

Saint Rafka

Catholics of the East in the Upstate!



OFFICE HOURS

10:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Monday - Friday

DIVINE LITURGIES

The Divine Liturgy is celebrated on

Saturday,
4 PM Vigil
Sunday, 8:30 AM
11:00 AM
Tuesday, 10:00 AM
Wednesday, 7:00 PM
Thursday 10:00 AM
Friday, 10:00 AM
Holy Days
As Announced

CONFESSIONS

Saturday, 3:15 PM
Sunday 10:15 AM
Wednesday 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

3rd Sunday of Easter Season 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

chancery@stmaron.org

**Father Bartholomew
Leon**

Pastor

1215 S. Highway 14
Greer, SC 29650
864.469.9119

bartleon@gmail.com

Father Assistant

Parochial Vicar

1215 S. Highway 14
Greer, SC 29650
864.469.9119
XXX

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
First Holy Communion
[Jessica Allen](#)
Lisa Advent
MRE Students
[Lisa Advent](#)

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

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

Marlene Saad
Scripture Sharing
[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](#)

Candice King-Palgut
Prayers and Squares
[Candice King-Palgut](#)
Type to enter text

Building Committee
Phase 1
Richard Sleiman
Thomas Judge
Ron Rossi, Sr.

Anthony Sloan
Men's Bible Study
Monthly Meeting
Email for details
[Anthony Sloan](#)



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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 bill@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 prayers of intercession to 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.

SCRIPTURE SHARING

Scripture haring discussion following the Carmelite Way with Saint Therese of the Little Flower and Saint John of the Cross

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

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

As I watched, Thrones were set up and the Ancient of Days took his throne. His clothing was white as snow, the hair on his head like pure wool; His throne was flames of fire, with wheels of burning fire. A river of fire surged forth, flowing from where he sat; Thousands upon thousands were ministering to him, and myriads upon myriads stood before him. The court was convened, and the books were opened. As the visions during the night continued, I saw coming with the clouds of heaven One like a son of man. When he reached the Ancient of Days and was presented before him, He received dominion, splendor, and kingship; all nations, peoples and tongues will serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, his kingship, one that shall not be destroyed.

II Corinthians 1:1-7

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, to the church of God that is in Corinth, with all the holy ones throughout Achaia: grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and God of all encouragement, who encourages us in our every affliction, so that we may be able to encourage those who are in any affliction with the encouragement with which we ourselves are encouraged by God. For as Christ's sufferings overflow to us, so through Christ does our encouragement also overflow. If we are afflicted, it is for your encouragement and salvation; if we are encouraged, it is for your encouragement, which enables you to endure the same sufferings that we suffer. Our hope for you is firm, for we know that as you share in the sufferings, you also share in the encouragement.

Luke 10:38-42

As they continued their journey he entered a village where a woman whose name was Martha welcomed him. She had a sister named Mary [who] sat beside the Lord at his feet listening to him speak. Martha, burdened with much serving, came to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me by myself to do the serving? Tell her to help me." The Lord said to her in reply, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will

SAINT OF THE DAY

SAINT
RAFQA/
REBECCA
PRAY FOR US



Reflection

"Blessed be God the Father and his only-begotten Son and the Holy Spirit: for great is his love for us" (Entrance Antiphon).

The entire liturgy is focused on the Trinitarian mystery, source of life for every believer, but especially today, on the feast of the Blessed Trinity.

"Glory to the Father, glory to the Son, glory to the Holy Spirit": every time we proclaim these words, the synthesis of our faith, we adore the only true God in three Persons. With amazement, we contemplate the mystery that completely surrounds us. Mystery of love, mystery of ineffable holiness.

"Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of sabaoth" we will sing in a little while, entering into the heart of the Eucharistic prayer. The Father created everything with his wisdom and loving providence; the Son redeemed us with his death and resurrection; the Holy Spirit sanctifies with the fullness of his gifts of grace and mercy.

We can correctly define today's solemnity as the feast of holiness. It is a perfect day for the ceremony of the canonization of the five Blessed: Luigi Scrosoppi, Agostino Roscelli, Bernardo da Corleone, Teresa Eustochio Verzeri, Rafqa Pietra Choboq Al-Rayès.

