

Saint Rafka

Catholics of the East in the Upstate!



3rd 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.



Trust In Us

*Our security business is based in Greenville, SC.
We provide the best security systems for home and business.
Ensuring your Family and Assets are protected.*

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priority1security.com

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

Daniel 7:9-14

As I watched, Thrones were set up and the Ancient of Days took his throne. His clothing was white as snow, the hair on his head like pure wool; His throne was flames of fire, with wheels of burning fire. A river of fire surged forth, flowing from where he sat; Thousands upon thousands were ministering to him, and myriads upon myriads stood before him. The court was convened, and the books were opened.

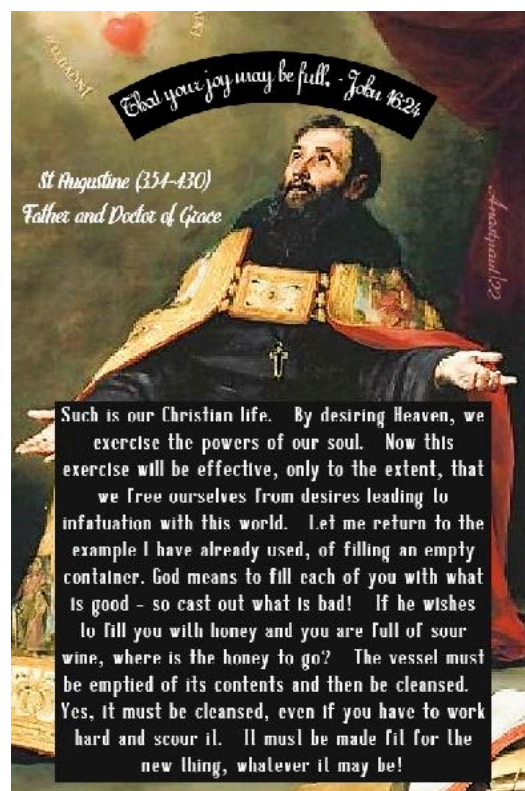
I watched, then, from the first of the arrogant words which the horn spoke, until the beast was slain and its body destroyed and thrown into the burning fire. As for the other beasts, their dominion was taken away, but they were granted a prolongation of life for a time and a season. As the visions during the night continued, I saw coming with the clouds of heaven One like a son of man. When he reached the Ancient of Days and was presented before him, He received dominion, splendor, and kingship; all nations, peoples and tongues will serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, his kingship, one that shall not be destroyed.

Philippians 3:17 – 4:1

Join with others in being imitators of me, brothers, and observe those who thus conduct themselves according to the model you have in us. For many, as I have often told you and now tell you even in tears, conduct themselves as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction. Their God is their stomach; their glory is in their "shame." Their minds are occupied with earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified body by the power that enables him also to bring all things into subjection to himself. Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, beloved.

Matt 24:23-31

If anyone says to you then, 'Look, here is the Messiah!' or, 'There he is!' do not believe it. False messiahs and false prophets will arise, and they will perform signs and wonders so great as to deceive, if that were possible, even the elect. Behold, I have told it to you beforehand. So if they say to you, 'He is in the desert,' do not go out there; if they say, 'He is in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. For just as lightning comes from the east and is seen as far as the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be. Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather. "Immediately after the tribulation of those days, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming upon the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a trumpet blast, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other."



Reflection

We have heard many times the prediction of the end of the world – sometimes as a joke, like when someone says it sarcastically, or certain people claim to be Christ and “reveal” the date of the day of the apocalypse. Even the word “apocalypse” has come to carry a frightening that also peaks our interest. Today’s Gospel also evokes the image of the apocalypse, but our image of the apocalypse is very different from that of Hollywood or a sensational false prophet. We look forward to the apocalypse because we “will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory” (Matt. 24:30). If we love Jesus, we will not fear His return, but like a far away relative or beloved friend, wait excitedly to see His save and run out to meet Him.

The Gospel warns against those who claim to know that Jesus has already arrived again – those who claim to know the infinite mind of God. Our Lord has already told us in His Gospel that no one, not even the angels in heaven, know when He will come again (Matt. 24:36) so anyone who claims to know is not only mistaken but they contradict the Lord. Then how will we know when He truly comes? “Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man” (Matt. 24:30). What is this sign of the Son? The cross, the great sign that Jesus has left each of us with, the season we celebrate. The sign by which He saved us will be the way we shall know our Lord.

