

Saint Rafka

Catholics of the East in the Upstate!



2nd 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
MRE Director
[Jessica Allen](#)

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

Joel 2:1, 10-16a

Blow the horn in Zion, sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming! Before them the earth trembles; the heavens shake; Sun and moon are darkened, and the stars withhold their brightness. The LORD raises his voice at the head of his army; How immense is his host! How numerous those who carry out his command! How great is the day of the LORD! Utterly terrifying! Who can survive it? Return to the Lord. Yet even now—oracle of the LORD— return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, weeping, and mourning. Rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the LORD, your God, For he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting in punishment. Perhaps he will again relent and leave behind a blessing, Grain offering and libation for the LORD, your God. Blow the horn in Zion! Proclaim a fast, call an assembly! Gather the people, sanctify the congregation

1 Cor. 15:19:34

If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are the most pitiable people of all. But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead came also through a human being. For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order: Christ the first fruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ; then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father, when he has destroyed every sovereignty and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death, for “he subjected everything under his feet.” But when it says that everything has been subjected, it is clear that it excludes the one who subjected everything to him. When everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will [also] be subjected to the one who subjected

everything to him, so that God may be all in all. Otherwise, what will people accomplish by having themselves baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, then why are they having themselves baptized for them? Moreover, why are we endangering ourselves all the time? Every day I face death; I swear it by the pride in you [brothers] that I have in Christ Jesus our Lord. If at Ephesus I fought with beasts, so to speak, what benefit was it to me? If the dead are not raised:” Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die. ”Do not be led astray: “Bad company corrupts good morals.” Become sober as you ought and stop sinning. For some have no knowledge of God; I say this to your shame.

Matthew 24:1-14

Jesus left the temple area and was going away, when his disciples approached him to point out the temple buildings. He said to them in reply, “You see all these things, do you not? Amen, I say to you, there will not be left here a stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down.” As he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples approached him privately and said, “Tell us, when will this happen, and what sign will there be of your coming, and of the end of the age?” Jesus said to them in reply, “See that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Messiah,’ and they will deceive many. You will hear of wars and reports of wars; see that you are not alarmed, for these things must happen, but it will not yet be the end. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be famines and earthquakes from place to place. All these are the beginning of the labor pains. Then they will hand you over to persecution, and they will kill you. You will be hated by all nations because of my name. And then many will be led into sin; they will betray and hate one another. Many false prophets will arise and deceive many; and because of the increase of evildoing, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who perseveres to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached throughout the world as a witness to all nations, and then the end will come.

Reflection

So great is the faith of the Thief whose Lord was crucified upon the Tree and Whose forgiveness he requested. With nails in His hands and feet, he said to Him, "Forgive me my transgression!" Behold, Simon who had seen denied [Him], John stood afar, and the Thief cried out, "Remember me when You come!" (From the prayers of the Feast of the Holy Cross)

In mostly every other situation, it would be odd to hold up a thief as an example of how we should behave. But throughout the Syriac tradition, the Fathers constantly call our attention to how exemplary the Thief crucified next to Christ is (Luke 23:39-43). Simon Peter, who only shortly before the Passion professed that he would never abandon Christ, denied him and ran away. John, known as the Beloved Disciple and who laid his head on Jesus' chest at the Last Supper, now stands afar. But it was a thief, who admitted his execution was deserved, is raised up as our saintly example even above the first Bishop of Rome and an apostle. From the Thief, we learn three salient lessons.

The Thief sees with what the Syriac Fathers call the "Eye of the Spirit." Christ was beaten and about to die, yet to the Thief He was clearly the Lord of All. While others taunted Him to save Himself, the Thief understood that He was the One without Whom His persecutors would cease to exist. Peter, though he had seen Christ manifest His godly glory at the Transfiguration, still did not understand. But the Thief in his heart understood well when Christ said, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die" (John 11:25). That day, the Thief gained eternal life in heaven by dying in faith, but Peter died by denouncing God until he would repent.

The Thief's plea for mercy from God reminds us that we should and must call out to God to save

us from our sin. Even in the day of his death, the Thief still had hope because Jesus is the Hope of the Hopeless. Whereas an external observer would say the Thief died and Peter lived by fleeing, we know that the Thief gained eternal life and Peter had rejected the Lord of Life at that moment. The Thief knew that no sin, even one that brought him to death, was larger than the mercy of God – his name is a reminder, in that we remember him by his crime but laud him for his faith. God is the judge of heart and mind, and not restricted to human concepts of justice. He is always eager to have mercy – and when Peter repented from his denunciation of Jesus, he too was forgiven and became the highest bishop of the Church.

