

# **St. Rafka Maronite Catholic Church**

2301 Wadsworth Boulevard,  
Lakewood, CO 80214

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Email: [StRafkaLkwd@outlook.com](mailto:StRafkaLkwd@outlook.com)



## **October 15, 2023 Fourth Sunday after Holy Cross**

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### **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](mailto: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](mailto:lhalpincraven@gmail.com)

Contact the office to register in the Parish

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## **Spiritual Message from Deacon George**

Paul was and still is one of the best instructors in the life of Christian's. In his letter he goes on to draw out further ethical implications for daily life from the salvation God works in Christ. His suggestion about being obedient to Christ with "fear and trembling" is a common Old Testament expression indicating awe and seriousness in the service of God not only in Paul's presence but always. He also warns them not to be too questioning things and grumbling about so that when presented to the Lord on the day of judgement they will be blameless, innocent and without blemish. Libation is an ancient religious ritual, the pouring out on the ground of a liquid offering as a sacrifice; and here Paul means that he may be facing death, so he even goes on telling them of his joy if he was to be sacrificed for their sake.

So, the question is: "What's in your wallet?" What is it you are lacking? Are you missing out on what's most important in life? Being unprepared can lead to a lot of unnecessary trouble and even disastrous consequences! What good is a lifejacket left on shore when the boat is sinking? Or, going to battle leaving your ammunition back home? Or this one too well known to us today, traveling in your car on an important trip, with half a tank full of gas, that requires a

## DAILY READINGS & MASS INTENTIONS

**Sunday, October 15**

***5th Sunday after Holy Cross***

*Book of Offering Page 606*

Song of Sg 5:2-8

Phil 2:12-18

Mt 25:1-13

**Monday, October 16**

***St. Longinus the Centurion***

*Book of Offering Page 617*

1 Cor 1:1-9

Lk 16:1-12

**Tuesday, October 17**

***Sts. Cosmas and Damien***

*Book of Offering Page 627*

1 Cor 1:10-17

Lk 18:1-8

**Wednesday, October 18**

***St. Luke the Evangelist***

*Book of Offering Page 463 or 637*

2 Cor 8:16-22 or Lk 10:1-7

1 Cor 1:26-31; Lk 19:11-28

**Thursday, October 19**

***St. Aaron of Antioch, Sts. John de Brebeuf, Isaac Jogues, and Companions***

*Book of Offering Page 473 or 647*

Rev 7:9-17; Mt 10:16-22 or

1 Cor 3:10-23; Mk 4:21-25

**Friday, October 20**

***St. Shallita (Artemius)***

*Book of Offering Page 473 or 658*

Phil 1:21-30; Mt 5:1-12 or

1 Cor 4:1-13; Mk 4:26-29

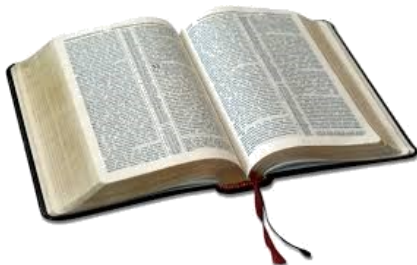
**Saturday, October 21**

***St. Hilarion of Tabatha***

*Book of Offering Page 668*

1 Cor 4:14-21

Mt 22:1-14



## Today's Gospel

### The Ten Bridesmaids (Matthew 25: 1-13)

**25** "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup> Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup> When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; <sup>4</sup> but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.

<sup>5</sup> As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup> But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' <sup>7</sup> Then all those bridesmaids<sup>u</sup> got up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup> The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' <sup>9</sup> But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' <sup>10</sup> And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut.

<sup>11</sup> Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' <sup>12</sup> But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' <sup>13</sup> Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

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### Spiritual Message (continued)

full tank of gas, saying to yourself I will get some more on the way. Guess what, many gas stations are closed at night, I know, it happened to me.

Jesus's story of ten silly girls seems strange to westerners today. But his audience knew all too well how easily this could happen to them. Wedding customs during those days required extra observation and preparation for everyone involved. (Some near eastern villages still follow this custom). The bride and groom did not go away for their honeymoon but celebrated for a whole week with their family and friends (remember the wedding at Cana?). It was the custom for the groom to come at his discretion and get his bride and bring her to the wedding party.

Going to battle, guns or swords are required by necessity. Driving a car, gas is required out of necessity. So, if the groom came at night, lamps were required by necessity. To show up for a night party without a wedding garment and a

# NEWS & EVENTS

## *This week at St. Rafka Church*

Sun 15	Mon 16	Tues 17	Wed 18	Thurs 19	Fri 20	Sat 21	Sun 22
<p><b>5th Sunday after Holy Cross</b></p> <p><b>Mass 11:00am</b></p> <p>2nd Collection-Caritas</p>	<p><i>No Mass</i></p> <p><i>St. Longinus the Centurion</i></p>	<p><i>Mass 5 pm</i></p> <p><i>Sts. Cosmas and Damien</i></p> <p><i>Day of Prayer for Peace in the Holy Land 12 pm-Exposition, followed by prayer service until Mass</i></p>	<p><i>Mass 5 pm</i></p> <p><i>St. Luke the Evangelist</i></p>	<p><i>Mass 5 pm</i></p> <p><i>St. Aaron of Antioch, Sts. John de Brebeuf, Isaac Jogues, and Companions</i></p>	<p><i>Mass 6:30 pm</i></p> <p><i>St. Shallita (Artemius)</i></p>	<p><i>Mass 11:30 am</i></p> <p><i>St. Hilarion of Tabatha</i></p>	<p><b>6th Sunday after Holy Cross</b></p> <p><b>Mass 11:00am</b></p>
<p>The deadline to receive events and articles for the bulletin is Thursday at 12:00 PM Submit them to the Parish Office at <a href="mailto:StRafkaLkwd@outlook.com">StRafkaLkwd@outlook.com</a></p>							

