

St. Rafka Maronite Catholic Church

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



September 3, 2023 15th Sunday of Pentecost

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
lhalpinraven@gmail.com

Contact the office to register in the Parish

Spiritual Message from Father El-Badaoui Habib

15th Sunday after Pentecost Jesus Anointed by a Sinful Woman Luke 7:36-50

“Jesus said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

Today we celebrate the 15th Sunday of the season of Pentecost and our passage of the gospel is a message of forgiveness and true repentance.

The story of the Gospel is about Jesus who was hosted by Simon the pharisee where a woman came crying at his feet and anointing his feet with very expensive perfume as a sign of her love for Jesus. The woman who washed Jesus’ feet was a sinful person. Her name is not given, and we know next to nothing about her. The Bible says only that she was a woman of the city...a sinner.

Even though the Gospels introduce many men and women who met and talked to Jesus, and through him found healing and forgiveness, few are identified by the word “sinner.” But this woman was a special case. She had a reputation. Simon the Pharisee was offended by her

DAILY READINGS & MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, September 3

15th Sunday of Pentecost

Book of Offering Page 425 or 492

Mic 7:7-9,18-20

1 Thes 1:1-10

Lk 7:36-50

Monday, September 4

St. Babylas, Patriarch of Antioch

Book of Offering Page 436 or 502

Jas 1:1-8

Lk 17:5-10

Tuesday, September 5

St. Sharbel of Raha & His Sister,

St. Teresa of Calcutta

Book of Offering Page 473, 445 or 512

Col 1:1-9; Mt 10:28-33 or

Jas 1:9-18; Lk 17:11-19

Wednesday, September 6

St. Michael the Archangel

Book of Offering Page 436, 454 or 521

Jas 1:19-27

Lk 17:20-25

Thursday, September 7

Exaltation of the Holy Cross (actual feast)

Book of Offering Page 463 or 532

Jas 2:1-13

Lk 17:26-30

Friday, September 8

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Book of Offering Page 445, 473 or 542

2 Cor 4:1-6; Lk 8:16-21 or

Jas 2:14-26; Lk 17:31-37

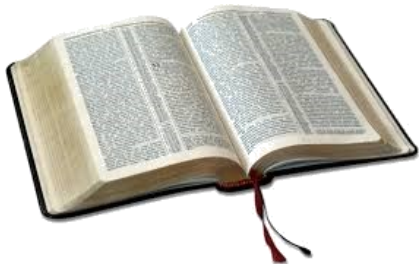
Saturday, September 9

Sts. Joachim & Anne—Parents of the Virgin Mary, Bl Frederick Ozanam—The Council of Chalcedon

Book of Offering Page 445, 482 or 553

Eph 5:22-32; Lk 3:23-38 or

Jas 3:1-12; Lk 18:1-8



Today's Gospel

A Sinful Woman Forgiven (Luke 7:36-50)

³⁶ One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat at table. ³⁷ And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was sitting at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, ³⁸ and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment. ³⁹ Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner." ⁴⁰ And Jesus answering said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he answered, "What is it, Teacher?" ⁴¹ "A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴² When they could not pay, he forgave them both. Now which of them will love him more?" ⁴³ Simon answered, "The one, I suppose, to whom he forgave more." And he said to him, "You have judged rightly." ⁴⁴ Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house, you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵ You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. ⁴⁶ You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. ⁴⁷ Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little." ⁴⁸ And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." ⁴⁹ Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?" ⁵⁰ And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Spiritual Message (continued)

appearance in his house and by the scene she made, and Jesus himself described her as a woman of many sins. However, tradition has characterized this woman as a lady of loose morals, probably a prostitute.

This woman might have been abused or emotionally crippled as a child; she might have sold herself as the only way to provide for herself or her family. Never mind society's double standard, which sneers at such a woman whose sin is mostly against herself. Never mind that this woman was neither important nor wealthy nor a celebrity to make her sexual improprieties glamorous. She was a sinner, the kind of woman we would not want to invite to our homes and who, if she came uninvited, would make us as uncomfortable as she did Simon the Pharisee – especially when she proceeded to make such a spectacle of herself.

NEWS & EVENTS

This week at St. Rafka Church

Sun 3	Mon 4	Tues 5	Wed 6	Thurs 7	Fri 8	Sat 9	Sun 10
15th Sunday of Pentecost Mass 11:00am	<i>No Mass</i> <i>St. Babylas, Patriarch of Antioch</i>	<i>Mass 5 pm</i> <i>St. Sharbel of Raha & His Sister, St. Teresa of Calcutta</i>	<i>Mass 5 pm</i> <i>St. Michael the Archangel</i>	<i>Mass 5 pm</i> <i>Exaltation of the Holy Cross (actual feast)</i>	<i>Mass 6:30 pm</i> <i>Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	<i>Mass 11:30 am</i> <i>Sts. Joachim & Anne—Parents of the Virgin Mary, Bl Frederick Ozanam—The Council of Chalcedon</i>	Exaltation of the Holy Cross 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 StRafkaLkwd@outlook.com							

Thank You!



Thank you to everyone who helped with the 2023 Festival!

Organizers & Leads

Lora Soliman Elie Nakouzi
 Michelle & Tony Mouhanna
 Eric Imhoff

And the many volunteers & donors whose dedication, time, talent, & treasure made success possible!

***Without you,
 there would not be a Festival***

Post Festival Cleanup

Sign up link:

[Saint Rafka Church: Post Festival Cleanup \(signupgenius.com\)](https://signupgenius.com)



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)

The text tells us the woman came in the house of Simon and was standing behind him at his feet. She was weeping about her sins; her tears fell on Jesus' feet. She wiped them with her hair, kissed them, and anointed them with ointment. Shocking behavior! To behave like that with a stranger was unacceptable. To touch a man was much worse, and to touch him in this intimate way was simply unthinkable.

Why did the woman put herself through all this? Surely she knew that her appearance would scandalize the host and his guests. She not only risked being thrown out of the house or possibly arrested, but risked the one thing that would have crushed her completely – the rejection of Jesus. She was used to the sneers of the Pharisees and the others. She could handle that. But could she have coped with having Jesus turn away from her?

We are aware of Jesus' great compassion for those who suffer in body and in spirit. We have known about the love of Jesus ever since we were children. But this woman did not know all that. She risked everything in an act of desperation, penitence, and love.

Nearly everyone else who came to Jesus knew exactly what he or she wanted and asked for it – sight for blind eyes, hearing for deaf ears, healing for an illness. But this woman? She asked for nothing. She had nothing to gain by her display of affection. She came not to receive but to give. Not only is she one of the most courageous people in the Bible, but she is also one of the most unselfish. Poor as she must have been, she had purchased an alabaster flask of expensive ointment. No doubt it represented months of saving from what many would regard as her “ill-gotten gains.” She brought it as a love offering, poured it on the feet of this man who did not even know her name. We do not know why she did it. We know only that Jesus did not pull away from her. He did not turn cold eyes on her. He did not condemn her. Instead, he used her bold action to teach his host a lesson about forgiveness.

It may be that the woman who washed Jesus' feet had seen him showing love to the “unlovely” people around him. It may be that this love opened her up for the first time to the possibility of forgiving herself. That made her risk everything. And so, Jesus says of her, “Her many sins have been forgiven—for she loved much.” But that was not the end of it. Jesus told the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.” That word of blessing is possible for each of us as well. Hear it again as you come to the table. “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.” Amen.