



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 9, 2018



Festival of the Holy and Life Giving Cross

September 14th is one of the major feasts in the Syriac tradition – the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. St. Helena, the mother of St. Constantine, the Emperor of Rome, established the day as the Feast of the Cross, as she found the cross of Jesus Christ by Golgotha in Jerusalem on this day. It was found while St. Helena was overseeing the construction of a church over the place where Christ was crucified and was buried. Having found the true cross, Constantine proclaimed a holy day to venerate it throughout the Empire.

But why do we venerate the cross? It would seem a bit odd to venerate the instrument of torture used against our Lord and God if He had not risen from the dead. However, we know that Christ rose from the dead, and so He made a mockery out of death and its instruments. Jesus showed in His crucifixion that He has the power to make even an instrument

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

of death a means of life. He transformed His cross, which was used to sentence Him to death, into an instrument that brings life to all those who believe in it, “an armor of righteousness, a companion of assistances, and a fount of immortality” (as our prayers call it). But why does the cross receive such lofty titles? When Jesus, our immortal God died, He descended to the place of the dead and defeated death, rising again and promising His believers the same. So what others see as a way to death, Christians see it as the key that brought eternal life. God is so great He can make a symbol of death one of life – hence why the Syriac tradition often contrasts the cross to the tree that Adam ate from and died: “The fruit from the tree killed Adam, and the Fruit from heaven redeemed him.” Christ is the Fruit of Life Who has given Himself to us for life, and the cross is the tree that has borne Him for us. It was the foolishness of Adam that caused his fall, but it was the mercy of Christ that returned him to Eden – this is what the cross represents.

But the cross does not simply represent the suffering of Christ. On Sunday morning we lift up the cross in glorious victory because it is empty along with the tomb. The cross is a sign of the Resurrection, for by it Christ descended to Sheol and raised the dead who served Him in their lives to heaven. We exalt the cross again on the Holy Cross and bless the four corners of the world for it continues to be the very pillar of the world. Creation itself and its continuance rely solely on the merciful salvation of God – the cross is the very pinnacle of this sustaining mercy. In mercy, Christ exorcised demons and healed the sick, worked miracles and showed His divinity. This mercy pervades every aspect of our life and remains with the baptized at all times, for we have put on Christ through the waters of baptism.

The cross is the sign of salvation, and it is the banner of our King. We have easy access to this mighty power. Our enemies, the demons and devils, flee at the very sight of the Lord’s sign. By the sign of the cross and invocation of the Persons of the Trinity we obtain the assistance of the mercy of God. The sign of the cross is so commonly made that it is overlooked, but each and every time we make the sign of the cross we recall and call upon the help and hope of God’s entire plan of salvation. When we are in need, let us trace this powerful sign upon ourselves as we pray:

We trace the living sign of the cross between our eyes
and by its power we are protected from harm and injury.
Demons flee before whomever signs himself with the cross –
the [same] cross that restored the House of Adam from error.

(Trans. from the Prayers for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross)

Subdeacon Michael Shami

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Abouna's Corner



Dear Parishioners and Friends,

The long break of Summer is over, and most people have settled into the new academic year. The families with children have sent them back, and we are now watching the days get shorter and shorter. Thankfully, autumn is just around the corner, and it will begin to cool down. American football has made a return, and before we know it, the leaves will change and fall. Soon after, the holidays will be upon us. So goes the way of time and nature!

The regular activities of the year are upon us, with a few new events thrown in. This past week, we had the first *Ramsho* and Blessing with the Maronite Saints relics and then the first **Pasta Supper**. Next month is our first **Middle Eastern Food Festival** scheduled for October 6 and then our first **Pot Luck Luncheon**. I have been delighted with the enthusiasm of the members of the community for the festival project. Many thanks to all who are working, advertising and contributing to this fundraising project. Another new project is a quilting project called **Prayers and Squares**. (More information further back in the bulletin) It is a sign of growth in our community that so many varied activities are happening at the Church.

