

St. Rafka Maronite Catholic Church

2301 Wadsworth Boulevard,
Lakewood, CO 80214

Website: www.strafkadenver.org
Email: StRafkaLkwd@outlook.com



January 21, 2024 Sunday of the Priests

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

The Story of the Conversion of Saint Paul

Saint Paul's entire life can be explained in terms of one experience—his meeting with Jesus on the road to Damascus. In an instant, he saw that all the zeal of his dynamic personality was being wasted, like the strength of a boxer swinging wildly. Perhaps he had never seen Jesus, who was only a few years older. But he had acquired a zealot's hatred of all Jesus stood for, as he began to harass the Church: "...entering house after house and dragging out men and women, he handed them over for imprisonment" (Acts 8:3b). Now he himself was "entered," possessed, all his energy harnessed to one goal—being a slave of Christ in the ministry of reconciliation, an instrument to help others experience the one Savior.

One sentence determined his theology: "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting" (Acts 9:5b). Jesus was mysteriously identified with people—the loving group of people Saul

DAILY READINGS

Sunday, January 21

Sunday of the Priests

Book of Offering Page 147

Mal 2:1,5-9

1 Tm 4:6-16

Lk 12: 42-48

Monday, January 22

St. Timothy, Disciple of St. Paul

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2 Tm 1:1-11

Mt 16:24-28

Tuesday, January 23

Pope St. Sergius I, St. Marianne Cope

Book of Offering Page 445 or 147

2 Tm 2:14-19; Mt 24:45-51 or

2 Tm 2:1-13; Mt 18:1-5

Wednesday, January 24

St. Francis de Sales, Doctor

Book of Offering Page 445 or 147

Heb 11:1-7; Jn 8:12-20 or

2 Tm 2:14-26; Mt 20:20-28

Thursday, January 25

Conversion of St. Paul, AP

Book of Offering Page 463 or 147

Gal 1:11-17; Mt 20:1-16 or

2 Tm 3:10-17; Lk 17:7-10

Friday, January 26

St. Agnes, M

Book of Offering Page 147

2 Tm 4:1-8

Lk 22:24-30

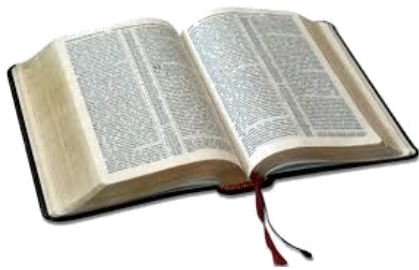
Saturday, January 27

St. Paula

Book of Offering Page 147

Ti 1:1-9

Jn 13:13-17



Today's Gospel

Luke 12:42-48

⁴² And the Lord said, "Who then is the faithful and wise steward, whom his master will set over his household to give them their portion of food at the proper time? ⁴³ Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. ⁴⁴ Truly, I tell you, he will set him over all his possessions.

⁴⁵ But if that servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed in coming,' and begins to beat the menservants and the maidservants, and to eat and drink and get drunk, ⁴⁶ the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will punish him, and put him with the unfaithful.

⁴⁷ And that servant who knew his master's will but did not make ready or act according to his will, shall receive a severe beating. ⁴⁸ But he who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, shall receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much is given, of him will much be required; and of him to whom men commit much they will demand the more.

Spiritual Message (continued)

had been running down like criminals. Jesus, he saw, was the mysterious fulfillment of all he had been blindly pursuing.

From then on, his only work was to "present everyone perfect in Christ. For this I labor and struggle, in accord with the exercise of his power working within me" (Colossians 1:28b-29). "For our gospel did not come to you in word alone, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and [with] much conviction" (1 Thessalonians 1:5a).

Paul's life became a tireless proclaiming and living out of the message of the cross: Christians die baptismally to sin and are buried with Christ; they are dead to all that is sinful and unredeemed in the world. They are made into a new creation, already sharing Christ's victory and someday to rise from the dead like him. Through this risen Christ the Father pours out the Spirit on them, making them completely new.

NEWS & EVENTS

This week at St. Rafka Church

Sun 21	Mon 22	Tues 23	Wed 24	Thurs 25	Fri 26	Sat 27	Sun 28
Sunday of the Priests Mass 11:00am Religious Education Classes 10—10:50	<i>No Mass</i> <i>St. Timothy, Disciple of St. Paul</i>	<i>Mass 6 pm</i> <i>Pope St. Sergius I, St. Marianne Cope</i>	<i>Mass 6 pm</i> <i>St. Francis de Sales, Doctor</i>	<i>Mass 6 pm</i> <i>Conversion of St. Paul, AP</i>	<i>Mass 6:30 pm</i> <i>St. Agnes, M</i>	<i>Mass 11:30 am</i> <i>St. Paula</i>	Sunday of the Righteous & Just Mass w/ Archbishop Aquila 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							

