

# Saint Rafka

Catholics of the East in the Upstate!



## Sunday of Christmas - Flight into Egypt Massacre of the Children of Bethlehem

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

I Kings 3:5-7, 9-12, 14

In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream at night. God said: Whatever you ask I shall give you. Solomon answered: "You have shown great kindness to your servant, David my father, because he walked before you with fidelity, justice, and an upright heart; and you have continued this great kindness toward him today, giving him a son to sit upon his throne. Now, LORD, my God, you have made me, your servant, king to succeed David my father; but I am a mere youth, not knowing at all how to act. Give your servant, therefore, a listening heart to judge your people and to distinguish between good and evil. For who is able to give judgment for this vast people of yours?" The Lord was pleased by Solomon's request. So God said to him: Because you asked for this—you did not ask for a long life for yourself, nor for riches, nor for the life of your enemies—but you asked for discernment to know what is right—I now do as you request. I give you a heart so wise and discerning that there has never been anyone like you until now, nor after you will there be anyone to equal you. And if you walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and commandments, as David your father did, I will give you a long life.

Hebrews 11:23-31

By faith Moses was hidden by his parents for three months after his birth, because they saw that he was a beautiful child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict. By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter; he chose to be ill-treated along with the people of God rather than enjoy the fleeting pleasure of sin. He considered the reproach of the Anointed greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the recompense. By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's fury, for he persevered as if seeing the one who is invisible. By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them. By faith they crossed the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted it they

were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell after being encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the harlot did not perish with the disobedient, for she had received the spies in peace.

Matthew 3:13-18

When they had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt,\* and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him." Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod, that what the Lord had said through the prophet might be fulfilled, "Out of Egypt I called my son." When Herod realized that he had been deceived by the magi, he became furious. He ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had ascertained from the magi. Then was fulfilled what had been said through Jeremiah the prophet:

"A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children, and she would not be consoled, since they were no more."



## Reflection

Today we are looking through the lens of St. Luke's Gospel at yet another icon of the Holy Family. This Lukan portrait of young Jesus carries with it elements of both Christian peace and tension.

At the temple, we get the sense that Jesus (*Yeshua*), is an exceptional child as he argues with the wise teachers. He is specially gifted for his age in intelligence, wisdom, and yet also, he is rebellious and non-conformist. In some ways Jesus is a typical young teen with emerging independent qualities. He has already begun to depart some ways from his family – this is expressed in him not following on the trail back with Joseph, Mary, and the others – but staying behind in Jerusalem.

We might also get the sense from this Gospel of Luke that there are occasional tensions in the Holy Family – Jesus is not an easy child for his parents. At the high point of his argument with his mother he lets her know that he belongs to a higher parent to whom he holds greater



obedience! Mary, humbly listens with an open mind and heart, wondering what this all means, and what God has in plan this growing son of hers.

Our prayers this Sunday reflect the wisdom of the Syrian Fathers of our Church as they contemplate these Gospel mysteries. The *Hoosoyo* prayers ask Christ Jesus to teach us his ways – that we too, may choose wisely in all things and follow always his commandment of love in true obedience to God our Father – who loves humanity and fills us with his light.

And like Jesus, who follows the one true way, our Church Fathers, also ask for themselves and their children, that in all things we may follow the one true way, and never veer off from it. They ask the Lord to let his Gospel be “a beacon and light and harbor” for his Church and her children: “Let our hearts know true happiness, which is based on pleasing you and doing your will”.

Let us therefore be attentive, like Mary, in all that we say and do as we journey-on the way with Christ; that in all our actions, the true light of Christ's Gospel – the Word and will of the Father – may shine forth in our world. And that with us, and through us, Christ, may be known as the ever-flowing grace and compassion of God – the Heavenly Father of all people.

O Jesus, born from David's daughter, fill us with the light of your wisdom and your grace!

**Steven Bonian, S.J.**

# Abouna's Corner

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Merry and holy Christmas to all!

As I mentioned in my Christmas homily, our grand celebration of Christmas is that the Word became Flesh and dwelt among us. Most of the music we hear and the ads we see all have to do with Santa, Elves and trees. Christians revel in the birth of Our Lord in time and flesh. These twelve (12) days of Christmas are days for us to remember God coming to save His people and to prepare for the crowning moment of the Theophany or Epiphany. The Holy Trinity is revealed to us as Christ rises out of the waters of the Jordan River. These days are celebrations of mystery and Grace. Keep up the tree, continue to wish everyone "Merry Christmas!" Be countercultural! Rejoice! The Lord is born. The Word was made flesh and dwells among us!

