

Saint Rafka

Catholics of the East in the Upstate!



Season of Glorious Easter

5th Sunday of Easter

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
Women's Guild
[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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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.

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

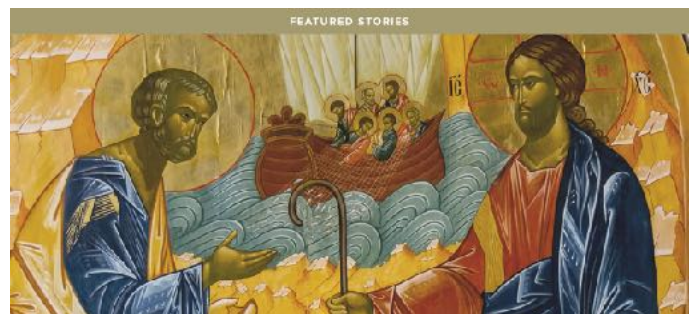
Please follow us at @saintrafkagreenville on **Instagram** and/or **St. Rafka Maronite Church** on **Facebook**. <http://www.facebook.com/strafka>
Also [YouTube](#)!

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.

IN DEFENSE OF CHRISTIANS [IDE](#) 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 34:11-16, 23-25

For thus says the Lord GOD: Look! I myself will search for my sheep and examine them. As a shepherd examines his flock while he himself is among his scattered sheep, so will I examine my sheep. I will deliver them from every place where they were scattered on the day of dark clouds. I will lead them out from among the peoples and gather them from the lands; I will bring them back to their own country and pasture them upon the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and every inhabited place in the land. In good pastures I will pasture them; on the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down on good grazing ground; in rich pastures they will be pastured on the mountains of Israel.

I myself will pasture my sheep; I myself will give them rest—oracle of the Lord GOD. The lost I will search out, the strays I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, and the sick I will heal; but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd them in judgment. I will appoint one shepherd over them to pasture them, my servant David; he shall pasture them and be their shepherd. I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David will be prince in their midst. I, the LORD, have spoken. I will make a covenant of peace with them and rid the country of wild beasts so they will dwell securely in the wilderness and sleep in the forests.

Ephesians 2:1-10

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ by grace you have been saved and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

John 21:15-19

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' A second time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Tend my sheep.' He said to him the third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, 'Do you love me?' And he said to him, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.' (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, 'Follow me.'



Reflection

Would you consider yourself holy? It is an interesting question if we are ever asked. It might prompt you to recall saying a recent hurtful remark in impatience, skipping prayer or one of the many other abundant flaws of messy human life. If we sit down and thoroughly think of all our faults it could seem that there is an insurmountable distance between us and the holiness of God. And perhaps at certain moments of our lives there is such a divide – but as St. Athanasius said, “God became man so that we might become God” (CCC460). Adam damaged the image of God in which we were all made, but Christ came to recast it!

Nowhere does God make His compassion towards our broken nature clearer than when He picks St. Peter, an uneducated and unimpressive fisherman who often did not understand Christ’s miracles or sayings, to be the head of the Apostles. When Christ gives Peter the power to walk on water as he requests, Peter doubts Him and sinks (Matt. 14:22-33). When Jesus tells His disciples that He will be crucified and resurrected for the salvation of mankind, Peter rejects the divine plan for his little plans (Matt. 16:21-23). When Peter tells Christ he will never abandon Him, in the same night he denies Christ three times (Luke 22:54-62). Peter shows his weakness of faith and understanding, but Jesus does not abandon him – instead He pulls him up out of the waves, He corrects Peter in his error, and, in today’s Gospel reading, we hear Jesus give him a chance to undo his triple denial by a triple question, “Do you love me?”

How patient and long suffering God is! When He created everything for Adam and Adam sinned against Him, God began to immediately plan for his salvation. He sent no less than 70 prophets to Israel to bring them back to Him over the course of thousands of years, and when Israel killed His prophets He came Himself. Even St. Peter, the man He appointed as the head of His Church, failed again and again. But Christ did not abandon him because of Peter’s repentance and love – which he proclaimed three times to Christ today. It is by both repentance and love Christ wipes away his sins. But it is not enough that Peter simply repents by telling the Lord he loves Him – Jesus

sends Peter to work, “Feed my lambs. Take care of my sheep. Feed my lambs” The true work of penance for Peter is the distribution of Christ’s abundant upon Earth, which Christ has made available to us through the Church.

