

# Saint Rafka

Catholics of the East in the Upstate!



## Sunday of the Faithful Departed Commemorations

Saint Rafka Maronite Catholic Church is a Parish of the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn. The Antiochene Syriac Maronite Church is one of over twenty Eastern and Oriental Catholic Churches in communion with the Bishop of Rome. Led by His Beatitude, **Bechara Boutros Rai**, Patriarch of Antioch and all the East in Berke, Lebanon, the Syro-Maronite Church has parishes and missions on six continents. Saint Rafka Parish was established as a mission in 2002. The community grew and flourished and was raised to the rank of parish in 2021.

**Most Rev. Gregory  
John Mansour**

**Bishop**

109 Remsen Street,  
Brooklyn, NY, 11201  
718.237.9913

[chancery@stmaron.org](mailto:chancery@stmaron.org)



**Father Bartholomew  
Leon**

**Pastor**

1215 S. Highway 14  
Greer, SC 29650  
864.469.9119

[bartleon@gmail.com](mailto:bartleon@gmail.com)

## OFFICE HOURS

10:00 AM - 4:30 PM  
Monday - Friday

## DIVINE LITURGIES

The Divine Liturgy is  
celebrated on

Saturday,  
4 PM Vigil  
Sunday, 8:30 AM  
11:00 AM  
Tuesday, 10:00 AM  
Wednesday, 7:00 PM  
Thursday 10:00 AM  
Friday, 10:00 AM  
Holy Days  
**As Announced**

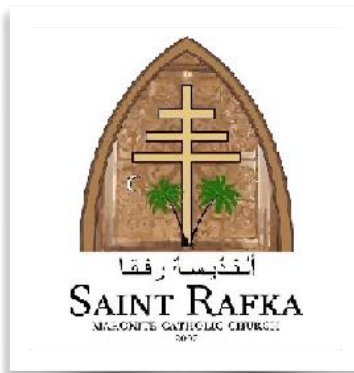
## CONFESSIONS

Saturday, 3:15 PM  
Sunday 10:15 AM  
Wednesday 6:30 PM  
Weekdays before  
liturgy as requested

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

Joseph Chebeir  
Paula Howard-Casby  
Tom Judge  
[Dee Kalata](#)  
[Ron Rossi, Sr.](#)  
Marlene Saad  
Richard Sleiman

**Joseph Chebeir**  
Financial Administrator  
864.469.9119  
[Joe Chebeir](#)



**Bill Leon**  
Secretary  
864.469.9119  
[Bill Leon](#)

**Sam Jordan Alamat**  
Organist  
[Sam Alamat](#)

**Nadia Najm**  
Choir Director  
**Scott Herr**  
Assistant Director  
[Nadia Najm](#)  
[Scott Herr](#)

**Jessica Dagher Allen**  
First Holy Communion  
[Jessica Allen](#)  
**Lisa Advent**  
MRE Students  
[Lisa Advent](#)

**Lisa Advent**  
MYO/MYA Leader  
[Lisa Advent](#)

**Knights of Columbus**  
**Jim Dyer**  
Grand Knight  
[Jim Dyer](#)

**Marlene Saad**  
Scripture Sharing  
[Marlene Saad](#)  
If Interested, Call  
864.580.1054

**Marie Kidd**  
Food Pantry  
[Marie Kidd](#)

**Hospitality Committee**  
[Marie Kidd](#)  
[Hannan Saade](#)  
[Mark Duffy](#)

**Bridget Nevin**  
Garden Club  
[Bridget Nevin](#)

**Candice King-Palgut**  
Prayers and Squares  
[Candice King-Palgut](#)  
Type to enter text

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

**Anthony Sloan**  
Men's Bible Study  
Monthly Meeting  
Email for details  
[Anthony Sloan](#)



**Trust In Us**

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

**864.288.1400**

**[priority1security.com](http://priority1security.com)**

## MASS INTENTIONS

Mass intentions are a good way to remember and pray for your loved ones, alive or deceased.

If you would like to request an intention please remember to submit your intentions for Liturgy ASAP by calling the parish office at 864.469.9119 or by email at [bill@saintrafka.org](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 sharing discussion following the Carmelite Way with Saint Therese of the Little Flower and Saint John of the Cross

**IN DEFENSE OF CHRISTIANS** [IDF](#) Individuals banning together help and make know the plight of the Christians in the Middle East and their suffering.

