

THE VIGIL SERVICE

OUR FATHER AMONG THE SAINTS

RAPHAEL



BISHOP OF BROOKLYN

“GOOD SHEPHERD OF THE LOST SHEEP IN AMERICA”

(NOVEMBER 8, 1860 - FEBRUARY 27, 1915)

The commemoration of Saint Raphael is observed on the Saturday before the Synaxis of the Bodiless Powers of Heaven on November 8, which means that it may fall between November 1-7. It is also observed on February 27. It is celebrated as a vigil-rank commemoration.

The service begins with the lighting level in the temple low. The priest, vested in exorasson, epitrachelion and phelonion, blesses the incense, saying in a quiet voice:

Blessed is our God, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The priest, preceded by the deacon (or subdeacon or reader if no deacon is present) carrying a lighted candle, censes the holy table. The priest exits the sanctuary through the north door, and does the great censuring of the entire church while the chanters slowly chant in Tone 8:

I shall go into Thy house; I shall worship toward Thy holy temple in fear of Thee, O Lord.

After the censuring, the priest enters the sanctuary through the holy doors and stands before the holy table. The candle-bearer stands on the east side of the holy table. At the end of the hymn and censuring, the deacon stands in the center of the solea.

Deacon: Bless, master!

GREAT VESPERS

The priest begins Great Vespers by making the sign of the cross with the censer over the gospel book at the altar.

Priest: Glory to the holy, consubstantial, life-giving and undivided Trinity, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Reader: Amen.

Come, let us worship and fall down before God our King.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God.

During the reading of Psalm 103, the priest removes his phelonion and quietly reads the seven prayers at the lighting of the lamps (The Liturgikon, fourth edition, 17; The Archdiocesan Service Book, 2).

THE PSALM OF INTRODUCTION—PSALM 103

Reader: Bless the Lord, O my soul; O Lord my God, Thou hast been magnified exceedingly. Confession and majesty hast Thou put on, Who coverest Thyself with light as with a garment, Who stretchest out the heaven as it were a curtain; Who supporteth His chambers in the waters, Who appointeth the clouds for His ascent, Who walketh upon the wings of the winds, Who maketh His angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire.

Who establisheth the earth in the sureness thereof; it shall not be turned back forever and ever. The abyss like a garment is His mantle; upon the mountains shall the waters stand. At Thy rebuke they will flee, at the voice of Thy thunder shall they be afraid.

The mountains rise up and the plains sink down, unto the place where Thou hast established them. Thou appointedst a bound that they shall not pass, neither return to cover the earth. He sendeth forth springs in the valleys; between the mountains will the waters run. They shall give drink to all the beasts of the field; the wild asses will wait to quench their thirst. Beside them will the birds of the heaven lodge, from the midst of the rocks will they give voice.

He watereth the mountains from His chambers; the earth shall be satisfied with the fruit of Thy works. He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and green herb for the service of men, to bring forth bread out of the earth; and wine maketh glad the heart of man. To make his face cheerful with oil; and bread strengtheneth man's heart.

The trees of the plain shall be satisfied, the cedars of Lebanon, which Thou hast planted. There will the sparrows make their nests; the house of the heron is chief among them. The high mountains are a refuge for the harts, and so is the rock for the hares.

He hath made the moon for seasons; the sun knoweth his going down. Thou appointedst the darkness, and there was the night, wherein all the beasts of the forest will go abroad; young lions roaring after their prey, and seeking their food from God. The sun ariseth, and they are gathered together, and they lay them down in their dens. Man shall go forth unto his work, and to his labor until the evening. How magnified are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

The earth is filled with Thy creation. So is this great and spacious sea, wherein are things creeping innumerable, small living creatures with the great. There go the ships; there this leviathan, whom Thou hast made to play therein. All things wait on Thee, to give them their food in due season; when Thou givest it them, they will gather it.

THE ANOIXANTARIA IN TONE EIGHT (BYZANTINE) (WESTERN)

When Thou openest Thy hand, all things shall be filled with goodness; when Thou turnest away Thy face, they shall be troubled. Glory to Thee, O God. Alleluia.

Thou wilt take their spirit, and they shall cease; and unto their dust shall they return. Glory to Thee, O God. Alleluia.

Thou wilt send forth Thy Spirit, and they shall be created; and Thou shalt renew the face of the earth. Glory to Thee, O Father. Glory to Thee, O Son. Glory to Thee, O Holy Spirit. Glory to Thee, O God. Alleluia.

Let the glory of the Lord be unto the ages; the Lord will rejoice in His works. Glory to Thee, O Holy One. Glory to Thee, O Lord. Glory to Thee, O Heavenly King. Glory to Thee, O God. Alleluia.

Who looketh on the earth and maketh it tremble, Who toucheth the mountains and they smoke. Glory to Thee, O Holy One. Glory to Thee, O Lord. Glory to Thee, O Heavenly King. Glory to Thee, O Holy Spirit. Glory to Thee, O God. Alleluia.

I will sing unto the Lord throughout my life, I will chant to my God for as long as I have my being. Glory to Thee, the Godhead of Three Hypostases: Father, Son and Spirit; Thee do we worship and glorify. Glory to Thee, O God. Alleluia.

May my words be sweet unto Him; I will rejoice in the Lord. Glory to Thee, O beginningless Father. Glory to Thee, O co-beginningless Son. Glory to Thee, O Holy Spirit, one with Them in essence and in throne. O Holy Trinity, glory to Thee. Glory to Thee, O God. Alleluia.

O that sinners would cease from the earth, and they that work iniquity, that they should be no more. Glory to Thee, O Father. Glory to Thee, O Son. Glory to Thee, O Holy Spirit. O Holy Trinity, glory to Thee. Glory to Thee, O God. Alleluia.

Bless the Lord, O my soul. The sun knoweth his going down. Thou appointedst the darkness, and there was the night. Glory to Thee, O Heavenly King. Glory to Thee, O Ruler of all, with the Son and Spirit. Glory to Thee, O God. Alleluia.

How magnified are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all. Glory to Thee, O Unbegotten Father. Glory to Thee, O only begotten Son. Glory to Thee, the Holy Spirit, Who proceedest from the Father, and restest in the Son. O Holy Trinity, glory to Thee. Glory to Thee, O God.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (*thrice*)

O our God and our Hope, glory to Thee.

The deacon exits the sanctuary, bows to the priest and takes his place on the solea.

THE GREAT LITANY

Deacon: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

The choir responds "Lord, have mercy" to each petition until noted.

For the peace from above and the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

For the peace of the whole world, the good estate of the holy churches of God and the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

For this holy house and those who with faith, reverence and fear of God enter therein, let us pray to the Lord.

For our father and metropolitan, N., (our bishop, N.) the honorable presbytery, the diaconate in Christ, all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

For our country, its president (or appropriate head of state), civil authorities and armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

For this city and every city and countryside and the faithful who dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.

For healthful seasons, abundance of the fruits of the earth and peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

For travelers by sea, by land and by air, the sick, the suffering, the captive, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

For our deliverance from all tribulation, wrath, danger and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by thy grace.

Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For unto thee are due all glory, honor and worship, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

The deacon returns to his customary place in the sanctuary.

SELECTIONS FROM THE FIRST KATHISMA OF THE PSALTER IN TONE EIGHTT

(End each numbered verse with "Alleluia.")

1. Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked. (1:1)

2. For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish. (1:6)
3. Serve the Lord in fear and rejoice, rejoice in Him with trembling. (2:11)
4. Blessed are all who take refuge in Him. (2:12)
5. Arise, arise, O Lord. Save me, O my God. (3:7)
6. Salvation belongs to the Lord. Thy blessing be upon Thy people. (3:8)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (*thrice*)

O our God and our Hope, glory to Thee.

The deacon exits the sanctuary and stands in his usual place on the solea.

THE LITTLE LITANY

Deacon: Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For thine is the might, and thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

The deacon returns to the sanctuary.

“O LORD I HAVE CRIED” IN TONE ONE

Choir: O Lord, I have cried out unto Thee, hear Thou me; hear Thou me, O Lord. O Lord, I have cried out unto Thee, hear Thou me. Give ear to the voice of my supplication when I cry out unto Thee: hear Thou me, O Lord.

Receiving the blessing, the deacon starts a great censuring of the entire temple.

Choir: Let my prayer be set forth before Thee as the incense, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice; hear Thou me, O Lord.

- + Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth, and a protecting door round about my lips.
- + Incline not my heart to evil words, to make excuses in sins.
- + With men that work iniquity; and I will not communicate with the choicest of them.
- + The just man shall correct me in mercy and shall reprove me; but let not the oil of the sinner anoint my head.
- + For my prayer also shall still be against the things with which they are well pleased; their judges falling upon the rock have been swallowed up.

- + They shall hear my words, for they are sweet; as when the thickness of the earth is broken upon the ground, their bones are scattered by the side of hades.
- + But to Thee, O Lord, Lord, are mine eyes; in Thee have I put my trust, take not away my soul.
- + Keep me from the snare which they have laid for me, and the traps of the workers of iniquity.
- + Let the wicked fall into their own nets, whilst I alone escape.
- + I cried unto the Lord with my voice, with my voice unto the Lord, did I make my supplication.
- + I poured out my supplication before Him; I showed before Him my trouble.
- + When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then Thou knewest my path.
- + In the way wherein I walked have they secretly laid a snare for me.
- + I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me.
- + Refuge failed me; no one cared for my soul.
- + I cried unto Thee, O Lord; I said: Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living.
- + Attend unto my cry, for I am brought very low.
- + Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are stronger than I.

Verse 10. Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise Thy Name.

Verse 9. The righteous shall wait for me until Thou recompense me.

Verse 8. Out of the depths have I cried to Thee, O Lord, Lord hear my voice.

Verse 7. Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

For St. Raphael in Tone One (O strange wonder**)**

Verse 6. If Thou, O Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? For with Thee there is forgiveness.

Blessed, holy Father Raphael, * thou made incarnate the love * of Christ Jesus from thy youth, * O son of the Church of Antioch sent to America. * Concerned not with thine own ease, * thou wast Apostle to the lost sheep of Syria. * From Russia thou didst arrive, * trav'ling from east to the west and from north to south, * and didst give thyself no respite, * but didst labor day and night. * As thou hast boldness with Christ God, * intercede with Him to save our souls.

Verse 5. Because of Thy Name have I waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath waited upon Thy word, my soul hath hoped in the Lord.

Blessed, holy Father Raphael, * thou made incarnate ... (repeat above)

*Verse 4. From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel trust in the Lord. Thine affairs thou truly didst conduct * like a good shepherd, O Saint, * traveling by land and sea, * traversing mountains and plains, thou roaming near and far * seeking the Lord's lost sheep. * To bind their wounds with thy fatherly, Christ-like love, * and carry them in thine arms, * and to the holy flock of Christ reunite them all, * thou didst bear the heat and toil of day, * and the chill and length of night. * As thou hast boldness with Christ God, * intercede with Him to save our souls.*

Verse 3. For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is abundant redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

Thine affairs thou truly didst conduct ... (repeat above)

Verse 2. Praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise Him, all ye people.

Orthodox believers found in thee, * O good shepherd Raphael, * a defense against their foes, * a sustenance for their souls, the lost's own guiding star. * No hardships kept thou in sight, * fixing thine eyes on the prize and high call of God. * Thou counted all things as naught, * and suffered all loss that thou might win Christ our God. * Laying down thy life for Christ's sheep, * thou art surely glorified. * As thou hast boldness with Christ God, * intercede with Him to save our souls.

Verse 1. For His mercy is great toward us, and the truth of the Lord endureth forever.

Orthodox believers found in thee ... (repeat above)

DOXASTICON FOR ST. RAPHAEL IN TONE SIX

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

Thy children praise thee, O equal-to-the-Apostles, wise hierarch of the Church of God in America, uniter of the Orthodox world, proclaimer of the Truth, defender of the oppressed, and the guardian of the Faith, O our father and hierarch Raphael. Among the highborn thou didst behave with dignity, and among the lowly thou didst show thyself lowly, having in thyself the gentleness of Christ. Thou wast a refuge from both darkness and anguish, offering direction and never overlooking a call for help, and never showing respect of persons. Thou didst exhaust thyself on behalf of thy flock, giving to thyself no repose and caring not for the flesh, thinking only of thy people's needs. As thou now dost stand with the Angels and Archangels, O holy Raphael, never cease to intercede with Christ God for the welfare of the Church and the salvation of our souls.

On the first Friday in November, sing the theotokion for the tone of the week from the Octoechos. On February 26, sing the theotokion in tone six. The priests don their phelonias. When "both now" is chanted, the clergy make the entrance with the censor.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

Priest: In the evening and in the morning and at noonday we praise Thee, we bless Thee, we give thanks unto Thee, and we pray unto Thee, O Master of all, Lord Who lovest mankind: Direct our prayer as incense before Thee, and incline not our hearts unto words or thoughts of evil, but deliver us from all who seek after our souls. For unto Thee, O Lord, Lord, are our eyes, and in Thee have we hoped. Put us not to shame, O our God. For unto Thee are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Deacon: Amen.

(When the clergy reach the center of the solea, the first part of the great censuring begins. After the first part of the great censuring is completed, this next dialogue occurs QUIETLY.)

Deacon: Bless, father, the Holy Entrance.

Priest: Blessed is the entrance to Thy Holy Place, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Choir: Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

THEOTOKION IN TONE ONE

Let us sing the praises of Mary the Virgin, Door of Heaven, glory of all the world, sprung forth from man, who also didst bear the Lord; the song of the bodiless powers, and the enriching of the faithful; for she revealed herself as Heaven and the Temple of the Godhead. She destroyed the bulwarks of enmity and ushered in peace and did throw open the Kingdom. Wherefore, in that we possess this confirmation of our Faith, we have a defender, even the Lord Who was born of

her. Be bold, therefore, be bold, ye people of God, for He, the All-powerful, will vanquish all your enemies.

