

Saint Rafka

Catholics of the East in the Upstate!



Season of Pentecost

14th Sunday of Pentecost

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

**Father Bartholomew
Leon**

Pastor

1215 S. Highway 14
Greer, SC 29650
864.469.9119

**Father Toni Jabbour,
OMM**

Parochial Vicar

1215 S. Highway 14
Greer, SC 29650
864.469.9119

OFFICE HOURS

10:00 AM - 4:30 PM,
Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday
10:00 AM - 2:30 PM,
Thursday and Friday

DIVINE LITURGIES

The Divine Liturgy is
celebrated on

Saturday,
12 PM, Arabic
4 PM Vigil
Sunday, 11 AM
7 PM

Tuesday, 10:00 AM
Wednesday, 7:00 PM
Thursday 10:00 AM
Friday, 10:00 AM

CONFESSIONS

Saturday, 3:15 PM
Sunday 10:15 AM
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
MRE Director
[Jessica Allen](#)

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](#)

Mary Anne Vicaro
Pasta Supper
[Mary Anne Vicaro](#)

Candice King-Palgut
Prayers and Squares
[Candice King-Palgut](#)

Greg Lepak
Scripture Study
[Greg Lepak](#)



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

864.288.1400

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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 secretary@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 blessing with the relic of Saint Sharbel. **(Suspended during Summer months)**

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

IN DEFENSE OF CHRISTIANS [IDE](#) 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

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone!

Therefore, you shall love the LORD, your God, with your whole heart, and with your whole being, and with your whole strength. Take to heart these words which I command you today.

Keep repeating them to your children. Recite them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you get up. Bind them on your arm as a sign and let them be as a pendant on your forehead. Write them on the doorposts of your houses and on your gates.

1 Thes. 2:1-13

For you yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our reception among you was not without effect. Rather, after we had suffered and been insolently treated, as you know, in Philippi, we drew courage through our God to speak to you the gospel of God with much struggle. Our exhortation was not from delusion or impure motives, nor did it work through deception. But as we were judged worthy by God to be entrusted with the gospel, that is how we speak, not as trying to please human beings, but rather God, who judges our hearts. Nor, indeed, did we ever appear with flattering speech, as you know, or with a pretext for greed—God is witness—nor did we seek praise from human beings, either from you or from others, although we were able to impose our weight as apostles of Christ. Rather, we were gentle among you, as a nursing mother cares for her children. With such affection for you, we were determined to share with you not only the gospel of God, but our very selves as well, so dearly beloved had you become to us. You recall, brothers, our toil and drudgery. Working night and day in order not to burden any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. You are witnesses, and so is God, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers. As you know, we treated each one of you as a father treats his children, exhorting and encouraging you and insisting that

you conduct yourselves as worthy of the God who calls you into his kingdom and glory. And for this reason we too give thanks to God unceasingly, that, in receiving the word of God from hearing us, you received not a human word but, as it truly is, the word of God, which is now at work in you who believe.

Luke 10:38-42

As they continued their journey he entered a village where a woman whose name was Martha welcomed him. She had a sister named Mary [who] sat beside the Lord at his feet listening to him speak. Martha, burdened with much serving, came to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me by myself to do the serving? Tell her to help me." The Lord said to her in reply, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her."

Our condolences to parishioner **Michelle Stadler** on the death of her mother, **Laone Hedwig Stadler**. Laone, 96 and her husband, **Jim Tanquary**, were married at Saint Rafka several years ago. Laone gifted the parish with the electric piano in Wickett Hall. May God be gracious to his servant Laone and may her memory be eternal.

Or condolences go out to **Margie Makowski-Seif** on the loss of her brother-in-law, **Ken Jadoweic**, husband of her sister **Denise** after a major surgery on Monday. May God be merciful to Ken and give peace to Denise and her family.

In your charity if you be so kind as to pray for the repose of the soul of **+Carleen Perry Allbritton**. Carleen was my first cousin, the daughter of my Aunt Mary Perry, my mother's youngest sister. Carleen died in her sleep on Sunday night. May God be merciful to Carleen and grant peace and strength to her grieving family.

Reflection

Hospitality is one of the coveted possessions of Middle Eastern culture. The very idea of being remarked as a good host is an honor, as the host diligently sees to their guests – and not offering something once, but often three or more times. Beyond being a characteristic of being Middle Eastern, hospitality is a fundamental value of Christianity, as St. Paul suggests (Hebrews. 13:12). And who could be a greater honor to receive as a guest than Christ, our Lord and God, as Martha and Mary receive Him in the Gospel this Sunday?

