**FEBRUARY 27**

**Thursday of Cheesefare Week. Repose of St. Raphael, Bishop of Brooklyn.**

**“Blessed is the man…” (1st Kathisma)**

**"Lord, I Call..." Tone 2**

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!

Hear me, O Lord!

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!

Receive the voice of my prayer,

when I call upon Thee!//

Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise

in Thy sight as incense,

and let the lifting up of my hands

be an evening sacrifice!//

Hear me, O Lord!

*v. (6) If Thee, O Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.*

**Tone 2** (*for St Raphael)*  *(Joseph of Arimathea)*

Let all the choirs of Orthodox Christians in America

sing hymns in honor of the holy Bishop Raphael!

By birth an Arab, nourished by streams of Greek theology,

he was consecrated by the Church of Russia, which had adopted us all.

True to his name, he brings God’s healing to us//

as we celebrate his holy memory.

*v. (5) For Thy name’s sake have I waited for Thee, O Lord, my soul has waited for Thy word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

As the Archangel Raphael guided Tobit in a foreign land long ago,

Bishop Raphael kept his flock on the true path in a land far from their homes.

Always imitating the Good Shepherd,

he fed his many sheep from a table that the Lord prepared in the presence of their enemies.

So now, as we are fed by his teaching and example,//

we pray that he continue to intercede for us with Christ our God.

*v. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel hope on the Lord!*

Let us sing hymns of praise to the holy Bishop Raphael,

who shone forth from Brooklyn and enlightened those in darkness!

To those who were wounded by sin, he brought healing in Christ;

to those who were deceived, he brought the truth of the Orthodox Faith;

he gathered his scattered sheep safely into the fold of the Church.//

Therefore we praise him as a worthy bishop and a citizen of Heaven.

*v. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

**Tone 1** *(O, the Marvelous Wonder)*

Holy Father Raphael, thou didst embody the love of Christ from thy youth.

Sent to America, O son of Antioch, thou wast an apostle to the lost sheep

of Syria.

Without concern for thine own comfort, thou didst labor night and day,

traversing the continent, never pausing to rest.//

As thou hast boldness before Christ our God, entreat Him to save our souls!

*v. (2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!*

Holy Father Raphael, thou didst act as a good shepherd,

searching far and near for thy lost sheep.

Binding their wounds in love as their father in the Spirit,

thou didst carry them to Christ on thine own shoulders.//

As thou hast boldness before Christ our God, entreat Him to save our souls!

*v. (1) For His mercy is abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endures forever.*

In thee, good shepherd Raphael,

the faithful didst find sustenance for their souls and protection from their foes.

Keeping thine eyes not on obstacles but on the prize from above,

thou didst count earthly gain as loss,

and didst imitate Christ by laying down thy life for thy flock.//

As thou hast boldness before Christ our God, entreat Him to save our souls!

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

**Tone 6**

Thy children praise thee as a wise hierarch of the Church in America,

who didst unify the faithful from every land,

and who didst defend the oppressed and guard the Faith.

Thou didst hold the high and the humble in equal esteem,

treating all with Christ’s own gentleness.

Now as thou standest among the saints, O holy Father Raphael,//

never cease to intercede for us with Christ our God!

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 6**  *(Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

Who will not bless thee, O most holy Virgin?

Who will not sing of thy most pure childbearing?

The only-begotten Son shone timelessly from the Father,

but from thee He was ineffably incarnate.

God by nature, He became Man for our sake,

not divided into two persons but manifest as One in two natures.

Entreat Him, O pure and all-blessed Lady,//

to have mercy on our souls!

**Tone 5 Prokeimenon**

Save me, O God, by Thy name, / and judge me by Thy strength!  *(Ps 53/54:1)*

*v: Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth! (Ps 53/54:1)*

**Reading from Joel (3:12-21)**

**Tone 6 Prokeimenon**

Let Israel hope in the Lord / henceforth and forevermore!  *(Ps 130/131:3)*

*v: O Lord, my heart is not lifted up; my eyes are not raised too high.*

*(Ps 130/131:1)*

**Readings** *(St Raphael)*

**Composite 2** *(Selections from Proverbs 10. 3, and 8)*

**Proverbs 10:31-11:12**

**Wisdom of Solomon 4:7-15**

**Aposticha**

**Tone 3**

The Lenten spring hath come,

the flower of repentance.