By canonizing Blessed Rafqa Choboq Al-Rayès, the Church sheds a very particular light on the mystery of love given and received for the glory of God and the salvation of the world. This nun, of the Lebanese Maronite Order, desired to love and to give her life for her people. In the sufferings, which never left her for 29 years of her life, Saint

Rafqa always showed a passionate and generous love for the salvation of her brothers, drawing from her union with Christ, who died on the cross, the force to accept voluntarily and to love suffering, the authentic way of holiness.

May Saint Rafqa watch over those who know suffering, particularly over the peoples of the Middle East who must face a destructive and sterile spiral of violence. Through her intercession, let us ask the Lord to open hearts to the patient quest for new ways to peace and so hasten the advent of reconciliation and harmony.

"O Lord our God, how great is your name through all the earth" (Ps 8,2.10). Contemplating these outstanding examples of holiness, the psalmist's exclamation comes spontaneously to mind.

The Lord does not stop giving to the Church and to the world wonderful examples of men and women who are reflections of the glory of the Trinity. Their witness incites us to raise our eyes to heaven and to seek without pause the kingdom of God and his justice.

May Mary, the Queen of all saints, who first heard the call of the Most High, uphold us in our service of God and neighbor. And may you go with us saints Luigi Scrosoppi, Agostino Roscelli, Bernardo da Corleone, Teresa Eustochio Verzeri, Rafqa Pietra Choboq Ar-Rayès, so that our lives like yours may give praise to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Canonization Of Five Blessed
Homily of
Saint Pope John Paul II
Feast of the Blessed Trinity
10 June 2001



Abouna's Corner

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Happy and Holy Easter Season to all!

Our thoughts and prayers have been with the Cardinals this past week as they gather to talk and pray each day before they sequester themselves into the Conclave. The nine days of mourning have been a beautiful time to reflect upon the life of Pope Francis, his Petrine Ministry and to ask God to be merciful to him for his earthly failures. Popes, like each of us, live and die. Our ancient Catholic tradition to pray for our departed reminds us that at death, "life is changed, not ended." May God be merciful to his servant and bishop, Francis.

As the Cardinals meet these days, they are also looking at the past, present and future Church. The world is vastly different from twelve years ago when Pope Francis was elected. What are the mistakes of the past, the challenges of the present and the unknowns of the future? The Church and the world are vastly different. These are issues facing the Cardinals and they have an opportunity to discuss prayerfully and openly before going into the Conclave. We, the Church, need to be vigilant in prayer during this time. Holy Spirit, hear our prayers!

On Wednesday, the day of the beginning of the Conclave, we will expose the Blessed Sacrament beginning at 10:00 AM until 6:45 PM so that people can come and pray for the Church and the Cardinal Electors. Join us at anytime during the day and bring a friend!

We offer our deepest condolences to the extended Rabadi Family on the loss of **Aysar "Ace" Sultan Rabadi** on Tuesday, April 29. Ace will be remembered with a visitation and service at [Cannon-Byrd Funeral Home](#) where there are more details. May his memory be eternal!

Thanks to all who have supported the **Garden Club** with your donations for the *Adopt a Pot* drive. Our grounds are always beautiful thanks to the hard work of this small group of people, assisted by the Knights of Columbus.

Vacation Bible School is coming soon in July. An updated flyer is posed further back in the bulletin and our website has an online application form to fill in which goes directly to **Lisa Advent**. Sign up early! For more details, go [here](#).

Please remember to pray for all who are sick and shut in, unable to be with us in person. Pray for those family members who are their care takers. They need rest and refreshment to continue their ministry of love and care. Saint Rafka, pray for us!

Have a holy and prayerful Easter! See you in Church!

Ab. Bart



The Servants of Mary and Joseph Lay Carmelite Community

The Lay Carmelite is called to the Family of Carmel to be deeply involved in the mission of the Church and to contribute to the sanctification of the secular world through our charisms of prayer, community and service.