Cardinal Pierbattista

Pizzaballa, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, the Ordinaries of the Holy Land, and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, have invited us for a day of fasting and prayer for prayer and reconciliation on Tuesday, October 17.

Let us join them asking our merciful and loving God to grant peace and prosperity to the Middle East in these troubled times.



Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles

Since he is not the God of disorder but of peace" (1 Cor. 14,33)

Dear brothers and sisters,

may the Lord indeed give us His peace!

The pain and dismay at what is happening is great. Once again, we find ourselves in the midst of a political and military crisis. We have suddenly been catapulted into a sea of unprecedented violence. The hatred, which we have unfortunately already been experiencing for too long, will increase even more, and the ensuing spiral of violence will create more destruction. Everything seems to speak of death. Yet, in this time of sorrow and dismay, we do not want to remain helpless. We cannot let death and its sting (1 Cor 15:55) be the only word we hear.

That is why we feel the need to pray, to turn our hearts to God the Father. Only in this way we can draw the strength and serenity needed to endure these hard times, by turning to Him, in prayer and intercession, to implore and cry out to God amidst this anguish.

On behalf of all the Ordinaries of the Holy Land, I invite all parishes and religious communities to a day of fasting and prayer for peace and reconciliation.

We ask that on Tuesday, October 17, everyone hold a day of fasting, abstinence, and prayer. Let us organize prayer times with Eucharistic adoration and with the recitation of the Rosary to Our Blessed Virgin Mary. Although most probably in many parts of our diocese's circumstances will not permit large gatherings, it is possible to organize simple and sober common moments of prayer in parishes, religious communities, and families.

This is the way we all come together despite everything, and unite collectively in prayer, to deliver to God the Father our thirst for peace, justice, and reconciliation.

With sincere prayers for all,

+Pierbattista Card. Pizzaballa  
Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem  
President of the ACOHL



## 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)

lamp is like showing up for a play or movie that requires a reservation and a ticket you didn't have. You just don't get in without the proper pass.

Can you imagine the frustration one experiences in traveling abroad and finding out you can't get into some country because you don't have a valid passport or Visa. Jesus warns us that there are consequences for being unprepared. There are certain things you cannot obtain at the last moment. For example, a student cannot prepare for his exam when the day of testing is upon him. A person cannot get the right kind of character or skill required for a task at hand unless he already possesses it.

Our eternal welfare depends on our hearing the word of God, and many have let His Word go in one ear and out the other. We will not be prepared to meet the Lord, face to face, when he calls us on the day of judgement unless we listen to him today. Yes, he said to the silly girls he doesn't know them because they did not do what they were required to do and did not have the proper sense to prepare for the Lord. Preparation that requires following instructions, being obedient, and even having faith the size of a mustard seed. These silly girls, if they really knew the Lord, they would have been better prepared. The Lord invites us to feast at his banquet table. Are you prepared? Are you ready? Will you have the faith to move you and the necessary amount of fuel to boost you in the right direction?

### Learning About the Saints

#### St. Longinus the Centurion—October 16

**The Holy Martyr Longinus the Centurion, a Roman soldier, served in Judea under the command of the Governor, Pontius Pilate. When our Savior Jesus Christ was crucified, it was the detachment of soldiers under the command of Longinus which stood watch on Golgotha, at the very foot of the holy Cross. Longinus and his soldiers were eyewitnesses of the final moments of the earthly life of the Lord, and of the great and awesome portents that appeared at His death. These events shook the centurion's soul. Longinus believed in Christ and confessed before everyone, "Truly this was the Son of God" (Mt. 27:54).**

**According to Church Tradition, Longinus was the soldier who pierced the side of the Crucified Savior with a spear, and received healing from an eye affliction when blood and water poured forth from the wound.**

**After the Crucifixion and Burial of the Savior, Longinus stood watch with his company at the Sepulchre of the Lord. These soldiers were present at the All-Radiant Resurrection of Christ. The Jews bribed them to lie and say that His disciples had stolen away the Body of Christ, but Longinus and two of his comrades refused to be seduced by the Jewish gold. They also refused to remain silent about the miracle of the Resurrection.**

**Having come to believe in the Savior, the soldiers received Baptism from the apostles and decided to leave military service. Saint Longinus left Judea to preach about Jesus Christ the Son of God in his native land (Cappadocia), and his two comrades followed him.**

**Longinus and his companions were beheaded for their Faith by Pontius Pilate. A fragment of his spear is in the Basilica of St. Peter in Rome.**