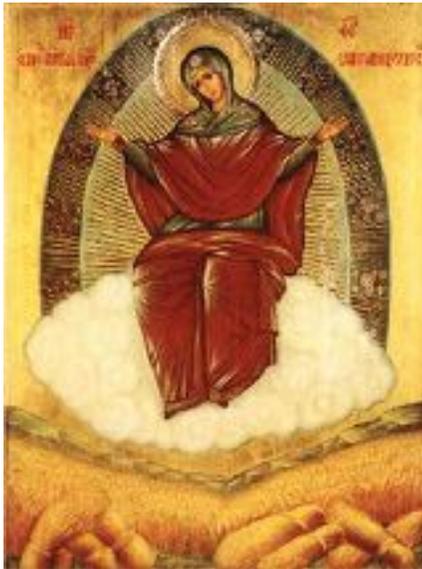




Saint Rafka Maronite

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

August 12, 2018



13th Sunday of Pentecost - Assumption of Mary

The Assumption of the Mother of God

“On this day let Adam be glad and Eve with him for their daughter dwells in the place they were gathered. On this day the righteous Noah and Abraham are glad for this Virgin has visited their abodes.” (From the Syriac Maronite *Fenqitho* for the Assumption)

Who is this Virgin who gladdens her ancestral parents, Adam and Eve, by joining the prophets and patriarchs in Paradise? It is the Virgin Mary, the Holy Mother of God, whose Assumption we celebrate on Wednesday. The Assumption of the Mother of God is an ancient feast celebrated by all the Orthodox and Catholic Churches alike, and as our tradition teaches, it dates to the time of the very event itself celebrated by the Apostles.

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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The Syriac word for the Feast is *Shunoyo* or departure, as the feast celebrates the departure of the Virgin Mary from this world in her death. It might seem odd, at first, that the death of anyone well-beloved should be celebrated. However, we as Christians understand that the life of this world is only the beginning and Mary, as the greatest saint, most assuredly went to eternal life in the Kingdom of Heaven. But Mary did not simply die – God did not want to see the temple that bore Him, the Second Heaven (as we call her), see the decay of the grave. So, He sent the angels to carry her body and soul into heaven as one of our hymns beautifully describes:

“The host of watchers of heaven descended with the chariot that bore Elijah when he ascended; in it was honored the body of the pure Virgin Mary. The legions [of angels] called to one another, crying out together, ‘Lift high, O gates eternal, for the Mother of the King enters through you!’”

Our Syriac tradition tells us that the Apostles, all prompted by the Holy Spirit, gathered to say goodbye to the beloved Mother of God – Peter coming from Rome, John from Ephesus, Thomas coming from India, Andrew from Spain, James from Jerusalem and so on, all Twelve gathered from far and wide to bid farewell. Why all this for “only a woman” as some protest? Though “only a woman,” Mary, the human Mother of God, who conceived virginally and bore Him for nine months, was without sin her entire life and is the greatest saint that will ever live, who continues to assist us by her prayers before God in heaven.

Mary’s Assumption is a promise to every Christian. Though we will likely die, be buried and decompose one day, it is a promise that if we follow the will of God, as she did, God will preserve us body and soul. On the Day of Judgment, God shall raise everyone from the dead and those who have believed in His promise of life and followed His commands will be stand on His right hand in the Kingdom of Heaven, in body and soul.

Adam mixed the cup of death in Paradise by his sin for us all to drink and it caused grief to all mankind. Each generation has tasted this cup and looked on death with fear. But Christ transformed this cup into a return to Paradise, and so when Mary’s time came to drink from it, instead of being accompanied by tears it has been celebrated for the last two millennia when she was carried to heaven by the fiery legions of angels. Mary’s Assumption is a foretaste of that glory for all of us, and it is within our reach if we love the Lord – and we have her prayers to assist us if we only ask.

Subdeacon Michael Shami

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Greer, SC. All rights reserved.

Digital Parish Directory - Update!!!! Up and Running!!!

The Online Parish Directory is live! Problems??!! Call Joe at 864.469.9119!!

The Directory is online and ready to view and edit!!! BUT, there are problems!!

The directory is fine. The invitations that were sent to your email address are time sensitive. We had no idea! Also, if you have changed email addressed since you gave us your information, the software does not recognize the new address. Let us know and we can fix the problem. Thanks to all who have updated their profiles with new addresses, email address and pictures.

Any other questions? Email or call Joe: secretary@saintrafka.org or 864.469.9119.

NEW!!! Saint Rafka Parish Directory Online

First time to the site? Register [here](#). Call Joe for help first.

Already registered? Click [here](#).

NEW!!!! Please follow us at @saintrafkagreenville on **Instagram**.

After 30 years of serving the community, **St. Anthony's Catholic Store** is closing its doors. We will be having a storewide clearance sale while supplies last.