**SHRINE OF THE PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS** in the United States. [Video here](#).



## Scripture Readings

Ezekiel 37:1-10

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he led me out in the spirit of the LORD and set me in the center of the broad valley. It was filled with bones. He made me walk among them in every direction. So many lay on the surface of the valley! How dry they were! He asked me: Son of man, can these bones come back to life? "Lord GOD," I answered, "you alone know that." Then he said to me: Prophesy over these bones, and say to them: Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Listen! I will make breath enter you so you may come to life. I will put sinews on you, make flesh grow over you, cover you with skin, and put breath into you so you may come to life. Then you shall know that I am the LORD. I prophesied as I had been commanded. A sound started up, as I was prophesying, rattling like thunder. The bones came together, bone joining to bone. As I watched, sinews appeared on them, flesh grew over them, skin covered them on top, but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me: Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man! Say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: From the four winds come, O breath, and breathe into these slain that they may come to life. I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath entered them; they came to life and stood on their feet, a vast army.

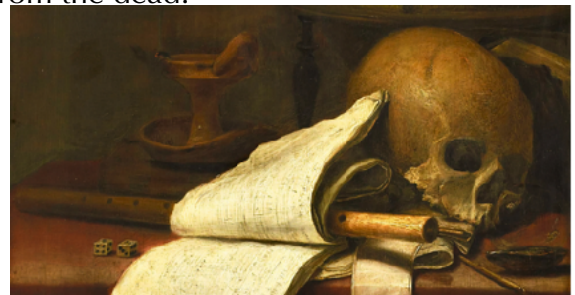
Thessalonians 5:1-11

Concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we

belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Luke 16:19-31

**T**here was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames." But Abraham said, "Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us." He said, "Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house for I have five brothers that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment." Abraham replied, "They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them." He said, "No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent." He said to him, "If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead."





## Reflection

This Sunday brings us to the third and final week of commemorations of the dead – the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed. We continue to pray that God have mercy upon the departed this week, specifically focusing on the average faithful who have died, such as our friends, siblings, parents, and grandparents. It pays to ask, though, what were they faithful to and what is the result if they are dead? Jesus Christ answers this, saying, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die” (John 11:25-26).

We implore the Lord this Sunday that He have mercy and grant rest to those who have “eaten Your body, drank Your blood and have fallen asleep in Your hope” – the hope of the eternal life that Christ promises. And Christ will certainly grant eternal life to those who were faithful to Him, as He Himself is life. He is the Lord of life Who created life in the beginning, and has willed to destroy death by His becoming man. As St. Paul said, “The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Cor. 15:57). Jesus Christ, Who is our immortal God and source of all life, united His divine life to our human mortality by becoming man that by dying He might destroy death. He joined His immortality to our mortality by becoming man, that death may not kill us if we cling to Him. By His dying, He – Life Himself, over Whom death has no power – went down to death to destroy it for those who follow Him. When Christ rose, He foreshadowed the life He offered to those who will also overcome death with Him at the end of time.

The resurrection of the dead is truly a real event. As a hymn verse from this Sunday recounts, Christ indicated the mystery of the resurrection multiple times throughout His life on earth: Through three dead persons Christ revealed to us the mystery of the Resurrection. In three places of His journey He made death without threat: the

daughter of Jairus in the house (Luke 8:49-56), the boy in the middle of the road (Luke 7:11-17) and Lazarus from the grave (John 11:1-44). Behold, in it were lain milestones of peace from beginning to end. (Trans. from the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed)

In these various situations worth reading and recounting, Christ restores to life those who died with faith to foreshadow the resurrection. Each reveal a lot about the resurrection. When Jairus, for instance, asks Jesus to help his sick daughter who died, He responds, “She is not dead but asleep” (Luke 8:52) and the crowd responded by laughing at Jesus for they knew she was dead. In the cleverness of this world, the crowd thought the girl was lost for good, but Jesus Christ, Who is the Lord of the living and the dead, knows that to whom He grants the resurrection death is only like a nap. That is why we say the faithful departed “sleep” in Christ’s hope – for when the resurrection occurs at the end of time, their death will only have been like a nap and they will live again. Likewise, we call them faithful “departed” (unlike those who go to hell, who are eternally “lost”) because they will one day return to life just as Christ did.

