

St. Rafka Maronite Catholic Church

2301 Wadsworth Boulevard,
Lakewood, CO 80214

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



March 17, 2024 Healing of the Blind Man

Schedule of Masses & Services

Sunday Mass 11:00 AM
Tuesday-Thursday Mass 6:00 PM
Friday Mass during Lent 5:50 PM followed by
Stations of the Cross
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

WHAT'S A POOR, BLIND BEGGAR TO DO?

Today we celebrate the Sunday of the blind beggar. This passage of the gospel tells us that Jesus, while he was making his way to Jerusalem with his disciples, had to pass the city of Jericho which means “*To smell, or a place of fragrance.*” It was a city that abounded in many fragrant plants like roses, balsam, cypress, and also “*The Rose of Sharon, the Lily of the Valleys.*”

All of Israel was on their way to Jerusalem for the Passover, and the road through Jericho was one of the main routes to the Temple. Most people were blind to know just who Jesus was. Only a very few people in that great crowd recognized the Son of God as He moved among men. But there was one man in that crowd that received 20/20 spiritual vision that day, and it was the blind man.

As we observe this encounter between Jesus and a blind man named Bartimaeus, I want you to look into your own heart. Let God speak to you and show you that what He did for this blind man, He can do for everyone who will call on Him in faith. I want to preach on *What's A Poor, Blind Beggar To Do?* I want you to see *Bartimaeus and His Condition; Bartimaeus and His Cry; and Bartimaeus and His Cure.*

First- BARTIMAEUS AND HIS CONDITION

He Was Blind — Bartimaeus was a blind man. He was a man who had never seen a sunrise or a sunset. He had never seen the smile on a baby's face. He had never seen the beauty of God's creation. Bartimaeus lived in a world of darkness.

Today's Gospel

DAILY READINGS

Sunday, March 17

Healing of the Blind Man

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Is 46:6-8,16-18

2 Cor 10:1-7

Mk 10:46-52

Monday, March 18

St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Doctor of the Church

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Rom 15:25-33

Jn 7:32-36

Tuesday, March 19

St. Joseph the Virgin, Spouse of Mary

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Eph 3:1-13

Mt 1:18-25

Wednesday, March 20

St. Photina the Samaritan Woman

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1 Thes 4:1-9

Lk 11:37-48

Thursday, March 21

St. Synesius, Bishop of Ptolemais

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Ti 2:1-8

Lk 18:31-34

Friday, March 22

Temptation of Jesus in the Wilderness

St. Sergius Paulus

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2 Thes 3:6-18

Lk 4:1-13

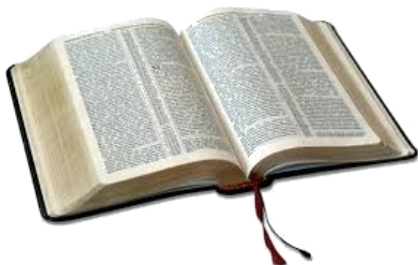
Saturday, March 23

St. Rafka

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1 Thes 2:17-3:5

Jn 11:55-12:11



The Healing of Blind Bartimaeus (Mark 10: 46-52)

⁴⁶ They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. ⁴⁷ When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁸ Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

⁴⁹ Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." ⁵⁰ So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. ⁵¹ Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." ⁵² Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

Spiritual Message (continued)

In addition to his blindness, Bartimaeus Was A Beggar — he was not able to go out and find a job. There were no social programs and no welfare programs to help him survive. He was forced to sit beside the road and beg for his living. He was not living an ordinary human life, but on the margin of life, on the roadside.

There are people all around us who see just fine with their physical eyes, but they cannot see with their spiritual eyes. According to the Bible, they are blind! They cannot see the *HORRORS OF SIN*. They cannot see what their sinful deeds are doing to them. They cannot see the lost years; the wasted days; the ruined lives; the pain, the sorrow, and the sadness. They cannot see that there is a place called Hell at the end of the way. They cannot see that they are headed for death, destruction, and damnation. In one word, they cannot see *THE BEAUTY OF THE SAVIOR*. They do not see just how wonderful He is.

Those people are not only blind; they are also beggars! People all around us manage to pay their bills. Some may not even have to beg for money, food, clothing, or shelter, but in a spiritual sense,

NEWS & EVENTS

This week at St. Rafka Church

Sun 17	Mon 18	Tues 19	Wed 20	Thurs 21	Fri 22	Sat 23	Sun 24
Healing of the Blind Man 11:00am Rel. Ed. Classes 10—10:50	<i>No Mass</i> <i>St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Doctor of the Church</i>	<i>Mass 6 pm</i> <i>St. Joseph the Virgin, Spouse of Mary</i>	<i>Mass 6 pm</i> <i>St. Photina the Samaritan Woman</i>	<i>Mass 6 pm</i> <i>St. Synesius, Bishop of Ptolemais</i>	<i>Mass 5:50 pm</i> <i>Stations of the Cross 6:30 pm</i> <i>Temptation of Jesus in the Wilderness</i> <i>St. Sergius Paulus</i>	<i>Mass 11:30 am</i> <i>St. Rafka</i>	Hosanna Sunday 11:00am Rel. Ed. Classes 10—10:50
The deadline to receive events and articles for the bulletin is Wednesday at 12:00 PM Submit them to the Parish Office at StRafkaLkwd@outlook.com							

The Ladies' Society is selling Hosanna Sunday candles this weekend after Mass. Cost will be \$10 per candle.