The Community meets on the First Saturday of every month from 9:00 AM - 1:30 PM at Saint Joseph Catholic Church, 1200 Cornelia Rd, Anderson, SC for the Liturgy of the Hours, Mass and meeting.

Catholic men or women interested in learning more may contact Jon at joanelizabethrn@gmail.com



A Plea for Help From the Poor Clare Sisters

Dear Friends,

You are used to me showing up in your inbox with one odd or strange request or another – and our needs are always met! This time I am asking for your help in a different way.

Our beloved Sr. Mary Pia needs a new kidney. She was officially approved last week to be included in the national kidney transplant list. We are hoping for a live donor, as that provides the most longevity and best quality outcome. Sr. Pia is an amazing woman who has endeared herself to us and witnessed to us God's grace in adversity as she has calmly handled the limitations of advanced kidney disease, living each day as fully as she can.

What I am asking is if you would be willing to help us spread the word of this need – to whomever and however you are comfortable – even forwarding this email if you wish. We want to throw the net out as wide as possible, not knowing who God might be calling to give this gift. Thirty years ago, a good friend of mine, Sr. Annie, received an email from an acquaintance who desperately needed a kidney and didn't have time to wait the 2+ years it would take to move to the top of the national list. For some reason, Annie felt called to respond; surprisingly, she was a viable, compatible donor and she did give a kidney to this person. They are both alive and well today!

In addition to spreading the word, I ask you to please pray for Sr. Pia, and for her incredible medical team, and for those who will come forward and offer their kidney, and for the one God will call forth for her.

Thank you for your assistance with this sacred request. It is not easy for Sr. Pia or me to ask this of you, but we know you want us to make our needs known.

Bless you for your faithful friendship.

A note from Sr. Pia:

Peace and all good. First of all, I thank you for who you are to us! In many ways there are things we are capable of doing for ourselves, but just as the man who was paralyzed needed his friends to bring him to Jesus, (Mk 2:1-12), I need you to carry me into healing. "Here I am Lord. I come to do your will. May it be done to me according to your promise."

With grateful hearts,

Sr. Nancy, Sr. Pia and all your Poor Clare Sisters

Some facts a potential donor needs to know:

- Two criteria are you must be under 70 and have a BMI under 32 (there are others of course!)
- Sr. Pia's insurance will pay for the pre-op, surgery and post-op expenses
- You will undergo a thorough series of tests to determine if you are a viable donor
- If you are a viable donor, but not compatible with Sr. Pia, your kidney can be given to a compatible donor on the list and Sr. Pia will be moved up on the list to match with the next compatible donor
- Contact Chesley Michado, BSN,RN, Living Donor Transplant Coordinator (864-455-3668)

Church Offerings and Attendance

April 27, 2025	People	Collection
4 PM	85	\$825.00
8:30 AM	31	\$741.00
11 AM	105	\$942.00
Mail		\$3,340.00
PayPal/Electronic		\$450.00
Total	221	\$6,298.00
Budget 2025	230	\$4,350.00
+/-	-9	\$1,948.00
Year to Date		\$78,939.00
Budget for year +/-		\$4,989.00
Building Fund		
4:00 PM		\$550.00
8:30 AM		\$0.00
11:00 AM		\$0.00
Total	0	\$550.00
Holy Hour		20
Funeral		0
2025 Totals		
4:00 PM		1567
8:30 AM		565
11 AM		2187
Weekday Masses		1264
Holy Hour		96
Holy Day		221
Special Liturgy		57
Funerals		150
Weddings		60

Average Attendance

4 PM	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
92	33	129

Facts regarding our bulletin!

Bulletins emailed last weekend: 420

Percentage opened 66% +

Opened emails: 277 + Unopened emails: 143 -

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. [The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in honor of Margaret L. Kelly.](#)

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.