This Sunday let us implore the Lord to grant the faithful departed rest in His Kingdom, and the resurrection into new eternal life:  
O Lord, our Lord, Who delivered Yourself to the cross and tasted death for our salvation, raise and give life to the departed buried in Sheol for the sign of Your Lordship (i.e. baptism) is upon them, hallelujah! Through You may they have spiritual wings and enter with You into the bridal chamber of joys.

**Father Michael Shami**



# Abouna's Corner

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Greetings in the Lord!

What a rollercoaster ride of weather lately! Beautiful balmy days, snow, rain and more sunshine. We woke up Thursday to a light snow covered landscape and it was gone by 1 PM. That is what is so unique about South Carolina - don't like it, wait a minute!

This weekend we commemorate the Faithful Departed of all times and places. We ask God's mercy upon them and remember our own mortality. Candles remembering all who have died since the celebration of this feast last year are present in the sanctuary. The Book of the Dead for you to inscribe you loved ones for prayerful remembrance is also in the sanctuary. At the entrance to the Church, the complete video of the Necrology of the parish will play in place of Mass intentions, etc. May they rest in peace and may their memories be eternal!

The *Hafli* is this weekend. At publication time of the bulletin, it is yet to come on Saturday night. By Sunday morning, it will be history! To all who helped plan and execute this wonderful social and fund raising event, thank you! It is a tremendous amount of work to put on, but a wonderful way to maintain the culture and flavor of the ancestral homelands of our Church. Now, mark your calendars for the 2027 *Hafli* to be announced soon!

We now have an update from Universal Church Directories. They are scheduling the make up day for photos of parishioners on March 18. Photos will begin at 2:00 PM and continue till 8:30 PM. If you did not have a chance to have your photo taken, please go to this link: [UCDIR.com](http://UCDIR.com). Navigate to the "Photography Session Sign Up" and enter the Church ID: SC303 and password: photos. This will be the last opportunity to have your picture included in the church directory. No pic, no problem! Other pertinent information will be included in the directory. This is a first time event, but it certainly does not have to be the last! Thanks for your help and assistance.

March will bring several guests to Saint Rafka Parish. As announced, **Bishop Gregory Mansour** will make a Pastoral Visit March 14 - 16. The following weekend, **Father Fadi Rouhana**, Pastor of Saints Peter and Paul Maronite Church, will bring his MYA group to the Upstate for a retreat and will pray Friday night Stations of the Cross with us on March 21. Lots of events to look forward to!

Please pray for those of our community, known and unknown, who are suffering in body, mind or spirit at this time. There are many secrets that are hidden in the heart of the pastor, especially those suffering in so many ways. Help those who are suffering by prayers and fasting so that they might be relieved. Pray also for those who care for the sick and suffering.

Have a wonderful and joyful Season of Commemoration!

Have a great weekend! See you in Church!

Ab. Bart

# Pastoral Visit of Bishop Gregory

## Brief Outline

Friday: Arrival, *Ramsho* and Benediction of the Cross, light reception in Wickett Hall  
Saturday: Morning - Meeting with Finance Committee. Afternoon - Short Meetings  
Vigil Mass, Meet and Greet  
Sunday: 8:30 AM Mass, Meet & Greet, 11:00 AM Mass, luncheon to follow, departure

## The Servants of Mary and Joseph Lay Carmelite Community

The Lay Carmelite is called to the Family of Carmel to be deeply involved in the mission of the Church and to contribute to the sanctification of the secular world through our charisms of prayer, community and service.

The Community meets on the First Saturday of every month from 9:00 AM - 1:30 PM at Saint Joseph Catholic Church, 1200 Cornelia Rd, Anderson, SC for the Liturgy of the Hours, Mass and meeting.

Catholic men or women interested in learning more may contact Jon at [joanelizabethrn@gmail.com](mailto:joanelizabethrn@gmail.com)



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).



