

Saint Rafka

Catholics of the East in the Upstate!



Season of Glorious Easter

Feast of Saint Rafka, Patroness and 3rd Sunday of Easter

Saint Rafka Maronite Catholic Church is a Parish of the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn. The Antiochene Syriac Maronite Church is one of over twenty Eastern and Oriental Catholic Churches in communion with the Bishop of Rome. Led by His Beatitude, **Bechara Boutros Rai**, Patriarch of Antioch and all the East in Berke, Lebanon, the Syro-Maronite Church has parishes and missions on six continents. Saint Rafka Parish was established as a mission in 2002. The community grew and flourished and was raised to the rank of parish in 2021.

**Most Rev. Gregory
John Mansour**

Bishop

109 Remsen Street,
Brooklyn, NY, 11201
718.237.9913

**Father Bartholomew
Leon**

Pastor

1215 S. Highway 14
Greer, SC 29650
864.469.9119

**Father Toni Jabbour,
OMM**

Parochial Vicar

1215 S. Highway 14
Greer, SC 29650
864.469.9119

OFFICE HOURS

10:00 AM - 4:30 PM,
Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday
10:00 AM - 2:30 PM,
Thursday and Friday

DIVINE LITURGIES

The Divine Liturgy is
celebrated on

Saturday,
12 PM, Arabic
4 PM Vigil
Sunday, 11 AM
7 PM

Tuesday, 10:00 AM
Wednesday, 7:00 PM
Thursday 10:00 AM
Friday, 10:00 AM

CONFESSIONS

Saturday, 3:15 PM
Sunday 10:15 AM
6:30 PM
Weekdays before
liturgy as requested

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Joseph Chebeir
Paula Howard-Casby
Tom Judge
Dee Kalata
Ron Rossi, Sr.
Marlene Saad
Richard Sleiman

Joseph Chebeir
Financial Administrator
864.469.9119
[Joe Chebeir](#)



Bill Leon
Secretary
864.469.9119
[Bill Leon](#)

Sam Jordan Alamat
Organist
[Sam Alamat](#)

Nadia Najm
Choir Director
Scott Herr
Assistant Director
[Nadia Najm](#)
[Scott Herr](#)

Jessica Dagher Allen
MRE Director
[Jessica Allen](#)

Lisa Advent
MYO/MYA Leader
[Lisa Advent](#)

Knights of Columbus
Jim Dyer
Grand Knight
[Jim Dyer](#)

Marlene Saad
Scripture Sharing
Women's Guild
[Marlene Saad](#)
If Interested, Call
864.580.1054

Marie Kidd
Food Pantry
[Marie Kidd](#)

Hospitality Committee
[Marie Kidd](#)
[Hannan Saade](#)
[Mark Duffy](#)

Bridget Nevin
Garden Club
[Bridget Nevin](#)

Mary Anne Vicaro
Pasta Supper
[Mary Anne Vicaro](#)

Candice King-Palgut
Prayers and Squares
[Candice King-Palgut](#)

Greg Lepak
Scripture Study
[Greg Lepak](#)



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MASS INTENTIONS

Mass intentions are a good way to remember and pray for your loved ones, alive or deceased.

If you would like to request an intention please remember to submit your intentions for Liturgy ASAP by calling the parish office at 864.469.9119 or by email at secretary@saintrafka.org. Please remember that it is rare to be able to have your intention the following Sunday! **Masses are now generally booked up about three months in advance.**

BAPTISM & CHRISMATION

Baptism in the Maronite Rite is always accompanied by Chrismation (Confirmation). Both Sacraments are given by a priest, and always in the same ceremony. Preparation to receive the Sacraments of Baptism and Chrismation is required. We encourage this to happen before the birth of your child. Please contact the [Church Office](#) for more details.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

The Anointing of the Sick is routinely offered during the Divine Liturgy on Wednesday evening and during pastoral visits by the priest to homebound and ill parishioners. Let me know if you will be in the hospital or have other special needs. Contact the [Church Office](#).

THE MYSTERY OF CROWNING (MARRIAGE)

Couples must contact the pastor **at least** six months prior to the desired date of the wedding. To initiate the marriage preparation process or if you have questions for weddings taking place at Saint Rafka. Contact the [Church Office](#).

