

Saint Rafka

Catholics of the East in the Upstate!



Finding in the Temple Vigil of Epiphany

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



**Father Bartholomew
Leon**

Pastor

1215 S. Highway 14
Greer, SC 29650
864.469.9119
bartleon@gmail.com

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, 8:30 AM
11:00 AM
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](#)



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.*

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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. Please remember that it is rare to be able to have your intention the following Sunday! **Masses are now generally booked up about three months in advance.**

BAPTISM & CHRISMATION

Baptism in the Maronite Rite is always accompanied by *Chrismation* (Confirmation). Both Sacraments are given by a priest, and always in the same ceremony. Preparation to receive the Sacraments of Baptism and Chrismation is required. We encourage this to happen before the birth of your child. Please contact the [Church Office](#) for more details.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

The Anointing of the Sick is routinely offered during the Divine Liturgy on Wednesday evening and during pastoral visits by the priest to homebound and ill parishioners. Let me know if you will be in the hospital or have other special needs. Contact the [Church Office](#).

THE MYSTERY OF CROWNING (MARRIAGE)

Couples must contact the pastor **at least** six months prior to the desired date of the wedding. To initiate the marriage preparation process or if you have questions for weddings taking place at Saint Rafka. Contact the [Church Office](#).

PARISH REGISTRATION

Registration forms and welcome packets are available in the church office and the vestibule. Membership is a condition for the reception of the sacraments of baptism/confirmation, first reconciliation, first Eucharist, and Crowning (marriage). Registration is also required before the parish can issue a sponsorship certificate for those asked to be sacramental sponsors. You must be a registered, contributing member for at least three months before a certificate is provided.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Teenagers are invited to join our Maronite Youth Organization, aka MYO. Contact **Lisa Advent** lisaadventphotography@gmail.com for more information.

Ramsho (Evening Prayer)

Join us on Tuesday at 5:45 PM for evening prayer and 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
[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.

Heb. 7:11-19

If, then, perfection came through the levitical priesthood, on the basis of which the people received the law, what need would there still have been for another priest to arise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not reckoned according to the order of Aaron? When there is a change of priesthood, there is necessarily a change of law as well. Now he of whom these things are said belonged to a different tribe, of which no member ever officiated at the altar. It is clear that our Lord arose from Judah, and in regard to that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. It is even more obvious if another priest is raised up after the likeness of Melchizedek, who has become so, not by a law expressed in a commandment concerning physical descent but by the power of a life that cannot be destroyed. For it is testified: "You are a priest forever

according to the order of Melchizedek." On the one hand, a former commandment is annulled because of its weakness and uselessness, for the law brought nothing to perfection; on the other hand, a better hope is introduced, through which we draw near to God.

Luke 2:41-52

Each year his parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced [in] wisdom and age and favor before God and man.



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,

Happy New Year and Holy Epiphany to come!

On Monday, we celebrate the festival of the *Theophany* (Epiphany) of the Lord and a **Holy Day of Obligation** for all Eastern Rite Catholics. The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 7:00 PM with the traditional blessing of water, etc. We will have several special guests joining us for the Liturgy. Please join us for this feast.

Several people have asked me how we schedule Holy Day Divine Liturgies. It is a very simple formula. If the Holy Day falls on a national holiday, 11:00 AM. If it falls on a regular work weekday, 7:00 PM. Makes it easy for everyone.

We woke up in a new year on Wednesday to learn of the horrific massacre of 15 people by a truck in the French Quarter of New Orleans. We witnessed senseless violence against innocent people in the name of terrorism. Thankfully no one from my family was near the area or injured, the majority of the victims were tourists to the city enjoying the New Year festivities. Let us pray for the softening of the hearts of those who would commit violence against innocent victims.

I want to thank all who brought food and drink for **Father Toni's** farewell luncheon last Sunday. It was a very nice affair. There was also a small reception after the 4 PM vigil liturgy that was well attended. Father Toni will be greatly missed but he will do great work at his new assignment at Saint Anthony's.

Sadly, several community members have lost loved ones during the Christmas season. The oldest sister of **Marie Kidd, +Virginia C. Guzman**, died early in the morning of Christmas Eve. A younger sister, **Rebecca Cabrera**, is also dying at this time. May God be merciful to Virginia and give comfort to Rebecca and her family. On December 28, I received a call from **H. E. Joseph Chebeir** that his mother, **+Leila Chebeir** had died in Lebanon. She had suffered a stroke two weeks previously and fought valiantly till the end. May God grant his Handmaid Leila rest and grace and comfort to her loving family. May her memory be eternal. Lastly, we learned that last Sunday a paternal uncle of **George Azan** and **Rony Kazan** died in Lebanon. May his memory be eternal.

