

Saint Rafka

Catholics of the East in the Upstate!



Season of Glorious Easter

7th Sunday of Easter

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

**Most Rev. Gregory
John Mansour**

Bishop

109 Remsen Street,
Brooklyn, NY, 11201
718.237.9913

**Father Bartholomew
Leon**

Pastor

1215 S. Highway 14
Greer, SC 29650
864.469.9119

**Father Toni Jabbour,
OMM**

Parochial Vicar

1215 S. Highway 14
Greer, SC 29650
864.469.9119

OFFICE HOURS

10:00 AM - 4:30 PM,
Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday
10:00 AM - 2:30 PM,
Thursday and Friday

DIVINE LITURGIES

The Divine Liturgy is
celebrated on

Saturday,
12 PM, Arabic
4 PM Vigil
Sunday, 11 AM
7 PM

Tuesday, 10:00 AM
Wednesday, 7:00 PM
Thursday 10:00 AM
Friday, 10:00 AM

CONFESSIONS

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Joseph Chebeir
Paula Howard-Casby
Tom Judge
Dee Kalata
Ron Rossi, Sr.
Marlene Saad
Richard Sleiman

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



Bill Leon
Secretary
864.469.9119
[Bill Leon](#)

Sam Jordan Alamat
Organist
[Sam Alamat](#)

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

Jessica Dagher Allen
MRE Director
[Jessica Allen](#)

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

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

Marlene Saad
Scripture Sharing
Women's Guild
[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](#)

Mary Anne Vicaro
Pasta Supper
[Mary Anne Vicaro](#)

Candice King-Palgut
Prayers and Squares
[Candice King-Palgut](#)

Greg Lepak
Scripture Study
[Greg Lepak](#)



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MASS INTENTIONS

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

If you would like to request an intention please remember to submit your intentions for Liturgy ASAP by calling the parish office at 864.469.9119 or by email at secretary@saintrafka.org. 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 blessing with the relic of 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

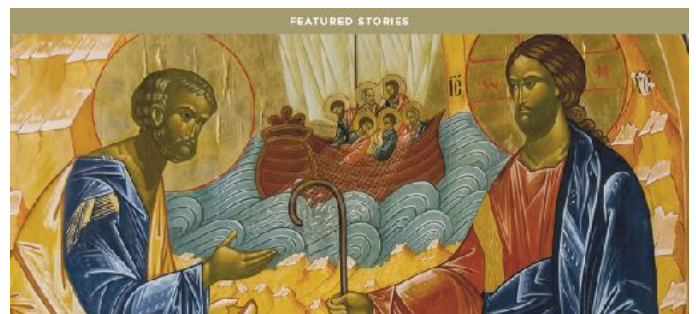
Please follow us at @saintrafkagreenville on **Instagram** and/or **St. Rafka Maronite Church** on **Facebook**. <http://www.facebook.com/strafka>
Also [YouTube](#)!

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.

IN DEFENSE OF CHRISTIANS [IDE](#) 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

Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18

The LORD said to Moses: Speak to the whole Israelite community and tell them: Be holy, for I, the LORD your God, am holy. You shall not steal. You shall not deceive or speak falsely to one another. You shall not swear falsely by my name, thus profaning the name of your God. I am the LORD.

You shall not exploit your neighbor. You shall not commit robbery. You shall not withhold overnight the wages of your laborer. You shall not insult the deaf, or put a stumbling block in front of the blind, but you shall fear your God. I am the LORD.

You shall not act dishonestly in rendering judgment. Show neither partiality to the weak nor deference to the mighty, but judge your neighbor justly. You shall not go about spreading slander among your people; nor shall you stand by idly when your neighbor's life is at stake. I am the LORD.

You shall not hate any of your kindred in your heart. Reprove your neighbor openly so that you do not incur sin because of that person. Take no revenge and cherish no grudge against your own people. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.