PARISH REGISTRATION

Registration forms and welcome packets are available in the church office and the vestibule. Membership is a condition for the reception of the sacraments of baptism/confirmation, first reconciliation, first Eucharist, and Crowning (marriage). Registration is also required before the parish can issue a sponsorship certificate for those asked to be sacramental sponsors. You must be a registered, contributing member for at least three months before a certificate is provided.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Teenagers are invited to join our Maronite Youth Organization, aka MYO. Contact **Lisa Advent** lisaadventphotography@gmail.com for more information.

Ramsho (Evening Prayer)

Join us on Tuesday at 5:45 PM for evening prayer and blessing with the relic of Saint Sharbel.

WICKETT HALL AND ASHY PAVILION

Wickett Hall and Ashy Pavilion can be used by our registered and supporting parishioners for family events, reunions, etc. Others may request permission to rent the Hall or Pavilion. Please contact the [Church Office](#).

MARONITE RESOURCES

Daily [readings](#) for the Divine Liturgy.

Daily morning prayer and evening prayer of the Divine Office [here](#).

TRAVELING AND NEED TO GO TO MASS?

Where to go to Mass when traveling? Look here!

MassTimes.org

[The Catholic Directory](#)

[Parishes Online](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA

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

SAINT RAFKA FOOD PANTRY

Established in 2019, the Saint Rafka Food Pantry is for those who need immediate food assistance. Need food? Call the church office or come by, 10 AM - 2 PM. You can also email **Marie Kidd** who is coordinating this project. All gifts of food are anonymous. Donations of food are accepted either at the Church Office or the back of the church.

IN DEFENSE OF CHRISTIANS [IDE](#) Individuals banning together help and make know the plight of the Christians in the Middle East and their suffering.

Shrine of the Persecuted Christians in the United States. [Video here](#).



Scripture Readings

Job 42:1-6; 12

Then Job answered the LORD and said: I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be hindered. "Who is this who obscures counsel with ignorance?" I have spoken but did not understand; things too marvelous for me, which I did not know. "Listen, and I will speak; I will question you, and you tell me the answers." By hearsay I had heard of you, but now my eye has seen you. Therefore I disown what I have said, and repent in dust and ashes. Thus the LORD blessed the later days of Job more than his earlier ones. Now he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she-donkeys.

II Timothy 2:8-13

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David that is my gospel, for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. The saying is sure: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he will also deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful for he cannot deny himself.

Luke 24:13-35

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of

Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.



Reflection

“Were not our hearts burning within us while He talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?” Where the world might see death in the Cross, an instrument of torture in the Roman Empire, we have found the fulfillment of eternal life promised throughout all of Scripture. This fulfillment, as St. Luke records, is found in Jesus Himself, Who explains to His disciples that He is the completion of what has been revealed since the beginning of the world. In each prophesy of the Old Testament, an aspect of Christ’s salvation is elucidated until He would come to fulfill it in person. In the Syriac tradition, *rozo* or mystery/sign is a very important way of reading the Bible, as we look we repeated symbols Christ established throughout the history of Israel to prelude His coming. As St. Ephrem describes Scripture because of the *rozo*, Scripture itself is an inexhaustible fountain of wisdom with so many layers of meaning to be explored. In this short reflection we shall briefly examine one: the *rozo* of the lamb that tells us about the Lamb of God, Christ.

The Bible is replete with this *rozo* because it articulately communicates many important realities about our God-become-man. As Christ likely explained to His disciples, the lamb throughout the Scriptures is the sacrifice that saves Israel by its blood from sin. From Genesis, the beginning of God’s promise, when Abraham is going to sacrifice his son, Isaac, a lamb takes the place of Isaac and saves the promise of Israel (Gen. 22:13). Scripture tells us the lamb is caught in a thicket, and St. Ephrem in his *Commentary on Genesis* aptly points out the lamb in the tree delivers the life of Isaac just like the Lamb on the Tree of the Cross would deliver our lives. What this encounter tells us is Christ’s generous deliverance by the shedding of His blood, though innocent, in place of ours.