THEOTOKION IN TONE TWO

O Virgin, verily, the shadow of the law hath been annulled by the coming of thy grace; for as the bush was burning but not consumed, so didst thou give birth while yet a Virgin. And instead of the pillar of fire, the Sun of justice shone forth; and instead of Moses, Christ the Savior of our souls.

THEOTOKION IN TONE THREE

O Lady of exceeding honor, how can we but wonder at thee giving birth to incarnate God? For thou, O all-blameless, not knowing a man, didst give birth in the flesh to a Son without father, who before eternity was begotten of the Father without mother, the property and essence of each substance remaining intact. Wherefore, O virgin Mother, beseech Him to save the souls of those who assent and confess, with true belief, that thou art the Theotokos.

THEOTOKION IN TONE FOUR

David the Prophet who became through thee, O Theotokos, the grandparent of God, before time sang of thee in praise, and shouted to Him who worked wonders through thee, saying, The queen did rise on Thy right; for God hath shown thee to be a Mother bringing forth life, in that He was willing to appear incarnate from thee without father, renewing the creation of His likeness, corrupt with suffering, in order to find the sheep lost in the hills, and carry it on His shoulders, and offer it to the Father, and add it, through His will, to the heavenly hosts, and to save the whole world; for He is the reigning Christ, Possessor of rich and Great Mercy.

THEOTOKION IN TONE FIVE

The sign of the virgin bride who knew not wedlock was at one time revealed in the Red Sea; for there Moses did cleave the waters, and there Gabriel was the minister of a miracle. At that time Israel crossed the deep and their feet were not wet, and now the Virgin hath given birth to Christ without seed. The sea remained uncrossed after the passing of Israel, and the blameless one remained incorruptible after giving birth to Emmanuel. Therefore, O eternal God, Who wast before eternity, and Who didst appear as man, have mercy upon us.

THEOTOKION IN TONE SIX

Who shall not beatify thee, most holy Virgin? Who shall not praise thy birth-giving, free of traveling and pain? For the only Son rising timelessly from the Father, Himself did become incarnate from thee in an inexplicable way. He, Who while God by nature, became for our sakes Man by nature, not divided into two persons, but known by two natures without mixture or confusion. To Him, O noble and most blessed one, plead for the salvation of our souls.

THEOTOKION IN TONE SEVEN

O pure Theotokos, thou wast known as a Mother in a supernatural way, and thou didst remain virgin in an indescribable and incomprehensible manner. Thus came about the wonder of thy birth-giving, ineffable for tongue, in that thy Conception appeared dazzling to the mind, and thy birth-giving incomprehensible; for where God willeth He overcometh the order of nature. Therefore, since we know thee as Theotokos, we beseech thee ceaselessly. Intercede then for the salvation of our souls.

THEOTOKION IN TONE EIGHT

Verily, the King of heaven, for His love to mankind, did appear on earth; and with men did He deal; for He took unto Himself a body from the pure Virgin. And from her did He issue in the adopted body, He being one Son, dual in Nature, not dual in Person. Wherefore, do we confess, preaching the truth that Christ our God is perfect God and perfect Man. Therefore, O Mother who hast no groom, beseech thou Him to have mercy upon our souls.

Deacon: Wisdom! Stand upright!

The central chandelier is lit. Traditionally, in a concelebration of priests, the clergy sing "O Gladsome Light," but they may defer to the choir.

O GLADSOME LIGHT (CHANT) (CHORAL)

O gladsome Light of the holy glory of the immortal, heavenly, holy and blessed Father: O Jesus Christ. Lo now that we have come to the setting of the sun, as we behold the evening light, we hymn Thee: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God. Meet it is for Thee at all times to be magnified by joyous voices, O Son of God and Giver of life. Wherefore the whole world doth glorify Thee.

The clergy return to the sanctuary.

Deacon: The evening prokeimenon!

Now sing the Prokeimenon of the day. If this commemoration falls on a Sunday, visit the [Online Liturgical Guide](#).

SUNDAY PROKEIMENON IN TONE EIGHT

Choir: Behold now, bless the Lord, all ye servants of the Lord. (*twice*)

Verse. Ye who stand in the temple of the Lord, in the courts of the House of our God!

Choir: Behold now, bless the Lord, all ye servants of the Lord.

MONDAY PROKEIMENON IN TONE FOUR

Choir: The Lord will hear me, when I cry unto Him. (*twice*)

Verse. When I called upon Thee, O God of my righteousness, Thou didst hearken unto me!

Choir: The Lord will hear me, when I cry unto Him.

TUESDAY PROKEIMENON IN TONE ONE

Choir: Thy mercy, O Lord, shall follow me all the days of my life. (*twice*)

Verse. The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want; He makes me to lie down in green pastures!

Choir: Thy mercy, O Lord, shall follow me all the days of my life.

WEDNESDAY PROKEIMENON IN TONE FIVE

Choir: Save me, O God, by Thy Name, and judge me by Thy strength. (*twice*)

Verse. Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth!

Choir: Save me, O God, by Thy Name, and judge me by Thy strength.

THURSDAY PROKEIMENON IN TONE SIX

Choir: My help cometh from the Lord, Who hath made heaven and earth. (*twice*)

Verse. I lift up my eyes to the hills, from where my help will come!

Choir: My help cometh from the Lord, Who hath made heaven and earth.

FRIDAY PROKEIMENON IN TONE SEVEN

Choir: Thou, O God, art my helper, and Thy mercy shall go before me. (*twice*)

Verse. Deliver me from my enemies, O God, and deliver me from those who rise up against me!

Choir: Thou, O God, art my helper, and Thy mercy shall go before me.

The central chandelier is extinguished, and the lights are dimmed.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

The First Reading

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading from Proverbs. (A composite from chapters 10, 3 and 8)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: The memory of the righteous is celebrated with praise and the blessing of the Lord is upon his head. Blessed is the man who hath found wisdom and the mortal who hath understanding, for it is better to purchase her than treasuries of gold and silver. She is more precious than precious stones and all that is precious is unworthy of her. For length of days and years of life are in her right hand; and in her left hand are riches and glory. Out of her mouth proceeds righteousness and she bears law and mercy upon her tongue. Hear me, O child, for I will speak noble things. Blessed is the man who keeps my ways, for my ways are the ways of life, and in them is prepared favor from the Lord. Therefore, hear me, I pray thee, and utter my voice to the sons of men: For I, Wisdom, have dwelt with counsel and knowledge and I have called upon understanding. Counsel and safety are mine, understanding and strength are mine. I love those who love me and those seeking me shall find grace. Understand craftiness, O ye who are simple, and imbibe knowledge, ye who are untaught. Hear me again, for I will speak noble things: I will open my mouth and from my lips shall come what is right. For my throat shall meditate truth; false lips are an abomination before me. All the words of my mouth are righteous; there is nothing in them that is twisted or perverse. They are all straight to him who understands and right to those who find knowledge. I shall instruct you in truth, so that your hope will be in the Lord and ye shall be filled with the Spirit.

