



# Saint Rafka Maronite

*Catholics of the East in the Upstate!*

1215 S. Highway 14, Greer, SC 29650 864.469.9119

[saintrafka.org](http://saintrafka.org) [saintrafkagreenville@gmail.com](mailto:saintrafkagreenville@gmail.com)

August 26, 2018



## 15th Sunday of Pentecost

If those [angels] clothed-in-lightning looked upon Him they would be burned but lowly dust [man] sees Him face-to-face while eating Him.

Receiving the Eucharist is the most sublime moment of one's week. To those who do not know Him, like in this Gospel of this Sunday, they say, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" (John 6:52). But to those who know what they are receiving, they approach the altar knowing that they are about to receive the true flesh and blood of our God. The prophets could not even imagine so great a gift of God, as each time God appeared to them they hid their faces in fear, knowing not even the angels look upon Him. Yet He has taken flesh so that "If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever" (John 6:51).

*Continued next page*

Saint Rafka Maronite Church is a Catholic Parish of the Antiochene Syriac Maronite Church, Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn, NY,

**Most Rev. Gregory John Mansour,**  
Bishop,

109 Remsen Street, Brooklyn, NY, 11201,  
718.237.9913.

[chancerystmaron@verizon.net](mailto:chancerystmaron@verizon.net)

**Rev. Bartholomew Leon,**  
Administrator,  
[bartleon@gmail.com](mailto:bartleon@gmail.com)

### Pastor's Advisory Council

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The prophets revealed that the presence of God is magnificent – surrounded by fire upon a throne with legions of uncountable angels serving Him, yet hiding their faces to not look upon Him because of His exceeding brilliance. This is why St. Ephrem says we receive “Fire in the bread, Spirit in the cup.” But the body and blood, which appears before us, is not on fire or shining brightly – why? Jesus, in His love for mankind, condescended to a lowly state for our salvation. The King of Kings became a poor child born to poor parents, born in an animals’ trough. But how appropriate that the King of Kings should be placed into an animals’ trough because He entered the world in a lowly state to feed us with His flesh that gives eternal life though we do not comprehend it, just as a caretaker feeds His flock though they do not fully understand. His love for us is so great that the Immortal God would die so that we may eat of Him, the Medicine of Immortality, and receive the forgiveness of our faults, freed from the death brought by sin.

“When many of his disciples heard it, they said, ‘This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?’” (John 6:60). From the very moment Christ revealed His love there were those who doubted even among His disciples because of its great abundance. What need does God have to give us His flesh and blood so that we have life? None. But He does it in love of us for He does not wish to see His image, man, perish in the death that he chose through sin. Yet Christ does not force us to accept even what is good but He leaves us the option of receiving His body, just as He left Adam and Eve the choice of a tree of life and a tree of death.

For us, we are left with these two options: we can approach the tree of death, which our father Adam ate of in his pride, or we can approach the Tree of Life, the cross on which hung the food come down from heaven. If we approach the Tree of Life, we should be prepared for the trials that await us – the disbelief of others, the difficulty of following the cross, and the demands of Christian love. But if we should succeed in approaching the Tree of Life and eating of its food, the body and blood of our Lord, we shall obtain eternal life, the forgiveness of sins and union with God. Then, with St. Peter, let us say, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life” (John 6:67).

**Subdeacon Michael Shami**

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## 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](mailto:secretary@saintrafka.org) or 864.469.9119.

### NEW!!! Saint Rafka Parish Directory Online

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

Already registered? Click [here](#).

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

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

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

God Bless,  
The Bruce Family

## 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 gravesites 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](mailto:respectlife@smmcc.org).



## Calendar of Events

### August

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

26, 11 AM, Divine Liturgy

1 PM, Baptism

5 PM, Byzantine Divine Liturgy

29, Divine Liturgy, Anointing of the Sick

### September

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

2, 11 AM, Divine Liturgy

3 PM, Holy Hour

7 PM, Last Chance Divine Liturgy

3, Labor Day

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

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

6, 5:30 PM, First Thursday Pasta Supper

8, 4 PM, Vigil Liturgy, **Holy Cross**

9, 11 AM, Divine Liturgy

4:30 PM, Korean Mass

7:00 PM, Last Chance Divine Liturgy

10, 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

18, 7 PM, *Ramsho* of the Maronite Saints

19, 7 PM, Divine Liturgy, Anointing of the Sick



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



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If you are an ardent reader, seek not brilliant and erudite texts; otherwise the demon of haughtiness will strike your heart. But like a wise bee that gathers honey from flowers, so also through your reading obtain healing for your soul.



