



Saint Rafka Maronite

Catholics of the East in the Upstate!
1215 S. Highway 14, Greer, SC 29650 864.469.9119
saintrafka.org saintrafkagreenville@gmail.com

September 10, 2017



Festival of the Holy Cross

On this feast of the Holy Cross, the Church and her children reflect on the paradox of the Cross of Christ in the light of the death and resurrection of Jesus Our Lord. What appeared as a grand failure has turned into victory. Thus, St. Paul speaks of the power of the Cross through it's foolishness and it's wisdom. Likewise we hear Jesus in the Gospel of John speaking of being lifted up as ascending in glory and a salvation for all beings.

This symbol of suffering – the Cross – has now become the sign of the victory

Continued next page

Saint Rafka Maronite Church is a Catholic Parish of the Antiochene Syriac Maronite Church, Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn, NY, **Most Rev. Gregory John Mansour**, Bishop, 109 Remsen Street, Brooklyn, NY, 11201, 718.237.9913.
chancerystmaron@verizon.net

Rev. Bartholomew Leon,
Administrator,
bartleon@gmail.com

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of life over death, and hope for the bride church. It is the end-goal we all look forward to, when God will complete the process of his salvation by the power of his Word and Love. This was prophetically revealed through the victory of King Constantine, and the finding of the true cross by his mother Helena that we celebrate today. Our Sunday prayers through this holy Season of the Cross reflect all these themes and manifestations.

The Holy Cross, as the Fathers of our Syriac Church would teach us, is the symbol of the whole Christ; his death and resurrection; the incarnate as well as the risen Lord. Thus, when we celebrate the Cross we celebrate Christ himself; and when we make the sign of the Cross we sign ourselves with his saving mystery. For us the Holy Cross symbolizes Jesus in his glory.

This is the gospel (good news) of the saving work of the Holy Trinity through their love and mercy for our human race. Let us rejoice and celebrate!

Father Steve Bonian, S.J.



PLEASE JOIN US!

SILENT AUCTION

WINE AND CHEESE SOCIAL
WITH A SILENT AUCTION TO BENEFIT
SAINT RAFKA MARONITE CHURCH

Sunday, September 10, 2017

BEAUTIFUL ARTICLES OF *OBJETS D'ART*, WINE, LIQUOR,
BOOKS, GIFT BASKETS AND MORE

ABOUNA

NADIA NAJIM

NAM Convention History in Pictures. Parishioner **Lisa Advent** has added a host of pictures from the recent NAM Convention and created an album on Shutterfly. There are some great images. In her words, "Grab a glass of something ... there are over a 1000 photos!" Go [here](#). There is also a video by **Yazan Ashi** on the same site. You can find it [here](#).



Abouna's



Dear Parishioners and Friends,

September Greetings!

Summer was needless to say, more than interesting! there was never a dull moment in a time that we are supposed to relax and take some breaks! Easier said than done!

Again, my sincerest thanks to all who made the NAM Convention such a success. **Greg** and **Mary Anne Lepak** did an outstanding job as Chairperson of the Convention and jumped from the frying pan to the fire with the upcoming wedding of their daughter **Maryjoy**. God has given them great energy and strength!

I left for vacation in *Sint Maarten* shortly after the Convention and **Father Bob Kincl** did a great job covering for me. Since the death of **Father Chris Henderson**, it is difficult to find a priest to substitute for vacations or a weekend off. I am grateful Father Bob could cover. When I arrived back from vacation, my brother, **Bill Leon, Sr.**, came to visit. He did not look good and ultimately, I took him to Greenville Memorial Hospital. **Father Doctor Thomas Philip** admitted him for observation and before we knew it, Bill underwent a five way coronary bypass with a pacemaker to boot! Thankfully, he is doing much better and convalescing at Saad Cottage. Most of us enjoyed the eclipse of the sun and moon on August 21, the day I took Bill home from the hospital. The next day he celebrated his 55th birthday. This is a vacation he will never forget! Continue to pray for his recovery!

