

# Saint Rafka

Catholics of the East in the Upstate!



## Visitation to Elizabeth 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 Amat**  
Organist  
[Sam Amat](#)

**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](#)

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



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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](mailto: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](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

2 Samuel 6:9-18

David became frightened of the LORD that day, and he said, "How can the ark of the LORD come to me?" So David was unwilling to take the ark of the LORD with him into the City of David. David deposited it instead at the house of Obededom the Gittite. The ark of the LORD remained in the house of Obededom the Gittite for three months, and the LORD blessed Obededom and all his household. When it was reported to King David that the LORD had blessed the household of Obededom and all that he possessed because of the ark of God, David went to bring up the ark of God from the house of Obededom into the City of David with joy. As soon as the bearers of the ark of the LORD had advanced six steps, he sacrificed an ox and a fatling. Then David came dancing before the LORD with abandon, girt with a linen ephod. David and all the house of Israel were bringing up the ark of the LORD with shouts of joy and sound of horn.

Eph. 1:1-14

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the holy ones who are [in Ephesus] faithful in Christ Jesus: grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens, as he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before him. In love he destined us for adoption to himself through Jesus Christ, 4

in accord with the favor of his will, for the praise of the glory of his grace that he granted us in the beloved. In him we have redemption by his blood, the forgiveness of transgressions, in accord with the riches of his grace that he lavished upon us. In all wisdom and insight, he has made known to us the mystery of his will in accord with his favor that he set forth in him<sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of times, to sum up all things in Christ, in heaven and on earth. In him we were also chosen, destined in accord with the purpose of the One who accomplishes all things according to the intention of his will, so that we might exist for the praise of his glory, we who first hoped in Christ. In him you also, who have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and have believed in him, were sealed with the promised holy Spirit, which is the first installment of our inheritance toward redemption as God's possession, to the praise of his glory.

Luke 1:39-45

**D**uring those days Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."





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# SAINT RAFKA'S CHRISTMAS MARKET

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Embrace the season's spirit and discover  
a treasure trove of unique handmade crafts,  
delightful treats, and festive joy

7 & 8 December

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**10:00 AM / 6:00 PM**

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**1215 SC-14 Greer, SC 29650  
United States**



## Reflection

On this Sunday of the *Season of Announcements*, we have a joyful celebration of our belonging to the divine fatherhood and motherhood of God in the Most Holy Trinity. The divine fatherhood is beautifully expressed by St. Paul in the image of the loving God, our Father, and his plan of salvation through his beloved Son Jesus. Saint Paul in this hymn of blessings – in his letter to the Ephesians – emphasizes the blessings of the Father that we have all received in Christ Jesus through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

In the Gospel, St. Luke, portrays for us the motherhood of the Holy Spirit who is about to give a new birth to the new creation – revealed in the holy pregnancies of Mary and Elizabeth. By God's grace both heaven and earth are pregnant now with Christ and the Holy Spirit! It is with this Spirit that both Mary and Elizabeth are filled and rejoice.

In our Syriac (Christian Aramaic) baptismal tradition, the *Holy Spirit* is often portrayed as the *divine mother* who gives life eternal to her children. In the Gospel Jesus reminds us that it is not enough to be born of our natural mothers alone but we need to be born anew by the Holy Spirit. (Jn3:6).

On this Sunday, the Church and her children, as on a contemplative pilgrim-journey travel with Mary on her way to Elizabeth, ascending to the mountain hills of Judea. At the start of the journey we hear sounds of praise and rejoicing in *Mary's song*: "My spirit rejoices in the Lord..God my savior", which in turn echoes the ancient song of Hanna (1Samuel:2), as well as the psalms, and the prophets. This has now become our song, for our journey!

In the first Qolo prayer, like Elizabeth (whose name means: God's fulfillment), we recognize Mary as the dwelling abode of divinity and call her "the new heaven filled with the glorious Sun", Christ the Lord! The Opening Prayer, welcomes the Lord – whom Elizabeth saw in Mary's eyes –

and who now comes to abide among us through the eyes of faith!