CATHOLIC
INFORMATION CENTER

<https://catholic.center/>



Liturgical Readings

Old Testament (English) Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14	Marlene Saad
New Testament (Arabic) II Corinthians 1:1-7	Nazar Yacu



Mass Intentions

May 3 - 4	3rd Sunday of Easter - Saint Rafka	
Saturday, 4 PM	+Joseph Frisari	Jim & Jennie
Sunday, 8:30 AM	Anthony Kidd	Cathy & Louis Barnett
Sunday 11:00 AM	+Amjed Yacu	Vivian Yacu
Sunday, 11:00 AM	+Bernard Begham - Classmate	Marie Kidd
Tuesday, 10:00 AM	Living & Deceased Family & Friends	Ceil & Andy
Wednesday, 7:00 PM	Living & Deceased Family & Friends	Ceil & Andy
Thursday 10:00 AM	St. Joseph's Intercession and blessing upon all Priests	Barb Mytych
Friday, 10:00 AM	Guido D'Angelo	Raffaela D'Angelo
May 3 - 4	4th Sunday of Easter	
Saturday 4 PM	Isabel Kilian	Cathy & Louis Barnett
Sunday, 8:30 AM	+Emily Hendricks, Classmate	Marie Kidd
Sunday 11:00 AM	Bob Dowd	Marlene Dowd
Sunday, 11:00 AM	Margaret L. Kelly	Abouna
Tuesday, 10:00 AM	For God to strengthen our Holy Guardian Angels	Barb Mytych
Wednesday, 7:00 PM	Barrie Jean Dursse	Cathy & Louis Barnett
Thursday 10:00 AM	Matt Mytych	Barb Mytych
Friday, 10:00 AM	Greg Mytych	Barb Mytych

All men of the parish are invited to join men from Prince of Peace Parish for breakfast and fellowship. The Catholic Men's Breakfast meets on the first Thursday of each month at 8:00 AM at the Eggs Up Restaurant, 3935 Pelham Road, Greenville. Please join us and feel free to bring a friend! Any questions call Jack Stewart, 864 787-7592.

Video on the Sainted Massabki brothers on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/NoursatEnglish/videos/1008068293229859>

Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 3rd Easter 8:30 AM, Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy 3:00 PM, Holy Hour 5:00 PM, Korean Mass	5	6 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow	7 10:00 AM Exposition of Blessed Sacrament 6:00 PM, Marian Catechists 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy	8 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	9 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	10 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy
11 4th Easter 8:30 AM, Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy 5:00 PM, Syro-Malabar Liturgy	12	13 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow	14 6:00 PM, Marian Catechists 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy	15 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	16 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	17 Ordination of Abouna Joe Chebli, NJ 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy
18 5th Easter 8:30 AM, Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy First Holy Communion Potluck Luncheon 5:00 PM, Korean Mass	19	20 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow	21 6:00 PM, Marian Catechists 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy	22 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	23 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	24 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy
25 6th Easter 8:30 AM, Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM, Holy Rosary 11:00 AM, Divine Liturgy	26 Memorial Day	27 10 AM Divine Liturgy Arabic Devotions to follow	28 6:00 PM, Marian Catechists 6:30 PM, Holy Rosary 7:00 PM, Divine Liturgy	29 Ascension Thursday 7:00 PM Divine Liturgy	30 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	31 3:15 Confessions 4:00 PM, Vigil Liturgy



Catholics serving Catholics

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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

Saints of the Day

April

April 27, Saint Simon the Apostle
April 29, Saint Catherine of Sienna
April 30, Saint James, Son of Zebedee
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
May 12, Saint Epiphanius, Bishop of Cyprus
May 15, Our Lady of the Harvest
May 17, Saint Sirapion the Abbot (Prophet)

Prayer List

Margie Makowski-Seif, Margaret L. Kelly, Anthony Gwynn, Karen Krings, John Davis, Pat Moore, Deacon Bob Smith, Anna Maria Portilla, Sandra Reece, Charles Howard, Marcia Palmer, Mary Howard, Lisa Moman, Leslie Ziminsky, Dan Beckman, Lisa Bolt, Crysten Yammine, L. Mary Killough, Thomas Sloan, Ciera D, 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, 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, Recovery of RS, Claire Barnett, Ethel Brassel, Katrina Shunk, George Vargo, Irma Galvan, Mary Cleary, Joe

