

Saint Rafka

Catholics of the East in the Upstate!



Birthday of the Virgin Mary

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](#)

Greg Lepak
Scripture Study
[Greg Lepak](#)



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*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.*

864.288.1400

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 blessing with the relic of Saint Sharbel. **(Suspended during Summer months)**

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

Ezekiel 44: 1-5

When you apportion the land into inheritances, you shall set apart a sacred tract of land for the LORD, twenty-five thousand cubits long and twenty thousand wide; its whole area shall be sacred. Of this land a square plot, five hundred by five hundred cubits, surrounded by a free space of fifty cubits, shall be assigned to the sanctuary. Also from this sector measure off a strip, twenty-five thousand cubits long and ten thousand wide, within which shall be the sanctuary, the holy of holies. This shall be the sacred part of the land belonging to the priests, the ministers of the sanctuary, who draw near to minister to the LORD; it shall be a place for their homes and pasture land for their cattle. Also there shall be a strip twenty-five thousand cubits long and ten thousand wide as property for the Levites, the ministers of the temple, that they may have cities to live in.

II Corinthians 4:1-6

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Luke 8:16-21

No one after lighting a lamp hides it under a jar, or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a lampstand, so that those who enter may see the light. For nothing is hidden that will not be disclosed, nor is anything secret that will not become known and come to light. Then pay attention to how you listen; for to those who have, more will be given; and from those who do not have, even what they seem to have will be taken away.' Then his mother and his brothers came to him, but they could not reach him because of the crowd. And he was told, 'Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, wanting to see you.' But he said to them, 'My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it.'



Reflection

Today is the Feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God. We do not normally commemorate the births of saints, but John the Baptist and Mary, the Mother of God, are two exceptions because, like Christmas, the Birth of Christ, they impact our salvation. Mary's Nativity in particular is second only to Christmas, when our Lord and God was born as a man, come to mankind to save us from sin. His Mother's birth, then, is important because it allows His birth – her birth is the beginning of the fulfillment of what had been promised to the prophets for thousands of year.

Mary's birth is a sign of Christ, the Hope of All, because it fulfills the ancient promises He made to His people awaiting His coming since the Fall of Adam. With Mary's birth, three hopeful promises are fulfilled, which our tradition emphasizes in their hymns. The first is that "the Lord will not forsake His people" (Ps. 94:14). The People of God are those who love Him and follow His commands. Joachim and Anna, the parents of Mary, are two steadfast examples of God-loving people. They were known for being righteous, and for praying and fasting constantly. But for sixty years they were childless – and as such, for sixty years they were considered cursed by God by their contemporaries and prohibited from offering sacrifice in the Temple. But they did not despair, though other humans claimed their hard times were a curse from God. They continued their lives in love of God and God did not forsake them, remaining true to His word. But instead blessed them with the daughter who is blessed by all generations as the holiest of women to bear the Son of God.

As our Lord promises His disciples, He turns sorrow into joy for those who follow Him (John 16:20). From the very beginning of the prophets and patriarchs, God promised both fruitfulness and great nations while Abraham and Sarah were barren. Rachel was barren for Jacob, and the High Priest Samuel's wife could not conceive. But when least expected, God granted them the promise given to them. This theme is repeated throughout

the prayers of the Nativity of Mary because she is the descendant and fulfillment of all the patriarchs. The Syriac prayers emphasize the transmission of this great blessing, the Hope of the Hopeless, Who is Christ, until it reaches Mary. The most terrible barrenness that has plagued the world since Adam is sin, which stole life from us. With the birth of Mary, the vessel for Life Eternal is prepared.

The greatest and most ancient promise which Mary's birth fulfills is the promise our tradition says Christ made to Adam. Reflected in Ezekiel (33:11), we believe our Lord is grieved by sin, which brought death into the world and decayed His image in Adam. From the Fall of Adam, Christ began to prepare the way for Him to heal the barrenness of sin. That is why He blessed the prophets repeatedly to foreshadow and transmit His blessing that He will never abandon His people or the sinner, but instead make the barren fruitful and the dead living if they follow Him. Christ became incarnate after the holiest woman ever was born who would become His Mother, Mary. Mary, though Virgin, is the Mother of the Creator of All, Who died to bring us life, in this great paradox.

The Nativity of Mary is a reminder that strife is not a curse from God, but an opportunity for Him to bless us. Moreover, He will not abandon us in our need. That is why we so fondly call Christ throughout our prayers the Hope of the Hopeless. May the prayers of the Mother of God be a rampart to us!