While we are sad to close our doors, we look forward to the doors that God will be opening for us and our family. The friendships that were formed during our time here will forever be cherished in our hearts and you will all be in our thoughts and prayers.

God Bless,
The Bruce Family

SAINT RAFKA SC WOMEN'S SOCIETY ATTENTION ALL WOMEN OF SAINT RAFKA CHURCH

FINAL FORMATION MEETING TO BE HELD
SUNDAY, AUGUST 12TH AT 1:00 PM in Wickett Hall

This is a very important meeting for the upcoming Food Festival
and we need all of us to be involved.

Thanks

Marlene Saad

Calendar of Events

August

11, 4 PM, Vigil Liturgy, **13th Pentecost**

12, 11 AM, Divine Liturgy

4:30 PM, Korean Mass

7:00 PM, Last Chance Divine Liturgy

15, 7 PM, Divine Liturgy,

Assumption (Dormition)

Holy Day of Obligation

18, 4 PM, Vigil Liturgy, **14th Pentecost**

19, 11 AM, Divine Liturgy

4:30 PM, Korean Mass

7:00 PM, Last Chance Divine Liturgy

22, 7 PM, Divine Liturgy, Anointing of the Sick

25, 4 PM, Vigil Liturgy, **15th Pentecost**

26, 11 AM, Divine Liturgy

1 PM, Baptism

5 PM, Byzantine Divine Liturgy

29, Divine Liturgy, Anointing of the Sick

September

1, 4 PM, Vigil Liturgy, **16th Pentecost**

2, 11 AM, Divine Liturgy

3 PM, Holy Hour

7 PM, Last Chance Divine Liturgy

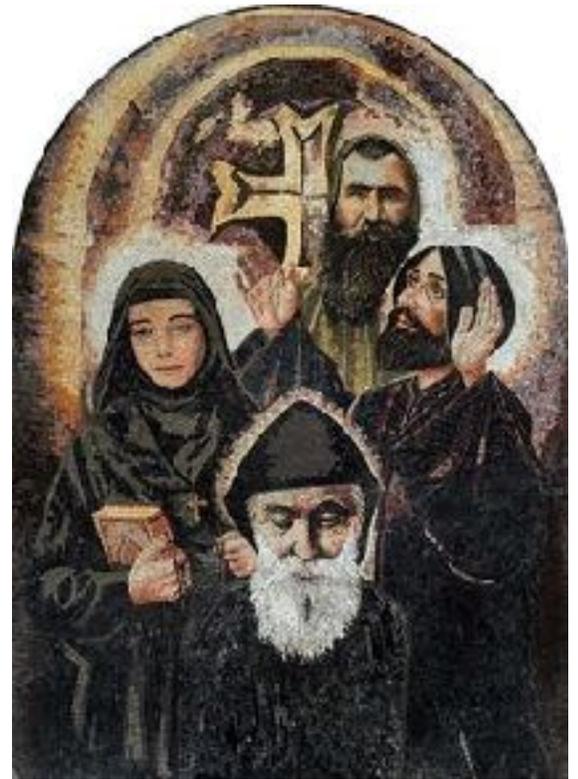
3, Labor Day

4, 7 PM, *Ramsho* of the Maronite Saints

5, 7 PM, Divine Liturgy, Anointing of the Sick

6, 5:30 PM, First Thursday Pasta Supper

8, 4 PM, Vigil Liturgy, **Exultation of the Holy Cross**



Ramsho and Blessing with the relics of Saints Rafka, Sharbel, Nimatullah and the Massabki Brothers will resume on September 4 at 7 P.M.



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No one is truly poor but except the one who lacks the truth.

~ Ephrem the Syrian

AZ QUOTES



Fr. Frank Pavone



Fr. Bill Casey



Fr. Brian Mullaly, OP



Doug Barry



Dr. John Bruchalski
Former Abortionist
Pro-life M.D., OB/GYN



Jeff Cavins

6th Marian Eucharistic Conference
November 10 - 11, 2018

Mary, Mother of the Eucharist



Our Lady of Guadalupe

Hilton Hotel

45 West Orchard Park Drive,
Greenville, SC 29615

General Admission: \$80
Youth: \$ 40

Saturday and Sunday buffet lunches are included. All are required to register by October 27

The Most Reverent
Robert E. Guglielmo
Bishop of Charleston
Celebrant / Homilist



Saturday, Nov. 10

Doors open: 7:30 am

Mass: 8:30 am,

Talks,
Buffet Lunch,
Confessions



Sunday, Nov. 11

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. 27, \$ 90

Registered by October 27 by mail. Registration after Oct. 27: \$90

We offer gluten free meals.



Prayers & Squares

Prayers and Squares is a prayer ministry that also involves making prayer quilts and prayer squares for those facing medical, spiritual, emotional difficulties, or anyone in the Parish that is active duty military. Don't know how to quilt? That's ok, we can teach you. Not interested in sewing? That's ok, we will need help with staying organized, record keeping and correspondence. What is needed are willing hearts and hands to do God's work and pray together for those in need, and each other too.

