

# **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 6, 2023**

# **The Transfiguration of the Lord**

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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**

### **The Feast of Transfiguration of Our Lord**

**Mark 9:1-7; Corinthians 3:7-17; Ez 18:1a, 21-23, 27-28**

Today on August 6 we celebrate The Feast of Transfiguration. Transfiguration is the feast that gives us a Glimpse of the True glory of Jesus.

The promises of the Messiah were clear that the Savior would be divine, would be the son of the living God. This is what Jesus looked like on the Mountain of Transfiguration. He did not look like an ordinary man like you and me but the promised Messiah.

For this event, Jesus took just the “inner circle” with him—Peter, James, and John. It was just the four of them because, as the *de facto* leaders of the twelve disciples, there was something important for them to see. **There he was transfigured in front of them.** The word “transfigured” comes from the Latin word used to translate the Greek “metamorphosis.” It simply means “changed.” Jesus’ appearance changed. He changed from something that masked his true nature into showing who he really is. **His clothes became radiant, dazzling white, whiter than anyone on earth could bleach**

## DAILY READINGS & MASS INTENTIONS

### Sunday, August 6

*The Transfiguration of the Lord*

*Book of Offering Page 583*

Ez 18:1a,21-23,27-28

Cor 3:7-17

Mk 9:1-7

### Monday, August 7

*St. Doumit*

*Book of Offering Page*

Rom 16:17-20

Lk 11:49-54

### Tuesday, August 8

*St. Dominic, Pope St. Sixtus II*

*Book of Offering Page 445 or 512*

Acts 23:23-35

Lk 12:22-31

### Wednesday, August 9

*St. Mathias, Ap*

*Book of Offering Page 463, 454 or 521*

1 Cor 4:9-17

Mt 11:25-30

### Thursday, August 10

*St. Lawrence*

*Book of Offering Page 463 or 532*

Acts 24:27-25:12

Lk 12:35-40

### Friday, August 11

*St. Clare*

*Book of Offering Page 594*

Acts 25:13-14a, 22-27

Lk 12:42-48

### Saturday, August 12

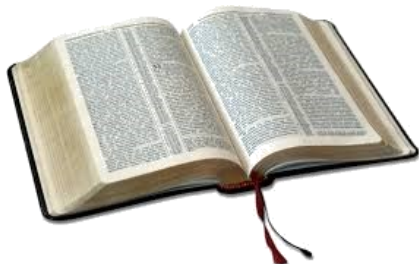
*St. Shaina*

*Book of Offering Page 445, 482 or 553*

Heb 10:32-39; Lk 12:1-5

or

Acts 26:1-2,6-10,12-19; Lk 12:49-53



## Today's Gospel

### The Transfiguration—Mk 9:1-7

<sup>9</sup>And he said to them, "Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see that the kingdom of God has come with power."

<sup>2</sup>Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them,<sup>3</sup>and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them.

<sup>4</sup>And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus.<sup>5</sup>Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."<sup>6</sup>He did not know what to say, for they were terrified.

<sup>7</sup>Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "**This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!**"

## Spiritual Message (continued)

**them.** The other gospel writers use words like "lightning" and "the sun" to describe Jesus' changed appearance, both his clothing and his face.

This is Jesus showing himself to be God as he is. He was not just like you or me or your neighbor. This was God who had taken on our human nature. And that is important because to the Savior of the world, our Savior needed to be God. No one else but God could live the perfect life we needed and have that life count for all people. This glimpse into Jesus' true nature was meant as a comfort for the disciples. "Yes, what you will see will be difficult to watch. It will appear that I am powerless, but I am not. I am doing this to save you and everyone else from their sins."

