

CHURCH OF THE VIRGIN MARY

216 Eighth Avenue
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Daily Liturgy 9:30, Sunday Liturgy 11:00
www.ChurchOfTheVirginMary.net
Fr. Antoine Rizk, BSO, Pastor
Deacon Naji Youssef
Deacon William Williamsen
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October 3rd, 2010. 2nd Sunday after the Exaltation of the Holy Cross – Love Your Enemies. Epistle: 2 Cor 11: 31-33; 12: 1-10; p.1265. Gospel: Lk 6: 31-36; p.1103.

THE DIVINE LITURGY is offered for

♦ *For the good health of Deacon Bill and his family; that the Lord God may bestow upon them His many blessings.*

- ✦ Francis and Joseph Doummar
- ✦ Joseph Yabroudi ✦ Nicholas Lutfey
- ✦ Fakhreya Dawwaf Jazrawi
- ✦ Janet Turkieh Kinani

WELCOME: We are honored and blessed to welcome among us our Father and Shepherd Archbishop Cyril Bustros. We thank him for the constant care and guidance he shows to our parish. We also welcome our special guests who show constant support to our church. Thank you for being with us.

ANNUAL LUNCHEON: Today, after the Divine Liturgy, our Parish is hosting its Annual Luncheon Celebration with Archbishop Cyril Bustros where Deacon Bill Williamsen will be honored.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & ARABIC TEACHERS: Volunteers are needed to teach

Arabic or Catechism, or assist in all the other activities. Saturday School is the place where children will benefit the most by your skills and talents! For more information please contact Fr. Antoine at (718)788-5454 or Salwa Awad at (718)238-6355.

RELIGIOUS & ARABIC EDUCATION: We will be resuming our Saturday School on October 16th at the Church of the Virgin Mary, 10:00am-1:00pm. Please contact Mrs. Salwa to register your children at 718-238-6355.

THE ARCHBISHOP'S APPEAL: Today, all the parishes in our Melkite Eparchy throughout the U.S. kick off the annual Archbishop's Appeal. Your contributions to the Appeal are essential for meeting the needs of our Melkite Catholic Church in America. Your participation and generous support is vital. Please respond as generously as you possibly can to the personal letter of appeal you received at home from Archbishop Cyril. May God bless you for your generosity.

The Arab-American Community of Brooklyn's Atlantic Avenue: An Illustrated Lecture with Mary Ann Haick DiNapoli. Journey back to the beginning of Brooklyn's "Little Syria" on lower Atlantic Avenue. Learn how this ethnic enclave developed more than a century ago and how it evolved into the Arabic retail and restaurant row that it is today. Thursday, **October 14th**, 2010, 6:30 p.m. NY Public Library Mid-Manhattan Branch, 40th Street @ Fifth Avenue, 6th Floor.

BABY CLOTHING DRIVE: On **November 21st**, the Fraternity is hosting a Baby Clothing Drive. All items collected will be brought to the Sisters of Life. Thank you all for your generous spirits. Please contact Jacqueline Lutfey (718) 833-7803 for more info.

FUTURE LITURGIES: On **October 10th**, for Souraya Mouzayck; on **October 17th**, for Lynda

Kanakry; and on **October 24th** for Michael & Lorraine Yabroudy on their 50th Wedding Anniversary; on **December 5th**, for Msgr. Elias Skaff (10 years) and for Charles Ajamy (1 year).

COLLECTION: *For God loves a cheerful giver.*

READING from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians: 11: 31-33; 12: 1-10

BRETHREN, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus, who is blessed forever, knows that I do not lie. In Damascus, the Governor under King Aretas was guarding the city of the Damascenes in order to arrest me, but I was lowered in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped his hands.

(12: 1) It is not fitting for me to boast: but I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago (whether in the body, I do not know, or out of the body, I do not know: God knows) was caught up into paradise and heard secret sayings that man may not repeat. Of such a man I will boast; but of myself I will glory in nothing except my weaknesses. For if I do wish to boast, I shall not be foolish, for I shall be speaking the truth. But I give up, lest any man have an idea of me beyond what he sees in me or hears from me. And lest the greatness of the revelation puff me up, there was given to me a thorn for the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me. Concerning this, I begged the Lord three times that it might leave me, but he said to me, "My grace is enough for you, for strength is made perfect in weakness."

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. LUKE 6: 31-36

The Lord said, "Even as you wish men to do to you, so also do you to them. And if you love those who love you, what merits have you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what merit have you? For even sinners do that. And if you

lend to those from whom you hope to receive in return, what merit have you? For even sinners lend to sinners that they may get back as much in return. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, not hoping for any return, and your reward shall be great, and you shall be children of the Most High, for he is kind towards the ungrateful and evil. Be merciful, therefore, even as your Father is merciful."

Epistle Verses – Prokimenon

Reader: My strength and my courage is the Lord, and he has been my Savior.

All: My strength and my courage is the Lord, and he has been my Savior.

Reader: The Lord has chastised me through his teaching, yet he has not delivered me to death.

All: My strength and my courage is the Lord, and he has been my Savior.

Troparion of the Resurrection (2nd tone)

When you descended to death, O Immortal Life, You destroyed Hades by the splendor of your Divinity, and when you raised the dead from under the ground, all the Powers of heaven cried out: O Christ our God, the giver of life, glory to you.

Troparia of the Patron of the Church

In giving birth you have preserved your virginity and in falling asleep you did not forsake the world, O Mother of God. You have passed to life being the Mother of Life. Through your intercession, save our souls from death!

Kondakion

O never failing Protectress of Christians and their ever present intercessor before the Creator, despise not the petitions of us sinners, but in your goodness extend your help to us who call upon you with confidence. Hasten, O Mother of God, to intercede for us, for you have always protected those who honor you.