

St. Rafka Maronite Catholic Church

2301 Wadsworth Boulevard,
Lakewood, CO 80214

Website: www.strafkadenver.org

Email: StRafkaLkwd@outlook.com



January 28, 2024 Sunday of the Righteous and Just

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
lhalpinraven@gmail.com

Contact the office to register in the Parish

Spiritual Message from Father El-Badaoui Habib

The Sunday of the Righteous and Just

Today we are celebrating the Sunday of the Righteous and Just. The question that I want to ask: Who are the righteous and the just?

They are those who have submitted themselves willingly and completely to the will and to the commandments of God. Those who listened to God's voice like Saint Joseph. They are those who testified daily to the truth of God, walked in the light of Jesus His Son, and did what was commanded.

They are those who fed the hungry, gave drink to the thirsty ones, clothed the naked, welcomed the stranger, took care of the sick, and visited those who are in the prison... and on these little things that we see and face every day, the judgement of God will take place.

This teaching of Jesus is so very different from all his other teachings in the Gospel of Matthew. In the previous chapters, Jesus is telling parables. In this chapter, Jesus is

DAILY READINGS

Sunday, January 28

Sunday of the Righteous and Just

Book of Offering Page 157

Wis 5:1-8,15-16

Heb 12:18-24

Mt 25:31-46

Monday, January 29

St. Hippolytus Of Antioch

Book of Offering Page 157

Heb 12:1-13

Mt 5:1-12

Tuesday, January 30

St. Maximus the Confessor

Book of Offering Page 157

Heb 12:14-17

Mt 5:13-16

Wednesday, January 31

St. Francis de Sales, Doctor

Book of Offering Page 157

Heb 12: 25-29

Mt 5:17-20

Thursday, February 1

St. Pionius and His Companions

Book of Offering Page 157

Heb 13:1-8

Mt 5:21-26

Friday, February 2

Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Book of Offering Page 157

Rom 9:30-10:4

Lk 2:22-35

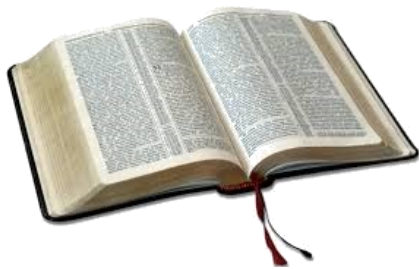
Saturday, February 3

St. Simeon the Elder & St. Anna the Prophetess

Book of Offering Page 445 or 157

2 Cor 1:8-14; Lk 2:36-40 or

Heb 13:17-25; Mt 5:38-48



Today's Gospel

Matthew 25: 31-46

³¹ and he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

³² "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ³³ So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁴ Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away till all these things take place. ³⁵ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁶ "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. ³⁷ As were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of man. ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they did not know until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of man. ⁴⁰ Then two men will be in the field; one is taken and one is left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding at the mill; one is taken and one is left. ⁴² Watch therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But know this, that if the householder had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have watched and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready; for the Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

⁴⁵ "Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? ⁴⁶ Blessed is that servant whom his master when he comes will find so doing.

Spiritual Message (continued)

looking into the future and explaining in graphic detail what sort of judgment day awaits every one of us.

It's not a parable. It's not a fairy tale. It is truth coming right out of the mouth of Jesus. It tells us that God does, in fact, watch the way we live our lives, and the way we live matters. Jesus plainly says that one day each of us will stand in line as the King points the way to eternity. Some will be directed to the right, and they will spend their time forever in the Kingdom of God. Others will be directed to the left, and eternity for them will be spent in hell.

Maybe you have heard me or any other priests describing God as a loving and merciful King and Father, ready to forgive us every sin. Now you may wonder or are surprised to hear me saying that our eternity is up to us and not just up to God's sanctifying grace. Is God going to grant us grace, or is he going to hold our sins against us? Do we have to earn our way into the Kingdom, or will it be given to us as a gift?

