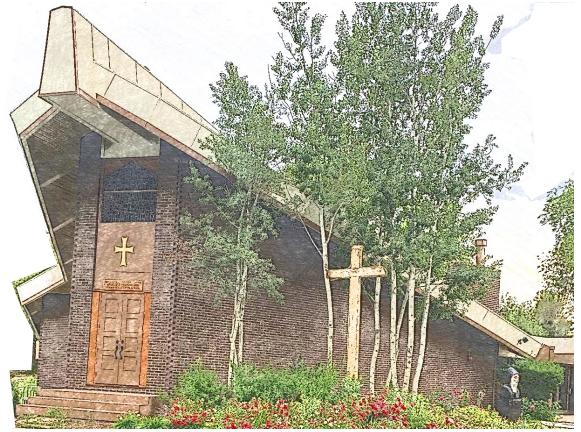


# **St. Rafka Maronite Catholic Church**

2301 Wadsworth Boulevard,  
Lakewood, CO 80214

Website: [www.strafkadenver.org](http://www.strafkadenver.org)

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



## **October 8, 2023**

### **Fourth Sunday after Holy Cross**

#### **Order of St. Sharbel Sunday**

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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 Father El-Badaoui Habib**

### **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Holy Cross**

We are celebrating the 4th Sunday of the Holy cross. This passage of the gospel describes who is the faithful and wise servant and who is the unfaithful and foolish servant in the eyes of the Lord. The faithful servant is loyal, trustworthy, respecting of the master's mandate. He is also described as wise. This kind of wisdom refers to intelligence and creativity. He is the man who builds his house on the rock. His faithfulness and wisdom are evidenced by his response to his new position. He was sure that he gave his master's children their allowance for food at the right time.

In doing this job well, he fulfills the ideal of watchfulness which is to be alert for the Lord's coming and is to be faithful in the task He has set before you. You look for the Lord's return not in looking to the sky, but in serving at the table.

What is the work He has given you? We are all set to serve God by serving others. Just as much as we are called by God to salvation, God calls us to a vocation. He places us in areas of responsibility,

## DAILY READINGS & MASS INTENTIONS

**Sunday, October 8**

**4th Sunday after Holy Cross**

*Book of Offering Page 606*

Gen 41:38-44

1 Thes 5:1-11

Mt 24:45-51

**Monday, October 9**

**St. James the Apostle**

*Book of Offering Page 463 or 617*

2 Cor 5:20, 6:7; Lk 6:12-19 or

Rev 15:1-8; Jn 12:20-28

**Tuesday, October 10**

**St. Eulampius, His Sister Eulampia & Companions**

*Book of Offering Page 627*

Rev 18:1-8

Jn 16:20-24

**Wednesday, October 11**

**St. Philip the Deacon, Pope St. John XXIII, 1st Council of Nicaea**

*Book of Offering Page 637*

Rev 19:1-2,5-9,11-13, 16

Lk 12:16-21

**Thursday, October 12**

**St. Edna**

*Book of Offering Page 445 or 647*

Heb 7:11-17; Jn 15:1-8 or

Rev 21:1-12,14; Lk 13:6-9

**Friday, October 13**

**Sts. Carpus, Pappylus, and Their Companions**

*Book of Offering Page 658*

Rev 21:22-22:5

Lk 15:3-7

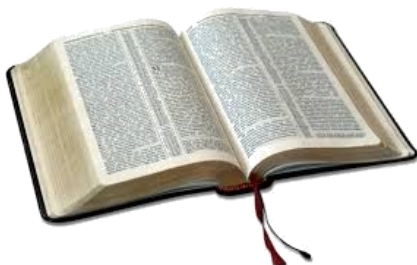
**Saturday, October 14**

**St. Isaiah the Monk**

*Book of Offering Page 668*

Rev 22:16-21

Lk 15:8-10



## Today's Gospel

### The Faithful or the Unfaithful Slave (Mt. 24:45-51)

<sup>45</sup> "Who then is the faithful and wise slave, whom his master has put in charge of his household, to give the other slaves<sup>a</sup> their allowance of food at the proper time? <sup>46</sup> Blessed is that slave whom his master will find at work when he arrives. <sup>47</sup> Truly I tell you; he will put that one in charge of all his possessions. <sup>48</sup> But if that wicked slave says to himself, 'My master is delayed,' <sup>49</sup> and he begins to beat his fellow slaves, and eats and drinks with drunkards, <sup>50</sup> the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour that he does not know. <sup>51</sup> He will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

### Spiritual Message (continued)

each of us, whether that is overseeing business, households, children, or studies.