As Labor Day came and went, we went right into the new season of Church events. On Tuesday, we began *Ramsho* and Blessing with the relics of Saints Rafka, Sharbel and the Massabki Brothers. We had the gift of having **Father Claude Franklin** in the area for a few days and he celebrated the first service for us. On Thursday, we had the first First Thursday Pasta Supper with 76 hungry people. Thanks to **Mary Ann Vicaro!!!** Our guests from other parishes were awed by the transformation of Wickett Hall into the beautiful and spacious area it has become. No more cramped dinners and coffee socials!

Sint Maarten that I love was devastated by Hurricane Irma, shortly after Texas was inundated by Hurricane Harvey. Now we watch and wait to see what that old girl Irma is going to do to us on the eastern seaboard. As Our Lady of Prompt Succor to intercede for us! Be safe!!

I look forward to seeing you all in Church this weekend as we celebrate the last season of our liturgical year, the Feast and Season of Holy Cross. Weather permitting, we will process and will also bless water during this celebration.

Have a great weekend! *Salaam!*

Ab. Bart

★Calendar

September

- 9, 4 PM, Vigil Liturgy
 10, 11 AM, Divine Liturgy
 Coffee Social
 7 PM, Last Chance Liturgy
 11, 7 PM, Knights of Columbus Meeting
 12, 6:30 PM, *Ramsho* and Blessing with the Relics
 7:15 PM, Adult Religious Education
 13, 7 PM, Divine Liturgy
 Anointing of the Sick
 16, 4 PM, Vigil Liturgy
 17, 11 AM, Divine Liturgy
 Coffee Social
 7 PM, Last Chance Liturgy
 19, 6:30 PM, *Ramsho* and Blessing with the Relics
 7:15 PM, Adult Religious Education
 20, 7 PM, Divine Liturgy
 Anointing of the Sick
 23, 4 PM, Vigil Liturgy
 24, 11 AM, Divine Liturgy
 Coffee Social
 7 PM, Last Chance Liturgy
 27, 6:30 PM, *Ramsho* and Blessing with the Relics
 7:15 PM, Adult Religious Education
 28, 7 PM, Divine Liturgy
 Anointing of the Sick
 30, 4 PM, Vigil Liturgy
 1, 11 AM, Divine Liturgy
 Coffee Social
 3 PM, Holy Hour and Devotions



Ramsho and Blessing with the relics of Saints Rafka, Sharbel and the Massabki Brothers Tuesday evening, 6:30 PM, Saint Rafka Church. Come to offer the evening sacrifice and ask God's blessing, healing, mercy and compassion through these holy men and women. Bring a friend!





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Maronite Mission of Charlotte

Visit the [homepage](#) of our Maronite neighbors to the north of us, the Maronite Mission of Charlotte. This Mission is under the leadership of **Father Elias Khalil** and is growing in Grace and numbers. The mission bulletin is outstanding and they, like us, are a community that is growing. Pray that God will grant them many holy, good and wise members so that their mission will grow to a large parish community.

There will be a Catholic Engaged Encounter Weekend on the following dates: St. Michael, Murrells Inlet on October 7-8, and All Saints, Lake Wylie on November 11-12. Please see the web site at: www.cee-sc.org for more information and to register.

Ramsho and Devotions to Saints Rafka and Sharbel

The Tuesday night *Ramsho* and Novena to Saint Rafka before the NAM Convention were prayerful and a time of grace and peace for those who prayed each week. Recently, many Latin Rite Catholics in the area have discovered the miracles of both saints and are asking for a public display of the holy relics of these saints. Since we have relics of both saints, we now pray *Ramsho*, then bless the assembled faithful with the relics. Join us each Tuesday night, 6:30 PM.

Adult Religious Education

Religious formation never ends! We are never too old to learn! Adult Religious Education Classes meet at 7:15 PM, right after the *Ramsho* and Devotions in Wicket Hall. This fall, the class will concentrate on the Divine Liturgy and the Holy Mass of the various Churches, their structures, similarities and differences. We will also examine the Liturgical Year and the Liturgy of the Hours. Join us and bring a friend who may be interested in learning about the Maronite Church and liturgy.