Our new liturgical schedule begins this week.

Saturday, 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy.

Sunday, 8:30 AM, quiet Divine Liturgy.

Sunday, 11:00 AM, Solemn Liturgy.

This is the first Sunday of the month, so that means we have the 2nd collection for the Building Fund and Holy Hour at 3:00 PM. I thank you for all your generosity to our parish over the past year and your special gifts to the parish and clergy at Christmas. Thank you!!!

Have a great weekend! See you in Church!

Ab. Bart

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



Holy Hour, 3 PM

Eucharistic Adoration, Confessions, Chaplet of Mercy, Evening Prayer and Benediction. Join us!

Second Collection

2nd Collection is taken this weekend for the Building Fund. Thank you for your generosity, especially with some of the project we have planned for the immediate future. Thanks!

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 stclareshome.org/pink-blue-gala.



St. Clare's Home
RESTORING HOPE - SAVING LIVES

Contact Colleen Chmiel for Questions
Stclaresvolunteer@charlestandiocese.org
843-259-1108



Church Offerings and Attendance

December 29, 2024		
4 PM	80	\$2694.00
8:30 AM	21	\$490.00
11 AM	91	\$737.00
7:00 PM	20	\$0.00
Mail		\$545.00
PayPal/Electronic		
Total	212	\$4,466.00
Budget	225	\$4,100.00
+/-	-13	\$366.00
Year to Date	Due to the death of Joe's mother, a separate accounting will be given next week.	
Budget for year +/-		
Christmas Collection		
4:00 PM	158	\$1,729.00
12:00 AM	65	\$576.00
11:00 AM	73	\$2,266.00
7 PM		\$0.00
Total	296	\$4,571.00
Holy Hour		0
Funeral		0
2024 Final Totals		
4:00 PM		4289
8:30 AM		307
11 AM		5895
7 PM		2133
Weekday Masses		4857
Holy Hour		286
Holy Day		891
Special Liturgy		157
Funerals		452
Weddings		60

Average Attendance

4 PM	8:30 AM	11 AM	7 PM
82	34	113	41

Facts regarding our bulletin!

Bulletins emailed last weekend: 399+

Percentage opened 66%

Opened emails: 265 + Unopened emails: 134 -

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. Envelopes for Masses also available at the door of the church.



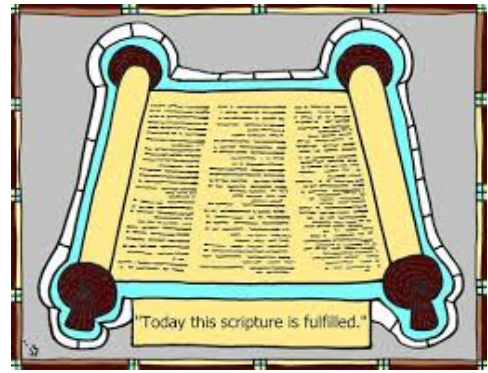
CATHOLIC
INFORMATION CENTER

<https://catholic.center/>



Liturgical Readings

Old Testament (Arabic) Heb. 7:11-19	Robert Haddad
New Testament (English) Heb. 7:11-19	Paul Leonardi



Mass Intentions

January 4 - 5	Finding in the Temple	
Saturday, 4:00 PM	+Tommy Halley	Joan Bussemey
Sunday, 8:30 AM	Greg Mytych	Barb Mytych
Sunday 11:00 AM	Joan Leonard	Deacon Joe Sanfilippo
Monday, 7:00 PM Epiphany	Intentions of the Parishioners	
Tuesday, 10:00 AM	Mytych Family	Barb Mytych
Wednesday, 7:00 PM	Freddie Farge + Birthday	Marcel Farge
Thursday 10:00 AM	Young Adult Catholic Group - Spartanburg	Barb Mytych
Friday, 10:00 AM	+Max Drier	Ceil & Andy
January	1st Epiphany	
Saturday, 4 PM	+Christie Foertsch	Larry & Iris Minette
Sunday, 8:30 AM	+Patricia D. Rossi	Ronald J. Rossi, Sr.
Sunday 11:00 AM	Mrs. Rebecca Cabarea, +Virginia Guzman	Marie & Tony Kidd
Tuesday, 10:00 AM	Fr. Bart & Fr. Toni	Barb Mytych
Wednesday, 7:00 PM	Matt Mytych	Barb Mytych
Thursday 10:00 AM	Lee Mytych	Barb Mytych
Friday, 10:00 AM	Mrs. Rebecca Cabarea, +Virginia Guzman	Marie & Tony Kidd



