

**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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**June 28, 2009. The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost.** Epistle: Rom 6: 18-23; **p.1216**. Gospel: Mt 8: 5-13; **p.1020**. (Next Sunday's readings: Epistle: Rom 10: 1-10. Gospel: Mt 8: 5-13).

**THE DIVINE LITURGY is offered for**

✦ Mary Tutunjian

✦ Youssef Kharouba

✦ Najah Kharouba

**BAPTIZED IN CHRIST:** Congratulations to Andrew & Barbara Nasser on the baptism of their son Christopher; to Fouad & Andrea Baladi on the baptism of their son Andrew; and to Karim & Kristin Homsany on the baptism of their son Matthew.

**UPDATING THE NEW PORTAL OF OUR WEBSITE:** Recently we updated the users menu of our [New Web Portal](#) so you may be able to create your own **network**. So once you are registered and logged in, you may invite registered users to be part of your network. They must be users and willing to be contacted (update their profile). Additionally, you will be able to create your **Bulletin Board**, add new messages to share with your friends, and be able

to **download** any file posted by the administrator of the website. At the same time we have added to the main menu a Calendar and a Directory. **Calendar:** you may check the date of any parish event and add or share your own events; **Directory:** we will be creating a directory for our community which might help people to use it as a resource. In addition, different **RSS Tags** have been displayed in case you would like to "syndicate" the content of the web portal.

**FINANCIAL COUNSELING WORKSHOP:**

On **June 23rd** we offered a Financial Counseling Workshop for parishioners who are in financial stress. It was a stimulating and motivational evening. Our guest-speakers were members of the community and experts in their fields. Thanks to Giselle Awad, Salwa Awad, Adel Baghdadi, and Barbara Giancola, for organizing and coordinating this workshop.

**SOLEMN VESPERS:** Msgr. Guy Massie and Fr. Eugene Pappas cordially invites us to *Solemn Vespers for the Closing Year of St. Paul* on **Monday June 29th** at **St. Andrew the Apostle Church**, 6713 Ridge Blvd in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, beginning with Prayers of the Rosary at 7:00pm and Solemn Vespers at 7:30pm. In attendance will be Archbishop Celestino Migliore Apostolic Nuncio to the United Nations, as well as other Priests, Hierarchs and Ministers, Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant.

**NATIONAL MELKITE CONVENTION:**

The 45<sup>th</sup> annual National Melkite Convention will be held July 1-5, 2009 at St. Anne Melkite Catholic Church, West Patterson, NJ. Reservations and travel information can be found by visiting the website at

[www.stannmelkite.homestead.com/Convention2009.html](http://www.stannmelkite.homestead.com/Convention2009.html)

**ROUND TRIP CRUISE:** Members of our parish are joining Fr. Antoine, **July 13-18**, 2009 for a round trip cruise from New York to Canada. In case of emergency, and while Fr. Antoine is away, please contact Deacon Naji at 917-796-9347.

**PICNIC:** On **August 9th**, the Church is sponsoring its Annual Breezy Point Picnic at Ft. Tilden. So bring your BBQs and games and come enjoy a beautiful day together. Please reserve the date and for more information, contact Al Dekki.

**FUTURE LITURGIES:** On **July 5**, for Antoun & Rose Polo; on **July 12**, for Victoria Kateb (6 months).

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

**Epistle Verses – Prokimenon**

**Reader:** Sing praise to our God, sing praise! Sing praise to our King, sing praise!

**All:** Sing praise to our God, sing praise! Sing praise to our King, sing praise!

**Reader:** All you peoples, clap your hands! Shout to God with cries of gladness.

**All:** Sing praise to our God, sing praise! Sing praise to our King, sing praise!

**Reading from the Epistle of St Paul to the Romans (Rm 6:18-23)**

**Brethren:** <sup>18</sup>You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness. <sup>19</sup>I put

this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves. Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness. <sup>20</sup>When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. <sup>21</sup>What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! <sup>22</sup>But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. <sup>23</sup>For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in <sup>[b]</sup> Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Troparion – Tone 3**

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.

**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.