

# Saint Rafka

Catholics of the East in the Upstate!



## Announcement to Joseph Season of Announcement

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

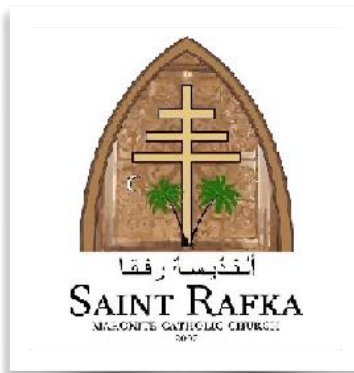
Saturday, 3:15 PM  
Sunday 10:15 AM  
6:30 PM

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**  
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.

**NEW!**

**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

Isaiah 11:1-9

But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, A spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD, and his delight shall be the fear of the LORD. Not by appearance shall he judge, nor by hearsay shall he decide, But he shall judge the poor with justice, and decided fairly for the land's afflicted. He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. Justice shall be the band around his waist, and faithfulness a belt upon his hips. Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat; The calf and the young lion shall browse together, with a little child to guide them. The cow and the bear shall graze, together their young shall lie down; the lion shall eat hay like the ox. The baby shall play by the viper's den, and the child lay his hand on the adder's lair. They shall not harm or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the LORD, as water covers the sea.

Rom. 1:1-12

Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised previously through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel about his Son, descended from David according to the flesh, but established as Son of God in power according to the spirit of holiness through resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him we have received the grace of apostleship, to bring about the obedience of faith, for the sake of his name, among all the Gentiles, among whom are you also, who are called to belong to Jesus Christ; to all the beloved of God in Rome, called to be holy. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. First, I give thanks to my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is heralded throughout the world. God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in

proclaiming the gospel of his Son, that I remember you constantly, always asking in my prayers that somehow by God's will I may at last find my way clear to come to you. For I long to see you, that I may share with you some spiritual gift so that you may be strengthened, that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by one another's faith, yours and mine.

Matt 1:1-17

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham became the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers. Judah became the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar. Perez became the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab. Amminadab became the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab. Boaz became the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth. Obed became the father of Jesse, Jesse the father of David the king. David became the father of Solomon, whose mother had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon became the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asaph, Asaph became the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, Joram the father of Uzziah. Uzziah became the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah. Hezekiah became the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amos, Amos the father of Josiah. Josiah became the father of Jechoniah and his brothers at the time of the Babylonian exile. After the Babylonian exile, Jechoniah became the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, Zerubbabel the father of Abiud. Abiud became the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor, Azor the father of Zadok. Zadok became the father of Achim, Achim the father of Eliud, Eliud the father of Eleazar. Eleazar became the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary. Of her was born Jesus who is called the Messiah. Thus the total number of generations from Abraham to David is fourteen generations; from David to the Babylonian exile, fourteen generations; from the Babylonian exile to the Messiah, fourteen generations.



## Reflection

On this Sunday we celebrate all the generations in the history of Israel that brought about the coming of the Lord – through faith – beginning with Abraham, and until Joseph the Father of Jesus.

In Matthew's Gospel, God's plan of salvation reflects the patience of God and his mercy towards our human nature, through both faith (trust and obedience), and sin (expressed in doubting). Saint Paul in his letter to the Romans reminds all nations – Jews and Greeks alike – how they have been included in God's saving plan. Now we all have become children of Abraham through faith like his own!

Our *Hoosoyo* this Sunday focuses on Christ, the *Eternally Begotten Son of God*, to be revealed as *the hidden mystery of God* to us and transfigured in God's proper time. Like the generations of the past – as a confirmation of our inclusion in this divine plan – the Church and her children now prepare for Christ's nativity – being eternally renewed and transfigured before us.

The *Qolo* and the *Mazmooro* hymns, dwell on the Cave of Bethlehem, where all creation has gathered to worship in wonder God's humble presence in their midst: *Emanuel* (*Hebrew: God among us*)! Like heaven, earth, has become God's dwelling place. All creatures now give praise to the Son of God who has become the Son of Man. He has made his nature one with ours; he has taken what is ours and made it his own. He has established his family with Mary and Joseph in our midst: the cribs in our churches reflect this so wonder-fully!

