heart; get up, he is calling you.' So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, 'What do you want me to do for you?' The blind man said to him, 'My teacher, let me see again.' Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has made you well.' Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.



Reflection

In Mark's Gospel, this Sunday, we encounter Jesus as the one who restores our vision and grants us his new light and opens our eyes. But the Church reminds her children that to *receive* this *light* of Christ we need to boldly and in faith *ask* for it – as we see in the example of Bartimaeus the Blind.

Like the woman who touched Jesus' tassel *in faith and with courage*, and was healed, so is the blind man, this Sunday, healed from his blindness. He then follows Jesus on his way. Clearly the theme of *coming into the Light* here is symbolic for understanding who is Jesus; what he is about, and how to follow him. The Church – herself filled with the light of Christ – understands this as she reflects it in her Opening Prayer:

“O Christ the Light,
you had mercy on the man who was blind
and opened his eyes,
and he was in awe before your majesty.
Shine the light of your knowledge
and holiness
into the recesses of our souls,
that we too may be filled with wonder
and awe in your presence.”

In the tradition of our Church's faith, this *light* that Jesus gives, is understood to be the light of his resurrection:

“During this Lent, grant us the light
of your glorious resurrection,
and we will glorify you, O Christ,
now and forever.”

In the *Hoosoyo* the Church recalls the title of Jesus as the one who is “Light from Light” and through the priest she asks the Lord:

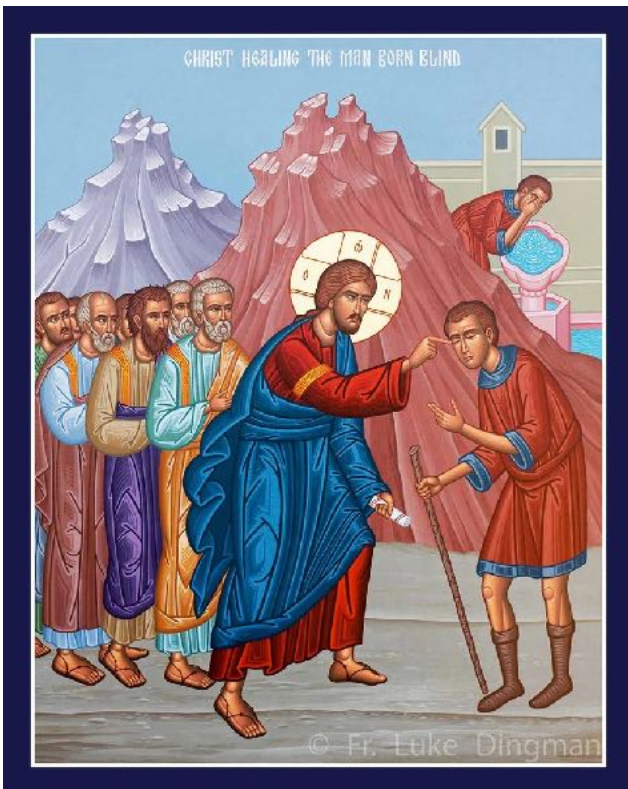
We implore you:
with the light of your knowledge,
shine in our hearts and in the hearts
of all people.
Let us rejoice in the vision of your face,
as did Bartimaeus on the road to Jericho.

Thus, the image of the *Light* comes to symbolize for us Christ Jesus himself. As in a mosaic it is combined with other Christ-centered spiritual themes from the New Testament fused together: knowing Jesus as the Christ; accepting his message (the Good News); entering the life of the Kingdom; living in the light of Christ's resurrection.

Alongside these Gospel themes other spiritual themes are emphasized by the various gospels: The courage to ask so that we may receive (as in Mark's Gospel); The humility to accept one's blindness so that one may come to ask to be healed (as in John's Gospel, Ch. 9); Conversion by the Light (as in the conversion of St. Paul in Luke-Acts 9:3).

All these are graces that we need to ask for ourselves – and for each other – in prayer during this passage of Lent: that we too may come to know Christ Jesus better; that we may follow him more dearly in humility and with true conversion of heart; and that we may come to enter into the glorious light of his resurrection: the light of Easter.

