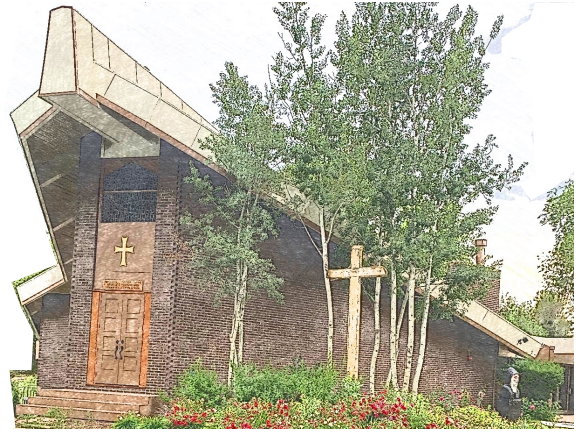


St. Rafka Maronite Catholic Church

2301 Wadsworth Boulevard,
Lakewood, CO 80214

Website: www.strafkadenver.org

Email: StRafkaLkwd@outlook.com



November 12, 2023 Renewal of the Church

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 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

Further Conflict Over Jesus' Claims

“I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?”

Today we are celebrating the Sunday of the renewal of the church.

Let me put you in the picture of this passage of the Gospel today. Jesus is walking in the Temple. “The Jews gathered around him and said to him, ‘How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, the Messiah, tell us plainly.’” In other words, Are you the Messiah?

What we are going to see as we walk through this text could have a huge impact on your life—your faith, your love, your marriage, your singleness, your work, your money, your peace, your joy, your courage.

DAILY READINGS & MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, November 12

Renewal of the Church

Book of Offering Page 7

2 Mac 10:1-9

Heb 9:11-15

Jn 10:22-42

Monday, November 13

St. John Chrysostom, St. Frances Cabrini

Book of Offering Page 445 or 7

1 Tm 2:1-10; Mt 5:13-17 or

Heb 8:1-6; Jn 10:1-16 20

Tuesday, November 14

St. Philip, Apostle

Book of Offering Page 463 or 7

2 Thes 2:13-3:5; Jn 14:8-14 or

Heb 8:7-13; Jn 10:7-10 21

Wednesday, November 15

Sts. Gurias, Samonas, & Habib the Deacon

Book of Offering Page 7

Heb 9:15-23

Jn 10:11-16

Thursday, November 16

St. Matthew the Apostle & Evangelist

Book of Offering Page 463 or 7

1 Tm 1:12-29; Mt 9:9-13 or

Heb 9:24-28; Jn 10:17-21

Friday, November 17

St. Gregory the Wonderworker

Book of Offering Page 7

Heb 10:1-10

Mk 2:18-22

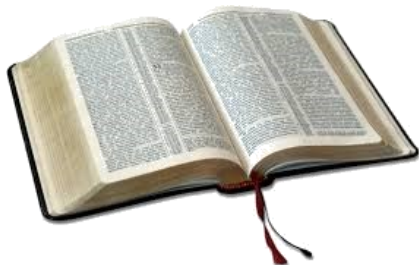
Saturday, November 18

St. Romanos (Raymond), St. Rose Philippine Duchesne

Book of Offering Page 473 or 7

Phil 1:12-21; Lk 12:11-15 or

Heb 3:1-6; Mk 1:21-28



Today's Gospel

Jesus Is Rejected by the Jews (John 10:22-42)

²² At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³ and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴ So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." ²⁵ Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; ²⁶ but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. ²⁷ My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. ³⁰ The Father and I are one."

³¹ The Jews took up stones again to stone him. ³² Jesus replied, "I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these are you going to stone me?" ³³ The Jews answered, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you, but for blasphemy, because you, though only a human being, are making yourself God." ³⁴ Jesus answered, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, you are gods'? ³⁵ If those to whom the word of God came were called 'gods'—and the scripture cannot be annulled— ³⁶ can you say that the one whom the Father has sanctified and sent into the world is blaspheming because I said, 'I am God's Son'? ³⁷ If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me. ³⁸ But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father." ³⁹ Then they tried to arrest him again, but he escaped from their hands.