A prayer quilt or square, once requested, is made and tied with each knot representing a prayer for that individual and their specific needs. The recipient must be willing to receive the quilt and the prayers. The purpose of the group is not to give away quilts, but to offer a physical representation of God's love and the prayers of the community. A recipient is able to wrap themselves in prayer during a difficult time. The quilt itself has no power, but the prayers offered do.

The most up to date **Maronite Voice** is always available [here](#).

Help!

Volunteers needed for:

- BBQ Chefs
- Set up
- Clean up
- Face painters
- Free event cooks

Contact:

Paula Howard-Casby:
pjhoward74@hotmail.com
Joan Craven:
joanlcraven@yahoo.com

2018

FESTIVAL NEEDS

Sponsors Needed

- Food
- Advertising and Signs
- Paper Goods

== *Saint Rafka* ==
• **Food Fest**

Middle Eastern Delights!

A Unique Parishioner Call for Help

Dear Friends,

Re: **End-Stage Kidney Disease**

Some of you may already know: I have end-stage kidney disease. My kidneys do not work well enough to keep me alive, and my treatment options are limited to dialysis or kidney transplant.

Regular hemodialysis treatments, three times per week for four hours at a time, help my kidneys do their job and keep me alive. But a transplant would offer me the ability to live a longer, healthier, more normal life and with more freedom.

Finding a kidney for a transplant is not easy. There are 100,000+ people, just like me, on the waiting list for a deceased donor kidney. Time is not on our side. Some die while waiting. I've been waiting nearly six years, about a year longer than the average wait time of five years.

There is another option: receiving a kidney from a living donor. Asking a family member or a friend to donate a kidney is very difficult for me, extremely personal, takes much thought and involves your family's consideration. Your decision will not affect our relationship, and I absolutely do not want a donor feeling pressured in any way.

You may not know a lot about living donation, which I did not until recently. Understandably, many people are fearful of surgery and what living with one kidney will mean for them. Here's some basic information about kidney donation:

- Most people are born with an extra kidney - only one is needed to live a long, healthy life.
- As a living donor, you will have a separate team of Healthcare professionals to evaluate you. Their job is to help YOU understand the risks and benefits, looking out for YOUR best interests.
- Cost of your evaluation and surgery will be covered by my insurance; the hospital can provide to you more information.
- Most donor surgery is done laparoscopically, meaning through tiny incisions.
- Recuperation is usually fairly quick, generally two weeks, for people with desk jobs, to six weeks, for jobs involving heavy lifting.

What is a paired kidney exchange? Roughly one-third of kidney failure patients with a willing living donor will be unable to receive the kidney because of incompatibility. In a paired kidney exchange, a donor may donate their kidney to another recipient in exchange for a compatible kidney for their loved one.

Before deciding, you can explore the living donation program by calling MUSC's Kelly Canavan, my Living Donor Coordinator, at [843-792-1594](tel:843-792-1594).

A living donation may not be right for you, but you can still help. Please help by sharing my story, spreading the word about kidney disease, raising awareness of living donation and helping me and the many others on the waiting list.

Thank you for reading and for your concern and for your help in spreading the word about kidney disease.

Appreciatively, Joe Baranski [864-201-2480](tel:864-201-2480) Greer, SC

November 25, 2017



SAINT STEPHEN MARONITE CATHOLIC CHURCH

A member of the Eparchy of St Maron of Brooklyn, NY

Visit the [homepage](#) of our neighbors to the north of us. Saint Stephen is under the leadership of **Father Elias Khalil** and is growing in Grace and numbers.

Religious Education - First Holy Communion Preparation

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

Nanny Position

Looking for a part-time nanny for our infant daughter starting in August. Flexible days. Please contact **Nicole Parsons** for more information (864)360-0523.



NOW ENROLLING! Prince of Peace Catholic School is currently enrolling for the 2018-2019 School Year in grades K4 - Grade 8. We now offer a full-day or half-day K4 Program, an Advanced Learning Program directed by Mrs. Robin Marlar, and we are proud to introduce our new Learning Specialist, Mrs. Rebecca Blevins. Call 864.331.3911 to schedule a tour today! You'll be glad you did!

Books for Prisoners

Catholic volunteers to the Greenville County Detention Center are in need of **paperback (only paperback)** books for the inmate library. We will set up a box in Wickett Hall to place your books into and these will be collected by **Sharon Bookbinder**, a volunteers from Prince of Peace Church. This is a great way to un-clutter and help those in prison by giving them reading materials. Thanks for your help and assistance! **Thanks for your help with this project and the books you have brought in - keep them coming!**

Lay Dominicans

Almost since its beginning, the laity has been in ministry and fully incorporated into the Dominican Order. They are lay man and women from every walk of life, living out their Baptismal promise through the ministry founded by St Dominic.