To Bashlom! Come in peace,
O true Light of God,
and shine in our hearts!



Abouna's Corner

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Another week of Lent has flown by and now we are racing toward Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter. Where has the time gone??

As it is still Great Lent, we will forgo the April Pot Luck Luncheon on April 6 and have the traditional Palm Sunday Luncheon on April 13, a week later. Our traditional Mediterranean Chicken will be provided by the Church. Details on what to bring are further back in the bulletin.

Next Sunday will be *Shaneenee* (Palm) Sunday. We will have lots of guests that day. Please be kind and patient! Also be observant of proper parking on our property and not on the neighbor's lawn. Also, no double parking! Thanks!

If you would like to have Memorials listed in our **Easter Flower** list, please pick up an envelope at the door of the Church. These envelopes can be given to the ushers or dropped in the collection basket. Final dates to receive these Memorials for publication at Easter will be April 13, Palm Sunday. Many thanks for your generosity in providing the flowers for Easter!

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](#).

The Holy Week Schedule is further back in the bulletin and available as a separate sheet in the Church. Please join us for these holy rites.

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 Season of Great Lent! See you in Church!

Ab. Bart



Father Joseph Daiif and I at the Priest retreat. He is head and shoulder taller than me!

40 Days for Life Closing Celebration: Sunday, April 13th, 2:00 – 3:15 pm, Christ the King Church (formerly Grove Road Baptist Church) 1223 Grove Road. Pastor Alfred Johnson, Greenville Church Without Walls, will give the Opening Prayer. Prayer Warriors will provide testimonies from the current campaign. Deacon Bob Connor will offer uplifting, encouraging words, lead us in the Prayer for Life and send us off with a Blessing. We will enjoy singing God's praises with Mason Costa on the guitar and end with a drawing for Door Prizes and refreshments. Please join us and bring a chair! Please visit www.40daysforlife.com/greenville to sign-up for 40 Days 365 as abortions are occurring all year long. Contact Judy 864-506-0964 or Ingrid 864-329-0044 for more information.

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



GRIEF MINISTRY WORKSHOP

Deacon Henry DeMena

Bereavement Counselor

WHAT IS GRIEF MINISTRY?
WHAT CAN WE SAY OR DO TO
HELP SOMEONE EXPERIENCING
GRIEF?

Learn Practical Steps For
Accompanying Those Who Grieve

Friday, April 11, 2025

8:00 am - 4:30 pm

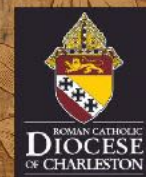
St. Rafka's Church
1215 SC-14, Greer, SC 29650

To Register:

<https://charlestandiocese.flocknote.com/signup/204344>

\$10 Registration Includes Lunch

Office of Family Life
cbrown@charlestandiocese.org



Church Offerings and Attendance

| March 23, 2025 | | |
|----------------------|------------|-------------------|
| 4 PM | 96 | \$1442.00 |
| 8:30 AM | 374 | \$440.00 |
| 11 AM | 119 | \$1035.00 |
| Mail | | \$185.00 |
| PayPal/Electronic | | \$395.00 |
| Total | 589 | \$3,497.00 |
| Budget 2025 | 230 | \$4,350.00 |
| +/- | 359 | -\$853.00 |
| Year to Date | | \$54,460.00 |
| Budget for year +/- | | \$2,090.00 |
| Building Fund | | |
| Mail In | 0 | \$0.00 |
| 12:00 AM | 0 | \$0.00 |
| 11:00 AM | 0 | \$0.00 |
| Total | 0 | \$0.00 |
| Holy Hour | | 0 |
| Funeral | | 0 |
| 2025 Totals | | |
| 4:00 PM | | 1128 |
| 8:30 AM | | 396 |
| 11 AM | | 1551 |
| Weekday Masses | | 925 |
| Holy Hour | | 58 |
| Holy Day | | 221 |
| Special Liturgy | | 57 |
| Funerals | | 150 |
| Weddings | | 60 |

Average Attendance

| 4 PM | 8:30 AM | 11:00 AM |
|-----------|-----------|------------|
| 87 | 30 | 119 |

Facts regarding our bulletin!

