

Saint Rafka

Catholics of the East in the Upstate!



Cana Sunday Entrance into Great Lent

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 - 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

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

Isaiah 55:1-13

All you who are thirsty, come to the water! You who have no money, come, buy grain and eat; Come, buy grain without money, wine and milk without cost! Why spend your money for what is not bread; your wages for what does not satisfy? Only listen to me, and you shall eat well, you shall delight in rich fare. Pay attention and come to me; listen, that you may have life. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, the steadfast loyalty promised to David. As I made him a witness to peoples, a leader and commander of peoples, So shall you summon a nation you knew not, and a nation that knew you not shall run to you, Because of the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, who has glorified you. Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake their way, and sinners their thoughts; Let them turn to the LORD to find mercy; to our God, who is generous in forgiving. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways— oracle of the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, my thoughts higher than your thoughts. Yet just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down And do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, Giving seed to the one who sows and bread to the one who eats, So shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; It shall not return to me empty, but shall do what pleases me, achieving the end for which I sent it. Yes, in joy you shall go forth, in peace you shall be brought home; Mountains and hills shall break out in song before you, all trees of the field shall clap their hands.

In place of the thornbush, the cypress shall grow, instead of nettles, the myrtle. This shall be to the LORD's renown, as an everlasting sign that shall not fail.

Romans 14:14-23

I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but it is unclean for

anyone who thinks it unclean. If your brother or sister is being injured by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. Do not let what you eat cause the ruin of one for whom Christ died. So do not let your good be spoken of as evil. For the kingdom of God is not food and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. The one who thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and has human approval. Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual edification. Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God. Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for you to make others fall by what you eat; it is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that makes your brother or sister stumble. The faith that you have, have as your own conviction before God. Blessed are those who have no reason to condemn themselves because of what they approve. But those who have doubts are condemned if they eat, because they do not act from faith; for whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.

John 2:1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Reflection

The holy Church, the *Crowned Bride* of Christ, is about to enter the Season of the Great Lent – the Passion, death, and Resurrection of Christ our Lord. She is about to enter into the full passion of Christ so that she may live by the life of his resurrection. From this very beginning of the spiritual and mystical journey she looks on forward with hope to the end-goal of her salvation: the victory of the Luminous Cross of Christ her Lord. Her eyes of faith are fixed on this end-goal reflected in the *Wedding Feast of the Kingdom* – with Christ – *her Beloved* – at the center. Today, through the lens of the gospel of Cana, the *Bride Church* remembers how it all began – when she was first betrothed to her Lord at Cana – at the *mysteries-filled* ceremony of the water and the wine!

We are likewise reminded – at the beginning of this our Lenten journey – of our immigrant church communities who have journeyed out (from Lebanon) in times of hardship and struggle, and yet, continue onward-looking with faith and hope. The symbolic power and the spiritual meanings of this gospel-mosaic of the *Wedding Feast at Cana* has not escaped many of our Eastern Christian saints as well as seers from early times to the recent. In our modern times, Gibran, has visualized this wedding scene at Cana as if it was being held in a village in Lebanon. In his book *Jesus Son of Man - Cana Wedding*, Gibran speaks for the bride as she looks forward, with longing, to Jesus' coming to her wedding celebration that evening. He intuitively draws near to that ancient Christian understanding of Christian Matrimony as a union – not the two spouses only – but of three: the bride, the bridegroom, and Christ!

Moreover, our *Hoosoyo* prayers today, reveal the intentions of the Bride-Church as she re-embarks on this spiritual journey of Lent: the Passion, and Resurrection of Jesus, her beloved. She calls on Christ, her heavenly bridegroom, who poured out for her at Cana the wealth of his graces, and appeals to him:

... in your grace shine upon us.
Open the treasure of your abundant
compassion to us.

Enrich us with your good gifts..
Seat us at the table of your kingdom
and let us drink from your new wine.
Give us the joy of your eternal feast
and let us rejoice in the splendor
of your face.

Likewise her children call upon him saying:
O Christ, the true wine ..
quench our hearts with the
wine of your love!

The intimacy expressed in these prayers has its roots in the faith of the holy fathers and saints of our Maronite-Syriac Church – who always felt Christ being very close with them, as they called out in songs and prayer: *Amono Moryo* – the Lord is with us! Christ Jesus is forever intimately present with his Church especially through the hidden *Mysteries* of the our sacraments. Saint Ephrem spell it out:

In a new way his body
has been fused with our bodies,
and his pure blood
has been poured in our veins.
His voice too is in our ears
and his splendor in our eyes.
The whole of him with the whole of us
is fused by his mercy.
And because he loved his Church greatly,
he did not give her the manna of her rival;
He became the Bread of Life
for her to eat him.