From now on both heavenly and earthly beings will stand forever stilled in awe at his gentle presence. Christ is our *Covenant of Grace* as we hand him down *from generation to generation*. He is carried by the angles and by the ark whose *two fiery wheels* are Joseph and Mary.

May the Wonder Child of Grace  
come to be your guest this Christmas!  
May you learn to open the doors  
of your hospitality forever wide!

**Steven Bonian, S.J.**

During the dark of night, as the Church prays in her Office of Vigils – *lilyo* – she concludes this lengthy series of prayers and hymns with a set of psalms known as the *teshboohito* in Syriac or the *sajdi* in Arabic –literally, the “praises.” This set of psalms (148-150) is a common part of Eastern Christian prayer. This set of psalms has at its core a central theme – the praise of God by all the things He has created: the sun, moon, stars, waters, earth, fire, hail rain, dew, mist, winds, mountains, hills, trees, beasts, tame animals, angels, saints, kings, rulers, old and young.

For centuries in parishes of the Maronite Church that might not have the ability to pray the lengthy midnight office before the Christmas liturgy, they preserved the practice of praying together these psalms before the liturgy. Like most Syriac hymnody, each verse is alternated between two groups. While one group is chanting a passage of the psalms, the other group is performing prostrations. This is a beautiful expression of Christian prayer – we simultaneously prostrate ourselves before God in our weakness, our sinfulness, and our humility and we stand boldly and with confidence before God to offer the praise and glory that is due to Him! These beautiful psalms exemplify a Christian understanding of the Incarnation and Christmas: because our God out of love for His creation chose of His own will to become man, He has reconciled Himself to all that He has made. As a result of this salvation and outpouring of humility and love on the part of our Creator, we, His creation, cry out with praise and glory – along with all of creation. We, along with the heavens and earth, skies and seas, fruits and trees, animals and beasts, angels, and saints, wonder at the Child of Wonder Who has come to visit His creation! Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

**Father Aaron Sandbothe**

# Abouna's Corner

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

The last Sunday before Christmas! It seems like yesterday we were having bar-b-ques and going to the lake. The Hallothankmas cease snuck up on us before we knew it!

The new weekend schedule beginning on January 4-5, 2025 will be:

Saturday Vigil Mass, 4:00 PM

Sunday Mass, 8:30 AM

Sunday Solemn Mass, 11:00 AM

Other Ritual Mass, 5:00 PM (Latin, Syro-Malabar, Ukrainian(?))

**Christmas Flower Memorials** are at the back of the church building. Memorials that have been received are listed further back in the bulletin. If you would like to donate for the Christmas Flowers and have your family and friends listed in the memorials, please make your donation in the envelope provided and drop it in the collection plate or give it to the ushers. Thank you in advance!

Remember to pray for those who are ill and suffering in our community. We have several with long-term illness and several in hospice at this time. Pray also for those family members who care for them. May God grant them the strength and courage to continue their ministry of care and compassion.

From the clergy and staff of Saint Rafka, may you have a holy and Grace-filled Christmas. May the peace and joy of Christmas be part of your lives every day of the new year! Merry Christmas!

Lastly, please remember I will never text you to "do me a favor" and get gift cards from Walmart, Target, etc. There are lots of scams involving the names of the local clergy and several parishioners have asked me if this particular text was fraudulent. THEY ARE!!!! IF I needed something, I would call you directly or talk to you in person, but I won't send out a text asking for money. Please be cautious!

Have a great weekend! See you in Church!

Ab. Bart

## From the Birthday Boys!

Dear St. Rafka Community Members

Thank you so very much for your truly great blessing bestowed upon me in celebration of my birthday. I wish I could thank each of you individually to express my gratitude for your thoughtfulness, prayers and support.

The Lord bless you and keep you, The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you, The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you PEACE.

