

# Saint Rafka

Catholics of the East in the Upstate!



## Announcement to Zechariah Season of Announcement

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**  
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](#)

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

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

**Building Committee**  
**Phase 1**  
Richard Sleiman  
Thomas Judge  
Ron Rossi, Sr.



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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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://MassTimes.org)  
[The Catholic Directory](#)  
[Parishes Online](#)

## SOCIAL MEDIA

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

## SAINT RAFKA FOOD PANTRY

Established in 2019, the Saint Rafka Food Pantry is for those who need immediate food assistance. Need food? Call the church office or come by, 10 AM - 2 PM. You can also email **Marie Kidd** who is coordinating this project. All gifts of food are anonymous. Donations of food are accepted either at the Church Office or the back of the church.

## SCRIPTURE SHARING

Scripture haring discussion following the Carmelite Way with Saint Therese of the Little Flower and Saint John of the Cross

**IN DEFENSE OF CHRISTIANS** [IDF](#) Individuals banning together help and make know the plight of the Christians in the Middle East and their suffering.

**SHRINE OF THE PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS** in the United States. [Video here](#).

## Scripture Readings

Genesis 17:15-22

God further said to Abraham: As for Sarai your wife, do not call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. I will bless her, and I will give you a son by her. Her also will I bless; she will give rise to nations, and rulers of peoples will issue from her. Abraham fell face down and laughed as he said to himself, "Can a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Can Sarah give birth at ninety?" So Abraham said to God, "If only Ishmael could live in your favor!" God replied: Even so, your wife Sarah is to bear you a son, and you shall call him Isaac. It is with him that I will maintain my covenant as an everlasting covenant and with his descendants after him. Now as for Ishmael, I will heed you: I hereby bless him. I Will make him fertile and will multiply him exceedingly. He will become the father of twelve chieftains, and I will make of him a great nation. But my covenant I will maintain with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you by this time next year. When he had finished speaking with Abraham, God departed from him.

Rom. 4:13-25

It was not through the law that the promise was made to Abraham and his descendants that he would inherit the world, but through the righteousness that comes from faith. For if those who adhere to the law are the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law produces wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason, it depends on faith, so that it may be a gift, and the promise may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not to those who only adhere to the law but to those who follow the faith of Abraham, who is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into being what does not exist. He believed, hoping against hope, that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "Thus shall your descendants be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body as [already] dead (for he was almost a hundred years old) and the dead womb of Sarah. He did not doubt God's promise

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in unbelief; rather, he was empowered by faith and gave glory to God and was fully convinced that what he had promised he was also able to do. That is why "it was credited to him as righteousness." But it was not for him alone that it was written that "it was credited to him"; it was also for us, to whom it will be credited, who believe in the one who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over for our transgressions and was raised for our justification.

Luke 1:1-25

Since many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as those who were eyewitnesses from the beginning and ministers of the word have handed them down to us, I too have decided, after investigating everything accurately anew, to write it down in an orderly sequence for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may realize the certainty of the teachings you have received. In the days of Herod, King of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah of the priestly division of Abijah; his wife was from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both were righteous in the eyes of God, observing all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blamelessly. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren and both were advanced in years. Once when he was serving as priest in his division's turn before God, according to the practice of the priestly service, he was chosen by lot to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to burn incense. Then, when the whole assembly of the people was praying outside at the hour of the incense offering, the angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right of the altar of incense. Zechariah was troubled by what he saw, and fear came upon him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall name him John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of [the] Lord. He will drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will be filled with the holy Spirit even from his mother's womb, and he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah to turn the hearts of fathers toward children and the disobedient to the understanding of the righteous, to prepare a people fit for the Lord." Then Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." And the angel said to him in reply, "I am Gabriel, who stand before God. I was sent to speak to you and to announce to you this good

news. But now you will be speechless and unable to talk until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled at their proper time.” Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah and were amazed that he stayed so long in the sanctuary. But when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He was gesturing to them but remained mute. Then, when his days of ministry were completed, he went home. After this time his wife Elizabeth conceived, and she went into seclusion for five months, saying, “So has the Lord done for me at a time when he has seen fit to take away my disgrace before others.”



