

Saint Rafka

Catholics of the East in the Upstate!



4th 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 sharing discussion following the Carmelite Way with Saint Therese of the Little Flower and Saint John of the Cross

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

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

Scripture Readings

Genesis 41:38-44

“Could we find another like him,” Pharaoh asked his servants, “a man so endowed with the spirit of God?” So Pharaoh said to Joseph: “Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one as discerning and wise as you are. You shall be in charge of my household, and all my people will obey your command. Only in respect to the throne will I outrank you.” Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Look, I put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt.” With that, Pharaoh took off his signet ring and put it on Joseph’s finger. He dressed him in robes of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. He then had him ride in his second chariot, and they shouted “Abrek!” before him.

Thus was Joseph installed over the whole land of Egypt. “I am Pharaoh,” he told Joseph, “but without your approval no one shall lift hand or foot in all the land of Egypt.”

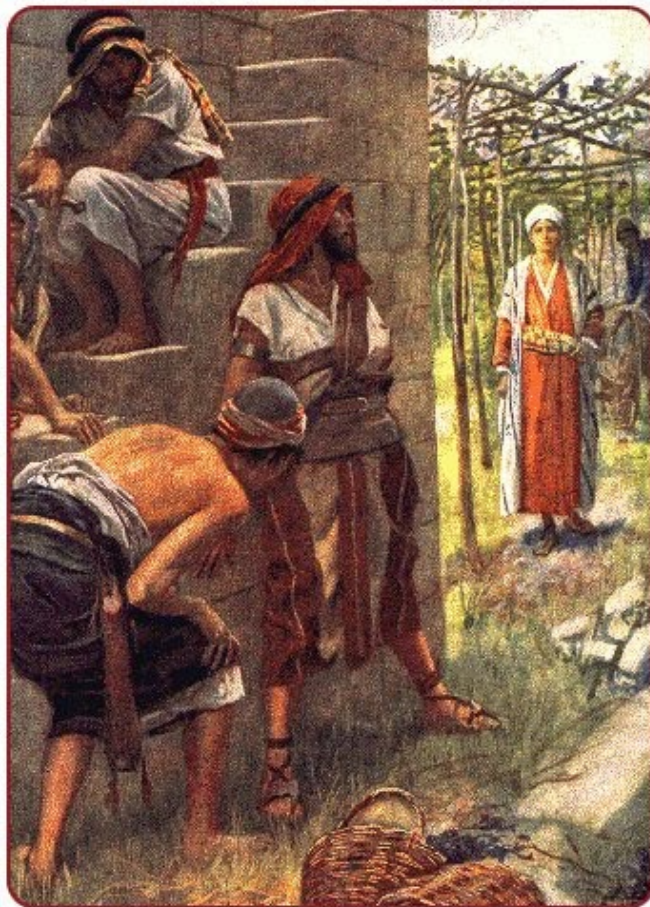
1 Thes. 5:1-11

Concerning times and seasons, brothers, you have no need for anything to be written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief at night. When people are saying, “Peace and security,” then sudden disaster comes upon them, like labor pains upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you, brothers, are not in darkness, for that day to overtake you like a thief. For all of you are children of the light and children of the day. We are not of the night or of darkness. Therefore, let us not sleep as the rest do, but let us stay alert and sober. Those who sleep go to sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we are of the day, let us be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love and the helmet that is hope for salvation. For God did not destine us for wrath, but to gain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live together with him. Therefore, encourage one

another and build one another up, as indeed you do.

Matt 24:45-51

Who, then, is the faithful and prudent servant, whom the master has put in charge of his household to distribute to them their food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master on his arrival finds doing so. Amen, I say to you, he will put him in charge of all his property. But if that wicked servant says to himself, ‘My master is long delayed,’ and begins to beat his fellow servants, and eat and drink with drunkards, the servant’s master will come on an unexpected day and at an unknown hour and will punish him severely and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.