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

### *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. Guglielmone  
Bishop of Charleston  
Celebrant / Homilist



## *6th Marian Eucharistic Conference* *November 10 - 11, 2018*

*Mary, Mother of the Eucharist*



*Our Lady of Guadalupe*

**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](http://www.meconferencesc.net)

*Registration after Oct. 27, \$ 90*

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

**We offer gluten free meals.**



## Prayers & Squares

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

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

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

## Special Holy Hour

In place of our regular Holy Hour next Sunday, we will have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Chaplet of Mercy, *Ramsho* (Vespers/Evening Prayer) and prayers for the Church in this time of crisis, concluding with Benediction. Please join us to offer prayers for the deacons, priests and bishops who are faithful and for forgiveness and mercy for those who have sinned. This is the time for faithful Catholics to come together to pray and ask God's healing and Grace upon the Church. Please join us on Sunday, September 1 at 3 PM.

## 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!





# 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](mailto:pjhoward74@hotmail.com)

Joan Craven:

[joanlcraven@yahoo.com](mailto:joanlcraven@yahoo.com)

FESTIVAL NEEDS

== *Saint Rafka* ==  
• **Food Fest** •

Middle Eastern Delights!

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

**F**ather 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.



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

## Books for Prisoners

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

## Lay Dominicans

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

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



# **Dormition Byzantine Rite Patronal Feast**

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

**Sunday, August 26**

**THIS WEEKEND!!!**

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

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

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





# Knights of Columbus Picnic



**This Weekend!**

**Sunday, August 26, 2018**

Food, Beverage, and Fun!

Come one, come all!

Invite your friends and neighbors.

Details to come in the weeks ahead!

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

# SAVE THE DATE

OCT  
**06**

## FALL MIDDLE-EASTERN FOOD FESTIVAL



## SAINT RAFKA MARONITE CHURCH

11am - 6pm

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

*Face*



*30ud*



*Painting*



*Dabke*



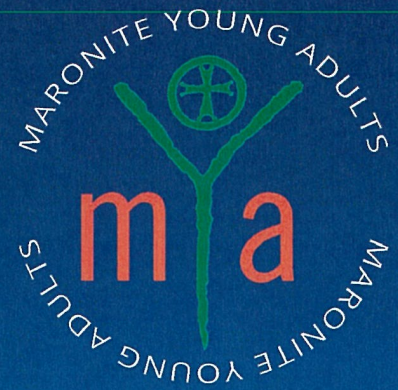
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[saintrafkagreenville@gmail.com](mailto:saintrafkagreenville@gmail.com)





10th Annual MYA Conference Presents



# MARONITE IDENTITY AND SPIRITUALITY

October 5th-7th

Washington DC

Registration Coming Soon  
[www.maroniteyoungadults.org](http://www.maroniteyoungadults.org)