But talk of the apocalypse sounds all very abstract, especially if we have no way of knowing when it shall be. But precisely because we know not the hour – whether it is in a week or a thousand years – we should be ready at all times. We should not prepare in a frantic way – one of the most commonly repeated phrases of Scripture is God’s consolation to His faithful, “Do not be afraid.” But we should prepare ourselves in the same way we would when we know our beloved family member or friend is going to come to us. We

await the great sign of His salvation, which we already know. Just as one dresses up for a special occasion, let us be always dressed in a robe of excellence – not one made of cloth, but of every virtuous action we do. When Christ comes, all things hidden will be made as plain as day, and so our actions will be worn on our sleeves. With every opportunity to do good let us be exceedingly generous to one another that our deeds done for love of God will be abundant. Let us pray fervently, both asking for the forgiveness of any offenses we have committed, as well as growing in love of God each day of our life. Let us be completely reconciled to God and neighbor without any ill-will because the next moment might be the last.

We prepare in such a way, once again, not from fear but from love to see Christ for Whom we do all things. And each time we draw the sign of the cross upon ourselves should be a reminder of that inevitable Last Day, but also a mini-apocalypse in itself. For Christ has made Himself present to us in the simplest of things, even in the imitation of the sign of his cross. The Good Thief at the crucifixion had a great consolation in seeing the cross of Christ, not because it was a sign of death, but a promise of deliverance though things seemed bleak because the Thief understood he had almighty God as his advocate in his faith. Though the world tells us the Last Day is a dreadful thing, let us with joy and eagerness:

We bow to the cross
through which our souls have salvation
and we say with the Thief,
“O Christ, remember us when You come!”
(Trans. from Syriac hymn)

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,

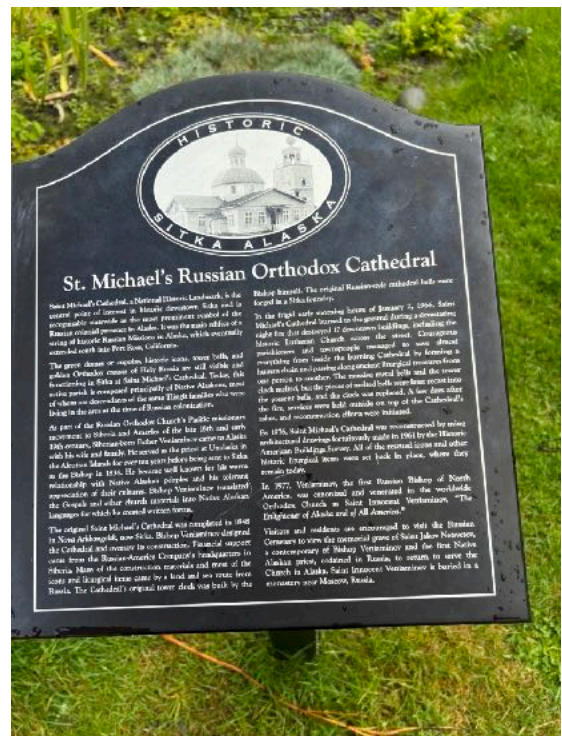
I was overwhelmed with emotion and so pleased by the number of people who attended my birthday and anniversary celebration. I am very appreciative of the many gifts and beautiful flowers. My heartfelt thanks to those who prepared the delicious feast.

The ambience of joy and love around me on this momentous occasion in my life is a special blessing for me, not only for my birthday, but especially for my beloved years as a priest.

Again, I say thank you for the wonderful day of joy. You will remember me in the words of Jesus "truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or feels, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundred fold. Now in this age houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children in fields, with persecution and in the safe to come to eternal life."

Thank you for being my beloved family.

Ab. Toni



About Bart's Travels

The picture on the left is in front of a totem pole by the Sitka First Nation tribe of the area. The city of Sitka is the oldest settlement in Alaska and settled by the Russians. The majority of the Russians were Orthodox and built a beautiful wooden cathedral church in the downtown area where a bishop resided. The church, named in honor of Saint Michael, is a simple yet beautiful worship space. The plaque on the right tells the history of Saint Michael Church and the orthodox faithful who settled the area.