Wishing you a most Blessed and Holy Christmas and 2025. Prayers and best wishes, Fr. Pat Cooper

My Dearest Parishioners, MANY thanks for all your birthday cards, texts and emails along with such generous gifts. May reward you for your kindness and generosity! Merry Christmas! Ab. Bart



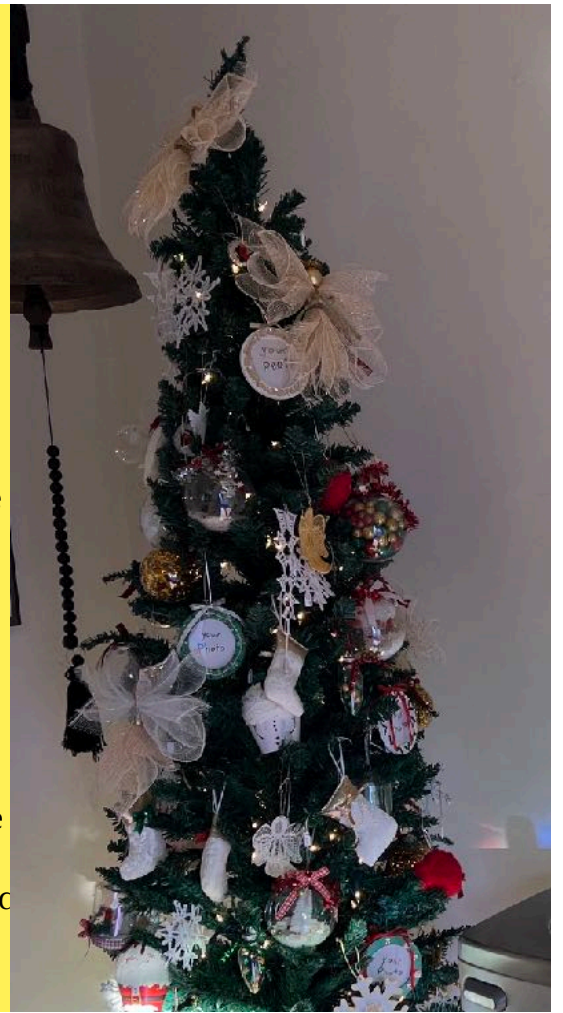
## Prayers and Squares

### Fundraiser A Giving Tree

A Christmas tree (right) has been set up in the Narthex of the Church. There are hundreds of hand made ornaments waiting for you. All you have to do is select the ornaments you want, leave your donation in the box, and take them home.

Ornaments make great keepsakes, they are the perfect little gift for your child's teacher, the mailman, or anyone you think should be remembered during the Christmas season.

It has been several years since we have needed to raise funds for the quilt ministry. God has been good to us, and we have gotten some incredible donations of fabric, and some amazing deals as well. But we need to buy batting( the center of the quilt), maintain machines, and we have worn out many of our cutting rulers. We ask that you support us as we continue our work of bringing comfort and the prayers of the church to those facing challenges in life. Thank you, from the quilt ladies!



## Christmas Liturgy Schedule

Tuesday, December 24, 4:00 PM Vigil Mass

Wednesday, December 25, 12:00 AM, Midnight Mass\*

Wednesday, December 25, 11:00 AM, Mass of Christmas Day

\*Don't ask me what time this starts!!!!





## Church Offerings and Attendance

December 8, 2024		
4 PM	84	\$1184.00
8:30 AM	27	\$501.00
11 AM	110	\$925.00
7:00 PM	25	\$950.00
Mail		\$650.00
PayPal/Electronic		\$10.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>\$4,220.00</b>
Budget	225	<b>\$4,100.00</b>
+/-	<b>21</b>	<b>\$120.00</b>
<b>Year to Date</b>		\$210,800.00
Budget for year +/-		<b>\$5,800.00</b>
<b>Second Collection</b>		
4:00 PM		\$0.00
8:30 AM		\$0.00
11:00 AM		\$0.00
7 PM		\$0.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>
Holy Hour		0
Funeral		0
<b>2024 Totals</b>		
4:00 PM		4122
8:300 AM		203
11 AM		5749
7 PM		2092
Weekday Masses		4741
Holy Hour		286
Holy Day		525
Special Liturgy		157
Funerals		452
Weddings		60