If you would like to learn more about the life and charism of Lay Dominicans and how they share in the apostolic mission of the Dominican Order through the Four Pillars: Prayer, Study, Community and Apostolic Preaching, join us on 23 Sunday, September at 3p, at St Mary's Church in Sacred Heart Hall (upstairs). For additional information, please contact **Linda Head, OP** at 864.268.0746.

Dormition Byzantine Rite Patronal Feast

Holy Dormition Eastern Catholic Mission
will commemorate its
Patronal Feast of the Dormition (Assumption) of Mary
externally on
Sunday, August 26

Divine Liturgy (Mass) will be celebrated at 5 pm
at St. Rafka Maronite Church, 1215 SC-14, Greer, SC 29650

Fellowship with food will follow in the church hall.
Potluck dishes are invited.

For more information about the new mission:
visit dormition.weebly.com,
contact frjosephmatlak@gmail.com or 980-785-2764,
and follow us on Facebook and Instagram.



MINI RETREAT

On Saturday, 18 August from 9a-4p, join a special mini-retreat titled "*In the School of Fulton J. Sheen*" at Prince of Peace Catholic Church led by **Alexis Walkenstein**, nationally-recognized author of selected wisdom of Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen. The cost is \$15 per person and includes lunch. The day will follow this schedule:

9a - Introduction & Talk 1: Why Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen?

11a - Talk 2: God is Fire (the soul and God)

11.45a - Talk 3: Human Freedom (and petitions)

12.30p - LUNCH

1.15p - Talk 4: Divine Love

2.10p Talk 5: Sin (more petitions, examination)

3p. Talk 6: Knowing Jesus

4p Wrap Up

5p Mass

There will be several breaks for fellowship, reflection, and prayer across the day. Copies of Walkenstein's book, *Fulton J. Sheen*, published by Pauline Books & Media will be available on site.

To register online: <https://goo.gl/forms/4yGQpYQrChO4hKUM2>

To register by email or phone, contact Angela Calabro at angela.calabro@princeofpeacetaylors.org or 864-331-3903.

Saint Joseph's Indian School

Many friends ask how they can help Native American children in need in ways other than monetary donations. The following is a list of items always put to good use in caring for our Lakota (Sioux) boys and girls. The most important needs at this time are: Clean and Clear Advantage 3-1 exfoliating cleanser with 5% benzoyl peroxide acne medication, Athlete foot powder, Clotrimazole cream, Hydrocortisone Cream, Body Wash* (Both men's and woman's), Hair Conditioner, Athletes foot spray, Band aids, Bath puffs, Unscented Body Lotion (boys or girls can use), Girls dress shoes and sandals (sizes 1-7), Boys and girls athletic pants (sizes 6-20), Boy's underwear (briefs and boxers), Cerave Cream, Children's 8 hr Robitussin cough and cold, alcohol free, WITHOUT PHENYLEPHRINE, Aveeno Body Wash, Aveeno lotion, Pillows, Cotton balls, Facial tissues, Tennis Shoes (Sizes 1-7), Long athletic shorts (all sizes), All types of children clothing (8-20) Puritans Pride Chewable Vitamins, Cetaphil facial cleanser, Acne facial wipes, Viniferamine Silicone 4 ounce cream, Ibuprofen, Tylenol 325 mg and 500 mg tablets, Tylenol or Ibuprofen Children's dose liquid or chewable, Head and Shoulders Shampoo.

Simply bring your items to Wickett Hall and there is a box to receive these articles! Thanks!

Knights of Columbus Picnic



Sunday, August 26, 2018

Food, Beverage, and Fun!

Come one, come all!

Invite your friends and neighbors.

Details to come in the weeks ahead!

A fund-raising event for Knights of Columbus Saint Rafka Council 15519

SAVE THE DATE

OCT
06

FALL MIDDLE-EASTERN FOOD FESTIVAL



SAINT RAFKA MARONITE CHURCH

11am - 6pm

Bring your healthy appetite to taste our delicious homemade Middle Eastern food and pastries at our Fall Food Festival. There will be Music, Face painting, and many other fun activities. Please join us. Stay tuned for additional details as the date approaches!!!!