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
5 Finding in Temple 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	6 Epiphany Holy Day of Obligation Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM	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 10:00 AM, Funeral Mass 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy
12 1st Epiphany 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
19 2nd Epiphany 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
26 3rd Epiphany 8:30 AM, Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy 3:00 PM, Holy Hour	27	28 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow	29 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy	30 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	31 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	February 1 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy



Catholics serving Catholics

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Downtown Chapel
 639 North Main Street
 Greenville, SC 29601
 (864) 232-6733

Northwest Chapel
 6710 White Horse Road
 Greenville, SC 29611
 (864) 294-6415

Southeast Chapel
 1604 NE Main Street
 Simpsonville, SC 29681
 (864) 688-1600

Saints of the Day

January

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
January 7, Praises of John the Baptist
January 8, St. Carterius the Priest,
January 9, St. Eustratius
January 10, St. Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa
January 11, St. Theodosius of Antioch
January 12, St. Tatiana
January 13, St. Jacob of Nisibis

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

January

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
11, Candice Palgut
12 Ted Bibbes
12, Msgr. Christopher Lathem
13, Liam Sharbel Aazan
14, Elias Jowdy
16, Mary Anne Vicaro
16, Benjamin Jonathan Saad

Anniversaries

No Anniversaries noted in January

February

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

Necrology

January

+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
+Madeline Majeed Issa, January 28, 2008

Important Dates to Remember

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
Pastoral Visit of Bishop Gregory, March 15-16

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



HEART & RIDGE
Retreat and Cultural Center



Type to enter text

WE THOUGHT WE WERE
UNBREAKABLE.
AND THEN WE BROKE.

Retrouvaille Can Help

We fell in love. But real life wasn't far behind. Our Retrouvaille Weekend Retreat taught us to invest in each other and work to strengthen our marriage—no matter how unfixable our problems seemed. We learned tools to help us to better communicate and with God's help, we were able to put our marriage back together.

Visit HelpOurMarriage.org to Register for an Upcoming Western Carolina Retrouvaille Weekend Retreat or Call (704) 702-2112 for Information Charlotte, North Carolina



*February 22nd
2025*



القديسة رفقا
SAINT R AFKA
MARONITE CATHOLIC CHURCH

*The Annual
Hafli*

Presents



Dj Khalil

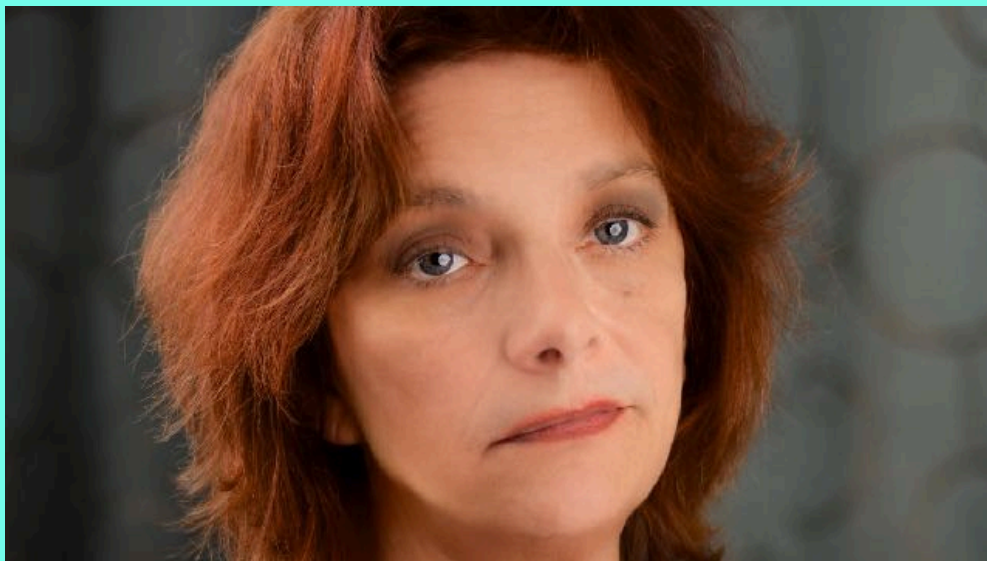
Maestro Elias

Karim Jaber

Hyatt Regency Greenville

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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.



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Saint Rafka Council #15519

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



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