In the next prayer, Mary (her name Maryam in Hebrew means: Lord of the Sea) is called the new "temple" – in the waters of whose womb Christ concealed his power – and who now joins heaven with earth. Then, in the Sedro prayer, Mary's womb, becoming like the ark, carries Christ on this upward journey, and brings him to Elizabeth, confirming the salvation that she has anticipated by the miraculous birth of her son John.

As Mary ascends the hillsides of Judea, the Church is reminded of the mountains of the Lord where God dwelt in ancient times. As his people ascended the mountain to gaze upon him and worship him so now we are about to ascend to his altar, to receive *Christ* – the "*Fruit of the Virgin's womb!*"

Listen to the prayer of St. Ephrem:  
Fire and Holy Spirit in the womb  
that bore you.

Fire and Holy Spirit in our baptism.  
And in the Bread the Cup fire  
and Holy Spirit!

In the second Qolo, the Church continues to rejoice with Mary and Elizabeth along with the patriarchs and the prophets of old: for he has "remembered" his promises in his "mercy!" At the Etro prayer, the Church (with Mary and Elizabeth) having ascended to the summit now asks the Lord to establish his peace among her children, and with the faithful departed, as well as among all peoples and nations.

Finally, in the Mazmooro hymn, as we are about to hear (receive) the Word of God, we welcome Mary "the daughter of David and the Mother of the Lord" in whom all his promises has been fulfilled. And as she hands her son – the Word of God – over to us, through the priest who is about to proclaim the Gospel, we say to her and to her son: "To Bashlom / Come in Peace!"

May Mary's Peace, Christ, come to your home in this holy season; and may he remain always with you.

**Steven Bonian, S.J.**

# Abouna's Corner

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

If you like a bit of Arctic chill in the air, this is the weekend for you!

Happy Post Thanksgiving to all! The Divine Liturgy of Thanksgiving was well attended. I am always glad to see people taking the time to come to church on this day to give thanks to God for all their blessings. Enjoy the end of the holiday weekend!

If you overcooked for Thanksgiving, here is your perfect solution. Chop up the leftover turkey and veggies and make them into a new dish for the **Potluck Luncheon** this weekend. Join us for the Divine Liturgy and fellowship as we wrap up the Thanksgiving weekend.

It is also the weekend of the *Palmetto Bowl*. Clemson and South Carolina come together for the epic football game of the state. As you know, I never take sides in this rivalry as to not offend various community members. 🐾 Just pray that the right team wins! 🐾

Last Friday we had an absolutely beautiful recital, *Peace to the World*, by **Chantal Dagher**, accompanied by **Sam Alamat**. There was a great crowd that attended and the music in Arabic, English and Latin was absolutely spellbinding. Again, my sincerest thanks to Chantal and Sam for this beautiful night of prayerful song.

**UPDATED!** The **Christmas Schedule** has been finalized - again!. I received a number of comments, emails, texts and visits regarding the Midnight Mass. This seems to be very important to a lot of our parishioners. Therefore, the Christmas schedule for 2024 will be Vigil Mass at 4:00 PM on Christmas Eve, Midnight Mass at 12:00 AM and 11:00 AM on Christmas Day. All liturgies will be bi-lingual depending upon the congregants present.

Speaking of Christmas, **Christmas Flower Memorials** are now at the back of the church building. 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!

Have a great end to the holiday weekend! See you in Church!

Ab. Bart

## Potluck Luncheon What to Bring!

<b>A - I</b>	<b>J - S</b>	<b>T - Z</b>
<b>Meat &amp; Main</b>	<b>Sides &amp; Salads</b>	<b>Desserts</b>



## Church Offerings and Attendance

November 24, 2024		
4 PM	82	\$863.00
8:30 AM	34	\$629.00
11 AM	104	\$1163.00
7:00 PM	28	\$245.00
Mail		\$455.00
PayPal/Electronic		\$120.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>\$3,475.00</b>
Budget	225	<b>\$4,100.00</b>
+/-	<b>23</b>	<b>-\$625.00</b>
<b>Year to Date</b>		\$197,290.00
Budget for year +/-		<b>\$4,590.00</b>
<b>Second Collection</b>		
4:00 PM		\$0.00
8:30 AM		\$0.00
10 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		3897
8:300 AM		129
11 AM		5421
7 PM		2005
Weekday Masses		4539
Holy Hour		264
Holy Day		525
Special Liturgy		157
Funerals		452
Weddings		60

## Average Attendance

4 PM	8:30 AM	11 AM	7 PM
<b>83</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>43</b>

### Facts regarding our bulletin!

Bulletins emailed last weekend: 392 -  
Percentage opened 65%

**Opened emails: 255 - Unopened emails: 137 -**

## Masses, Sanctuary Lamp & Flowers

To have the Sanctuary Light for your relatives or intentions, please use the envelope provided at the entrance. Donation is \$5.00.

