



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

October 21, 2018



6th Sunday of Holy Cross

PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

St. Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle.

Be our defense against the wickedness and
snares of the Devil.

May God rebuke him, we humbly pray,
and do thou,

O Prince of the heavenly hosts,
by the power of God,

thrust into hell Satan,
and all the evil spirits,

who prowl about the world
seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

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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Continued next page



Abouna's Corner



Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Fall-like greetings from Saint Rafka!

Finally, it is beginning to cool off and the leaves are beginning to change. Now the air is perfect for football games and bonfires. The closing of the cycle of nature is upon us with a show that has no equal. The holiday season is also quickly closing upon us. How time flies!

There are many spiritual and fund raising events hosted and sponsored by other Catholic Churches in the area. Try to go and help these other communities as they help us. God will reward you for your generosity!

A reminder that we will celebrate the feast of All Saints, a Holy Day of Obligation, on Wednesday, October 31, at 7 PM. This year we are celebrating the vigil due to the Pasta Supper being the same day as the actual feast.

Have a great weekend! See you in Church!

Salaam!

Ab. Bart



NOVEMBER PASTA

Penne a'matriciana, cream of mushroom soup, tossed salad, and dessert. Yum, Yum!!!!

**FIRST
THURSDAY
11/01/18**

NEW!!! Saint Rafka Parish Directory Online

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

Please follow us at @saintrafkagreenville on **Instagram** and/or St. Rafka Maronite Church on **FaceBook**.



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.

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!**

Engaged Encounter

The final weekend of 2018 will be November 17-18 at St. Mary Magdalene in Simpsonville, The cost is \$160.00. Please register on our website: cee-sc.org.

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

Great video of our food festival by Lisa Advent Go [here](#). Have pictures to include? Send [here](#).

Saint Joseph's Indian School

Many friends ask how they can help Native American children in need in ways other than monetary donations. Simply bring needed items to Wickett Hall and there is a box to receive these articles!
Thanks!



Retiro espiritual

Los Equipos de Nuestra Señora de la Iglesia Santa María Magdalena los invitan a un retiro espiritual el sábado, 27 de octubre, de 8:00 a.m. a 4:00 p.m. ¿Maestro, dónde te quedas? ... Vengan y lo verán (Juan 1:38-39) Con la participación de los padres Jaime González y Christopher Smith. Lugar: Iglesia Santa María, 111 Hampton Ave. Greenville, South Carolina 29601 Costo: \$15 por persona, incluye almuerzo. Registro: Mónica 864-534-0864 o Miguelina 864-633-8206. ¡Déjense encontrar y ser transformados por Cristo!

Santa's Secret Shop!

at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church

(8 Gillin Drive, Simpsonville, SC 29680)

November 24th and 25th, 2018

9:00 am – 2:30 pm

This special place is a secret shopping opportunity for children of all ages – a place for children to purchase nominally-priced gifts for parents, siblings and other special people on their gift list.

Save the dates and pick up a gift for that special someone!

All proceeds go to benefit the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church so that they may help their neighbors in need during the Christmas season.

If you are interested in volunteering or donating, please contact Dee Hooks at 864-238-9124.

FESTA della Notte

(Feast of the Night)

Saturday, 20 October 2018

Gallivan Hall, Campus of St. Mary's Church

6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Hors d'oeuvres

Elegant Italian Gourmet Dinner Buffet

Dessert Table

Wine and Beer (first two drinks free, donation afterward)

(Dancing to the tunes of Father Pat as 1st)

Dress: Business Casual

\$50 per person

Proceeds to be donated to various charities

Contact: Ella Carfield 864.325.0587 or ellacarfield@att.net

DEADLINE TO RESERVE SEAT: 10 October 2018

(No seats will be sold at the door.)



Cut here and mail reservation form with check to: _____ Sponsored by St. Mary's Council of Catholic Women

St. Mary's Council of Catholic Women
Festa della Notte Reservation Form

Name(s): 1. _____ 2. _____

OR 3. _____ 4. _____

Table (10 seats) Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Telephone: _____

Number of seats: _____ at \$50 each; - \$ _____ OR One Table (10 seats) at \$500 _____