Face



3Oud



Painting



Dabke

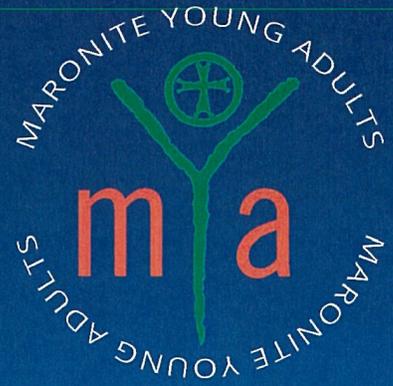


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10th Annual MYA Conference Presents

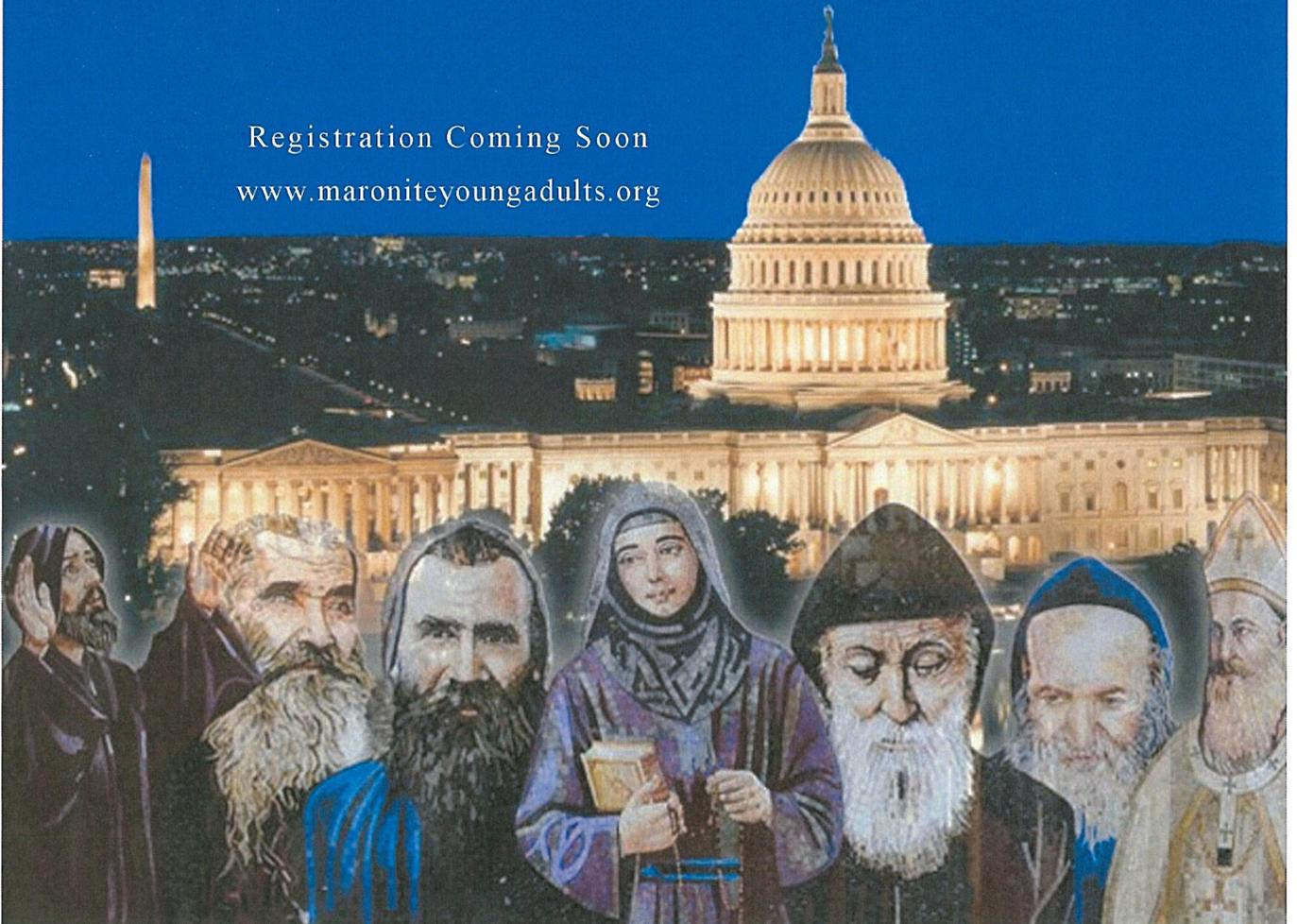
MARONITE IDENTITY AND SPIRITUALITY



October 5th-7th

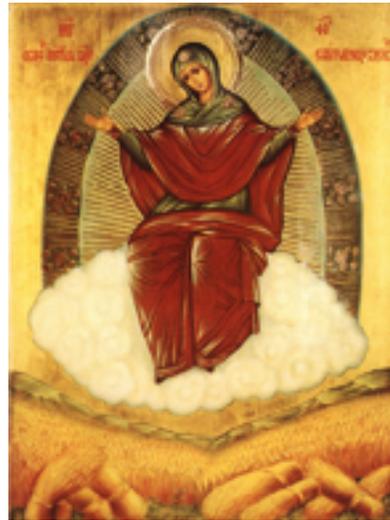
Washington DC

Registration Coming Soon
www.maroniteyoungadults.org



Prayer List

Theresa Woodson, Noah Scott Kestler, Mary Philips, Art and Judy Pape, Suhail Yousiff, Tom Craven, Jr., David Gibbons, Michael Rau, Chris Davis, Raymond Trinidad, Theresa Woodson, Joe Treacy, Marguerite LaBella, Dakota Miller, David Olmsted, Okshana Stachiw, Pixie Geren, Mike Dyer, Christian Pereira, Houda Askar, Jack D'Aquin, Moe Mercier, Ed Rauch, Art Newton, Mike Georgion, Nancy Georgion Jack Yacu, Houda Askar, Montaha Achi, Jim Hopsecger, Recovery of RS, Ashley Mullinex, Bill McAfee, Bill Leon, Sr., Charley Dusthimer, Bernadette Smith, Claire Barnett, Hans Wascom, Ethel Brassel, Katrina Shunk, George Vargo, Dan Steinker, Irma Galvan, Mary Cleary, Joe Lemire, Mary Anne McAfee, Lois Taylor, Virginia LaFave, Nabeel Howard, Father M. T. Phillips, Paul Cote and Family, Paul Bussemey, Ramza Sleiman, 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, 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, Adrian Kassentar, Beth Hopsecger, Mark Barnard, Janice Radich, Paula Lemire, Becky Jarvis, Lillian Moon, Vito Fortuna, Sam Howard, Jr., Betty Braun, Deanne Valencia, Katie Frank, Beverley Davis, John Fender,



Saints We Celebrate

August 11, Saint Claire, Confessor

August 15, **The Assumption (Dormition) of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

August 16, Saint Roch, Martyr

August 23, Saint Isaac the Syriac, Confessor

August 25, Saint Titus the Apostle, Martyr

August 27, Saint Biyameen the Hermit

August 28, Saint Moses the Ethiopian, Confessor

August 28, Saint Augustine

August 29, The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist

August 31, Saints Abda, Aegidius (Giles) and Zakhia (Victor), Martyrs

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



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Liturgical Items

Liturgical Readings

Feast	New Testament	Gospel
13th Pentecost	1 Cor. 3:1-11	Luke 8:1:15
English	Richard Wickett	
Arabic	Adib Chebli	New! To review the readings online, go here .

Mass Intentions

August 11 - 12	Intention	Donor
Saturday, 4 PM	+Nazira Said Najem	Joan and Paul Bussemey
Sunday, 11 AM	+Richard Anthony Kalata	John, Claudia and Matt Slusz
Sunday, 7 PM	Open	
Wednesday, 7 PM	+Ralphie Wise	Andy and Ceil Frisari