St. Clare's Home  
RESTORING HOPE - SAVING LIVES

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



## Church Offerings and Attendance

February 9, 2025		
4 PM	98	\$1781.00
8:30 AM	28	\$843.00
11 AM	83	\$793.00
Mail		\$1,585.00
PayPal/Electronic		\$30.00
Total	<b>209</b>	\$5,032.00
Budget 2025	<b>230</b>	<b>\$4,350.00</b>
+/-	<b>-21</b>	<b>\$682.00</b>
<b>Year to Date</b>		\$30,356.00
Budget for year +/-		<b>\$94.00</b>
<b>Building Fund</b>		
4:00 PM		\$0.00
12:00 AM		\$0.00
11:00 AM		\$0.00
Total	0	<b>\$0.00</b>
Holy Hour		0
Funeral		0
<b>2025 Totals</b>		
4:00 PM		598
8:30 AM		196
11 AM		781
Weekday Masses		468
Holy Hour		40
Holy Day		221
Special Liturgy		0
Funerals		150
Weddings		60

## Average Attendance

4 PM	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
<b>84</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>111</b>

### Facts regarding our bulletin!

Bulletins emailed last weekend: 407 -

Percentage opened 63% /

**Opened emails: 258 / Unopened emails: 147 /**

## Masses, Sanctuary Lamp & Flowers

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

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.



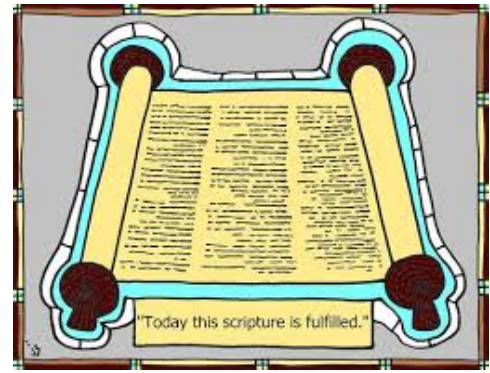
**CATHOLIC**  
INFORMATION CENTER

<https://catholic.center/>



# Liturgical Readings

Old Testament (English) Ezekiel 37:1-10	<b>Scott Herr</b>
New Testament (Arabic) Thessalonians 5:1-11	<b>Ramiz Askar</b>



## Mass Intentions

February 22 - 23	Faithful Departed	
<b>Saturday, 4 PM</b>	<b>+Frances Hykes</b>	Amos Hykes
<b>Sunday, 8:30 AM</b>	<b>+Bud Tallarico</b>	Family
<b>Sunday 11:00 AM</b>	<b>Living Members of the Wersinger Family</b>	Kristie Killough
<b>Tuesday, 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Barb Mytych</b>	Barb Mytych
<b>Wednesday, 7:00 PM</b>	<b>Holy Souls in Purgatory</b>	Marie Kidd
<b>Thursday 10:00 AM</b>	<b>+Kathy Monheim, Godmother</b>	Barb Mytych
<b>Friday, 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Honor of Guardian Angels</b>	Barb Mytych
<b>March 1 - 2</b>	<b>Cana Sunday</b>	
<b>Saturday 4 PM</b>	<b>Richard Wickett &amp; Family</b>	Marie Kidd
<b>Sunday, 8:30 AM</b>	<b>+Leila Cheber</b>	Marleen Saad
<b>Sunday 11:00 AM</b>	<b>Aziz Arida &amp; Family</b>	Deacon Jose Sanfilippo
<b>Tuesday, 10:00 AM</b>	<b>In Honor of St. Joseph</b>	Barb Mytych
<b>Wednesday, 7:00 PM</b>	<b>Living &amp; Deceased Family &amp; Friends</b>	Ceil & Andy
<b>Thursday 10:00 AM</b>	<b>The Holy Souls in Purgatory</b>	Barb Mytych
<b>Friday, 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Toni Urcioli For Gods Blessings</b>	Barb Mytych