Do you know what your household is? Do you know what it is God has set you over, what He wants you to be doing when He returns? Notice whose household it is; it belongs to the Master. Where God has placed you is not what you own, it is what you are a steward over, what you are responsible for. God has delegated to you and me the responsibility of nurturing others.

What is the response to doing work well? "It will be good..." Literally - he will be blessed. We'd say, "There's a promotion in store." That is not the kind of response I'd expect. The reward for faithful service is the opportunity of serving in a higher position. Jesus did not say, "Blessed is the servant who is found in prayer and Bible study." God's favor rests not on the one doing the seemingly spiritual activities, but in the mundane acts of everyday life.

# NEWS & EVENTS

## *This week at St. Rafka Church*

Sun 8	Mon 9	Tues 10	Wed 11	Thurs 12	Fri 13	Sat 14	Sun 15
<b>4th Sunday after Holy Cross</b>  Order of St. Sharbel Sunday  Mass 11:00am	<i>No Mass</i>  <i>St. James the Apostle</i>	<i>Mass 5 pm</i>  <i>St. Eulampius, His Sister Eulampia &amp; Companions</i>	<i>Mass 5 pm</i>  <i>St. Philip the Deacon, Pope St. John XXIII, 1st Council of Nicaea</i>	<i>Mass 5 pm</i>  <i>St. Edno</i>	<i>Mass 6:30 pm</i>  <i>Sts. Carpus, Papyrus, and Their Companions</i>	<i>Mass 11:30 am</i>  <i>St. Isaiah the Monk</i>	<b>5th Sunday after Holy Cross</b>  Mass 11:00am
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>							

## ***Registration for Religious Education is now open!***

There is a link on our Website under “Religious Education” to the registration form. There are also copies of the form in the vestibule (church entrance) for your convenience. We want to begin classes as soon as possible for the 2023-2024 catechetical year.

Classes are for all students at all levels of Faith Formation - those preparing for the Holy Mysteries (sacraments) or those who are fully initiated in the Catholic Faith.

We will be offering classes on Wednesday evenings in local churches (south and north), and on Sunday mornings at St. Rafka.

**Saints Eulampius and Eulampia** (died 310 AD) are venerated as 3rd century Christian martyrs. According to tradition, they were brother and sister and natives of Nicomedia and were executed during the reign of Roman emperor Maximinus. According to tradition, Eulampius was arrested by the Roman authorities during an attempt to buy supplies for Christians who were hiding in caves on the outskirts of Nicomedia. After Eulampius was whipped, his sister Eulampia was arrested after she identified herself by emerging from a crowd to embrace and comfort him.

Eulampius and Eulampia were executed the next day. According to Christian tradition, two hundred soldiers, moved by the courage of the two siblings, converted to Christianity and were themselves martyred.



## **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)**

#### **Wicked Worker Rejects the Master's Authority**

On the other hand, the evil servant begins well. He is promoted just like the good servant; he has demonstrated some qualities the master likes. But Jesus is not talking about two different servants here. He is describing two possibilities - faithfulness and unfaithfulness; both are possible for the one servant. He is talking about every Christian. This wicked servant is the person who professes faith and for all appearances is a believer. What is the difference between the two kinds of responses? The response depends on the attitude the servant has about the return of the Lord. "My master is staying away for a long time."

His fundamental error begins as he thinks the wrong thoughts. His thinking governs his actions. His belief in the delay of the master causes him to believe that he will not be held accountable for his actions.

He is carousing. Life becomes for him a big party; he is caught in the act. Instead of thinking that his life is service, he has begun to think he is a master, the master of his own time, the master of his resources, the master of his gifts and abilities. So, he was designing and living his life the way he wants to live it rather than the way God wants him to live it. The life of faith is a life of faithful service.

The Lord for him is no longer Lord. It is not necessary for him to watch. He lost hope of the second coming of his master. Prayer and establishing a good relationship with God became his last worry. That's why his judgement was very harsh; he is assigned a place with the hypocrites - with those who are unsaved. The place he is assigned to is a place of weeping, of inconsolable, never-ending wretchedness, and utter everlasting hopelessness.

About his conduct the Apostle Paul said, "Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night."

You and I are very much like that wicked servant. We play a very good game. How alert are you? First, you'd best take a good look at yourself, see yourself for who you are. Do you ever take for granted what God has given you? Do you forget that you are a servant given the responsibility to oversee an aspect of God's creation?

Jesus Today wants you and me to put on Christ's righteousness, the helmet of His salvation. How can we be watchful? By looking to Christ alone. As Paul continues saying we are not appointed to an eternal wrath, to being cast out. We are appointed for salvation.

What kind of a person am I today? Amen.