Reminders & Upcoming Events:

1. Religious Education classes before liturgy (10am—10:50).
2. **Next Sunday, January 28, 2024**—Visit from Denver Archbishop Samuel Aquila. His Excellency will be celebrating the Divine Liturgy with us. Lunch to follow.
3. Feast of St. Maron to be celebrated Sunday, February 11. Brunch to follow Divine Liturgy. \$10 per person with children under 12 for free. **Brunch to include: Foul (fava beans), Labneh, 2 or 3 kinds of cheese, tomatoes, cucumbers, mint pancakes or waffles, boiled eggs, ham fruit, cookies, hummus, zaatar.** Look for the Signup Genuis soon.
4. Fr. Wade Menezes, CPM, from the Fathers of Mercy, will be giving a Parrish Mission:

The Most Holy Eucharist: Gift and Sacrament

At Holy Trinity Church, 3050 W. 76th Ave., Westminster, CO from February 4-7, at 7 pm each night.

Learning About the Saints—St. Timothy, Jan. 22

Born at Lystra, Lycaonia, Timothy was the son of a Greek father and Eunice, a converted Jewess. He joined St. Paul when Paul preached at Lystra replacing Barnabas, and became Paul's close friend and confidant. Paul allowed him to be circumcised to placate the Jews, since he was the son of a Jewess, and he then accompanied Paul on his second missionary journey. When Paul was forced to flee Berea because of the enmity of the Jews there, Timothy remained, but after a time was sent to Thessalonica to report on the condition of the Christians there and to encourage them under persecution, a report that led to Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians when he joined Timothy at Corinth. Timothy and Erastus were sent to Macedonia in 58, went to Corinth to remind the Corinthians of Paul's teaching, and then accompanied Paul into Macedonia and Achaia.

Timothy was probably with Paul when the Apostle was imprisoned at Caesarea and then Rome and was himself imprisoned but then freed. According to tradition, he went to Ephesus, became its first bishop, and was stoned to death there when he opposed the pagan festival of Katagogian in honor of Diana. Timothy was over eighty years of age when he was martyred. Paul wrote two letters to Timothy, one written about 65 from Macedonia and the second from Rome while he was in prison awaiting execution. Timothy's feast day is January 22.



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)

So Paul's great message to the world was: You are saved entirely by God, not by anything you can do. Saving faith is the gift of total, free, personal and loving commitment to Christ, a commitment that then bears fruit in more "works" than the Law could ever contemplate.

Paul's Assistant

Timothy's story begins in chapter 16 of Acts of the Apostles, during Paul's second missionary journey. Paul is making a return visit to the Christians of Lystra, an unexcavated site in present-day Turkey. Even though his first visit there ended uncomfortably—Paul had been stoned and left for dead (Acts 14:19–20)—a Christian community nonetheless took root there, showing a heart full of faith when Paul returns.

When he reaches Lystra the second time, its Christian community speaks highly of Timothy. Paul is obviously very impressed, for from then on it seems that Timothy is either with Paul or is representing him on special missions. Timothy's name is peppered throughout the second half of the Acts of the Apostles (16:1; 17:14–15; 18:5; 19:22; 20:4) and Paul's other letters (Rom 16:21; 1 Cor 4:17, 16:10; 2 Cor 1:1, 1:19; Phil 1:1, 2:19; Col 1:1; 1 Thes 1:1, 3:2, 3:6; 2 Thes 1:1; Phlm 1:1).

Try to join me soon. . . . When you come, bring the cloak I left with Carpus in Troas, the papyrus rolls, and especially the parchments. (2 Tm 4:9, 13).

Paul's Second Letter to Timothy is considered by many to be his last biblical letter. Paul is imprisoned in Rome at the time that the letter was composed; perhaps it was not long before his beheading between AD 64 and 67.

2 Timothy clearly has a different tone; while Paul still gives Timothy, who was probably still in Ephesus, more advice, the letter also includes words expressing some sentiments of distress.

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David: such is my gospel, for which I am suffering, even to the point of chains, like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained (2 Tm 2:8–9).

One of Paul's main pastoral points in this letter is that Timothy must avoid foolish arguments and debates; rather, he should remain gentle and tolerant, striving for peace with a pure heart that is devoted to the Lord. Paul also expresses a desire for the good news of Christ to be passed on; that Timothy pass on to others what Paul taught him; they, in turn, can teach even more people (2:2).

Readers can feel Paul's father-like love and care for Timothy through some more private statements he includes. Early on in the letter, Paul fondly reminisces about the faith of Timothy's mother and grandmother, Eunice and Lois, whom Paul had met earlier (1:5).