And now, again, at the beginning of this Lenten Journey, we too ask that Christ's Love, Peace, and Joy may remain with his beloved Church – that his grace-filled *Mysteries* may be a renewed source of strength and reassurance for us, her children.

Steven Bonian, S.J.

Abouna's Corner

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Another rollercoaster week at Saint Rafka! Lots of activities that took up major chunks of time and energy.

On Saturday, we hosted the 2025 *Hafli* at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Greenville. It was a splendid affair and I want to thank the entire *Hafli* Committee that organized and put on this festive evening. There was a great crowd and the music had people on their feet from the time the DJ began until the band stopped playing. It brings me great pleasure seeing people enjoying themselves during these events. It was certainly a nice way to celebrate the end of the Epiphany Season before heading into Great Lent. Let's do this again in 2027!

The hardest activity of the death and the funeral of **+Richard Alfred Wickett**. I don't have enough space to put here all he did for Saint Rafka during our infancy and growth stages. He guided the financial department of the church so that we always paid our bills, put money in savings and paid down our mortgage. We paid off the entire complex in less than four years! Rich also had the dream to have a Knights of Columbus Council at Saint Rafka and that came into reality in 2012. A great manager, he found talent in the community to assist him in his ministry and trained them to take over as he got older and then had medical issues. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Rich and Linda for all their kindness and help to Saint Rafka. May his memory be eternal!

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 be 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 the this link: 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!

Have a holy and prayerful Season of Great Lent!

Have a great weekend! See you in Church!

Ab. Bart



+Richard A. Wickett

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



Ash Monday

Church Office open 10:00 AM - 4:30 PM

7:00 PM - *Ramsho* (Evening Prayer) and Blessing and Imposing of Ashes

Ash Wednesday

Church Office open 10:00 AM - 4:30 PM

7:00 PM - Divine Liturgy and Blessing and Imposing of Ashes

Church Offerings and Attendance

February 23, 2025		
4 PM	95	\$1502.00
8:30 AM	24	\$259.00
11 AM	105	\$903.00
Mail		\$905.00
PayPal/Electronic		
Total	224	\$3,569.00
Budget 2025	230	\$4,350.00
+/-	-6	-\$781.00
Year to Date		\$33,925.00
Budget for year +/-		\$875.00
Building Fund		
4:00 PM		\$0.00
12:00 AM		\$0.00
11:00 AM		\$0.00
Total	0	\$0.00
Holy Hour		0
Funeral		0
2025 Totals		
4:00 PM		684
8:30 AM		220
11 AM		886
Weekday Masses		536
Holy Hour		40
Holy Day		221
Special Liturgy		0
Funerals		150
Weddings		60

Average Attendance

4 PM	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
85	27	115

Facts regarding our bulletin!

Bulletins emailed last weekend: 406 -
Percentage opened 66% +

Opened emails: 266 + Unopened emails: 138 -

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. [The Sanctuary Candle burns this week for a Special Intention of Barbara Fontayne.](#)

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.



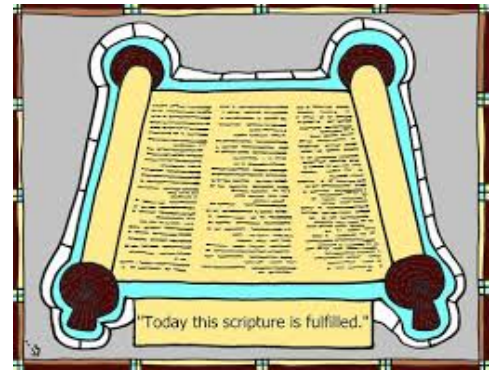
CATHOLIC
INFORMATION CENTER

<https://catholic.center/>



Liturgical Readings

Old Testament (Arabic) Isaiah 55:1-13	Aziz Arida
New Testament (English) Romans 14:14-23	Paula Howard Casby