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>23 Faithful Departed</b> 8:30 AM, Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy	24	25 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow 5:45 PM <i>Ramsho</i>	26 6:00 PM, Marian Catechists 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy	27 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	28 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	<b>March 1</b> 10:00 AM Memorial Mass 1:00 PM Baptism 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy
<b>2 Cana Sunday</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>3 Ash Monday</b> 7:00 PM <i>Ramsho</i> and Ashes	4 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow 5:45 PM <i>Ramsho</i>	5 6:00 PM, Marian Catechists 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy	6 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	7 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy First Friday Devotions 7:00 PM, Stations of the Cross	8 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy
Beginning of Great Lent						
<b>9 Healing of the Leper</b> 8:30 AM, Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM, Syro-Malabar Divine Liturgy	10	11 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow 5:45 PM <i>Ramsho</i>	12 6:00 PM, Marian Catechists 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy	13 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	14 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM, Stations of the Cross	15 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy
					Pastoral Visit of Bishop Gregory	
<b>16 Hemorrhaging Woman</b> 8:30 AM, Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy Luncheon with Bishop 5:00 PM, Korean Mass	17	18 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow 5:45 PM <i>Ramsho</i>	19 6:00 PM, Marian Catechists 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy	20 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	21 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM, Stations of the Cross	22 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy
Pastoral Visit of Bishop						



*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

### February

February 22, The Chair of Peter in Antioch

February 23, Saint Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, Martyr

February 28, Saints Cora and Marana, Virgin-Confessors

### March

March 1, Saint Domnina, Disciple of Saint Maron

March 1, Saint Afdokia of Baalbek, Martyr

March 2, Saint John Maron, First Patriarch (+707)

March 3, Saint Thomas Aquinas

March 3, Saint Katherine Drexel

March 9, The Forty Martyrs of Sebaste

March 18, Saint Cyril of Jerusalem

March 19, Saint Joseph, Foster Father of Our Lord

## Prayer List

Karen Krings, John Davis, Pat Moore, Deacon Bob Smith, Richard Wickett, Anna Maria Portilla, Sandra Reece, Charles Howard, 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, Recovery of RS, Claire Barnett, Ethel Brassel, Katrina Shunk, George Vargo, Irma Galvan, Mary Cleary, Joe

## Birthdays

### February

22, Ruba Zomot

22, Christopher MacDonald

23, Judy Mathis

25, Michelle Aazan

26, Chorbishop Michael G. Thomas

26, Heather Sijon

26, Roy Conn

27, David Howard

28, David Fiorini

### March

3, Tracey Aazan

5, David Sijon

5, Sherri Sandbothe

5, Miroslava (Mika) Robinson

6, Tiffany Chebeir

7, Reggie O'Dell

## Anniversaries

### February

16, Tony and Marie Kidd

### March

2, Consecration of Bishop Gregory John Mansour, 2004

3, Roy Micke and Maria Angelica Sacayan

## Necrology

### February

+Yousif Yaqoob Askar, February 15, 2020

+Elias (Lou) Sahadi, February 15, 2023

+Stephanie Jean Tabish Dannels, February 16, 2008

+Hind Jawad Ashy, February 23, 2009

+Rose Henderson, February 24, 2004

+Selma Ashy, February 24, 2006

+Philip Alan Sesny, February 24, 2023

### Important Dates to Remember

Ash Monday, March 3

Pastoral Visit of Bishop Gregory,  
March 15-16

Easter, April 20

First Holy Communion, May 18



القديسة رفقا  
SAINT RAFKA  
MARONITE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Presents *The Annual Haffli* February 22nd  
2025



**THIS WEEKEND!!!!**

*DJ Khalil*

*Maestro Elias*

*Karim Jaber*

For Tickets Call: Paula Howard-Casby - (202) 538-1469

Lama Haddad (864) 978-1317

Hyatt Regency Greenville

Address: 220 N Main St, Greenville, SC 29601





# *With Mary, Pilgrims of Hope* *Pilgrimage*



**May 20 - June 3, 2025**

***13 Day & 13 Night Tour Includes***

Rome • Montecassino • Padre Pio • Lanciano • Loreto  
St. Veronica Giuliani • La Verna • Florence Pisa • Assisi  
Foligno • St. Rita • Greccio

***Package Includes***

Single bed in a double room, international full coverage  
insurance, bus transportation, monument entrance fees,  
hotel breakfast & dinner

**\$2,900/person**, all included except airfare  
*(single rooms available for an additional cost)*

**Limited seats available. Register by 3/31/2025**

For more information,  
contact Fr. Antoine Kairouz  
[abounaantoine13@gmail.com](mailto:abounaantoine13@gmail.com)  
724-732-4064

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



# 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.

**February 23**, March 9. First Confessions, Practice, etc. to be announced.

First Holy Communion, May 18, 2025 at the 11 AM Divine Liturgy.

