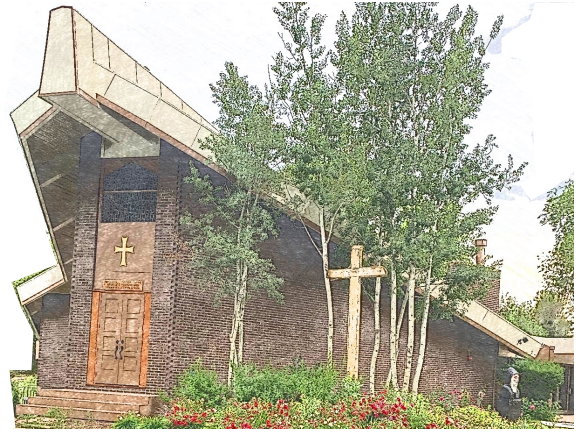


St. Rafka Maronite Catholic Church

2301 Wadsworth Boulevard,
Lakewood, CO 80214

Website: www.strafkadenver.org

Email: StRafkaLkwd@outlook.com



August 20, 2023 13th Sunday of Pentecost

Schedule of Masses & Services

Sunday Mass 11:00 AM

Tuesday-Thursday Mass 5:00 PM

Friday Mass 6:30 PM

Saturday Mass 11:30 AM

Holy Days on Weekdays 6:30 PM

Confession: Tuesday-Thursday 4:00 – 4:45 PM

**Please call the office to alert us to 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
lhalpinraven@gmail.com

Contact the office to register in the Parish

Spiritual Message from Father El-Badaoui Habib

The Parable of the Sower (St. Luke 8:5-15)

God explained his own parable, but he waited to explain its real importance in the next parable (found in the version recorded by St. Matthew, not by St. Luke): nothing but the things that grow from the pure seed of God will endure:

When confronted with a field full of tares and wheat; “In the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn. (St. Matthew 13:30)

So how do we make sure that only the good and pure seed grows in the garden of our souls?

- The role of our parents and our communities as we grew: no stones, good soil, pure and holy

DAILY READINGS & MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, August 20

13th Sunday of Pentecost

Book of Offering Page 425 or 492

Gen 2:8-10,15-17

1 Cor 3:1-11

Lk 8:1-15

Monday, August 21

Samuel the Prophet

Book of Offering Page 436 or 502

1 Jn 1:1-10

Lk 13:31-35

Tuesday, August 22

St. Symphorian

Book of Offering Page 445 or 512

1 Jn 2:1-11

Lk 14:1-6

Wednesday, August 23

St. Isaac of Nineveh

Book of Offering Page 445, 454 or 521

Heb 13:7-17; Lk 4:14-21 or

1 Jn 2:12-20; Lk 14:7-11

Thursday, August 24

St. Eutyches of Sebastia

Book of Offering Page 594

1 Jn 2:21-29

Lk 14:12-15

Friday, August 25

St. Titus, One of the 72 Disciples

Book of Offering Page 594

1 Jn 3:1-10

Lk 14:16-24

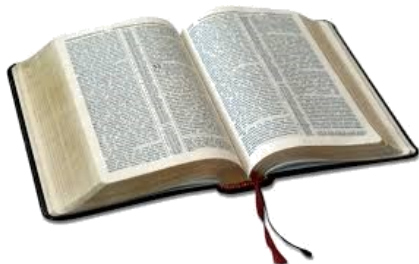
Saturday, August 26

Pope St. Zephyrinus

Book of Offering Page 594

1 Jn 3:11-22

Lk 14:25-35



Today's Gospel

The Parable of the Sower (Luke 8:1-15)

8 Soon afterwards he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. The twelve were with him, ² as well as some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, ³ and Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their resources.

⁴ When a great crowd gathered and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable: ⁵ "A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell on the path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. ⁶ Some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered for lack of moisture. ⁷ Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. ⁸ Some fell into good soil, and when it grew, it produced a hundredfold." As he said this, he called out, "Let anyone with ears to hear listen!"

