

**CHURCH OF THE VIRGIN MARY**

216 Eighth Avenue  
Brooklyn, New York 11215-2604  
Rectory: (718) 788-5454  
Church Hall: (718) 788-9024  
Fax (718) 499-7702

Daily Liturgy 9:30, Sunday Liturgy 11:00  
www.ChurchOfTheVirginMary.net

Fr. Antoine Rizk, BSO, Pastor  
Deacon Naji Youssef  
Deacon William Williamsen

Fr. Antoine's Email: [abouna@melkitesofnyc.net](mailto:abouna@melkitesofnyc.net)

**December 13, 2009. Sunday of the Forefathers of Christ.** Epistle: Col 1: 12-18, **p.1293.** Gospel: Lk 14: 16-24, **p.1118.** Next Sunday's readings: Epistle: Col 3: 4-12. Gospel: Mt 1: 1-25.

**THE DIVINE LITURGY is offered for**

- ✦ Mary and Aghapy Abdy
- ✦ Zbeida & Youssef Ghanem
- ✦ Latife & Salim Machalani

The Church of the Virgin Mary honors Ronnie Bache for his dedication and long years in God service as an Advisor to NAMY and Secretary to the Parish Advisory Council.

**SPIRITUAL TALK:** On Tuesday, **December 22<sup>nd</sup>**, Fr. Antoine will give his talk, at 8:00pm, on "The Dynamics of Sin in the Story of Adam & Eve," followed by a social gathering.

**CONFESSIONS:** Fr. Antoine will be available to hear confessions on Wednesday, **December 23<sup>rd</sup>**, 7:30-8:30pm. Christmas is a time to encounter Christ with a pure heart.

**CHRISTMAS LITURGIES:** On Thursday December 24, at 9:30 PM, and on Friday December 25, at 11:00 AM. **Merry Christmas!**

**NEW YEAR'S LITURGY:** On Friday, January 1, at 11:00 AM. **Happy New Year!**

**CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE:** We are having a Christmas Toy Drive that serves families with children from infancy to the age of 18. The toys will be distributed by Catholic Charities Brooklyn West Community Center to more than 1,000 families on *December 18<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup>*. Adel Baghdady is the coordinator and the contact person. You may bring your toys and leave them under the Christmas tree. Thank you for your generosity!

**CHRISTMAS PARTY:** The Fratority is sponsoring its Annual Breakfast with Santa today Sunday, **December 13<sup>th</sup>**, following the Divine Liturgy. Unfortunately no tickets remain. We apologize if we are not able to accommodate those who don't have tickets.

**NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY:** The Church is sponsoring a New Year's Eve Party on Thursday Dec.31<sup>st</sup> at 9:00pm, featuring Eddie Osama and his Ensemble. Full Course Middle Eastern Mazza. Choice of a bottle of scotch or Arak per table. \$85 per person. Please call Al Dekki at 718-680-7529 to reserve early your tickets.

**NATIVITY SET:** MAYA and NAMY are raffling a Nativity Set. Raffle Tickets are available at the church hall during the coffee hour (3 for \$5 or 7 for \$10). Thanks for your support!

**LADIES SOCIETY BAKE SALE:** The Ladies Society will be hosting a Bake Sale following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, December 20, in the Church Hall. Please come and buy some wonderful home baked treats and support the Ladies!

**LADIES SOCIETY:** We will be meeting on

January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**THE ARCHBISHOP'S APPEAL:** As we travel with the Virgin to Bethlehem where she will give birth to the greatest gift in human history—the Gift of God's Only-Begotten Son—let us not forget our Melkite Catholic Church by which Christ comes to our families and loved ones. **Please give an end-of-year, tax-deductible gift to the Melkite Church** in America and help our Church in countless ways. Help produce **SOPHIA** magazine, assist in the faith education of our young people, support the training of new priests and deacons, expand our missions and start new ones, give support to our elderly priests. Please give generously so these vital works can continue and grow. Appeal envelopes are available in the narthex. May God bless you for your generosity.

**REMEMBER THE MELKITE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL:** Give a lasting gift for future generations of Melkites and help to ensure that our beautiful Melkite heritage continues to grow and flourish for your children's children. Simply add the following statement to your last will and testament: ***I hereby bequeath to the Melkite Eparchy of Newton the following sum: \$\_\_\_\_\_.*** Contact Archbishop Cyril personally to inform him of your generous bequest: 3 VFW Parkway, West Roxbury, MA 02132.

**FUTURE LITURGIES:** On **December 20<sup>th</sup>**, for Evelyn Gorayeb; on **January 10<sup>th</sup>**, for Victoria Kateb (1Year) and Anthony Kateb (40 Years); on **January 17<sup>th</sup>**, for Charles Ajamy (40day); on **February 21<sup>st</sup>**, for George Hindi (30Years); on **May 9<sup>th</sup>**, for Thomas Muratore.

**COLLECTION:** ***For God loves a cheerful giver.***

**Epistle Verses – Prokimenon**

**Reader:** How great are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you have wrought them all.

**All:** How great are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you have wrought them all.

**Reader:** Bless the Lord, O my soul! You are very great indeed, O Lord my God!

**All:** How great are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you have wrought them all.

**Troparion of the Resurrection, 3rd Tone**

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad! For the Lord has done a wondrous deed by his arm! He has crushed Death by his death becoming the first to rise from the dead. He has delivered us from the mouth of Hades and bestowed great mercy upon the world.

**Troparion of the Forefathers, (2<sup>nd</sup> Tone)**

Through faith, You have justified your Ancestors, O Christ our God, and through them You have espoused in advance the Church set apart from the Gentiles. The saints rejoice in glory because, from the seed of these Ancestors, has come forth the glorious fruit, who gave You birth without seed. Through their intercession, O Christ God, save our souls.

**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 Theotokos. You have passed to life being the Mother of Life. Through your intercession save our souls from death.

**Kondakion of the Preparation of the Nativity** Today the Virgin is on her way to the cave where she will give birth in a manner beyond understanding to the Word who is, in all eternity. Rejoice, therefore, universe, when you hear it heralded: with the angles and the shepherds, glorify Him who chose to be seen as a new-born Babe, while remaining God in all eternity.