## Come & See

MARONITE SERVANTS OF CHRIST THE LIGHT

~2025 JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE~

### *Prayer & Supper*

Join the sisters for Maronite Evening Prayer (Ramsho) and Supper at our Mother of the Light Convent, 856 Tucker Rd Dartmouth from 4 to 7pm:

- Sunday February 23
- Sunday May 18

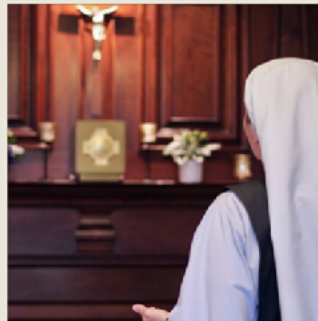
OPEN TO YOUNG ADULT WOMEN WHO ARE SINGLE (AGES 18 TO 39) AND SEEKING TO DISCERN THEIR VOCATION WITH THE MARONITE SERVANTS.



### *Monthly Discernment Group*

If you are seeking to learn more about prayer and exploring God’s call for your life and fellowship with the sisters and other women discerning their call please contact Vocation Director, Sr. Therese Maria Touma.

TO REACH OUT OR RSVP CONTACT:  
SISTER THERESE MARIA, MSCL  
CALL: 508-965-6945  
EMAIL: [SISTER@MARONITESERVANTS.ORG](mailto:SISTER@MARONITESERVANTS.ORG)  
WEBSITE: [MARONITESERVANTS.ORG](http://MARONITESERVANTS.ORG)



### *Discernment Retreat Weekend*

Join us for a “Come & See” Discernment Retreat Weekend at our Convent:

- June 6-8, 2025
- September 5-7, 2025

The retreats offer an opportunity to listen to the Lord, rest in His Love, and spend time with Sisters on the journey of discernment of a call to religious life.

OPEN TO YOUNG ADULT WOMEN WHO ARE SINGLE (AGES 18 TO 39) AND SEEKING TO DISCERN THEIR VOCATION WITH THE MARONITE SERVANTS.



Dear Monsignors and Fathers,

I am reaching out to share resources from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Secretariat of Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, and the Eparchy of Saint Maron's Couples Ministry.

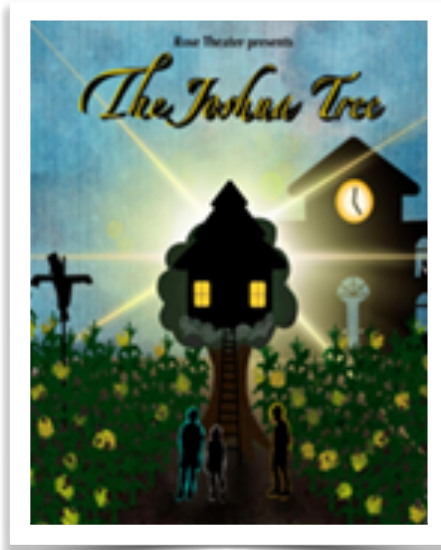
Each year the USCCB observes National Marriage Week from February 7-14 and World Marriage Day on February 9 (coinciding with the Feast of Saint Maron). For this year the Secretariat has chosen the theme "Marriage: Source of Hope, Spring of Renewal, Pursue a Lasting Love!" (see link: <https://www.usccb.org/topics/marriage-and-family-life-ministries>)

The Secretariat offers resources to both clergy and couples (engaged and married) to help enrich and celebrate the vocation and gift of married life through the website: <http://www.foryourmarriage.org>

Our own Eparchial Couples Ministry also provides support to clergy and couples throughout the Eparchy of Saint Maron by offering Pre-Cana training, relevant Zoom meetings and Parish days of marriage enrichment.

Please feel free to share the attached flyer with your parishioners, in your weekly bulletin or on your social media and to reach out to the Eparchial Couples Ministry at: [couples.eparchystmaron@gmail.com](mailto:couples.eparchystmaron@gmail.com) or to me at the following number 718-237-9913.

