

Saint Rafka

Catholics of the East in the Upstate!



5th Sunday of the Holy Cross - Season of Holy Cross

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. Please remember that it is rare to be able to have your intention the following Sunday! **Masses are now generally booked up about three months in advance.**

BAPTISM & CHRISMATION

Baptism in the Maronite Rite is always accompanied by Chrismation (Confirmation). Both Sacraments are given by a priest, and always in the same ceremony. Preparation to receive the Sacraments of Baptism and Chrismation is required. We encourage this to happen before the birth of your child. Please contact the [Church Office](#) for more details.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

The Anointing of the Sick is routinely offered during the Divine Liturgy on Wednesday evening and during pastoral visits by the priest to homebound and ill parishioners. Let me know if you will be in the hospital or have other special needs. Contact the [Church Office](#).

THE MYSTERY OF CROWNING (MARRIAGE)

Couples must contact the pastor **at least** six months prior to the desired date of the wedding. To initiate the marriage preparation process or if you have questions for weddings taking place at Saint Rafka. Contact the [Church Office](#).

PARISH REGISTRATION

Registration forms and welcome packets are available in the church office and the vestibule. Membership is a condition for the reception of the sacraments of baptism/confirmation, first reconciliation, first Eucharist, and Crowning (marriage). Registration is also required before the parish can issue a sponsorship certificate for those asked to be sacramental sponsors. You must be a registered, contributing member for at least three months before a certificate is provided.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Teenagers are invited to join our Maronite Youth Organization, aka MYO. Contact **Lisa Advent** lisaadventphotography@gmail.com for more information.

Ramsho (Evening Prayer)

Join us on Tuesday at 5:45 PM for evening prayer and prayers of intercession to Saint Sharbel.

WICKETT HALL AND ASHY PAVILION

Wickett Hall and Ashy Pavilion can be used by our registered and supporting parishioners for family events, reunions, etc. Others may request permission to rent the Hall or Pavilion. Please contact the [Church Office](#).

MARONITE RESOURCES

Daily [readings](#) for the Divine Liturgy.
Daily morning prayer and evening prayer of the Divine Office [here](#).

TRAVELING AND NEED TO GO TO MASS?

Where to go to Mass when traveling? Look here!
MassTimes.org
[The Catholic Directory](#)
[Parishes Online](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA

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

SAINT RAFKA FOOD PANTRY

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

SCRIPTURE SHARING

Scripture 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

Matt 25:1-13

Song of Songs 5:2-8

I was sleeping, but my heart was awake. The sound of my lover knocking! "Open to me, my sister, my friend, my dove, my perfect one! For my head is wet with dew, my hair, with the moisture of the night." I have taken off my robe, am I then to put it on? I have bathed my feet, am I then to soil them? My lover put his hand in through the opening: my innermost being trembled because of him. I rose to open for my lover, my hands dripping myrrh: My fingers, flowing myrrh upon the handles of the lock. I opened for my lover—but my lover had turned and gone! At his leaving, my soul sank. I sought him, but I did not find him; I called out after him, but he did not answer me. The watchmen found me, as they made their rounds in the city;

They beat me, they wounded me, they tore off my mantle, the watchmen of the walls. I adjure you, Daughters of Jerusalem, if you find my lover, what shall you tell him? That I am sick with love.

Phil. 2:12-18

So then, my beloved, obedient as you have always been, not only when I am present but all the more now when I am absent, work out your salvation with fear and trembling. For God is the one who, for his good purpose, works in you both to desire and to work. Do everything without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine like lights in the world, as you hold on to the word of life, so that my boast for the day of Christ may be that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. But, even if I am poured out as a libation upon the sacrificial service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with all of you. In the same way you also should rejoice and share your joy with me.

Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with them, but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps. Since the bridegroom was long delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. At midnight, there was a cry, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise ones replied, 'No, for there may not be enough for us and you. Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.' While they went off to buy it, the bridegroom came and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him. Then the door was locked. Afterwards the other virgins came and said, 'Lord, Lord, open the door for us!' But he said in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.' Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Reflection

The Parable of the Ten Virgins awaiting the Bridegroom from today's Gospel (Matt. 25:1-13) is a commonly used theme in our Syriac tradition. Christ taught us this image because of its usefulness in mentally preparing for the last day, and so our wise Syriac Fathers have been certain to use it in their writings, hymns and homilies. There is a wealth of symbolism in it: the virgins and the Bridegroom, the oil of the lamps, and the wedding banquet.

The first element of the reading is the virgins and the Bridegroom. As Christ says, "Many are invited, but few are chosen" (Matt. 22:14). God wishes all to be saved, and so by His life-giving sacrifice on Earth He has called all peoples to His Church, but He does not force us to receive His loving salvation, as love cannot be compelled. Therefore, just like the virgins, while all are invited to His banquet, there are those who do refuse through their actions, even if they say with their mouths, "Lord, Lord, open the door for us!" (Matt. 25:11). The Bridegroom, then, is Christ Who has married His Church to bring His divinity to all of her children – that is us. If we enter into the banquet, then we shall obtain the life and love of God.

The second element is the lamps' oil. If God requires us to accept His loving salvation, what does that entail? Here we see it in the difference of the lamps of the virgins. All the virgins are invited to the banquet and none of them know when the Bridegroom will arrive. The five wise virgins brought enough oil that even if they should wait, their lamps would not burn out – while the foolish virgins did not bring enough oil. The Syriac Fathers say the oil of our lamps are our righteous and virtuous deeds that we commit for love of God and neighbor. We do not know when Christ the Bridegroom will return, but we can keep His commands on Earth while we wait, filling our lamps with the oil of righteousness. This righteousness is giving the Lord His due glory in prayer, as well as helping those in need on Earth, for all are made in the image of God. Regardless of the dark of midnight, the wise virgins can see the Bridegroom because they brought enough oil.

Likewise, no matter how dark the night of this world becomes with all its troubles, the wise will know the coming of Christ the Bridegroom by the light of their righteousness. But it is not something to prepare for tomorrow, but this very moment.

The last element is the wedding banquet. The Syriac Fathers refer to two things, which are intimately related, as the wedding banquet: the Eucharist and heaven. In this parable, it is clear that there are those who will not choose God, and therefore they reject heaven, rejecting life, love and fulfillment. But it is the same on Earth – Christ has prepared us the banquet of His flesh and blood in the Eucharist on Earth that we may have a foretaste of heaven. Just as heaven will be in union of God, so too are we when we rightly receive His flesh and blood from the priest for eternal life and the forgiveness of sins. Unlike the virgins, however, we have access to the Bridegroom at this very moment in the Eucharist.

Let us be prepared with an oil of righteousness with the five virgins that we may have our lamps brightly burning in the world. Then, when the Bridegroom comes, we can go out to meet Him and enter into His banquet rejoicing and celebrating.

Father Michael Shami

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Abouna's Corner

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Pope Francis grants approval for Medjugorie devotion.

Beginning with the words "Queen of peace" the note about the Spiritual Experience connected with Medjugorie was signed by Cardinal Victor Manuel Fernandez and Monsignor Armando Matteo respectively Prefect and Secretary for the Doctrine Section of the Dicastery of the Doctrine of the Faith. The overall judgment of the message is generally positive.

The places linked to the Medjugorie phenomena have become pilgrimage destinations for people from around the world. It recognizes abundant conversions of people who have discovered or rediscovered their faith, many people have returned to confession and sacramental communion and numerous vocations have been confirmed as well as many reconciliations between spouses, and renewal of marriage and family life. "Numerous healings" have also been reported. The parish of the small Town in Herzegovina has grown into a place of worship, prayer, gatherings, seminars, Spiritual retreats and youth gatherings. People seem to visit Medjugorie mainly to renew their faith rather than to seek help with specific requests.

Authorization of public worship: while this does not imply a declaration of the supernatural character of the phenomena in question and recalling that the faithful are not obliged to believe in it. The nihil obstat issued by the bishop of Mostar Duvno in agreement with the Holy See, indicated that the faithful can receive positive encouragement for their Christian life through this spiritual proposal and it authorizes public acts of devotion.