August 18 & 19		
Saturday, 4 PM	Open	
Sunday, 11 AM	+Mike Casby	Marie Kidd
Sunday, 7 PM	+Curtis Manning (6th Anniversary)	Bernadette Mileski
Wednesday, 7 PM	Open	

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.** If you would like a Mass offered for your loved ones, please call the church office at 864.469.9119 or secretary@saintrafka.org. The Sanctuary Candle burns this month in loving memory of **+Curtis Manning**, 6th Anniversary, by his wife, Bernadette Mileski.



Church Offerings and Attendance

August 5	Saturday 4 PM	Sunday 11 AM	Sunday 7 PM	Total	Budget per week	+/-	Wed. 7 PM
People	59	67	47	173	170	3	21
Collection	\$928.00	\$1195.00	\$328.00	\$2451.00	\$2,800.00	-\$349.00	0
Average per person	\$15.73	\$17.84	\$6.98	\$14.17		Holy Hour	22
Building Fund	\$409.00	\$577.00	\$47.00	\$1033.00		Ramsho	0
Average	\$6.93	\$8.61	\$47.00	\$3484.00		YTD	\$92,186.00
Average Attendance	71	80	35	Average 186			
Budget YTD	\$88,788.00	YTD	\$92,186.00	Budget +/-	\$3,398.00		

Offerings



Attendance Year to Date	
4:00 PM	1992
11:00 AM	2243
7:00 PM	963
Wednesday 7 PM	444
First Sunday	141
Ramsho	46
Holy Day	50
Special Liturgy	459
Funerals	160
Weddings	70
Pasta Supper	297

How are these totals calculated?

One total graphed **to the left** is through **donations** each week, compared to the previous year.

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

Date	Emails Sent	% Opened	% Clicked
August 5	515	37.9%	16.9%
July 29	514	36%	16%
Difference	1	1.9%	0.9%

Scripture Readings for Sunday

I Corinthians 3:1-11

Brothers, I could not talk to you as spiritual people, but as fleshly people, as infants in Christ. I fed you milk, not solid food, because you were unable to take it. Indeed, you are still not able, even now, for you are still of the flesh. While there is jealousy and rivalry among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving in an ordinary human way? Whenever someone says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human? "What is Apollos, after all, and what is Paul? Ministers through whom you became believers, just as the Lord assigned each one. I planted, Apollos watered, but God caused the growth. Therefore, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who causes the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters are equal, and each will receive wages in proportion to his labor. For we are God's co-workers; you are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building upon it. But each one must be careful how he builds upon it, for no one can lay a foundation other than the one that is there, namely, Jesus Christ.

