

# Saint Rafka

Catholics of the East in the Upstate!



## Announcement to Mary 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 Amat**  
Organist  
[Sam Amat](#)

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

**Jessica Dagher Allen**  
First Holy Communion  
[Jessica Allen](#)  
**Lisa Advent**  
MRE Students  
[Lisa Advent](#)

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

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

**Marlene Saad**  
Scripture Sharing  
[Marlene Saad](#)  
If Interested, Call  
864.580.1054

**Marie Kidd**  
Food Pantry  
[Marie Kidd](#)

**Hospitality Committee**  
[Marie Kidd](#)  
[Hannan Saade](#)  
[Mark Duffy](#)

**Bridget Nevin**  
Garden Club  
[Bridget Nevin](#)

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

**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

2 Samuel 7:8-17

Now then, speak thus to my servant David, Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the flock, to become ruler over my people Israel. I was with you wherever you went, and I cut down all your enemies before you. And I will make your name like that of the greatest on earth. I will assign a place for my people Israel and I will plant them in it to dwell there; they will never again be disturbed, nor shall the wicked ever again oppress them, as they did at the beginning, and from the day when I appointed judges over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD also declares to you that the LORD will make a house for you: when your days have been completed and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, sprung from your loins, and I will establish his kingdom. He it is who shall build a house for my name, and I will establish his royal throne forever. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. If he does wrong, I will reprove him with a human rod and with human punishments; but I will not withdraw my favor from him as I withdrew from Saul who was before you. Your house and your kingdom are firm forever before me; your throne shall be firmly established forever. In accordance with all these words and this whole vision Nathan spoke to David.

Gal. 3:15-22

Brothers, in human terms I say that no one can annul or amend even a human will once ratified. Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his descendant. It does not say, "And to descendants," as referring to many, but as referring to one, "And to your descendant," who is Christ. This is what I mean: the law, which came four hundred and thirty years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to cancel the promise. For if the inheritance comes from the law, it is no longer from a promise; but God bestowed it on Abraham through a promise. Why, then, the law? It was added for transgressions, until the descendant came to whom the promise had been

made; it was promulgated by angels at the hand of a mediator. Now there is no mediator when only one party is involved, and God is one. Is the law then opposed to the promises [of God]? Of course not! For if a law had been given that could bring life, then righteousness would in reality come from the law. But scripture confined all things under the power of sin, that through faith in Jesus Christ the promise might be given to those who believe.

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.







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# SAINT RAFKA'S CHRISTMAS MARKET

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Embrace the season's spirit and discover  
a treasure trove of unique handmade crafts,  
delightful treats, and festive joy

7 & 8 December

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

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



## Reflection

On this Sunday “*the Church rejoices with Mary..*,” and her children sing glory for that heavenly announcement Mary has received and accepted on our behalf (*Opening Prayer*).

Today, the *Letter of Saint Paul to the Galatians*, reminds us of how the promise made to Abraham is now being fulfilled through those who believe; those who live by the Law and the Torah of the heart through righteousness. To such as these – like Mary – is the *gift* of God and his *promise* handed down through his angels. The Gospel of Luke makes it clear that Mary is this righteous one who has gained the favor of God, and thus, inherited this *Gift* (Christ) and the *Promise* (Salvation).

In the *Gospel-Icon of Mary and the Angel* drawn for us by Saint Luke, and framed for us in this Sunday’s prayers – in the context of the relationship of the Creator with his creation – the mountains, the earth, the sea, and the waves are *rejoicing in God’s Word!* Mary herself has become *the New Earth* (As Saint Ephrem would teach us) and true representative for all of God’s creation. The Son of God comes to dwell in her, and through her God has returned to live – as in *Paradise* – in the midst of his creation. Now in Mary, the new covenant, and God’s plan of salvation is being fulfilled. She has become the *Cloud*, the *Pure Womb*, the *Fountain of Life and Blessings!*

As we re-visit these Gospel passages through the meditation-prayers of the *Hoosoyo* we contemplate how benevolent God has been to our

human nature! How Mary has fulfilled the hope that God had invested in humanity. In the dialogue-meditation of Mary with the Angel we see a reflection not only of Mary herself, but also of our humanity, in dialogue with divinity. First, Mary responds with fear and amazement to the divine angel showing her human vulnerability – and also our mortality before God’s divinity – but as she answers the angel of God we also find in her courage, true faith, and wisdom.