The Second Reading

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading from Proverbs. (10:31-11:12)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom, but the perverse tongue will be cut off. The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable, but the mouth of the wicked, what is perverse.

A false balance is an abomination to the Lord, but a just weight is his delight. When pride comes, then comes disgrace; but with the humble is wisdom. The integrity of the upright guides them, but the crookedness of the treacherous destroys them. Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death. The righteousness of the blameless keeps his ways straight, but the wicked falls by his own wickedness. The righteousness of the upright delivers them, but the treacherous are taken captive by their lust. When the wicked dies, his hope perishes, and the expectation of the godless comes to naught. The righteous is delivered from trouble, and the wicked gets into it instead. With his mouth the godless man would destroy his neighbor, but by knowledge the righteous are delivered. When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices; and when the wicked perish there are shouts of gladness. By the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked. He who belittles his neighbor lacks sense, but a man of understanding remains silent.

The Third Reading

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading from the Wisdom of Solomon. (4:7-15)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: The righteous man, though he die early, will be at rest. For old age is not honored for length of time, nor measured by number of years; but understanding of grey hair for men, and a blameless life is ripe old age. There was one who pleased God and was loved by him, and while living among sinners he was taken up. He was caught up lest evil change his understanding or guile deceive his soul. For the fascination of wickedness obscures what is good, and roving desire perverts the innocent mind. Being perfected in a short time, he fulfilled long years; for his soul was pleasing to the Lord, therefore he took him quickly from the midst of wickedness. Yet the peoples saw and did not understand, nor take such a thing to heart, that God's grace and mercy are with his elect, and he watches over his holy ones.

The deacon exits the sanctuary and stands in his usual place on the solea.

THE LITANY OF FERVENT SUPPLICATION

Deacon: Let us all say with our whole soul and with our whole mind, let us say:

The choir responds "Lord, have mercy" to the first two petitions.

O Lord Almighty, the God of our fathers, we pray thee hearken and have mercy.

Have mercy on us, O God, according to thy great mercy, we pray thee, hearken and have mercy.

The choir responds "Lord, have mercy" (thrice) to this and the remaining petitions until noted.

Again we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians.

Again we pray for our father and metropolitan, N., (and our bishop, N.).

Again we pray for our brethren: the priests, hieromonks, deacons, hierodeacons and monastics and all our brotherhood in Christ.

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, pardon and remission of sins for (the servants of God, NN., and) all Orthodox Christians of true worship, who live and dwell in this community.

Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy church (and for the servants of God, NN.,) and all of our fathers and brethren, the Orthodox departed this life before us, who here and in all the world lie asleep in the Lord.

Again we pray for those who bear fruit and do good works in this holy and all-venerable temple, those who serve and those who sing and all the people here present, who await thy great and rich mercy.

The deacon remains on the solea but moves in front of the icon of Christ.

Priest: For thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto thee we ascribe glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

THE EVENING PRAYER

People: Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever. Amen.

Let Thy mercy be upon us, O Lord, even as we have set our hope on Thee. Blessed art Thou, O Lord; teach me Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Master; make me to understand Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Holy One; enlighten me with Thy statutes.

Thy mercy, O Lord, endureth forever. O despise not the works of Thy hands. To Thee belongeth worship, to Thee belongeth praise, to Thee belongeth glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The deacon returns to the center of the solea.

THE LITANY OF SUPPLICATION

Deacon: Let us complete our evening prayer unto the Lord.

The choir responds "Lord, have mercy" to the first two petitions.

Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by thy grace.

That the whole evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

The choir responds "Grant this, O Lord" to this and the remaining petitions until noted.

An angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord.

Pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

All things good and profitable for our souls and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

That we may complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord.

A Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless, peaceful, and a good defense before the fearful judgment seat of Christ, let us ask.

Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

The deacon remains on the solea but moves in front of the icon of Christ.

Priest: For thou art a good God and lovest mankind, and unto thee we ascribe glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

THE PEACE

Priest: Peace be to all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

All bow their heads as the priest says the following prayer:

Priest: O Lord our God, Who didst bow the heavens and come down for the salvation of mankind: Look upon Thy servants and Thine inheritance; for unto Thee, the fearful Judge Who yet lovest mankind, have Thy servants bowed their heads and submissively inclined their necks, awaiting not help from men but entreating Thy mercy and looking confidently for Thy salvation. Guard them at all times, both during this present evening and in the approaching night, from every foe, from all adverse powers of the devil, and from vain thoughts and from evil imaginations.

Blessed and glorified be the might of Thy kingdom: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

The lighting level is raised. The proistamenos gives candles to concelebrating priests. As the choir sings the Litia hymns, the clergy exit the sanctuary with the festal icon preceded by the acolytes and go to the solea where a table with five loaves, wheat, wine and oil has been prepared next to the icon stand. The icon is carried three times around the stand where it is then placed, the deacon going before the priest with candle and censer. Then the clergy venerate the icon.

THE LITIA

The first troparion is for the patron saint or feast of the temple.

Tone Four. O holy hierarch Raphael, in obedience to the will of God thou didst proclaim the Word to a scattered people, calling together the descendants of those first called Christians. Nurtured in three cultures, and having adopted a fourth, thou didst reach out to all who would

hear thy voice. As the first bishop consecrated in the New World, thou art a symbol of unity in the Orthodox Faith. Now by thy prayers help lead us into the kingdom of heaven.

Tone Two. Let us exalt with hymns of praise the holy bishop Raphael, beseeching his intercessions before the throne of the Master. For as a shepherd he sought out the wayward sheep lost in the hills, preserving thus the unity of the Church, bringing together peoples of all tongues and nations.

Tone One. Thy proclamation hath gone forth throughout North America, calling the scattered sheep into the unity of the Church. Hearing thy voice, they responded 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.

Tone Six. Rising in distant Syria, ascending through the land of Russia, a bright star hath appeared over the New World. Shining with divine knowledge and radiating the love of Christ, the luminous Raphael overcometh every deception of the enemy. Now crowned among the saints, he intercedes for us before the throne of God.

Tone Eight. With hymns of praise let us honor Raphael our holy father, a true shepherd and teacher of Christ's flock in North America. He is the bright adornment of hierarchs, the boast of priests, the joy of monastics and the delight of all the faithful. Now, as he stands before the throne of the Holy Trinity, he intercedes that our souls may be saved.

DOXASTICON & THEOTOKION AT LITIA PROCESSION IN TONE FIVE

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

Enlightened by the memory of holy Raphael, we celebrate his sacred feast. For, having been made divinely wise, he draweth us all into Christ's net, as he entreats Great Mercy for our souls.

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

We faithful Christians call thee blessed, O Virgin Theotokos, and we rightly glorify thee as our unshakable fortress and invincible rampart, our unfailing protectress and the refuge of our souls.