At our baptism, we are also honored with the indwelling of Christ to the humble abode of our body. As St. Paul says, “It is Christ who lives in me” (Gal. 2:20) and “Do you not know that you are God’s temple...?” (1 Cor. 3:16). By baptism we welcome Christ into our very selves, and He enters the place we prepare for Him regardless of the sneers of others. Just as when Christ visited Zaccheus the tax collector’s house (Luke 19), He did not listen to those who were questioning Christ for visiting a sinner. In fact, it was because Zaccheus was a sinner that Christ was even more pleased to visit Him because, as He said through the prophet Ezekiel, “For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live!” (Ez. 18:32). Should we not prepare, then, a house fitting for the visit of the King of Kings?

But why, then, was Martha corrected by Jesus when she was busy toiling to prepare things for Christ’s visit while Mary sat there entertaining Him? Certainly preparing food and tidying up is an important part of any visit of a guest. But Martha allowed her other cares to distract her from the fact that the King of Kings had come to visit. As our Lord told Martha, “You are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her” (Luke 10:41-42). Christ is not telling Martha to ignore the necessities of life – indeed, if she let the house fall in, there would be no house to have Christ as a guest. But she is

allowing other worries to ignore the most life-giving encounter she could possibly have with Life Himself.

We have been honored beyond our deserving with the visitation of our Lord in our bodies. How do we receive Him? Do we sit attentively at His feet as Mary did? Or do we allow the cares of this world to pull us this and that way, while we say that we are doing what is necessary now and we will give Christ a later time? As Christ Himself says, “But about that day or hour no one knows” (Matt. 24:36) so for all we know that later time we give Christ may never come. Placing Christ at the center of our lives is a life-long process, and not merely a box to check but an act of love. Just as we should not approach the amount of time we give our mothers, the Christian does not think “What is the least amount of time that I can give God and He will still love me?” God will always love us regardless of our acts – the amount of time we give Him in return is our response.

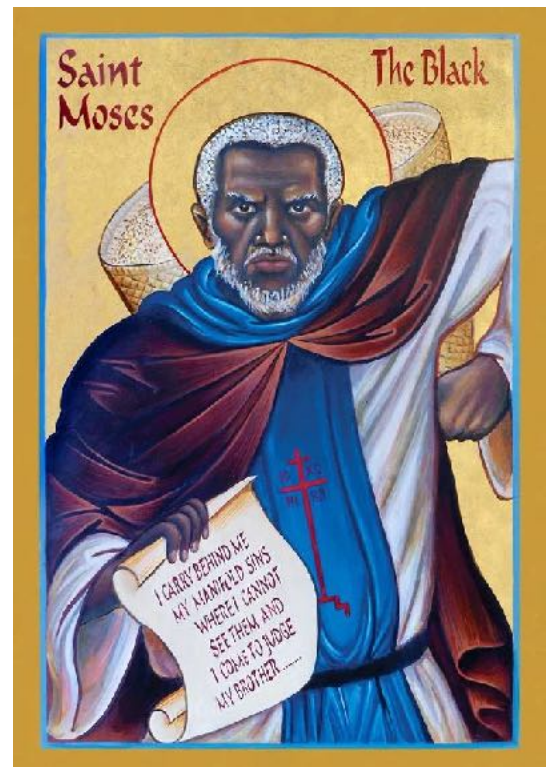
Father Michael Shami

Series I, © 2018

Saint Rafka Maronite

Catholic Church

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Church Offerings and Attendance

August 11, 2024		
12:00 Noon Saturday	15	\$58.00
4 PM	73	\$1285.00
11 AM	121	\$966.00
7:00 PM	49	\$655.00
Mail		\$800.00
PayPal/Electronic		\$145.00
Total	243	\$3,851.00
Budget	225	\$4,100.00
+/-	18	-\$249.00
Year to Date		\$136,820.00
Budget for year +/-		\$5,620.00
Building Fund		
4:00 PM		\$0.00
10 AM		\$0.00
7 PM		\$0.00
Total		\$0.00
Holy Hour		0
Holy Day		152
Funeral		0
2024 Totals		
4 PM		2790
11 AM		3636
7 PM		1391
Weekday Masses		3106
Holy Hour		193
Holy Day		423
Special Liturgy		117
Funerals		452
Weddings		60
Pasta Supper		246

Average Attendance

4 PM	11 AM	7 PM	Per Liturgy Average
87	114	43	81

Facts regarding our bulletin!