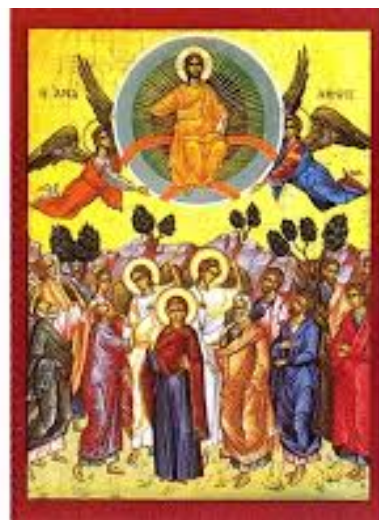
Ephesians 1:15 - 23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

John 13:31 - 35

When he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come." I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'



Reflection

How often do we trace the sign of the cross upon ourselves? Likely we do so every time we begin to pray and at the end, and perhaps during our prayer as well and throughout the day. The sign of the cross is integral to our faith because Christ by His cross made a fool of death and destroyed sin by His death. But the sign of the cross does not only recall the death of Christ – for if Christ only died and nothing else, our faith would be in vain (1 Cor. 15:14). We do not worship a dead god, but the God of Life. When we sign ourselves with the cross we recall the entirety of Christ's mercy towards us on Earth from His conception at the Annunciation to the Ascension after His Resurrection into heaven, which we just celebrated this past Thursday. By Christ's life we have life. But when we sign ourselves with the cross, we do not simply say "In the name of the Son" but "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" to which we add in the Syriac tradition "the one true God. Amen." Though Christ was the only Person of the Trinity to become man, He was never separated from His Father or Spirit, and though there are three Persons in the Trinity, He is one true God without division.

We often hear and know the mention of the relationship between the Father and the Son, but our tradition brings particular light to the Spirit. The "St. Thomas" Cross of the Syriac tradition presents the truth of the Spirit clearly – this St. Thomas Cross is a cross with a dove, the Holy Spirit, perched on the top. The Holy Spirit, equal in being and majesty as the Father and Son, never left the Son since the Trinity is one, and the Trinity together completed every act of salvation on our behalf. Never was Christ separated or abandoned by the Father or Spirit in His entire life. From the beginning of the world, what the Father and Son began the Spirit also completed – just as we see in Genesis, the Spirit hovered over the waters (Gen. 1:2). Likewise, the Spirit hovers over our sacrifice to God upon the altar, depicted by the priest waving his hands at the *epiclesis*, just as He hovered over Mary at the Annunciation (Luke 1:35), over the Jordan at Christ's baptism (Matt.

3:16), and over the cross at the Christ's crucifixion. But just as the Father and Spirit never abandoned Christ in their unity of being and love, Christ did not abandon us when He physically ascended back to heaven.

As Christ promised His Apostles before His death, "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever — the Spirit of truth...I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you" (John 14:16,18). The same Spirit that completes, nourishes, consoles and perfects was poured upon the Apostles at Pentecost that, in union with the Spirit, they would be in union with the Son and Father. Just as the Apostles received the Spirit at Pentecost, we have been given participation in the divine nature by our baptism and confirmation, when the Spirit clothed us between the waters. Christ did not leave us by His Ascension, but incorporated us into the divine life by His Spirit. This is why we eagerly look forward to this great Feast of Pentecost next week – the great completion when the Spirit poured forth upon creation.

The St. Thomas Cross shows us that even at Christ's moment on the cross He was not abandoned by the Spirit, Who has been with Him since before all time. In Christ's love and mercy for us, He has given us, His baptized believers, the same Spirit that we may be united to Him, and His Father, and His Holy Spirit. With this in mind, let us pray in preparation for next week's great feast:

Make us worthy, O Lord God, Lover of Men, that we may sate our souls and fill our hearts with the rational drink of the new wine of the Spirit, the Paraclete, that, while made pure and holy, we may sing pure praises with pure and holy tongues to Your adorable and holy name, and that of Your Only-Begotten Son, and Your Holy Spirit, now and at all times, forever. Amen.

(From the Maronite Kneeling Rite for the Feast of Pentecost)

Father Michael Shami
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Catholic Church
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Abouna's Corner

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Happy and Holy Easter Season to All! The Lord is truly Risen! Indeed, He is Risen! Alleluia!!

Happy Mother's Day to all of our mothers of the parish. May God continue to bless each of you with His Grace and give you health, peace and tranquility. May your children love and honor you. May our mothers who have fallen asleep in Christ watch over us from Heaven until we join them in the presence of the Lord.