The *rozo* of the lamb is found, once again, in the Passover meal commanded by God in Exodus. Those who ate the Passover by sacrificing a lamb and marking their abodes with its blood were delivered from the angel of death, and Israel was eventually free to leave slavery in Egypt to return

to the Promised Land. The Syriac Fathers point out just as the sacrifice of a lamb led Israel out of slavery from Egypt and Pharaoh we have been led out of the slavery of Satan in the land of sin back to the Promised Land of the Kingdom, from which sin exiled us. The Lamb has sought to restore us to what we have lost.

The last instance of the lamb this reflection will point out is in Isaiah, where he says about the Lamb, “He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth” (Is. 53:7). Though Christ could have called twelve legions of angels down to fight His enemies, He instead submitted to be crucified on our behalf for He wished to deliver us by His voluntary humility.

Just by the very brief examination of one *rozo* in Scripture we see so many passages of the Old Testament pointing to creation awaiting its Lord’s coming to redeem it. For a day our Lord explained these symbols and how He fulfilled them to His dear disciples to indicate all things find fulfillment in Him – including life itself in His Resurrection. In the sacred Scriptures we are oriented to understand His Resurrection more deeply by seeing how all things have proclaimed its anticipation since the very beginning of His promise. So let us seek out this encounter with Him, both on the road of Scripture and the holy altar.

Father Michael Shami
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Catholic Church
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Abouna's Corner

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

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

I believe that our webpage is now back to normal. Our faithful webmaster, **Matt Pelicano**, was able to delete the infected page and create a new, safe page for our bulletin. Now, we should be able to have the present bulletin, along with the archived copies. What havoc occurs when a hacker uses his/her great talent for evil. These are probably the people who could help our world with their great talents. Pray for them!

Congratulations to our own **Elissa Saadeh** who has been named to the Maronite Youth Association Board, Eparchy of Saint Maron by **Bishop Gregory** for a period of two years. Elissa will serve from 2024 to 2026 as the Far Southern Regional Coordinator for the MYA.

My healing process is coming along at a good pace. For those who have had a similar surgery, my knee bend on Thursday was 121degrees. Still need the cane, but each day gets easier and easier. I celebrated Mass on Friday at the Saint Clare Home, but it will be a bit before I can do the steps at Saint Rafka. One day at a time!

Easter Flower Memorial list can be found further back in the bulletin. I found four memorials that should have been included in the first publication of the list. I sincerely apologize for these omissions and wanted to make sure the complete list was in the bulletin this week. Thanks again for all who donated flower memorials for Easter!

Salaam!

Ab. Bart

Meet the MYA Board
EPARCHY OF ST. MARON
2024-2026

Bishop Gregory Mansour EPARCHY OF ST. MARON OF BROOKLYN Brooklyn, NY	Sr. Therese Maria Touma EPARCHIAL DIRECTOR Dartmouth, MA	Marla Saikali PRESIDENT Boston, MA	Zelfa Harb VICE PRESIDENT Raleigh, NC	Joe Bukuras FORMATION COORDINATOR Dedham, MA	Jennifer Saliba MARKETING COORDINATOR Jacksonville, FL	Julie Lattouf NAM REP/ PROFESSIONALS Fall River, MA	
Ramona Yammine NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL COORDINATOR Lawrence, MA	George Matta NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL COORDINATOR Brockton, MA	Tamara Alchoufete MID-ATLANTIC WEST REGIONAL COORDINATOR Pittsburgh, PA	Jennie Melham MID-ATLANTIC EAST REGIONAL COORDINATOR Easton, PA	Liliana Rizk SOUTHERN REGIONAL COORDINATOR Raleigh, NC	Gabby Chahine SOUTHERN REGIONAL COORDINATOR Roanoke, VA	Joey Abi Sarkis FAR SOUTHERN REGIONAL COORDINATOR Atlanta, GA	Elissa Saadeh FAR SOUTHERN REGIONAL COORDINATOR Greer, SC

