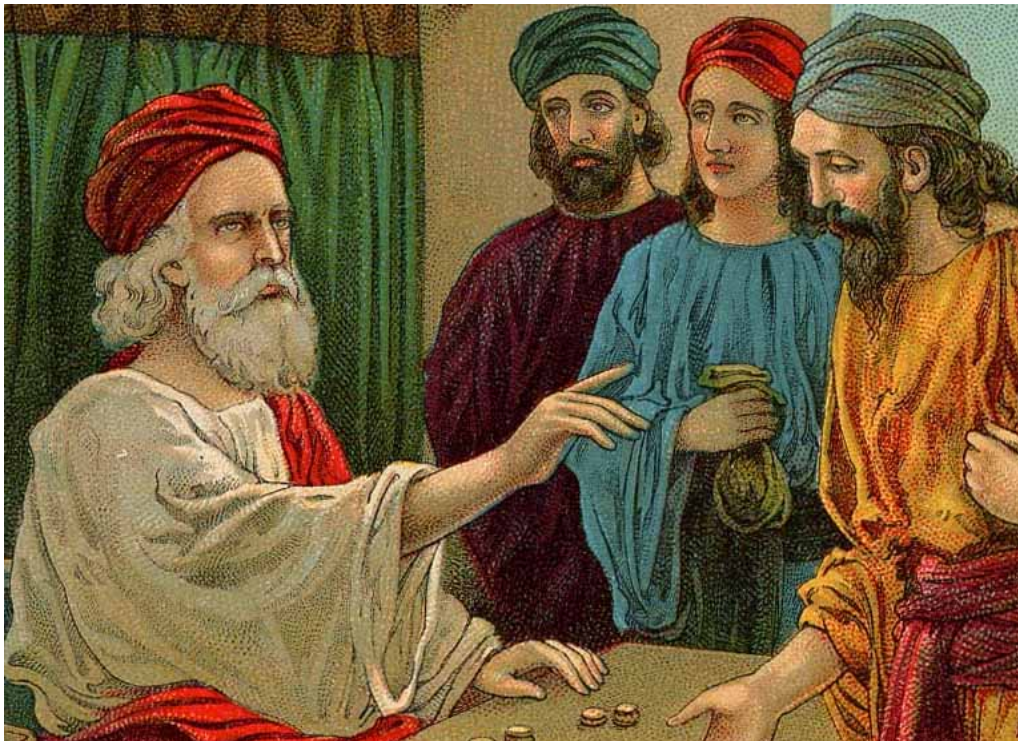


Saint Rafka

Catholics of the East in the Upstate!



6th 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

Proverbs 6:6-11

Go to the ant, O sluggard, study her ways and learn wisdom; For though she has no chief, no commander or ruler, She procures her food in the summer, stores up her provisions in the harvest. How long, O sluggard, will you lie there? when will you rise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the arms to rest— Then poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like a brigand.

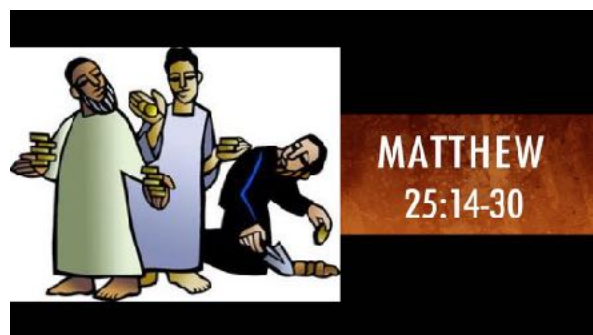
Gal. 6:1-10

Brothers and sisters, even if a person is caught in some transgression, you who are spiritual should correct that one in a gentle spirit, looking to yourself, so that you also may not be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so you will fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he is deluding himself. Each one must examine his own work, and then he will have reason to boast with regard to himself alone, and not with regard to someone else; for each will bear his own load. One who is being instructed in the word should share all good things with his instructor. Make no mistake: God is not mocked, for a person will reap only what he sows, because the one who sows for his flesh will reap corruption from the flesh, but the one who sows for the spirit will reap eternal life from the spirit. Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up. So then, while we have the opportunity, let us do good to all, but especially to those who belong to the family of the faith.

