

Saint Rafka

Catholics of the East in the Upstate!



Season of Glorious Easter

6th 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

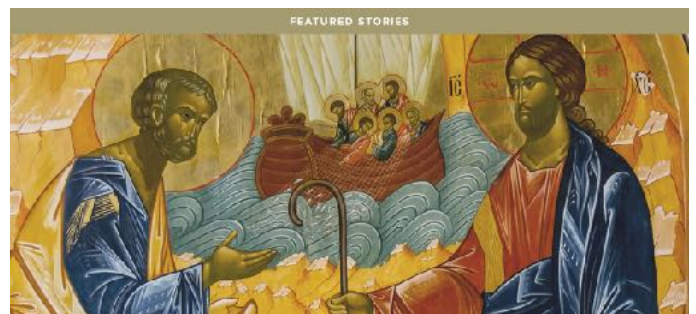
Please follow us at @saintrafkagreenville on **Instagram** and/or **St. Rafka Maronite Church** on **Facebook**. <http://www.facebook.com/strafka>
Also [YouTube](#)!

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

Deuteronomy 31:1-9

When Moses had finished speaking these words to all Israel, he said to them, I am now one hundred and twenty years old and am no longer able to go out and come in; besides, the LORD has said to me, Do not cross this Jordan. It is the LORD, your God, who will cross before you; he will destroy these nations before you, that you may dispossess them. (It is Joshua who will cross before you, as the LORD promised.) The LORD will deal with them just as he dealt with Sihon and Og, the kings of the Amorites, and with their country, when he destroyed them. When, therefore, the LORD delivers them up to you, you shall deal with them according to the whole commandment which I have given you. Be strong and steadfast; have no fear or dread of them, for it is the LORD, your God, who marches with you; he will never fail you or forsake you.

Then Moses summoned Joshua and in the presence of all Israel said to him, "Be strong and steadfast, for you shall bring this people into the land which the LORD swore to their ancestors he would give them; it is you who will give them possession of it. It is the LORD who goes before you; he will be with you and will never fail you or forsake you. So do not fear or be dismayed."

When Moses had written down this law, he gave it to the levitical priests who carry the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and to all the elders of Israel.

Romans 10:1-13

Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. I can testify that they have a zeal for God, but it is not enlightened. For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they have not submitted to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes. Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that 'the person who does these things will live by them.' But the righteousness that comes from

faith says, 'Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?" ' (that is, to bring Christ down)'or "Who will descend into the abyss?" ' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? 'The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart' (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, 'No one who believes in him will be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

Luke 24:36-48

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

Reflection

“Who amongst kings would have a crown of thorns placed upon himself? When and where have you heard of such a king who would wear this kind of crown?” scoffed the wicked thief at the crucifixion of our Lord on Good Friday (according to our Syriac tradition of dialogue hymns). In the eyes of the world, Jesus, Who saved so many and worked such great miracles, was a failure on Good Friday – He was hanged upon a cross and crowned with a crown of thorns in mockery. But the Good Thief retorts with wisdom that surpasses even the Apostles at that time, “A man is unable to do this, but Jesus is imperishable. He has uprooted the thorns of the earth by His thorns in order to free Adam from the curse.” A human king, which is what the wicked thief thought Jesus claimed to be, would wear a gold crown and struggle to exert his rule over those who defy him. Jesus, our God, is a king without question, Who assumed the lowest parts of our humanity to elevate us in our fallen state to His divine nature. Jesus is the Immortal and Almighty God, but as the priest prays in our liturgy, “You have assumed what is ours and You have given us what is Yours.” In today’s Gospel reading, Christ assures His Apostles by His own appearance in a real body that His true bodily and human death was to offer immortal life to us.

“It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have” (Luke 24:39) said our Lord in appearing to His disciples once again. Having seen Christ in the flesh and as a man, many of the disciples believed Jesus was dead after His crucifixion. And He did truly die – He was not a ghost, but He had actual hands and feet that were nailed, as well as His side that was pierced, blood that was spilled and breath that left Him. Christ died in His humanity, but He is the Immortal Lord and so He rose again from the dead three days later with the same human body. If Christ had not truly been human, He would not have assumed all our human frailties and raised them up to participate in His divine nature redeeming us from the fall of Adam. If Christ had not truly been divine, He would have simply died,

not been raised and all we do would be in vain as St. Paul says (1 Cor. 15:14) because a mere man would not have had power to save us from sin and death. But God, Who does not have hands or feet, assumed them in His human birth so that He might be near us as another human being, and ultimately die as a human. But, being God, He descended to the place of the dead, Sheol, and destroyed death and sin for all Who follow Him – this is why He says elsewhere that, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” (John 8:12). Christ has already seen death and conquered it for those who follow Him for “the one who believes in me will live, even though they die” (John 11:25). They will live not only in memory but in the Kingdom of Heaven and will rise from the dead, as Christ did, sharing in His divine reality if they only follow Him through the trials He has already faced before us.