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Simpsonville, SC 29681
(864) 688-1600



**GREENVILLE DEANERY
COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN**

The fall meeting of the Greenville Deanery Council of Catholic Women will be held on Sunday, September 17th, 2:00 p.m., on the campus of St. Mary's Catholic Church, Greenville. We will meet in the Msgr. Gwinn Room, 1st floor of Sacred Heart Hall on the W. Washington Street side of the campus. The Deanery Board of Directors will meet at 1:00 p.m. in the same location. The members of the St. Mary's Council of Catholic Women will be our host and provide the luncheon.

Plans for community projects and a spiritual retreat are among the items on the agenda. All members of our Affiliates are encouraged to attend. We also invite women from parishes seeking information about organizing a Council of Catholic Women to join us, along with any women who wish to join as an Individual Member in order to become involved in the Deanery's work.

Contact Susanne Wolfe, Deanery President, at susanne.wolfe12@gmail.com or 864-313-5866 for additional information. **God's Work, Our Hands!**

Religious Education - First Holy Communion Preparation

Is your child ready for the reception of First Penance and Holy Communion? Parishioner **Alex Roman**, a professional teacher, has volunteered to teach in our religious education program. Other children, post Holy Communion, are also welcome to these classes.

4th Annual

Festival
Of
Lebanon



Something for everyone to enjoy!

Saturday
September 23, 2017
11 AM – 7 PM

St. Matthew Catholic Church

8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy, Charlotte NC 28277

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Cooking classes, Souvenir Shop
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& Fun for the entire family

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\$2.00 Value

[Children under 13 Free!]

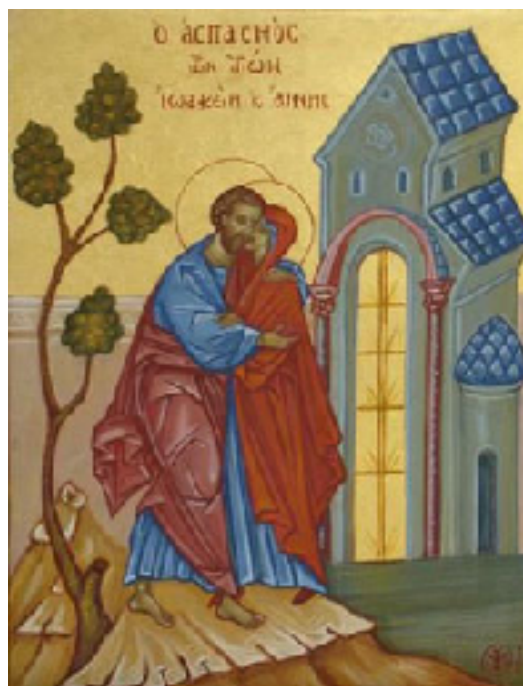
Free Parking

For information visit:

www.mmocnc.org/festival-of-lebanon

Prayer List

Recovery of RS, Ashley Mullinex, Bill McAfee, Bill Leon, Sr., Charley Dusthimer, Bernadette Smith, Claire Barnett, Hans Wascom, Ethel Brassel, Katrina Shunk, Chuck Wilson, George Vargo, Dan Steinker, Irma Galvan, Mary Cleary, Joe Lemire, Mary Anne McAfee, Tish Oney, Lois Taylor, Jim Hopsecger, Virginia LaFave, Nabeel Howard, Father M. T. Phillips, Paul Cote and Family, Paul Bussemey, Ramza Sleiman, Moe Mercier, Joan Bussemey, Special Intention by Abouna, Bob Brown, Joe Durham, Michael Bays, Patrick Lavelle, Tara Galvin, Susan Connor, Bill Hines, Beth Banks, Andrea Fiorni-Frazier, Shawn Sexton, Robert Mercier, James and Kaleigh, Mark Pelletier, Antonella, Stephanie, Derek Gerard Solomon, JoAn Salloum, Susie, Jim Hopka, Family of Colbert Arthur, Berma Darlene Bell, Terry Vadnais, Elaine Gillen, Amy Hunter, Shawn Sexton, Cindy Miller, Adrian Kassentar, Beth Hopsecger, Mark Barnard, Special Intention of MKS, Janice Radich, Paula Lemire, Becky Jarvis, Lillian Moon, Vito Fortuna, Sam Howard, Jr., Betty Braun, Deanne Valencia, Sister Mary Emmanuel, Katie Frank, Adelaide George, Beverley Davis, Maryanne Polidoro, John Fender, Katherine Dennman, Intentions of Nancy Gegorian, Thomas Shaluly