Peter has been given the keys to the heavenly treasury from which the priests distribute the riches of God to those who need them. These men who distribute them are nowhere near perfect – look at Peter! However, their imperfections do not lessen the greatness of God – if anything, their weakness shows how mighty God is that He could work His mercy through such weak and sinful servants. The treasures they distribute are the holy mysteries of our Lord Who made them available that we might partake of His holiness. From this treasury, the priests dressed us in the rich robe of Christ at our baptism, removing the filthy robe of sinful decay from us. The Body and Blood of our Lord are the fiery coal that Isaiah said not even the angels could touch without a tong (Is. 6:6) but that the human priests hold in their hand and give to us that our sins be burned away. Like the Sinful Woman, our tears of penance wash away the sin that covers up these adornments and the priests give us the gold assurance of God “I absolve you.” Of course, these are only three of the innumerable riches Christ gives us through the Church!

Would you consider yourself holy? Perhaps there is still a great distance to go in life and many improvements to be made, but let us look to the example of St. Peter. Instead of falling deeper into sin because we know it is in us, let us turn to Christ in our love for Him and have Him take it away. He has given us all these countless blessings for love of us, who are His image. Let us make use of them, crying out and praying:

Simon Peter called to You in the sea and You answered him between the waves, and You helped him in at a fearful time. O, I am drowning in the sea of sins! Pull me out because of Your goodness and have mercy upon me!

(From the Syriac Maronite Midnight Office of Saturday)

Father Michael Shami

Series I, © 2018

Saint Rafka Maronite

Catholic Church

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Abouna's Corner

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Happy and Holy Easter Season to All! The Lord is truly Risen! Indeed, He is Risen! Alleluia!!

Greetings from Metairie (New Orleans), Louisiana! As many of you know, I took a few vacation days this week to visit family after a wedding of friends in Mobile, AL. It was nice to come home and visit and enjoy my native land, food and culture. This weekend I will be in Biloxi, MS to be inducted into the Equestrian Order of the Knights of the Holy Sepulcher and then back to Greer. I also had a chance to enjoy a luncheon with members of my high school graduation class. My sister and brother-in-law, **Margaret** and **Michael Kelly**, along with my nephew **Clifford**, have been gracious hosts this week. I am grateful that I had an opportunity to get away for a few days. I now feel like I am ready to return and hit the road running!

The **Garden Club Soup Sale** has been rescheduled May 18 - 19. There were several reasons the group has to postpone the sale for this weekend. Make sure to support this noble cause on Pentecost weekend. Thanks also to those who wish to sponsor a pot of flowers. Please see the flier further back for more details on this project.

A **Men's Breakfast** for all men of the parish and their friends are invited to join for breakfast and fellowship on Thursday, May 2 at 8 AM. Men gather at *Egg's up Grill*, 2935 Pelham Rd. For more information, call **Jack Stewart** at 864.787.7592.

Thank you to all who financially support Saint Rafka parish. By your generosity, we are on budget for the year. Thank you for your kindness and support.

Have a great weekend! See you in Church *Salaam!*

Ab. Bart



Dibo Family Reunion with me last weekend. Gaby and Katie Dibo lived in Greenville where their four children were born and baptized at Saint Rafka. They now live in Memphis, TN.



While on vacation, getting ready to enjoy a roast beef *po-boy* sandwich at the Saint Rose Tavern on Tuesday. My sister, **Margaret Kelly** and I had a delightful drive and lunch.

