

CHURCH OF THE VIRGIN MARY

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Daily Liturgy 9:30, Sunday Liturgy 11:00
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Fr. Antoine Rizk, BSO, Pastor
Deacon Naji Youssef
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May 16, 2010. Sunday of the Fathers of the Council of Nicea. Epistle: Acts 20:16-18, 28-36, p.1196. Gospel Jn 17:1-13, p.1161. Next Sunday's readings: Epistle: Acts 2: 1-11. Gospel: Jn 7: 37-52 & 8: 12.

THE DIVINE LITURGY is offered for

- ◆ Shukrallah Darsi (5 Years)
- ◆ Jeannette Farage (5 Years)
- ◆ Emile Talisse (40day)
- ◆ Nawal & John Sheety & their parents

SATURDAY SCHOOL'S TRIP: Yesterday, the Saturday School team headed to the Jersey Shore on an adventurous trip aboard a Pirate Ship. The fun continued at Jenkinson's Boardwalk in Point Pleasant where we visited the Aquarium. Everyone had a great day filled with adventure, shared with family and friends!

HEALTH FAIR AND BLOOD DRIVE: On Sunday, *May 23rd*, the Church will hold its Annual Health Fair sponsored by the New York Methodist Hospital. Dr. Steven Garner, who is currently the Chairman of Radiology at Methodist Hospital and who has been the host of The Prayer Channel's (now NET) **Ask the Doctor** series, will be present. You are invited

to come and receive important health information and have the opportunity to donate blood. Thanks to Dr. Emile Baccash and Josephine Lian for continuing to organize this very important event.

THE 46TH ANNUAL NATIONAL MELKITE CONVENTION: Saint Joseph Melkite Mission in Seattle, Washington, will host the 46th Annual National Melkite Convention, *June 30th -July 4th, 2010*, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Bellevue City. The keynote speaker will be *Archbishop Elias Chacour*, Melkite Eparch of Galilee in the Holy Land; distinguished guest his Excellency the *Most Rev. Celestino Migliore* Titular Archbishop of Canosa, Apostolic Nuncio, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations; our religious guest *Mirna Nazour* from Our Lady of Soufania in Damascus, Syria, will share her unique spiritual experience as an "Ambassador" of Christian Unity in the Middle East. For more information, please visit <http://stjosephofseattle.org/convention.htm>.

SERIES OF SPIRITUAL TALKS: Fr. Antoine continues his series of biblical and spiritual talks. "*Explore the Divine Liturgy*" is the topic of the next Friday, *June 4th*, at 8:15pm sharp. Please join us!

FUTURE LITURGIES: On *May 23rd*, for Louis Najib Abou-Khaled, Rafik Joseph Abou-Khaled, Linda Merkel & Elizabeth Lynch; on *May 30th* for George Douwailibi (40day); on *June 6th*, for Basil Mouzayek.

COLLECTION: *For God loves a cheerful giver.*

Antiphon Prayer

O Lord, Who are Good beyond description, we ask You through the intercession of your All-pure Mother and the Holy Fathers who participated in the Ecumenical Councils, to support the Church, uphold the faith and make us all partake of your heavenly Kingdom, when You come to judge the whole creation. For You are the Way, the Truth and the Life, O Christ God and we render glory, to You 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: Blessed are you, O Lord, God of our fathers, and your name is worthy of praise and glorious forever.

All: Blessed are you, O Lord, God of our fathers, and your name is worthy of praise and glorious forever.

Reader: For you are just in all you have done to us, and all your works are true and your ways right.

All: Blessed are you, O Lord, God of our fathers, and your name is worthy of praise and glorious forever.

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 6)

The angelic powers appeared at your tomb, and the guards became as dead men, and Mary stood by the Sepulcher seeking your spotless Body. You despoiled Hades and yet were not tempted by it; You met the Virgin O Bestower of Life. O Lord who rose from the dead, glory to you.

Troparion of the Ascension (4th Tone)

You ascended in glory, O Christ our God, and gladdened your disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. Through your blessing they were

confirmed in their belief that You are the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world.

Troparion of the Fathers (8th Tone)

O Christ our God, You are infinitely glorified, for You established our Fathers as radiant stars on earth: You led us to the true faith though them. O Most Merciful One, glory to you!

Kondakion of the Ascension

After fulfilling for us your plan of redemption and joining the things of earth with those of heaven, O Christ our God, You gloriously ascended without abandoning us, but remained with us forever and reassured all who love you by telling them: "Behold, I am with you: no one has power against you."

POEM TO A SUNFLOWER

*I see you there in glory shining bright,
Following the sun and its path of light.
Standing tall above all others in the field,
You grow, conquer, and do not yield.
The little birds take great delight
In playing round you, from day to night.
With your petals of yellow and leaves of green
How very easily you are seen.
But there is more to you than first sight,
More than beauty and grander to delight.
Every beautiful aspect that appears,
Gives praise to the Father dear.
He made you a part of creation,
And you praise him in glorious celebration!
The beauty that within you is expressed,
Gives testimony to his greatness.
Sunflower, how I long to be like you!
Glorifying God in all I do.
Following the Son and His path of light,
To worship Him in His glory shining bright.
I can learn from you, my friend,
With every breath, praise to God, I might send.
With all of his creation telling the story,
Might I, with you, proclaim His glory.
~By Katherine R. Lane*