Brethren, let us cleanse ourselves from all evil,

crying out to the Giver of light://

“Glory to Thee, O Lover of mankind!”

*v: To Thee, I lift up mine eyes, O Thou who art enthroned in the heavens! Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God, till He have mercy upon us. (Ps. 122/123:1-2)*

(Repeat: “The Lenten spring …”)

*v: Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt. Too long our soul has been sated with the scorn of those who are at ease, the contempt of the proud. (Ps. 122/123:3-4)*

**Tone 3**  *(to the Martyrs)*

Thy martyrs, O Lord,

were confirmed by faith and strengthened by hope.

Spiritually united by love of Thy Cross,

they overcame the tyranny of the Enemy.

They have obtained crowns of glory,//

and together with the Angels, they pray for our souls.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

**Tone 4**

Today a great festival shines like a sun over all the world,

as we celebrate the memory of the holy Bishop Raphael,

apostle to the lost sheep of North America.

Let us rejoice on this festive day and cry out unto him:

“Hail, new Moses, who didst lead thy people to the Promised Land!

Hail, new Elijah, who didst bequeath a double portion of thy spirit to us!

Hail, new Ezra, who didst build a temple of God in our midst!

Hail, new apostle of Christ our God, drawing us closer to Him!

As thou standest among the saints before the throne of God,//

never cease to intercede for us who honor thee!”

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 4** *(Theotokion)*

Having thee, O Theotokos, as our hope and protection,

we are not dismayed by the schemes of the Enemy,//

for thou dost ever intercede for our souls.

***(at Vespers)***

**Tone 1** **Troparion**  *(St. Raphael)*

Thy proclamation has gone out through North America,

calling the scattered sheep into the unity of the Church.

Hearing thy voice, they respond to thy teaching,

and through thy writings thou didst instruct them in piety.

Now guided by thine example, O Father Raphael,

we sing hymns of praise to Christ our God:

“Glory to Him Who gave thee strength!

Glory to Him Who granted thee a ^crown!//

Glory to Him Who, through thee, grants healing to all!

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,*

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 1 Resurrectional** **Dismissal Theotokion**

When Gabriel announced to thee, O Virgin, saying “Rejoice!”

with that word the Master of all was incarnate in ^thee,

the holy Ark, spoken of by the righteous David!

Thy womb became more spacious than the heavens,

for thou didst carry thy Creator.

Glory to Him Who took abode in thee!

Glory to Him Who came ^forth from thee!//

Glory to Him Who freed us by being born of thee!

***(at the Divine Liturgy)***

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**Tone 8 Kontakion** *(St Raphael)*

Thou wast a guardian and a defender of the Church’s teaching,

thou didst protect thy flock from false doctrines and confirmed them in the

true faith!

O holy Father Raphael, son of Syria and glory of North America,//

always intercede before the Lord that our souls may be saved!

**Tone 1** **Prokeimenon**

My mouth shall speak wisdom, / and the meditation of my heart shall be

understanding. *(Ps 48/49:3)*

*v: Hear this, all nations! Give ear, all inhabitants of the earth! (Ps 48/49:1)*

**Epistle**

Jude 11-25

Hebrews 13:17-21*(St Raphael)*

**Tone 2**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*v: The mouth of the righteous shall meditate wisdom, and his tongue shall speak of judgment. (Ps 36/37:30)*

*v: The Law of God is in his heart, and his steps shall not falter. (Ps 36/37:31).*

**Gospel**

John 10:9-16*(St Raphael)*

**Communion Hymn**

The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not fear evil tidings.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

In addition to translations from the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations, liturgical texts for this service represent modified versions of translations provided by Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery, Otego, New York and St. Tikhon’s Monastery, South Canaan, Pa. The Department of Liturgical Music and Translations of the Orthodox Church in America expresses its gratitude to Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery and St. Tikhon’s Monastery and to those translators whose work has been consulted at times in the course of reviewing and modifying these texts to their present form: Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware), Archimandrite Ephrem (Lash), Father Benedict Churchill, Isaac Lambertson, St. Vladimir’s Seminary, and Holy Transfiguration Monastery, among others.