

Saint Rafka

Catholics of the East in the Upstate!



Prodigal Son - Actual Feast of Saint Rafka Season of 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](#)



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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 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

Luke 1:11-32

Zechariah 3:1-7

Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, while the adversary stood at his right side to accuse him. And the angel of the LORD said to the adversary, "May the LORD rebuke you, O adversary; may the LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?"

Now Joshua was standing before the angel, clad in filthy garments. Then the angel said to those standing before him, "Remove his filthy garments." And to him he said, "Look, I have taken your guilt from you, and I am clothing you in stately robes."

Then he said, "Let them put a clean turban on his head." And they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him with the garments while the angel of the LORD was standing by.

Then the angel of the LORD charged Joshua: "Thus says the LORD of hosts: If you walk in my ways and carry out my charge, you will administer my house and watch over my courts; and I will give you access to those standing here."

II Corinthians 13: 5-13

Examine yourselves to see whether you are living in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you? unless, indeed, you fail to pass the test! I hope you will find out that we have not failed. But we pray to God that you may not do anything wrong not that we may appear to have passed the test, but that you may do what is right, though we may seem to have failed. For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. For we rejoice when we are weak and you are strong. This is what we pray for, that you may become perfect. So I write these things while I am away from you, so that when I come, I may not have to be severe in using the authority that the Lord has given me for building up and not for tearing down. Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

The Lord Jesus says: 'There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living.

When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.' " So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son."

But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe the best one and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate. 'Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found." '

Reflection

The *Prodigal Son* is one of the most important teaching parables of Jesus. It was common among Jewish teachers to use comparisons from the daily life of their people to demonstrate how they should live according to the Torah, the Word of God, and his Commandments.

This parable may rather be more fittingly called the *Parable of the Merciful Father*, as it demonstrates the compassion of the Heavenly Father in human terms – It is this aspect that Jesus wants to emphasize the most. The Son of God has come to reveal his Father to us so that we may model ourselves according to his compassionate image. Jesus stresses in his teachings how God often prefers compassion to fasting. This is the lesson and the goal for us to strive towards during this season of Lent.

In this awesome parable we also see the extent of God's compassion. The Father is not only forgiving

towards his prodigal son but he is also patient with the righteous older brother. In fact he judges no one but loves and rejoices in everyone. What a positive image of God is Jesus portraying for us here in this story! This is the kind of God whom we approach after having strayed away; and also after having been judgmental towards others.

It is this *Father of Mercy* that the Church wants us to approach during this season of forgiveness through his beloved Son Jesus. It is through the model of the beloved son that the love of God becomes victorious in the life, passion, and resurrection of Jesus. In the *Hoosoyo* the Bride-Church calls onto Christ saying:

You are the true light
coming into the world.
You are the only Way leading to the Father.
You lived among us and
showed us your love.

Then she – the Mother Church – asks the Lord – like the Merciful Father – to show his compassion for her children:

Open your loving arms to them
and bring them closer to your heart
so that they may meet you with joy
and find happiness in knowing you.

In the *Qolo* the Church recognizes Jesus the Lord, as the *New Adam*, who shined forth from the Father's heart, and who came to renew our human image according to his own. It is by this *light incarnate* that humanity is now instructed, and receives *the gospel of God's love and forgiveness*. And just as the prodigal son returned to his Father's house, now Jesus brings us back to his Father having taken upon himself the fall of our sins; and having enlightened us with the light and joy of his holy gospel.

Therefore let us forgive that we may be forgiven; and with the Father and the Son and *in* the Holy Spirit let us rejoice and celebrate for we were once (many times) lost and we now have been found!

Steven Bonian, S.J.



Abouna's Corner

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Windy Greetings from Saint Rafka!

As I sit to complete the bulletin on Thursday afternoon, we have wind gusts with beautiful spring-like weather. Spring begins today so we seem to be right on schedule. Yet, I know we will have one or two more cold snaps. It is the law of nature!

This Sunday is the actual feast of our holy patroness, Saint Rafka. We will commemorate her at the Divine Liturgy, but we will have the Solemn celebration in the Easter season. May our holy patroness continue to guide us as we grow in age and grace.

The Pastoral Visit of **Bishop Gregory Mansour** was a time for the history books! It was great to have him with us. While here, he led us in prayer and he had dialogue with parish leaders and members. It was a great time for us to get to meet and talk with our chief shepherd as he celebrated liturgies and prayed with us. He sees the needs that we are facing and supports us in our next phase of growth. Pray for Bishop Gregory as he leads our eparchy on our journey to God's Kingdom!