The ecclesiastical authorities of the places where it is present are invited to appreciate the pastoral value of this spiritual proposal and even to promote its spread. However, adds the note each diocesan bishop has the freedom and authority to make prudent decisions regarding "groups of persons who by misusing this spiritual phenomena, act in a mistaken way" in his own diocese.

Finally the Dicastery invited pilgrims who visit Medjugorie " to be strongly advised that Pilgrimages are not made to meet with alleged Visionaries but to have an encounter with Mary the Queen of Peace.

Salaam!

Ab. Toni

Special Second Collection

This weekend, we will take an unusual second collection for the people of Lebanon. Bishop Gregory has asked us to help the people of the country with this collection and he will disperse this money to priests that will help the people who are hardest hit by the bombings and dire poverty. I thank you in advance for your kindness to help our suffering brothers and sisters in Lebanon.

Church Offerings and Attendance

October 6, 2024		
12:00 Noon Saturday	15	\$57.00
4 PM	77	\$1758.00
11 AM	114	\$1580.00
7:00 PM	45	\$1,464.00
Mail		\$920.00
PayPal/Electronic		\$190.00
Total	236	\$5,912.00
Budget	225	\$4,100.00
+/-	11	\$1,812.00
Year to Date		\$169,746.00
Budget for year +/-		\$5,746.00
Building Fund		
4:00 PM		\$647.00
10 AM		\$336.00
7 PM		\$0.00
Total		\$983.00
Holy Hour		12
Holy Day		0
Funeral		0
2024 Totals		
4 PM		3360
11 AM		4666
7 PM		1739
Weekday Masses		3810
Holy Hour		246
Holy Day		423
Special Liturgy		117
Funerals		452
Weddings		60
Pasta Supper		246

Average Attendance

4 PM	11 AM	7 PM	Per Liturgy Average
84	116	43	81

Facts regarding our bulletin!

Bulletins emailed last weekend: 385

Percentage opened 63% -

Opened emails: 242 + Unopened emails: 143 -

Masses, Sanctuary Lamp & Flowers

To have the Sanctuary Light for your relatives or intentions, please use the envelope provided at the entrance. Donation is \$5.00.

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

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

Catholic
Business Listings



Business Owners: Sign Up!

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

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



CATHOLIC
INFORMATION CENTER

<https://catholic.center/>



Liturgical Readings

Old Testament (English) Song of Songs 5:2-8	Assigned at Mass
New Testament (Arabic) Phil. 2:12-18	Assigned at Mass



Mass Intentions

October 12 -13	5th Sunday of Holy Cross	
Saturday, 4 PM	Living & Deceased members of the Stewart Family	Jack Stewart
Sunday 11 AM	+Joesph Nohra 40th Day	Sandra Reese
Sunday, 11 AM (II)		
Sunday, 7:00 PM	Ryan Killough	Kristie Killough
Tuesday, 10:00 AM	Living & Deceased, Vohies Family Members	Sandra Cush
Wednesday, 7:00 PM	Damian Killough	Kristie Killough
Thursday 10:00 AM	Vergines & Deanna Meelenski	Vergines Meelensky
Friday, 10:00 AM		
Saturday, 12:00 Noon		
October 19 - 20	6th Sunday of Holy Cross	
Saturday, 4 PM	Lepak Family	Ceil & Andy
Sunday 11 AM		
Sunday, 11 AM (II)		
Sunday, 7:00 PM	Bill Knight	Ceil & Andy
Tuesday, 10:00 AM		
Wednesday, 7:00 PM	Slusz Family	Ceil & Andy
Thursday 10:00 AM		
Friday, 10:00 AM		
Saturday, 12:00 Noon		

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

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 Catholic Men's Breakfast will meet on Thursday, October 3, 2024, at 8:00 AM at the Eggs Up Restaurant, 3935 Pelham Road. Please join us and feel free to bring a friend!

Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
13 5th Holy Cross 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM, Syro-Malabar Liturgy 7 PM, Last Chance Mass	14	15 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow	16 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy	17 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	18 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	19 12:00 PM Arabic Mass 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy
20 6th Holy Cross 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM Korean Mass 7 PM, Last Chance Mass	21	22 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow	23 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy	24 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	25 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	26 12:00 PM Arabic Mass 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy
27 7th Holy Cross 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM, Syro-Malabar Liturgy 7 PM, Last Chance Mass	28	2 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow	30 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy	21 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	November 1 All Saints Day 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM Divine Liturgy DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER	2 12:00 PM Arabic Mass 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy
3 Consecration of the Church 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	4	5 Election Day Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow	6 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy	7 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	8 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	9 12:00 PM Arabic Mass 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy



Catholics serving Catholics

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

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

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

Saints of the Day

September

October 15, Saint Theresa of Avila, Confessor
The Holy Fathers of the Seventh
Ecumenical Council

October 18, Saint Luke, Evangelist

October 19, Saint Aaron, Patriarch and Saints Isaac
Jogues and John Brebeuf and Companions, Martyrs

October 20, Saint Shallita (Artmius), Martyr

October 24, Saint Hares (Aretas) and His
Companions, Martyrs

October 26, Saint Demetrius, Martyr

November

November 1, All Saints Day, Saints Cosmas and
Damian

Prayer List

Sandra Reese, 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 Bussemey, Joe

Birthdays

October

15, Wesam Hana

18, Kathy Wilson

19, Larry Snelson

19, Adeline Rose Sloan

20, Lauralee Saad

20, Laila Saadeh Madbak

21, Fouad Qubti

21, Rim Abraham

22, Lama H. Haddad

22, Brandon Nmair

23, Joan Bussemey

24, Annie Migut

24, Tom Hermiz

Anniversaries

October

20, Mike & BJ Dursse

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

Necrology

October

+Huda Askar, October 15, 2020

+Abouna James Paissi Ross, October 20, 2013

+Mudhafar (Chris) Shukur, October 28, 2022

+Josephine Romeo, October 29, 2012

November

+Samuel Howard, Jr., November 2, 2022

+Rose Howard Barksdale, November 7, 2022

+Don Fredrick Schutt, November 19, 2022

Important Dates to Remember

Christmas Market, December 7 - 8

Marriage Enrichment Day of Reflection,
January 25

Hafla, February 22, 2025

Pastoral Visit of Bishop Gregory, March 15 -
16

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.

October 27, November 10, November 24, December 8, December 22, January 12, January 26, February 9, February 23, March 9. First Confessions, Practice, etc. to be announced.

The Fifteenth Annual Benefit Dinner for the Eparchy of Saint Maron will take place on Thursday, October 24, 2024 at The Union League Club in Manhattan (www.unionleagueclub.org) when we will celebrate “Our Spirituality Gives Us Hope”. This year our worthy honorees will be Bassam and Mirna Ayoub, members of Our Lady of Lebanon Cathedral, Brooklyn, NY, and Doctor Charbel Ishak and Doctor Maria Ajaimy members of St. John Paul II Maronite Parish, Sleepy Hollow, NY. The Annual Benefit Dinner is very important for the Eparchy, as it provides needed support for seminarians, missions, retired priests, ministries and the vulnerable in Lebanon.

The American Bishops have also called on all Catholics to observe a **Day of Fasting and Prayer** on Friday, **November 1, 2024**, the Friday before the Presidential election. This is a highly unusual request as normally Solemnities and Feasts of the Church cannot be days of fasting, but the bishops felt that because this election has the population so divided and the ramifications are so important, it was best to pray in a special way just before the election. Just as the Ninevites fasted and prayed and God heard them, may we be like the Ninevites, and pray with all our heart. May God hear our humble prayers and spare our nation from harm from enemies within.

OLR Classical Upper School Information Night

Our Lady of the Rosary, 2 James Dr., Greenville, Guadalupe Hall, Wednesday, October 30, 2024 6:45-8:00 PM (After the 6PM Mass) Middle School students and their parents interested in our 9th -12th grade Classical program are invited to come find out more about our school. Contact Christine Barr for more information. christine.barr@olrschool.net, 864-277-5350

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.

