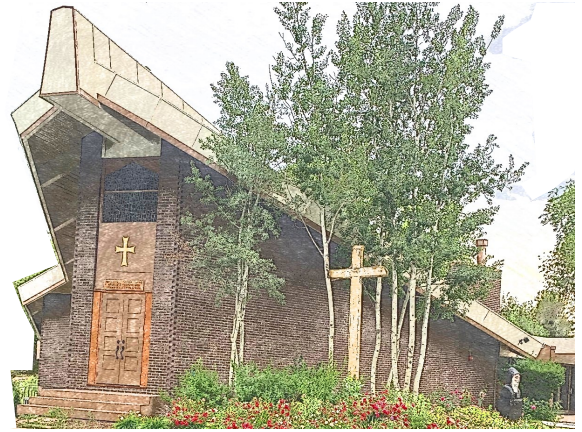


St. Rafka Maronite Catholic Church

2301 Wadsworth Boulevard,
Lakewood, CO 80214

Website: www.strafkadenver.org

Email: StRafkaLkwd@outlook.com



May 5, 2024 6th Sunday of the Resurrection

Schedule of Masses & Services

Sunday Mass 11:00 AM

Tuesday-Thursday Mass 6:00 PM

Friday Mass during Lent 5:50 PM followed by
Stations of the Cross

Saturday Mass 11:30 AM

Holy Days on Weekdays 6:30 PM

Confession: Tuesday-Thursday 5:00 – 5:45 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

"You are Witnesses" – A Sermon on Luke 24:36-48

We are celebrating the 6th Sunday after Resurrection, and this passage is calling us to be Jesus' witnesses to the world.

It's not enough that the tomb is empty, and to proclaim that "Christ is raised!" It's not enough to believe in the Resurrection, but we are called to experience the event of Resurrection by recognizing the risen Christ among us.

Cleopas and his companion experienced the event of Resurrection by telling the other disciples how Jesus appeared to them on the road to Emmaus, explained to them the scripture, and gave them the gift of peace saying: "Peace be with you." They saw Him, they heard His voice, but they did not recognize Him. They "thought that they were seeing a ghost." They knew Jesus was crucified, died, and was buried. They knew dead men don't come back to life. This can only be a ghost, a spirit without a body. The tomb is open, but their minds are closed. They were unable to recognize the holiness that stands among them.

DAILY READINGS

Sunday, May 5

**6th Sunday of the Glorious
Resurrection**

**Our Lady of Lebanon, Patroness of the
Eparchy**

Book of Offering Page 315

Deu 31:1-9

Rom 10:1-13

Lk 24:36-48

Monday, May 6

St. Dominic Savio

Book of Offering Page 445 or 327

Heb 3:12-16; Jn 15:1-8 or

Phil 3:1-12; Jn 11:1-16

Tuesday, May 7

St. Antonio, Bishop of Florence

Book of Offering Page 336

Phil 3:13-21

Jn 11:17-27

Wednesday, May 8

St. John the Evangelist, Ap

Bl. Sister Miriam Teresa Demjanovich

Book of Offering Page 463 or 346

1 Cor 1:26-31; Jn 21:20-25 or

Phil 4:1-7; Jn 11:32-44

Thursday, May 9

**The Ascension of Our Lord (Holy Day
of Obligation)**

Book of Offering Page 396 (repeat Sun.)

2 Kgs 2:1,8-13

Acts 1:1-14

Mk 16:15-20

Friday, May 10

St. Simon the Zealot, Ap

St. Damien of Molokai

Book of Offering Page 366

Phil 4:8-14

Jn 3:12-15

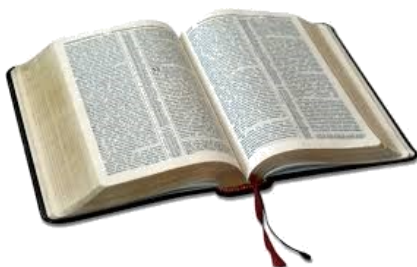
Saturday, May 11

St. Pontius, M

Book of Offering Page 376

Phil 4:15-23

Jn 14:1-6



Jesus Appears to His Disciples (Luke 24: 36-48)

³⁶ While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷ They were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹ While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.

Spiritual Message (continued)

Resurrected life can never be comprehended, contained, or controlled by human thought or understanding. Jesus' Resurrection compels us to step outside our usual human understandings of reality and enter into the divine reality.






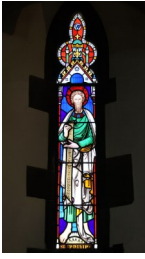

That new reality begins with touching and seeing, "Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." Then "he showed them his hands and his feet." After this He ate a piece of fish in their presence.