On Friday evening, our community welcomed **Father Fadi Rouhana**, Pastor of Saints Peter and Paul Maronite Church, Tampa, FL and his MYA group to the Upstate for a hiking retreat. Our MYA met them and treated them to a dinner after the evening prayers. On Saturday the group prayed in Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament before hiking. Welcome Abouna Fadi and the Tampa MYA!

The photo sessions are now complete and the next phase of the parish directory will begin. This will be a historic document for us. We have grown a great deal since 2002. A lot of us remember when it was all still a dream!

Vacation Bible School is coming soon in July. A flyer is posted further back in the bulletin and our website has an online application form to fill in which goes directly to **Lisa Advent**. Sign up early! For more details, go [here](#).

Please remember to pray for all who are sick and shut in, unable to be with us in person. Pray for those family members who are their care takers. They need rest and refreshment to continue their ministry of love and care. Saint Rafka, pray for us!

We have a parishioner who lives in the Five Forks area who needs a ride to Church at this time. This parishioner likes to attend the 11 AM Mass. Live close by? Like to help? Contact [Abouna](#) for more details.

Have a holy and prayerful Season of Great Lent! 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



Pastoral Visit of Bishop Gregory Pictorial Highlights



Top left: Bishop Gregory and Antoine Sleiman enjoy the moment of the community singing "Happy Birthday" as Antoine celebrated his 92nd birthday on Sunday. Top right: Bishop Gregory, Antoine and Abouna Bart slice the welcome cake prepared by Chantal Dagher for the special occasion.



Lower left: Bishop Gregory praying the Divine Liturgy of Sunday. Shown with the bishop are Deacon Joe Sanfilippo, Father Pat Cooper and Abouna Bart.



Lower right: Bishop Gregory preaches during the Friday night evening prayer service.

Church Offerings and Attendance

| March 16, 2025 | | |
|----------------------|------------|-------------------|
| 4 PM | 118 | \$1648.00 |
| 8:30 AM | 23 | \$328.00 |
| 11 AM | 171 | \$1782.00 |
| Mail | | \$245.00 |
| PayPal/Electronic | | \$80.00 |
| Total | 312 | \$4,083.00 |
| Budget 2025 | 230 | \$4,350.00 |
| +/- | 82 | -\$267.00 |
| Year to Date | | \$47,376.00 |
| Budget for year +/- | | \$474.00 |
| Building Fund | | |
| Mail In | 0 | |
| 12:00 AM | 0 | |
| 11:00 AM | 0 | |
| Total | 0 | \$0.00 |
| Holy Hour | | 0 |
| Funeral | | 0 |
| 2025 Totals | | |
| 4:00 PM | | 966 |
| 8:30 AM | | 324 |
| 11 AM | | 1264 |
| Weekday Masses | | 834 |
| Holy Hour | | 58 |
| Holy Day | | 221 |
| Special Liturgy | | 57 |
| Funerals | | 150 |
| Weddings | | 60 |

Average Attendance

| 4 PM | 8:30 AM | 11:00 AM |
|-----------|-----------|------------|
| 88 | 29 | 115 |

Facts regarding our bulletin!

Bulletins emailed last weekend: 417 +
Percentage opened 63% -

Opened emails: 264 - Unopened emails: 152 +

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.



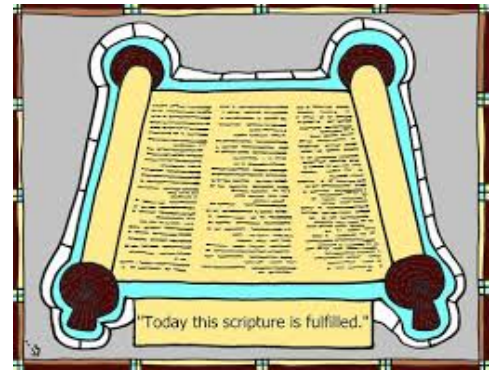
CATHOLIC
INFORMATION CENTER

<https://catholic.center/>



Liturgical Readings

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Old Testament (Arabic) Zechariah 3:1-7 | Nazar Yacu |
| New Testament (English) II Corinthians 13: 5-13 | Dee Kalata |