**SAINT  
RAFKA'S  
CHRISTMAS  
MARKET**

Embrace the season's spirit and discover  
a treasure trove of unique handmade crafts,  
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**7 & 8 December**

**10:00 AM / 6:00 PM**

**1215 SC-14 Greer, SC 29650  
United States**

## Reflection

On this Sunday, the Lord's promise of salvation is being made to Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth in their old age. The significance: God has not forgotten his promise to his people even if it seems that time has run-out on them. In his disbelief Zechariah (Hebrew: *God has remembered*) is literally caught dumb-founded; Elizabeth is also in a state of wondrous surprise!

This Gospel passage shows how God's ways and times are different from ours; that God – in his own time – accomplishes his salvation according to *his* divine *plan* – not ours. Like the prophets of old, John the Baptist (Hebrew: *Yohanan* means *God is compassionate*;) will become the *Herald of God's Salvation* – but only as *a voice in the desert*. The *true Voice, the Word, and the Power of God*, who comes to fulfill the liberation of his people will be manifested in Christ Jesus.

In his *Letter to the Romans* today, St. Paul, reminds everyone that true inheritance of God's *Promise* comes through a receptive attitude of *faith* -- as with Abraham in the old covenant. Abraham (Hebrew & Aramaic: *Merciful Father*) is the father of all who believe. Christ, through his humble obedience and sacrificial act, will reconstitute this covenant of faith that had been broken through dis-belief. Today we also are being invited to renew our faith: by letting God's promise renew itself in our lives in Christ and through the Holy Spirit.

Our Church's prayers this Sunday are focused on the gifts of *Speaking and Listening*: "Let not our lips be silenced like Zechariah .. but rather let them give you thanksgiving and praises..." (*Opening Prayer*). The *Hoosoyo* reflects on how *God* who has spoken in various ways in the past – from Adam in the Garden, to Abraham, Moses and the prophets – now speaks to Zechariah as the expression of his continued compassion and mercy for his people (*Sedro*).

As we come to proclaim our faith in the *Creed* this Sunday, let us inwardly ask that our faith may become ever more true and deeply-founded in God's compassion; that Christ may renew his Spirit within the temples of our bodies and souls; and He may transform us into true *Children of the Promise to Abraham*.

Let us also take this opportunity to pray for good-will and peace among all of Abraham's children in faith, particularly in the Holy Land, Lebanon, and the Middle East – even if that prospect seems incredible!

Let us prepare a pathway for the Lord to come in our midst by learning to listen better to each other. The saving power of God and his Kingdom are manifested in God's Word dwelling in our midst.

**Steven Bonian, S.J.**

The *Mazmooro* of this Sunday prays,

Zechariah was awestruck by the words of the watcher, speaking to him in the sanctuary, and wonder and astonishment, seized him because of the pregnancy of the barren one. (Elizabeth).

The Season of Announcements is a time of revelations and surprises but, also, a time of new life. The revelations given to Zecharia, Mary, and Joseph tell us of God revealing His plan of salvation to three people who were not expecting to bear children, let alone a Prophet or Messiah.

We must ask ourselves during this holy season of preparation: how do we receive God's plan for us? Do we question and counter with resistance? Do we stick to our own preconceived notions and plans? Or do we, like Mary, accept God's will for us and participate fully and wholeheartedly?

God announces Himself in various ways – some subtle, some less so. In any case, it is a reaction to that announcement that determines how God's plan is enacted in our lives. Let us always strive to be coworkers with God and His plan! **Father Aaron Sandbothe**

# Abouna's Corner

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Now it gets real! The Season of Announcement is upon us! Six weeks of hearing the accounts of the announcements and events of the fulfillment of the plan of salvation by the birth of Our Lord into our world. May this holy time be a reminder that as we look back on what has transpired, we look ahead to the life He has won for us by His death and resurrection. May Christ's peace be upon you all!

Stay well! This past week I was hit with a stomach virus. Only lasted forty eight hours, but let me tell you, I was miserable. It came out of nowhere and had me down for two days. Covid 19 is still a reality as well as RSV and the common flu. Exercise caution!