Luke 8:1-15

Afterward he journeyed from one town and village to another, preaching and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. Accompanying him were the Twelve and some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, Susanna, and many others who provided for them out of their resources. When a large crowd gathered, with people from one town after another journeying to him, he spoke in a parable. "A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path and was trampled, and the birds of the sky ate it up. Some seed fell on rocky ground, and when it grew, it withered for lack of moisture. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some seed fell on good soil, and when it grew, it produced fruit a hundredfold." After saying this, he called out, "Whoever has ears to hear ought to hear."

Then his disciples asked him what the meaning of this parable might be. He answered, "Knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of God has been granted to you; but to the rest, they are made known through parables so that 'they may look but not see, and hear but not understand.'

"This is the meaning of the parable. The seed is the word of God. Those on the path are the ones who have heard, but the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts that they may not believe and be saved. Those on rocky ground are the ones who, when they hear, receive the word with joy, but they have no root; they believe only for a time and fall away in time of trial. As for the seed that fell among thorns, they are the ones who have heard, but as they go along, they are choked by the anxieties and riches and pleasures of life, and they fail to produce mature fruit. But as for the seed that fell on rich soil, they are the ones who, when they have heard the word, embrace it with a generous and good heart, and bear fruit through perseverance.



SAINT MARON FESTIVAL

Hafli

02 / 09 / 2019

HILTON HOTEL
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Catholic Radio in S.C. 2018 Radiothon

The 2018 Radiothon will be Thursday & Friday September 27th & 28th. Radiothon always has a theme and every year we ask for God's guidance when choosing. Last year was the 100th Anniversary of the Fatima Apparitions, so the choice was obvious. While continuity with last year is important, each Radiothon also needs something a little different. So, let me share a story about a young woman of Faith with you.

Adele Brise was born in Belgium in 1831. She came with her parents as they immigrated to Wisconsin in 1855. In early October 1859, Adele saw a woman clothed in white standing between two trees: one a maple, the other hemlock. She was frightened by the vision and prayed until it disappeared.

On October 9, 1859, she saw the apparition a second time while walking to Mass in the community of Bay Settlement. She asked her parish priest for advice, and he told her that if she saw the apparition again, she should ask it, "In the Name of God, who are you and what do you wish of me?"

That same day, she saw the apparition a third time, and when she asked the question, "What more can I do, dear Lady?" the Lady's direction was simple: "Gather the children in this wild country and teach them what they should know for salvation."

"But how shall I teach them who knows so little myself?" Adele asked.

The Lady replied, "Teach them their catechism, how to sign themselves with the sign of the Cross, and how to approach the sacraments; that is what I wish you to do. Go and fear nothing. I will help you." Adele devoted the rest of her life to the task.

Such a fervent yet humble person is an inspiration for all of us. That's why the theme for the 2018 Radiothon will be "Our Lady of Good Help." We hope to bring attention to the Shrine in Champion, Wisconsin dedicated to these apparitions, the only apparitions in the United States which are approved by the Catholic Church.

Please consider supporting us in this endeavor by visiting the website: ShrineofOurLadyofGoodHelp.com and by praying about how you might help Catholic Radio in South Carolina. Please share this information with your friends and family and encourage them to use our Radiothon pledge line: 864-877-8458. Or, the 24/7 website is www.CatholicRadioInSC.com. Thank you, in advance, for your consideration and your prayers. May God bless you for all you do in accordance with His Will.

Michael Brennan

Mediatrix SC Inc.

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Yes, we will help listeners learn about salvation through their Catholic Faith.

We pledge \$50___\$100___ \$200___ \$500___\$ Other_____

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**GUEST SPEAKER:
STEPHANIE SANDERS**



*“She (a Godly woman) is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs without fear of the future.”
~Proverbs 31:25*

Stephanie is a survivor of motherhood, homeschooling, and breast cancer treatment with little kids. Whether it’s deep or funny, she enjoys blogging, leading retreats and speaking about falling in love with God in the midst of real life and suffering.

A former Protestant pastor convert, she is an active member of the Catholic Writers Guild and freelance writes for blog sites and magazines. Stephanie lives in South Carolina with her husband, five children, and two dogs.

Come and join us as we glorify the Lord, and magnify His holy Name! And don’t forget to bring a friend!



**Greenville Chapter Breakfast
Saturday, August 11, 2018**

9 am to Noon

Hilton Greenville

**45 West Orchard Park Drive,
Greenville, SC, 29615**

(Off Haywood Rd.)