New England



Church Offerings and Attendance

April 7, 2023		
12:00 Noon Saturday	16	\$35.00
4 PM	88	\$3,941.00
11 AM	116	\$1,340.00
7:00 PM	47	\$270.00
Mail		\$680.00
PayPal/Electronic		\$20.00
Total	251	\$6,251.00
Budget	225	\$4,100.00
+/-	26	\$2,151.00
Year to Date		\$59,902.00
Budget for year +/-		\$2,102.00
Building Fund		
4 PM		\$544.00
11 AM		\$411.00
7 PM		\$80.00
Total		\$1,035.00
Holy Hour		35
Holy Day		0
Funeral		0
2024 Totals		
4 PM		1348
11 AM		1740
7 PM		521
Weekday Masses		1304
Holy Hour		110
Holy Day		146
Special Liturgy		117
Funerals		182
Weddings		60
Pasta Supper		173

Average Attendance

4 PM	11 AM	7 PM	Per Liturgy Average
96	124	37	86

Facts regarding our bulletin!

Bulletins emailed last weekend: 374
 Percentage opened 66%
Opened emails: 245 Unopened emails: 126

Masses, Sanctuary Lamp & Flowers

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

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

If you would like a **Mass** offered for your loved ones, please call the church office at 864.469.9119 or secretary@saintrafka.org. Envelopes for Masses also available at the door of the church.



Business Owners: Sign Up!

Catholic Business Listings is an online listing of fellow parishioners who are also business owners, craftsmen, and farmers offering products and services for sale. Catholic Business Listings is FREE to use, and businesses only pay a small annual fee of \$120 to list their business.

Please consider subscribing and supporting your fellow Catholics. Thank you!



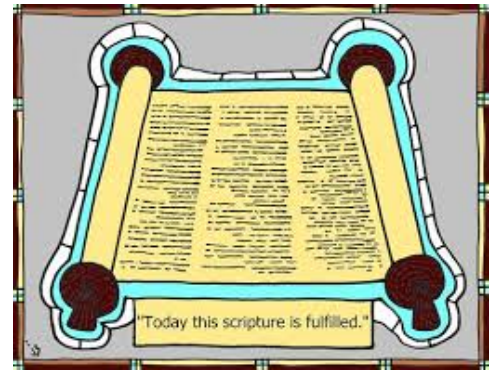
CATHOLIC

INFORMATION CENTER



Liturgical Readings

Old Testament (English) Job 42:1-6; 12	Richard Sleiman
New Testament (Arabic) II Timothy 2:8-13	Afaf Sleiman



Mass Intentions

April 13 - 14	Saint Rafka (3rd Easter)	
Saturday, 4 PM	+Margaret "Margie" Baranski	Ceil and Andy
Sunday 11 AM	+James V. Yellico, 1st Anniversary	Mary and Paul Leonardi
Sunday, 11 AM (II)	+Joseph Hanna, 40 Day Memorial +George Michael	Richard & Afaf Sleiman & Family Thomas McAfee V
Sunday, 7:00 PM	Intentions of the Parishioners	
Tuesday, 10:00 AM	Walter Walney	Curt & Yvette Curtis
Wednesday, 10:00 AM	Deacon Joe Sanfilippo & Sr. Mary Emmanuel	Saint Rafka Parish
Thursday, 7:00 PM	+John Alan Damous	Bob & Lucretia Albright
Friday, 10:00 AM	+Lee Resor	Ceil & Andy
Saturday, 12:00 Noon	+Amal Nassif, 40 day memorial	Hady and Nissrine Nassif
April 20 - 21	4th Easter	
Saturday, 4 PM	+ Uncle Jimmy, 40 day memorial	Kathy Wilson
Sunday 11 AM	The Mytych Family	Barb Mytych
Sunday, 11 AM (II)	Open	
Sunday, 7:00 PM	Martine Farge	Lucretia and Bob Albright
Tuesday, 10:00 AM	+Anthony Baldauf	Sandra & Stephen Cush
Wednesday, 7:00 PM	Matt Mytych	Barb Mytych
Thursday, 10:00 AM	+Anthony Baldauf	Ceil & Andy
Friday, 10:00 AM	Greg Mytych	Barb Mytych
Saturday, 12:00 Noon	Holy Souls in Purgatory	Barb Mytych

40 Days for Life: It is not too late to join other Christians throughout the Upstate and take part in our local 40 Days for Life effort with a vision to change hearts and minds about abortion through prayer and fasting, public vigil at abortion facilities, and community outreach. Be the ONE to say YES to praying for the least and most vulnerable among us! To find out more and sign up to help please visit: www.40daysforlife.com/greenville or contact Judy Masterson 864-506-0964 or Ingrid Ireland 864-329-0044. Help to spread the word to others about this important life-saving effort.

Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
14 Saint Rafka (3) 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM Syro-Malabar Mass 7 PM, Last Chance Mass	15	16 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow 5:45 <i>Ramsho</i>	17 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy	18 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	19 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	20 12:00 PM, Arabic Mass 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy
21 4th Sunday Easter 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM Korean Mass 7 PM, Last Chance Mass	22	23 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow 5:45 <i>Ramsho</i>	24 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy	25 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	26 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	27 12:00 PM, Arabic Mass 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy
28 5th Sunday Easter 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM Syro-Malabar Mass 7 PM, Last Chance Mass	29	30 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow 5:45 <i>Ramsho</i>	May 1 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy	2 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	3 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy Holy Hour	4 12:00 PM, Arabic Mass 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy
5 6th Sunday Easter 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy Potluck Luncheon 3:00 PM, Holy Hour 5:00 PM Korean Mass 7 PM, Last Chance Mass	6	7 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow 5:45 <i>Ramsho</i>	8 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy	9 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	10 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	11 12:00 PM, Arabic Mass 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy



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Downtown Chapel
 639 North Main Street
 Greenville, SC 29601
 (864) 232-6733

Northwest Chapel
 6710 White Horse Road
 Greenville, SC 29611
 (864) 294-6415

Southeast Chapel
 1604 NE Main Street
 Simpsonville, SC 29681
 (864) 688-1600



Adopt-A-Pot Event May 5th

FLOWERS ARE COMING SOON!

There are 2 areas around the church:
Wickett Hall & Francis House

You may have noticed the Pots all have # and Size on markers.
Markers let us know pot location. There are 22 in total. First come, first serve.

We are asking for a donation of \$30.

New markers we purchased in an effort they won't fly out of the pots.
Marker SAMPLES are in the white pots in front of Wickett Hall.
The face is small so it will limit what can be entered.

Only Annuals are put in pots and refreshed every year.

Can't wait to start planting and thank you in advance for your support.



St. Rafka's Garden Club

Lots Going on
Here's the latest!

Hello Everyone,

Everyone is excited with the warm weather and so are we. We have lots of news.

Garden Club Members:

Allyson Shumate, BJ Drusse, Joan Craven, Maryanne Giacometti, Paula Howard-Casby, Terry Goodman, along with Joe Giacometti, Mark Duffy.
We also want to welcome **Youmi Efurud** our newest member!

All are welcome to join the club! No matter if is to meet regularly or to do project work when life permits. We are on Whats's under SR Garden Club, see Bridget to be added.

Mark has been extremely supportive helping with the gardens, heavy lifting and positive energy. Great job and enjoy your summer trip! We will miss you.

Also, thanks to Judy Mathis and Bill Leon for their support and watering the grounds.

Contact or text Bridget anytime at 864-775-8709 with any questions.

St. Rafka's Garden Club

Annual Fundraiser

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2C (pint)
4C (quart)

CHILI
(meat)

Soup: Sizes
Chili 1 Pint \$8
1 Quart \$15

Chicken 1 Pint \$7
1 Quart \$12

Chicken

Lentil
1 Pint \$6
1 Quart \$11

Lentil
(vegetarian)

All soups have low salt.

Advance orders must be placed **by April 15th:**

- ✓ To Advance order:
Call or text Club Members with your order
- ✓ Come to Wickett Hall after liturgies with Garden Club Ladies
- ✓ Tear off slips at back of church and drop off before you leave.

There will be soups available day of but once they are gone, they are gone.

Soup Sale Funds go towards weed control, bug spray, dirt, mulch and general maintenance of the flower beds. Everything has gone up and we appreciate your support!

LET'S GET
cooking!