As previously announced, this is Father Toni's last weekend with us. [Saint Anthony Maronite Catholic Church](#), Glen Allen, VA, will be his new home and assignment. I cannot thank him enough for his gentle presence among us. He was a great help to our parish community and to me during his two years with us. I admired Father's willingness to serve away from his home country, to learn a new language and to minister in a Maronite Church so different from those in Lebanon. Father learned quickly that Church and State are not one and that Maronites are the minority among the Catholic world of the United States. Saint Rafka is typical of most of our churches in that we are mixed by nationality, language and customs. Each parish has its own particular style, musical interpretation and unique parishioners. We are a smaller parish and Saint Anthony is much larger and older community. Father Toni will now get to experience Maronite life in another community that is similar yet uniquely different than Saint Rafka. Pray for Father Toni in his new assignment and transition. He will always be loved and remembered in this community!

Remember that we will have a light reception for Father Toni after the 4 PM Mass on Saturday and a Pot Luck Luncheon on Sunday after the 11 AM Mass. What to bring is below!

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** that have been received are listed further back in the bulletin. Thank you for your kindness and generosity for the beautiful Christmas decor.

Have a great weekend! See you in Church!

Ab. Bart

## Father Toni Potluck Luncheon

Meats/Mains	Sides/Salads	Desserts/Sweets
S - Z	A - I	J - R

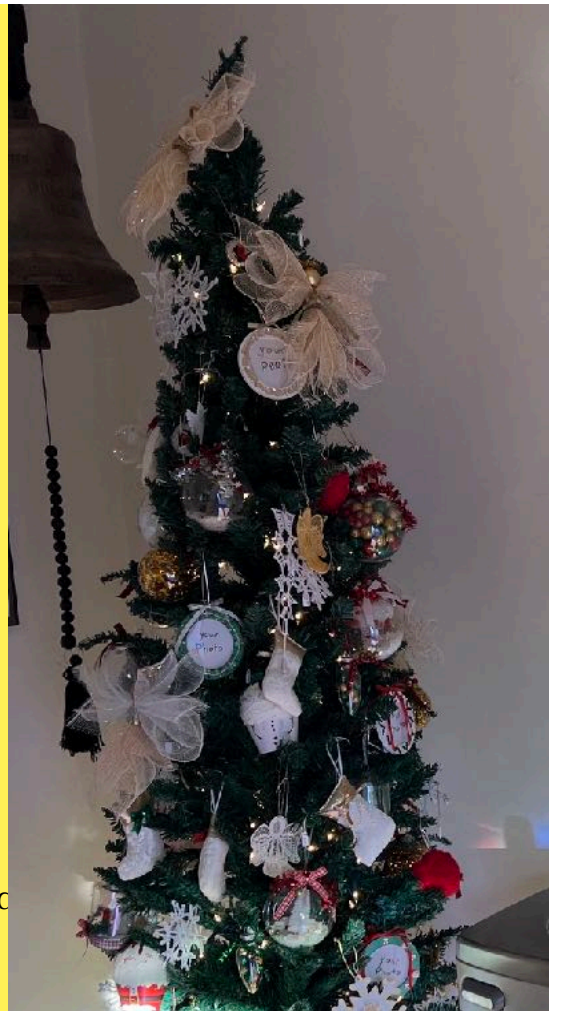
## Prayers and Squares

### 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!



Join us for our 4th Annual

## Pink & Blue Gala

Fluor Dining Venue • FEB. 21, 2025 • 6:00pm

Discounted Early Bird Tickets on sale until Jan 15th!

You are invited to join us for a Mardi Gras themed evening with fine dining, an open bar, and a live and silent auction.

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



*Find out  
more here!*



We can't host a successful event without your help! Please consider becoming a sponsor today! Scan QR code or visit [stclareshomesc.org/pink-blue-gala](http://stclareshomesc.org/pink-blue-gala).