There are lots of events coming up to prepare us for the season of Christmas. Just to note a few: On Sunday, **Knights of Columbus** Council 15519 will host a fund raising breakfast for their charitable works after the 11 AM Liturgy. Please come and make a donation to our Knights. This coming Friday, November 22, **Chantal Dagher** will present a recital, *Peace to the World*, at 7:00 PM in the Church. More details are further back in the bulletin. The **Christmas Market** will be held on December 7-8 in Wickett Hall. Handmade items and baked items, etc., will be available for sale. Need info, contact **Lama Haddad** at 864.978.1317. The **2nd Annual Kids Christmas Recital** will be on December 13 at 7 PM. The **Children's Christmas Party** will be on December 22 after the 11 AM Divine Liturgy. Needless to say, lots going on with lots of talent from adults and kids. We are truly blessed in this community! Please plan to join us for the events to support our parishioners.

The **Christmas Schedule** has been finalized. Due to many more families with young children, Midnight Mass is not feasible for us at this time. Therefore, the Christmas schedule for 2024 will be Vigil Mass at 4 PM on Christmas Eve and 11 AM on Christmas Day. Both liturgies will be bi-lingual.

Thanksgiving Day our Divine Liturgy will be held at 9:00 AM. Please join us on Thanksgiving to offer praise and thanks to God for all His blessings upon us.

Have a great weekend! See you in Church!

Ab. Bart

**GRUPO DE ORACIÓN**

¡Te esperamos!  
**Viernes**

 **24 Noviembre 2024**  
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

**Parroquia Saint Rafka Maronite Catholic**  
1215 SC-14, Greer, SC 29650

## Church Offerings and Attendance

November 10, 2024		
4 PM	77	\$1017.00
8:300 AM	33	\$310.00
11 AM	106	\$1061.00
7:00 PM	32	\$241.00
Mail		\$1,995.00
PayPal/Electronic		\$620.00
Total	<b>248</b>	\$5,244.00
Budget	225	<b>\$4,100.00</b>
+/-	<b>23</b>	<b>\$1,144.00</b>
<b>Year to Date</b>		\$190,772.00
Budget for year +/-		<b>\$6,272.00</b>
<b>Second Collection</b>		
4:00 PM		\$0.00
8:30 AM		\$0.00
10 AM		\$0.00
7 PM		\$0.00
Total		<b>\$0.00</b>
Holy Hour		0
Funeral		0
<b>2024 Totals</b>		
4:00 PM		3753
8:300 AM		67
11 AM		5195
7 PM		1945
Weekday Masses		4321
Holy Hour		264
Holy Day		525
Special Liturgy		117
Funerals		452
Weddings		60

## Average Attendance

4 PM	8:30 AM	11 AM	7 PM
<b>84</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>43</b>

### Facts regarding our bulletin!

Bulletins emailed last weekend: 392 +  
 Percentage opened 66% +  
**Opened emails: 257 + Unopened emails: 135 -**

## 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. [This week the Sanctuary Candle burns for a Special Intention by Barbara Fontayne.](#)

To have flowers for a memorial of a loved one, please use the envelope provided at the entrance. Donation is \$50.00 per Sunday.

If you would like a **Mass** offered for your loved ones, please call the church office at 864.469.9119 or [secretary@saintrafka.org](mailto:secretary@saintrafka.org). Envelopes for Masses also available at the door of the church.



**CATHOLIC**  
**INFORMATION CENTER**

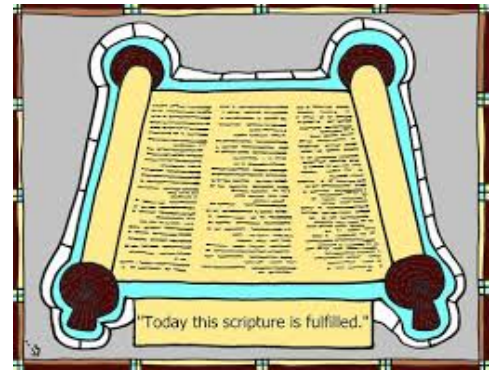
<https://catholic.center/>





## Liturgical Readings

Old Testament (English) Genesis 17:15-22	<b>Lama Haddad</b>
New Testament (Arabic) Rom. 4:13-25	<b>Hannan Saadeh</b>