## Prayer List

Theresa Woodson, Noah Scott Kestler, Mary Philips, Art and Judy Pape, Suhail Yousiff, Tom Craven, Jr., David Gibbons, Michael Rau, Chris Davis, Raymond Trinidad, Theresa Woodson, Joe Treacy, Marguerite LaBella, Dakota Miller, David Olmsted, Okshana Stachiw, Pixie Geren, Mike Dyer, Christian Pereira, Houda Askar, Jack D'Aquin, Moe Mercier, Ed Rauch, Art Newton, Mike Georgion, Nancy Georgion Jack Yacu, Houda Askar, Montaha Achi, Jim Hopsecger, Recovery of RS, Ashley Mullinex, Bill McAfee, Bill Leon, Sr., Charley Dusthimer, Bernadette Smith, Claire Barnett, Hans Wascom, Ethel Brassel, Katrina Shunk, George Vargo, Dan Steinker, Irma Galvan, Mary Cleary, Joe Lemire, Mary Anne McAfee, Lois Taylor, Virginia LaFave, Nabeel Howard, Father M. T. Phillips, Paul Cote and Family, Paul Bussemey, Ramza Sleiman, Joan Bussemey, Special Intention by Abouna, Bob Brown, Joe Durham, Michael Bays, Patrick Lavelle, Tara Galvin, Susan Connor, Bill Hines, Beth Banks, Andrea Fiorni-Frazier, Shawn Sexton, James and Kaleigh, Mark Pelletier, Antonella, Stephanie, Derek Gerard Solomon, JoAn Salloum, Susie, Jim Hopka, Family of Colbert Arthur, Berma Darlene Bell, Terry Vadnais, Elaine Gillen, Amy Hunter, Shawn Sexton, Adrian Kassentar, Beth Hopsecger, Mark Barnard, Janice Radich, Paula Lemire, Becky Jarvis, Lillian Moon, Vito Fortuna, Sam Howard, Jr., Betty Braun, Deanne Valencia, Katie Frank, Beverley Davis, John Fender,



## Saints We Celebrate

August 25, Saint Titus the Apostle, Martyr

August 27, Saint Biyameen the Hermit

August 28, Saint Moses the Ethiopian, Confessor

August 28, Saint Augustine

August 29, The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist

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

September 1, Saint Simon the Stylite

September 2, Saint Mamimas, Martyr

September 5, Saint Sharbel, Bishop of Edessa and His Sister, Confessors

September 6, Saint Michael the Archangel

September 8, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

September 9, Saints Joachim and Ann, Parents of the Virgin Mary

September 14, Exaltation of the Holy and Life-Giving Cross

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# Liturgical Items

## Liturgical Readings

Feast	New Testament	Gospel
15th Pentecost	1 Thes. 1:1-10	Luke 7:36-50
English	Joan Craven	
Arabic	Nazar Yacu	<b>New!</b> To review the readings online, go <a href="#">here</a> .

## Mass Intentions

August 25 - 26	Intention	Donor
Saturday, 4 PM	Happy Feast Day, Fr. Bart	His Beoble
Sunday, 11 AM	+Mary Yacu	Yacu Family
Sunday, 7 PM	+Vince Traina, RIP	Andy and Ceil Frisari
Wednesday, 7 PM	+Bob Mercier	Moe & Lorraine Mercier
September 1 - 2		
Saturday, 4 PM	Open	
Sunday, 11 AM	Joe Chebeir, Safe Travel, Family Blessing	
Sunday, 7 PM	+Lorraine Philips	Susan and Dan Beckman
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](mailto:secretary@saintrafka.org). The Sanctuary Candle burns this month in loving memory of **+Curtis Manning**, 6th Anniversary, by his wife, Bernadette Mileski.



# Church Offerings and Attendance

August 19	Saturday 4 PM	Sunday 11 AM	Sunday 7 PM	Total	Budget per week	+/-	Wed. 7 PM
People	63	72	43	178	170	8	22
Collection	\$721.00	\$1120.00	\$562.00	\$2403.00	\$2,800.00	-\$397.00	0
Average per person	\$11.44	\$15.56	\$13.07	\$13.50		Holy Hour	
				\$0.00		Ramsho	0
Average	0	0	0			YTD	\$97,088.00
Average Attendance	71	80	35	Average 186			
Budget YTD	\$94,388	YTD	\$97,088.00	Budget +/-	\$2,700.00		

## Offerings



## Attendance Year to Date

4:00 PM	2124
11:00 AM	2392
7:00 PM	1054
Wednesday 7 PM	466
First Sunday	141
Ramsho	46
Holy Day	129
Special Liturgy	459
Funerals	160
Weddings	70
Pasta Supper	297

## How are these totals calculated?

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

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

Date	Emails Sent	% Opened	% Clicked
August 19	517	33.7%	14.1%
August 12	515	34.8%	15.7%
Difference	2	1.1%	1.6%