Bulletins emailed last weekend: 376 +
Percentage opened 62% +

Opened emails: 232 + Unopened emails: 144 -

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 +Curtis Ray Manning by his wife, Bernadette Mileski.**

To have flowers for a memorial of a loved one, please use the envelope provided at the entrance. Donation is \$50.00 per Sunday. **The Flowers this week are in Honor of Stephanie & Dave Johnson.**

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.



Business Owners: Sign Up!

Catholic Business Listings is an online listing of fellow parishioners who are also business owners, craftsmen, and farmers offering products and services for sale. Catholic Business Listings is FREE to use, and businesses only pay a small annual fee of \$120 to list their business.

Please consider subscribing and supporting your fellow Catholics. Thank you!



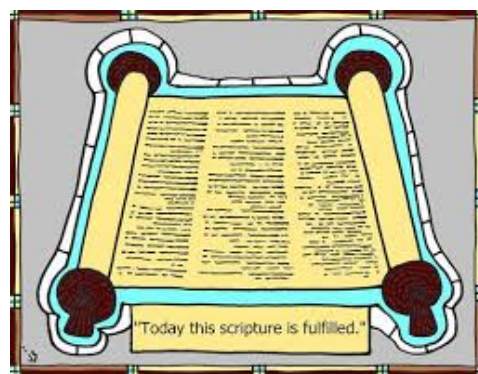
CATHOLIC
INFORMATION CENTER

<https://catholic.center/>



Liturgical Readings

Old Testament (English) Deuteronomy 6:4-9	Assigned at Mass
New Testament (Arabic) 1 Thes. 2:1-13	Assigned at Mass



Mass Intentions

August 17 - 18	14th Pentecost	
Saturday, 4 PM	+Jim McDonald	Dorothy McDonald
Sunday 11 AM	+Norma Nakad Sijon, 40 Day Memorial	David Sijon
Sunday, 11 AM (II)		
Sunday, 7:00 PM	Ryan Killough	Kristie Killough
Tuesday, 10:00 AM	+Clay Gompf	Theresa Barnett
Wednesday, 7:00 PM	Bill Leon, Sr., Birthday	Abouna
Thursday 10:00 AM	+Fred Dietrick & +Virginia Hausmon	Betty Fallet
Friday, 10:00 AM	+Martine Farge	Theresa Barnett
Saturday, 12:00 Noon	Damian Killough	Kristie Killough
August 24 - 25	15th Pentecost	
Saturday, 4 PM	+Saul Cohen	Ceil & Andy
Sunday 11 AM	+John Kloepper	Joe Sanfilippo
Sunday, 11 AM (II)		
Sunday, 7:00 PM	+Michael Cohen	Andy & Ceil
Tuesday, 10:00 AM	+Martine Farge	Theresa Barnett
Wednesday, 7:00 PM	Atticus Killough	Kristie Killough
Thursday 10:00 AM	Meghan, Caleb, Delan & Ivy	Bob Dowd
Friday, 10:00 AM	+Elaine Cohen	Ceil & Andy
Saturday, 12:00 Noon	+Clay Gompf	Theresa Barnett

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

A **Men's Breakfast** for all men of the parish, meeting with men from Prince of Peace Parish, and their friends are invited to join for breakfast and fellowship on the first Thursday of the month. The men gather at 8:00 AM. For more information for location, etc., call **Jack Stewart** at 864.787.7592.

Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
18 14th Pentecost 10:10 AM, Knights of Columbus Installation 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM Korean Mass 7 PM, Last Chance Mass	19	20 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow	21 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy	22 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	23 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	24 NO 12:00 PM, Arabic Mass 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy
25 15th Pentecost 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM, Syro-Malabar Liturgy 7 PM, Last Chance Mass	26	27 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow	28 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy	29 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	30 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	31 NO 12:00 PM, Arabic Mass 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy
September 1, 16 Pent 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy 3:00 PM, Holy Hour 5:00 PM Korean Mass 7 PM, Last Chance Mass	2 Labor Day	3 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow	4 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy	5 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	6 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy First Friday Devotions	7 NO 12:00 PM, Arabic Mass 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy
8 Birthday of Mary 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM, Syro-Malabar Liturgy 7 PM, Last Chance Mass	9	10 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow	11 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy	13 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	14 Holy Cross 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	15 NO 12:00 PM, Arabic Mass 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy



