

St. Rafka Maronite Catholic Church

2301 Wadsworth Boulevard,
Lakewood, CO 80214

Website: www.strafkadenver.org

Email: StRafkaLkwd@outlook.com



April 28, 2024 5th 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

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

Contact the office to register in the Parish

Spiritual Message from Father El-Badaoui Habib

Fifth Sunday of the Resurrection

There was a couple who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, and later that night the wife asked her husband why, after all the years together, he had never told her he loved her. He said, *"I told you I loved you on the day we were married, and if it ever changed, I figured you'd be the first to know."*

There was a movie called *Fiddler on the Roof*. In the movie the main character asks his wife several times if she loves him after 25 years of marriage. In response she reminds him of everything she does for him: cooking, sewing, cleaning, bearing, and raising his children, washing, and so on. But he wants to hear more. He wants to hear if her heart has any passion for him.

Simon Son of John Do you love me more than this? Three times. Jesus asked Peter this question three times. The reason goes back to what happened in the high priest's courtyard after Jesus was betrayed and arrested. Three times Peter was asked if he was one of Christ's disciples.

Three times Peter denied this because he was afraid, that what was happening to Jesus would happen to him; he was afraid he would be arrested; he was afraid he would be slapped and beaten; he was afraid he would be condemned to die by crucifixion. Jesus never ever brought Peter Denial to the scene; he never asked him why did you deny me?

The lesson here is obvious: Jesus is telling Peter and us that all moral failures point to a collapse of love. Faulty behavior, wrong behavior, immoral behavior, disobedient behavior, all reveal an imperfect love. All moral failures points to a collapse of love.

DAILY READINGS

Sunday, April 28

5th Sunday of the Glorious Resurrection

Book of Offering Page 315

Ez 34:11-16,23-25

Eph 2:1-10

Jn 21:15-19

Monday, April 29

St. Catherine of Siena, Doctor of the Church

Book of Offering Page 445 or 327

1 Cor 7:25-34; Mt 25:1-13 or

Phil 1:1-10; Lk 22:28-34

Tuesday, April 30

St. James, Son of Zebedee, Ap

Book of Offering Page 463 or 336

1 Cor 4:9-16; Mk 10:32-41 or

Phil 1:12-20; Jn 1:35-42

Wednesday, May 1

Jeremiah the Prophet

Book of Offering Page 346

Phil 1:21-30

Mt 16:21-28

Thursday, May 2

St. Athanasius, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

Book of Offering Page 356

Phil 2:1-11

Mt 16:11-20

Friday, May 3

St. Timothy and his wife St. Maura, M

Book of Offering Page 366

Phil 2:12-18

Mt 18:18-22

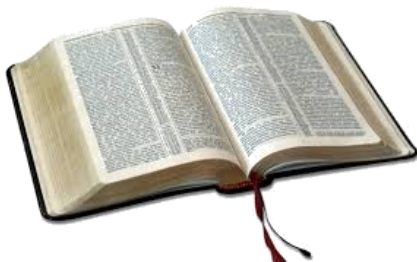
Saturday, May 4

St. Monica, mother of St. Augustine

Book of Offering Page 376

Phil 2:19-30

Mt 17:24-27



Jesus and Peter (John 21: 15-19)

¹⁵ When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶ A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep." ¹⁸ Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and go to wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." ¹⁹ (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

Spiritual Message (continued)

But there is also another lesson here. If all moral failure points to a collapse of love, then all moral triumph points to a flourishing of love. "Do you love me?" If your love is flourishing, then you are bound to lead the victorious Christian life.







"Do you love me?" What happens when we answer: "Yes? Yes, God, I love you. Yes, Jesus, I love you. Yes, Spirit, I love you." What happens? Notice the final two words Jesus says to Peter: "Follow me!" Do you see the connection? I can follow Jesus only when I love Him. I can be His disciple only when I love Him. I can deny myself, take up my cross, and follow Him only when I love Him. I can profess Him and join His church only when I love Him.

"Do you love me?" The bottom line is this: the Lord Jesus wants our love. Think of the Great Commandment that God gave and recorded in the Old Testament: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and mind and strength." God, in Christ, wants our love. And He wants our love no matter what."

But how do I love Jesus The first part of my self-test is the Peter test: do I confess Christ before men, or do I deny Christ before men? There is a reason Jesus asked Peter the same question three different times: Do you love me? Do you love me? Do you love me?

NEWS & EVENTS

This week at St. Rafka Church

Sun 28	Mon 29	Tues 30	Wed 1	Thurs 2	Fri 3	Sat 4	Sun 5
5th Sunday of the Resurrection 11:00am Religious Education 10-10:50 am	<i>No Mass</i> <i>St. Catherine of Siena</i> 	<i>Mass 6 pm</i> <i>St. James, Ap</i> 	<i>Mass 6 pm</i> <i>Jeremiah the Prophet</i> 	<i>Mass 6 pm</i> <i>St. Athanasius, Bishop & Doctor</i> 	<i>Mass 6:30 pm</i> <i>St. Timothy and St. Maura, M</i> 	<i>Mass 11:30 am</i> <i>St. Monica</i> 	6th Sunday of the Resurrection Our Lady of Lebanon 11:00am Religious Education 10-10:50am Mass in Colorado Springs
The deadline to receive events and articles for the bulletin is Wednesday at 12:00 PM Submit them to the Parish Office at StRafkaLkwd@outlook.com							

Upcoming Events

Mass in Colorado Springs, Sunday, May 5 at 5 pm. St Joseph's, 1830 S. Corona St., Colorado Springs, CO 80905. Parking lot is on the Wahsatch St. side.