Bulletins emailed last weekend: 418 +
Percentage opened 65% +

Opened emails: 271 + Unopened emails: 147 -

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 in Memory of +Margaret W. Leon by Abouna Bart.](#)

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



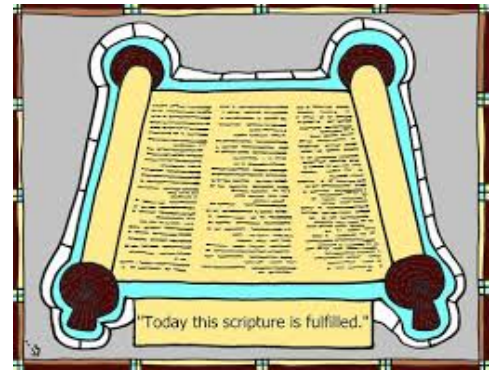
CATHOLIC
INFORMATION CENTER

<https://catholic.center/>



Liturgical Readings

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| Old Testament (Arabic) Isaiah 42:6-8; 16-18 | Lama Ashi Aazan |
| New Testament (English) II Corinthians 10:1-7 | Mabelle Illidge |



Mass Intentions

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| April 5 - 6 | Blind Man | |
| Saturday, 4 PM | Patricia Vorhies Wagner | Sandry Cush, sister |
| Sunday, 8:30 AM | +Joseph Frisari | Rosie |
| Sunday 11:00 AM | Richard A Wickett + 40 Day Memorial | Wickett/Wilson/Kalata |
| Tuesday, 10:00 AM | Saint Joseph | The Mytych Family |
| Wednesday, 7:00 PM | +Joseph Frisari | |
| Thursday 10:00 AM | Matt Mytych | Barb Mytych |
| Friday, 10:00 AM | Thanksgiving to St. Joseph | Barb Mytych |
| April 12 - 13 | Palm Sunday | |
| Saturday 4 PM | +Joseph Frisari | Larry & Elaine |
| Sunday, 8:30 AM | +Freddie Farge, Anniversary of Death | Marcel Farge |
| Sunday 11:00 AM | In Honor of Matt's Holy Guardian Angel | Barb Mytych |
| Tuesday, 10:00 AM | Alan + & Michele (L) Brower Family | Tom & Phyllis Judge |
| Wednesday, 7:00 PM | +Joseph Frisari | Marie & Steve |
| Thursday 7:00 PM | +Tola Dinko | Amos Hykes |
| Friday, 10:00 AM | No Mass | |

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 |
|--|--|--|---|--|---|--|
| 6 Blind Man 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 | 7 | 8 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow 5:45 PM <i>Ramsho</i> | 9 6:00 PM, Marian Catechists 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy | 10 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy | 11 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM, Stations of the Cross | 12 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy |
| 13 Sheneenee (Palm) 8:30 AM, Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM, Syro-Malabar Liturgy | 14 7:00 PM, Coming to the Harbor Liturgy | 15 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow 7:00 PM, Coming to the Harbor Liturgy | 16 9:00 AM - 6:30 PM, Day of Confessions 7:00 PM, Rite of the Lamp | 17 7:00 PM, Mass of the Lord's Supper | 18 9:00 AM, Signing of the Chalice 3 PM, Stations of the Cross in Arabic الثالثة مساءً ، محطات الصليب باللغة العربية 7:00 PM, Burial of Christ | 19 11:00 AM, Rite of Forgiveness 4:00 PM, Easter Vigil Liturgy |
| Holy Week - Sacred <i>Triduum</i> - See Holy Week Schedule | | | | | | |
| 20 Glorious Easter 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 |
| 27 New Sunday 8:30 AM, Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy | 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 | May 1 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy | 2 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy | 3 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy |



Catholics serving Catholics

www.thomasmcafee.com

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

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

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

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

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 Lemire, Virginia LaFave, Nabeel Howard, Paul Cote

Birthdays

April

5, Rasha Nadour
7, Lorraine Mercier
7, Joane Brown
7, Brooke Saad
8, Bob Dowd
8, Luke Gabriel Dibo
11, Nancy Georgion
13, Jocelyne Marzouka
14, Bassam Nmair
15, Widad Hayek
17, Deacon Joe Sanfilipo
17, Sister Emmanuel Shaw
18, Nabil Chackal
19, Suhair Nmair
19, Nemr Farhat
19, Caedmon Sandifer

Anniversaries

April

13, John and Yvonne Maroun
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

+Oscar Charles Saad, April 11, 2009
+Tina Cheshire, April 14, 2015
+Chafih Georgen Chalouhi, April 14, 2021
+George Joseph Michael, April 14, 2022
+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

Important Dates to Remember

Shaneenee (Palm) Sunday, April 13
Easter, April 20
Ordination of Abouna Joseph, May 17
First Holy Communion, May 18
Pentecost, June 8

Holy Week Schedule 2025

Shaneenee (Hosanna/Palm Sunday)

4 PM Vigil Liturgy
8:30 AM, Quiet Liturgy
11 AM, Solemn Liturgy with Procession
Luncheon to follow

Holy Monday

7 PM, Coming to the Harbor Liturgy

Holy Tuesday

10:00 AM, Divine Liturgy
7 PM, Coming to the Harbor Liturgy

Holy Wednesday

9 AM – 6:30 PM, Day of Confessions
7 PM, Rite of the Lamp

**CONFESSIONS ARE NOT HEARD AFTER
THIS TIME UNTIL AFTER EASTER**

Holy Thursday of the Mysteries

7 PM, Divine Liturgy, Washing of the Feet
Eucharistic Procession and Adoration

Good Friday of the Crucifixion

9 AM, Signing of the Chalice
3 PM, Stations of the Cross in Arabic
الثالثة مساءً ، محطات الصليب باللغة العربية
7 PM, Burial of Christ

Holy Saturday of the Awaited Light

11 AM, Service of Forgiveness
(Blessing of Easter Foods, etc. to follow)
4 PM, Solemn Vigil Liturgy

Easter Sunday

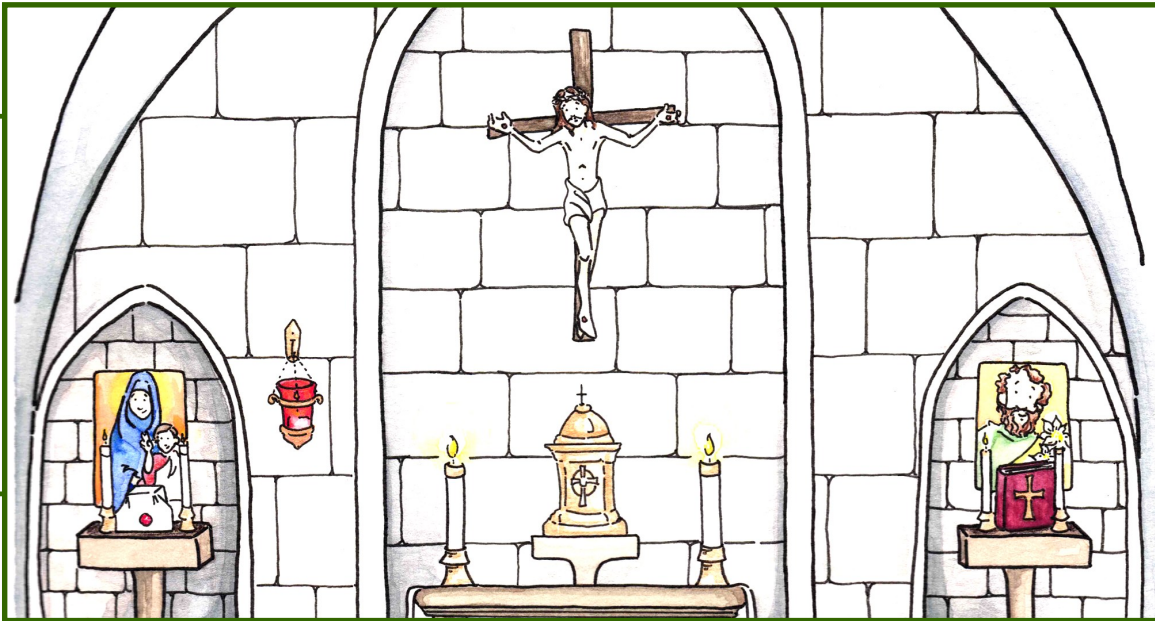
8:30 AM, Quiet Liturgy
11 AM, Solemn Liturgy of the Day
Coffee Social to follow.