Last week was hard as we said goodbye to two members of our community: **Oksana Staichw** and **Georgette Kimmel**. Oksana, 68, died of cancer on August 26. She will be buried in New York at a later date. Georgette, 77, died of a heart attack and was buried in her hometown. Both will have 40 Day Liturgies in October. **Freddy Mansour**, a longtime Greenville resident and parishioner at Saint Mary's, died earlier in August and his funeral was celebrated on September 4. May they all rest in peace and may their memories be eternal!

Joe Chebeir is in Lebanon visiting his mother and family. I was delighted that he had the opportunity to go home and visit, but I really forgot how much work he does in our office. I actually look forward to his return after a restful vacation. He is a great asset to us! *[Please don't tell him I said this as I don't want him to get proud!]*

Speaking of vacations, it is my turn. I took a staycation for a week, but did not travel or get away. Now I have the opportunity and time, so off I go! I am going on a cruise to New England and Canada. I leave from New York City and spend 10 nights at sea, ending the cruise in Quebec City. It will be a great time to rest, pray, relax and see some new sights. I will miss you all, but you will be in good hands with **Msgr. Leigh Lehockey**.

There are still many sick and suffering in our community. Continue to pray for them and their caregivers, along with all on the Prayer List.

Have a great weekend! See you in Church!

Salaam!

Ab. Bart

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.

National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children

Memorial Service for Victims of Abortion, Saturday, September 8, at 9:15 a.m., St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church, 2252 Woodruff Rd., Simpsonville, SC 2968. On Saturday, September 8, pro-life Americans throughout the country will gather at the grave sites of aborted babies and other memorial sites dedicated in their honor for the Sixth annual National Day of Remembrance for Aborted

Children. Solemn vigils will be held at these sites to commemorate the more than 55 million children who have lost their lives to legal abortion since 1973, and to remind our society of the humanity of the unborn child. Together, let us remember the victims of abortion and pray for a final end to this injustice in our land during the National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children. Contact respectlife@smmcc.org.



Calendar of Events

September

- 8, 4 PM, Vigil Liturgy, **Holy Cross**
9, 11 AM, Divine Liturgy
4:30 PM, Korean Mass
7:00 PM, Last Chance Divine Liturgy
10, 6 PM, Prayers and Squares
7 PM, Knights of Columbus Meeting
11, 7 PM, *Ramsho* of the Maronite Saints
12, 7 PM, Divine Liturgy, Anointing of the Sick
15, 4 PM, Vigil Liturgy, **2nd of Holy Cross**
16, 11 AM, Divine Liturgy
4:30 PM, Korean Mass
7:00 PM, Last Chance Divine Liturgy
17, 6 PM, Prayers and Squares
18, 7 PM, *Ramsho* of the Maronite Saints
19, 7 PM, Divine Liturgy, Anointing of the Sick
22, 4 PM, Vigil Liturgy
23, 11 AM, Divine Liturgy
5 PM, Byzantine Liturgy
7 PM, Last Chance Divine Liturgy
24, 6 PM, Prayers and Squares
25, 6:30 PM, *Ramsho* and Veneration of Relics
26, 7 PM, Divine Liturgy
Anointing of the Sick
29, 4 PM, Vigil Liturgy
30, 11 AM, Divine Liturgy
7 PM, Last Chance Divine Liturgy



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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5th Annual

Festival *Of* **Lebanon**



Saturday September 22, 2018

11 AM — 7 PM

St. Matthew Catholic Church
8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy,
Charlotte NC 28277

**Something for
everyone to enjoy!**

**Exquisite
Lebanese Food & Sweets**



Entertainment

Souvenir Shop

Raffle Drawing

&

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\$2.00 Value

[Children under 13 Free!]

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Come taste food from a variety of countries that make up
the rich heritage of the people of St. Mary Magdalene.

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

FOOD
FOLKLORE DANCE
MUSIC



FLAG PROCESSION
GAMES
FACE PAINTING

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2018
3 P.M. - 10 P.M.