Mass Intentions

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|------------------------|
| March 22 - 23 | Prodigal Son | |
| Saturday, 4 PM | +Becky | Ceil & Andy |
| Sunday, 8:30 AM | +Richard Wickett | Ceil & Andy |
| Sunday 11:00 AM | +Jack Yacu | Moreen Yacu and Family |
| Tuesday, 10:00 AM | +Martina Farge, Birthday | Marcel Farge |
| Wednesday, 7:00 PM | +Rebecca Caberra | Ceil & Andy |
| Thursday 10:00 AM | NO MASS TODAY | |
| Friday, 10:00 AM | +Paul Bussemey | Joan Bussemey |
| March 29 - 30 | | |
| Saturday 4 PM | Angela | Her Parents |
| Sunday, 8:30 AM | Jackie Stephens | Bob Dowd |
| Sunday 11:00 AM | Piecuch Family | Andrea Piecuch |
| Tuesday, 10:00 AM | Matt Mytych | Barb Mytych |
| Wednesday, 7:00 PM | Living & Deceased Family & Friends | Ceil & Andy |
| Thursday 10:00 AM | Anne Flynn | Cathy & Lou Barnett |
| Friday, 10:00 AM | +Joseph Frisari | Ceil & Andy |

All men of the parish are invited to join men from Prince of Peace Parish for breakfast and fellowship. The Catholic Men's Breakfast meets on the first Thursday of each month at 8:00 AM at the Eggs Up Restaurant, 3935 Pelham Road, Greenville. Please join us and feel free to bring a friend! Any questions call Jack Stewart, 864 787-7592.

Video on the Sainted Massabki brothers on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/NoursatEnglish/videos/1008068293229859>

Calendar of Events

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|--|
| 23 Prodigal Son Saint Rafka Feast Day 8:30 AM, Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy 1:30 PM, Baptism 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 |
| 30 Paralyzed Man 8:30 AM, Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy | 31 | April 1 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow 5:45 PM <i>Ramsho</i> | 2 6:00 PM, Marian Catechists 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy | 3 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy | 4 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM, Stations of the Cross | 5 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy |
| 6 Blind Man 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 | 7 | 8 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow 5:45 PM <i>Ramsho</i> | 9 6:00 PM, Marian Catechists 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy | 10 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy | 11 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM, Stations of the Cross | 12 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy |
| 13 Shaneenee (Palm) 8:30 AM, Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM, Syro-Malabar Liturgy | 14 7:00 PM, Coming to the Harbor Liturgy | 15 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow 7:00 PM, Coming to the Harbor Liturgy | 16 9:00 AM - 6:30 PM, Day of Confessions 7:00 PM, Rite of the Lamp | 17 7:00 PM, Mass of the Lord's Supper | 18 9:00 AM, Signing of the Chalice 3 PM, Stations of the Cross in Arabic الثالثة مساءً، محطات الصليب باللغة العربية 7:00 PM, Burial of Christ | 19 11:00 AM, Rite of Forgiveness 4:00 PM, Easter Vigil Liturgy |
| Holy Week - Sacred <i>Triduum</i> - See Holy Week Schedule | | | | | | |



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

March

March 23, Saint Rafka, Virgin-Confessor
March 25, The Annunciation of Mary
March 26, Gabriel the Archangel
March 29, Saint Cyril, Deacon of Baalbek
March 30, Saint John Climacus of Mount Sinai
April 1, Saint Mary of Egypt
April 23, Saint George the Martyr
April 25, Saint Mark the Evangelist
April 27, Saint Simon the Apostle
April 29, Saint Catherine of Sienna
April 30, Saint James, Son of Zebedee
May 1, Saint Jeremiah the Prophet
May 4, Saint Monica

Prayer List

Karen Krings, John Davis, Pat Moore, Deacon Bob Smith, 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, Tammy Lopez, Anthony Fagiarone, Fernando, Carolyn Groner, Tim Eaton, Kelly Mullens, Carol Craven, Mel Casby, Vincent Howard, K.F., Eileen Howard, Jack Campbell, Hilda Hix, Sue Bauer, Chrisoula, Theresa Woodson, Noah Scott Kestler, Art and Judy Pape, Suhail Yousiff, Tom Craven, Jr., Michael Rau, Chris Davis, Pixie Geren, Mike Dyer, Christian Pereira, Art Newton, Recovery of RS, Claire Barnett, Ethel Brassel, Katrina Shunk, George Vargo, Irma Galvan, Mary Cleary, Joe Lemire, Virginia LaFave, Nabeel Howard, Paul Cote