## Average Attendance

4 PM	8:30 AM	11 AM	7 PM
<b>82</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>42</b>

### Facts regarding our bulletin!

Bulletins emailed last weekend: 398+

Percentage opened 67% +

**Opened emails: 265 + Unopened emails: 133 -**

## 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.

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) Isaiah 11:1-9	<b>Dolly Dagher</b>
New Testament (English) Rom. 1:1-12	<b>Jessica Dagher Allen</b>



## Mass Intentions

<b>December 21 - 22</b>	<b>Genealogy</b>	
<b>Saturday, 4 PM</b>	<b>+Martimiano Valverde Quiterio</b>	Bilma V. Saiz
<b>Sunday, 8:30 AM</b>	<b>Anna Warner</b>	Ceil & Andy
<b>Sunday 11 AM</b>	<b>Cheryl Pace (L) &amp; +Erin Clark</b>	Slusz Family
<b>Sunday, 7:00 PM</b>	<b>+Martimiano V Quiterio</b>	Bilma V. Saiz
<b>Tuesday, 4 PM</b>	<b>Elaine Hermes</b>	Ceil & Andy
<b>Wednesday, 12:00 AM</b>	<b>Intenions of Parishioners</b>	
<b>Wednesday, 11:00 AM</b>	<b>Intentions of the Parishioners</b>	
<b>Thursday 9:00 AM</b>	<b>Holy Souls in Purgatory</b>	Marie Kidd
<b>Friday, 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Holy Souls in Purgatory</b>	Marie Kidd
<b>Saturday, 12:00 Noon</b>	<b>Holy Souls in Purgatory</b>	Marie Kidd
<b>December 28 - 29</b>	<b>Sunday of Christmas</b>	
<b>Saturday, 4 PM</b>	<b>+Paul Bentz</b>	Marie Bentz
<b>Sunday, 8:30 AM</b>	<b>Open</b>	
<b>Sunday 11:00 AM</b>	<b>Intentions of Father Toni</b>	
<b>Sunday, 7:00 PM</b>	<b>Holy Souls in Purgatory</b>	Marie Kidd
<b>Tuesday, 10:00 AM</b>	<b>+Fr. Robert Falabella</b>	Ceil & Andy
<b>2025 Wednesday, 11:00 AM</b>	<b>Tracey Mershon's Birthday (December 19)</b>	Kristie Killough
<b>Thursday 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Open</b>	
<b>Friday, 10:00 AM</b>	<b>+Martine Farge, 1st Anniversary</b>	Marcel Farge

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>22 Genealogy</b> 8:30 AM, Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM, Syro-Malabar Liturgy 7 PM, Last Chance Mass	23	24 4:00 PM Vigil Mass	<b>25 Christmas</b> 12:00 Midnight 11:00 AM Mass of the Day	26 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy  Baptism	27 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	28 12:00 PM Arabic Mass 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy
<b>29 Sunday of Christmas</b> 8:30 AM, Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy 7 PM, Last Chance Mass	30	31 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow	<b>January 1 Holy Day of Obligation</b> 11:00 AM Divine Liturgy	2 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	3 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy 1st Friday Devotions	4 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy
<b>5 Finding in Temple</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	<b>6 Epiphany Holy Day of Obligation Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM</b>	7 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow	8 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy	9 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	10 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	11 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy
<b>12 1st Epiphany</b> 8:30 AM, Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy 3:00 PM, Holy Hour 5:00 PM, Syro-Malabar Mass	13	14 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow	15 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy	16 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	17 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	18 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy



*Catholics serving Catholics*

[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

### December

December 25, Birth of Our Lord  
December 26, Praises of the Mother of God  
December 27, Saint Stephen, Protomartyr  
December 29, Martyrdom of the Children of Bethlehem (Holy Innocents)