Birthdays

April

26, Peter Bouharoun
26, Michelle Sleiman
27, Deanna Paris
27, Dr. Fahd Zarrouf
28, Farid Hayek
30, Catherine Vaughan
30, J. Michael Sandifer

May

1, Anthony George
1, Elie Khawaja
2, Jim Dyer
3, Elias Madbak
5, Billy Rouch
6, Roy Micke
7, Gail Bannister
7, Anastasia Sandifer

Anniversaries

April

26, Khader & Nehad Jadallah

May

2, Reiss and Allyson Shumate
8, Paul and Mary Leonardi
8, Mike and Barbara Fontayne
25, Paula and Mel Casby

Necrology

+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
+Chadi Eugene Aoun, May 21, 2024
+Stephen John Howard, May 25, 2009
+Phillip Kelly (P.K.) Howard, May 27, 2013
+Nazih Namouz, May 31, 2021

Important Dates to Remember

Ordination of Abouna Joseph, May 17
First Holy Communion, May 18
Pentecost, June 8
2026 *Hafli*, April 18



There are still places available for this workshop.

Icon Painting Workshop

July 7-12, 2025

Greenville, South Carolina

St. Rafka Maronite Catholic Church

Join us on this six-day intensive icon painting course where we will captivate you in the art of the Byzantium painting technique. During the course we'll write (paint) the icon of St. Michael the archangel.

This “St. Michael” icon will come alive before you as the visiting master iconographer and expert instructor, Theodoros Papadopoulos from Greece, guides you, step by step, through the ancient techniques of Byzantine Iconography.

Let us journey together, discovering anew, this traditional artistic expression of theology and spirituality, often called the "meeting place of the Divine". Whether you are absolute beginner or an advanced artist, this workshop offers an opportunity to learn or refine your techniques in this sacred art.

The techniques of painting will be taught in a clear and concrete way enabling the students to follow the instructor for an outcome of a beautiful icon.

The course focuses on the art of egg tempera painting. Our goal is for students to understand and learn the artistic practices as well as the philosophy of Orthodox Iconography. The coursework is divided into individual steps; the instructor explains the principles and then demonstrates each phase in detail, answering all questions. Through the process of demonstrations the stages as well the whole method of painting an icon will be presented. From the very beginning to the completion of the course, every student will work on his or her painting with assistance by the instructor.

The size of the icon is 13.50X10 inches.

More info at <https://theodoreicons.com/sc>

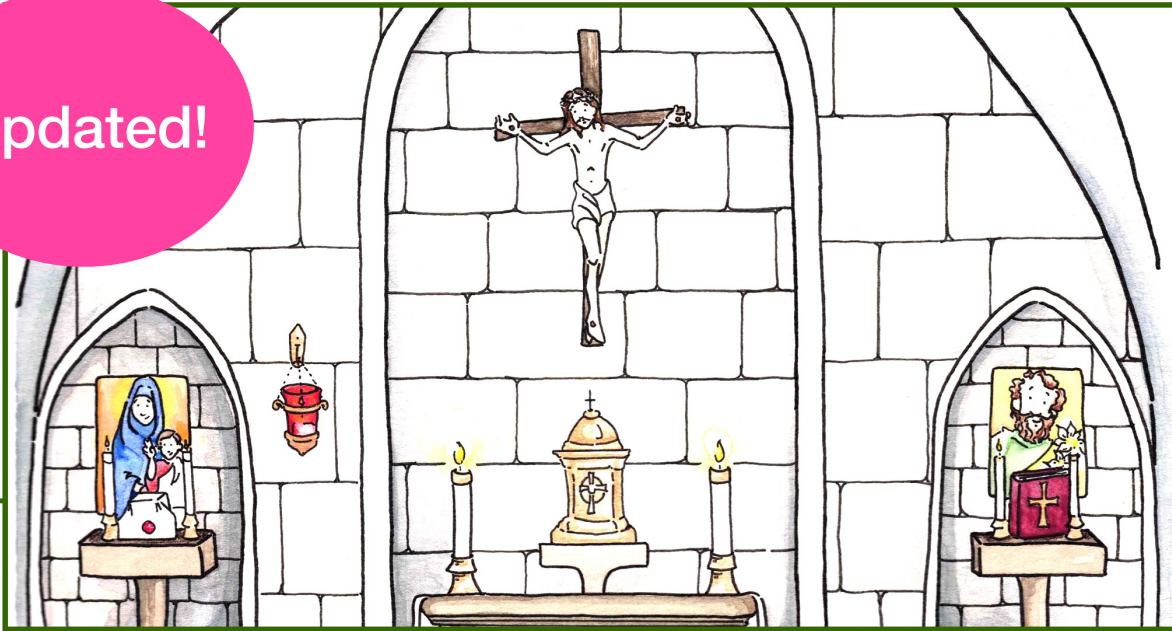
Nevertheless, there is a possibility, if progress of the courses, to extend the schedule by one hour every day throughout the workshop and finish each day at 5:30 pm.



