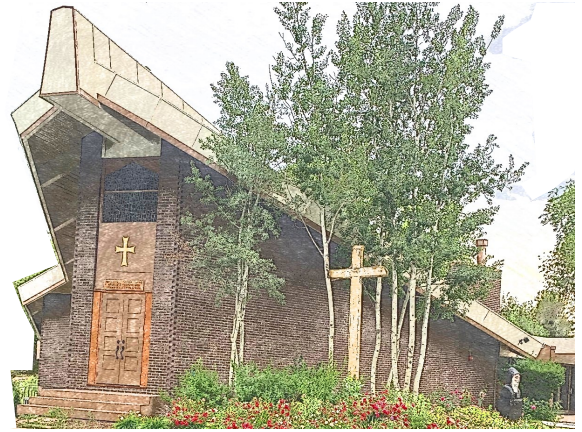


# **St. Rafka Maronite Catholic Church**

2301 Wadsworth Boulevard,  
Lakewood, CO 80214

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

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



## **August 27, 2023 14th Sunday of Pentecost**

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### **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](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*  
[lhalpinraven@gmail.com](mailto:lhalpinraven@gmail.com)

Contact the office to register in the Parish

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## **Spiritual Message from Father El-Badaoui Habib**

**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost. (Luke 10:38-42; Thes 2:1-13)**

Today we celebrate the 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost where our gospel reading is about the story of Martha and Mary. In their book, *First Things First*, p. 32, Stephen Covey, Roger and Rebecca Merrill ask this penetrating question: “What is the one activity that you **know** if you did superbly well and consistently would have significant positive results in your personal life?” They repeat the question about your professional or work life and then, “If you **know** these things would make such a significant difference, why are you not doing them now?” They go on to discuss how we often wrongly let the urgent take priority over that which is truly important. Let us direct those questions toward our walk with God: “What is the one activity that you know if you did superbly well and consistently would have significant positive results in your walk with God?” Then, “If you know this would make such a significant difference, why did you not do it this past week?” I believe that the one significant activity is spending time alone with the Lord in His Word and in prayer. In the language of our text:

***Sitting at Jesus’ feet and listening to His Word is the one thing necessary in life.***

That is the main message of this little story that gives us a glimpse into an incident in the life of Jesus and two sisters who hosted Him for dinner. In this story, Martha *welcomed* Jesus into her home, because she had great love for him completely different to some of the pharisees who hosted Jesus into their home and their intention was to test him. There’s a big difference between challenging someone and welcoming Him. Luke wants us to ask ourselves, “*Do I put Jesus to the test, or do I welcome Him into my life?*” In this story, we see an example of what it means to love God, as Mary sits at Jesus’ feet. The story of Mary shows us that devotion to God must be the basis of all our service for Him. Worship must undergird our work.

## DAILY READINGS & MASS INTENTIONS

**Sunday, August 27**

**14th Sunday of Pentecost**

Book of Offering Page 425 or 492

Deut 6:4-9

1 Thes 2:1-13

Lk 10:38-42

**Monday, August 28**

**St. Moses the Ethiopian, St. Augustine**

Book of Offering Page 473, 436 or 502

2 Tm 4:1-8; Mt 5:13-17 or

1 Jn 3:23-4:6; Lk 15:1-7

**Tuesday, August 29**

**Beheading of St. John the Baptist**

Book of Offering Page 473, 445 or 512

Heb 11:32-40; Mk 6:14-29 or

1 Jn 4:7-21; Lk 15:8-10

**Wednesday, August 30**

**Bl. Brother Estephan Ne'mee**

Book of Offering Page 454 or 521

1 Jn 5:1-12

Lk 16:1-8

**Thursday, August 31**

**St. Zakhia, St. Aegidius, St. Abda**

Book of Offering Page 473, 463 or 532

Eph 6:10-18; Mt 19:27-30 or

1 Jn 5:13-21; Lk 16:9-12

**Friday, September 1**

**St. Simon the Stylite**

Book of Offering Page 445, 473 or 542

1 Cor 9:24-27; Lk 18:18-30 or

2 Jn; Lk 16:13-17

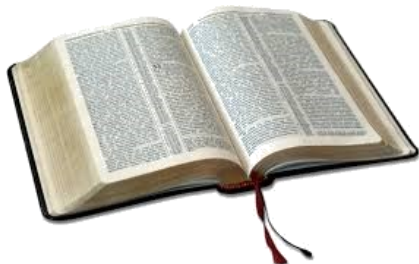
**Saturday, September 2**

**St. Mamma's the Great**

Book of Offering Page 473, 482 or 553

Rom 9:14-22; Jn 12:44-50 or

3 Jn; Lk 17:1-4



## Today's Gospel

### Jesus Visits Martha and Mary (Luke 10:38-42)

<sup>38</sup> Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home.