Saints We Celebrate

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

September 17, **Saint Sophia** and Her Daughters

September 22, **Saint Phocas**, Disciple of John, Martyr

September 24, **Saint Thecla**, First Woman Martyr

September 29, **Saint Rouhanna** the Cantor, Confessor

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Liturgical Items

Liturgical Readings

Feast	New Testament	Gospel
Holy Cross	1 Cor. 1:18-25; Jude 1-7	John 12:20-32; John 18:33-38
English	Richard Wickett	New! To review the readings, go here .
Arabic	Adib Chebli	

Mass Intentions

September 9 & 10		
Saturday, 4 PM	Anthony & Teresa Neglia	Andy and Ceil Frisari
Sunday, 11 AM	+Josephine Kallas	Marlene Saad
Sunday, 7 PM	Steven Advent	Andy and Ceil Frisari
Wednesday, 7 PM	Jim Hermes, Blessings	Andy and Ceil Frisari
September 16 & 17		
Saturday, 4 PM	Mary Welch, Special Intentions	Andy and Ceil Frisari
Sunday, 11 AM	Open	
Sunday, 7 PM	+ Orville Welch	Andy and Ceil Frisari
Wednesday, 7 PM	Vince Traina, Special Intentions	Andy and Ceil Frisari

Sanctuary Lamp and Flowers

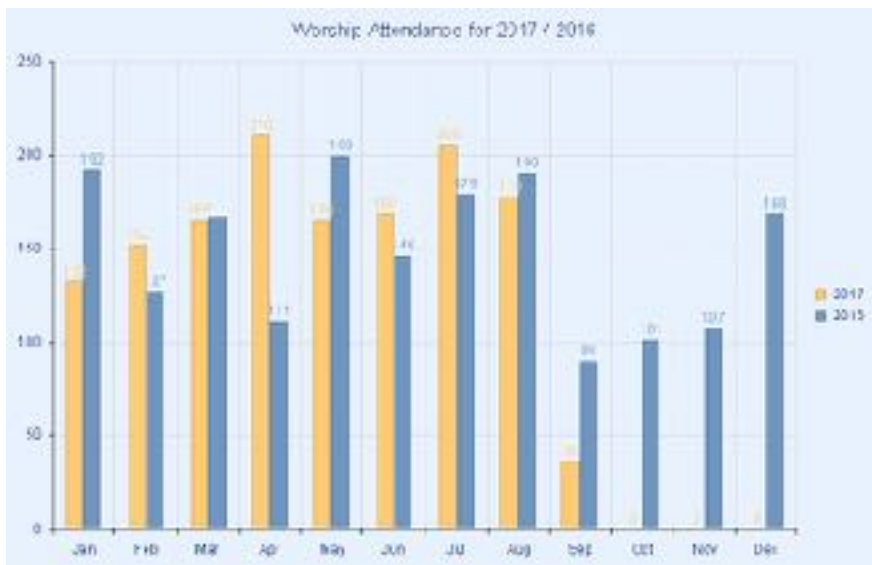
To have the Sanctuary Light for your relatives or intentions, please use the envelope provided at the entrance. Donation is \$5.00. **The Sanctuary Candle burns for these Intentions from Sunday thru Saturday.**



Church Offerings and Attendance

September 2	Saturday 4 PM	Sunday 11 AM	Sunday 7 PM	Total	Budget	+/-	Wed. 7 PM
People	44	65	42	151	160	-9	20
Collection	\$845.00	\$839.00	\$394.00	\$2078.00	\$2,667.00	-\$589.00	0
Average per person	\$19.20	\$12.91	\$9.38	\$13.76		Holy Hour	21
Average Attendance						Ramsho	21
Hurricane Harvey	\$671.00	\$593.00	\$279.00	\$1543.00		YEAR TO DATE	\$94,825.00
Average per person	\$15.25	\$9.12	\$6.64				
Pasta Supper	76 people	\$586.00 profit					