Make check payable to: SMCCW

Mail to: SMCCW Treasurer, P.O. Box 1505, Greenville, SC 29602

Calendar of Events

October

- 20, 4 PM, Vigil Liturgy, **6th Holy Cross**
21, 11 AM, Divine Liturgy
 3 PM, Korean Liturgy
 7 PM, Last Chance Divine Liturgy
22, 6 PM, Prayers and Squares
 7 PM, **ESL/Arabic Classes RESUME!!**
23, 7 PM, *Ramsho* of the Maronite Saints
24, 7 PM, Divine Liturgy, Anointing of the Sick
27, 4 PM, Vigil Liturgy, **7th Holy Cross**
28, 11 AM, Divine Liturgy
 5 PM, Ukrainian Divine Liturgy
 7 PM, Last Chance Divine Liturgy
29, 7 PM, ESL/Arabic Classes
30, 7 PM, *Ramsho* of the Maronite Saints
31, 7 PM, **Vigil Liturgy**, All Saints Day,
 Holy Day of Obligation

November

- 1, 5:30 PM, First Thursday Pasta Supper
 7 PM, Prayers and Squares (**New Day!**)
3, 4 PM, Vigil Liturgy, **Dedication of the Church**
4, 11 AM, Divine Liturgy, **Pot Luck Luncheon**
 3 PM, Holy Hour
 7 PM, Last Chance Divine Liturgy
5, 7 PM, ESL/Arabic Classes
6, 7 PM, *Ramsho* of the Maronite Saints
7, 7 PM, Divine Liturgy, Anointing of the Sick
8, 6 PM, Prayers and Squares



Ramsho and Blessing with the relics of Saints Rafka, Sharbel Nimatullah, and the Massabki Brothers Tuesday evening, 7:00 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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6th Marian Eucharistic Conference

November 10 - 11, 2018

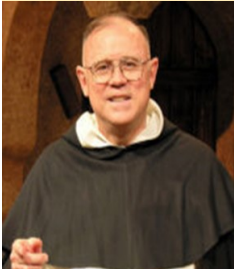
Mary, Mother of the Eucharist



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



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 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.

Blessed be the tie that binds.

All Soul's Day Special Mass

On Friday evening **Nov. 2 at 7pm**, we will celebrate a Requiem Mass with music by Gabriel Faure. Our music director, **Massimo Scapin**, will conduct a small chamber orchestra and choir to perform this musical piece during Mass. I hope you will plan to attend what will be a most beautiful and solemn celebration to commend the dead to God.

Choir Festival

January 24-27, 2019

3rd-6th grade Catholic students throughout the Upstate are invited to participate in ChoralFest 2019, a fun-filled weekend of singing and activities to build skills and encourage their love of music. Children will join together to prepare beautiful music to be sung in a Saturday Festival Concert and a Sunday Mass. The festival dates are January 24-27, 2019.

See www.choralfestupstate.weebly.com for more details and registration form.



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

40 DAYS FOR LIFE™

40 Days for Life. To find out more and sign up to help please visit: www.40daysforlife.com/greenville and www.facebook.com/40daysgreenville or contact Judy Masterson 1-864-506-0964. Help to spread the word to others about this important life-saving effort.

40 Days for Life Closing Celebration – Saturday, Nov 3rd , 9:30 am, Greenville Women's Clinic, 1142 Grove Road. Guest speaker: Representative from St. Clare's Home will provide the latest update. Prayer Warriors will share their testimonies from the current campaign. St. Mary Magdalene Life Band will provide the music. Parking is at Grove Road Baptist Church. Call Judy 1-864-506-0964.

Remember to pray your **Rosaries for Life**. Pray 5 decades daily and turn in your counts at your local parish or email your count each week to rosaries4life@gmail.com

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Prayer List

Houda Askar, Chrisoula, Frank Cerullo, Helen Francis, Beth Hopsecge, Donna Nedzwecki, Leo Miller, David Snell, 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, Pixie Geren, Mike Dyer, Christian Pereira, Houda Askar, Jack D'Aquin, 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



Saints We Celebrate

October 20, **Saint Shallita (Artemius)**, Martyr

October 24, Saint Hares (Aretas) and His Companions, Martyrs

October 26, Saint Demetrius, Martyr

November

November 1, All Saints Day,
Saints Cosmas and Damian

November 3, Saint Risha, Confessor

November 5, Saint Assia the Just, Confessor

November 8, Saint Michael the Archangel

November 10, Saint Moura, Confessor

November 11, Saint Mennas, Martyr

Saint Martin of Tours, Confessor

November 13, Saint John Chrysostom, Confessor

Saint Francis Cabrini, Virgin-Confessor,
Saint of the United States

November 14, Saint Philip the Apostle



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Liturgical Items

Liturgical Readings

Feast	New Testament	Gospel
6th Holy Cross	Gal. 6:1-10	Matt 25:14-30
English	Richard Sleiman	
Arabic	Afaf Sleiman	New! To review the readings online, go here .