I hope all had a good Ascension Thursday. We had two Divine Liturgies and they were both well attended. Thank you for coming to honor our Lord and to fulfill your obligation for this holy day.

Next Sunday is Glorious Pentecost, the end of the Easter Season. We will also have First Holy Communion at the 11:00 AM Liturgy. Pray for our children who will receive Confirmation and First Holy Communion so they will be strong in the Faith throughout their lives. Come, Holy Spirit!

The end of the school year is approaching and Summer beginning. This also marks the beginning of travel and vacation for many of our community members. If you are able to get away, enjoy! Please remember to continue to support the community in your absence. Our bills stay constant even when our people are away. Many thanks for your generosity. Enjoy your time away!

Thanks to all who take pictures during events at the church and then send them on to me. As you notice, I can use these as part of the bulletin. A picture is worth a thousand words! Thanks for all your help!

The **Garden Club Soup Sale** will be next weekend, May 18 - 19. Make sure to support this noble cause on Pentecost weekend. Thanks go to the Garden Club for the beautiful flowers that adorn the grounds of the church building, Wickett Hall and Francis House.

Have a great weekend! See you in Church *Salaam!*

Ab. Bart



Church Offerings and Attendance

May 5, 2023		
12:00 Noon Saturday	20	\$140.00
4 PM	66	\$1,837.00
11 AM	119	\$1,019.00
7:00 PM	45	\$390.00
Mail		\$1600.00
PayPal/Electronic		\$695.00
Total	230	\$5,541.00
Budget	225	\$4,100.00
+/-	5	\$1,441.00
Year to Date		\$76,919.00
Budget for year +/-		\$3,119.00
Building Fund		
4 PM		\$0.00
11 AM		\$0.00
7 PM		\$0.00
Total		\$0.00
Holy Hour		0
Holy Day		0
Funeral		0
2024 Totals		
4 PM		1662
11 AM		2194
7 PM		728
Weekday Masses		1543
Holy Hour		136
Holy Day		146
Special Liturgy		117
Funerals		182
Weddings		60
Pasta Supper		246

Average Attendance

4 PM	11 AM	7 PM	Per Liturgy Average
92	122	40	85

Facts regarding our bulletin!

Bulletins emailed last weekend: 376 *

Percentage opened 60% -

Opened emails: 227 - Unopened emails: 145 -

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 candle burns this week In Honor of the Holy Face of Jesus by Barb Mytych.**

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 Business Listings



Business Owners: Sign Up!

Catholic Business Listings is an online listing of fellow parishioners who are also business owners, craftsmen, and farmers offering products and services for sale. Catholic Business Listings is FREE to use, and businesses only pay a small annual fee of \$120 to list their business.

Please consider subscribing and supporting your fellow Catholics. Thank you!

PLEASE CONTACT: ENVELOPES AND BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR OF THE CHURCH.

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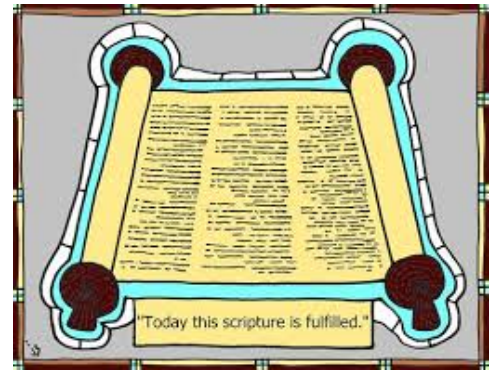


CATHOLIC INFORMATION CENTER



Liturgical Readings

Old Testament (English) Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18	Matthew Slusz
New Testament (Arabic) Ephesians 1:15 - 23	Rania Sammour