<sup>39</sup> She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. <sup>40</sup> But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so, she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." <sup>41</sup> But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; <sup>42</sup> there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

## Spiritual Message (continued)

It's significant that every time we encounter Mary of Bethany in the gospels, she is at Jesus' feet: here; when her brother Lazarus dies (John 11:32); and, when she anointed Jesus before His death (John 12:3). It is also significant that Jesus visited these women and was willing to teach them about spiritual matters. Probably most of you agree with me, at least theoretically, that spending time with Jesus, sitting at Jesus' feet *ought* to be our main priority. But most of you struggle with doing it consistently. Sitting at Jesus' feet is the one necessary thing. Why? Let me give four reasons why you should make sitting at the Lord's feet the main priority in your life:

### 1. THE WORD PROVIDES US WITH THE VERY WISDOM OF GOD THAT WE NEED FOR ALL OF OUR LIFE'S DECISIONS AND DIRECTION.

Throughout this story, Luke is making the point that Jesus is none other than the Lord God, so that His word is God's word. The fact is that we all have the inspired Word of God available to us every day, and yet we often neglect it!

God has given us "everything pertaining to life and godliness" (2 Pet. 1:3) in His Word. The Scriptures "can give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:15-17). 1 Peter 2:2 tells us, like newborn babes, to "long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation."

# NEWS & EVENTS

## *This week at St. Rafka Church*

Sun 27	Mon 28	Tues 29	Wed 30	Thurs 31	Fri 1	Sat 2	Sun 3
<b>14th Sunday of Pentecost</b>  <b>11:00am</b>	<i>No Mass</i>  <i>St. Moses the Ethiopian, St. Augustine</i>	<i>Mass 5 pm</i>  <i>Beheading of St. John the Baptist</i>	<i>Mass 5 pm</i>  <i>Bl. Brother Estephan Ne'mee</i>	<i>Mass 5 pm</i>  <i>St. Zakhia, St. Aegidius, St. Abda</i>	<i>Mass 6:30 pm</i>  <i>St. Simon the Stylite</i>	<i>Mass 11:30 am</i>  <i>St. Mammias the Great</i>  <b>Festival!</b>	<b>15th Sunday of Pentecost</b>  <b>11:00am</b>
The deadline to receive events and articles for the bulletin is Thursday at 12:00 PM Submit them to the Parish Office at <a href="mailto:StRafkaLkwd@outlook.com">StRafkaLkwd@outlook.com</a>							

### 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)**

As we have seen (Luke 4:1-12), Jesus overcame Satan's temptations by quoting from Scripture that He knew by heart. As the psalmist proclaimed, "Your Word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against You" (Ps. 119:11). God's Word gives us knowledge about how to love God and to love one another (Luke 10:27). And yet it's as if we were dying from cancer and we had a cure for cancer sitting on our shelf, yet we don't take it off the shelf and use it! Not only does God's Word give us the wisdom that leads to salvation and the understanding we need to grow in godliness, but it also gives us the perspective we need to face life's trials, including death.

#### **2. THE WORD PUTS US IN COMMUNION WITH THE LIVING LORD OF HEAVEN AND EARTH.**

Mary's sitting at Jesus' feet and listening to His Word implies a communion or fellowship of her spirit with that of the Lord. Like the two men on the Emmaus Road (Luke 24:32), Mary's heart must have burned within her as she listened to Jesus explaining the Scriptures. Through her time communing with the Lord at His feet, Mary developed a sensitivity that enabled her to anoint Him for His burial, an action that Jesus said would be remembered wherever the gospel is preached in the whole world (Matt. 26:13). We need to remember that the point of spending time in the Word and in prayer is to meet with the Lord, to commune with Him, to show him love, worship and true adoration as Mary did, as we sit at His feet, listening to His word.

#### **3. THE WORD PUTS ALL OF LIFE'S PRESSURES IN THE PROPER PERSPECTIVE.**

Martha was stressed out by the pressure of preparing the meal for her honored guest. She had worried about it for days since she heard that He was coming. She wanted everything to be right for the occasion. But because of her focus on these pressures, she ended up worried and bothered about so many things. She even blurts out an accusation against her Lord and against her sister, thus violating the two great commandments! To love the Lord and your neighbor. If she had just taken the time to join her sister at Jesus' feet, all these pressures would have fallen into proper perspective.

This applies to us. It is so easy to allow the pressures of life to crowd in on us and get our focus in the wrong place. We can even think, "If I take the time to spend with the Lord, all the demands on my time will only stack up higher!" But a few minutes spent in the Word and in prayer can lift the burden and give us the Lord's calm, clear perspective, even though our circumstances have not changed.

#### **4. THE WORD IS THE GOOD PART, WHICH CANNOT BE TAKEN FROM YOU.**

Mary chose the good portion, to dine at Jesus' feet, listening to His Word. She would still have that long after the meal was forgotten. Mary was practicing the words of Deuteronomy 8:3, that "man does not live by bread alone, but ... by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord."

You can lose about everything in life, but you won't lose the time you spend communing with the Lord. You can lose your job, your money, your possessions, and even friendships. But as Paul says at the climax of Romans 8, nothing—tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, sword, not even death itself or demonic powers—can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord! If spending time sitting at our Lord's feet and listening to His word is so wonderful, then ... Why don't we sit at Jesus' feet more often? Amen.