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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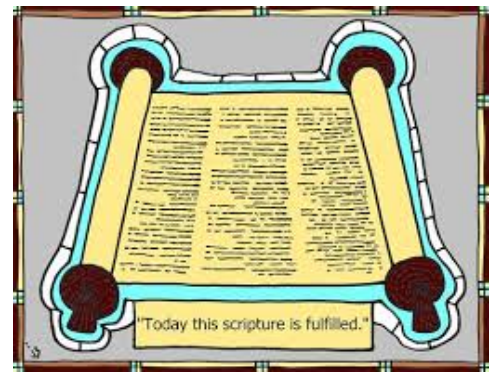
<https://catholic.center/>





## Liturgical Readings

Old Testament (English) 2 Samuel 6:9-18	<b>Michael Sandifer</b>
New Testament (Arabic) Eph. 1:1-14	<b>Aziz Arida</b>



## Mass Intentions

<b>November 30 - December 1</b>	<b>Visitation to Elizabeth</b>	
<b>Saturday, 4 PM</b>	<b>Mila Theresa Curley, Health</b>	Frank Mogavero & Fam
<b>Sunday, 8:30 AM</b>	<b>Intentions of the Parishioners</b>	
<b>Sunday 11 AM</b>	<b>Cheryl Pace (L) &amp; +Erin Clark</b>	Slusz Family
<b>Sunday, 7:00 PM</b>	<b>Open</b>	
<b>Tuesday, 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Open</b>	
<b>Wednesday, 7:00 PM</b>	<b>+Warren Herr</b>	Scott Herr
<b>Thursday 9:00 AM</b>	<b>Open</b>	
<b>Friday, 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Open</b>	
<b>Saturday, 12:00 Noon</b>	<b>Open</b>	
<b>December 7 - 8</b>	<b>Immaculate Conception (Birth of John the Baptist)</b>	
<b>Saturday, 4 PM</b>	<b>Bob (Birthday) &amp; Melissa Dowd and Family</b>	Bob Dowd
<b>Sunday, 8:30 AM</b>	<b>Open</b>	
<b>Sunday 11 AM</b>	<b>+Naomi Herr</b>	Scott Herr
<b>Sunday, 7:00 PM</b>	<b>Open</b>	
<b>Tuesday, 10:00 AM</b>	<b>+Ray LaPoint</b>	Catherine Jankowsky
<b>Wednesday, 7:00 PM</b>	<b>Living &amp; Deceased Friends &amp; Family</b>	
<b>Thursday 10:00 AM</b>	<b>+Paul Gonya</b>	Ceil & Andy
<b>Friday, 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Luz Gallardo</b>	Ciel & Andy
<b>Saturday, 12:00 Noon</b>	<b>Open</b>	

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>December 1 Visitation</b> 8:30 AM, Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy Pot Luck Luncheon 3:00 PM, Holy Hour 5:00 PM Korean Mass 7 PM, Last Chance Mass	2	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 12:00 PM Arabic Mass 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy
<b>December 8 Immaculate Conception</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	9	10 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow	11 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy	12 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	13 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	14 12:00 PM Arabic Mass 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy
<b>15 Joseph</b> 8:30 AM, Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM Korean Mass 7 PM, Last Chance Mass <b>CHRISTMAS NOVENA BEGINS</b>	16	17 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow	18 <b>DAY OF CONFESSIONS</b> 9 AM - 6:30 PM 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy	19 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	20 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	21 12:00 PM Arabic Mass 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy
<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	25 <b>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



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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

### November

November 30, Saint Andrew the Apostle

### December

December 4, Saint Barbara, Martyr (+235)

December 5, Saint Saba the Abbot of Jerusalem, Confessor (+532)