Cost \$25 per person.

Reserve your ticket by mailing registration form below and check payable to

Magnificat Greenville by August 6th

\$30 after July 28 if not sold out. Call Lucille to check.

Limited Seating Available-So Reserve Early.

Bring a friend!

Questions? Please call Lucille at (864) 967-7463

Mother of the Word Service Team

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PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

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City _____ Phone (_____) _____

Guest Name, email, phone no. _____

Additional names and contact info may be written on back of this form.

Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ Reservations

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Mail Reservation Form and check **postmarked by August 6th** to:

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- International Women’s Ministry based on “The Visitation” Luke 1:39
- Meal, Praise, Testimony, and Prayer, Praise & Worship Music
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- Open Seating - Doors open at 8:45 am.
- **Please check your inbox for confirmation of Registration received.**
- Your name tag is your ticket and will be at the door.
- *Sorry no refunds.*

My donation to help someone attend:

\$ _____

Thank You!

Birthdays

August

- 13, Shannon Howard
- 14, Dawn Saad Bibbes
- 17, Blayne Sijon
- 20, Afaf Sleiman
- 20, Scott Herr
- 21, Susan Newton
- 21, Wael Namouz
- 22, Maureen Abdalla
- 22, Jack Yacu
- 22, Bill Leon
- 24, Gaby Dibo
- 27, John Howard



Anniversaries

August

- 14, Ed and Maria Rauch
- 16, Ramez and Rosemarie Sleiman
- 25, Rich and Pat Washnock



Necrology

August

- +Mary Maalouf Ayoub, August 11, 2007
- +Curtis Manning, August 16, 2012
- +Father Peter Boulos, August 19, 2013



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](#)

Massabki Brothers (Part 1 of 2)



Towards the end of the XIII century, there lived in Damascus a married Maronite priest named Ya'qoub. This priest lived with his family in "Masback el barrani," a quarter of Damascus. The Damascans, who highly respected this "zealous and honorable" priest, gave his descendants the last name of "Massabki," for the name of the quarter in which he lived.

In 1293, Father Ya'qoub was ordained Bishop of Damascus, but persecution forced him to flee the city, along with other Maronite families, and to take refuge in Cyprus where the respected Prelate died, mourning the death of his son Francis, massacred at Zabadani (Syria). In the XV century, his sons and grandsons returned to Damascus where they were known by the name of "Massabki."

Ne'meh Massabki

A man of the faith, Ne'meh raised his children in the fear of the Lord. He had four boys: Francis, Abdul Mohti, Raphael-who shed their blood for their faith-and Father Abdallah; and two girls, Mary and Martha.

Francis Ne'meh Massabki

Francis married Elizabeth Chiha, who gave birth to three boys and five girls. Francis was a tall, handsome man with clear eyes, gentle and humble, but with a strong will in the face of difficulty. He wore the dress (gunbaz) that was in the style of his time and covered his head with a large black turban. He was a generous man. His vast home was open to everybody, particularly foreigners and pilgrims. Francis possessed fabulous wealth, acquired through untiring toil and integrity in business: he was involved in the sale of natural silk. The Lebanese entrusted their products to him, which he then sold in Syria and elsewhere. He was charged with attending to the spiritual and material affairs of the Maronite Patriarch in Syria. Before going about his business, Francis said his morning prayers with his family, attended Liturgy, and took communion. He was always at the disposal of the priests in his community, devoting his time and money to them. His magnanimity and his generosity were not limited to his family and fellow churchgoers. His popularity went beyond the Syrian borders, and in Lebanon, it was told, they announced his arrival from village to village by tolling bells.

Abdel Mohti Ne'meh Massabki

Thin and slender, Abdel Mohti preferred solitude. He lived with his wife and children in his brother Francis's house. Abdel Mohti spent his life raising and educating his children. His teachings were impregnated with a deep faith and true piety. One of his students testified that Abdel Mohti would often repeat to them: "The Christian must always be ready to spill his blood for the love of Christ, and that man's greatest joy is to receive the grace of martyrdom."

Abdel Mohti attended the Holy Sacrament each day and fasted all of Lent, without tasting even oil. He observed all holy days and religious ceremonies and taught his children the psalms and religious chants. In church, Abdel Mohti kneeled directly on the ground, erect, without leaning, and stayed thus throughout each Liturgy. His knees, according to his student George, became hard and callous.

Tired of his teaching career, he went into business; but his delicate conscience forced him to close shop for fear of "deceiving his customers." From that day forward, he dedicated his life to prayer and meditation.

Raphael Ne'meh Massabki

Raphael was short, feeble-bodied, black-eyed, and simple-hearted. Devout, he prayed to the Virgin Mary with a pure and filial heart; he often turned to her in his business dealings. Raphael was humble. He lived a poor bachelor, but rich in the love of God, and received the grace of martyrdom with his brothers.

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