Deacon: ¹ O God, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance. Visit Thy world with mercy and compassions. Exalt the horn of Orthodox Christians, and send down upon us Thy rich mercies. Through the intercessions of our all-immaculate Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; by the might of the precious and life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable bodiless Powers of heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious prophet, forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious, all-laudable apostles Peter and Paul, and of all the holy apostles; of our fathers among the saints, great hierarchs and ecumenical teachers Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom; Athanasius, Cyril and John the Merciful, patriarchs of Alexandria; Nicholas of Myra, Spyridon of Trimythous and Nektarios of Pentapolis the Wonderworkers; of our fathers among the saints Tikhon, patriarch of Moscow and Raphael, bishop of Brooklyn—whose memory we now celebrate—of the holy, glorious, great-martyrs, George the Trophy-bearer, Demetrios the Myrrh-streamer, Theodore the Soldier, Theodore the General, and Menas the Wonderworker; of the hieromartyrs Ignatius the God-bearer of Antioch,

¹ Saints of particular local veneration may be included among the Saints of their same classification at the discretion of the pastor.

Charalampos and Eleutherios; of the holy, glorious great women martyrs, Thekla, Barbara, Anastasia, Katherine, Kyriaki, Photeini, Marina, Paraskeva and Irene; of the holy, glorious, right-victorious martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers who shone in the ascetic life, especially Paisios of Athos; *of Saint N., the patron and protector of this holy community*; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, and of all Thy saints: we beseech Thee, O most merciful Lord, hearken unto the petitions of us sinners who make our supplications unto Thee, and have mercy upon us.

The choir responds "Lord, have mercy" (thrice) to this and the remaining petitions until noted.

Deacon: Again we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians.

Again we pray for our father and metropolitan, N., (our bishop, N.,) and all our brotherhood in Christ

Again we pray for every Christian soul, afflicted and weary, in need of God's mercies and help; for the protection of this holy house and those who sing therein and the people here present; for the peace and stability of the whole world; for the good estate of the holy Churches of God; for the salvation and help of our fathers and brethren who with diligence and fear of God labor and serve; for those who are abroad; for those who travel by sea, by land and by air; for the healing of those who lie in infirmity; for the deliverance of captives; for those imprisoned and in danger; for our brethren who are serving and who are remembered for their labor, and for all who await the mercies of God, let us say:

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, pardon and remission of sins for the servants of God, the parishioners, members of the parish council and organizations, donors and benefactors of this holy temple and those who celebrate this holy feast (and for his servants, NN., who are offering these loaves).

Again we pray that he may keep this holy church and this city and every city and countryside from wrath, famine, plague, earthquake, flood, fire, the sword, foreign invasion, civil war and sudden death; that our good God, who loveth mankind, will be gracious, favorable and conciliatory and will turn away and dispel all the wrath stirred up against us and all sickness and may deliver us from his righteous chastisement which impendeth against us and have mercy on us.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. ([*forty times*](#))

Deacon: Again we pray that the Lord our God may hearken unto the voice of the supplication of us sinners and have mercy upon us.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

Priest: Hear us, O God our Savior, the Hope of all the ends of the earth and of those who are far off upon the sea; and be gracious, be gracious, O Master, toward our sins, and have mercy upon us. For Thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

THE PEACE

Priest: Peace be to all.
Choir: And to thy spirit.
Deacon: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.
Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest:² O Master, great in mercy, Lord Jesus Christ our God, through the intercessions of our all-immaculate Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; by the might of the precious and life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable bodiless Powers of heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious prophet, forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious, all-laudable apostles Peter and Paul, and of all the holy apostles; of our fathers among the saints, great hierarchs and ecumenical teachers, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom; Athanasius, Cyril and John the Merciful, patriarchs of Alexandria; Nicholas of Myra, Spyridon of Trimythous and Nektarios of Pentapolis, the Wonderworkers; of our fathers among the saints Tikhon, patriarch of Moscow and Raphael, bishop of Brooklyn—whose memory we now celebrate—of the holy, glorious, great-martyrs, George the Trophy-bearer, Demetrios the Myrrh-streamer, Theodore the Soldier, Theodore the General, and Menas the Wonderworker; of the hieromartyrs Ignatius the God-bearer of Antioch, Charalampos and Eleutherios; of the holy, glorious great women martyrs, Thekla, Barbara, Anastasia, Katherine, Kyriaki, Photeini, Marina, Paraskeva and Irene; of the holy, glorious, right-victorious martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers who shone in the ascetic life, especially Paisios of Athos; *of Saint N., the patron and protector of this holy community*; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, and of all Thy saints:

Priest: Make our prayer acceptable;
The choir responds "Amen" for each part of the phrase.
Grant us forgiveness of our trespasses;
Shelter us under the shelter of thy wings;
Drive away from us every enemy and adversary;
Give peace to our life.
O Lord, have mercy on us and on thy world and save our souls, for thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind.

The clergy remain on the solea.

THE APOSTICHA FOR ST. RAPHAEL IN TONE TWO (**O house of Ephratha**)

O Father Raphael, * of thy travail who can tell? * Thy hardships who can number? * O father to all orphans, pray that the Church be kept in peace.

Verse 1. Thy priests, O Lord, shall be clothed with righteousness, and Thy righteous shall rejoice.

² Saints of particular local veneration may be included among the Saints of their same classification at the discretion of the pastor.

O holy Raphael, * of thy distress who can tell? * Thy noble deeds who can recount? * Friend of the poor and needy, for our salvation intercede.

Verse 2. The righteous man shall flourish like a palm tree, and like a cedar in Lebanon shall he be multiplied.

O glorious Raphael, * good shepherd to the lost sheep, * great light that shone from Antioch, * America's boast, pray Christ, that He be greatly merciful.

DOXASTICON FOR ST. RAPHAEL IN TONE FOUR

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

Today a splendid festival dawns upon the whole world. Today the lands of Russia and ancient Syria celebrate the memory of their righteous son Raphael, apostle to America, good shepherd of the lost sheep. Wherefore, let us celebrate this festive day and cry out unto him, saying: Rejoice, O new Moses, who didst lead thy people out of the wilderness into the Promised Land! Rejoice, O new Elias, who hast placed within the holy Church a double portion of thy spirit! Rejoice, O new Ezra, thou builder of the Temple of God! Rejoice, O new Apostle of Christ our God, the fisher of men! As thou hast boldness with the Angels before the throne of God, never cease to intercede with Christ God for thy holy flock.

THEOTOKION IN TONE FOUR

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

Having thee, O Theotokos, as our hope and protection, we are not dismayed by the schemes of the foe, for truly thou dost save our souls.

The Hymn of St. Simeon is traditionally said by the priest, but he may defer to the choir.

THE HYMN OF ST. SIMEON THE GOD-RECEIVER (CHANT) (CHORAL)

Lord, now lettest thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word; for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.