St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church
2252 Woodruff Road, Simpsonville, SC 29681 — 864-288-4884 — SMMCC.ORG

6th Marian Eucharistic Conference

November 10 - 11, 2018

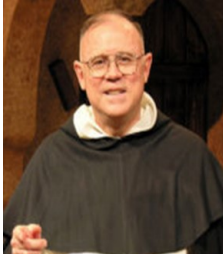
Mary, Mother of the Eucharist



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



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Greenville, SC 29615

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Youth: \$ 40

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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.

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



Prayers & Squares

NEW!!!

The Saint Rafka Prayers and Squares Quilt Ministry will begin meeting on Monday evenings beginning **September 10th** from 6-9pm. There are a couple of extra sewing machines for use in the hall, but if you have a portable machine please bring it with you, as well as an extra pair of small scissors if you have them. Even if you have never sewn before, it is very easy to learn, so don't be afraid to

try. There are kits already made up for prayer squares. If you are not interested in quilting but would like to support us in our efforts, there are a few things that we need. Steam Irons, 1-2 Ironing boards, sewing thread in shades of gray, white, cream and blue. But neutral shades of gray and white are the most used. Pins, needles, scissors, extra working sewing machines, card stock for making tags for the quilts would also be helpful. We have a lot of prayers, work, and friendship to offer. See you this week!

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.



Help!

Volunteers needed for:

BBQ Chefs

Set up

Clean up

Face painters

Free event cooks

2018

Sponsors Needed

Food

Advertising and Signs

Paper Goods

Contact:

Paula Howard-Casby:

pjhoward74@hotmail.com

Joan Craven:

joanlcraven@yahoo.com

FESTIVAL NEEDS

== *Saint Rafka* ==
• **Food Fest** •

Middle Eastern Delights!

The Novena for the Abuse Crisis | Accountability, Transparency and Healing

Father in Heaven, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Holy Spirit, comfort us, give us clarity, and bring light to this darkness and evil.

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection 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, cast into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Saint Peter, pray for the Church, that it may be re-built, healed, and made holy.

St. Charles Lwanga and St. Monica, pray for the abused, the survivors and for justice.

St. Catherine of Siena, pray for reform and restoration of the clergy.

St. John Vianney, pray for the holiness of priests and bishops.

St. Benedict, pray that this evil be cast out of the Church.

St. Anthony, pray for us to find the way forward.

St. Paul, pray for the bishops that they may be fearless in confronting other bishops.

St. Augustine, pray for true repentance and transparency.

St. Dymphna, pray for consolation for the heartache, depression and anxiety this evil has caused.

Our Lady of Sorrows, pray for us!

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.

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.



Our Lady of Sorrows!

Pray for us!



The logo features a stylized blue figure with arms raised, resembling a person or a dove, positioned above the number '40'. The text '40 DAYS FOR LIFE' is written in a large, serif font, with a trademark symbol (TM) at the end.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE™

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 26 through November 4.

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 *Judy Masterson 1-864-506-0964* .

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

40 Days for Life Kickoff Rally Saturday, Sept 29th, 9:30 am – 10:30 am, Greenville Women's Clinic, 1142 Grove Rd. Guest speakers: Dr. Robert Jackson, Jr. MD, family medicine specialist and author of *The Family Doctor Speaks: The Truth About Life*; Carrie Gifford and Patty McGrath, Sidewalk Advocates for Life update. Music will be provided by the For Life Praise Band with Mark and Robin Wills. At the close of the event Rob Wess, Director of Construction for Piedmont Women's Center, will take those interested on a tour of the new facility. Parking is at Grove Road Baptist Church. Call Judy 1-864-506-0964

Life Chain - Sunday, Oct 7th, 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. 864-297- 8838.

Rosaries Coast to Coast – Sunday, Oct 7th, 4:00 – 5:00 pm at local Catholic Churches following the Life Chain. People are asked to participate in **Rosary Coast to Coast** as an Act of Reparation calling upon God through the powerful intercession of Our Lady of the Rosary to heal our country and return it to holiness.

Rosaries for Life - Pray 5 decades daily from Sept 26th – Nov 4th. Turn in your counts at your local parish or email your count each week to rosaries4life@gmail.com.