Matt 25:14-30

It will be as when a man who was going on a journey called in his servants and entrusted his possessions to them. To one he gave five talents; to another, two; to a third, one—to each according to his ability. Then he went away. Immediately the one who received five talents went and traded with them, and made another five. Likewise, the one who received two made another two. But the man who received one

went off and dug a hole in the ground and buried his master's money. After a long time the master of those servants came back and settled accounts with them. The one who had received five talents came forward bringing the additional five. He said, 'Master, you gave me five talents. See, I have made five more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy.' [Then] the one who had received two talents also came forward and said, 'Master, you gave me two talents. See, I have made two more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy.' Then the one who had received the one talent came forward and said, 'Master, I knew you were a demanding person, harvesting where you did not plant and gathering where you did not scatter; so out of fear I went off and buried your talent in the ground. Here it is back.' His master said to him in reply, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I did not plant and gather where I did not scatter? Should you not then have put my money in the bank so that I could have got it back with interest on my return? Now then! Take the talent from him and give it to the one with ten. For to everyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And throw this useless servant into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.'



Reflection

In today's Gospel, we see a severe master who returns to collect what he has entrusted to his servants in the Parable of the Talents (Matt. 25:14-39). Just as we would expect in a business setting, the servants who increased the amount of money they were entrusted were rewarded by their master, being told to "enter into the joy of your master." However, the servant who buried the amount of money entrusted to him out of fear of loss was punished and even though he was entrusted the least amount he had even his little amount taken away. It seems to be a frightening story from Jesus Christ because it seems the servant who had the least in the end finishes with even less because of his own limitations.

What is the meaning of this parable? Christ is, of course, the master who determines how He distributes His wealth to us, His servants. The generosity of God comes in all forms, from our circumstances to our natural ability – but in some way, we have all been equipped to do His will in a unique way. The parable acknowledges that some simply begin with more entrusted to them than others – that is a fact of life. Some might run multi-million dollar companies, while others wait tables at a diner, but that does not change the dignity of the servant, as well as the mastership of Christ, Who has assigned us our gifts as He wills.

The servant who has been entrusted two talents is rewarded in the same manner as the one who was entrusted five when he has acted well in what he has been given. The master says to both of them, "Enter into the joy of your master." The talents, ultimately, were neither the property of the servants nor was it a transactional exchange – the servant who had ten talents was not rewarded differently from the servant with four. Likewise,



the gifts Christ has given us in this life are ultimately not ours because we did not procure them ourselves – even our own accomplishments in life are more fundamentally based on what God has given us to begin with. If He had not allowed us to live to a certain age or possess the skills that we do, we could not accomplish even what might seem to be solely the fruit of our hard labor. Therefore, all things are done for the sake of God and should be used in a manner pleasing to Him.

Knowing that He has distributed different gifts, God will not penalize us for having a difference in effectiveness when doing His will if we try our best. Because of our own circumstances, God would not expect a housemother to pray as much as a monk in a monastery simply because each person is judged on what they have received. The last servant who returns the talent to the master was punished because he decided to do nothing with what he was entrusted. Our Lord is merciful and kind – if the last servant had lost the only talent he had been entrusted earnestly trading to increase it would have pleased his master. But the last servant was wicked because he allowed his laziness and fear to overcome his love for his master.

As servants, we should recall that we have been entrusted a great deal from Christ for the building up of His will on Earth. We participate in what we ask in the Our Father, "Thy will be done on Earth as it is in heaven," when we work to use our gifts. Let fear or laziness not motivate our lives, but the love we have for the Lord.