THE TRISAGION PRAYERS

People: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (*thrice*)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for thy name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Priest: For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

THE ARTOKLASIA

APOLYTIKION OF ST. RAPHAEL IN TONE THREE (**Thy confession**)ⁱ

(METERED) (UNMETERED)

Rejoice, O Father Raphael, adornment of the holy Church! Thou art champion of the True Faith, seeker of the lost, consolation of the oppressed, father to orphans and friend of the poor, peacemaker and good shepherd, joy of all the Orthodox, son of Antioch, boast of America. Intercede with Christ God for us and for all who honor thee. (*twice*)

During the following theotokion, the priest censes around the table and icon stand once, with the deacon opposite him, holding a candle.

THEOTOKION IN TONE FIVE (BP BASIL) (EL MASSIH)

Clergy: Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Mary full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb;

Choir: For thou hast borne the Savior of our souls.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Lord Jesus Christ our God, Who didst bless the five loaves in the wilderness and didst satisfy the five thousand therewith, thyself bless these loaves, this wheat, wine and oil, and multiply them in this city, in the houses of those who celebrate this feast and in all thy world, and sanctify the faithful who partake of them. For it is Thou Who dost bless and sanctify all things, O Christ our God, and unto Thee do we ascribe glory, together with Thine unoriginate Father and Thine all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Reader: Amen.

Blessed be the name of the Lord, henceforth and forevermore. (*thrice*)

PSALM 33

Reader: I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. In the Lord shall my soul be praised; let the meek hear and be glad. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His Name together. I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my tribulations. Come unto Him, and be enlightened, and your faces shall not be ashamed. This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his tribulations. The angel of the Lord will encamp round about them that fear Him, and will deliver them. O taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man that hopeth in Him. O fear the Lord, all ye His saints; for there is no want to them that fear Him.

The priest kisses the top loaf and breaks it crosswise. The clergy sing the following troparion once, and then the choir sings it twice.

TROPARION IN TONE SEVEN

Rich men have turned poor and gone hungry; but they that seek the Lord shall not be deprived of any good thing.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: The blessing of the Lord and His mercy come upon you through His divine grace and love towards mankind, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Thus ends the Great Vespers portion of the vigil. The clergy enter the sanctuary and the priests remove their phelonias. The lighting becomes very dim. The blessed bread and wine are distributed to the faithful.

FESTAL ORTHROS

Reader: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill among men. (*thrice*)

O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise. (*twice*)

Unlike at Orthros apart from a vigil, the priest does NOT say the twelve Orthros prayers at this time. Rather, he says them throughout this part of the vigil.

PSALM 3

O Lord, why are they multiplied that afflict me? Many rise up against me. Many say unto my soul: There is no salvation for him in his God. But Thou, O Lord, art my helper, my glory, and the lifter up of my head. I cried unto the Lord with my voice, and He heard me out of His holy mountain. I laid me down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me. I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people that set themselves against me round about. Arise, O Lord, save me, O my God, for Thou hast smitten all who without cause are mine enemies; the teeth of sinners hast Thou broken. Salvation is of the Lord, and Thy blessing is upon Thy people.

I laid me down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me.

PSALM 37

O Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger, nor chasten me in Thy wrath. For Thine arrows are fastened in me, and Thou hast laid Thy hand heavily upon me. There is no healing in my flesh in the face of Thy wrath; and there is no peace in my bones in the face of my sins. For mine iniquities are risen higher than my head; as a heavy burden have they pressed heavily upon me. My bruises are become noisome and corrupt in the face of my folly. I have been wretched and utterly bowed down until the end; all the day long I went with downcast face. For my loins are filled with mocking, and there is no healing in my flesh. I am afflicted and humbled exceedingly, I have roared from the groaning of my heart. O Lord, before Thee is all my desire, and my groaning is not hid from Thee. My heart is troubled, my strength hath failed me; and the light of mine eyes, even this is not with me. My friends and my neighbors drew nigh over against me and stood, and my nearest of kin stood afar off. And they that sought after my soul used violence; and they that sought evils for me spake vain things, and craftinesses all the day long did they meditate. But as for me, like a deaf man I heard them not, and was as a speechless man that

openeth not his mouth. And I became as a man that heareth not, and that hath in his mouth no reproofs. For in Thee have I hoped, O Lord; Thou wilt hearken unto me, O Lord my God. For I said: Let never mine enemies rejoice over me; yea, when my feet were shaken, those men spake boastful words against me. For I am ready for scourges, and my sorrow is continually before me. For I will declare mine iniquity, and I will take heed concerning my sin. But mine enemies live and are made stronger than I, and they that hated me unjustly are multiplied. They that render me evil for good slandered me, because I pursued goodness. Forsake me not, O Lord my God, depart not from me. Be attentive unto my help, O Lord of my salvation.

Forsake me not, O Lord my God, depart not from me. Be attentive unto my help, O Lord of my salvation.

PSALM 62

O God, my God, unto Thee I rise early at dawn. My soul hath thirsted for Thee; how often hath my flesh longed after Thee in a land barren and untrodden and unwatered. So in the sanctuary have I appeared before Thee to see Thy power and Thy glory. For Thy mercy is better than lives; my lips shall praise Thee. So shall I bless Thee in my life, and in Thy name will I lift up my hands. As with marrow and fatness let my soul be filled, and with lips rejoicing shall my mouth praise Thee. If I remembered Thee on my bed, at the dawn I meditated on Thee. For Thou art become my helper; in the shelter of Thy wings will I rejoice. My soul hath cleaved after Thee; Thy right hand hath been quick to help me. But as for these, in vain have they sought after my soul; they shall go into the nethermost parts of the earth, they shall be surrendered unto the edge of the sword; portions for foxes shall they be. But the king shall be glad in God, everyone shall be praised that sweareth by Him; for the mouth of them is stopped that speak unjust things.

At the dawn I meditated on Thee. For Thou art become my helper; in the shelter of Thy wings will I rejoice. My soul hath cleaved after Thee; Thy right hand hath been quick to help me.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (*thrice*)

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

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

PSALM 87

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

O Lord God of my salvation, by day have I cried and by night before Thee. Let my prayer come before Thee, bow down Thine ear unto my supplication, for filled with evils is my soul, and my life unto Hades hath drawn nigh. I am counted with them that go down into the pit; I am become as a man without help, free among the dead, like the bodies of the slain that sleep in the grave, whom Thou rememberest no more, and they are cut off from Thy hand. They laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness and in the shadow of death. Against me is Thine anger made strong, and all Thy billows hast Thou brought upon me. Thou hast removed my friends afar from me; they have made me an abomination unto themselves. I have been delivered up, and have not come forth; mine eyes are grown weak from poverty. I have cried unto Thee, O Lord, the whole day long; I have stretched out my hands unto Thee. Nay, for the dead wilt Thou work wonders? Or shall physicians raise them up that they may give thanks unto Thee? Nay, shall any in the grave

tell of Thy mercy, and of Thy truth in that destruction? Nay, shall Thy wonders be known in that darkness, and Thy righteousness in that land that is forgotten? But as for me, unto Thee, O Lord, have I cried; and in the morning shall my prayer come before Thee. Wherefore, O Lord, dost Thou cast off my soul and turnest Thy face away from me? A poor man am I, and in troubles from my youth; yea, having been exalted, I was humbled and brought to distress. Thy furies have passed upon me, and Thy terrors have sorely troubled me. They came round about me like water, all the day long they compassed me about together. Thou hast removed afar from me friend and neighbor, and mine acquaintances because of my misery.