The last lesson from the Thief is that we are reminded God is the Judge of Judges – not us. It can be difficult not to judge people by their pasts and appearances, but we must remember we not determine who is worthy of the forgiveness or blessing of the Most High God! After all, it was Sts. Peter and John, apostles and bishops, who ran or stood afar. It was the Thief who was pleasing to God in that moment. But the temporary lapse of Peter also did not define the rest of his life – with sincere repentance came perfect reconciliation!

Like the Thief, let us seek God with spiritual eyes instead of the judgment of man. Like the Thief, let us call out to God at all hours, in spite of how hopeless our situations may look. Like the Thief, let us not try to replace the judgment of God with our own but be confident in His steadfastness! May prayers of the Thief be a rampart to us!

Father Michael Shami
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Catholic Church
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Abouna's Corner

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Happy Season of Holy Cross!

The celebration of Holy Cross last Sunday was absolutely beautiful. Many people came to celebrate the feast and then to celebrate with Father Toni his birthday and anniversary of ordination. It was a nice "welcome home" celebration for him. Thanks to all who were so instrumental in having such a grand celebration.

I want to thank the members of the community who have responded to the survey sent out last week. I was impressed that 73% of you responded and the results of the first question, regarding location, are below. This will be the first of several surveys that will be sent out to aid and assist me, the Eparchy and our Building Committee and Finance Committee to make the next decisions. Your input is always welcome!

This coming Thursday, we are honored to host **Deacon Harold Burk-Sivers**, EWTN host known as the "Dynamic Deacon" along with three Maronite laymen: **Charbel Raish, Kevin Bailey, and Dr. Robert Haddad**. Their mission theme for the evening is *We Will Serve the Lord* and it looks to be a dynamic evening. Join us as we hear these laymen describe their own faith journeys and their service to the Lord and His Church. 7:00 PM, Wickett Hall.

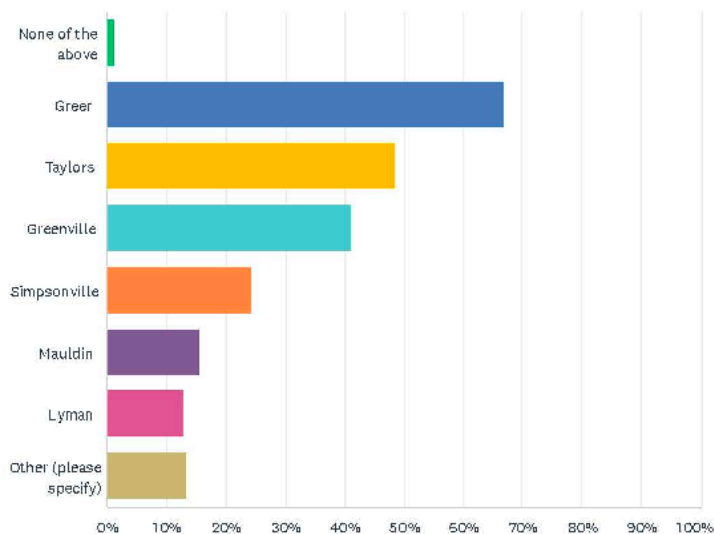
Something new! Our parish has grown over the years and we have three different liturgies. Sometimes we see people at an event and we question, "who is that?". The response is often, "that is so and so from the 4 PM (or 7 PM) Mass." We don't know all in the parish community anymore. This is a unique problem of a growing parish! How do we fix this?? A simple way is to have a **Parish Directory**. It is time. I have spoken to Universal Church Directories and they have a great program to take family photos and put the directory together. Two days will be set in January to come to the church all dressed up and take a family portrait. What a wonderful opportunity to get the family together to take a picture to remember. This is a fantastic opportunity for our parish community and I look forward to seeing a published directory in our hands.

As I mentioned last Sunday at Mass, I will be heading out Saturday afternoon to Vancouver, BC for my Alaska cruise. Father Toni will continue the *Abouna's Corner* in my absence. I will post pictures of the cruise on my FaceBook and Instagram pages.

See you after October 7!

Salaam!

