

CHURCH OF THE VIRGIN MARY

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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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November 29, 2009. Thirteenth Sunday of the Holy Cross. Epistle: Eph 5: 8-19, **p.1282**. Gospel: Lk 18: 18-28, **p.1123**. Next Sunday's readings: Epistle: Eph 6: 10-17. Gospel: Lk 13: 10-17.

THE DIVINE LITURGY is offered for
✦ Lorraine Orfaly (1year)

We mourn the death of **Naser Dakwar** at the age of 88. He is survived by his children Gaby, Nejme, Mubada, Kameel and their families. Please remember him in your prayers.

BIBLE STUDY: Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, **December 8th**, at 8:00pm. All are welcome to attend!

PRE-NAMY CLUB: Our next meeting will be on Saturday, **December 13th**, at 5:30pm. All preteens (grades 5-8) are welcome to join us!

SERIES OF SPIRITUAL TALKS: Fr. Antoine continues his series of talks on Tuesday, **December 22nd**, at 8:00pm, with the topic: "The Dynamics of Sin in the Story of Adam & Eve."

CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE: We will be 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 18th, 21st, and 23rd*. Adel Baghdady will be 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 Fraternity is sponsoring its Annual Breakfast with Santa on Sunday, **December 13th**, following the Divine Liturgy. Paid reservations must be made by December 6th. No tickets will be sold at the door. For more information please contact Adel at (718)748-7294.

THE ARCHBISHOP'S APPEAL: At this time of year when we offer thanksgiving for all God's blessings, Our Lord tells us in the Gospel not be sad and downcast worrying about our earthly riches, but to be generous and joyful of heart, storing up treasure in Heaven and being rich in the things of God. If our Lord has blessed us with riches, He does so not only for ourselves and our families, but for the good of His Church. We are able to enjoy the blessings of our beautiful Melkite faith and tradition only because of the labor and sacrifice of our forebears in the faith who have gone before us. Offer your gratitude to God by giving a generous gift to the Archbishop's Appeal today. Appeal envelopes are available in the narthex. Thank you for your generosity.

FUTURE LITURGIES: On **December 6th**, for John Sheety (40day); for John, Joseph, Abraham, Alice, Francis, Rachid and Yazda

Asfour Kourbage, Soraya Shamiah, and the deceased members of the Kourbage and Syage Families; and for Naser Dakwar (40days); on **December 20th**, for Evelyn Gorayeb.

COLLECTION: For God loves a cheerful giver.

The Lesson of the Homeless Man
(Unknown Author)

It was a cold winter's day that Sunday. The parking lot to the church was filling up quickly. I noticed as I got out of my car fellow church members were whispering among themselves as they walked in the church. As I got closer I saw a man leaned up against the wall outside the church. He was almost laying down as if he was asleep. He had on a long trench coat that was almost in shreds and a hat topped his head, pulled down so you could not see his face. He wore shoes that looked 30 years old, too small for his feet, with holes all over them, his toes stuck out. I assumed this man was homeless, and asleep, so I walked on by through the doors of the church. We all fellowshipped for a few minutes, and someone brought up the man laying outside. People snickered and gossiped but no one bothered to ask him to come in, including me. A few moments later church began. We all waited for the Preacher to take his place and to give us the Word, when the doors to the church opened. In came the homeless man walking down the aisle with his head down. People gasped and whispered and made faces. He made his way down the aisle and up onto the pulpit where he took off his hat and coat. My heart sank. There stood our preacher...he was the "homeless man." No one said a word. The preacher took his Bible and laid it on his stand. "Folks, I don't think I have

to tell you what I am preaching about today. If you judge people, you have no time to love them."

Epistle Verses – Prokimenon

Reader: May your kindness, O Lord, be upon us, for we have hoped in you.

All: May your kindness, O Lord, be upon us, for we have hoped in you.

Reader: Exult, you just, in the Lord, praise from the upright is fitting.

All: May your kindness, O Lord, be upon us, for we have hoped in you.

Troparion of the Resurrection (1st tone)

While the stone was sealed by the Jews and soldiers were watching your sacred body, You rose, O Savior, on the third day, giving life to the world. Wherefore, O Giver of life, the powers of heaven cried out: Glory to your resurrection, O Christ. Glory to your kingdom, glory to your Plan of redemption, O You who alone are the Lover of mankind.

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 of our Lord (3rd Tone)

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.