Church Offerings and Attendance

April 21, 2023		
12:00 Noon Saturday	14	\$79.00
4 PM	78	\$2,004.00
11 AM	85	\$815.00
7:00 PM	58	\$356.00
Mail		\$170.00
PayPal/Electronic		\$90.00
Total	221	\$3,435.00
Budget	225	\$4,100.00
+/-	-4	-\$665.00
Year to Date		\$66,791.00
Budget for year +/-		\$1,191.00
Building Fund		
4 PM		\$0.00
11 AM		\$0.00
7 PM		\$0.00
Total		\$0.00
Holy Hour		0
Holy Day		0
Funeral		0
2024 Totals		
4 PM		1508
11 AM		1958
7 PM		629
Weekday Masses		1414
Holy Hour		110
Holy Day		146
Special Liturgy		117
Funerals		182
Weddings		60
Pasta Supper		173

Average Attendance

4 PM	11 AM	7 PM	Per Liturgy Average
94	122	39	85

Facts regarding our bulletin!

Bulletins emailed last weekend: 376 +
Percentage opened 64% +

Opened emails: 240 + Unopened emails: 131 -

Masses, Sanctuary Lamp & Flowers

To have the Sanctuary Light for your relatives or intentions, please use the envelope provided at the entrance. Donation is \$5.00.

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

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!

PLEASE CONSIDER SUBSCRIBING AND SUPPORTING YOUR FELLOW CATHOLICS. THANK YOU!

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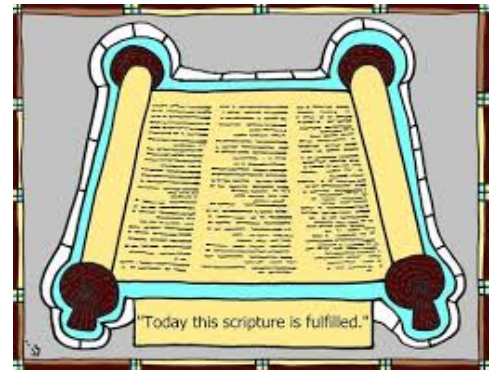


CATHOLIC INFORMATION CENTER



Liturgical Readings

Old Testament (English) Ezekiel 34:11-16, 23-25	Travis Seppala
New Testament (Arabic) Ephesians 2:1-10	Ghassan Farah



Mass Intentions

April 27 - 28	5th Easter	
Saturday, 4 PM	+Bob Kelly	Dorothy McDonald
Sunday 11 AM	Lee Mytych	Barb Mytych
Sunday, 11 AM (II)	+Amal Nassif, 40 Day Memorial	Hady and Nissrine Nassif
Sunday, 7:00 PM	Tyesha Turner	Ella Canfield
Tuesday, 10:00 AM	+Gerald (Jerry) Ozzimo, 84th Birthday	Lenore Ozzimo
Wednesday, 10:00 AM	Clemson University, students, staff and alumni	Barb Mytych
Thursday, 7:00 PM	Bernadette and Connor Synnett	Mershon Family
Friday, 10:00 AM	Tony Roberts	Ceil & Andy
Saturday, 12:00 Noon	Open	
May 4 - 5	6th Easter	
Saturday, 4 PM	+Diane Hermes	Ceil & Andy
Sunday 11 AM	+Rex Gwinn	Curt & Yvette Curtis
Sunday, 11 AM (II)	+Montaha Achi	Richard & Afaf Sleiman & Family
Sunday, 7:00 PM	Living & Deceased Friends Of Ceil & Andy	Ceil & Andy
Tuesday, 10:00 AM	Open	
Wednesday, 7:00 PM	Bob Dowd	Birthday Wishes
Thursday, 10:00 AM	Gavin, Aidan, Brendan, Ryan, Ian and Damien Killough	Kristie Killough
Friday, 10:00 AM	Open	
Saturday, 12:00 Noon	Open	

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 men gather at 8:00 AM at Egg's up Grill, 2935 Pelham Rd. For more information, call **Jack Stewart** at 864.787.7592.

Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 5th Sunday Easter 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM Syro-Malabar Mass 7 PM, Last Chance Mass	29	30 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow 5:45 <i>Ramsho</i>	May 1 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy	2 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy 5:30 PM, Pasta Supper	3 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy Holy Hour 5:30 PM, Pasta Supper	4 12:00 PM, Arabic Mass 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy
5 6th Sunday Easter 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy Potluck Luncheon 3:00 PM, Holy Hour 5:00 PM Korean Mass 7 PM, Last Chance Mass	6	7 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow 5:45 <i>Ramsho</i>	8 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy	9 Ascension 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM Divine Liturgy	10 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	11 12:00 PM, Arabic Mass 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy
12 7th Sunday Easter 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM Syro-Malabar Mass 7 PM, Last Chance Mass	13	14 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow 5:45 <i>Ramsho</i> 7:00 PM, <i>KC Meeting</i>	15 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy	16 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	17 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	18 Pentecost Vigil 12:00 PM, Arabic Mass 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy
19 Pentecost 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM Korean Mass 7 PM, Last Chance Mass	20	21 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow 5:45 <i>Ramsho</i>	22 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy	23 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	24 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	25 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

St. Rafka's Garden Club

APRIL

Pot#	Adopted Pots	Pot Marker Contents
1	Bridget Nevin	Nevin Family
2	Betty Fallot	Betty Fallat
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11	Marie Bentz	Baker and Bentz Family
12	Greg & Mary Anne Lepak & Family	Greg & Mary Anne Lepak & Family
13	Dee & Mark Kalata	Richard Kalita
14	Ann Sijon	Ann Sijon
15	Paula Howard-Casby	Howard/Casby
16	Sold pending update	
17	Lama Haddad	Robert Haddad Family
18	Ann Sijon	Ann Sijon
19	The Sleiman Family	Mantaha Achi
20	The Sleiman Family	Elias Achi
21	Giselle Sleiman	Ramza Sleiman
22	Greg & Mary Anne Lepak & Family	Greg & Mary Anne Lepak & Family

Adopted

8 Pots left - Sale Ends 4/30



ENJOY
&
Thank You
for your
Support!!!

Call or text
Bridget anytime
864-775-8709
with questions

Soup Sale

May 18th & 19th

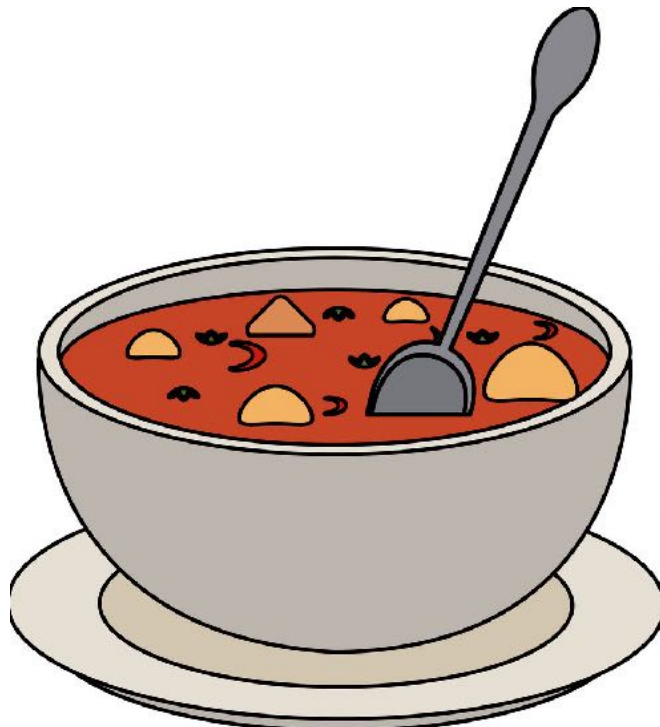
SOUP	Small 2C	Large 4C
Chili	\$ 8	\$ 15
Chicken	\$ 7	\$ 12
Lentil	\$ 6	\$ 11

Meeting after liturgies to help take Orders.