★ ★ A Collaborative Initiative

★ Family Life



WOMEN
of GRACE

UPCOMING SESSION FOR POTENTIAL STUDY FACILITATORS

Discover what it takes to help bring a new women's study to your parish! The Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn supports the Women of Grace® Foundational Study, Full of Grace: Women and the Abundant Life, to start in the parishes throughout the Eparchy. Women who participate in this study will learn about their gift of authentic femininity, Church teaching, Holy Scripture and the lives of great women saints!

Study facilitators serve an important role in organizing study group logistics, creating a welcoming environment for participants, and guiding group discussions. Join us to learn more!

POTENTIAL FACILITATORS ZOOM INFORMATION



Thursday
October 17, 2024



ZOOM FROM
7:00-9:00 pm est.

REGISTRATION



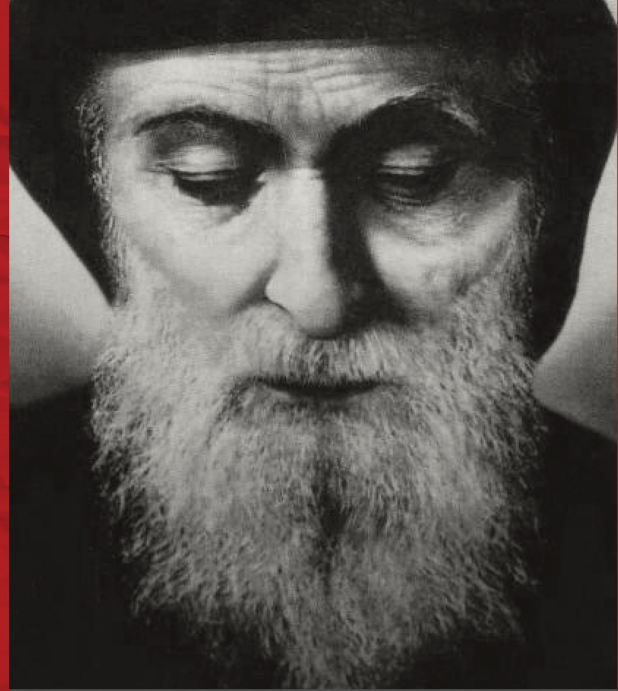
SCAN ME



REGISTER USING THE QR CODE, OR CONTACT
LINDA DINARDO GEORGE

FAMILYANDSANCTITYOFLIFE777@GMAIL.COM

JOIN THE ORDER OF SAINT SHARBEL



Support Maronite Seminarians and retired priests
and help build the future of the Maronite Church



Subdeacon Jakob Wyder



Subdeacon Nadim Khaled



Mark Farah

Enroll online at orderstsharbel.org
or in your Parish

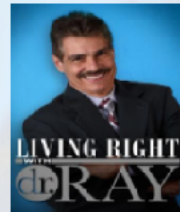
For more information, contact the Order of Saint Sharbel President, Charlene Hiffa
at info@orderstsharbel.org or call 718-237-9913 or consult your Parish Priest.
If you are interested in becoming a Priest or Religious Sister, contact Father Dominique Hanna,
Vocations Director at (718) 624-7228 or cathrectory@verizon.net

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25 - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2024

12th Marian Eucharistic Conference

Featured Speakers

Fr. Larry Richard
Very Reverend Chris Alar, MIC
Fr. Roger J. Landry
Dr. Ray Guarendi
Fr. Christopher Smith, STD/PHD, KHS
Fr. Bart Leon, OSB



Registration

General Admission: \$125, Youth: 90
Registration required by Oct. 12 by mail.
Registration after Oct. 12: \$135
Friday dinner and Saturday lunch are included. Friday dinner choice: chicken or Cod. Parking is free.

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[11th Marian Eucharistic Conference 2023](#)

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*February 22nd
2025*



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Hafli*

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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.



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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