## Mass Intentions

<b>November 16 - 17</b>	<b>Announcement to Zechariah</b>	
<b>Saturday, 4 PM</b>	<b>Holy Souls in Purgatory</b>	Raffaella D'Angelo
<b>Sunday, 8:30 AM</b>	<b>+Brigipte Esser</b>	Beth Hambleton
<b>Sunday 11 AM</b>	<b>+Youseif Boutros</b>	Bridget Nevin
<b>Sunday, 7:00 PM</b>	<b>Capriana Pennell</b>	Kristie Killough
<b>Tuesday, 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Xavier and Reba Pennell</b>	Kristie Killough
<b>Wednesday, 7:00 PM</b>	<b>Gavin and Robyn Killough</b>	Kristie Killough
<b>Thursday 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Aidan Killough</b>	Kristie Killough
<b>Friday, 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Brendan Killough</b>	Kristie Killough
<b>Saturday, 12:00 Noon</b>	<b>Open</b>	
<b>November 23 - 24</b>	<b>Announcement to Mary</b>	
<b>Saturday, 4 PM</b>	<b>Dennis Parker (L)</b>	Bob Dowd
<b>Sunday, 8:30 AM</b>	<b>Holy Souls in Purgatory</b>	Raffela D'Angelo
<b>Sunday 11 AM</b>	<b>Cheryl Pace (L) &amp; Erin Clark +</b>	Slusz Family
<b>Sunday, 7:00 PM</b>	<b>Open</b>	
<b>Tuesday, 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Ryan Killough (L)</b>	Kristie Killough
<b>Wednesday, 7:00 PM</b>	<b>Peter Barnett (L)</b>	Cathy & Lou Barnett
<b>Thursday 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Day (Open)</b>	
<b>Friday, 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Holy Souls in Purgatory</b>	Raffela D'Angelo
<b>Saturday, 12:00 Noon</b>	<b>Open</b>	

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
<b>17 Zechariah</b> 8:30 AM, Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy <b>KC Breakfast</b> 5:00 PM Korean Mass 7 PM, Last Chance Mass	18	19 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow	20 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy	21 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	22 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	23 12:00 PM Arabic Mass 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy
<b>24 Mary</b> 8:30 AM, Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM, Syro-Malabar Liturgy 7 PM, Last Chance Mass	25	26 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow	27 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy	<b>28 Thanksgiving</b> <b>9:00 AM Divine Liturgy</b>	29 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	30 12:00 PM Arabic Mass 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy
<b>December 1</b> 8:30 AM, Divine Liturgy 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	2	3 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow	4 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy	5 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	6 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	7 12:00 PM Arabic Mass 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy
<b>December 8</b> <b>Immaculate Conception</b> 8:30 AM, Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM, Syro-Malabar Liturgy 7 PM, Last Chance Mass	9	10 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow	11 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy	12 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	13 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	14 12:00 PM Arabic Mass 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy



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[www.thomasmcafee.com](http://www.thomasmcafee.com)

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

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

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

## Saints of the Day

### November

November 16, Saint Matthew the Evangelist

November 17, Saint Gregory the Wonderworker, Confessor

November 18, Saint Romanos (Raymond), Martyr

November 21, Presentation of the Virgin Mary in the Temple

November 27, Saint James Intercissus, Martyr

November 30, Saint Andrew the Apostle

### December

December 4, Saint Barbara, Martyr (+235)

December 5, Saint Saba the Abbot of Jerusalem, Confessor (+532)

December 6, Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker, Confessor (+342)

## Prayer List

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

## Birthdays

### November

9, Leslie Ziminsky (belated!)

16, Dee Kalata

16, Manal Gorges

17, Mary Leonardi

19, Soraya Chackal

22, Yousif Askar

23, Mona Qubti

24, George Samer Sayah

26, Katie Debo

27, Elizabeth Lepak

27, Patricia Washnock

28, Hanna Souri

29, Joanna Davis

## Anniversaries

### November

18, Sandra and Wayne Reece

18, Tom and Donna Ziemetz

24, Samer and Joelle Sayah

25, Stephen and Karen Wood

29, Greg and Mary Anne Lepak

29, Majed and Sura Farah

### December

1, Kathy and Chuck Wilson

## Necrology

### November

+Don Fredrick Schutt, November 19, 2022

+Tala Howard, December 11, 2006

+Faye G. Tadross, December 26, 2006

+Bishop Stephen Hector Doueihy, December 17, 2014

+Mary Anne McAfee, December 21, 2020

+Barbara A. Sanfilippo, December 22, 2020

+James (Boo) Francis, Sr., December 26, 2020

## Important Dates to Remember

Chantal Dagher Recital, November 22

Christmas Market, December 7 - 8

Christmas Recital, December 13

Children's Christmas Party, December 22

Marriage Enrichment Day of Reflection,  
January 25

*Hafli*, February 22, 2025



# Benefit Breakfast

YOUR PARAGRAPH TEXT  
FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE  
**Knights of Columbus**

NOVEMBER 17  
AFTER THE 11 AM DIVINE LITURGY

Eggs, Bacon, Sausage, Pancakes,  
Biscuits Coffee and Juice

Free will offerings accepted  
at the door!