Vacation Bible School 2025

St. Rafka Maronite Church
1215 SC-14, Greer, SC 29650
saintrafkagreenville@gmail.com

Updated!



Exploring the Maronite Divine Liturgy

Children (ages 3-12) are welcome to join us each day as we learn about worshipping God through our Maronite Divine Liturgy with prayer, music, crafts, games, and more!

July 21 - 25 (Monday - Friday)

9:00 am - 1:30 pm (Lunch & snacks provided)

Each day begins with Daily Divine Liturgy (Mass) in the Church at 9:00 am

For more information

Lisa at (864) 414-6957 or **the Church Office** at (864) 469-9119

Email: saintrafkagreenville@gmail.com

Registration Deadline: July 6, 2023

*"I will enter your House, O Lord,
and worship before your throne."*



St. Rafka's Garden Club

Adopt-A-Pot Event

Flower Pots are Still Available

Help us beautify St. Rafka's by adopting a pot!

We want to fill the pots with flowers and we need your help.

The donation requested is \$35.

How to adopt a pot?

1. Look for a pot that has a numbered Marker (Wickett Hall and the front of Francis House) Pull the marker out of the pot
2. Find the numbered envelope that matches the marker.
3. Put your donation and marker inside the envelope. Write your name and the intention you want printed on the marker.
4. Put the envelope in the Large Green Envelope or put them in the collection plate. You can also ask a Garden Club person to help you.
5. Time is running out and there are pots available to adopt.

Planting the pots will take place May 5th!

Thank you for your support!

نادي حديقة القديسة رفقة،

لا تزال الأواني متوفرة
فعالية تبني أصيص

ساعدنا في تجميل كنيسة القديسة رفقة من خلال تبني أصيص!

نريد ملء الأواني بالزهور ونحتاج إلى مساعدتكم.

التبرع المطلوب هو 35 دولارًا.

كيف يمكنني تبني أصيص؟

1. ابحث عن أصيص عليه علامة مرقمة (قاعة ويكيت ومنزل فرانسيس). اسحب العلامة من الأصيص.

2. ابحث عن الطرف المرقم الذي يطابق العلامة.

3. ضع تبرعك والرقم داخل الطرف. اكتب اسمك والنية التي تريد طباعتها على العلامة.

4. ضع الطرف في الطرف الأخضر الكبير أو ضعه في طبق التبرعات. يمكنك أيضًا طلب المساعدة من أحد موظفي نادي الحديقة.

5. الوقت ينقذ وهناك أواني متاحة للتبني.

سيتم غرس الأواني في 5 مايو!

شكرًا لدعمكم!

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

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Heavenly Father, we pray for the Papal Conclave, that Your Holy Spirit will guide the hearts of the Cardinals as they gather to elect a new Vicar of Christ. May they discern Your will with wisdom, discernment, and unwavering faith. Grant them clarity of mind, purity of heart, and courage of spirit to choose a shepherd after Your own heart, one who will lead Your Church with wisdom, holiness, and love.

May the new Pope be a faithful witness to Your truth, a compassionate minister to all in need, and a unifying presence in our divided world.

We entrust the Conclave and the election of the Holy Father to the protection of Mary, Mother of the Church, and to the intercession of all the Saints.

We pray that this new Pope will lead our Church to grow in faith, hope, and love, for the glory of Your name and the salvation of souls.

