

St. Rafka Maronite Catholic Church

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



November 5, 2023 Consecration 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 to 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 Deacon George

Mt 16:13-20 & Heb. 9:1-12

A little explanation about the events behind today's celebration. During the time of Hellenization and Syncretism, Antiochus IV was ruling at that time, and he had control of Judea. While Judea, though, was under Antiochus control a lot of Jews tried to figure out how do you deal with this whole process of Hellenization? Jason, who happened to be the high priest, and his party were in control, they renamed Jerusalem "Antioch of Jerusalem." But Antiochus was the one who had the privilege of appointing the high priest. The high priesthood was the main ruler of the Jews at this time. Menelaus, another leading Jew, seems to have offered Antiochus more money for the priesthood trying to get it away from Jason.

Now, you have two guys fighting for the high priesthood in Jerusalem, both with Greek names, not traditional Hebrew names, and both of them apparently trying to get in with this

DAILY READINGS & MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, November 5

Consecration of the Church

Book of Offering Page 7

Is 54:1-10

Heb 9:1-12

Mt 16:13-20

Monday, November 6

St. John Chrysostom, St. Frances Cabrini

Book of Offering Page 7

Heb 10:11-18

Jn 17:1-8

Tuesday, November 7

St. Hieron & his Companions

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Heb 10:19-25

Jn 17:9-13

Wednesday, November 8

St. Michael the Archangel

Book of Offering Page 436 or 7

Heb 1:13-2:5; Jn 1:43-51 or

Heb 10:26-31; Jn 17:14-19

Thursday, November 9

St. Matrona of Pamphylia

Book of Offering Page 7

Heb 10:32-39

Jn 17:20-23

Friday, November 10

St. Maura (Mora)

Book of Offering Page 445 or 7

Rom 8:18-26; Jn 6:30-40 or

Rom 5:12-16; Jn 17:24-26

Saturday, November 11

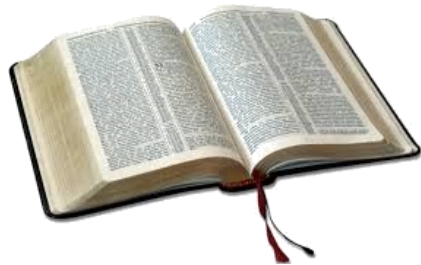
St. Mennas & his Companions,

St. Martin

Book of Offering Page 473 or 7

2 Cor 2:12-17; Lk 11:33-36 or

Rom 5:17-21; Jn 15:15-21



Today's Gospel

Peter's Declaration about Jesus (Mt. 16:13-20)

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Spiritual Message (continued)

Hellenizing process. To settle things down in Jerusalem, Antiochus took control of Jerusalem, and he stationed troops there in 167 BC. Around this time changes were made to the temple in Jerusalem. At this time Menelaus is in charge, and his Hellenizing party, which we could call the radical reformers, they saw--this is the beginning of the anti-Judaism laws.

About this time several laws were passed that forbade circumcision, you're forbidden from observing the Torah, the Jewish law; even a pig was sacrificed on the altar in Jerusalem in the Holy of Holies, and the temple was turned into a syncretistic Jewish pagan grove. And Antiochus turned the priests' rooms into places for prostitution. They did this to the temple, and it was renamed as a shrine to Zeus Olympus.

NEWS & EVENTS

This week at St. Rafka Church

| Sun 5 | Mon 6 | Tues 7 | Wed 8 | Thurs 9 | Fri 10 | Sat 11 | Sun 12 |
|--|--|---|---|--|--|---|---|
| Consecration of the Church Mass 11:00am Mass Colo. Springs 5 pm 4-yr. anniv. celebration Roro Dagher | No Mass <i>St. John Chrysostom, St. Frances Cabrini</i> | Mass 5 p.m. <i>St. Hieron & his Companions</i> | Mass 5 p.m. <i>St. Michael the Archangel</i> | Mass 5 p.m. <i>St. Matrona of Pamphylia</i> | Mass 6:30 p.m. <i>St. Maura</i> | Mass 11:30 a.m. <i>St. Mennas & his Companions, St. Martin</i> | Renewal of the Church Beginning of Liturgical year 2023-2024 Mass 11:00am RE classes begin—10 to 10:45am |
| 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 | | | | | | | |

The next Maronite Mass in Colorado Springs:

Sunday, November 5th at 5:00pm

St Joseph's Catholic Church

1830 S Corona Ave, Colorado Springs, CO 80905

Parking lot and entrance is on the Wahsatch Street side

Mass will be offered for the repose of the soul of Roro Dagher. This is the 4-year anniversary celebration.

1. Daylight Savings Time ends, turn clocks back 1 hour.
2. 40-day liturgy for our beloved *Neemat Abdelsater* followed by a mercy meal in the church hall.
3. Youth Christmas Program practice begins after liturgy inside the church.

Upcoming Events:

1. Ladies Society Bake Sale (Contact Gisel Cherabie for details, 303-960-8646).
2. Friendsgiving Dinner Party Saturday, November 18, 2023 from 6pm-10pm, pot-luck style.
4. November 12, 2023, Religious Education classes begin before liturgy (10am—10:45).
3. St. Rafka Christmas Party Sunday December 17, 2023 with Youth Christmas Program immediately following liturgy. 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)

Well, during the Maccabean Revolt and against all odds, this rag tag bunch of basically guerilla fighters, being up against a far superior army of Antiochus IV Epiphanes, they beat them, and were able to recapture Jerusalem and the temple. In the year 164 BC, they cleansed the temple of the profanation, and the pollution of having pigs and things like that sacrificed in it as a Greek temple, and so 164 is the beginning of the celebration of the Jewish holiday Hanukkah. And since the basis of our religion is Judeo-Christian, we begin our new liturgical year with celebrating the Consecration of the Temple while the second Sunday of November will be the Dedication.

The Apostle here describes or gives an account of the first covenant's regulations in an earthly sanctuary. An outer tent was prepared, in which a lampstand and the table of the bread of the offering; it is called the Holy Place. A curtain is drawn to separate the inner from the outer. The inner tent is called the Holy of Holies which contains a golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered with gold on all sides with the cherubim of glory on top. The priests go into the outer tent performing their ritual duties. But in the second tent only the high priest can go, taking the blood of the sacrifice which he offers for himself and for the sins of the people.

Christ's death on the cross replaced the sacrifices of the old covenant. The ceremonies of the old covenant for the forgiveness of sins, was achieved by Christ's death and resurrection. Jesus in the gospel tests his disciples with a crucial question: Who do men say that I am and who do you say that I am? He was widely recognized in Israel as a mighty man of God, even being compared with the greatest of the prophets, John the Baptist, Elijah, and Jeremiah. Peter, always quick to respond, exclaimed that he was the Christ, the Son of the Living God. No mortal being could have revealed this to Peter, but only the Holy Spirit. Jesus then confers on Peter authority to govern the church that Jesus would build, a church that no powers not even the realm of the dead would overcome it. Jesus plays on Peter's name which is the same word for "rock" in both Aramaic and Greek. To call someone a "rock" is a great compliment.

The ancient rabbis had a saying that when God saw Abraham, he exclaimed: "I have discovered a rock to found the world upon." Through Abraham God established a nation for himself. Through faith Peter grasped who Jesus truly was. He was the first apostle to recognize Jesus as the Anointed One and the only begotten Son of God. The New Testament describes the church as a spiritual house or temple with each member joined together as living stones. The Lord Jesus tests each of us personally with the same question: Who do you say that I am?