Suddenly not four on the hilltop, but six were there. Moses and Elijah, two of God's prophets from the Old Testament, appear to speak with Jesus. Luke recounts in his Gospel that they were talking about Jesus' upcoming "departure," about his death that through it, Jesus will give forgiveness of sins to everyone who believes in him. Transfiguration is

# NEWS & EVENTS

*This week at St. Rafka Church*

Sun 6	Mon 7	Tues 8	Wed 9	Thurs 10	Fri 11	Sat 12	Sun 13
<p><b>The Transfiguration of the Lord</b></p> <p><b>11:00am</b></p> <p>Day of Solidarity and prayer for Lebanon</p>	<p><i>St. Doumit</i></p>	<p><i>No Mass</i></p> <p><i>St. Dominic, Pope St. Sixtus II</i></p>	<p><i>No Mass</i></p> <p><i>St. Mathias, Ap</i></p>	<p><i>No Mass</i></p> <p><i>St. Lawrence</i></p>	<p><i>No Mass</i></p> <p><i>St. Clare</i></p>	<p><i>No Mass</i></p> <p><i>St. Shaina</i></p>	<p><b>12th Sunday of Pentecost</b></p> <p><b>11:00am</b></p> <p>Bible Discussion with Deacon George after Mass</p>
<p>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></p>							



## Festival Work

### Food Prep

**Mon.—Friday, Aug. 28—Sept. 1**  
beginning at 10 am.

Please contact Lora @ 720-636-3200 or  
Gisele @ 303-960-8646

### Set-up

**Thurs., Aug. 31 & Fri., Sept. 1**  
10 am until done

Contact Elie @ 720-272-5750

**SAINT RAFKA**  
MARONITE CATHOLIC CHURCH

**LEBANESE & MIDDLE EASTERN**  
*Annual Food & Cultural Festival*

**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 2, 2023 | 11AM -10PM**  
2301 WADSWORTH BLVD., LAKEWOOD, CO 80214

HOOKAH | FOODS | GIFTS | KIDS ZONE | CULTURAL DANCING | LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

ADMISSION FEE: \$4 | FREE (CHILDREN UNDER 5)



## 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)

one of the events that leads to the cross and the empty tomb which means to the resurrection of Christ.

Considering the majesty of Christ revealing himself as God, and with the appearance of Moses and Elijah, we can sympathize a bit with Peter. Here is Jesus in his glory as God, - who wouldn't want to stay? Peter offers to put up the tents because he did not want to leave this majestic place where God shows all the glory of Jesus his son. That is why Peter said, "it's good to be here."

But it was not the plan for Jesus to just be here and live out time in peace, and that was not the plan for Peter, James, and John either. They all had work to do. They had to be witnesses to what they had heard and seen. They had a mission to play which is to call people to repentance so they can see the Glory of God through the forgiveness that God freely provides.

We get to experience good times that we hope will never end; we must endure trials that we wish would end immediately. But the Savior who showed a glimpse of his power at his transfiguration stands by us in all of it, blessing the good and working the bad for our eternal benefit. Peter longed to stay with Jesus on the top of that mountain, but Jesus had bigger plans. Not an extended camping trip, but an eternity of perfection with our God.

But before they break camp and move on, a cloud envelops them, the same cloud pillar that led the Israelites through the wilderness, the same glory of the Lord that surrounded the shepherds at Jesus' birth. This is the presence of God made clear. Here the Father speaks again, like he did at Jesus' baptism. But this time the Father speaks not to Jesus, but to the disciples, "**This is my Son in whom I am well pleased. Listen to him.**"

Jesus is going to be clear about the suffering he will undergo in the betrayal, arrest, condemnation, death, burial, and even the resurrection. Peter, after he saw a glimpse of Jesus's Glory, did not accept that he will undergo this kind of trial and suffering, and Jesus had to rebuke him for that because Jesus knows what he is doing. He is doing what is right. That is why the Father declared that he loves him for his dedication to the mission that he sent him on. "**Listen to him.**"

Jesus' transfiguration points ahead to the greater glory, the greater victory that Jesus will display. That victory will be directly beneficial for Peter, James, John, you, and me. Jesus made it clear that the disciples should not talk about this until after he had been raised from the dead because only then would all the pieces fit together.

As we continue to go through trials and difficulty, as we continue to hope for and wish for the relief from trials, as we have to and experience blessings that we have not had, as we seek to understand what God is doing in our lives and why he's doing it, take this scene and the Father's words to heart. Your Savior knows what he is doing. He has conquered sin and death for you and will bring you to his heavenly home when the time comes. Amen.