Mass Intentions

March 1 - 2	Cana Sunday	
Saturday, 4 PM	+Richard Wickett	Marie Kidd
Sunday, 8:30 AM	+Leila Cheber & Harmon Family	Marleen Saad/Bob Dowd
Sunday 11:00 AM	Aziz Arida & Family	Deacon Joe Sanfilippo
Tuesday, 10:00 AM	In Honor of St. Joseph	Barb Mytych
Wednesday, 7:00 PM	Living & Deceased Family & Friends	Ceil & Andy
Thursday 10:00 AM	The Holy Souls in Purgatory	Barb Mytych
Friday, 10:00 AM	Toni Urcioli For Gods Blessings	Barb Mytych
March 8 - 9	Healing of the Leper	
Saturday 4 PM	+Vignia Guzman & Rebecka Caberra	Paula Howard Casby
Sunday, 8:30 AM	+Leila Chebeir	Marie Kidd
Sunday 11:00 AM	Karen Krings	Deacon Joe Sanfilippo
Tuesday, 10:00 AM	Matt Mytych	Mytych
Wednesday, 7:00 PM	Healing Intentions - Divne Mary Prayer Group	Christenne Fratturo
Thursday 10:00 AM	Greg Mytych	Mytych
Friday, 10:00 AM	Brendan Killough	Kristie Killough

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
2 Cana Sunday 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	3 Ash Monday 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					
9 Healing of the Leper 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					
16 Hemorrhaging Woman 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 Directory Photo Day 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					
23 Prodigal Son Saint Rafka Feast Day 8:30 AM, Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM, Syro-Malabar 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 7:00 PM, Stations of the Cross	29 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy



Catholics serving Catholics

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

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
March 21, Saint Benedict
March 23, Saint Rafka, Virgin-Confessor
March 25, The Annunciation of Mary
March 26, Gabriel the Archangel
March 29, Saint Cyril, Deacon of Baalbek

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. 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

March

3, Tracey Aazan
5, David Sijon
5, Sherri Sandbothe
5, Miroslava (Mika) Robinson
6, Tiffany Chebeir
7, Reggie O'Dell
10, Mark Duffy
10, Luke Dagher
11, Reema Askar
11, John Alan Chebeir
12, Luka Haddad
13, Emad Marzouka
16, Antoine Sleiman
18, Bill Seif
22, Tom Craven
23, Joseph Chebli

Anniversaries

March

2, Consecration of Bishop Gregory John Mansour, 2004
3, Roy Micke and Maria Angelica Sacayan

April

Necrology

+Bill Englert, Jr, March 1, 2014
+Peter Fallat, March 1, 2020
+Nawzat "Jack" Yacu, March 2, 2019
+Jack Sijon, March 5, 2013
+Phil George, March 5, 2014
+John Peter Howard, Jr., March 5, 2015
+William H. "Bill" McAfee, March 5, 2022
+Gerald (Gerry) Peter Ozzimo, March 8, 2019
+Lorice Dow Black, March 9, 2021

Important Dates to Remember

Ash Monday, March 3

Pastoral Visit of Bishop Gregory,
March 15-16

Shaneenee (Palm) Sunday, April 13

Easter, April 20

First Holy Communion, May 18

Lenten Regulations

Fast & Abstinence: Ash Monday and Great Friday of the Crucifixion are days of **total abstinence from meat and all meat products**. In addition to being days of abstinence from meat and meat by products, they are days of mandatory fast, i.e., NOTHING but water is consumed from midnight until noon. One main meal may be consumed after noon. **Water and medicine do not break the fast**. The law of abstinence binds all Maronite Catholics over fourteen (14) years of age. The law of fasting binds all Maronite Catholics between the age of eighteen (18) and sixty (60). Diabetics and those with health issues are excused from extreme fasting. *You are encouraged to fast on all Wednesdays and Fridays of Great Lent; and as many additional days as you find appropriate.*

Services for Great Lent: The Services for Great Lent will take place each weekday Tuesday thru Friday. On Tuesdays thru Fridays, the Divine Liturgy will be celebrated. On Friday evening at 7:00 PM., *Stations of the Cross* will be celebrated.