We read in this season that Jesus' hands and feet, his flesh and bones, passed through walls and locked doors.

The Resurrected life of Christ is revealed in and through the created order. It is not bound by the created order. Rather, the Resurrected body and life of Christ unite the visible and invisible, matter and spirit,

NEWS & EVENTS

This week at St. Rafka Church

Sun 5	Mon 6	Tues 7	Wed 8	Thurs 9	Fri 10	Sat 11	Sun 12
<p>6th Sunday of the Resurrection Our Lady of Lebanon</p> <p>11:00am Religious Education 10-10:50am Mass in Colorado Springs</p>	<p>No Mass St. Dominic Savio</p> 	<p>Mass 6 pm St. Antonio, Bishop</p> 	<p>Mass 6 pm St. John the Evangelist, Ap</p> 	<p>Mass 6:30 pm The Ascension of Our Lord (Holy Day of Obligation)</p> 	<p>Mass 6:30 pm St. Simon the Zealot, Ap St. Damien of Molokai</p> 	<p>Mass 11:30 am St. Pontius, M</p> 	<p>7th Sunday of the Resurrection</p> <p>Mothers' Day Mass of 1st Holy Communion</p> 
<p>The deadline to receive events and articles for the bulletin is Wednesday at 12:00 PM Submit them to the Parish Office at StRafkaLkwd@outlook.com</p>							

Upcoming Events

Mass in Colorado Springs, Sunday, May 5 at 5 pm. St Joseph's, 1830 S. Corona St., Colorado Springs, CO 80905. Parking lot is on the Wahsatch St. side.

First Communion Mass on Sunday, May 12 (Mother's Day). Parrish brunch to follow. Details will be forthcoming.

On Sunday, May 19, the streets will be closed for the Denver Colfax Marathon from 5 am to 11 am. Crossing traffic will be allowed by law enforcement at select locations along 20th Ave. when runners are not present. We will keep you informed.



Saint Rafka
Maronite Catholic Church
Celebrates her Annual
Lebanese & Middle Eastern Festival
Saturday September 14, 2024
2301 Wadsworth Blvd. Lakewood, CO 80214
Liturgy 10am/Food & Entertainment 11am-10pm
Admission \$4, Children under 5 FREE
strafkadenver.org





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)

humanity and divinity. On the one hand, Jesus has a real body. On the other hand, it is not subject to the natural laws of time and space.

The degree to which we have allowed ourselves to be bound by the created order is the degree to which we are unable to see resurrected life and holiness in this world. We find ourselves trapped in our fears, our sorrows and losses, our runaway thoughts and distractions, our attachments and addictions to things, people, and even beliefs. Sometimes it's our unwillingness to allow or trust God to grow and change us. In binding ourselves to the created order, we lose recognition of and the ability to live in the sacred. That's the very opposite of resurrected life.

The resurrected life of Christ reveals that all creation and every one of us are filled with God, holiness, divinity. Nothing can bind the grace that is given to us through the Resurrection: unconditional love, unconditional forgiveness, and unconditional life. I think one of the most difficult things for us to see, believe, and live through is the divine reality in which we are invited, not at some future time and place but here and now.

In this passage of the Gospel, Christ our God longs and desires to open our minds to understand the scriptures, to understand all that has been written, spoken, and revealed about Him in whatever form that happens and has happened. That the disciples are witnesses does not mean they now have all the answers. It means they now have the life Jesus wants to give them. They are witnesses based not on what they know, but on who they are, how they live, and their relationship with the risen Christ.

Think about a time in your life when you lost track of time. When life seemed more real than it ever had, and you touched or tasted life in a way never before. Recall a moment when your heart opened, softened, and you knew you were somehow different. Those are the moments when Christ opens our minds to understand. They are moments of awe and wonder that leave us in sacred silence. They fill our eyes with tears. We weep, not from sorrow or pain, but with the water of new life. They are the moments in which we say, "I never want this to end. I don't want to leave this place."

In each of those moments, Christ is calling us to see and recognize Him, to join Him, and to discover our new life. Let's not lose this moment. Let's not put this text behind us. It is much too easy to come here each Sunday, listen to the Gospel, hear, for better or worse, whatever I have to say, and then return to life as usual. Don't let that happen. Your life is too important to let that happen. Carry this text with you over the next week. Let it open your eyes, your heart, and your mind to the life Christ is offering you. Let it be the voice of Christ opening your mind to understand.

"You are witnesses to these things," He says to us. Tell it. Live it. Become it. The resurrected life is yours. "You are witnesses to me to the whole world." Amen.