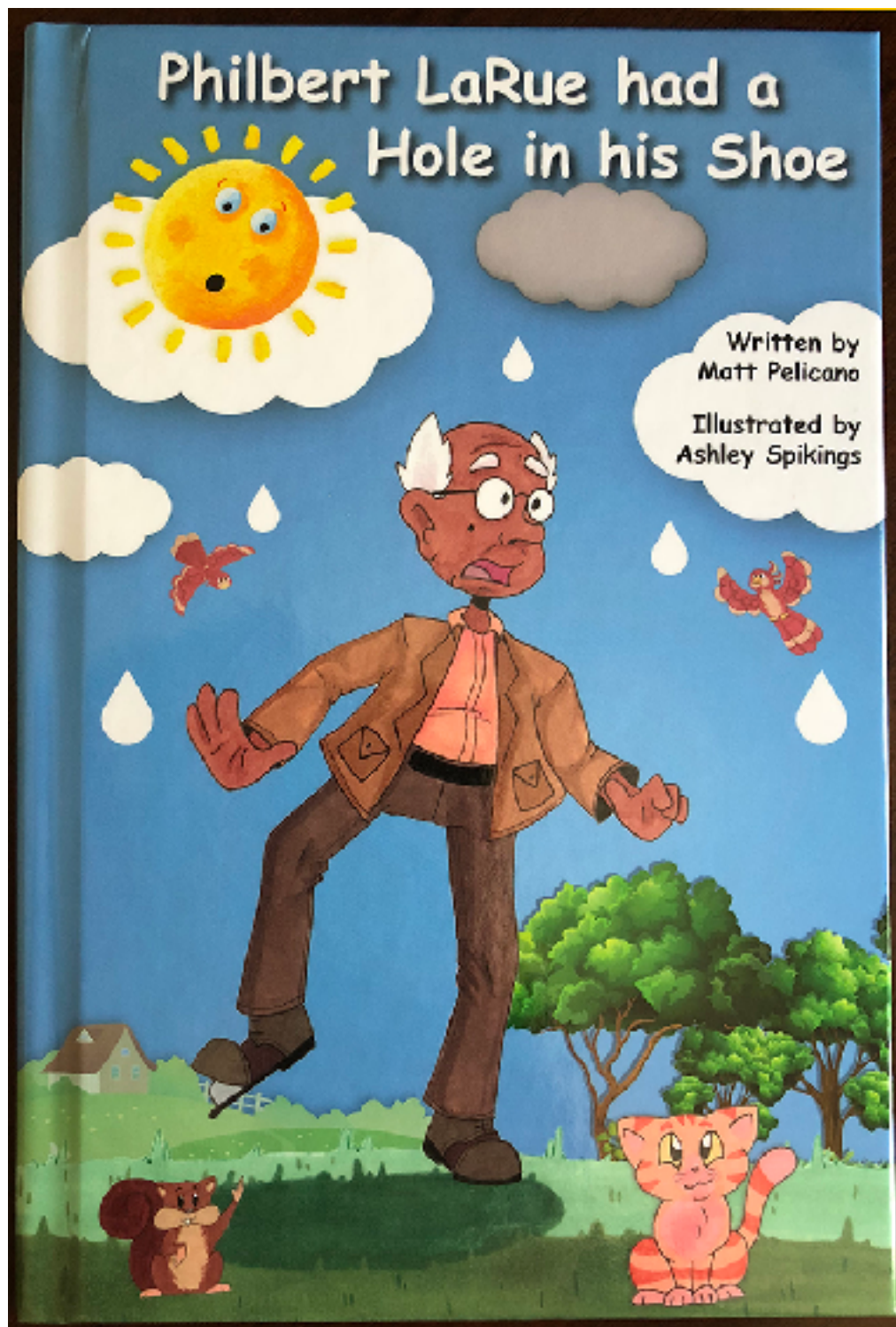


## Scripture Readings for Sunday

I Thess. 1:1-10

**P**aul, Silvanus, and Timothy to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: grace to you and peace. We give thanks to God always for all of you, remembering you in our prayers, unceasingly calling to mind your work of faith and labor of love and endurance in hope of our Lord Jesus Christ, before our God and Father, knowing, brothers loved by God, how you were chosen. For our gospel did not come to you in word alone, but also in power and in the holy Spirit and [with] much conviction. You know what sort of people we were [among] you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, receiving the word in great affliction, with joy from the holy Spirit, so that you became a model for all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth not only in Macedonia and [in] Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything. For they themselves openly declare about us what sort of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God and to await his Son from heaven, whom he raised from [the] dead, Jesus, who delivers us from the coming wrath.