Church Offerings and Attendance

September 22, 2024		
12:00 Noon Saturday	20	\$80.00
4 PM	84	\$1117.00
11 AM	142	\$1235.00
7:00 PM	45	\$349.00
Mail		\$660.00
PayPal/Electronic		\$90.00
Total	271	\$3,451.00
Budget	225	\$4,100.00
+/-	46	-\$649.00
Year to Date		\$161,167.00
Budget for year +/-		\$5,367.00
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		3283
11 AM		4453
7 PM		1694
Weekday Masses		3603
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	117	44	83

Facts regarding our bulletin!

Bulletins emailed last weekend: 384 +
Percentage opened 64% -

Opened emails: 245 + Unopened emails: 138 +

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.



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 (English) Daniel 7:9-14	Marlene Saad
New Testament (Arabic) Philippians 3:17 – 4:1	Rania Samour



Mass Intentions

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
October 5 - 6		
Saturday, 4 PM	John Peter, Pete William	Mickey Sayegh, Mom
Sunday 11 AM	Open	
Sunday, 11 AM (II)		
Sunday, 7:00 PM	Intentions of the Parishioners	
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

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
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
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



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

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
October 7, Saints Bacchus and Sarkis (Sergius), Martyrs
October 8, Saint Pelagia (Margaret) Confessor

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

1, Ikram Kaseer
1, Jay Reece
1, Nedhal Hermiz
2, Isabelle Chebeir
5, Anna Grace Robinson
8, Ignatius Lakadosch
9, Geoff Bolak
10, Allyson Shumate
12, Mary Gallagher
13, Eileen Howard
15, Wesam Hana
18, Kathy Wilson
19, Larry Snelson

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

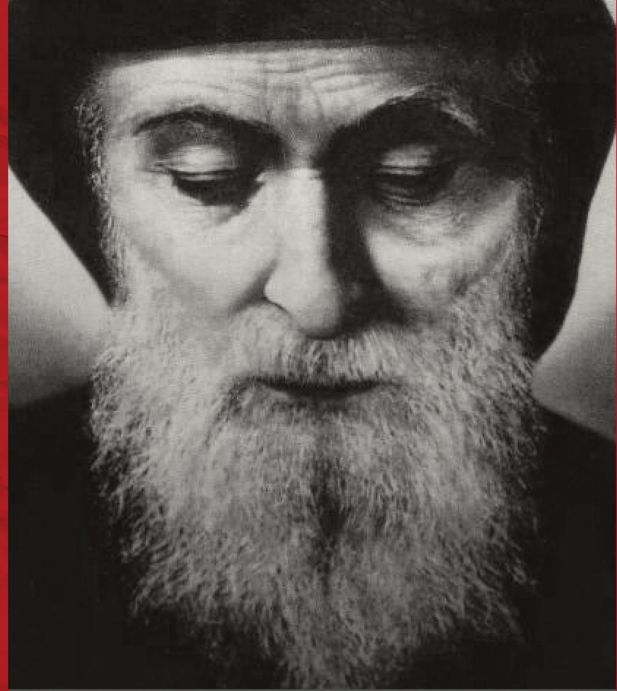
October

+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
+Josephine Romeo, October 29, 2012

Important Dates to Remember

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

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

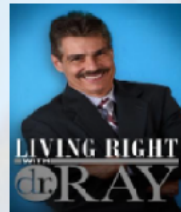
For more information, contact the Order of Saint Sharbel President, Charlene Hiffa
at info@orderstsharbel.org or call 718-237-9913 or consult your Parish Priest.
If you are interested in becoming a Priest or Religious Sister, contact Father Dominique Hanna,
Vocations Director at (718) 624-7228 or cathrectory@verizon.net

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

[11th Marian Eucharistic Conference 2023](#)

www.youtube.com

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

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.



RESET '24: retreat
for **WOMEN**

Embracing your unique
identity and purpose as the
Father's Beloved Daughter

October 4-6, 2024

Led by Catholic Life Coaches,
Monica Herbert and Tami Kiser



Support Those Who Support Us!

Market
Momentum
moving business forward



Mark Advent, Owner

Advent Home Services

Plumbing~Electric~Repair~Install

- Quality Workmanship
- Excellent Troubleshooting Skills
- Reasonable Pricing
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RENEE L. TEDRICK
Attorney at Law
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