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

## Church Offerings and Attendance

December 22, 2024		
4 PM	76	\$1073.00
8:30 AM	24	\$299.00
11 AM	124	\$1498.00
7:00 PM	20	\$110.00
Mail		\$280.00
PayPal/Electronic		\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>\$3,260.00</b>
Budget	225	<b>\$4,100.00</b>
+/-	<b>19</b>	<b>-\$840.00</b>
<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>Totals next week!</b>	
Budget for year +/-		
<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		4198
8:300 AM		227
11 AM		5875
7 PM		2112
Weekday Masses		4875
Holy Hour		286
Holy Day		595
Special Liturgy		157
Funerals		452
Weddings		60

## Average Attendance

4 PM	8:30 AM	11 AM	7 PM
<b>82</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>41</b>

### Facts regarding our bulletin!

Bulletins emailed last weekend: 398

Percentage opened 66% -

**Opened emails: 262 - Unopened emails: 136 +**

## 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.



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INFORMATION CENTER

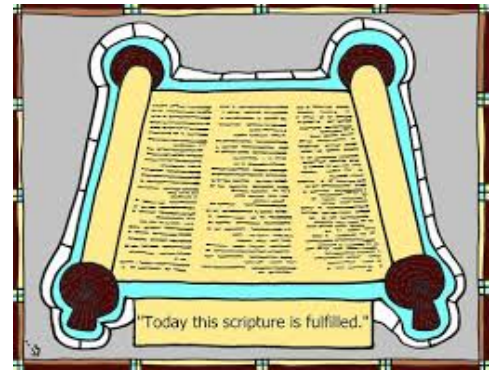
<https://catholic.center/>





## Liturgical Readings

Old Testament (English) I Kings 3:5-7, 9-12, 14	<b>Mabel Illidge</b>
New Testament (Arabic) Hebrews 11:23-31	<b>Mouna Ayoub Ashi</b>



## Mass Intentions

<b>December 28 - 29</b>	<b>Flight into Egypt/Holy Innocents</b>	
<b>Saturday, 4 PM</b>	<b>+Paul Bentz</b>	Marie Bentz
<b>Sunday, 8:30 AM</b>	<b>Aborted Children of America</b>	
<b>Sunday 11 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>Wednesday, 11:00 AM Jan 1</b>	<b>Tracey Mershon's Birthday (December 19)</b>	Kristie Killough
<b>Thursday 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Holy Souls in Purgatory</b>	Barb Mytych
<b>Friday, 10:00 AM</b>	<b>+Martine Farge, 1st Anniversary</b>	Marcel Farge
<b>January 4 - 5</b>	<b>Finding in the Temple</b>	
<b>Saturday, 4 PM</b>	<b>+Tommy Halley</b>	Joan Bussemey
<b>Sunday, 8:30 AM</b>	<b>Greg Mytych</b>	Barb Mytych
<b>Sunday 11:00 AM</b>	<b>Joan Leonard</b>	Deacon Joe Sanfilippo
<b>Monday, 7:00 PM Epiphany</b>	<b>Intentions of the Parishioners</b>	
<b>Tuesday, 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Mytych Family</b>	Barb Mytych
<b>Wednesday, 7:00 PM</b>	<b>Freddie Farge + Birthday</b>	Marcel Farge
<b>Thursday 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Young Adult Catholic Group - Spartanburg</b>	Barb Mytych
<b>Friday, 10:00 AM</b>	<b>+Max Drier</b>	Ceil & Andy

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>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 12:00 PM Funeral Mass	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 Directory Photo Shoot	18 Directory Photo Shoot 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy
<b>19 2nd Epiphany</b> 8:30 AM, Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM, Korean Mass	20	21 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow	22 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy	23 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	24 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	25 Marriage Enrichment 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy



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 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 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

