

St. Rafka Maronite Catholic Church

2301 Wadsworth Boulevard,
Lakewood, CO 80214
Website: www.strafkadenver.org
Email: StRafkaLkwd@outlook.com



February 11, 2024 Sunday of the Entrance into Lent, Miracle at Cana in Galilee

Schedule of Masses & Services

Sunday Mass 11:00 AM
Tuesday-Thursday Mass 6:00 PM
Friday Mass 6:30 PM
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

Jesus Speaks about His Death (John 12:23-30)

²³ Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵ Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷ "Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹ The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰ Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine."

Saint Maroun's Life

On February 9 of every year, the Maronite Church celebrates the Feast of Saint Maroun. Who is this Saint and what do we know about him?

Today's Gospel

DAILY READINGS

Sunday, February 11

*Sunday of the Entrance into Lent,
Miracle at Cana in Galilee*

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Is 55:1-13

Rom 14:14-23

Jn 2:1-11

Monday, February 12

Ash Monday

St. Meletius of Antioch

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2 Cor 5:20-6:7

Mt 6:16-21

Tuesday, February 13

*St. Catherine of Ricci, St. Beatrice of
Ornacieux*

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Rom 15:1-13

Mt 6:5-15

Wednesday, February 14

Sts. Cyril & Methodius, St. Valentine

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Rom 15:14-21

Mt 6:1-4

Thursday, February 15

Sts. Faustinus & Jovita

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1 Tm 6:6-12

Mt 6:25-34

Friday, February 16

St. Theodore the Recurite, M

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2 Thes 3:6-14

Mt 7:13-27

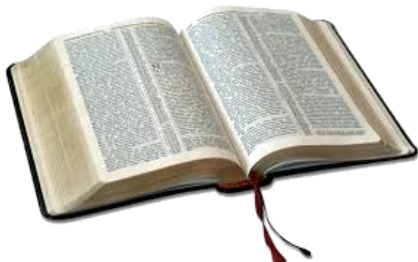
Saturday, February 17

St. Agapitus, Bishop of Synnada

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Heb 3:14-4:4

Lk 12:32-34



The Wedding at Cana (John 2:1-11)

2 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ² Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³ When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴ And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." ⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." ⁶ Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. ⁹ When the steward tasted the water that had become wine and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom ¹⁰ and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." ¹¹ Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Spiritual Message (continued)

Saint Maroun was a Syriac priest who left the world for a life of asceticism on the top of Mount Korus. He was born in the middle of the 4th Century around 350 AD In the city of Korus, 70 kilometers away from Aleppo.

He died between 405-423 AD after he lived a life of a total consecration to God. The sweet smell of his holiness spread from the top of the Korus Mountain to every city and village nearby and he is now known in every country of the world where we have Maronites.

He spent his days and nights in prayer, fasting, and meditation upon the word of God and, very often he was in state of standing during his prayer. God gave him gifts that throughout his prayer he was able to read the inside every soul and to heal everyone from every kind of sickness, pain, and disease, and even from the evil spirit who used to disappear because of the blessing of his prayer. In addition to that, he was able to heal people from their soul's sickness and bad habits... such as from being greedy, angry, selfish, and unfair...

There is one aspect of the life of Saint Maroon, as priest and hermit, which has left a permanent impression on me; it is His unique asceticism. According to Théodore of Cyr,

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NEWS & EVENTS

This week at St. Rafka Church

Sun 11	Mon 12	Tues 13	Wed 14	Thurs 15	Fri 16	Sat 17	Sun 18
Sunday of the Entrance into Lent Miracle at Cana in Galilee 11:00am St. Maron Brunch Religious Education Classes 10—10:50	<i>Mass 6:30 pm</i> <i>Ashes after Mass</i> <i>St. Meletius of Antioch</i> <u><i>Ash Monday</i></u>	<i>Mass 6 pm</i> <i>St. Catherine of Ricci, St. Beatrice of Ornacieux</i>	<i>Mass 6 :30 pm</i> <i>Ashes after Mass</i> <i>Sts. Cyril & Methodius, St. Valentine</i>	<i>Mass 6 pm</i> <i>Sts. Faustinus & Jovita</i>	<i>Mass 6 pm</i> <i>Stations of the Cross 6:30 pm</i> <i>St. Theodore the Recurit, M</i>	<i>Mass 11:30 am</i> <i>St. Agapitus, Bishop of Synnada</i>	Healing of the Leper 11:00am Religious Education Classes 10—10:50
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							