Assuring His Apostles, Luke records Jesus as having said, “Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me...This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem” (Luke 24:44,46-47). Death seems to be a hopeless reality if we face it as humans. Those who thought Christ was only man thought He was destroyed at His death. A crown of thorns was the perfect mockery as all His suffering would have been pointless had He only been a man dying for Himself. But Christ is God and life itself Who destroyed death by His death, and gave to humanity His divinity in eternal life by His rising. We need only to repent from our sins, which bring death upon us like Adam, and turn back to Him Who patiently waits for us to respond to His appearing.

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!!

To all of our Orthodox brothers and sisters, Happy *Pascha*! May Your Easter Season be filled with the joy of Christ's resurrection from the dead! Enjoy the Holy Feast!

I had a wonderful ten days away filled with weddings, high school lunches and even a convention in a casino. It is nice to get away, but honestly, I missed my bed and my regular activities. It is nice to be home!

I want to thank all in the Garden Club who have worked to mulch and plant in the church gardens. The flowers are absolutely beautiful and I appreciate all your hard work to beautify our grounds. May God bless you and **Saint Isidore** guide your hands in the soil!

This past Wednesday I celebrated my first public Latin Rite liturgy at Saint Mary's. I was able to get through the Eucharistic Prayer as it was short. I have set June 1 to try to celebrate a Maronite liturgy in the church. The *Anaphora* is much longer and I have to work myself up to standing that long. I set a goal each week to accomplish and it has worked well. My physical therapy is going well and I get stronger by the day. Please continue to pray for my complete recovery.

This Thursday, May 9, is **Ascension Thursday**. It is a **HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION** for all Eastern Catholics. Please plan on joining us for the 10:00 AM or 7:00 PM Divine Liturgies that day.

The **Garden Club Soup Sale** has been rescheduled May 18 - 19. There were several reasons the group had to postpone the sale for this weekend. Make sure to support this noble cause on Pentecost weekend. Thanks also to those who sponsored a pot of flowers. All the pots for this year have been claimed.

Chorbishop Joseph Francis Kaddo entered peacefully into eternal life on April 26, 2024, after a long life of service and dedication to the Church and her people. Chorbishop Kaddo served and began several parishes in the Eparchy as well as serving as Vicar General under **Bishop Stephen Hector Doueihi**. A true priest with the heart of Christ, he was a great role model to the priests and like Saint Rafka, he suffered faithfully in his older years. May he rest in peace and may his memory be eternal!

Last Sunday I was inducted into the *Equestrian Order of the Knights of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem* in Biloxi MS. This Order helps preserve the holy sites in the Holy Land. What an honor to be part of this ancient group.

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

Ab. Bart



The Bishop of Biloxi, MS, **Most Rev. Louis F. Kihnerman, III**, was a priest of the Diocese of Corpus Christi where I was ordained. I had a change to see the Bishop last weekend in Biloxi.

Church Offerings and Attendance

April 28, 2023		
12:00 Noon Saturday	14	\$18.00
4 PM	88	\$1,293.00
11 AM	117	\$1,200.00
7:00 PM	54	\$767.00
Mail		\$507.00
PayPal/Electronic		\$820.00
Total	259	\$4,587.00
Budget	225	\$4,100.00
+/-	34	\$487.00
Year to Date		\$71,378.00
Budget for year +/-		\$1,678.00
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		1596
11 AM		2075
7 PM		683
Weekday Masses		1470
Holy Hour		110
Holy Day		146
Special Liturgy		117
Funerals		182
Weddings		60
Pasta Supper		173

Average Attendance

4 PM	11 AM	7 PM	Per Liturgy Average
94	122	40	85

Facts regarding our bulletin!

Bulletins emailed last weekend: 376 *
 Percentage opened 61% -
Opened emails: 231 - Unopened emails: 141 -

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 & Continued Intercession of St. Joseph 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.



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!



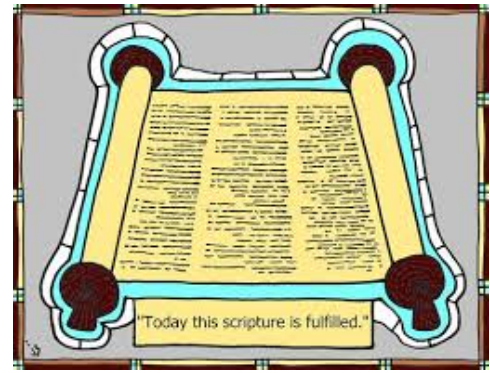
CATHOLIC

INFORMATION CENTER



Liturgical Readings

Old Testament (Arabic) Deuteronomy 31:1-9	Fadi Mahanna
New Testament (English) Romans 10:1-13	Steve Wood