**A** Pharisee invited him to dine with him, and he entered the Pharisee's house and reclined at table. Now there was a sinful woman in the city who learned that he was at table in the house of the Pharisee. Bringing an alabaster flask of ointment, she stood behind him at his feet weeping and began to bathe his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them, and anointed them with the ointment. When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, that she is a sinner." Jesus said to him in reply, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Tell me, teacher," he said. "Two people were in debt to a certain creditor; one owed five hundred days' wages and the other owed fifty. Since they were unable to repay the debt, he forgave it for both. Which of them will love him more?" Simon said in reply, "The one, I suppose, whose larger debt was forgiven." He said to him, "You have judged rightly." Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? When I entered your house, you did not give me water for my feet, but she has bathed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but she has not ceased kissing my feet since the time I entered. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she anointed my feet with ointment. So I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; hence, she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little." He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." The others at table said to themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" But he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."



## Great Children's Book!

Looking for a high quality, fun book for kids? Here you go! Written by **Matt Pelicano**, our webmaster. A great story illustrated by **Ashley Spikings**, a high school student that will delight children and adults alike. Matt will be at Saint Rafka on the weekend of September 1 & 2 to sell and autograph his book. Congrats to Matt for a job well done!



## SEPTEMBER PASTA SUPPER

Lasagna Bolognese, Meatless Lasagna, tossed salad, chocolate cake. \$10.00 per person. Yum!!!

**FIRST  
THURSDAY  
09/06/18**

### 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 Douthitt 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](mailto:jbowens@charter.net) for questions.







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# Catholic Radio in S.C. 2018 Radiothon

The 2018 Radiothon will be Thursday & Friday September 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>. Radiothon always has a theme and every year we ask for God's guidance when choosing. Last year was the 100<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](http://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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## Special Notes

### Marriage

Congratulations to **Reema Askar** and **Fadi Alahammas** who were united in marriage on August 24 at Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Church, Richmond Hill, Ontario. Reema is the daughter of **Ramiz** and **Ikram Askar** of our community. May God grant Fadi and Reema a long and happy marriage!

# *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**  
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Saint Rafka Maronite Catholic Church  
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September 18 – October 23, 2018  
6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

### **MUST REGISTER IN ADVANCE**

To register call **(864) 331-3300** or  
email [info@namigreenvillesc.org](mailto:info@namigreenvillesc.org).





## Birthdays

### August

- 27, John Howard
- 27, Sura Farah
- 28, Bill McAfee
- 29, Raad Seleem

### September

- 3, Charlotte Jane Bibbes
- 4, Patrick Yono
- 6, Reem Namouz
- 8, Brave Lucien Valitchka
- 10, John Davis, MD
- 16, Harry Lakadosch



## Anniversaries

### September

- 1, Jack and Maureen Yacu
- 3, Richard and Linda Wickett
- 6, Fady and Roberta Nassif
- 8, Fredy and Marie Feghali



## Necrology

### September

- +Sami Ghannam, September 3, 2010
- +Lorraine Phillips, September 3, 2015
- +Msgr. Ron Beshara, September 5, 2011
- +Catherine (Kitty) Francis Norman, September 15,



### Video on the life of Saint Sharbel

English subtitles. [Click here.](#)

### Prayers to Saint Sharbel and Saint Rafka

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

### Prayers to Saint Rafka

Click [here](#).

## Ashy Pavilion

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

## Coffee Socials

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

## Wickett Hall

**Newly refurbished** Wickett Hall can be used by our registered and supporting parishioners for family events, reunions, etc.

Others may request permission to rent the Hall. Contact Richard Wickett.

## Masses Online

Where to go to Mass when traveling? Look here!

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

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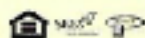
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