Fill out a slip and leave in YELLOW envelope at the back of the church

Advance orders – Ends May 5th

SOUP SALE RESCHEDULED FOR
MAY 18 - 19



أتى فصل الربيع ونريد حديقة القديسة رفقا ان تكون جميلة وذلك بمساعدة نادي الحديقة بالأشياء التالية
الاول

بيع ثلاثة أنواع من الشوربات

Chilie with meat - Chicken soup - Lentil soup

وذلك بتاريخ ٢٠ و ٢١ من نيسان

بامكانكم ان تطلبوا الشوربة التي تريدون قبل

Bridget phone number (864)775 8709 وذلك بالاتصال ب

الثاني

وتذكروا اسم احد من موتاكم

وذلك بتاريخ (٥) أيار

شكرا لتعاونكم

Saints of the Day

April

April 27, Saint Simon the Apostle

April 29, Saint Catherine of Sienna

April 30, Saint James, Son of Zebedee

May

May 1, Saint Jeremiah the Prophet

May 4, Saint Monica

May 8, Saint John the Evangelist

May 9, Saint Isaiah the Prophet

May 10, Saint Simon the Zealot, Apostle

(Confederate Veterans Day)

Day of Coptic-Catholic Friendship

May 12, Saint Epiphanius, Bishop of Cyrus

May 15, Our Lady of the Harvest

Prayer List

Ciera D, Jacob Collins, 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 Durham, Michael Bays, Patrick Lavelle, Tara Galvin, Susan Connor, Bill Hines, Beth Banks, Shawn Sexton, James and Kaleigh, Antonella, Stephanie, Derek Gerard Solomon, JoAnn Salloum,

Birthdays

April

(Belated) April 13, Jocelyne Marzouka

27, Marie Howard

27, Deanna Paris

27, Dr. Fahd Zarrouf

28, Farid Hayek

30, Catherine Vaughan

30, J. Michael Sandifer

May

1, Anthony George

1, Elie Khawaja

2, Jim Dyer

3, Elias Madbak

5, Billy Rouch

Anniversaries

May

2, Reiss and Allyson Shumate

8, Paul and Mary Leonardi

8, Mike and Barbara Fontayne

25, Paula and Mel Casby

June

1, Joseph and Rim Abraham

5, Tim and Cheryl Gilson

8, Father Bart, Priesthood Ordination 1985

Necrology

April

+Doris Howayeck Howard, April 20, 2018

+Hind Khawaja Michael, April 22, 2008

+Ruby Dumit, April 25, 2012

May

+Amjed Yacu, May 1, 2015

+Greg Howard, May 6, 2017

+Anwar Yacu, May 8, 2003

+Paul Gallagher, May 11, 2014

+Montaha Achi, May 12, 2023

+Stephen John Howard, May 25, 2009

+Phillip Kelly (P.K.) Howard, May 27, 2013

+Nazih Namouz, May 31, 2021

Important Dates to Remember

Ascension Thursday, May 9

Pentecost/First Holy Communion, May 19

Vacation Bible School, July 22 - 26

Golf Outing, September 16

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.

St. Clare's Home

St. Clare's Home is an upstate maternity home for expectant mothers who choose life and are in need of shelter, safety, and security. We are in need of more volunteers who support our mission!

Please contact our Volunteer Coordinator at stclaresvolunteer@charlestondiocese.org for the many ways you can get involved.

Please donate to support our mission for St. Clare's Home at: <https://www.stclareshomesc.org/donate> or visit our wish list and Amazon wish list at <https://www.stclareshomesc.org/wish-list>

Thank you!



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

Palmetto Home Improvement Handyman

Simon Elias
864-340-5101
Free Estimate

se_improvements

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Comedy Benefit

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JAS WITH THANKS TO
Epiphany Pools

First Thursday Pasta Supper

Join us on Thursday, May 2, at 5:30 PM for our First Thursday Pasta Supper. The menu includes roasted chicken & pasta in a four cheese sauce, Italian salad and white chocolate croissant pudding, bread, iced tea, etc. Dinner in Wickett Hall.



Baked chicken and pasta with four cheese sauce! Yum!!!!

Our Lady of Guadalupe Pilgrimage



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2024

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\$2890

Sign up and deposit are required by May 15. Call now to reserve your place!

INCLUDES

- * Round trip airline * 4-star hotels * Breakfast and dinner *
- * Pilgrimage activities and entrance fees * Mass daily * Private transportation per itinerary

EXCLUDES

- * Gratuities * Travel Insurance * Lunch * Personal expense

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59th Annual NAM Convention

JULY 4-7, 2024 | ST. SHARBEL CHURCH
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MARONITES ON MISSION: CREATED. CALLED. SENT FORTH.