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

بيع ثلاثة أنواع من الشوربات

Chilie with meat - Chicken soup -
Lentil soup

وذلك بتاريخ ٢٠ و ٢١ من نيسان

بامكانكم ان تطلبوا الشوربة التي تريدون قبل

Bridget phone number (864)775 8709

الثاني

وتذكروا اسم احد من موتاكم

وذلك بتاريخ (٥) أيار

شكرا لتعاونكم

Pot selection to **STARTS April 14th** **ENDS April 29th**

HOW DOES IT WORK?

1. Select your pot
2. Pull the Marker out.
3. Take a white envelope at the back of the church
4. White Envelopes marked **ADOPT A POT**
Print NAME – Phone# - Marker# and the name you want on the pot along with donation.
The markers are small and space is limited
5. Flower Club Members will call to confirm the name on the pot so please print clearly.
6. **PUT IN THE BRIGHT PINK ENVELOPE** in the back of the church.
7. Garden Club people will also be available after the masses if you want us to help you fill out the forms.
Flowers will be in pots May 5th weather permitting.



Spring is on it way!

We have the following events taking place:
Annual Fund Raising Event
Soup Sale April 20 & 21st

Adopt-A-Pot May 5th

Project: Wrought Iron for St. Rafka – TBD

The Wrought Iron in back of Charbel was made into a custom piece. We are having difficulty obtaining more material so if people have any suggestions, please contact Bridget.

Just a gentle reminder, **BEFORE** you add or want to purchase things for the gardens, please call Bridget because we have plans in place and we want to integrate your efforts and work together.

Thank you!

Saints of the Day

April

April 23, Saint George the Martyr
April 25, Saint Mark the Evangelist
April 27, Saint Simon the Apostle
April 29, Saint Catherine of Sienna
April 30, Saint James, Son of Zebedee

May

May 1, Saint Jeremiah the Prophet
May 4, Saint Monica
May 8, Saint John the Evangelist
May 9, Saint Isaiah the Prophet
May 10, Saint Simon the Zealot, Apostle
(Confederate Veterans Day)
Day of Coptic-Catholic Friendship

Prayer List

Irene Ponce, Philomena Reed, Rick Argon, Sister Mary Emmanuel, OSC, Hewitt Dickerson, Brielle Sheriff, Carol, Gina, Jeni Yacu, Rodena and Bruce Thompson, Andrea Emilia Bernabey, Nadim Chebeir, Mike, Leo, B J Dursse, Deacon Dick Murtaugh, Vicki Gosnell, Sam Clutter, Michael Tierney, Paul Shimow, Betty Mileski, Doug Logan, Rita Charbonete, Frances Danton, Diane Hickey, Alan Frechette, Jacob and Jaxson Rivera, Andrea Wise, Patrizia, Susan Clarke, Andy Frisari, Beth, Mary Dowden, Karen Rodgers, Nancy Georgion, Rosemary & Jim King, Mark Knight, Stephen Wedgeworth, MR, Hilda Hix, Catherine Caul, Albert Martin, Nanine D'Aquin, Elizabeth Fallet, Anthony Kozakiewicz, Bill Riley, KG, Linda Crosby, Jenny Gould, Maurice Mercier, Breese, Jennifer Payne, Matt Smith, Leila Chebeir, Tammy Lopez, Anthony Fagliarone, Fernando, Carolyn Groner, Tim Eaton, Kelly Mullens, Carol Craven, Mel Casby, Vincent Howard, K.F., Eileen Howard, Jack Campbell, Hilda Hix, Sue Bauer, Chrisoula, Theresa Woodson, Noah Scott Kestler, Art and Judy Pape, Suhail Yousiff, Tom Craven, Jr., Michael Rau, Chris Davis, Pixie Geren, Mike Dyer, Christian Pereira, Art Newton, Nancy Georgion, Recovery of RS, Claire Barnett, Ethel Brassel, Katrina Shunk, George Vargo, Irma Galvan, Mary Cleary, Joe Lemire, Virginia LaFave, Nabeel Howard, Paul Cote and Family, Joan Bussemey, Joe Durham, Michael Bays, Patrick Lavelle, Tara Galvin, Susan Connor, Bill Hines, Beth Banks, Shawn Sexton, James and Kaleigh, Antonella, Stephanie, Derek Gerard Solomon, JoAnn Salloum, Susie, Jim