Mass Intentions

May 4 - 5	6th Easter	
Saturday, 4 PM	+Diane Hermes	Ceil & Andy
Sunday 11 AM	+Rex Gwinn	Curt & Yvette Curtis
Sunday, 11 AM (II)	+Montaha Achi, 1 Year Anniversary	Richard & Afaf Sleiman & Family
Sunday, 11 AM (III)	+Yousef Mahanna, 40 Day Memorial	Fadi Mahanna & Family
Sunday, 7:00 PM	Living & Deceased Friends Of Ceil & Andy	Ceil & Andy
Tuesday, 10:00 AM	Health of Carol Austad	Sister Mary Emmanuel Shaw, OSC
Wednesday, 10:00 AM	Bob Dowd	Birthday Wishes
Thursday, 10:00 AM	Gavin, Aidan, Brendan, Ryan, Ian and Damien Killough	Kristie Killough
Thursday, 7:00 PM	Health of Thomas Sloan	Sloan Family
Friday, 10:00 AM	Open	
Saturday, 12:00 Noon	Open	
May	7th Easter	
Saturday, 4 PM	Bessie Curtis	Curt & Yvette Curtis
Sunday 11 AM	Open	
Sunday, 11 AM (II)	Open	
Sunday, 7:00 PM	Intentions of the Parishioners	
Tuesday, 10:00 AM	Open	
Wednesday, 7:00 PM	Andy Frisari	Anna Shimow
Thursday, 10:00 AM	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
5 6th Sunday Easter 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy Potluck Luncheon 3:00 PM, Holy Hour 5:00 PM Korean Mass 7 PM, Last Chance Mass	6	7 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow 5:45 <i>Ramsho</i>	8 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy	9 Ascension 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM Divine Liturgy	10 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	11 12:00 PM, Arabic Mass 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy
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



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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

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
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الموعد وذلك بالاتصال ب

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

شكرا لتعاونكم

Saints of the Day

May

May 8, Saint John the Evangelist

May 9, Saint Isaiah the Prophet

May 10, Saint Simon the Zealot, Apostle
(Confederate Veterans Day)

Day of Coptic-Catholic Friendship

May 12, Saint Epiphanius, Bishop of Cyprus

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

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

5, Billy Rouch

6, Roy Micke

7, Gail Bannister

7, Anastasia Sandifer

8, Dania Zarrouf

8, Marie (Mimi) Feghali

9, Najah Khawaja

9, Alan Nadour

10, Jennifer Yacu Kerzzo

10, Mathieu Sleiman

11, Marc Abraham

11, Pryce Saad

12, Mike Benson

Anniversaries

May

8, Paul and Mary Leonardi

8, Mike and Barbara Fontayne

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

+Greg Howard, May 6, 2017

+Anwar Yacu, May 8, 2003

+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

Ascension Thursday, May 9

Pentecost/First Holy Communion, May 19

Vacation Bible School, July 22 - 26

Golf Outing, September 16

Christmas Market, December 14 - 15

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
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Free Estimate

se_improvements

The Ascension of the Lord



Holy Day of Obligation

Divine Liturgy at 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM

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

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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

HOTEL BOOKINGS (\$189+/Night, Single/Double)
<https://book.passkey.com/e/50700969> | (313) 568-8000



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



Pot Luck Luncheon

May 5, 20124



MEATS-MAIN DISHES SIDE DISHES/SALADS DESSERTS

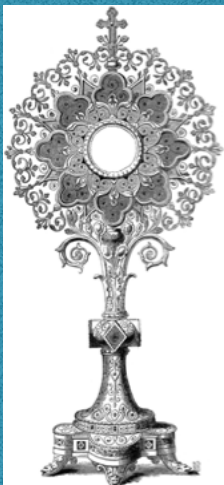
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T - Z

Please note: Bring plenty! Our people like to eat and we usually have a good crowd at our Pot Luck Luncheons. Many thanks for your hospitality!

This Sunday, May 5 2024



First Sunday Holy Hour

Exposition
Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
Chaplet of Mercy
Confessions

3 PM

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☎ 864-252-9069

📍 879 NE Main St. Suite B
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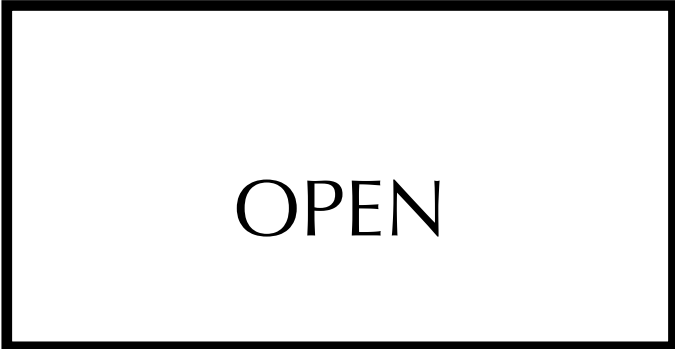
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Saint Rafka Council #15519

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



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