### January

January 1, Saints Basil and Gregory, Doctors of the Church  
January 2, Pope Saint Silvester I  
January 3, Malachi the Prophet  
January 4, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Virgin-Confessor, American Saint  
Pope Saint Caius  
January 5, Saint Paul (Mar Boula), First Hermit

## Prayer List

Deacon Bob Smith, Richard Wickett, Anna Maria Portilla, Sandra Reece, Marcia Palmer, Mary Howard, Lisa Moman, Leslie Ziminsky, 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 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, Nancy Georgion, Recovery of RS, Claire Barnett, Ethel Brassel, Katrina Shunk, George Vargo, Irma Galvan, Mary Cleary, Joe Lemire, Virginia LaFave, Nabeel

## Birthdays

### December

22, Lana Zattam Corrente  
24, Dalida Meehan  
25, Louei Nmair  
25, Elias Saadeh  
26, Brian Smith  
26, Luke Allen  
27, Lily Hage  
27, Cissy Vargas  
28, Shea Gabriel  
29, Josephine Hana  
30, Elizabeth Fallat  
31, Danielle Lloyd  
31, Lazim Kasir

## Anniversaries

### No Anniversaries noted in January

### February

9, Billy and Helen Rouch  
10, Bassam & Suhair Nmair  
16, Tony and Marie Kidd

## Necrology

### December

+Mary Anne McAfee, December 21, 2020  
+Barbara A. Sanfilippo, December 22, 2020  
+Faye G. Tadross, December 26, 2006  
+James (Boo) Francis, Sr., December 26, 2020

### January

+Charles W. Dusthimer, January 2, 2020  
+Philip Joseph Howard, Jr., January 7, 2007  
+Margaret "Margie" Baranski, January 18, 2024

### Important Dates to Remember

Children's Christmas Party, December 22  
Directory Photos, January 17 & 18  
Fast of Nineveh, January 21 - 23  
Marriage Enrichment Day of Reflection, January 25  
*Hafli*, February 22, 2025  
Pastoral Visit of Bishop Gregory, March 15-16

## Christmas Flower Memorials

Members of Paw & Brouillet Families	Joann & Serge
Living & Deceased Members of Marie Bentz Family	Marie Bentz
Paul R. Bussemey	Joan Bussemey
William M. Englert, Jr. +	Eileen L. Howard
Peter Lagosky Family +	Eileen L. Howard
Richard Anthony Kalata +	Kalata, Wickett & Wilson Families
Anthony Joseph Kalata, Jr.	Kalata, Wickett & Wilson Families
Dolores, George & George II Harvey	Kalata, Wickett & Wilson Families
Helen, Alfred & Henry Wickett	Kalata, Wickett & Wilson Families
Catherine & Anthony Kalata, Sr.	Kalata, Wickett & Wilson Families
Hartsel & Betty Wilson	Kalata, Wickett & Wilson Families
Captain Joseph E. & Margaret W. Leon	Abouna
Our Parents	Ken & Annie Migut
Curtis Ray Manning	Bernadette Mileski
Stanley & Sophie Mileski	Bernadette Mileski
Peggy & Donald Shunk	Bernadette Mileski
Stanley E. Mileski	Bernadette Mileski
Felix & Martha Krasinski	Bernadette Mileski
Frank & Mary Mileski	Bernadette Mileski
Lillian & Anthony DeLuca	Helen & Billy Rouch
Lucille Vacchiano	Helen & Billy Rouch
Camille Ward	Helen & Billy Rouch
Patricia Farren	Michael & Kerrie Sijon
Alex LaBier	Michael & Kerrie Sijon