When the Lord comes and requires the money He gave to us with His interest let us not resemble the wicked servant who took the coin and did not trade with it. Come, let us resemble the servant who received five and earned as many more. The good servant showed his master his commerce and the wicked servant inherited Gehenna.

Father Michael Shami
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Catholic Church
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Abouna's Corner

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

The season of Fall has come upon us with cooler temperatures and I think most of us are enjoying the change. I am always invigorated by the cooler weather and the changing leaves. It also signals that the end of our liturgical year is upon us and the new one begins next month. Time marches on!

I am grateful to **Jessica Dagher Allen** for teaching our children who are preparing for First Holy Communion next Spring. I am also grateful to **Lisa Advent** and her merry band of helpers for forming a religious education class for other children in the parish. It is wonderful to see how fast our parish is growing. For a while, we had no children - now we are brimming with children! We are growing in both adults and children. What a joy! Continue to pray as we discern our next stage of growth.

Candice King-Palgut has been collecting and delivering needed supplies to people in Western North Carolina hard hit by Hurricane Helene. This area was heavily damaged by the storm and basic utilities have still not been connected. See the list below to see what is needed for those in need. Thank you for your generosity.

Parishioner Leslie Ziminsky was also hard hit during the storm. Several trees fell on her property, house and car. Due to cancer treatments, she is not working at this time. Any and all help is deeply appreciated. Donations can be made to PayPal for ziminskyl@gmail.com. Thank you for your kindness.

As we all know, the upcoming presidential election is quite contentious. No matter what our political leaning a party affiliation, we have an obligation to vote. This is a very important obligation for us. I saw an article this week, stating that several million Christians will not vote. Some of the people surveyed, said that they did not think that the candidate was holy enough or virtuous enough. Virtuous, I understand! Holy I question! We are voting for the president, not the Pope! Some people are just apathetic. We need to pray for them. We also need to pray that we will not be given over to the spirit of apathy or lack of care. One prayer for this election season may be:

God of empathy and compassion, we are grateful you do not sit idly by without concern for your people. In your deep love for us, you sent your only Son to walk among us, to know what it is to be human, and to suffer on our behalf. O Lord, as your humble servants, give us the ability to look upon others with the same empathy and compassion. Protect us from being so consumed with our own lives that we fail to notice what is happening in the lives of others and the world around us. Move in our hearts, O Lord, giving us eyes to see, ears to hear, and courage to act. We pray in your Son's name. Amen.

Let us pray for one another! See you in Church! *Salaam!*

Ab. Bart

Marty and **Candice King-Palgut** are taking a truck load of items to Western North Carolina this coming Wednesday. Below is a partial list of what is needed:

Ventless indoor buddy heaters. Propane tanks. Clean winter coats. Recovery and clean up supplies. Flat shovels. Wheelbarrows.rakes.contractor bags. Bleach.cleaning supplies. TSP. Borax. Sprayers for mold killing mixtures. Push brooms. Hand carts. N95 masks. Safety glasses. Work gloves. Generators. fuel cans. Cash for other needed items. Please make monetary donations to Saint Rafka for your deductions.

Church Offerings and Attendance

October 13, 2024		
12:00 Noon Saturday	10	\$15.00
4 PM	75	\$868.00
11 AM	117	\$1075.00
7:00 PM	51	\$347.00
Mail		\$660.00
PayPal/Electronic		\$860.00
Total	243	\$3,810.00
Budget	225	\$4,100.00
+/-	18	-\$290.00
Year to Date		\$173,556.00
Budget for year +/-		\$5,456.00
Lebanon Collection		
4:00 PM		\$425.00
10 AM		\$722.00
7 PM		\$247.00
Total		\$1,394.00
Holy Hour		0
Holy Day		0
Funeral		0
2024 Totals		
4 PM		3435
11 AM		4783
7 PM		1790
Weekday Masses		3953
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	117	44	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. [Flowers this week are In Memory of All the Deceased by Faris and Aida Farah.](#)

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 \$1.20 to list their business.