Father Michael Shami
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Catholic Church
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Church Offerings and Attendance

September 1, 2024		
12:00 Noon Saturday	0	\$0.00
4 PM	81	\$2249.00
11 AM	114	\$1321.00
7:00 PM	54	\$745.00
Mail		\$296.00
PayPal/Electronic		
Total	249	\$4,611.00
Budget	225	\$4,100.00
+/-	24	\$511.00
Year to Date		Totals in next week's bulletin
Budget for year +/-		
Building Fund		
4:00 PM		\$534.00
10 AM		\$515.00
7 PM		\$371.00
Total		\$1,420.00
Holy Hour		17
Holy Day		0
Funeral		0
2024 Totals		
4 PM		3043
11 AM		4025
7 PM		1552
Weekday Masses		3360
Holy Hour		209
Holy Day		423
Special Liturgy		117
Funerals		452
Weddings		60
Pasta Supper		246

Average Attendance

4 PM	11 AM	7 PM	Per Liturgy Average
87	115	44	82

Facts regarding our bulletin!

Bulletins emailed last weekend: 377 +
Percentage opened 61% **6**

Opened emails: 231 + Unopened emails: 148 -

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. **The 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.



Business Owners: Sign Up!

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

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



CATHOLIC

INFORMATION CENTER

<https://catholic.center/>



Liturgical Readings

Old Testament (English) Ezekiel 44: 1-5	Geoff Bolak
New Testament (Arabic) II Corinthians 4:1-6	Layla Madbak



Mass Intentions

September 7 - 8	Birthday of Mary	
Saturday, 4 PM	Paul Shimow +John Cullen (Dad) & +Peter Sayegh (Pop)	Ceil & Andy Mickey Sayegh
Sunday 11 AM	+George Madback, 11th anniversary	Layla Madbak
Sunday, 11 AM (II)		
Sunday, 7:00 PM	Bill & Margi	Ceil & Andy
Tuesday, 10:00 AM	+Clay Gompf	Theresa Barnett
Wednesday, 7:00 PM	Holy Souls in Purgatory	Barb Mytych
Thursday 10:00 AM	+Martine Farge	Theresa Barnett
Friday, 10:00 AM	Bernadette and Connor Synnett	Mershon Family
Saturday, 12:00 Noon	Catholic Upstate Young Adult Group	Barb Mytych
September 13 - 14	Holy Cross	
Saturday, 4 PM	Bill & Irene	Ceil & Andy
Sunday 11 AM	+Frances Hykes	Bob Dowd
Sunday, 11 AM (II)		
Sunday, 7:00 PM	The Mytych Family	Barb Mytych
Tuesday, 10:00 AM	+Martine Farge	Theresa Barnett
Wednesday, 7:00 PM	+Mary Anne Hume	Micheal Hume
Thursday 10:00 AM	+Clay Gompf	Theresa Barnett
Friday, 10:00 AM	+Susan Hausoeper	Anonymous
Saturday, 12:00 Noon	Marie Crockett	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, 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
8 Birthday of Mary 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM, Syro-Malabar Liturgy 7 PM, Last Chance Mass	9 7:00 PM KC Meeting	10 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow	11 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy	12 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	13 Holy Cross 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	14 Holy Cross 12:00 PM, Arabic Mass 2:00 PM Wedding 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy
15 1st Holy Cross 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy Pot Luck Luncheon 5:00 PM Korean Mass 7 PM, Last Chance Mass	16	17 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow	18 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy	19 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	20 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	21 12:00 PM Arabic Mass 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy
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	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 Liturgy3	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



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 1, Saint Simon the Stylite
September 2, Saint Mamimas, Martyr
September 5, Saint Sharbel, Bishop of Edessa and His Sister, Confessors
September 6, Saint Michael the Archangel
September 8, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
September 9, Saints Joachim and Ann, Parents of the Virgin Mary
September 14, Exaltation of the Holy and Life-Giving Cross
September 15, Saints Sassine and Shaina, Confessors
September 16, Saint Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, Martyr

Prayer List

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, Susan Connor, Bill Hines, Beth

Birthdays

September

7, Robert Haddad
8, Brave Lucien Valitchka
8, Jeni Yacu
10, Amal Zattam
10, John Davis, MD
10, Karl Warda
16, Harry Lakadosch
16, William (Bill) Francis, Sr.
19, Josephine Nmair
20, Amy Saad
21, Hugo Garcia
21, Lily Zarrouf
22, Layla Kasir

Anniversaries

September

8, Fredy and Marie Feghali
10, Maryanne and Joseph Giacometti
10, Father Aaron Sandbothe, Priesthood Ordination
10, Father Toni Jabbour, OMM, Priesthood Ordination