**There is still room for your Memorial here.**

## Special Announcements

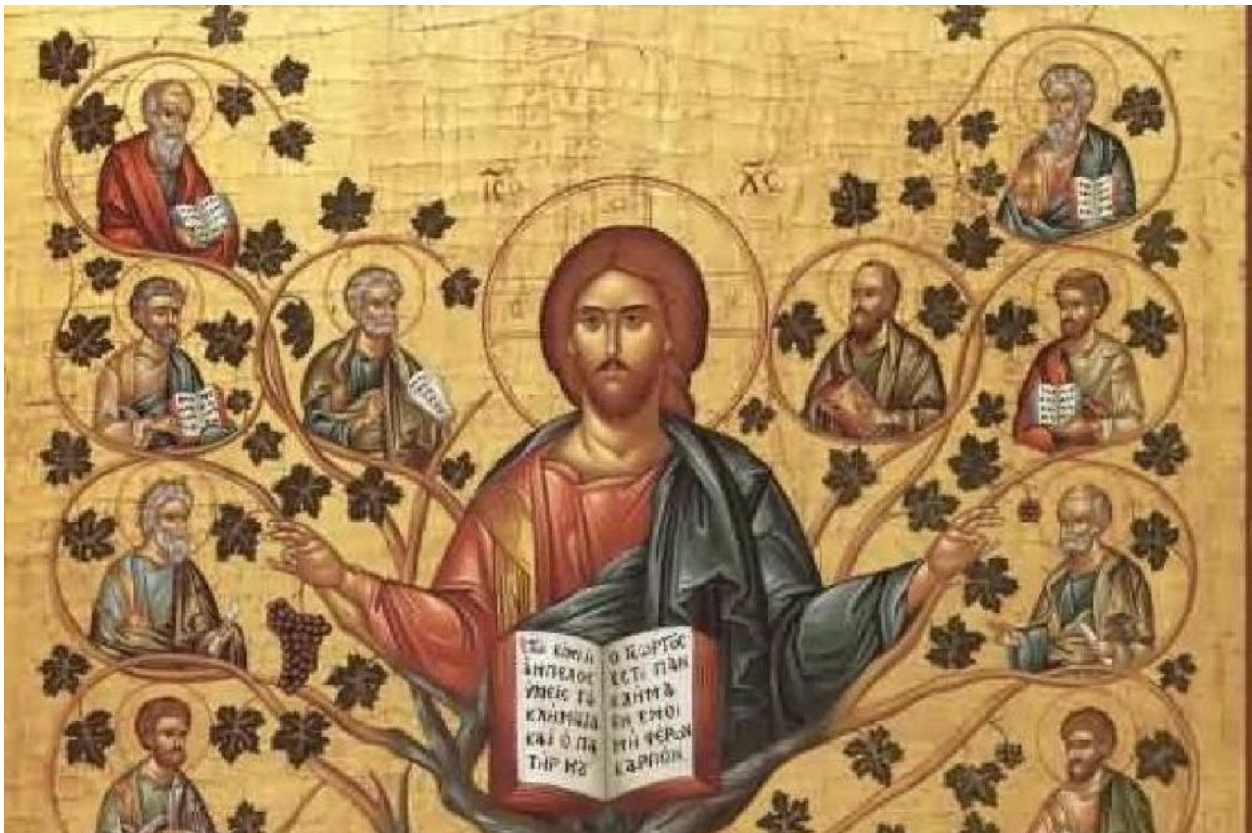
### MRE - Maronite Religious Education Classes

Our thanks to **Jessica Dagher Allen** preparing our children for First Holy Communion and to **Lisa Advent** and assistants for teaching our other children in our religious education program. Below is the schedule of classes for this “academic” year. Classes meet after the 11 AM Divine Liturgy.

**December 22**, January 12, January 26, February 9, February 23, March 9. First Confessions, Practice, etc. to be announced.

## 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.





## **Part-Time Parish Business Operations Manager Position Available**

St. Edmund Campion Catholic Church in Flat Rock, NC, is looking for a part time Business Operations Manager. This position is responsible for overseeing the business and financial affairs of St. Edmund Campion Catholic Church, including management of all parish facilities. Under the direction of the parish priest, they will assist with the development and implementation of organizational strategies, policies and practices and exercise careful stewardship of parish financial, capital and personnel resources. The position will have key volunteers and staff reporting to them. The Business Operations Manager must be an effective communicator, working with parish staff and volunteers as well as the diocesan staff. Business/bookkeeping and management experience required. They must be computer literate and willing to learn diocese-specific financial software. This is a part-time position, reporting to the pastor. They are expected to work in the parish office at least one day/week. All other work can be done remotely. Interested parties should forward their resume to: Fr. Joshua Johnson, [fr.joshua.johnson@ordinariate.net](mailto:fr.joshua.johnson@ordinariate.net) no later than Monday, January 13th.