## Special Announcements

### MRE - Maronite Religious Education Classes

Our thanks to **Jessica Dagher Allen** preparing our children for First Holy Communion and to **Lisa Advent** and assistants for teaching our other children in our religious education program. Below is the schedule of classes for this "academic" year. Classes meet after the 11 AM Divine Liturgy.

November 24, December 8, December 22, January 12, January 26, February 9, February 23, March 9. First Confessions, Practice, etc. to be announced.

## Marriage Enrichment

A Marriage Enrichment Day of Reflection will be held on Saturday January 25, 2025. The Day of Reflection will be given by **Vivian Akel, LCSW** (Clinical Social Worker). Vivian is a Maronite Catholic from Brooklyn, NY, and the Safe Environment Coordinator for the Eparchy of Saint Maron. She brings many years of social work, pastoral counseling and theology along with a deep commitment to the Catholic Faith. The day will include talks, prayers and lunch.



ST RAFKA MARONITE  
CATHOLIC CHURCH  
PRESENTS  
*"Peace to the world"*  
by  
CHANTAL DAGHER



pianist Sam Alamat  
*let's pray and enjoy all together special hymns asking God for peace  
in the world.*  
**November 22 2024 at 7:00 PM**  
**St. Rafka Maronite**  
**Catholic Church Greer, South Carolina**  
**1215 SC-14, Greer, SC 29650**

**Free Admission**  
**Donations accepted for the church**



## Maronite Servants

Next month the sisters are hosting our "Come and See" retreat weekend, November 29-December 1 at our Convent in Dartmouth MA for women (ages 18-39) who are interested and/or seeking to learn more about religious life.

Interested? Here is the link to register for those women interested: <https://forms.gle/1THACBiqQy655eui7>

# Advent Conference & Retreat



WITH GUEST CELEBRANT & PRESENTER:

FATHER AUGUSTINE PUCHNER, OPRAEM

*Saturday, 30 November from 8.30a-2p in Croghan Hall*

ALL ARE INVITED TO PREPARE FOR THE SEASON OF ADVENT BY JOINING  
US TO MEDITATE & REFLECT ON THE TIMELESS TRUTHS  
OF OUR CATHOLIC FAITH.

*This conference is facilitated by the Marian Catechists*

HOLY MASS AT 11.15  
RAFFLE TO CLOSE EVENT



*Attendance is free & open to all*

*Optional Bag Lunch, \$8 Cash  
Registration required by 23 November*

*Scan QR Code or Email [Michael.Sandifer@princeofpeaceaylors.org](mailto:Michael.Sandifer@princeofpeaceaylors.org)*

Join us for our 4th Annual

## *Pink & Blue Gala*

**Friday, February 21, 2025**

**Discounted Early Bird Tickets on sale until Dec. 15th!**

Our gala will be held at the lakeside **Fluor Enterprises** dining venue in Greenville starting at **6:00pm**. You are invited to join us for a Mardi Gras themed evening with fine dining and a live and silent auction.

Our guest speakers will include Bishop Jacques Fabre-Jeune, CS and Fr. Rhett Williams!



*Find out  
more here!*

We can't host a successful event without your help! If you are interested in sponsoring or have auction items to donate, scan QR code or visit [stclareshomesc.org/pink-blue-gala](http://stclareshomesc.org/pink-blue-gala).



Contact **Colleen Chmiel** for Questions  
[Stclaresvolunteer@charlestandiocese.org](mailto:Stclaresvolunteer@charlestandiocese.org)  
**843-259-1108**

February 22nd  
2025



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SAINT R AFKA  
MARONITE CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Annual  
Hafli

Presents



*Dj Khalil*

*Maestro Elias*

*Karim Jaber*

Hyatt Regency Greenville

*Address: 220 N Main St, Greenville, SC 29601*



**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.



## 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.

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## 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

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**Saint Rafka Council #15519**

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



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