Save the Date:

*Annual Hafli, Saturday, April 6

Bishop Elias will be here the entire Divine Mercy weekend to join us for the Hafli, and to celebrate Divine Liturgy on Sunday, April 7, at 11 am.

* Our annual Festival will be Saturday, September 14, 2024.—details to follow.



ST RAFKA FEAST DAY
Annual Hafli
 BUFFET, CASH BAR, DJ, RAFFLE
 Special Guest Bishop Zaidan
SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2024 | 6PM-11PM
18+ only \$100
 QUEEN OF PEACE Catholic Church
 13120 E Kentucky Ave, Aurora, CO 80012
<https://forms.gle/S35jdhKk94eb3Sbz6>
 Tickets can be purchased via Zelle 724-912-8840

Bishop Elias' Lenten Appeal
The Goal for the 2024 Lenten Appeal is \$4,000.

If you want your Sunday donation to be specifically for the Appeal, please designate it as such on your check.

We will have a 2nd collection on Hosanna Sunday, March 24 for the Appeal.

On Great Friday of the Crucifixion (March 29) we will have the annual collection for the Holy Land.





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)

they are poverty stricken. Without Jesus, they are morally and spiritually bankrupt! The sinfulness of lost humanity has left them spiritual paupers in the sight of God.

Without Him, we have nothing. We will die without Jesus, and we will go to Hell and have nothing to show for our life but spiritual blindness and spiritual poverty.

Second- BARTIMAEUS AND HIS CRY

It Was A Passionate Cry — when he knew that the person who was passing that way is Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out because he might have heard that Jesus healed some lepers, expelled of demons, multiplied loaves of bread, etc. He said, *“If Jesus can do all the things I have heard about Him, maybe He can heal me too.”* So, he cried out for healing. The people tried to stop him, but he cried out even louder. This was his only hope, and he knew it. He wasn't taking any chances. He wanted Jesus to help him.

It Was A Particular Cry – Bartimaeus may have been blind, but he saw some things about Jesus that others with 20/20 vision did not see. Bartimaeus had come to see that Jesus was the Messiah. That is why he called Him the *“son of David.”* He believed that Jesus the Messiah could heal his blindness. Why? One of the signs of the Messiah would be that He would open the eyes of the blind.

It Was A Personal Cry — Bartimaeus cries to Jesus and says, *“Jesus, you are the son of David, have mercy on me.”* Help me to get rid of this wretched condition!

(Note: We have women's rights, civil rights, children's rights, gay rights, and every other kind of “right” imaginable. When it comes to spiritual things, I do not want my “rights.” I want *mercy* and I want *grace*. You and I need mercy, and I praise the Lord for He is rich in Mercy. It is His mercy that brings salvation to our lives, (Titus 3:5.)

It Was A Persistent Cry – no one was able to stop him, and people were rebuking him saying: *“You better shut your mouth blind man! Don't bother Jesus! He's too busy for the likes of you!”* But Bartimaeus just kept on calling out to Jesus. He believed Jesus could help him, and he wasn't going to allow Jesus to pass by without getting that help.

Third- BARTIMAEUS AND HIS CURE

A Personal Cure - Jesus heard the cry of the blind Bartimaeus, and He stopped the journey. What a Savior! Jesus stops and calls for the people to bring Bartimaeus to Him. Bartimaeus gets up and throws aside his outer garment, which was representing his old life, his wretchedness, his sorrow, his pain, his state of begging, his life without dignity, and he came to Jesus. And for you and me, when you decide to come to Jesus, you have to turn your back to the things that hinder you from coming to God; such as; Fornication, adultery, beer, liquor, drugs, cussing, meanness, anything that stands between you and Him, must all be repented of, Luke 13:3. If you are going to come to Jesus, you have to come to Him His way. His way is for you to turn away from your sins.

A Powerful Cure – When Bartimaeus comes to Jesus, Jesus asks him “What do you want me to do for you? Do you want me to give you money, clothes, food? What do you want from the son of David? Sir, I just want to see again.” And immediately, Jesus gave him permanent healing.

A Permanent Cure — Bartimaeus never went blind again. When Jesus saves a soul, He doesn't just do it for a few days or until the saved person sins again. When Jesus saves a soul, He does it forever. He gives those who believe in Him *“everlasting life.”*

A Profound Cure — As soon as Bartimaeus is healed, he starts to follow Jesus. He just begins to go after the Lord. Luke tells us that he, *“followed him, glorifying God: and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise unto God.”* (Luke 18:43). Bartimaeus received his sight, fell in love with Jesus, began to praise the Lord, and became a witness in a few moments of time.