Ab. Bart



Survey Question 1 responses from SurveyMonkey

Church Offerings and Attendance

September 15, 2024		
12:00 Noon Saturday	24	\$113.00
4 PM	86	\$849.00
11 AM	162	\$1419.00
7:00 PM	54	\$233.00
Mail		\$2,550.00
PayPal/Electronic		\$570.00
Total	302	\$5,621.00
Budget	225	\$4,100.00
+/-	77	\$1,521.00
Year to Date		\$157,698.00
Budget for year +/-		\$5,998.00
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		3199
11 AM		4311
7 PM		1649
Weekday Masses		3520
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
86	116	44	82

Facts regarding our bulletin!

Bulletins emailed last weekend: 378 +
Percentage opened 65% +

Opened emails: 244 + Unopened emails: 133 -

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 +Marguerite "Peggy" Shunk by her sister, Bernadette Mileski.**

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 (Arabic) Joel 2:1, 10-16a	Jessica Dagher Allen
New Testament (English) 1 Cor. 15:19:34	Marie Kidd



Mass Intentions

September 21 - 22	2nd Holy Cross	
Saturday, 4 PM	Greg - Saint Joseph Intercession	Barb Mytych
Sunday 11 AM	+Ken Jadowek, Brother-in-Law	Margi & Bill Seif
Sunday, 11 AM (II)		
Sunday, 7:00 PM	Tracey Mershon	Kristie Killough
Tuesday, 10:00 AM	+Martine Farge	Theresa Barnett
Wednesday, 7:00 PM	+Hewitt Dickerson	Kristie Killough
Thursday 10:00 AM	+Marguerite "Peggy" Shunk	Bernadette Mileski
Friday, 10:00 AM	+Clay Gompf	Theresa Barnett
Saturday, 12:00 Noon	Ian Killough	Kristie Killough
September 28 - 29		
Saturday, 4 PM	+ Jack Daniel Campbell, Brother in Law	Margi & Bill Seif
Sunday 11 AM	For World Peace & Our Country	Deanna Mechenski
Sunday, 11 AM (II)		
Sunday, 7:00 PM	Gavin Killough	Kristie Killough
Tuesday, 10:00 AM	Matt Mytych, 23rd Birthday	Barb Mytych
Wednesday, 7:00 PM	Living & Deceased Friends & Family	Ceil & Andy
Thursday 10:00 AM	+Martine Farge	Theresa Barnett
Friday, 10:00 AM	+Clay Gompf	Theresa Barnett
Saturday, 12:00 Noon	Bernadette and Connor Synnett	Mershon Family

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, September 5, 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
22 2nd Holy Cross 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM, Syro-Malabar Liturgy 7 PM, Last Chance Mass	23	24 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow	25 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy	26 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy Parish Mission Talk Deacon Harold <i>et al</i>	27 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	28 12:00 PM Arabic Mass 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy
29 3rd Holy Cross 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy 7 PM, Last Chance Mass	30	October 1 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow	2 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy	3 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	4 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy First Friday Devotions	5 12:00 PM Arabic Mass 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy
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	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



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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

September 22, Saint Phocas, Disciple of John, Martyr
September 24, Saint Thecla, First Woman Martyr
September 29, Saint Rouhanna the Cantor, Confessor and Saint Cyricus the Wanderer
September 30, Saint Gregory, Bishop of Armenia & His Companions, Confessors
October
October 1, Saint Theresa of the Little Flower and Saint Ananias The Apostle
October 2, Saints Cyprian and Justina, Martyrs
October 4, Saint Francis of Assisi, Confessor
October 6, Saint Thomas, Apostle

Prayer List

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 Fagiarone, 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 Durham, Michael Bays, Patrick Lavelle, Tara Galvin,

Birthdays

September

21, Hugo Garcia
21, Lily Zarrouf
22, Layla Kasir
24, Sharbel Feghali
25, Seth Riggio
25, Natallia Hermiz
26, John Stewart
27, Andrew Moubarak

October

1, Ikram Kaseer
1, Jay Reece
1, Nedhal Hermiz
2, Isabelle Chebeir

Anniversaries

October

1, Francois and Michelle Sleiman
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

Necrology

September

+Anthony Nabih "Tony" Awwadieh, September 23, 2022
+Edna Lizabeth Seman, September 27, 2006