Vacation Bible School 2025

St. Rafka Maronite Church
1215 SC-14, Greer, SC 29650
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

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

نادي حديقة القديسة رفقة
أقبلنا على الربيع
وحان 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 المطروف.

25 أبريل هو الموعد النهائي لتقديم طلبات تبني أصيص.

سيتم غرس الأواني في 5 مايو!

شكرًا لدعمكم!

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 5th.

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 5th!

Thank you for your support!

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

Palm Sunday Luncheon

Main - Meat and Non Meat

Salads and/or Desserts

N - Z

A - M

Easter Flowers 2025

In Memory of Bill & Frances Rogers
In Memory of Jules & ann Dursse
In Memory of +Captian Joseph & Margaret W. Leon
In Memory of Lillian & Anthony DeLuca
In Memory of Barbara Sanfilippo
In Memory of John & Geraldine Wheaton
In Memory of Mary C. Sanfilippo

Michael & BJ Dursse
Michael &. BJ Dursse
Abouna
Helen & Billy Rouch
Deacon Joe Sanfilippo
Deacon Joe Sanfilippo
Deacon Joe Sanfilippo



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>

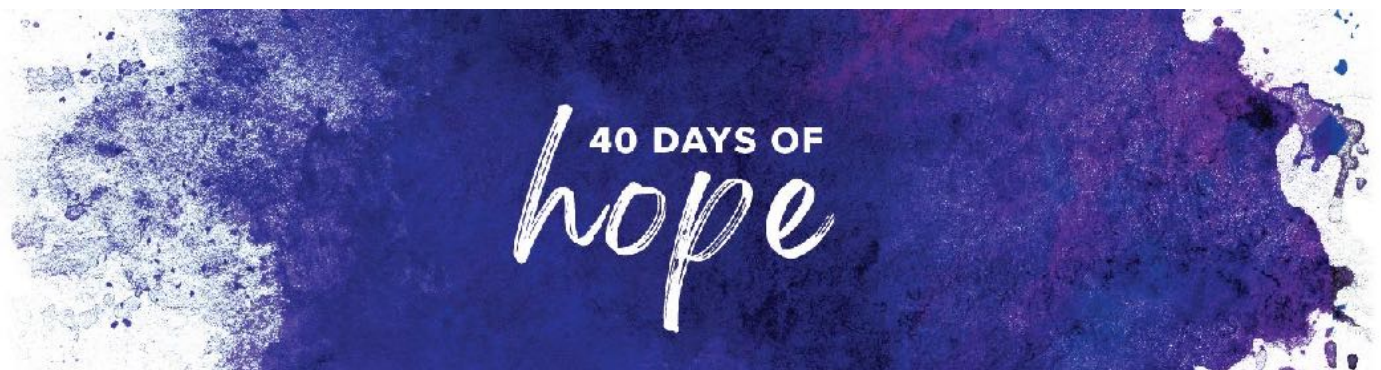
Saint Rafka Food Pantry

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



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.

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.

Easter Flower Memorials

Help us purchase the flowers for Easter and member your loved ones on our Memorial List. Envelopes are in the back of the Church! Memorials can be accepted for Easter publication until Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025. Thank you for your kindness and generosity!



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Saint Rafka Council #15519

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



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