Sunday, February 11, is the brunch for the Feast of St. Maron following the Divine Liturgy. Here is the Signup Genius for the brunch:

[St. Rafka community: St. Maron Brunch \(signupgenius.com\)](http://St.Rafka.community:St.MaronBrunch(signupgenius.com))

[Evite: Online Invitations, Greeting Cards & Party Ideas](#)

Ash Monday is February 12. Mass is at 6:30 pm with distribution of ashes to follow. Wednesday, February 14, Mass is at 6:30 pm with distribution of ashes to follow. On Friday (and all Fridays of Lent), Mass is at 6 pm followed by Stations of the Cross.

Lenten Observances

Abstinence

All Maronites who are physically capable are to **abstain** from meat on **Ash Monday** and all **Fridays of Lent**.

Fasting

Ash Monday and **Great Friday of the Crucifixion** are also days of **fasting**. Fasting in the Maronite Church involves **eating and drinking nothing at all** (except water and medicine) from **midnight until noon**. The rest of the day normal meals can be taken, but without meat. All Maronites who are physically capable should fast on these two days.

The Pillars of Lent

Fasting Almsgiving Prayer



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)

“Maroun was an open-air hermit.” He was completely accessible to God and available to people. He had no roof over his head, no place or pillow to rest his head, no place to call home. In this way of life, Saint Maroun imitated Jesus Christ Our Lord and Savior, The Son of God and Man who had no place to lay down his head. This is a powerful testimony to the primacy of God, and to the goodness of man.

My dear Maronite brothers and sisters in Christ, we too share Saint Maroun in this same ascetic way of life. We share every time we make room for the primacy of God in our life, every time we strengthen our relationship with the living Lord and God, every time we isolate ourselves to pray, to meditate, to be in a special connection and relationship with God, every time we pray the Divine Office, attend the Holy Mass, recite the Rosary, meditate upon the Word of Jesus and the plan of God in our life and the life of the world and universe, and every time we give to those whom we serve the time and the respect they truly deserve. It is when we change our plans to accommodate them or welcome them at a time not convenient to us, to the time of our prayer, or to the time of our siesta, or to go out of our way, of our comfort zone to reach out to someone in need.

This Kind of generous prayer and gracious hospitality was obvious in Saint Maroons’ life and actions, and that should also be true and obvious in our life and actions. We are his new disciples and his sons and daughters, especially when we care for those who are less fortunate, who need words of consolation, encouragement, prayer and pastoral care, love, kindness, and help.

This is not to say that we should not take time for ourselves, Saint Maroon took time for himself in solitude and prayer. People used to call the Maronite Church the monastic church, because we too (priests and faithful) are “open air hermits” whenever we take time to pray and be ready to take care of others in need. Not only for materiel need, but for listening, for praying for each other, for counselling and practicing the gift of healing that Jesus gave to His church.

Maroun was a priest who consecrated his life Totally to Jesus. He was that grain of wheat who was buried on the top of Mount Korus to bear much fruit. The Maronite community is spreading now on the four corners of the universe. It is because of the smell of his holiness.

Maroun lived a life of isolation- a life of consecration- a life of glorification.

1- As a priest, he isolated himself from the noise of the world by living as a hermit on the top of Mount Korus in prayer and meditation

As a priest, Maroun is a builder. He builds a bridge between Jesus and his followers, between God and men, and he transformed an old pagan temple and made it a church. And as a priest, he blessed the sick and prayed over those who suffered from the presence of the evil spirits and throughout the blessing of his prayer God gave them healing. As a priest, he imitated his master Jesus by fasting and praying and mortification, because food was not as important to him as the food of the eternal life that is based on the body and blood of Christ and on his Word.

2- Maroun consecrated his life to God- he left the world and went to the top of Mount Korus, separated himself from the material world, from every human bound, from every evil to be for God alone.

3- Maroun was a true disciple of Christ Jesus in the world. He glorified God by his prayer and good deeds, by his words and actions and his body. He glorified God by his life and death. Maroun was a voice from God calling us to turn to God, telling us that the true life is the life with Christ. The true life is the life that is full of hardship and difficulty for the sake of His kingdom. **Amen**