⁹ Then his disciples asked him what this parable meant. ¹⁰ He said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets[b] of the kingdom of God; but to others I speak in parables, so that 'looking they may not perceive, and listening they may not understand.'"

¹¹ "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. ¹² The ones on the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. ¹³ The ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe only for a while and in a time of testing fall away. ¹⁴ As for what fell among the thorns, these are the ones who hear; but as they go on their way, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. ¹⁵ But as for that in the good soil, these are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance."

Spiritual Message (continued)

- As parents, grandparents, godparents, and members of a healthy, growing parish, we must continue this process and teach our children to value and protect their purity
- But what about now? My experiment (didn't tend my garden). Weeds stunt and kill our fruit.
- We cannot let other things grow in the rich soil of our gardens; we MUST not allow other things to stunt and kill the pure seed of God

How might this happen? It happens every time we put other things before loving God and loving our neighbor

- Do we come to Church on Sundays and feast days, or have we decided to nourish a weed at those times instead?
- Do we pray and read books and watch movies that

NEWS & EVENTS

This week at St. Rafka Church

Sun 20	Mon 21	Tues 22	Wed 23	Thurs 24	Fri 25	Sat 26	Sun 27
13th Sunday of Pentecost 11:00am	<i>Samuel the Prophet</i>	No Mass <i>St. Symphorian</i>	No Mass <i>St. Isaac of Nineveh</i>	Mass 6:30 pm <i>St. Eutyches of Sebastia</i>	Mass 6:30 pm <i>St. Titus, One of the 72 Disciples</i>	Mass 11:30 am <i>Pope St. Zephyrinus</i>	14th Sunday of Pentecost 11:00am
The deadline to receive events and articles for the bulletin is Thursday at 12:00 PM Submit them to the Parish Office at StRafkaLkwd@outlook.com							

Festival Work

Food Prep

Monday through Friday, Aug. 28—Sept. 1 beginning at 10 am.

Sign up link: [Saint Rafka Church: Festival Week Food Preparation \(signupgenius.com\)](https://signupgenius.com/st-rafka-church/festival-week-food-preparation)

Set-up

Thursday, Aug. 31 & Friday, Sept. 1 beginning at 10 am until done

Sign up link: [Saint Rafka Church: Festival Grounds Setup \(signupgenius.com\)](https://signupgenius.com/st-rafka-church/festival-grounds-setup)

Festival Day Volunteers

Sign up link: [Saint Rafka Church: Festival Day Volunteers 2023 \(signupgenius.com\)](https://signupgenius.com/st-rafka-church/festival-day-volunteers-2023)

Post Festival Cleanup

Sign up link: [Saint Rafka Church: Post Festival Cleanup \(signupgenius.com\)](https://signupgenius.com/st-rafka-church/post-festival-cleanup)



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)

benefit our hearts and the growth of God within us, or do we meditate on things that poison our soil or that nourish our weeds?

We live in a world that is full of loose spores; at some point, some are bound to find their way into the soil of our souls. They may even grow into plants that catch our eyes, we may find ourselves falling in love with them – or fearing to pull them out because of their thorns. We may eventually even find that we prefer them to God’s own seed.

We may even become so deluded that we mistakenly call them “god”. Isn’t this what the person does who skips Church on Sundays and feast days because they have found a better way to serve God?

This is so dangerous – we become the kind of gardener that cannot tell real fruit from its poisonous imitators. But God knows the difference, and poisonous weeds cannot endure the environment of the paradise which is to come. Only the true fruit of love can thrive there.

He has given you the seed – you have the ability to inherit eternal glory. It is your choice. What are you going to grow in your garden?

- Look at your habits – are they Godly?
- Are they patterned on the teachings of Christ as preserved and taught by his Church? If not, then you have planted other seeds. How stunted has your faith become? Have you allowed it to grow like the mustard seed? Or is it a tiny faith that can never bear any fruit worth having?

We must rededicate ourselves to the gardens of our hearts. We must pull weeds through repentance and confession. We must give our lives to Christ and allow him to grow within us. This is the way to the kingdom, this is the way to lasting joy now and forever.