Mass Intentions

May 11 - 12	7th Easter	
Saturday, 4 PM	Bessie Curtis	Curt & Yvette Curtis
Sunday 11 AM	Mothers of the Parishioners, Living & Deceased	Abouna
Sunday, 11 AM (II)	Open	
Sunday, 7:00 PM	Intentions of the Parishioners	
Tuesday, 10:00 AM	Open	
Wednesday, 10:00 AM	Andy Frisari	Anna Shimow
Thursday, 10:00 AM	Open	
Friday, 10:00 AM	Open	
Saturday, 12:00 Noon	Open	
May 18 - 19	Pentecost	
Saturday, 4 PM	+Donna Sesny	Tony Sesny
Sunday 11 AM	Young Adult Catholic Group Spartunburg	Barb Mytych
Sunday, 11 AM (II)	First Holy Communion Children	
Sunday, 7:00 PM	Open	
Tuesday, 10:00 AM	+Wayne Langschied	Agnes Langschied
Wednesday, 7:00 PM	Open	
Thursday 7:00 PM	Open	
Friday, 10:00 AM	Open	
Saturday, 12:00 Noon	Open	

A **Men's Breakfast** for all men of the parish, meeting with men from Prince of Peace Parish, and their friends are invited to join for breakfast and fellowship on the first Thursday of the month. The men gather at 8:00 AM at Egg's up Grill, 2935 Pelham Rd. For more information, call **Jack Stewart** at 864.787.7592.

Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
12 7th Sunday Easter 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM Syro-Malabar Mass 7 PM, Last Chance Mass	13	14 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow 5:45 <i>Ramsho</i> 7:00 PM, <i>KC Meeting</i>	15 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy	16 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	17 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	18 Pentecost Vigil 12:00 PM, Arabic Mass 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy
19 Pentecost 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM Korean Mass 7 PM, Last Chance Mass	20	21 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow 5:45 <i>Ramsho</i>	22 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy	23 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	24 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	25 12:00 PM, Arabic Mass 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy
26 Holy Trinity 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM Syro-Malabar Mass 7 PM, Last Chance Mass	27	28 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow 5:45 <i>Ramsho</i>	29 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy	30 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	31 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	June 1 11:00 AM, Crowning 12:00 PM, Arabic Mass 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy
2 3rd Pentecost 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy Pot Luck Luncheon 3:00 PM Holy Hour 5:00 PM Korean Mass 7 PM, Last Chance Mass	3	4 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow 5:45 <i>Ramsho</i>	5 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy	6 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	7 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	8 12:00 PM, Arabic Mass 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy



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Downtown Chapel
 639 North Main Street
 Greenville, SC 29601
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Northwest Chapel
 6710 White Horse Road
 Greenville, SC 29611
 (864) 294-6415

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

SAINT RAFKA GARDEN CLUB

Adopt-A-Pot

Thank you to all of those who have donated all the flower pots are **sold!!!**

We have been planting all week and finished late on Wednesday. Thank you for your generosity in making the church look beautiful! God bless you one and all!

Soup Sale

We are continuing until May 5th to take advance orders. With the money we collected so far we found and purchased two roses in front of St. Rafka and two panels for behind St. Rafka. We will be offering soup sales after each liturgy on May 18th and 19th. Thank you all for supporting our efforts.

SOUP SALE RESCHEDULED FOR MAY 18 - 19



أتى فصل الربيع ونريد حديقة القديسة رفقا ان تكون جميلة وذلك بمساعدة نادي الحديقة بالأشياء التالية
الاول

بيع ثلاثة أنواع من الشوربات
Chilie with meat - Chicken soup -
Lentil soup

وذلك بتاريخ ٢٠ و ٢١ من نيسان
بامكانكم ان تطلبوا الشوربة التي تريدون قبل
Bridget phone number (864)775 8709
الموعد وذلك بالاتصال ب

الثاني
وتذكروا اسم احد من موتاكم
وذلك بتاريخ (٥) أيار

شكرا لتعاونكم

Saints of the Day

May

May 12, Saint Epiphanius, Bishop of Cyrus
May 15, Our Lady of the Harvest
May 17, Saint Sirapion the Abbot (Prophet)
May 21, Saints Constantine and Helen
May 22, Saint Rita of Cascia, the Miraculous
May 23, Tobias the Prophet
May 29, Saint Theodosia of Tyre

June

June 1, Saint Justin, Martyr (+168)
June 2, The Four Evangelists
June 3, Saint Awtel, Confessor (+327)
June 10, Saint Barnabas, Apostle
June 11, Saint Bartholomew, Apostle