Mass Intentions

October 20 & 21	Intention	Donor
Saturday, 4 PM	+Angela Giacommeti	Parents, Joe & Maryanne
Sunday, 11 AM	+Gasshan Eid, 40 Day Memorial	Sleiman Family
Sunday, 7 PM	+John Ronald Watson	Larry Watts
Wednesday, 7 PM	+ Dr. Bradley Collins	Abouna
October 27 & 28		
Saturday, 4 PM	+Ralph & Josephine Romeo	Mary Anne Vicaro
Sunday, 11 AM	+Germaine Rowland, grandmother of	Michael Dursse
Sunday, 7 PM	+Jeanne Migut 10th Anniv	Ken and Annie Migut
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 flowers on the altar this weekend are in memory of **+Angela Giacommeti**.



Church Offerings and Attendance

October 14	Saturday 4 PM	Sunday 11 AM	Sunday 7 PM	Total	Budget per week	+/-	Wed. 7 PM
People	56	126	42	224	170	54	16
Collection	\$716.00	\$1113.00	\$328.00	\$2157.00	\$2,800.00	-\$643.00	0
Average per person	\$12.79	\$8.83	\$7.81	\$9.63		Holy Hour	18
Building Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		Ramsho	5
Average	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			YTD	\$118349.00
Average Attendance	75	84	39	Average 198			
Budget YTD	\$116788.00	YTD	\$118349.00	Budget +/-	\$1561.00		

Offerings



Attendance Year to Date	
4:00 PM	2683
11:00 AM	3030
7:00 PM	1408
Wednesday 7 PM	594
First Sunday	171
Ramsho	46
Holy Day	129
Special Liturgy	459
Funerals	160
Weddings	70
Pasta Supper	640

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
October 14	513	176	89
October 7	513	185	81
Difference	0	9	8

Scripture Readings for Sunday

Gal. 6:1-10

Brothers and sisters, even if a person is caught in some transgression, you who are spiritual should correct that one in a gentle spirit, looking to yourself, so that you also may not be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so you will fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he is deluding himself. Each one must examine his own work, and then he will have reason to boast with regard to himself alone, and not with regard to someone else; for each will bear his own load. One who is being instructed in the word should share all good things with his instructor. Make no mistake: God is not mocked, for a person will reap only what he sows, because the one who sows for his flesh will reap corruption from the flesh, but the one who sows for the spirit will reap eternal life from the spirit. Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up. So then, while we have the opportunity, let us do good to all, but especially to those who belong to the family of the faith.

Matt 25:14-30

It will be as when a man who was going on a journey called in his servants and entrusted his possessions to them. To one he gave five talents; to another, two; to a third, one—to each according to his ability. Then he went away. Immediately the one who received five talents went and traded with them, and made another five. Likewise, the one who received two made another two. But the man who received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and buried his master's money. After a long time the master of those servants came back and settled accounts with them. The one who had received five talents came forward bringing the additional five. He said, 'Master, you gave me five talents. See, I have made five more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy.' [Then] the one who had received two talents also came forward and said, 'Master, you gave me two talents. See, I have made two more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy.' Then the one who had received the one talent came forward and said, 'Master, I knew you were a demanding person, harvesting where you did not plant and gathering where you did not scatter; so out of fear I went off and buried your talent in the ground. Here it is back.' His master said to him in reply, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I did not plant and gather where I did not scatter? Should you not then have put my money in the bank so that I could have got it back with interest on my return? Now then! Take the talent from him and give it to the one with ten. For to everyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And throw this useless servant into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.'





SAINT MARON FESTIVAL

Hafli

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Birthdays

October

20, Lauralee Saad
21, Lisa Howard Norris
21, Lily Brown
22, Lauralee Saad
23, Manal Namouz
23, Joan Bussemey
24, Annie Migut
24, Tom Hermiz
25, Ken Saad
27, Linda George
29, Preston Saad



Anniversaries

October

20, Paul and Joan Bussemey
22, Patrick and Tamara Yono

November

18, Sandra and Wayne Reece

Necrology

October

+Abouna James Paissi Ross, October 20, 2013
+Josephine Romeo, October 29, 2012



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](#)

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.](#)

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Northwest Chapel
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Greenville, SC 29611
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The advertisement features a background image of a wooden gavel resting on a wooden block, with a pair of scales of justice in the background.

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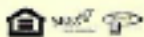
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