Birthdays

March

22, Tom Craven
23, Joseph Chebli
23, Clara Rebecca Saad
24, Mariana Elizabeth Saad
24, Giselle Sleiman
24, Paul Leonardi
25, Sophia Therese Sloan
25, Jane Howard
28, Marie Kidd
30, MaryAnne Lepak

April

1, Sandra Reece
2, Suaad Jamile Noori
2, Joseph Chebeir, Jr.
5, Rasha Nadour
7, Lorraine Mercier

Anniversaries

April

13, John and Yvonne Maroun
21, Nabil and Soraya Chackal
24, Lorraine and Maurice Mercier
25, Richard and Afaf Sleiman
25, Sam and Sherri Sandbothe
26, Khader & Nehad Jadallah

Necrology

+Hugh McNally, March 22, 2023
+William (Bill) Baccarny, March 24, 2023
+Fadwa Chalouhi, March 26, 2014
+Philip Joseph Howard, III, April 3, 2007
+Oscar Charles Saad, April 11, 2009
+Tina Cheshire, April 14, 2015
+Chafih Georgen Chalouhi, April 14, 2021
+George Joseph Michael, April 14, 2022
+Doris Howayeck Howard, April 20, 2018

Important Dates to Remember

Shaneene (Palm) Sunday, April 13
Easter, April 20
First Holy Communion, May 18

Holy Week Schedule 2025

Shaneenee (Hosanna/Palm Sunday)

4 PM Vigil Liturgy
8:30 AM, Quiet Liturgy
11 AM, Solemn Liturgy with Procession
Luncheon to follow

Holy Monday

7 PM, Coming to the Harbor Liturgy

Holy Tuesday

10:00 AM, Divine Liturgy
7 PM, Coming to the Harbor Liturgy

Holy Wednesday

9 AM – 6:30 PM, Day of Confessions
7 PM, Rite of the Lamp

**CONFESSIONS ARE NOT HEARD AFTER
THIS TIME UNTIL AFTER EASTER**

Holy Thursday of the Mysteries

7 PM, Divine Liturgy, Washing of the Feet
Eucharistic Procession and Adoration

Good Friday of the Crucifixion

9 AM, Signing of the Chalice
3 PM, Stations of the Cross in Arabic
الثالثة مساءً ، محطات الصليب باللغة العربية
7 PM, Burial of Christ

Holy Saturday of the Awaited Light

11 AM, Service of Forgiveness
(Blessing of Easter Foods, etc. to follow)
4 PM, Solemn Vigil Liturgy

Easter Sunday

8:30 AM, Quiet Liturgy
11 AM, Solemn Liturgy of the Day
Coffee Social to follow.