Your sister in Christ,  
Mrs. Vivian Akel LCSW  
Director, Eparchy of Saint Maron Couples Ministry



Fr. Dwight Longenecker is the author of "The Joshua Tree" an allegorical, theatrical production produced by the Middle School students at Our Lady of the Rosary School. Don't miss this exciting, moving and meaningful family drama on Thursday, February 13, Friday, February 14, & Saturday, February 15 at 7 pm with an additional matinee performance on Saturday, February 15th at 2 pm. Tickets are \$5 for students and \$10 for adults.

Please visit the school website to purchase tickets: <https://olr.school/performing-arts/>  
Please direct all questions to [boxoffice@olrschool.net](mailto:boxoffice@olrschool.net) We hope to see you there!

## Mary's Mantle Daily Rosary Group

Daily Rosary group that meets by Zoom. Call opens at 8:30pm each day. Info at [rosary400@gmail.com](mailto:rosary400@gmail.com).

The session consists of:

Call for Intentions

Prayers

- Unity Prayer
- Rosary
- Hail Holy Queen or Salve Regina
- Spiritual Communion
- Seasonal Novena or Selected Prayer (Currently we are praying the "Let Love Litany")
- (Optional) practice of Silence and contemplative prayer (On Mondays, right after the Rosary)
- (Optional) Brief discussion of spiritual book or scripture - (Tuesday - Sunday)

Zoom call closes between 9:30 and 9:45



Participants may attend for the Rosary & prayers only, or join for the entire call.

## Food Pantry Needed Food Items

### FOOD GIFTS CARDS or MONEY DONATIONS

- Macaroni & Cheese in the boxes
- Velveeta Macaroni & Cheese
- Hamburger Helpers
- Cold Macaroni Pasta in the boxes
- Spaghetti noodles (only) No rotini or egg noodles needed at this time!
- Spaghetti sauces in jars or in the cans
- Dinty Moore Beef Stew in the cans
- Tuna in the cans
- Spam
- Chili Bean in the cans
- Salmon in the cans
- Campbell Soups (Any kind)
- Peanut Butter (Creamy Style) in jars
- Any jellies (Strawberry, Peach, Raspberry, etc)
- Jello Puddings or Jello in the boxes
- Saltine Crackers, Vanilla Wafers, Oreo Cookies Graham Crackers, etc
- Cereals in the boxes for Adults and Children
- Oatmeal packages in the boxes
- Canned peas, carrots, green beans, etc
- Canned pears, peaches, applesauce, pineapple or in small plastic containers



**Mary 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.



*Thank You*  
For Your Support

Please consider sponsoring our website.

In exchange for your sponsorship, an ad featuring your business will be displayed on our home page and hyperlinked to your website or email address.

To learn more, please email our webmaster at:  
[matt@digitalcloudware.com](mailto:matt@digitalcloudware.com)

We are grateful for your support.

## Support Those Who Support Us!

### Personal Care Assistant

**Joan Songer**, Personal Care Assistant with 20 years experience ministering to people in their homes. CNA nursing training at Greenville Technical College.

Cell: (864)434-2445  
References available.  
Parishioner recommended!

Mark Advent, Owner

## Advent Home Services

Plumbing~Electric~Repair~Install

- Quality Workmanship
- Excellent Troubleshooting Skills
- Reasonable Pricing
- Respectful Attitude

Small Jobs Welcome!!!

864.414.6957      864.420.5041



**Palmetto Home Improvement Handyman**

**Simon Elias**  
864-340-5101  
Free Estimate



 se\_improvements



**Joseph Chebeir, MBA, EA**  
Tax Professional, Financial Advisor

3620 Pelham Rd. # 108  
Greenville, SC 29615  
864.909.4466  
joe@carolinaadvisers.com



**ENROLLED AGENT**  
Securities offered thro Advisory service



**GREENVILLE SPINE INSTITUTE**  
EXPERT CHIROPRACTIC CARE



**Julie Hryniewicz, MSW, LISW-CP**  
Therapist

☎ 864-252-9069  
📍 879 NE Main St. Suite B  
Simpsonville, SC 29681  
✉ julie@paxtherapysolutions.com