### **About St. Edmund Campion Catholic Church**

Founded in 2023, St. Edmund Campion Catholic Church is a Roman Catholic parish of the [Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter](#), a diocesan-like structure established through Pope Benedict XVI's apostolic constitution [Anglicanorum coetibus](#). The Ordinariate's cathedral is in Houston, TX and is led by Bishop Steven Lopes. The primary mission of the Ordinariate of the Chair of Saint Peter is evangelization. Through the reverence and beauty of our worship, study of sacred Scripture and charity for those in need, we desire to share the joy of being Roman Catholic! St. Edmund's is led by Fr. Joshua Johnson, its founding pastor. You can learn more about the parish at: [SaintEdmundCampion.com](http://SaintEdmundCampion.com)

**Church Directory**

**Photos**

**January 17 & 18**

**More to come!**



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## Pink & Blue Gala

Friday, February 21, 2025

Discounted Early Bird Tickets on sale until Dec. 15th!

Our gala will be held at the lakeside Fluor Enterprises dining venue in Greenville starting at 6:00pm. You are invited to join us for a Mardi Gras themed evening with fine dining and a live and silent auction.

Our guest speakers will include Bishop Jacques Fabre-Jeune, CS and Fr. Rhett Williams!



*Find out more here!*

We can't host a successful event without your help! If you are interested in sponsoring or have auction items to donate, scan QR code or visit [stclareshomesc.org/pink-blue-gala](http://stclareshomesc.org/pink-blue-gala).



Contact Colleen Chmiel for Questions  
[Stclaresvolunteer@charlestdiocese.org](mailto:Stclaresvolunteer@charlestdiocese.org)  
843-259-1108

*February 22nd  
2025*



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MARONITE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Hafli*

*Presents*



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*Maestro Elias*

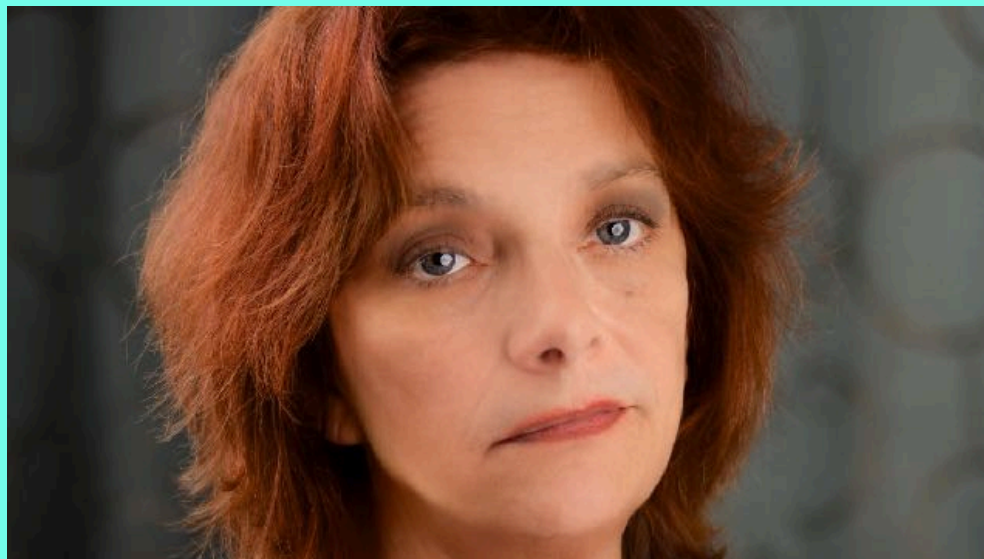
*Karim Jaber*

*Hyatt Regency Greenville*

*Address: 220 N Main St, Greenville, SC 29601*



**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.



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**Saint Rafka Council #15519**

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



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