Pilgrimage With Mary, Pilgrims of Hope



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

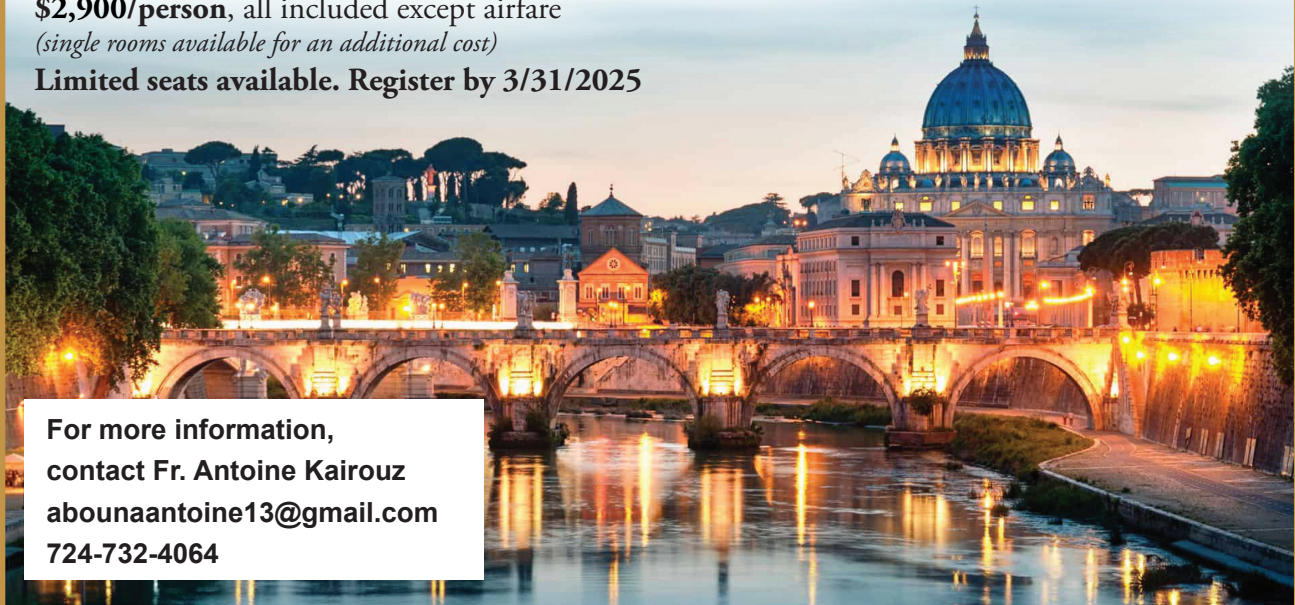
Package Includes

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
724-732-4064



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

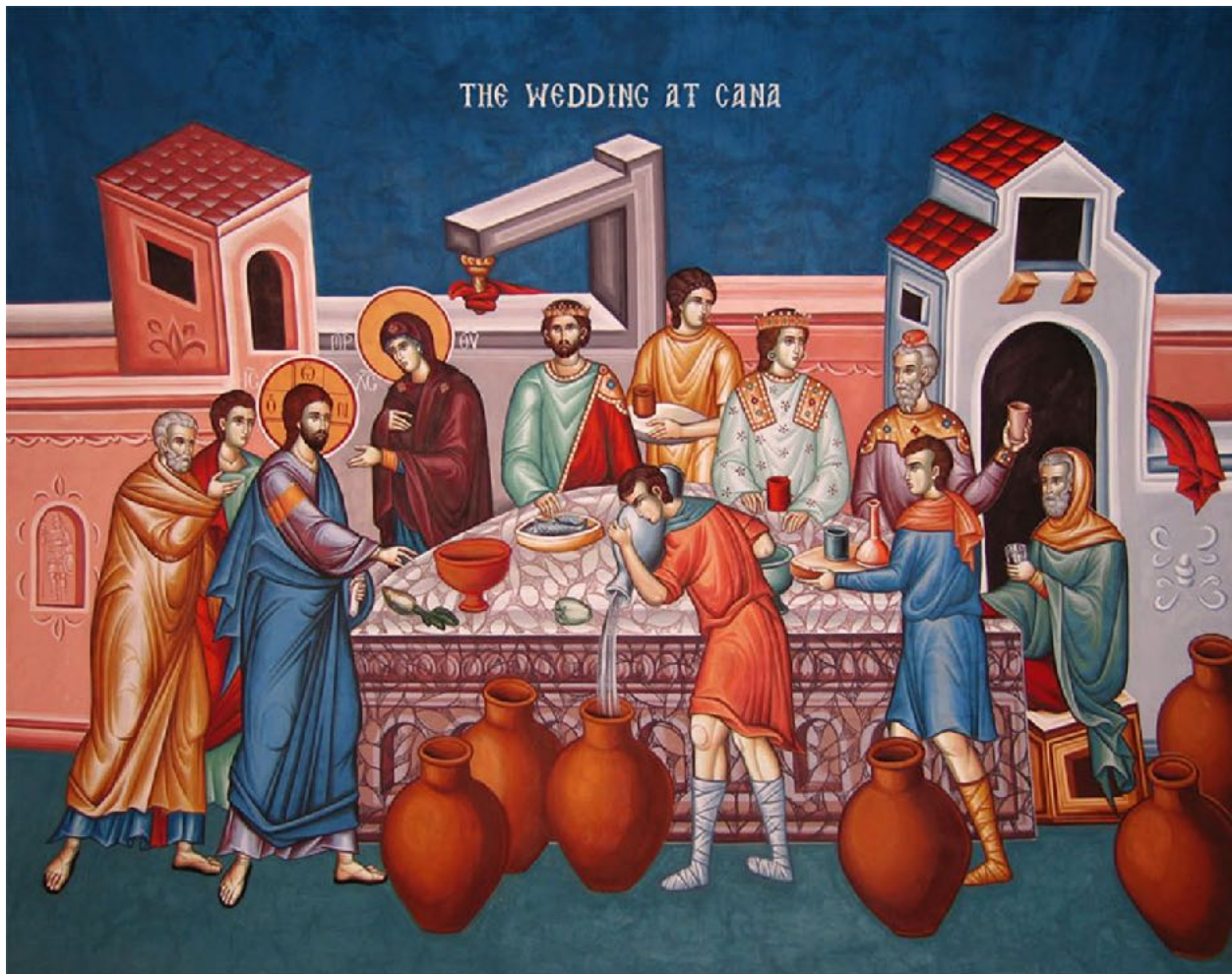
Special Announcements

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.



Here are some easy prayers you can say to feel connected to God during Great Lent this year:

- “God, may Your light guide my day, and your spirit bring me peace. Amen.”
- “God, may my sacrifice of today of (state your Lenten sacrifice) remind me of my dependence on You for all the blessings I enjoy. Amen.”
- ”May I stand in solidarity today with all my brothers and sisters around the world who are suffering. May we be united in your love, and may I work to build your kingdom here on earth.”
- “Heavenly Father, I’m truly sorry for the moments today where I missed the mark. I ask for your forgiveness and the **strength** to better follow Your call tomorrow. Amen.”
- ”God, I lift up (name of the person you’d like to pray for) today. I ask that you bless them abundantly today and throughout Lent. Amen.”