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



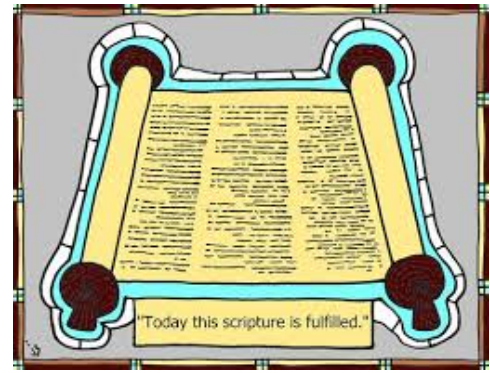
CATHOLIC INFORMATION CENTER

<https://catholic.center/>



Liturgical Readings

Old Testament (Arabic) Proverbs 6:6-11	Ramiz Askar
New Testament (English) Gal. 6:1-10	Robert Haddad



Mass Intentions

October 19 - 20	6th Sunday of Holy Cross	
Saturday, 4 PM	Lepak Family	Ceil & Andy
Sunday 11 AM	Carlene Allbritten & Steve Meaux	Abouna
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		
October 26 - 27	7th Sunday of Holy Cross	
Saturday, 4 PM	Fr. Tommy Rodrigues	Ceil & Andy
Sunday 11 AM		
Sunday, 11 AM (II)		
Sunday, 7:00 PM		
Tuesday, 10:00 AM		
Wednesday, 7:00 PM		
Thursday 10:00 AM		
Friday, 10:00 AM		
Friday, 7:00 PM		
Saturday, 12:00 Noon		

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

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.

Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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 10 AM 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
10 Renewal of the Church 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM, Syro-Malabar Liturgy 7 PM, Last Chance Mass	11	12 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow 7:00 PM, K C Meeting	13 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy	14 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	15 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	16 12:00 PM Arabic Mass 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy



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

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

Saints of the Day

September

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

October 20, Saint Shallita (Artemius), 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

November 3, Saint Risha, Confessor

November 5, Saint Assia the Just, Confessor

November 8, Saint Michael the Archangel

November 10, Saint Moura, Confessor

Prayer List

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 Bussemey, Joe

Birthdays

October

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

25, Ken Saad

27, Linda George

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

+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

Christmas Recital, December 13

Marriage Enrichment Day of Reflection,
January 25

Hafli, 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.

Pope Francis will celebrate a Mass of canonization for 14 people, including the 11 “Martyrs of Damascus,” on Sunday, October 20, 2025.

The canonization will take place during the 2024 assembly of the Synod on Synodality, after the College of Cardinals voted to approve the canonizations of 15 people in a consistory on the morning of July 1.

The “[Martyrs of Damascus](#)” were murdered “out of hatred for the faith” in Damascus, Syria, some time during the night of July 9–10, 1860. The event took place during the persecution of Christians by Shia Druze, which spread from Lebanon to Syria and resulted in thousands of victims.

A Druze commando entered a Franciscan convent in the Christian quarter of Bab-Touma (St. Paul) in the Old City of Damascus and massacred the friars Manuel Ruiz López, Carmelo Bolta, Nicanor Ascanio, Nicolás M. Alberca y Torres, Pedro Soler, Engelbert Kolland, Francisco Pinazo Peñalver, Juan S. Fernández, and three laymen who were biological brothers — Francis, Abdel Mohti, and Raphaël Massabki.

Our beloved Blessed Massabki brothers are now known as the **SAINTED Massabki Brothers!** Saint Francis, Saint Abdel Mohti and Saint Raphael Massabki, pray for us!!!!



O Martyrs of Damascus, Pray for us!
O SAINTED Massabki Brothers, Pray for us!!!

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October 17, 2024



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7:00-9:00 pm est.

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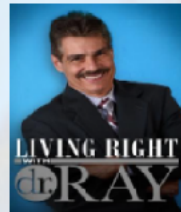
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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25 - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2024

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
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[11th Marian Eucharistic Conference 2023](#)

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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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