Birthdays

April

11, Nancy Georgion
14, Bassam Nmair
15, Widad Hayek
17, Deacon Joe Sanfilippo
17, Sister Emmanuel Shaw
18, Nabil Chackal
19, Suhair Nmair
19, Nemr Farhat
19, Caedmon Sandifer
21, Deacon Dick Murtaugh
21, Francois Sleiman
24, Diana Cox
25, Mark Kalata

Anniversaries

April

13, John and Yvonne Maroun
21, Nabil and Soraya Chackal
24, Lorraine and Maurice Mercier
25, Richard and Afaf Sleiman
25, Sam and Sherri Sandbothe

May

2, Reiss and Allyson Shumate
8, Paul and Mary Leonardi

Necrology

April

+Tina Cheshire, April 14, 2015
+Chafih Georgen Chalouhi, April 14, 2021
+George Joseph Michael, April 14, 2022
+Doris Howayeck Howard, April 20, 2018
+Hind Khawaja Michael, April 22, 2008
+Ruby Dumit, April 25, 2012

May

+Amjed Yacu, May 1, 2015
+Greg Howard, May 6, 2017
+Anwar Yacu, May 8, 2003
+Paul Gallagher, May 11, 2014
+Montaha Achi, May 12, 2023
+Stephen John Howard, May 25, 2009
+Phillip Kelly (P.K.) Howard, May 27, 2013
+Nazih Namouz, May 31, 2021

Mary Dowden suffered a debilitating stroke on November 5, 2021 and she and husband Greg are in great need of having to add ramps, bars, etc. to their home as well as facing great medical bills. **Greg Dowden** has set up a [GoFund.Me page](#) for anyone who would wish to help with the great expenses involved.



You can also write a check to Saint Rafka for Mary Dowden. Thanks to all who have reached out. May God continue to heal Mary and bless each one who helps this loving family in their time of need.

St. Clare's Home

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

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

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

Thank you!



Maron's Vine

is a new initiative by the National Apostolates of Maronites (NAM) to connect members of the Maronite community with businesses, services, and products at the local and national level- building upon our age old tradition of uniting our friends and family with members of our community to meet their needs. It is our vision that through a NAM membership all will have access to Maron's Vine registry, while anyone who wishes to become a part of our registry can do so without limitation.

By filling out the following inquiry, you will help us better understand our community's interest in the Maron's Vine project. We appreciate your participation in connecting our greater community together.



Inquiry

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Epiphany Pools

Important Dates to Remember

Ascension Thursday, May 9
 Pentecost, First Holy Communion, May 19
 Vacation Bible School, July 22 - 26



13

Two pictures from the Divine Mercy celebration on Bright Sunday. Left, the procession led by the victorious cross. Right, the image of Divine Mercy is incensed as it enters the church.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Pilgrimage



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18 - 24**

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EXCLUDES

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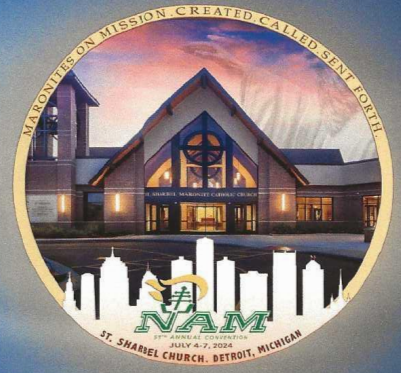
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UNEXPECTED PREGNANCY?