First Communion Mass on Sunday, May 12 (Mother's Day). Parrish brunch to follow. Details will be forthcoming.

On Sunday, May 19, the streets will be closed for the Denver Colfax Marathon from 5 am to 11 am. Crossing traffic will be allowed by law enforcement at select locations along 20th Ave. when runners are not present. We will keep you informed.

St. Timothy and His Wife St. Maura, Martyrs (May 3)

Martyrs at Penapeis, Kemet. I am Timothy from Penapeis at the Kemet **Thebaid** with my wife, Maura. I was the son of a **priest** from around Antinoe. We were married 20 days. I served as a reader (now called lector) in Church. Maura and I studied scriptures.

Since I taught Christians in the community, enemies turned us into Arian, the **Thebaid** Governor. This was during the persecutions of Emperor **Diocletian** (284A.D. to 305 A.D.). Arian told us to surrender the holy and sacred books, and sacred vessels. I could not! It was if I were surrendering my **children** to the lions.

Arian ordered hot iron spits through my ears. They brought Maura to pressure me into what Arian wished, and to worship idols. Maura did not attempt to persuade me. My wife told me be strong, and said that she, too, was Christian. Arian ordered all her hair pulled from her head. Her fingers were chopped off. Authorities placed her into a boiling water cauldron. She suffered no harm from this boiling liquid.

Authorities nailed us both to a wall, where we torturously endured nine days. Arian finally had us crucified, she facing me, I facing her. We consoled one another.

It took nine days for us to die, 286 A.D., at Antinoe, 23 Nov. Coptic Calendar. (Probably same as Timothy and Maura, Heraclides, martyr. Heradius and Zozimus, martyrs, at Carthage; 3 May, (286 A.D.), of Antinoe, in Kemet).



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)

Jesus didn't have to remind Peter of the awful thing he did. Jesus didn't say it, but Peter certainly was left thinking, *"If I love Jesus, how could I deny Him three times?"*

If I love Jesus, then I confess Him and do not deny Him. I think of what Jesus says in Matthew 10 (verses 32-33). *"Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven."*

Those who love Jesus are not ashamed to confess Him before men. If we truly love Jesus, then we do not deny knowing Him the way Peter did. If we truly love Jesus, then we stand before the world and the church and say what we hear this morning: *"I believe in Jesus. He is my Savior and my Lord."*

Simon Peter answered, "Yes, Lord you know that I love you" - two times. But on the third time- "Yes Lord, you know everything, and you know that I love you. Yes, Lord you know that I am a sinful man; weak, weary... You know that I denied you out of pain, out of fear of persecution... But you know that I love you.

Three responsibilities- feed my lambs, feed my sheep, and tend my lambs. In response to Simon's love, Jesus wants him to be the good shepherd- who knows his sheep, who loves his sheep, who tends his sheep, who leads his sheep, who is ready to offer for them the best of him, of his time, and even to sacrifice his life for his sheep.

Three times Jesus asked Peter, *"Do you love me?"* Three times Peter answered, *"Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."* Three times Jesus responded, *"Feed my lambs ... Take care of my sheep ... Feed my sheep."*

There is a connection between loving Jesus and feeding His sheep. Every time we reach out to feed and care for the sheep and the lambs we love Jesus. If we love Christ, we will find a lamb and feed it. That's the way we show our love for God: by feeding the sheep, by bringing the good news to others.

Jesus wants Simon to know that his life doesn't count without Jesus and away from his sheep, and he can't live his life according to what he wants but according to what his master's will and according to the need of his sheep.

When you were young, you were able to go anywhere you want but when you grow Old you need someone to fasten your belt and take you where you don't want to go.

The biggest sign for our love to Jesus is to be faithful- if you love Jesus, you don't deny him in front of difficulties, or weaknesses, or persecution or so on.

If you love Jesus, you respect his rules, his wishes, his commandments, and his time. If you love Jesus, you take seriously your responsibility in relation with you as parents, by playing your role as loving, and caring parents and knowing that they are your sheep, your goats, your hearts, and souls. It doesn't mean that you have to give them everything they ask for, but it means to be there for them, giving them your time, to teach them what is right and what is wrong, not only by words but by setting a good example and from their early childhood. For instant, you can't give your son\daughter cash money and you know that he\she is on drug- by giving him cash money, you are fastening the time of his death, but you can pay this amount of money towards their rehabilitation.

And in relation with you as married couples you are called to love each other as Jesus has loved you, until death do you part, a sacrificial love, Holy love, understanding love, honest love, based not only on words but on action and faithful love.

You are called to be faithful to Jesus throughout your faithfulness to one another. To love your partner when we are together and when we are in different places...After marriage your will is not anymore yours, you can't do what you want but what God's want. **Amen.**