Reflection

“You know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night” (1 Thess. 5:2) St. Paul wrote in today’s epistle. The Last Day is an unavoidable reality, but we do not know when it will come. Today’s Gospel presents two types of responses servants of the Lord can give to this inevitable day – one servant does as he is instructed, while the other parties and squanders what he has been entrusted because he assumes his Master will be away for a long time. Unfortunately for the second servant, his Master returns when he did not expect Him and he is punished.

But to those who love Christ, to the servant who he has been instructed by the Gospel, His return is a frightening event to dread, but an event we await with great eagerness. The servant who does not do as he has been instructed rightly fears the day his Master returns because he knows he will get in trouble for his purposeful disobedience. But the servants who try their best to follow their Master’s commands simply wish to see their Master again for their love of the Master is the same reason they follow His commands. And Christ, our Master, has not left us with commands to simply busy us, but because He knows best, as our omnipotent God and Creator, what should bring fulfillment and holiness.

Christ never said the instructions He has left would be always simple or easy, but He invites us to imitate Him, saying “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me” (Luke 9:23). Knowing we would face great challenges in the world at times to complete His commands, Christ left us with every divine tool needed to overcome them. As St. Paul wrote, “Let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thess. 5:8-9). Faith and hope

is our armor in the world, and our greatest weapon is the cross of Christ that protects us from harm and evil for God does not wish us to suffer, but to rejoice with Him forever in His love.

Equipped with faith, hope and love, and armed with the cross, we are prepared to face any challenge, whether our Lord will return tomorrow or in a thousand years. God is timeless, as is His love. If we truly wish to emulate Him, we must imitate His timeless love, not only in reciprocity to Him but to one another. Perhaps one of the greatest apparent crosses to carry and challenges we face in opposition to our faith and hope is Christ’s command to love our enemies and pray for them (Matt. 5:44). But that is, in fact, not in opposition but essential to how Christ has equipped us. We will only defeat our enemies in an ultimate sense by loving them – not in a naïve way thinking that everyone shall become our friends, but with the same love that God loves even those who offend Him. If God in His love wishes that we should be saved, then we must also love our enemies with the hope that we can all enter heaven. We can begin today to prepare concretely for the last day with things as simple as praying for those who wish us ill, and being the one to reach out and make peace when possible.

The day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night, sneaking up on us. It is left to us whether we shall receive it in great joy because we will see the Master we love so dearly, or be horrified when we realize we have neglected His commands.

Father Michael Shami
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Catholic Church
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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

Abouna's Corner

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

I have offered many prayers and Masses of thanksgiving that we were spared of life and limb during and after Hurricane Helene. What made it harder for me was to not be there. I was seeing the local news reports via the internet while in Alaska. It was a helpless feeling, but talking to people via text, I was able to learn of damage, power outages, repairs, etc.

Pope Francis has called for a global day of prayer and fasting on Oct. 7 to mark the one-year anniversary of the Hamas attack on Israel amid escalating violence in the region. "I ask everyone to take part in a day of fasting and prayer for peace in the world." Pope Francis said on Oct. 2 that the Church is always at the service of humanity, "especially in this dramatic hour of our history, as the winds of war and the fires of violence continue to ravage entire peoples and nations." Pope Francis also revealed that he will personally go to Rome's Basilica of St. Mary Major on Sunday to pray the rosary on the eve of the anniversary "to invoke the gift of peace through the intercession of Most Holy Mary." The Pope and our American Bishops have asked that we all pray the rosary this month for world peace and the upcoming presidential election.

On Tuesday, October 8, there will be a special screening of *Heart of a Servant*, the Father Flanagan Story. **Father Edward Flanagan** was a legend in the United States and beyond for his great love for homeless children. He started with nothing and built up Boys Town into a city unto itself. Join us at Regal Theaters on Woodruff Road on October 8 at 7:05 PM. Details [here](#).

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.