January 5, Saint John Neuman, Bishop, American Saint

## Prayer List

Pat Moore, 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

29, Josephine Hana

30, Elizabeth Fallat

31, Danielle Lloyd

31, Lazim Kasir

### January

1, Eleesa Jacob

5, Marcel Farge

6, Joelle Pierre Maalouf

6, Bud Cheshire

6, Frank Vargas

7, B J Dursse

8, Roy Araujo

8, Gabriel Sijon

9, Charles (Chuck) Wilson

10, Jamin Zattam

## Anniversaries

### No Anniversaries noted in January

### February

9, Billy and Helen Rouch

10, Bassam & Suhair Nmair

16, Tony and Marie Kidd

## Necrology

### January

+Charles W. Dusthimer, January 2, 2020

+Philip Joseph Howard, Jr., January 7, 2007

+Margaret "Margie" Baranski, January 18, 2024

+Evelyn Ghannam, January 20, 2010

+Thomas Halley, January 21, 2021

+Leroy J. Howard, January 25, 2023

+Michel Hanna Saade, January 26, 2024

+Joseph R. Shaluly, Sr., January 27, 2021

### Important Dates to Remember

Circumcision (New Year's Day) **Holy Day**

Epiphany, January 6, **Holy Day**

Directory Photos, January 17 & 18

Fast of Nineveh, January 21 - 23

Marriage Enrichment Day of Reflection, January 25

*Hafli*, February 22, 2025

## 2004 Christmas Flower Memorials

Living & Deceased Members of Marie Bentz Family	Marie Bentz
Paul R. Bussemey	Joan Bussemey
Wade & Jeannette Howard	Nabeel Howard & Sandra Reece
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 Bart
Dr. Joseph W. & Gloria T. Lepak	Greg & Mary Anne Lepak
Dr. William E, Sr. & Rosalie Rabil	Greg & Mary Anne Lepak
Evelyn D. Ragland	Greg & Mary Anne Lepak
Anies Daye	Greg & Mary Anne Lepak
Joseph & Margaret D. Attayek	Greg & Mary Anne Lepak
Bob Daye	Greg & Mary Anne Lepak
Jim Daye	Greg & Mary Anne Lepak
Jojo Attayek	Greg & Mary Anne Lepak
Tommy Daye	Greg & Mary Anne Lepak
Greg Daye	Greg & Mary Anne Lepak
Eddy Newman	Greg & Mary Anne Lepak
Judy Freeman	Greg & Mary Anne Lepak
Melville & Eleanora Mumme	Greg & Mary Anne Lepak
Ed & Mary Moore	Greg & Mary Anne Lepak
Charles & Mary Ann Freeman	Greg & Mary Anne Lepak
Ernest & Beebe Rabil	Greg & Mary Anne Lepak
Mitch & Helen Rabil	Greg & Mary Anne Lepak
Leo & Jean Rabil	Greg & Mary Anne Lepak

## Christmas Memorials, continued

Lucille R. George	Greg & Mary Anne Lepak
Joseph Rabil	Greg & Mary Anne Lepak
Louis Rabil	Greg & Mary Anne Lepak
Fred Rabil	Greg & Mary Anne Lepak
Chorbishop Peter Rabil	Greg & Mary Anne Lepak
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
Members of Paw & Brouillet Families	Joann & Serge

**Thanks to all for your  
generous donations for  
the Christmas Flowers in  
Church in memory of  
your beloved relatives  
and friends.**



## 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.

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.

## Church Directory Photos January 17 & 18



**Arise** Mother/Tween  
Daughter Retreat

A CHANCE TO HANG OUT,  
TALK ABOUT SOME IMPORTANT  
GIRL MATTERS,  
AND MOST IMPORTANTLY:  
**HAVE FUN!**

Friday-Saturday  
Jan. 31- Feb. 1



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UNBREAKABLE.  
AND THEN WE BROKE.

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*February 22nd  
2025*



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*The Annual  
Hafli*

*Presents*



*Dj Khalil*

*Maestro Elias*

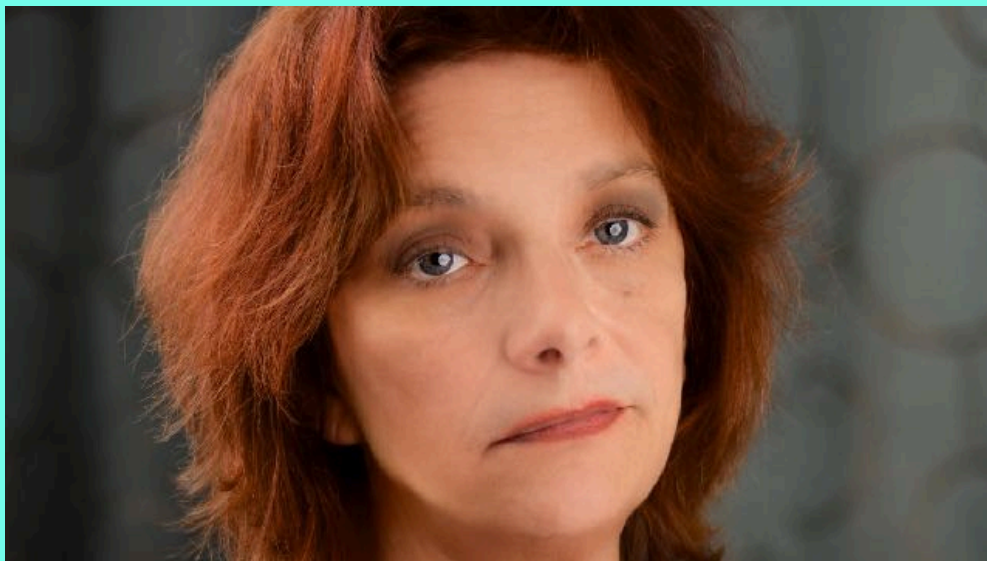
*Karim Jaber*

*Hyatt Regency Greenville*

*Address: 220c 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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