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



1215 S. Highway 14
Greer, SC 29650
864.469.9119

saintrafka.org
saintrafkagreenville@gmail.com

Middle Eastern Food Festival

<i>Kafta</i>	<i>Chicken or Beef</i>	<i>\$8.00</i>
<i>Falafel</i>	<i>Sandwich</i>	<i>\$6.00</i>
<i>Fatiah</i>	<i>Meat or Spinach</i>	<i>\$2.00 each or \$20.00 dozen</i>
<i>Kibbee</i>	<i>2 Pieces</i>	<i>\$5.00</i>
<i>Grapeleaves</i>	<i>2 Rolls</i>	<i>\$1.00</i>
<i>Yucni with Beans</i>	<i>Bowl</i>	<i>\$5.00</i>
<i>Hummis</i>	<i>With Bread</i>	<i>\$3.00</i>
<i>Fatouch</i>	<i>Salad</i>	<i>\$2.00</i>
<i>Baclava</i>	<i>Piece</i>	<i>\$2.00 or \$20.00 per dozen</i>
<i>Mamoul</i>	<i>Piece</i>	<i>\$2.00 or \$20.00 per dozen</i>
<i>Rybi</i>	<i>Piece</i>	<i>\$1.00 or \$10.00 dozen</i>
<i>Hot Dog</i>	<i>Chips and Drink</i>	<i>\$2.00</i>
<i>Lemonade, Ice Tea</i>	<i>Glass</i>	<i>\$1.00</i>
<i>Water, Coffee</i>	<i>Bottle/Cup</i>	<i>\$1.00</i>



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If you are interested in becoming a Priest, Religious Sister, or Deacon contact Vocations Director Father Dominique Hanna at (718) 624-7228 & cathrectory@verizon.net

Prayer List

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, 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

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 and **Saint Cyricus the Wanderer**

September 30, **Saint Gregory**, Bishop of Armenia & His Companions, Confessors



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Liturgical Items

Liturgical Readings

Feast	New Testament	Gospel
Holy Cross	1 Cor. 1:18-25	John 12:20-32
English	Marie Kidd	
Arabic	Khawaja, Najah	New! To review the readings online, go here .

Mass Intentions

September 8 & 9	Intention	Donor
Saturday, 4 PM	Jane & Sam Howard, 50th Wedding Anniversary	Family
Sunday, 11 AM	+Eleanor Kelly, RIP	Marie Kidd
Sunday, 7 PM	+Lorraine Phillips	Dan and Sue Beckman
Wednesday, 7 PM	Safe Travels for Abouna and Joe	
September 15 & 16		
Saturday, 4 PM	Open	
Sunday, 11 AM	Open	
Sunday, 7 PM	Open	
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

September 2	Saturday 4 PM	Sunday 11 AM	Sunday 7 PM	Total	Budget per week	+/-	Wed. 7 PM
People	61	70	52	183	170	13	13
Collection	\$1203.00	\$765.00	\$576.00	\$2544.00	\$2,800.00	-\$256.00	0
Average per person	\$19.72	\$10.93	\$11.08	\$13.90		Holy Hour	30
Building Fund	\$264.00	\$427.00	\$399.00	\$1090.00		Ramsho	0
Average	\$4.33	\$6.10	\$7.67			YTD	\$102,227.00
Average Attendance	75	85	38	Average 198			
Budget YTD	\$99,988.00	YTD	\$102,227.00	Budget +/-	\$2,239.00		

Offerings



Attendance Year to Date	
4:00 PM	2249
11:00 AM	2558
7:00 PM	1158
Wednesday 7 PM	483
First Sunday	171
Ramsho	46
Holy Day	129
Special Liturgy	459
Funerals	160
Weddings	70

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
September 2	513	174	75
August 26	517	193	78
Difference	4	19	3