December 6, Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker, Confessor (+342)

December 8, Immaculate Conception

December 12, Saint Spyridon the Wonderworker, Confessor

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the USA

December 14, Saint Nemutallah Al-Hardini, Confessor (+1858)

## Prayer List

Richard Wickett, Anna Maria Portilla, Sandra Reece, Marcia Palmer, Mary Howard, Lisa Moman, 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

## Birthdays

### December

1, Fadi Seleem

2, Antoine "Tony" Sleiman (Younger)

3, Renee Nally

4, Richard Sleiman

5, Noelle Marie Coxey

5, Nasim Zattam

6, Joseph Abraham

7, Richard Washnock

9, Priscilla Watson

9, Helena Arida

10, Mimo Eid

10, Caeli Grace Sloan

11, Fawaz Askar

## Anniversaries

### December

1, Kathy and Chuck Wilson

1, David and Heather Sijon

3, Robert and Lama Haddad

7, Maher and Mona Qubti

7, Chris and Miroslava (Mika) Robinson

8, John and Joanna Davis

8, Roy and Catherine Araujo

14, Joseph and Tiffany Chebeir

## Necrology

### November

+Tala Howard, December 11, 2006

+Faye G. Tadross, December 26, 2006

+Bishop Stephen Hector Doueihy, December 17, 2014

+Mary Anne McAfee, December 21, 2020

+Barbara A. Sanfilippo, December 22, 2020

+James (Boo) Francis, Sr., December 26, 2020

### Important Dates to Remember

Christmas Market, December 7 - 8

Christmas Recital, December 13

Children's Christmas Party, December 22

Marriage Enrichment Day of Reflection, January 25

*Hafli*, February 22, 2025

Pastoral Visit of Bishop Gregory, March 15 -

## Christmas Flower Memorials



This is where the memorials  
will be listed.  
Get yours in today!

## Prayers and Squares

### Fundraiser A Giving Tree

We will set up a Christmas tree in the Narthex on December tenth. There will be 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!



## 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 8, 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.



*Blessed Are You*  
**MYO Eparchial  
Day Retreat**

All in Grades 7-12  
Encouraged to Attend

**\$30**  
PER PERSON

**Southern Region**

 **Saturday, December 7**  
11 AM - 7 PM

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Register online:  
[myoeparchystmaron.org](http://myoeparchystmaron.org)  
Registration Closes Nov 27





"I am the servant of  
the Lord." - Luke 1:38

COME & SEE  
November 29- December 1  
[maroniteservants.org](http://maroniteservants.org)

## Maronite Servants

The sisters are hosting our "Come and See" retreat weekend, November 29-December 1 at our Convent in Dartmouth MA for women (ages 18-39) who are interested and/or seeking to learn more about religious life.

Interested? Here is the link to register for those women interested: <https://forms.gle/1THACBiqQy655eui7>



# Advent Conference & Retreat



WITH GUEST CELEBRANT & PRESENTER:

FATHER AUGUSTINE PUCHNER, OPRAEM

*Saturday, 30 November from 8.30a-2p in Croghan Hall*

ALL ARE INVITED TO PREPARE FOR THE SEASON OF ADVENT BY JOINING  
US TO MEDITATE & REFLECT ON THE TIMELESS TRUTHS  
OF OUR CATHOLIC FAITH.

*This conference is facilitated by the Marian Catechists*

HOLY MASS AT 11.15  
RAFFLE TO CLOSE EVENT



*Attendance is free & open to all*

*Optional Bag Lunch, \$8 Cash  
Registration required by 23 November*

*Scan QR Code or Email [Michael.Sandifer@princeofpeaceaylors.org](mailto:Michael.Sandifer@princeofpeaceaylors.org)*

Join us for our 4th Annual

## *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@charlestandiocese.org](mailto:Stclaresvolunteer@charlestandiocese.org)  
**843-259-1108**

*February 22nd  
2025*



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MARONITE CATHOLIC CHURCH

*The Annual  
Hafli*

*Presents*



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*Maestro Elias*

*Karim Jaber*

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**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.

## Saint Rafka Food Pantry

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

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## 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

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**Saint Rafka Council #15519**

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



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