Market  
Momentum  
moving business forward




**DIGITAL CLOUDWARE**  
Custom Software, Website Design, SEO & SMM

**Randy Jones**  
Owner



Mobile: 864-304-5076  
Email: randy@muttsbbqgreer.com

**Dine-In • Carry-Out • Catering**

101 West Road Greer, SC 29650 Phone: 864-848-3999 Fax: 864-848-7715	1020 Powdersville Road Easley, SC 29640 Phone: 864-442-1400 Fax: 864-442-1403
--	--



# Catholic Radio in South Carolina

**WCKI 1300 AM**

[www.catholicradioinasc.com](http://www.catholicradioinasc.com)

Get the App!

MediaTrix



## RICK'S CATERING

**Rick  
Vicaro**

(864) 704-4129  
rickvicaro@gmail.com



**Goodwill Industries  
of Upstate/Midlands  
South Carolina**

**Employment Specialist**

864.412.7646

864.312.6301 Ext (2)

[www.goodwillsc.org](http://www.goodwillsc.org)

**Ferial Saade**

Community and Workforce  
Development

[fsaade@goodwillsc.org](mailto:fsaade@goodwillsc.org)



# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

**Saint Rafka Council #15519**

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



**Peter S. Bouharoun**

301 Falls Street  
Greenville, SC 29601  
[www.bouharouns.com](http://www.bouharouns.com)

Tel: 864.233.2733  
Cell: 864.325.7036  
[peter@bouharouns.com](mailto:peter@bouharouns.com)

## Queen Bee Laser Designs

Custom laser cutting and  
engraving for all of your needs!

Wood, acrylic, metal, plastic, glass, stone,  
leather, fabric and food products

[Leslie@QueenBeeLaserDesigns.com](mailto:Leslie@QueenBeeLaserDesigns.com)  
[QueenBeeLaserDesigns.com](http://QueenBeeLaserDesigns.com)  
(864) 616-6792



**Saad**  
and  
**Manios, LLC**

*Providing Business Solutions*  
Bookkeeping  
Payroll Services  
Tax Return Preparation  
Other Business Services

---

**Saad Manios and Associates, LLC**  
CPA  
Providing Compilation and Review Services

1249 S Pleasantburg Drive  
Greenville, SC 29605  
Phone: 864 277-9600 • Fax: 864-422-9665

**PITA HOUSE**  
Middle Eastern Food & Grocery  
تشكيله من المأكولات والحلويات الشرقية  
495 South Pleasantburg Drive  
Greenville, SC 29607

Ziad Namouz  
znamouz@yahoo.com

Tel: 864-271-9895  
Fax: 864-235-8851



**FELIPE A. FRANCISCO**  
**864-715-4496**

Hardscaping  
Maintenance      Pressure Wash  
Tree Work          Leaf Blowing  
Mulching            Pine Straw  
Mowing              Edging  
Trimming Bushes

**PHILIP**  
**LANDSCAPING**

*Helena Arida*

Life Coach  
Coaching is offered in three languages:  
English    French    Arabic

[aridahelena@gmail.com](mailto:aridahelena@gmail.com) 484-767-5906  
Instagram: coach.helenai

*The Communication & Empowerment Coach*

**WE CARE**   
**FAMILY HEALTH & URGENT CARE**

BASSAM HADDAD, MD  
VNIKA PATEL, DNP  
BHADRIK PATEL, MSPA

**COLUMBIA**  
1120 A-B Sparkleberry Lane Ext  
Columbia, SC 29223  
(803) 851 - 0605

**GREENVILLE**  
2076 Woodruff Rd  
Greenville, SC 29607  
(864) 373 - 7246

FAX : (866) 291-3617

[www.WeCareFamilyHealth.com](http://www.WeCareFamilyHealth.com)  
[Connect@WeCareFamilyHealth.com](mailto:Connect@WeCareFamilyHealth.com)




**TEADgroupLLC**

Providing best quality services.

**448-200-8510**  
Call or text us for your free quote.



**EJ Flowers**

Let's make your Event,  
Party and Wedding special

**(216) 288 4630**

[EJMyFlowers@yahoo.com](mailto:EJMyFlowers@yahoo.com)

Follow me on FB and Insta  
@EJMyFlowers

Open Available Space