Scripture Readings for Sunday

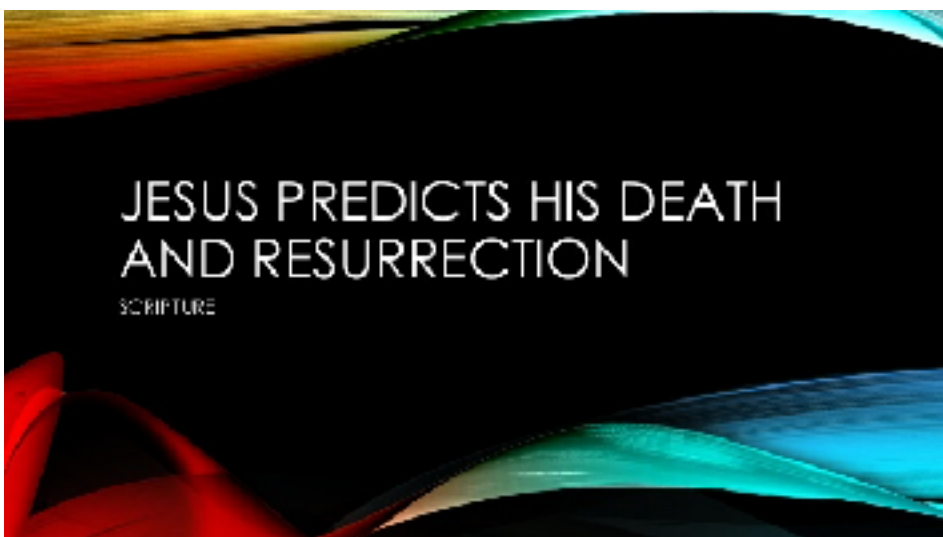
I Corinthians 1:18-25

The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the learning of the learned I will set aside. Where is the wise one? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made the wisdom of the world foolish? For since in the wisdom of God the world did not come to know God through wisdom, it was the will of God through the foolishness of the proclamation to save those who have faith. For Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

John 12:20-32

Now there were some Greeks among those who had come up to worship at the feast. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we would like to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me. I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? 'Father, save me from this hour?' But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it and will glorify it again." The

crowd there heard it and said it was thunder; but others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered and said, "This voice did not come for my sake but for yours. Now is the time of judgment on this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself."



GREENVILLE DEANERY COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

The next General Membership Meeting of the Greenville Deanery of the South Carolina Council of Catholic Women is Sunday, 16 September 2018. We will meet on the campus of the St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, 204 Douthit Street, Greenville, in the cafeteria. The meeting will begin at 2:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided by the members of the St. Anthony of Padua Women's Counsel. All Upstate women are invited to join us as we make plans to serve the church and communities for the 2018-2019 year of Deanery Council. Share your talents! Contact President, Jessie Bowens at 864-420-1985 or jbowens@charter.net for questions.

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!

Celebrate!

Vigil Feast of Saint Padre Pio of Pietrelcina

Saturday, September 22, 2018 at 2 pm

Presentation with First Class Relic of Saint Padre Pio

Andrew Frisari's Recollections & Impressions
from a family pilgrimage to
San Giovanni Rotondo in 1951

4 p m M a s s

for the Spiritual Children of St Pio with Blessings of the Relic

Saint Rafka Maronite Catholic Church
1215 S. Highway 14
Greer, SC 29651
Wickett Hall

Refreshments will be served Pray, hope and don't worry!*



SAINT MARON FESTIVAL

Hafli

02 / 09 / 2019

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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

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

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*Include telephone number for verification.

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(Please print)

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Birthdays

September

- 8, Brave Lucien Valitchka
- 10, John Davis, MD
- 16, Harry Lakadosch
- 16, William (Bill) Francis, Sr.
- 17, Thomas Howard
- 20, Amy Saad
- 21, Alan Howard
- 21, Lily Zarrouf
- 22, Layla Kasir
- 24, Sharbel Feghali
- 25, Natallia Hermiz



Anniversaries

September

- 8, Fredy and Marie Feghali
- 10, Abouna Aaron Sandbothe, Priesthood

October

- 1, Francois and Michelle Sleiman

Necrology

September

- +Catherine (Kitty) Francis Norman,
September 15, 2015
- +Most Reverend Francis M. Zayek,
September 17, 2010



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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