Catholics serving Catholics

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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

August

August 23, Saint Isaac the Syriac, Confessor
August 25, Saint Titus the Apostle, Martyr
August 27, Saint Biyameen the Hermit
August 28, Saint Moses the Ethiopian, Confessor
August 28, Saint Augustine
August 29, The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist
August 31, Saints Abda, Aegidius (Giles) and Zakhia (Victor), Martyrs

September

September 1, Saint Simon the Stylite
September 2, Saint Mamimas, Martyr
September 5, Saint Sharbel, Bishop of Edessa and His Sister, Confessors

Prayer List

Leslie Ziminsky, Tome Ziemetz, Dan Beckman, Lisa Bolt, Crysten Yammine, L. Stadler, Mary Killough, Thomas Sloan, Ciera D, Irene Ponce, 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, Leila Chebeir, Tammy Lopez, Anthony Fagiarone, 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, Nancy Georgion, Recovery of RS, Claire Barnett, Ethel Brassel, Katrina Shunk, George Vargo, Irma Galvan, Mary Cleary, Joe Lemire, Virginia LaFave, Nabeel Howard, Paul Cote and Family, Joan Bussemey, Joe Durham, Michael Bays, Patrick Lavelle, Tara Galvin, Susan Connor, Bill Hines, Beth

Birthdays

August

17, Blayne Sijon
19, Robert Smith
20, Afaf Sleiman
20, Scott Herr
21, Susan Newton
22, Maureen Abdalla
22, Bill Leon
23, Maria Garcia
24, Gaby Dibo
25, Sean El-Kik
26, Jason Saadeh
27, Sura Farah
27, John Howard

Anniversaries

August

25, Rich and Pat Washnock

September

1, Rony & Michelle Aazan
3, Richard and Linda Wickett
3, Nazar and Nawal Yacu
4, Patrick and Sobeth Raley
8, Fredy and Marie Feghali

Necrology

August

+Father Peter Boulos, August 19, 2013
+Oksana Stichw, August 26, 2018

September

+Sami Ghannam, September 3, 2010
+Lorraine Phillips, September 3, 2015
+Msgr. Ron Beshara, September 5, 2011
+Gasshan Eid, September 10, 2018
+Mary Jean Lawrence, September 10, 2022
+Catherine (Kitty) Francis Norman, September 15, 2015
+Most Reverend Francis M. Zayek, September 17, 2010

Important Dates to Remember

Golf Outing, September 16
Christmas Market, December 14 - 15
Marriage Enrichment Day of Reflection,
January 25
Hafli, February 22, 2025
Pastoral Visit of Bishop Gregory, March 15 -
16



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

Knights of Columbus Saint Rafka Council 15519, will host two special events this week and next. The first is this Sunday, August 18 at 10 AM with an Exemplification or joining of the members to the Order. Previously done behind closed doors, the Exemplification is now public and explicates the virtue of charity. The families and parish community have an opportunity to learn about the nature and work of the Order As the Knight continues to various degrees, each degree focuses on another virtue which leads the man on a path of holiness and service. We have a number of new candidates to enter the Knights this weekend and we encourage you to be with them before Mass this weekend.

Next Sunday - August 25 2024

Knights of Columbus Breakfast

After the 11:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Wickett Hall!

Free to all!



Pilgrimage

With Mary
Sing Alleluia
to the Lord

October 15 - 22, 2024



attend the
canonization of
**The Blessed
Massabki
Brothers**

Tour Includes
Rome • Vatican City
San Giovanni • Assisi

Package Includes
International full coverage insurance,
2-person room, bus transportation,
monument entrance fees, hotel breakfast

Package Prices: \$1900 / person
(airfare not included)

Limited seats available. Register by 8/31/2024

For more information,
contact Fr. Antoine Kairouz
abounaantoine13@gmail.com
724-732-4064



This trip is hosted by the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn.

Click here to view the [itinerary](#).

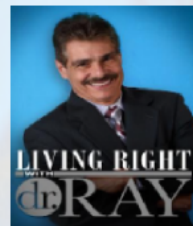
[Registration Form](#)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25 - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2024

12th Marian Eucharistic Conference

Featured Speakers

Fr. Larry Richard
Very Reverend Chris Alar, MIC
Fr. Roger J. Landry
Dr. Ray Guarendi
Fr. Christopher Smith, STD/PHD, KHS
Fr. Bart Leon, OSB



Registration

General Admission: \$125, Youth: 90

Registration required by Oct. 12 by mail.

