

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.Melkite.org/bkny

Fr. Antoine Rizk, BSO
Administrator

Email: fr_antoine@hotmail.com

January 13, 2008: Sunday of the Pharisee and the Publican. Epistle: 2 Tim 3:10-15, **p.1316**; Gospel: Luke 18:10-14, **p.1123**. (Next Sunday's readings will be: Epistle: 1 Cor 6: 12-20; Gospel: Luke 15:11-32).

THE DIVINE LITURGY is offered for

✦ Basil Stonbely (40 days)

CONGRATULATIONS: To Jimmy and Samia Saady on the baptism of their son John; and to Jamal and Hanan Kawwa on the baptism of their daughter Nadine.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: We are going to meet Tuesday, **January 15**, at 8:00pm.

PRAYER GROUP: Everyone is welcome to attend the next Prayer Group meeting on Sat January 19 at 7:30pm. For more information, please call Mireille Seikali: 718-836-8606.

BIBLE STUDY: We will be meeting on Wednesday **January 23**, at 8pm at St. Andrew the Apostle Church 6713 Ridge Blvd, in Bayridge. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

FUTURE LITURGIES: On January 20, for Issa Laham (40 days), Antoun and Rose Polo; on January 27, for Matta and Nabih El-Hayek; on March 9, for Ajib Shabouk (1 Year Anniversary).

COLLECTION: *For God loves a cheerful giver.*

Antiphon Prayer (BDHL p.429)

O Christ our God, You condemned the Pharisee proud of his works and justified the Publican bent by repentance. We implore You in your mercies to give us repentant hearts and to enlighten our minds so that we may recognize our sins and confess them. Forgive us our trespasses and restore us to the initial justification which we have lost by rebelling against your divine commandments.

For You alone are merciful and compassionate and to You we render glory and to your Eternal Father and your All-holy, Good and Life-giving Spirit, now and always and forever and ever.

Epistle Verses - Prokimenon

Reader: Make vows to the Lord your God and fulfill them: let all round about him bring gifts to the awesome Lord!

All: Make vows to the Lord your God and fulfill them: let all round about him bring gifts to the awesome Lord!

Reader: God is renowned in Judah; in Israel, great is his name.

All: Make vows to the Lord your God and fulfill them: let all round about him bring gifts to the awesome Lord!

Troparion – Tone 8

O Merciful One, You came down from on high and endured burial for three days in order to save us from suffering. O our life and our Resurrection, glory to you!

Troparion of the Feast, 1st Tone

At your Baptism in the Jordan, O Lord, the worship of the Trinity was revealed: for the Father's voice bore witness to you by calling You his Beloved Son, and the spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truth of these words. O Christ God who have appeared to us, and enlightened the world, 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 of the Feast

Today You have appeared, O Lord, to the universe and Your light, O Christ our God, has been impressed upon us who sing to You with full knowledge: You came and appeared, O Inaccessible Light.

Christian Prayer

Catechism of the Catholic Church

2558 "Great is the mystery of the faith!" ... This mystery, then, requires that the faithful believe in it, that they celebrate it, and that they live from it in a vital and personal relationship with the living and true God. This relationship is prayer.

For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy (St Therese of Lisieux)

2559 "Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God." But when we pray, do we speak from the height of our pride and will, or "out of the depths" of a humble and contrite heart? He who humbles himself will be exalted; *humility* is the foundation of prayer, Only when we humbly acknowledge that "we do not know how to pray as we ought," are we ready to receive freely the gift of prayer. "Man is a beggar before God."

2565 In the New Covenant, prayer is the living relationship of the children of God with their Father who is good beyond measure, with his Son Jesus Christ and with the Holy Spirit. The grace of the Kingdom is "the union of the entire holy and royal Trinity. . . with the whole human spirit." Thus, the life of prayer is the habit of being in the presence of the thrice-holy God and in communion with him. This communion of life is always possible because, through Baptism, we have already been united with Christ. Prayer is *Christian* insofar as it is communion with Christ and extends throughout the Church, which is his Body. Its dimensions are those of Christ's love.