October

1, Francois and Michelle Sleiman
10, Joseph and Rita Sassonr

Necrology

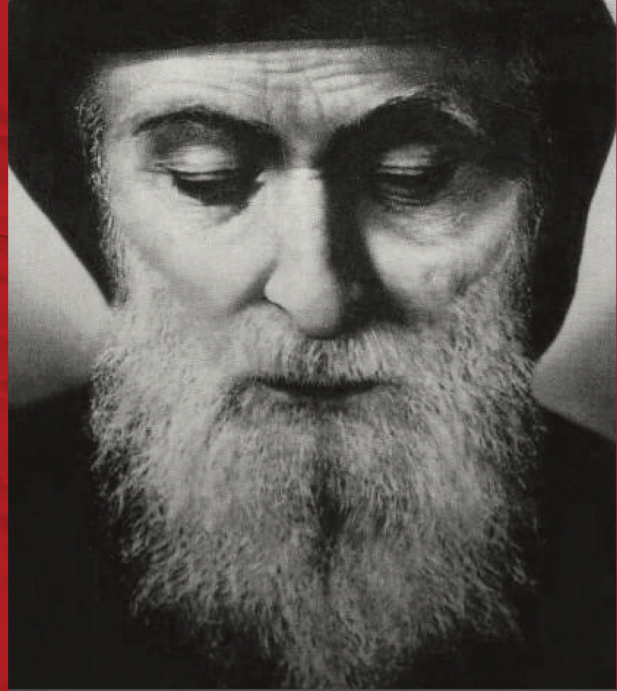
September

+Gasshan Eid, September 10, 2018
+Mary Jean Lawrence, September 10, 2022
+Catherine (Kitty) Francis Norman, September 15, 2015
+Most Reverend Francis M. Zayek, September 17, 2010
+Anthony Nabih "Tony" Awwadieh, September 23, 2022
+Edna Lizabeth Seman, September 27, 2006

Important Dates to Remember

Golf Outing, September 16
Christmas Market, December 14 - 15
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

Pilgrimage

With Mary
Sing Alleluia
to the Lord

October 15 - 22, 2024



attend the
canonization of

The Blessed Massabki Brothers

Tour Includes
Rome • Vatican City
San Giovanni • Assisi

Package Includes
International full coverage insurance,
2-person room, bus transportation,
monument entrance fees, hotel breakfast

Package Prices: \$1900 / person
(airfare not included)

Limited seats available. Register by 8/31/2024

**For more information,
contact Fr. Antoine Kairouz
abounaantoine13@gmail.com
724-732-4064**



This trip is hosted by the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn.

Click here to view the [itinerary](#).

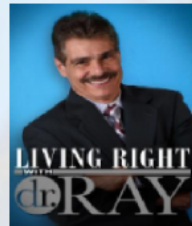
[Registration Form](#)

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.meconferesc.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

Saturday September 30th

Free Admission

From 11 AM to 7PM

@ St Matthew Gym 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy, Charlotte NC 28277



Join us and enjoy tasty Lebanese food, live music, lottery raffle, fun kids' area, and many other raffle prizes. It's fantastic time for all the family!



Enter the lottery raffle for a chance to win

\$10,000

Only **200** Lottery tickets will be sold

Lottery ticket price: **\$100**

Grand Prize: \$10,000

Second Prize: \$1,000

Third Prize: \$500

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

For more information

Primary #: (704) 412-1016

Secondary #: (704) 996-8585

Saintstephenmaronitechurch@gmail.com

Follow us:

[@St_Stephen_Maronite_Catholic_Church](#)



INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2024

from noon until 9 p.m.



LIVE MUSIC



FOLKLORE DANCE



FOOD FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES



FACE PAINTING * CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES * MORE



**ST. MARY MAGDALENE
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2252 Woodruff Rd.
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**ALL ARE
WELCOME!**

864-288-4884

office@smmcc.org

www.smmcc.org

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.

Building Committee Update

Dear Parishioners.

As many of you know, St. Rafka Church has for some time been barely able to accommodate our growing number of parishioners considering our modest church size and inadequate parking on site. So we have been having ongoing discussions at the church about how to best expand our church buildings to accommodate the anticipated increase in attendees.

Ideally we would like to acquire about a 5 acre parcel in the Greer area to build on. Our discussions with builders has concluded that our much beloved St. Rafka site is inadequate to accommodate a new church building on the current site and the many more parking spaces that would be needed. We could only build on our current site if some additional acreage became available for parking. However, we haven't ruled out purchasing an existing church or other buildings if they are suitable to our needs.

Unfortunately, available vacant land in the Greer area has not been located which could be purchased. The large tracts of land directly across from St. Rafka would be perfect for our use but are not currently available. For the time being, our current church building is serving us well if a bit tight, and Francis House and Wickett Hall can continue to serve our needs for some time to come.

So that is a summary of where things currently stand. We will continue to keep our eyes open for a suitable site. We are currently enlisting the help of a competent real estate company to help us in our search. In any case, we see a new St. Rafka site as a multi year project to get where we want to be considering a level of financing that we can manage.

Thomas Judge

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Saint Rafka Council #15519

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