The Eparchial Couples Ministry & St. Sharbel Spiritual Life Center



THE PROFOUND MYSTERIES

GREAT FRIDAY & SATURDAY OF THE LIGHT

April 1st, at 8 PM EST



Meeting ID: 876 7703 2009
Passcode: 399441



Main Speaker:
Bishop Gregory J. Mansour





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
724-732-4064

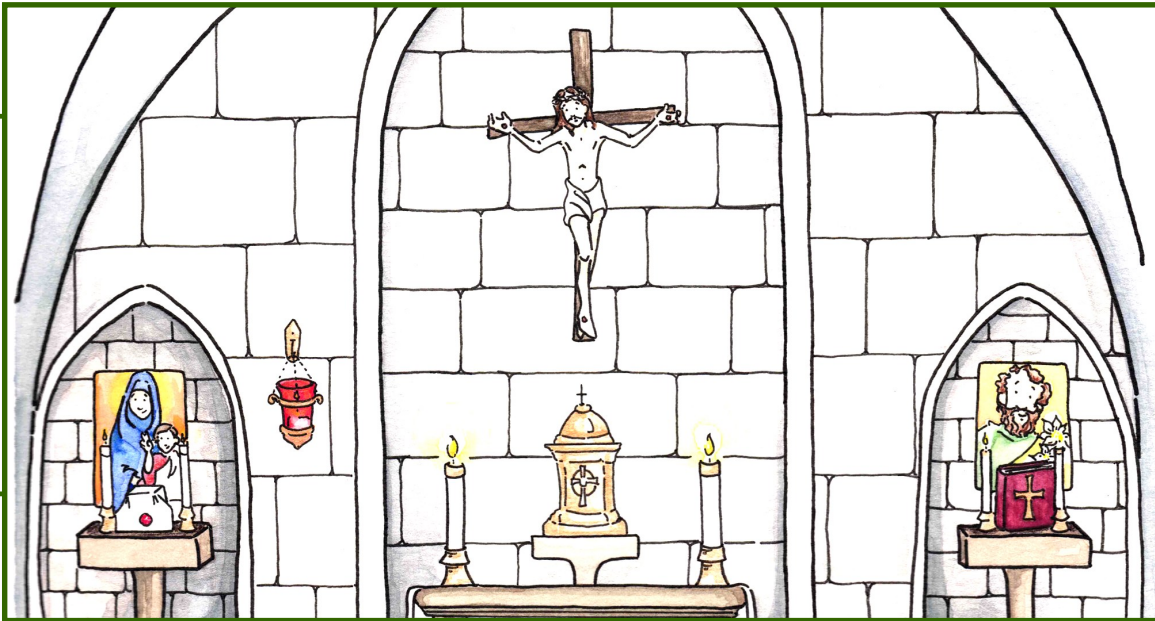


This trip is hosted by the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn.



Vacation Bible School 2025

St. Rafka Maronite Church
1215 SC-14, Greer, SC 29650
saintrafkagreenville@gmail.com



Exploring the Maronite Divine Liturgy

Children (ages 3-12) are welcome to join us each day as we learn about worshipping God through our Maronite Divine Liturgy with prayer, music, crafts, games, and more!

July 21 - 24 (Monday - Thursday)

9:00 am - 1:45 pm (Lunch & snacks provided)

Each day begins with Daily Divine Liturgy (Mass) in the Church at 9:00 am

For more information

Lisa at (864) 414-6957 or **the Church Office** at (864) 469-9119

Email: saintrafkagreenville@gmail.com

Registration Deadline: July 6, 2023

*“I will enter your House, O Lord,
and worship before your throne.”*

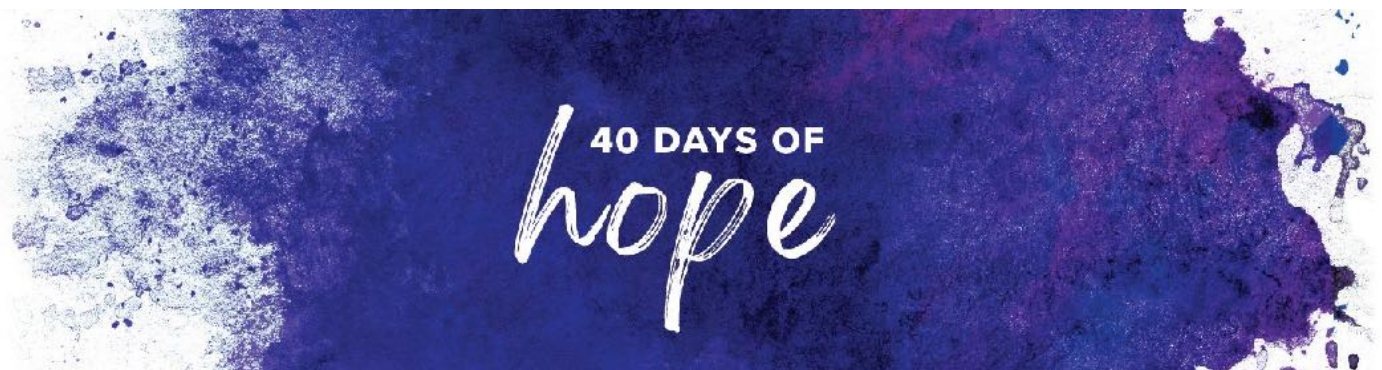
Saint Rafka Food Pantry

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

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'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.



GRIEF MINISTRY WORKSHOP
Deacon Henry DeMena
Bereavement Counselor

WHAT IS GRIEF MINISTRY?
WHAT CAN WE SAY OR DO TO
HELP SOMEONE EXPERIENCING
GRIEF?

Learn Practical Steps For
Accompanying Those Who Grieve

Friday, April 11, 2025
8:00 am - 4:30 pm
St. Rafka's Church
1215 SC-14, Greer, SC 29650

To Register:
<https://charlestandiocese.flocknote.com/signup/204344>
\$10 Registration Includes Lunch
Office of Family Life
cbrown@charlestandiocese.org



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Saint Rafka Council #15519

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



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