O Lord God of my salvation, by day have I cried and by night before Thee. Let my prayer come before Thee, bow down Thine ear unto my supplication.

PSALM 102

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all that He hath done for thee, Who is gracious unto all thine iniquities, Who health all thine infirmities, Who redeemeth thy life from corruption, Who crowneth thee with mercy and compassion, Who fulfilleth thy desire with good things; thy youth shall be renewed as the eagle's. The Lord performeth deeds of mercy, and executeth judgment for all them that are wronged. He hath made His ways known unto Moses, unto the sons of Israel the things that He hath willed. Compassionate and merciful is the Lord, long-suffering and plenteous in mercy; not unto the end will He be angered; neither unto eternity will He be wroth. Not according to our iniquities hath He dealt with us, neither according to our sins hath He rewarded us. For according to the height of heaven from the earth, the Lord hath made His mercy to prevail over them that fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our iniquities from us. Like as a father hath compassion upon his sons, so hath the Lord had compassion upon them that fear Him; for He knoweth whereof we are made, He hath remembered that we are dust. As for man, his days are as the grass; as a flower of the field, so shall he blossom forth. For when the wind is passed over it, then it shall be gone, and no longer will it know the place thereof. But the mercy of the Lord is from eternity, even unto eternity, upon them that fear Him. And His righteousness is upon sons of sons, upon them that keep His testament and remember His commandments to do them. The Lord in heaven hath prepared His throne, and His kingdom ruleth over all. Bless the Lord, all ye His angels, mighty in strength, that perform His word, to hear the voice of His words. Bless the Lord, all ye His hosts, His ministers that do His will. Bless the Lord, all ye His works, in every place of His dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

In every place of His dominion, bless the Lord, O my soul.

PSALM 142

O Lord, hear my prayer, give ear unto my supplication in Thy truth; hearken unto me in Thy righteousness. And enter not into judgment with Thy servant, for in Thy sight shall no man living be justified. For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath humbled my life down to the earth. He hath sat me in darkness as those that have been long dead, and my spirit within me is become despondent; within me my heart is troubled. I remembered days of old, I meditated on all Thy works, I pondered on the creations of Thy hands. I stretched forth my hands unto Thee; my soul thirsteth after Thee like a waterless land. Quickly hear me, O Lord; my spirit hath fainted away. Turn not Thy face away from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Thy mercy in the morning; for in Thee have I put my hope. Cause me to know, O Lord, the way wherein I should walk; for unto Thee have I lifted up my soul. Rescue me from mine

enemies, O Lord; unto Thee have I fled for refuge. Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God. Thy good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness; for Thy name's sake, O Lord, shalt Thou quicken me. In Thy righteousness shalt Thou bring my soul out of affliction, and in Thy mercy shalt Thou utterly destroy mine enemies. And Thou shalt cut off all them that afflict my soul, for I am Thy servant.

Hearken unto me, O Lord, in Thy righteousness and enter not into judgment with Thy servant. (*twice*)

Thy good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (*thrice*)

O our God and our Hope, glory to Thee!

The lighting level is raised a little. The deacon exits the sanctuary and stands in his usual place on the solea.

THE GREAT LITANY

Deacon: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

The choir responds "Lord, have mercy" to each petition until noted.

For the peace from above and the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

For the peace of the whole world, the good estate of the holy churches of God and the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

For this holy house and those who with faith, reverence and fear of God enter therein, let us pray to the Lord.

For our father and metropolitan, N., (our bishop, N.,) the honorable presbytery, the diaconate in Christ, all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

For our country, its president (or appropriate head of state), civil authorities and armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

For this city and every city and countryside and the faithful who dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.

For healthful seasons, abundance of the fruits of the earth and peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

For travelers by sea, by land and by air, the sick, the suffering, the captive, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

For our deliverance from all tribulation, wrath, danger and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by thy grace.

Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest:³ We give thanks unto thee, O Lord our God, who hast raised us up from our beds and hast put into our mouths a word of praise, that we may worship and call upon thy holy name. And we entreat thee, by thy mercies which thou hast exercised always in our life, send down now also thine aid upon those who stand before the face of thy holy glory and await the rich mercy which is from thee. And grant that they may always, with fear and love, adore thee, praise thee, hymn thee and worship thine inexpressible goodness,

for unto Thee are due all glory, honor and worship, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

The deacon returns to his customary place in the sanctuary.

“GOD IS THE LORD” IN TONE THREE

Choir: God is the Lord and hath appeared unto us. Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

Verse 1. O give thanks unto the Lord and call upon His Holy Name. (*Refrain*)

Verse 2. All nations compassed me about: but in the Name of the Lord will I destroy them. (*Refrain*)

Verse 3. This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. (*Refrain*)

APOLYTIKION OF ST. RAPHAEL IN TONE THREE (Thy confession**)**

(METERED) (UNMETERED)

Rejoice, O Father Raphael, adornment of the holy Church! Thou art champion of the True Faith, seeker of the lost, consolation of the oppressed, father to orphans and friend of the poor, peacemaker and good shepherd, joy of all the Orthodox, son of Antioch, boast of America. Intercede with Christ God for us and for all who honor thee.

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

Rejoice, O Father Raphael, adornment of the holy Church ... (*repeat above*)

THEOTOKION IN TONE THREE

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

Thee who art the mediatrix for the salvation of our race, we praise, O virgin Theotokos. For in the flesh assumed from thee after that He had suffered the passion of the Cross, thy Son and our God delivered us from corruption, because He is the lover of mankind.

On the first Friday in November, Kathisma 16 (Psalms 109-117 LXX) of the Psalter may be read here. On February 27, see the Psalter chart at the end of this document. The clergy take kairon, but the deacon stands at his usual place on the solea to say the little litany.

THE LITTLE LITANY

Deacon: Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

³ Orthros Prayer #1.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most-blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints: let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest:⁴ Out of the night our spirit awaketh at dawn unto thee, O God; for thy commandments are a light. Teach us thy righteousness, thy commandments and thy statutes, O God. Enlighten the eyes of our understanding, lest at any time we sleep unto death in sins. Dispel all darkness from our hearts. Graciously give unto us the Sun of righteousness, and by thy Holy Spirit preserve our life unassailed. Guide our steps into the way of peace. Grant us to behold the dawn and the day with joy, that we may raise our morning prayers unto thee,

for thine is the might, and thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

POETIC KATHISMATA FOR ST. RAPHAEL

First Kathisma in Tone One (***The soldiers standing guard***)

In word, in deed and thought, thou didst follow the Savior. * Thou didst obey His call to live like the apostles. * Then, leaving thine own homeland, thou didst gift thy flock with baptism, * teaching them to profess the One true God in Three Persons. * Hence, we call thee now a faithful preacher of true faith, * O holy hierarch Raphael.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Unwedded mother Virgin, the pure Theotokos, * in life save from calamities and various afflictions, * the faithful who hide beneath the Redeemer's life-giving Cross, * who doth bear with patience and with faith their pure contest. * Mother of Christ our God, thou art the sure intercessor; * pray for us and save our souls.