Ab. Bart



Church Offerings and Attendance

September 29, 2024		
12:00 Noon Saturday	0	\$0.00
4 PM	0	\$0.00
11 AM	99	\$837.00
7:00 PM	0	\$0.00
Mail		\$1,760.00
PayPal/Electronic		\$70.00
Total	99	\$2,667.00
Budget	225	\$4,100.00
+/-	-126	-\$1,433.00
Year to Date		\$163,834.00
Budget for year +/-		\$3,984.00
Building Fund		
4:00 PM		\$0.00
10 AM		\$0.00
7 PM		\$0.00
Total		\$0.00
Holy Hour		0
Holy Day		0
Funeral		0
2024 Totals		
4 PM		3282
11 AM		4552
7 PM		1694
Weekday Masses		3713
Holy Hour		234
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	43	81

Facts regarding our bulletin!

Bulletins emailed last weekend: 385 +
Percentage opened 53% -

Opened emails: 205 - Unopened emails: 180 +

Masses, Sanctuary Lamp & Flowers

To have the Sanctuary Light for your relatives or intentions, please use the envelope provided at the entrance. Donation is \$5.00. [The Sanctuary candle burns this week in Memory of deceased family members of Magin & Ozzimo families.](#)

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

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



Business Owners: Sign Up!

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

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

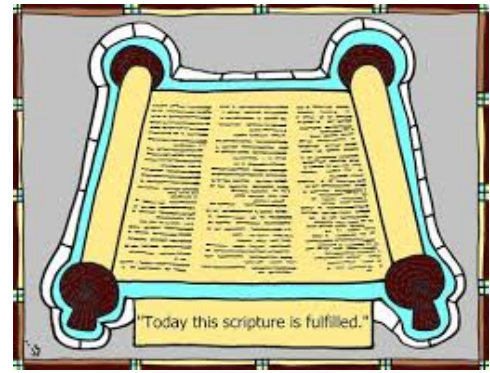


<https://catholic.center/>



Liturgical Readings

Old Testament (Arabic) Genesis 41:38-44	Assigned at Mass
New Testament (English) 1 Thes. 5:1-11	Assigned at Mass



Mass Intentions

October 5 - 6	4th Sunday of Holy Cross	
Saturday, 4 PM	John Peter, Pete William	Mickey Sayegh, Mom
Sunday 11 AM	Intentions of the Parishioners	
Sunday, 11 AM (II)		
Sunday, 7:00 PM	Open	
Tuesday, 10:00 AM	+Clay Gompf	Theresa Barnett
Wednesday, 7:00 PM	Aidan Killough	Kristie Killough
Thursday 10:00 AM	+Martine Farge	Theresa Barnett
Friday, 10:00 AM	Brendan Killough	Kristie Killough
Saturday, 12:00 Noon	Robyn Stanley	Kristie Killough
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		

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
6 4th Holy Cross 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	7 DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER	8 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow	9 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy	10 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	11 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	12 12:00 PM Arabic Mass 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy
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



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 6, Saint Thomas, Apostle
October 7, Saints Bacchus and Sarkis (Sergius),
Martyrs
October 8, Saint Pelagia (Margaret) Confessor
October 9, Saint James, Apostle, Brother of the
Lord
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

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

8, Ignatius Lakadosch
9, Geoff Bolak
10, Allyson Shumate
12, Mary Gallagher
13, Eileen Howard
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

Anniversaries

October

10, Joseph and Rita Sassonr
12, Michael and Katherine Sandifer
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

Necrology

October

+Genevieve Murtaugh, October 11, 2014
+Huda Askar, October 15, 2020
+Abouna James Paissi Ross, October 20, 2013
+Mudhafar (Chris) Shukur, October 28, 2022
+Josephine Romeo, October 29, 2012

Important Dates to Remember

Christmas Market, December 7 - 8
Marriage Enrichment Day of Reflection,
January 25
Hafli, February 22, 2025
Pastoral Visit of Bishop Gregory, March 15 -
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Special Announcements

NO POTLUCK LUNCHEON THIS MONTH

Due to many still not having electricity or possibility of shopping due to the Hurricane, we will skip the First Sunday Potluck Luncheon this month. As always, thanks for your understanding!

First Sunday Holy Hour, 3 PM

Let us give God thanks and praise for getting us through Hurricane Helene safely. Let us also pray for those who lost lives, homes and had severe damage to their properties. Prayers are also needed for all the those risking their lives to return power, water, and other utilities to us. God has blessed us - let us return our thanksgiving!