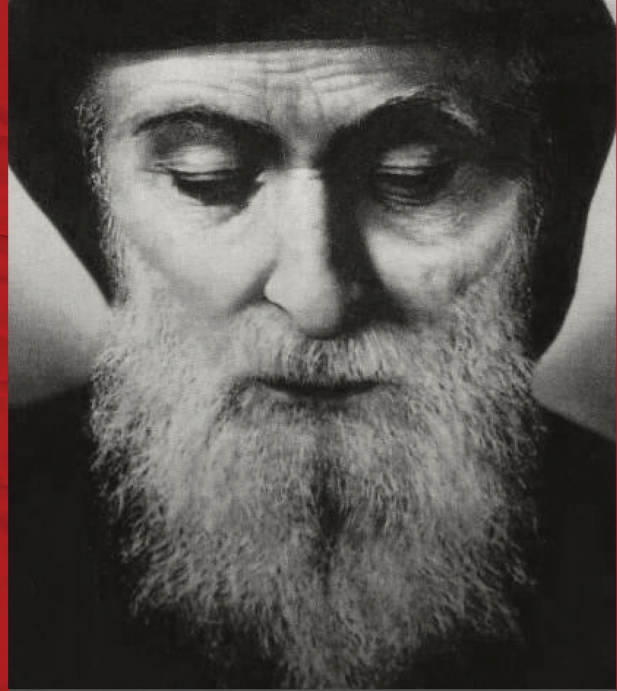
October

+Samuel Howard, Sr., October 2, 2014
+Paul Bussemey, October 4, 2021
+Genevieve Murtaugh, October 11, 2014
+Huda Askar, October 15, 2020
+Abouna James Paissi Ross, October 20, 2013
+Mudhafar (Chris) Shukur, October 28, 2022

Important Dates to Remember

Mission Night, September 26
Christmas Market, December 7 - 8
Marriage Enrichment Day of Reflection, January 25
Hafli, February 22, 2025
Pastoral Visit of Bishop Gregory, March 15 - 16

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

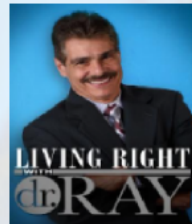
For more information, contact the Order of Saint Sharbel President, Charlene Hiffa
at info@orderstsharbel.org or call 718-237-9913 or consult your Parish Priest.
If you are interested in becoming a Priest or Religious Sister, contact Father Dominique Hanna,
Vocations Director at (718) 624-7228 or cathrectory@verizon.net

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.

For more information, call

(864)354-7160 or visit

<http://www.meconferencesc.net>

Greenville Convention Center | 1 Exposition Dr. | Greenville, SC 29607

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.

Palmetto Home Improvement Handyman

Simon Elias
864-340-5101
Free Estimate

se_improvements



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



We will serve
the Lord

Joshua 24:15

September 26, 2024

Charbel Raish

Charbel is married to Christine and they have been blessed with 8 children together. Charbel has a passion for helping people get closer to discovering the fullness of Truth and invites anyone who is willing & able to help him on this mission of evangelization through Parousia.



Kevin Bailey

Kevin's drive these days comes from Pope Francis' call in *Evangelii Gaudium* for Catholics to be disciples of Christ. "As lay Catholics, we've actually got to be real; we've got to be counter-cultural; we've got to differentiate; we've got to lay down our lives for something that's worth laying down our lives for."



Dr. Robert Haddad

Robert Haddad is a Catholic teacher, apologist, and evangelist who holds firmly to all the truths of the Catholic faith and wishes all to come to know, love, and live the Catholic faith.



Parousia USA 2024 Tour Speakers

September 26, 2024

Festival of Lebanon



Sponsored by
St. Stephen Maronite Catholic Church

Friday & Saturday September 20 & 21

Friday 4 PM - 8 PM

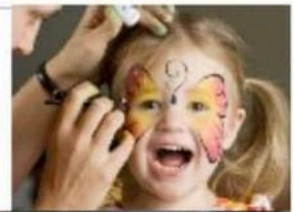
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\$10,000

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....and **MUCH** more!

For more information

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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.



Recent Events

Top left: A view of the procession last Sunday as we celebrated the Feast of the Holy Cross.

Top right: A close up view of clergy and servers during the procession.

Left: A Church of Christ being constructed on Highway 101. Steel building, façade of brick with a very large parking lot. I have to admit, I felt a bit envious! Just looking for great ideas!

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