CONVENTION REGISTRATION Deadline: June 1st
www.namnews.org | (914) 964-3070 | info@namnews.org

  @NationalApostolateofMaronites - NAM

HOTEL BOOKINGS (\$189+/Night, Single/Double)
<https://book.passkey.com/e/50700969> | (313) 568-8000



Canada is across the river! Bring your passports!

The Spring Campaign of 40 Days for Life,

Spring Campaign, ended March 24, 2024, with much good fruit produced. On an international level, Record for a campaign – 6 abortion facilities confirmed closed – total since 2007 (154)

505 babies saved - total since 2007 (24,768)

4 more workers quit – total since 2007 (260)

5 sets of twins were saved

We are especially grateful for the 3 lives saved in Greenville that we know of. We can truly say that prayer and fasting is the answer. A big thank you to all who participated for your sacrifice and dedication.

Abortions continue to be performed daily at the Greenville Women's Clinic. If you are able, select a day and time that works for you and continue with us for 40 Days 365 at the abortion facility. We are there from 8:00 am until 3:00 pm. Please sign up on the 40 Days for Life 365 Calendar at www.40daysforlife.com/greenville. We need sidewalk advocates and prayer warriors there daily, beyond the 40 Days Campaigns. Help spread the word to others about this important life-saving effort. For more information please call Judy 864-506-0964 or Ingrid 864-329-0044.

Sidewalk Counseling Training: Online/virtual training and in-person training are both offered. Contact Judy Masterson at 864-506-0964, or info@sidewalkadvocatesgreenville.org.



Vacation Bible School 2024

St. Rafka Maronite Church
1215 SC-14, Greer, SC 29650
saintrafkagreenville@gmail.com

Exploring the Middle East with our Maronite Saints

When: July 22nd - 25th, 2024 (Monday through Thursday)

Ages: 3-12 years old

Time: 9:00 am - 1:30 pm (Lunch & snacks provided)

Each day begins with Daily Divine Liturgy (Mass) in the Church at 9:00 am

Children are welcome to join us each day as we learn about our Maronite saints and how to imitate them in a life of virtue with prayer, music, crafts, games, and more!

For more information, please contact:

Lisa at (864) 414-6957 or the **Church Office** at (864) 469-9119

Registration Deadline: No Later than July 7, 2024



Pot Luck Luncheon May 5, 20124



MEATS-MAIN DISHES SIDE DISHES/SALADS DESSERTS

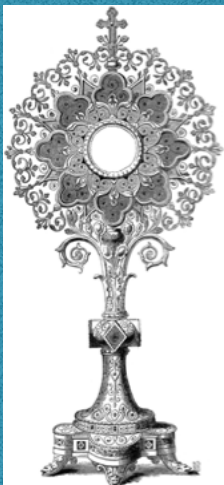
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Please note: Bring plenty! Our people like to eat and we usually have a good crowd at our Pot Luck Luncheons. Many thanks for your hospitality!

Next Sunday, May 5 2024



First Sunday Holy Hour

Exposition
Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
Chaplet of Mercy
Confessions

3 PM

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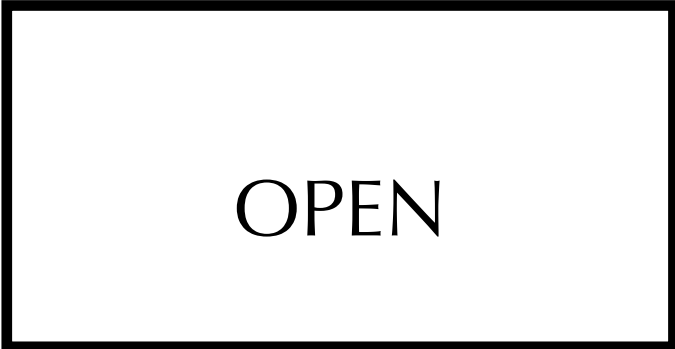
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Saint Rafka Council #15519

2nd Monday of the Month, 7 PM, Wickett Hall



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