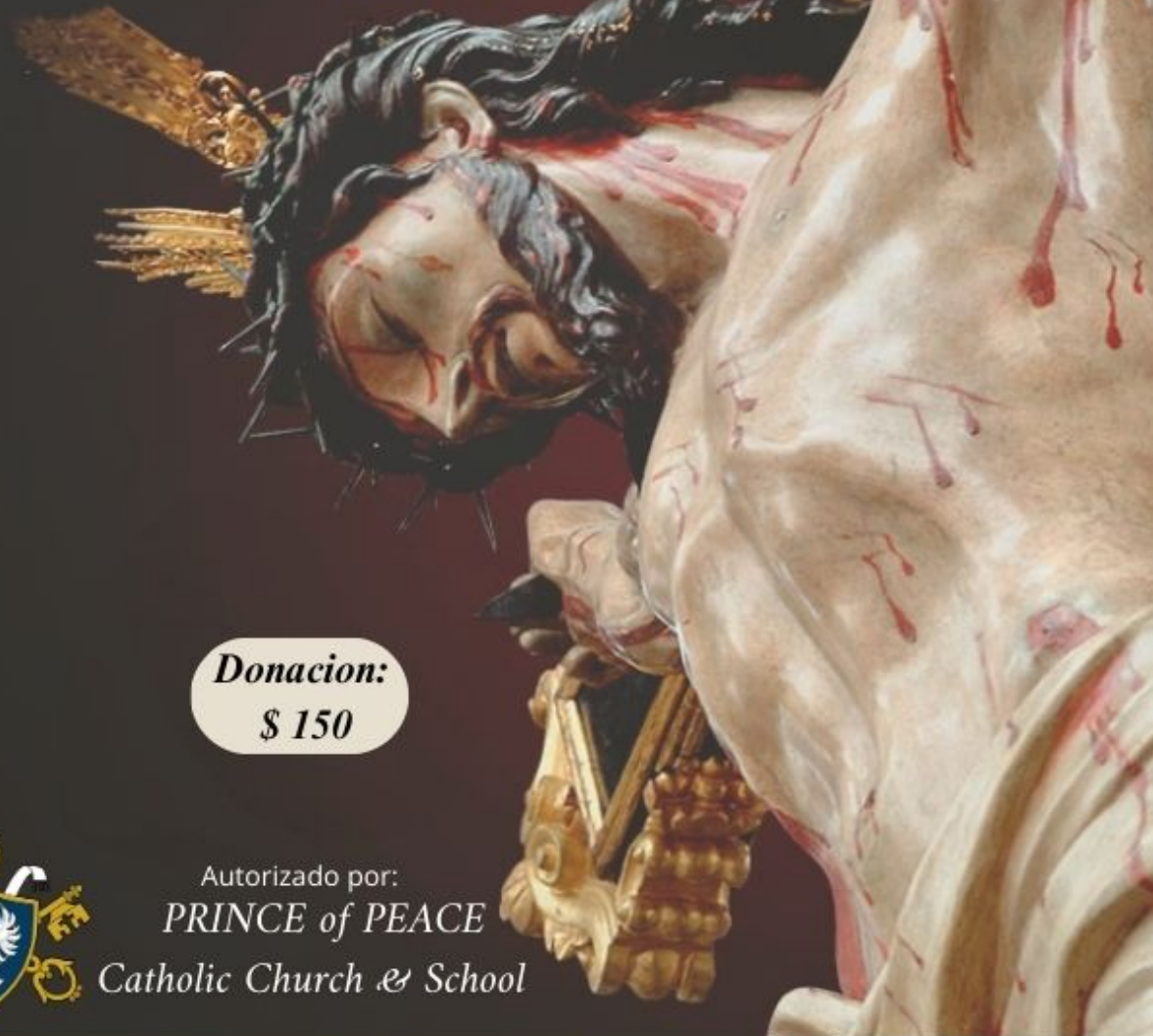
FIND HELP
HERE:



Arabic Classes with **Mouna Ashi** are starting up again on Thursdays at 5:30 PM in Francis House. Mouna has many years of teaching experience and we are delighted that she will teach this class of conversational Arabic.

Retiro Espiritual Católico

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Febrero



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Peter Lagosky Family

Richard Anthony Kalata

Anthony Joseph Kalata Jr.

Dolores, George, & George II Harvey

Helen, Alfred & Henry Wickett

Catherine & Anthony Kalata Sr.

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Naheelh Howard

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Eileen L. Howard

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Kalata, Wickett, & Wilson Families

Kalata, Wickett, & Wilson Families

Kalata, Wickett, & Wilson Families

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Kalata, Wickett, & Wilson Families

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Paul & Mary Leonardi

Paul & Mary Leonardi

Greg & Mary Anne Lepak

Greg & Mary Anne Lepak

Greg & Mary Anne Lepak

Ken & Annie Migut

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Ken & Annie Migut

Bernadette Mileski

Bernadette Mileski

Bernadette Mileski

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