Saint Ephrem, the great poet and teacher of our Syriac tradition, speaks of Mary as the *New Eve*, and yet also the new *Garden of Eden* and *Paradise*: God’s dwelling in our human world. In the midst of this new *Garden of Paradise* now stands Christ – the *Tree of Life* in the *New Paradise* – who gives *Life* to all who receive him from the hands of Mary. Mary’s acceptance – her *fiat* – has made us children of God. Now she is both the mother of Christ – and as our representative – our mother as well!

Like Mary, the Church and her children, have become dwelling places for God, from where God’s loving care for humanity reaches out to the world. Now God has come to dwell among us – Emanuel (God with us). The good news of the Gospel that Mary has received from the angel – is the good news we now have to share with all of humanity through justice and peace. Like Mary, we too, the Church and her children, are called to become both receivers and heralds of God’s great tidings of hope for humanity.

“Thank you, O Mother, for your acceptance!”

**Steven Bonian, S.J.**

Happy  
THANKSGIVING

# Abouna's Corner

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Greetings on a blustery Fall morning in the Upstate! All this and Heaven, too!

On Tuesday I received the news via Facebook that our beloved **Huda Yacu** (picture below) fell asleep in the Lord on Sunday, November 17. Huda was a longtime and faithful member of Saint Rafka until her departure for the Chicago area to be with children and relatives. She was a quiet but firm presence in our community and I pray that God grant this beautiful soul into His Heavenly Embrace. May her memory be eternal!

A reminder that Friday, November 22, **Chantal Dagher** will present a recital entitled *Peace to the World* in the church at 7:00 PM. **Sam Jordan Alamat**, our organist, will accompany her. Please join us for this night of enchanting music.

This coming Thursday is Thanksgiving Day. What better way to say Thank You to God for all His blessings upon us is to attend the Divine Liturgy on that day. One Mass, 9:00 AM and then you are out to finish your meal, go to Grandma's, etc. Join us on Thanksgiving Day!

**UPDATED!** The **Christmas Schedule** has been finalized - again!. I received a number of comments, emails, texts and visits regarding the Midnight Mass. This seems to be very important to a lot of our parishioners. Therefore, the Christmas schedule for 2024 will be Vigil Mass at 4:00 PM on Christmas Eve, Midnight Mass at 12:00 AM and 11:00 AM on Christmas Day. All liturgies will be bi-lingual depending upon the congregants present.

Most of us, over the years we have various email and internet issues. Such has been the case at the church office. Recently we had to change our internet hosting company. Webmaster **Matt Pelicano** did a great job of finding a new safe provider with better hacking protocols, etc. I am grateful for his help and assistance. Some previous emails were eliminated in the process. Now, feel free to use the following email addresses. [bill@saintrafka.org](mailto:bill@saintrafka.org) for **Bill Leon** for Masses, Wickett Hall scheduling and every day assistance. [office@saintrafka.org](mailto:office@saintrafka.org) is to contact **Joe Chebeir** for financial questions and assistance in Arabic, etc. [pastor@saintrafka.org](mailto:pastor@saintrafka.org) is to contact **Father Bart** directly. The new emails have also been linked to the front of the bulletin.

Please pray for the elderly and infirm in our community and those who sacrifice their lives to care for them.

Have a happy and wonderful Thanksgiving celebration!

Have a great weekend! See you in Church!