Registration after Oct. 12: \$135

Friday dinner and Saturday lunch are

included. Friday dinner choice:
chicken or Cod. Parking is free.

For more information, call

(864)354-7160 or visit

<http://www.meconferencesc.net>

Greenville Convention Center | 1 Exposition Dr. | Greenville, SC 29607

Mary Dowden suffered a debilitating stroke on November 5, 2021 and she and husband Greg are in great need of having to add ramps, bars, etc. to their home as well as facing great medical bills. **Greg Dowden** has set up a [GoFund.Me page](#) for anyone who would wish to help with the great expenses involved.



You can also write a check to Saint Rafka for Mary Dowden. Thanks to all who have reached out. May God continue to heal Mary and bless each one who helps this loving family in their time of need.

Fundraising Opportunity for Mary Dowden

My sister, **Margaret Leon Kelly**, a Pampered Chef representative, is running a special promotion of products and 30% of the profits are going to our parishioner Mary Dowden. For more info or to purchase these wonderful kitchen items, go to [here](#).



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 **Bill Leon** at the church office. Thank you for sharing of your abundance with those less fortunate during this difficult period.



Maron's Vine

is a new initiative by the National Apostolates of Maronites (NAM) to connect members of the Maronite community with businesses, services, and products at the local and national level- building upon our age old tradition of uniting our friends and family with members of our community to meet their needs. It is our vision that through a NAM membership all will have access to Maron's Vine registry, while anyone who wishes to become a part of our registry can do so without limitation.

By filling out the following inquiry, you will help us better understand our community's interest in the Maron's Vine project. We appreciate your participation in connecting our greater community together.



Inquiry



We will serve
the Lord

Joshua 24:15

September 26, 2024

Charbel Raish

Charbel is married to Christine and they have been blessed with 8 children together. Charbel has a passion for helping people get closer to discovering the fullness of Truth and invites anyone who is willing & able to help him on this mission of evangelization through Parousia.



Kevin Bailey

Kevin's drive these days comes from Pope Francis' call in *Evangelii Gaudium* for Catholics to be disciples of Christ. "As lay Catholics, we've actually got to be real; we've got to be counter-cultural; we've got to differentiate; we've got to lay down our lives for something that's worth laying down our lives for."



Dr. Robert Haddad

Robert Haddad is a Catholic teacher, apologist, and evangelist who holds firmly to all the truths of the Catholic faith and wishes all to come to know, love, and live the Catholic faith.



Parousia USA 2024 Tour Speakers

September 26, 2024

Festival of Lebanon



Sponsored by
St. Stephen Maronite Catholic Church

Saturday September 30th

Free Admission

From 11 AM to 7PM

@ St Matthew Gym 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy, Charlotte NC 28277



Join us and enjoy tasty Lebanese food, live music, lottery raffle, fun kids' area, and many other raffle prizes. It's fantastic time for all the family!



Enter the lottery raffle for a chance to win

\$10,000

Only **200** Lottery tickets will be sold

Lottery ticket price: **\$100**

Grand Prize: \$10,000

Second Prize: \$1,000

Third Prize: \$500

....and **MUCH** more!

For more information

Primary #: (704) 412-1016

Secondary #: (704) 996-8585

Saintstephenmaronitechurch@gmail.com

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First Holy Communion Classes

The time for **Maronite Religious Education** (MRE) for First Holy Communion is upon us! Classes begin on Sunday, September 8 after Mass in the Francis House conference room. A total of fourteen (14) classes will be held before First Confession and First Holy Communion on April 27, 2025. To register your child, please email the parish office at saintrafkagreenville@gmail.com

Marriage Enrichment

A Marriage Enrichment Day of Reflection will be held on Saturday January 25, 2025. The Day of Reflection will be given by **Vivian Akel, LCSW** (Clinical Social Worker). Vivian is a Maronite Catholic from Brooklyn, NY, and the Safe Environment Coordinator for the Eparchy of Saint Maron. She brings many years of social work, pastoral counseling and theology along with a deep commitment to the Catholic Faith. The day will include talks, prayers and lunch.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!
MYA EPARCHY OF SAINT MARON

FALL CONFERENCE

Atlanta, GA

ENCOUNTER. EXPERIENCE.
ENGAGE. *Jesus in the Eucharist*



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