- “Oh Jesus, I surrender myself to you, take care of everything. Amen.”

“So submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you of two minds. Begin to lament, to mourn, to weep. Let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy into dejection. Humble yourselves before the Lord and he will exalt you.”

James 4: 7-10

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.

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

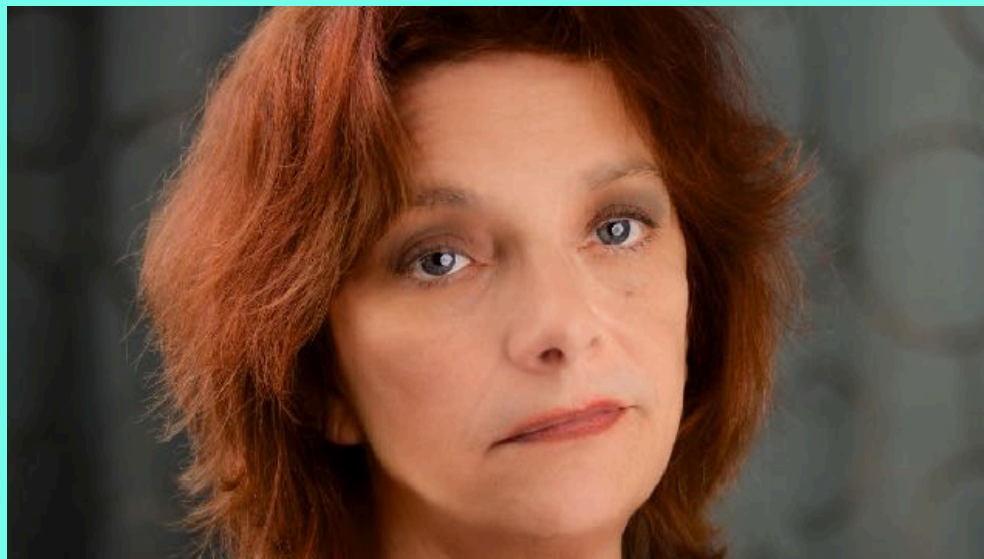
Cereals in the boxes for Adults and Children

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

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

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

Ferial Saade

Community and Workforce
Development

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

Tel: 864.233.2733
Cell: 864.325.7036
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
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 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
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

Follow me on FB and Insta
@EJMyFlowers

Open Available Space