Ab. Bart



## Church Offerings and Attendance

November 17, 2024		
4 PM	62	\$1236.00
8:30 AM	28	\$508.00
11 AM	122	\$1091.00
7:00 PM	32	\$128.00
Mail		\$0.00
PayPal/Electronic		\$80.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>\$3,043.00</b>
Budget	225	<b>\$4,100.00</b>
+/-	<b>19</b>	<b>-\$1,057.00</b>
<b>Year to Date</b>		\$193,815.00
Budget for year +/-		<b>\$5,215.00</b>
<b>Second Collection</b>		
4:00 PM		\$0.00
8:30 AM		\$0.00
10 AM		\$0.00
7 PM		\$0.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>
Holy Hour		0
Funeral		0
<b>2024 Totals</b>		
4:00 PM		3815
8:300 AM		95
11 AM		5317
7 PM		1977
Weekday Masses		4359
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>82</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>43</b>

### Facts regarding our bulletin!

Bulletins emailed last weekend: 394 +  
Percentage opened 65% -

**Opened emails: 258 + 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.

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**

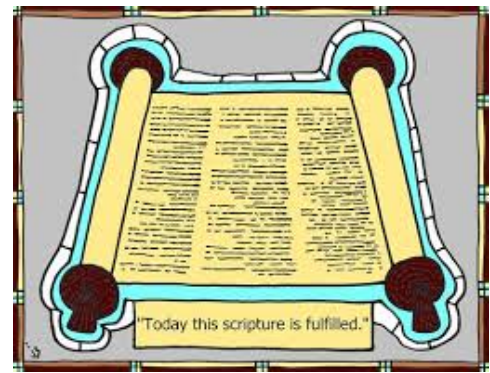
<https://catholic.center/>





## Liturgical Readings

Old Testament (Arabic) 2 Samuel 7:8-17	<b>Luke Dagher</b>
New Testament (English) Gal. 3:15-22	<b>Dee Kalata</b>



## Mass Intentions

<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 9:00 AM</b>	<b>In Thanksgiving to Our Benefactors</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>	
<b>November 30 - December 1</b>	<b>Visitation to Elizabeth</b>	
<b>Saturday, 4 PM</b>	<b>Open</b>	
<b>Sunday, 8:30 AM</b>	<b>Intentions of the Parishioners</b>	
<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>Open</b>	
<b>Wednesday, 7:00 PM</b>	<b>+Warren Herr</b>	Scott Herr
<b>Thursday 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Open</b>	
<b>Friday, 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Open</b>	
<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>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 Visitation</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 First Friday Devotions	7 12:00 PM Arabic Mass 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy
<b>December 8 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
<b>15 Joseph</b> 8:30 AM, Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM Korean Mass 7 PM, Last Chance Mass <b>CHRISTMAS NOVENA BEGINS</b>	16	17 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow	18 <b>DAY OF CONFESSIONS</b> 9 AM - 6:30 PM 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy	19 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	20 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	21 12:00 PM Arabic Mass 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy



*Catholics serving Catholics*

[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 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)

December 8, Immaculate Conception

December 12, Saint Spyridon the Wonderworker, Confessor

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the USA

December 14, Saint Nemutallah Al-Hardini, Confessor (+1858)

## 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 Durse, 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

23, Mona Qubti

24, George Samer Sayah

26, Katie Debo

27. Elizabeth Lepak

27. Patricia Washnock

28, Hanna Soury

29, Joanna Davis

### December

1, Fadi Seleem

2, Antoine "Tony" Sleiman (Younger)

3, Renee Nally

4, Richard Sleiman

## Anniversaries

### November

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

1, David and Heather Sijon

3, Robert and Lama Haddad

## Necrology

### November

+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





ST RAFKA MARONITE  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

PRESENTS

*"Peace to the world"*

*by*

CHANTAL DAGHER



pianist Sam Amat

*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**

# GRUPO DE ORACIÓN

**¡Te esperamos!**  
**Viernes**

**22 Noviembre 2024**



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



## 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.

*Blessed Are You*  
MYO Eparchial  
Day Retreat

All in Grades 7-12  
Encouraged to Attend

**\$30**  
(per person)

**Southern Region**

 **Saturday, December 7**  
11 AM - 7 PM

 **Saint Sharbel Church**  
600 Mt. Vernon Church Rd  
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Register online:  
[myoeparchystmaron.org](http://myoeparchystmaron.org)  
Registration Closes Nov 27





*"I am the servant of the Lord."* - Luke 1:38

*COME & SEE*  
*November 29- December 1*  
*maroniteservants.org*

## **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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*Maestro Elias*

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**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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