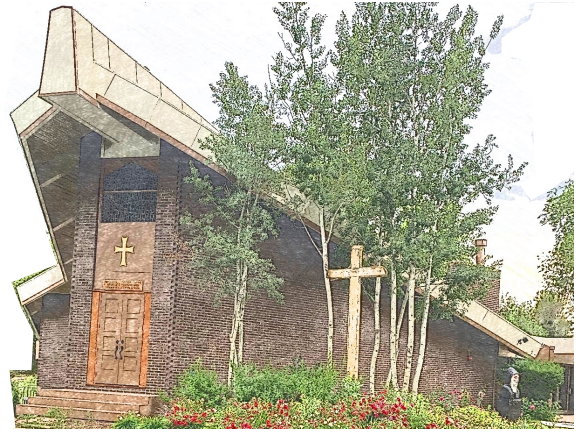


# **St. Rafka Maronite Catholic Church**

2301 Wadsworth Boulevard,  
Lakewood, CO 80214

Website: [www.strafkadenver.org](http://www.strafkadenver.org)

Email: [StRafkaLkwd@outlook.com](mailto:StRafkaLkwd@outlook.com)



## **April 21, 2024 4th Sunday of the Resurrection**

### **Schedule of Masses & Services**

**Sunday Mass** 11:00 AM

**Tuesday-Thursday Mass** 6:00 PM

**Friday Mass during Lent** 5:50 PM followed by  
Stations of the Cross

**Saturday Mass** 11:30 AM

**Holy Days on Weekdays** 6:30 PM

**Confession:** Tuesday-Thursday 5:00 – 5:45 PM

**Please call the office to alert us of any  
Pastoral Care needs**

(Hospital, Homebound, Etc.)

### **Office Hours**

9:30 am-3:30 pm, Wednesday & Friday  
720-833-0354

[StRafkaLkwd@outlook.com](mailto:StRafkaLkwd@outlook.com)

*Rev. El-Badaoui Habib, Parochial Administrator*

*Linda Craven, Office & Business Manager*

*Philip Kyburz, Grand Knight,  
St. Rafka Council of the Knights of Columbus*

*Linda Craven, Religious Education  
[lhalpincraven@gmail.com](mailto:lhalpincraven@gmail.com)*

Contact the office to register in the Parish

## **Spiritual Message on St. George—Martyr (April 23)**

It is uncertain when Saint George was born, and historians continue to debate to this day. However, his death date is estimated to be April 23, 303 A.D.

The first piece of evidence of George's existence appeared within the works of the Bollandists Daniel Papebroch, Jean Bolland, and Godfrey Henschen's *Bibliotheca Hagiographica Graeca*. George was one of several names listed in the historical text, and Pope Gelasius claimed George was one of the saints "whose names are justly revered among men, but whose actions are known only to God."

George was born to a Gerontios and Polychronia, a Roman officer and a Greek native of Lydda. Both were Christians from noble families of the Anici and George, *Georgios* in the original Greek, was raised to follow their faith.

When George was old enough, he was welcomed into Diocletian's army. By his late 20's, George became a Tribunus and served as an imperial guard for the Emperor at Nicomedia.

On February 24, 303 A.D., Diocletian, who hated Christians, announced that every Christian the army passed would be arrested and every other soldier should offer a sacrifice to the Roman gods. George refused to abide by the order and told Diocletian, who was angry but greatly valued his friendship with George's father.

When George announced his beliefs before his peers, Diocletian was unable to keep the news to himself. In an effort to save George, Diocletian attempted to convert him to believe in the Roman gods, offered him land, money and slaves in exchange for offering a sacrifice to the Roman gods, and made several other offers that George refused.

Finally, after exhausting all other options, Diocletian ordered George's execution. In preparation for his