Prayer List

Thomas Sloan, Ciera D, Jacob Collins, Irene Ponce, Philomena Reed, Rick Argon, Sister Mary Emmanuel, OSC, Hewitt Dickerson, Brielle Sheriff, Carol, Gina, Jeni Yacu, Rodena and Bruce Thompson, Andrea Emilia Bernabey, Nadim Chebeir, Mike, Leo, B J Dursse, Deacon Dick Murtaugh, Vicki Gosnell, Sam Clutter, Michael Tierney, Paul Shimow, Betty Mileski, Doug Logan, Rita Charbonete, Frances Danton, Diane Hickey, Alan Frechette, Jacob and Jaxson Rivera, Andrea Wise, Patrizia, Susan Clarke, Andy Frisari, Beth, Mary Dowden, Karen Rodgers, Nancy Georgion, Rosemary & Jim King, Mark Knight, Stephen Wedgeworth, MR, Hilda Hix, Catherine Caul, Albert Martin, Nanine D'Aquin, Elizabeth Fallet, Anthony Kozakiewicz, Bill Riley, KG, Linda Crosby, Jenny Gould, Maurice Mercier, Breese, Jennifer Payne, Matt Smith, Leila Chebeir, Tammy Lopez, Anthony Fagiarone, Fernando, Carolyn Groner, Tim Eaton, Kelly Mullens, Carol Craven, Mel Casby, Vincent Howard, K.F., Eileen Howard, Jack Campbell, Hilda Hix, Sue Bauer, Chrisoula, Theresa Woodson, Noah Scott Kestler, Art and Judy Pape, Suhail Yousiff, Tom Craven, Jr., Michael Rau, Chris Davis, Pixie Geren, Mike Dyer, Christian Pereira, Art Newton, Nancy Georgion, Recovery of RS, Claire Barnett, Ethel Brassel, Katrina Shunk, George Vargo, Irma Galvan, Mary Cleary, Joe Lemire, Virginia LaFave, Nabeel Howard, Paul Cote and Family, Joan Bussemey, Joe Durham, Michael Bays, Patrick Lavelle, Tara Galvin, Susan Connor, Bill Hines, Beth Banks, Shawn Sexton, James and Kaleigh, Antonella, Stephanie,

Birthdays

May

(Belated) 5, Marie Bentz
11, Marc Abraham
11, Pryce Saad
12, Mike Benson
13, Joseph Gerard Sassonr
15 Jennifer Ann Valitchka
15, Leo Paris
16, Luke Lepak
18, Theresa Gallivan
19, Dr. Fady Nassif
19, Maryjoy Lepak Mohr
22, Jim Dyer
23, Deacon Bob Smith

Anniversaries

May

25, Paula and Mel Casby

June

1, Joseph and Rim Abraham
5, Tim and Cheryl Gilson
8, Father Bart, Priesthood Ordination 1985
12, Ken and Annie Migut

Necrology

May

+Paul Gallagher, May 11, 2014
+Montaha Achi, May 12, 2023
+Stephen John Howard, May 25, 2009
+Phillip Kelly (P.K.) Howard, May 27, 2013
+Nazih Namouz, May 31, 2021

Important Dates to Remember

Pentecost/First Holy Communion, May 19
Vacation Bible School, July 22 - 26
Golf Outing, September 16
Christmas Market, December 14 - 15
Haflī, February 22, 2025

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.

St. Clare's Home

St. Clare's Home is an upstate maternity home for expectant mothers who choose life and are in need of shelter, safety, and security. We are in need of more volunteers who support our mission!

Please contact our Volunteer Coordinator at stclaresvolunteer@charlestondiocese.org for the many ways you can get involved.

Please donate to support our mission for St. Clare's Home at: <https://www.stclareshomesc.org/donate> or visit our wish list and Amazon wish list at <https://www.stclareshomesc.org/wish-list>

Thank you!



Maron's Vine

is a new initiative by the National Apostolates of Maronites (NAM) to connect members of the Maronite community with businesses, services, and products at the local and national level- building upon our age old tradition of uniting our friends and family with members of our community to meet their needs. It is our vision that through a NAM membership all will have access to Maron's Vine registry, while anyone who wishes to become a part of our registry can do so without limitation.