May we all be united in prayer, and may the Holy Spirit continue to guide and sustain our Church.



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Friday, May 16

7 pm - \$25

North Carolina Baroque Orchestra
Trinity Church of Greenville

Scan below to purchase a weekend
pass and save \$15!



Saturday, May 17

10 am*

Children's Concert
Sigal Music Museum

2 pm*

Adam Pajan, organ
Christ Church Episcopal

7 pm - \$25

Echoing Air Ensemble
Trinity Church of Greenville

Sunday, May 18

2 pm*

David Wilson, violin
Greenville County Museum of Art

7 pm - \$25

SC Bach Choir and Soloists with the North
Carolina Baroque Orchestra
Mass in b minor by J.S. Bach
St. Paul's Anglican Church

**free admission*

Mary's Mantle Daily Rosary Group

Daily Rosary group that meets by Zoom. Call opens at 8:30pm each day. Info at rosary400@gmail.com.

The session consists of:

Call for Intentions

Prayers

- Unity Prayer
- Rosary
- Hail Holy Queen or Salve Regina
- Spiritual Communion
- Seasonal Novena or Selected Prayer
- (Currently we are praying the "Let Love Litany")
- (Optional) practice of Silence and contemplative prayer (On Mondays, right after the Rosary)
- (Optional) Brief discussion of spiritual book or scripture - (Tuesday - Sunday)

Zoom call closes between 9:30 and 9:45



Participants may attend for the Rosary & prayers only, or join for the entire call.

Kid's Quilts

This year, Blessed Trinity Catholic Church, 901 River Road, Greer, SC, will be sewing the precut kits of "Kids Quilts" again in the church commons. We are inviting all ladies and your sewing friends who have a sewing machine to come and sew on Saturday May 3rd from 9 am to 1 pm, at the Commons of Blessed Trinity Catholic Church. The completed quilts will go to Birth Right, Ronald McDonald House and/or Shriners Children's House. This is a worthwhile Charity Event.

Please bring your sewing machine, all necessary accessories in order to sew, and the electric cord for your machine with you. If you are able to help please RSVP or if you have any questions, please call Emily Boisvert at 864-468-5274. We need your help. THANK YOU.

Saint Rafka Food Pantry

In May of 2020 our parish established a food pantry. There are so many hungry people around us, including parishioners and friends of the parish. We have established an area in Wickett Hall for a storage area and a section of the freezer for this purpose. Want to bring food? Bring it during office hours (10 AM - 2 PM) or drop it in the foyer of the church. Need food? Contact **Marie Kidd** (864)202.0317. Marie will handle the details, assisted by **Mark Duffy** and **Bill Leon** at the church office. Thank you for sharing of your abundance with those less fortunate during this difficult period.

Food Pantry Needed Food Items

FOOD GIFTS CARDS or MONEY DONATIONS

Macaroni & Cheese in the boxes
Velveeta Macaroni & Cheese
Hamburger Helpers
Cold Macaroni Pasta in the boxes
Spaghetti noodles (only) No rotini or egg noodles needed at this time!
Spaghetti sauces in jars or in the cans
Dinty Moore Beef Stew in the cans
Tuna in the cans
Spam
Chili Bean in the cans
Salmon in the cans
Campbell Soups (Any kind)
Peanut Butter (Creamy Style) in jars
Any jellies (Strawberry, Peach, Raspberry, etc)
Jello Puddings or Jello in the boxes
Saltine Crackers, Vanilla Wafers, Oreo Cookies Graham Crackers, etc
Cereals in the boxes for Adults and Children
Oatmeal packages in the boxes
Canned peas, carrots, green beans, etc
Canned pears, peaches, applesauce, pineapple or in small plastic containers

Support Those Who Support Us!

Personal Care Assistant

Joan Songer, Personal Care Assistant with 20 years experience ministering to people in their homes. CNA nursing training at Greenville Technical College.

Cell: (864)434-2445
References available.
Parishioner recommended!

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Saint Rafka Council #15519

2nd Monday of the Month, 7 PM, Wickett Hall



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