## DAILY READINGS

**Sunday, April 21**

**4th Sunday of the Glorious  
Resurrection**

*Book of Offering Page 315*

Gen 1:20-23

Heb 13:18-25

Jn 21:1-14

**Monday, April 22**

**St. Theodore of Sykeon**

*Book of Offering Page 327*

1 Thes 1:1-10

Lk 5:1-11

**Tuesday, April 23**

**St. George, M**

*Book of Offering Page 473 or 336*

2 Tm 2:4-13; Jn 15:1-8 or

1 Thes 2:1-12; Lk 8:22-25

**Wednesday, April 24**

**St. Saba the Commander, M**

*Book of Offering Page 346*

1 Thes 2:13-20

; Jn 6:1-15

**Thursday, April 25**

**St. Mark the Evangelist, Ap**

*Book of Offering Page 463 or 356*

Col 4:5-10; Lk 10:1-7 or

1 Thes 3:1-13; Jn 6:16-21

**Friday, April 26**

**Pope St. Anacletus I, M**

*Book of Offering Page 366*

1 Thes 4:1-12

Jn 6:22-27

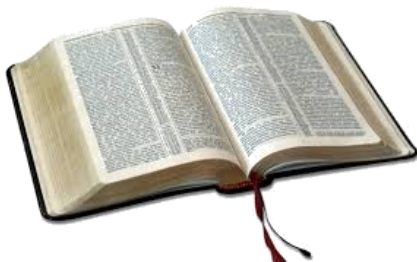
**Saturday, April 27**

**St. Simon, Ap**

*Book of Offering Page 463 or 376*

Eph 4:10-16; Lk 6:12-19 or

1 Thes 5:12-28; Mt 14:22-33



## Jesus Appears to Seven Disciples (John 21:1-14)

**21** After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. <sup>2</sup> Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. <sup>3</sup> Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

<sup>4</sup> Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>5</sup> Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." <sup>6</sup> He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. <sup>7</sup> That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. <sup>8</sup> But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

<sup>9</sup> When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." <sup>11</sup> So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. <sup>12</sup> Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. <sup>13</sup> Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them and did the same with the fish. <sup>14</sup> This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

## Spiritual Message (continued)

death, George gave his money to the poor and was sent for several torture sessions. He was lacerated on a wheel of swords and required resuscitation three times, but still George did not turn from God.

On April 23, 303 A.D., George was decapitated before Nicomedia's outer wall. His body was sent to Lydda for burial, and other Christians went to honor George as a martyr.

## Saint George and the Dragon

There are several stories about George fighting dragons, but in the Western version, a dragon or crocodile made its nest at a spring that provided water to Silene, believed to be modern-day Cyrene in Libya.

The people were unable to collect water and so attempted to remove the dragon from its nest on several occasions. It would temporarily leave its nest when they offered it a sheep each day, until the sheep disappeared, and the people were distraught. This was when they decided that a maiden would be just as effective as sending a sheep. The townspeople chose the victim by drawing straws. This continued until one day the princess' straw was drawn.

The monarch begged for her to be spared but the people would not have it. She was offered to the dragon, but before she



# NEWS & EVENTS

*This week at St. Rafka Church*

Sun 21	Mon 22	Tues 23	Wed 24	Thurs 25	Fri 26	Sat 27	Sun 28
<p><b>4th Sunday of the Resurrection</b></p> <p><b>11:00am</b></p> <p>Religious Education 10-10:50 am</p>	<p><i>No Mass</i></p> <p><i>St. Theodore of Sykeon</i></p>	<p><i>Mass 6 pm</i></p> <p><i>St. George, M</i></p>	<p><i>Mass 6 pm</i></p> <p><i>St. Saba the Commander, M</i></p>	<p><i>Mass 6 pm</i></p> <p><i>St. Mark the Evangelist, Ap</i></p>	<p><i>Mass 6:30 pm</i></p> <p><i>Pope St. Anacletus I, M</i></p>	<p><i>Mass 11:30 am</i></p> <p><i>St. Simon, Ap</i></p>	<p><b>5th Sunday of the Resurrection</b></p> <p><b>11:00am</b></p> <p>Religious Education 10-10:50 am</p>
<p>The deadline to receive events and articles for the bulletin is Wednesday at 12:00 PM Submit them to the Parish Office at <a href="mailto:StRafkaLkwd@outlook.com">StRafkaLkwd@outlook.com</a></p>							





## St. Rafka Parish Mission Statement

Faith, hope, and love, reinforcing our family values, promoted through heritage and prayer for the glory of God, the edification of the Holy Church and the salvation of the world.

### Spiritual Message (continued)

could be devoured, George appeared. He faced the dragon, protected himself with the sign of the Cross, and slayed the dragon.

After saving the town, the citizens abandoned their paganism and were all converted to Christianity.

#### Interesting Facts

- Saint George stands out among other saints and legends because he is known and revered by both Muslims and Christians.
- It is said Saint George killed the dragon near the sea in Beirut, thus Saint George bay was named in his honor.
- Saint George's feast day is celebrated on April 23, but if it falls before Easter, it is celebrated Easter Monday.
- The Russian Orthodox Church celebrates three St. George feast days each year -April 23 as is expected, November 3, to commemorate the consecration of a cathedral dedicated to him in Lydda, and on November 26, for when a church in Kiev was dedicated to him.
- In Bulgaria, his feast day is celebrated May 6 with the slaughter and roasting of a lamb.
- In Egypt, the Coptic Orthodox Church of Alexandria calls St. George the "Prince of Martyrs" and celebrates on May 1. There is a second celebration November 17, in honor of the first church dedicated to him.
- Saint George is the patron saint of England and Catalonia and his cross can be found throughout England.

In older works, Saint George is depicted wearing armor and holding a lance or fighting a dragon, which represents Christ's enemies.