By filling out the following inquiry, you will help us better understand our community's interest in the Maron's Vine project. We appreciate your participation in connecting our greater community together.



Inquiry

Palmetto Home Improvement Handyman

Simon Elias
864-340-5101
Free Estimate

se_improvements

Our Lady of Guadalupe Pilgrimage



LED BY
FATHER TONI JABBOUR

**OCTOBER
18 - 24**

2024

FROM Charlotte, NC TO MEXICO

OTHER CITIES IN THE US ALSO AVAILBLE, PLEASE CALL FOR PRICING

COST PER PERSON
\$2890

Sign up and deposit are required by May 15. Call now to reserve your place!

INCLUDES

- * Round trip airline * 4-star hotels * Breakfast and dinner *
- * Pilgrimage activities and entrance fees * Mass daily * Private transportation per itinerary

EXCLUDES

- * Gratuities * Travel Insurance * Lunch * Personal expense

Good Shepherd Travel

www.goodshepherdtravel.com

Toll Free: 1-844-659-5263

59th Annual NAM Convention

JULY 4-7, 2024 | ST. SHARBEL CHURCH
DETROIT MARRIOTT RENAISSANCE CENTER



DETROIT, MICHIGAN

MARONITES ON MISSION: CREATED. CALLED. SENT FORTH.



CONVENTION REGISTRATION Deadline: June 1st
www.namnews.org | (914) 964-3070 | info@namnews.org

  @NationalApostolateofMaronites - NAM

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Canada is across the river! Bring your passports!

The Spring Campaign of 40 Days for Life,

Spring Campaign, ended March 24, 2024, with much good fruit produced. On an international level, Record for a campaign – 6 abortion facilities confirmed closed – total since 2007 (154)

505 babies saved - total since 2007 (24,768)

4 more workers quit – total since 2007 (260)

5 sets of twins were saved

We are especially grateful for the 3 lives saved in Greenville that we know of. We can truly say that prayer and fasting is the answer. A big thank you to all who participated for your sacrifice and dedication.

Abortions continue to be performed daily at the Greenville Women's Clinic. If you are able, select a day and time that works for you and continue with us for 40 Days 365 at the abortion facility. We are there from 8:00 am until 3:00 pm. Please sign up on the 40 Days for Life 365 Calendar at www.40daysforlife.com/greenville. We need sidewalk advocates and prayer warriors there daily, beyond the 40 Days Campaigns. Help spread the word to others about this important life-saving effort. For more information please call Judy 864-506-0964 or Ingrid 864-329-0044.

Sidewalk Counseling Training: Online/virtual training and in-person training are both offered. Contact Judy Masterson at 864-506-0964, or info@sidewalkadvocatesgreenville.org.



Vacation Bible School 2024

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

Exploring the Middle East with our Maronite Saints

When: July 22nd - 25th, 2024 (Monday through Thursday)

Ages: 3-12 years old

Time: 9:00 am - 1:30 pm (Lunch & snacks provided)

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

Children are welcome to join us each day as we learn about our Maronite saints and how to imitate them in a life of virtue with prayer, music, crafts, games, and more!

For more information, please contact:

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

Registration Deadline: No Later than July 7, 2024



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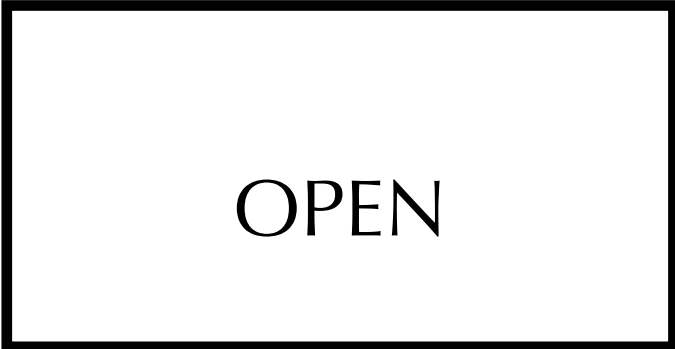


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Kenia Brockman
ESL Program Manager

225 S. Pleasantburg Drive
Suite C-10
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