Attendance



Attendance Year to Date	
4:00 PM	1946
11:00 AM	2835
7:00 PM	1067
Wednesday 7 PM	601
First Sunday	171
Holy Day	143
Ramsho	21
Special Liturgy	218
Lenten Weekday	343
Funerals	315
Weddings	55

How are these totals calculated?

One total graphed **to the left** is through **envelope usage** for each week.

The totals to the **to the right** are counted by the ushers during the Divine Liturgy and tabulated.

Date	Emails Sent	Opened	Clicks to Bulletin	% Opened
September 3	521	350	168	32.2%
August 27	519	323	111	52.6%
Difference	2	27	57	20.4%



40 Days for Life You are invited to join other Christians throughout the Upstate to take part in our local 40 Days for Life effort from September 27 through November 5.

40 Days for Life, an ecumenical prayer campaign to end abortion, began in College Station, Texas. It has expanded not only nationally, but internationally since its inception in 2007. There are two campaigns a year, one beginning on Ash Wednesday for 40 days of Lent. The Fall campaign begins on the fourth Wednesday of September. These prayer campaigns are initiated and organized at the grassroots level in communities throughout the nation and abroad. Prayer, fasting and public vigil at the abortion facility are key components. The National Organization requires anyone participating in a campaign sign a promise to conduct themselves in a peaceful, respectful manner. Many believe the Holy Spirit is using this movement to end abortion and at the same time bring people of many faiths together.

To find out more and sign up to help please visit: www.40daysforlife.com/greenville and www.facebook.com/40daysgreenville or contact *Ingrid Ireland* 864-329-0044 .

Help to spread the word to others about this important life-saving effort.

40 Days for Life Kickoff Rally Saturday, Sept 30th, 9:30 am – 10:30 am, Greenville Women's Clinic, 1142 Grove Rd. Guest speakers: Kelly Ross, Director, Foothills Pregnancy Care Center; Larry Wills, pro-life advocate; Carrie Gifford, Sidewalk Advocates for Life. Music will be provided by the For Life Praise Band with Mark and Robin Wills. Parking is at the empty shops across the street from Piedmont Women's Center and at Grove Road Baptist Church. Call Ingrid 864-329-0044.

Life Chain - Sunday, Oct 1st, 2:30 – 3:30 pm, Woodruff Road, Greenville. Please join others across the country for this peaceful, prayerful, public witness for the sanctity of human life. Call Valerie for signs and to find out where your church is assigned on the route. 297-8838

Rosaries for Life - Remember to pray your Rosaries for Life this fall during the 40 Days for Life. Pray 5 decades daily from Sept 27th – Nov 5th. Turn in your counts at your local parish or email your count each week to rosaries4life@gmail.com.

George Weigel, one of America's leading Catholic intellectuals, will discuss faith & culture as well as his new book, *Lessons in Hope, My Unexpected Life with Saint John Paul II*, at a fundraising event Thursday, October 5, 2017, at 6:30 pm in Charleston, SC. To register or for more information visit www.carolinacatholicprofessionals.com or contact Frank Dirks, dirksjf@comcast.net, 843/670-1350 or Mike Patterson, pattersonmfp@gmail.com, 843/708-4225.

Birthdays

September

10, John Davis, MD
11, Lillian Younan
13, Daniel Alam
15, Widad Awad
16, Harry Lakadosch
16, William (Bill) Francis, Sr.
17, Thomas Howard
20, Amy Saad
21, Lily Zarrouf



Anniversaries

September

10, Abouna Aaron Sandbothe,
Priesthood

October

1, Francois and Michelle Sleiman
20, Paul and Joan Bussemey



Necrology

September

+Catherine (Kitty) Francis Norman,
September 15, 2015
+Most Reverend Francis M. Zayek,
September 17, 2010
+Edna Lizabeth Seman, September 27,



Video on the life of Saint Sharbel

English subtitles. [Click here.](#)

Prayers to Saint Sharbel and Saint Rafka

You can always have your intentions prayed for at the monastery where Saint Sharbel is buried. Click [here](#).