Eucharistic Adoration, Confessions, Chaplet of Mercy, Evening Prayer and Benediction. Join us!

Second Collection for the Building Fund

2nd Collection is taken this weekend for the Building Fund. Thank you for your generosity, especially with some of the project we have planned for the immediate future. Thanks!

MRE - Maronite Religious Education Classes

Our thanks to **Jessica Dagher Allen** preparing our children for First Holy Communion and to **Lisa Advent** and assistants 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 13
October 27

January 12
January 26

November 10
November 24

February 9
February 23

December 8
December 22

March 9
First Confessions, Practice, etc. to
be announced



Family Life

FIND YOUR PURPOSE,

FEED YOUR SOUL

AUTHENTIC FEMININITY



Woman of Grace Founder and Study Author

Johnnette Benkovic Williams

Learn about the Women of Grace® Foundational Study, through which you will embark upon a journey of discovery and transformation as you explore the great call and gift of your femininity. Along the way, each week you will meet two great women saints, receive wisdom from Holy Mother Church, unpack the life-changing wisdom of Holy Scripture, and discover how the Blessed Virgin Mary is the exemplar of discipleship and the pathway to her Son, Jesus Christ and the heart of the Father.

REGIONAL COORDINATOR LED
INTRODUCTORY ZOOM



Monday
October 7, 2024



ZOOM AT
7:00 pm est.

REGISTRATION 

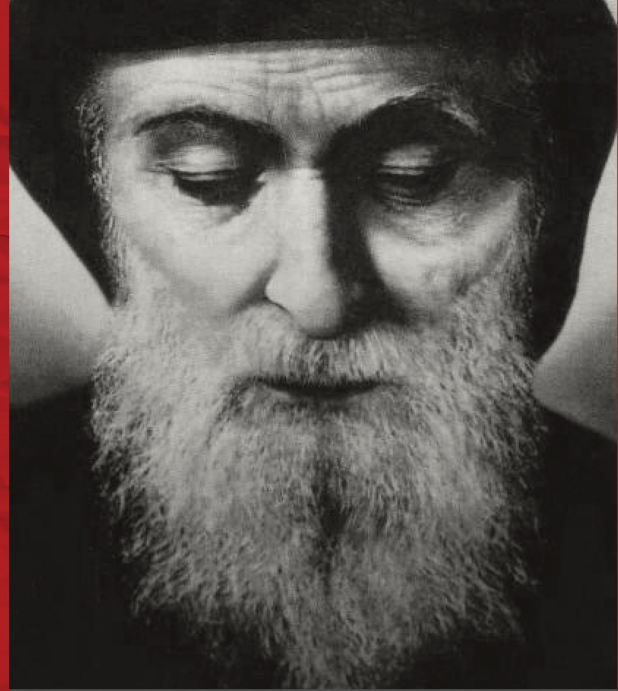


 SCAN ME

SAVE THE DATE

OCTOBER 17 - FACILITATOR TRAINING
FROM 7-9PM EST

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

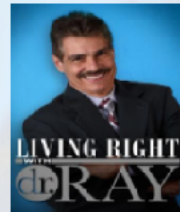
For more information, contact the Order of Saint Sharbel President, Charlene Hiffa
at info@orderstsharbel.org or call 718-237-9913 or consult your Parish Priest.
If you are interested in becoming a Priest or Religious Sister, contact Father Dominique Hanna,
Vocations Director at (718) 624-7228 or cathrectory@verizon.net

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

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*February 22nd
2025*



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Mary Dowden suffered a debilitating stroke on November 5, 2021 and she and husband **Greg Dowden** 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

First Holy Communion Classes

The time for **Maronite Religious Education** (MRE) for First Holy Communion is upon us! Classes begin on Sunday, September 8 after Mass in the Francis House conference room. A total of fourteen (14) classes will be held before First Confession and First Holy Communion on April 27, 2025. To register your child, please email the parish office at saintrafkagreenville@gmail.com

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.



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