⁴⁰ He went away again across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing earlier, and he remained there. ⁴¹ Many came to him, and they were saying, "John performed no sign, but everything that John said about this man was true." ⁴² And many believed in him there.

Spiritual Message (continued)

Who is Jesus for you? Can you Know him in a deep way?

1. Jesus' Answer to this Question (John 10:25–30) "I told you." in the figure of that I am the door, The good shepherd. The one who lays down his life for his friends, The one who is gathering a people to live forever in joy. I told you that I Am the Messiah!

Not only I have *told* you, but I have *shown* you. "The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me." The *word* and the *work* make his messiahship clear, plain, powerful, and decisive.

NEWS & EVENTS

This week at St. Rafka Church

Sun 12	Mon 13	Tues 14	Wed 15	Thurs 16	Fri 17	Sat 18	Sun 19
Renewal of the Church Beginning of Liturgical year 2023-2024 Mass 11:00am RE classes begin—10 to 10:50am	<i>No Mass</i> <i>St. John Chrysostom, St. Frances Cabrini</i>	<i>Mass 5 p.m.</i> <i>St. Philip, Apostle</i>	<i>Mass 5 p.m.</i> <i>Sts. Gurias, Samonas, & Habib the Deacon</i>	<i>Mass 5 p.m.</i> <i>St. Matthew the Evangelist, Ap</i>	<i>Mass 6:30 p.m.</i> <i>St. Gregory the Wonderworker</i>	<i>Mass 11:30 a.m.</i> <i>St. Romanos (Raymond), St. Rose Philippine Duchesne</i>	Announcement to Zechariah Mass 11:00am RE classes 10-10:50am
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:

1. Religious Education classes begin before liturgy (10am—10:50).
2. Youth Christmas Program practice after Divine Liturgy (in the church).

Upcoming Events:

1. Ladies Society Bake Sale (Contact Gisel Cherabie for details, 303-960-8646).
2. Mike and Susan Dunn will be sponsoring the Giving Tree for us this year. They will supply us with the ages and gift descriptions by Sunday, November 19. We will have until Sunday, December 10 to fulfill the wishes of these needy children and their families.
2. Friendsgiving Dinner Party Saturday, November 18, 2023 from 6pm-10pm, pot-luck style.
3. St. Rafka Christmas Party Sunday December 17, 2023 which includes Youth Christmas Program immediately following liturgy and lunch with Santa! More details to come.



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)

But you do not believe me, because you are not part of my flock. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one. His final answer about his identity is way beyond the Messiahship. It is oneness with God the Father. When we are one with him, and in his hands; we are safe and saved.

2. Their Response (John 10:31–33)

Because of his answer that is full of truth, the Jews picked up stones again to stone him. Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?" The Jews answered him, "It is not for good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God." They Picked Up Stones because of his blasphemy. He was claiming to be equal with God. And for that they were about to kill him.

3. The Final Invitation (John 10:37–39)

"If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; but if I do them, even though you do not believe *me*, believe the *works*, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father." Again, they sought to arrest him, but he escaped from their hands. And you would think that the story is over. And it ends with opposition and unbelief.

4. The Key to Faith (John 10:40–42)

The Jerusalem story ends with anger and unbelief and murderous plans. But across the Jordan they believed and were baptized. And many came to him. And they said, "John did not do a sign, but everything John said about this man was true." And many believed in him there.

Here John is showing us the key to faith—the kind of soil in which faith springs up and grows. He says that this place was where John the Baptist had preached and baptized. In other words, where John's message was embraced and respected faith in Jesus flourished.

By putting the spotlight on Jesus, John's ministry was utterly modest. He was not after fame. He threw the spotlight utterly on Jesus. And wherever that mindset is admired and embraced, faith in Jesus flourishes. It did not flourish in Jerusalem. They rejected John and his message.