Prayers to Saint Rafka

Click [here](#).

Ashy Pavilion

Please remember that registered and supporting parishioners are free to use the Ashy Pavilion for family events, reunions, parties, etc. Others are welcome to rent the facilities. More information? Contact Richard Wickett here.

Coffee Socials

If you would like to sponsor a Coffee Social *In Memory Of* or *In Honor Of* someone, please call or email the office to let us know.

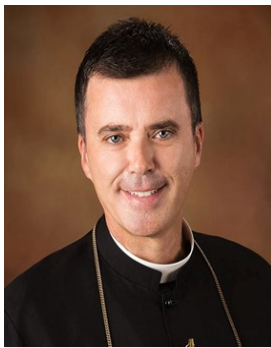
Wickett Hall

Newly refurbished Wickett Hall can be used by our registered and supporting parishioners for family events, reunions, etc. Others may request permission to rent the Hall. Contact Richard Wickett.

Masses Online

Where to go to Mass when traveling? Look here!

MassTimes.org
[The Catholic Directory](#)
[Parishes Online](#)



Fr. Wade Menezes

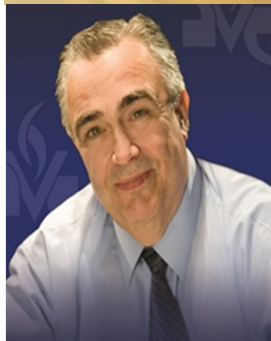
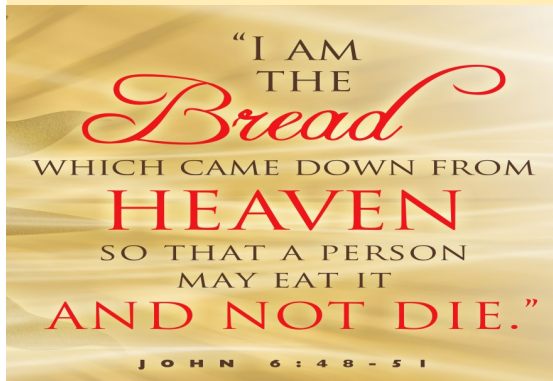


Fr. Chris Alar

5th Marian Eucharistic Conference

November 4 - 5, 2017

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Al Kresta



Raymond Arroyo



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Father

Dwight Longenecker



Saturday, Nov. 4

Doors open: 8:00 am

Mass: 9:00 am,

**Talks,
Buffet Lunch,
Confessions,**



Sunday, Nov. 5

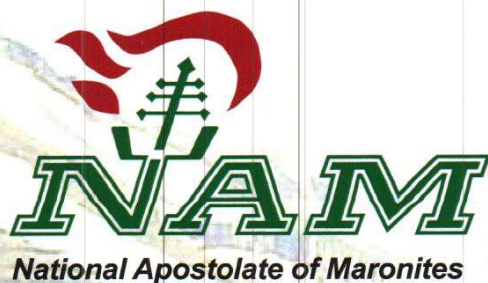
Doors open: 7:50 am

Mass: 8:30 am,

**Talks,
Buffet Lunch,
Confessions,**

**For more information, please call (864)354-7160
or go to www.meconferencesc.net**

Registration after Oct. 24, \$ 85



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Preserve Heritage Prosper Missions

The National Apostolate of Maronites (NAM) in cooperation with Jouzour Loubnan, is sponsoring a memorial grove of 10,000 Cedar Trees in the mountains of Lebanon.

Trees may be sponsored by individuals, families, NAM Chapters, clubs, or organizations. Profits generated within this project is going to help build Missions in the USA

For More Information:

NAM Office
P.O. Box 717 • Yonkers NY 10702
(914) 964-3070

Email: nam@namnews.org
www.namnews.org;
and click on Cedars Project

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