NEWS & EVENTS

This week at St. Rafka Church

Sun 28	Mon 29	Tues 30	Wed 31	Thurs 1	Fri 2	Sat 3	Sun 4
Sunday of the Righteous & Just Mass w/ Archbishop Aquila 11:00am Rel. Ed. 10—10:50 Rite of Incense for Pauline Rose Kyburz	<i>No Mass</i> <i>St. Hippolytus Of Antioch</i>	<i>Mass 6 pm</i> <i>St. Maximus the Confessor</i>	<i>Mass 6 pm</i> <i>St. Francis de Sales, Doctor</i>	<i>Mass 6 pm</i> <i>St. Pionius and His Companions</i>	<i>Mass 6:30 pm</i> <i>Presentation of Christ in the Temple</i>	<i>Mass 11:30 am</i> <i>St. Simeon the Elder & St. Anna the Prophetess</i>	Sunday of the Faithful Departed 11:00am 40-day Memorial Zafira Maria Joseph 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							

Welcome to St. Rafka Maronite Catholic Church!

Archbishop Samuel Joseph Aquila



Samuel Aquila was born on September 24, 1950, in Burbank, California. He was ordained a priest by Archbishop James Casey on June 5, 1976, for the Archdiocese of Denver. From 1999 to 2001, Aquila served as the first rector of St. John Vianney Seminary in Denver and chief executive officer of Our Lady of the New Advent Theological Institute at St. John Vianney. In the Year 2000, Pope John Paul II named Aquila an honorary prelate—a high ranking member of the clergy.

On May 29, 2001, Pope John Paul II named Aquila as coadjutor/assistant Bishop of the Diocese of Fargo, North Dakota. He was consecrated on August 24, 2001, by Archbishop Harry Flynn. Aquila automatically became Bishop of Fargo on March 18, 2002, succeeding Bishop James Sullivan.

From 2005 to 2006, Aquila served as interim administrator of the Diocese of Sioux Falls in South Dakota until the consecration of Paul J. Swain as bishop of that diocese in October 2006.

On May 29, 2012, Aquila was named by Pope Benedict XVI as Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Denver. Aquila was installed in a ceremony on July 18 at the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Denver. From that time until today, he is the Archbishop of the diocese of Denver and we are very blessed and grateful to have him in our church life as a father and great leader.

Sayyedna, Today with great Joy, we welcome you to our little, tiny, and poor parish of Saint Rafka Maronite Church. We are full of heartfelt gratitude to you for the role of adopted father that you have played in the life of this parish in times of great need and trouble that brought stability, joy, and health to our church community. Thank you once again, and the altar is for you, Sayyedna.



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)

This story about the sheep and the goats' troubles us because, all along, we thought we were sheep. But what if we're goats? It troubles us because the stakes are high, and eternity lasts forever.

Everything you have heard or read about God's grace is true. He does, indeed, stand ready to forgive every sin and every act of disobedience. But God also has expectations of how his people are to live their lives. He is waiting for you and me to behave as saints. The Saints will be generous. The Saints will be kind. The Saints will be filled with compassion. It's what the Saints do.

Giving and doing does not make us Saints. Giving and doing proves that we are Saints. Generosity and kindness and compassion are part of the DNA of a Christian man and woman. And once we recognize that God has claimed us as sons and daughters of the King, and once we realize that we will inherit everything the King has promised, then things in this world diminish in their value.

So now, the question that stands before us is this: What does our lifestyle say about us? According to Jesus' words on this Sunday of the Righteous and Just, it seems to say this: We will recognize the sheep and the goats by the way they live their lives.

You see, sheep graciously share what they have, paying particular attention to those who are in desperate need. Goats want to keep all they have to themselves. Sheep see others in distress, and they are moved to compassion. Goats see others in distress, and they are moved to ignore. In short, when goats see an apparently homeless man sitting on the steps of a church, they see a homeless man. When sheep see an apparently homeless man sitting on the steps of a church, they see Jesus. What do you see?

The gifts we are about to give have the capacity to touch the lives of people in this church, in this community, and around us. The needs of people are growing, so our ministry opportunities have grown, too.

Finally, I trust this congregation of Saint Rafka to love the people that Jesus loves, and that will be evident by our gifts. Someone once said, "We can give without loving, but we cannot love without giving." This is what Saints do. **Amen.**