On the first Friday in November, Kathisma 17 (Psalm 118 LXX) may be read at this point. On February 27, see the Psalter chart at the end of this document. Then, the deacon stands at his usual place on the solea.

THE LITTLE LITANY

Deacon: Again and again, in peace, etc.

Priest:⁵ O God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hast raised us up from our beds and hast gathered us together at this hour of prayer: Grant us grace in the opening of our mouth, and receive our thanksgivings as we have power to make them, and

⁴ Orthros prayer #3.

⁵ Orthros prayer #7.

instruct us in thy statutes. For we know not how to pray as we ought unless thou, O Lord, by thy Holy Spirit, dost guide us. Wherefore, we beseech thee: Forgive, remit, pardon whatsoever sins we may have committed unto this present hour, whether by word or deed or thought, whether voluntarily or involuntarily; for if thou wilt be extreme to mark iniquity, O Lord, Lord, who shall stand? For with thee is redemption. For thou only art holy, a mighty Helper and the Defender of our life, and our song shall ever be of thee.

Blessed and glorified be the might of thy kingdom of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

The deacon returns to his customary place in the sanctuary.

Second Kathisma in Tone Three (**Awed by the beauty**)

Bearing thy cross from youth, thou didst deny thyself. * Forgoing earthly things, thou soughtest the heavenly. * Consumed by heartfelt love for Christ, thou foundest thy precious life in Him. * When Christ our life manifests, to judge the living and the dead, * thou shalt also stand before him, * shining brightly and glorified. * Then, on that fearful, solemn day of Judgment, * pray to Christ for us who honor thee.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Awed by the beauty of thy virginity, * and the bright radiance of thy fair purity, * Gabriel cried out unto thee in wonder, * O Theotokos: * What shall I present to thee as a most worthy song of praise? * By what name shall I call thee? * Mystified I stand, lost in awe. * Therefore, I shall greet thee, as commanded: * Rejoice, O Lady, who art full of grace!

The lights are turned up, with the exception of the central chandelier.

THE POLYELEOS, PART I: PSALM 134

****End each verse with "Alleluia."****

1. Praise ye the Lord. Praise ye the name of the Lord; praise him, O ye servants of the Lord.
2. Ye that stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God.
3. Praise the Lord; for the Lord is good: sing praises unto His Name; for it is pleasant.
4. For the Lord hath chosen Jacob unto Himself, and Israel for His peculiar treasure.
5. For I know that the Lord is great, and that our Lord is above all gods.
6. Whatsoever the Lord pleased, that did He in Heaven, and in earth, in the seas, and all deep places.
7. He causeth the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth; He maketh lightning for the rain; He bringeth the wind out of his treasuries.
8. Who smote the firstborn of Egypt, both of man and beast.
9. Who sent tokens and wonders into the midst of thee, O Egypt, upon Pharaoh, and upon all his servants.
10. Who smote great nations, and slew mighty kings.
11. Sihon king of the Amorites, and Og king of Bashan, and all the kingdoms of Canaan.
12. And gave their land for a heritage, a heritage unto Israel his people.
13. Thy Name, O Lord, endureth forever; and Thy memorial, O Lord, throughout all generations.

14. For the Lord will judge His people, and He will repent himself concerning His servants.
15. The idols of the heathen are silver and gold, the work of men's hands.
16. They have mouths, but they speak not; eyes have they, but they see not.
17. They have ears, but they hear not; neither is there any breath in their mouths.
18. They that make them are like unto them: so is everyone that trusteth in them.
19. Bless the Lord, O house of Israel: bless the Lord, O house of Aaron.
20. Bless the Lord, O house of Levi: ye that fear the Lord, bless the Lord.
21. Blessed be the Lord out of Zion, Who dwelleth at Jerusalem. Praise ye the Lord.

Here, the central chandelier is fully illumined. The fully vested priest does the great censuring of the entire temple, including the festal icon. The priest uses the katzion (hand censer), but if none, the regular censer.

THE POLYELEOS, PART II: PSALM 135

End each verse with "Alleluia."

1. O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good: for His mercy endureth forever.
2. O give thanks unto the God of gods: for His mercy endureth forever.
3. O give thanks to the Lord of lords: for His mercy endureth forever.
4. To Him Who alone doeth great wonders: for His mercy endureth forever.
5. To Him that by wisdom made the heavens: for His mercy endureth forever.
6. To Him that stretched out the earth above the waters: for His mercy endureth forever.
7. To Him that made great lights: for His mercy endureth forever.
8. The sun to rule by day: for His mercy endureth forever.
9. The moon and stars to rule by night: for His mercy endureth forever.
10. To Him that smote Egypt in their firstborn: for His mercy endureth forever.
11. And brought out Israel from among them: for His mercy endureth forever.
12. With a strong hand, and with a stretched out arm: for His mercy endureth forever.
13. To Him which divided the Red sea into parts: for His mercy endureth forever.
14. And made Israel to pass through the midst of it: for His mercy endureth forever.
15. But overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red Sea: for His mercy endureth forever.
16. To Him which led his people through the wilderness: for His mercy endureth forever.
17. To Him which smote great kings: for His mercy endureth forever.
18. And slew famous kings: for His mercy endureth forever.
19. Sihon king of the Amorites: for His mercy endureth forever.
20. And Og the king of Bashan: for His mercy endureth forever.
21. And gave their land for a heritage: for His mercy endureth forever.
22. Even a heritage unto Israel his servant: for His mercy endureth forever.
23. Who remembered us in our low estate: for His mercy endureth forever.
24. And hath redeemed us from our enemies: for His mercy endureth forever.
25. Who giveth food to all flesh: for His mercy endureth forever.
26. O give thanks unto the God of Heaven: for His mercy endureth forever.

ECLOGI (SELECTION OF PSALMS) FOR A HIERARCH IN TONE SIX ("NENANO")

"The World. Alleluia."

1. Hear this, all ye nations; give ear, all ye that inhabit the world. (48:1)
2. Both ye that are born of earth, and ye sons of men, rich and poor men together. (48:2)
3. My mouth shall speak wisdom, and the meditation of my heart shall be of understanding. (48:3)

4. Come ye children, hearken unto me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord. (33:11)
5. Lo, my lips I shall not restrain; Lord, thou knowest it. (39:12b)
6. I have proclaimed the good tidings of thy righteousness in the great congregation. (39:12a)
7. Thy righteousness have I not hid in my heart. (39:13a)
8. Thy truth and thy salvation have I declared. (39:13b)
9. I have not concealed thy mercy, nor thy truth, from the great assemblage. (39:14)
10. He walketh blameless and worketh righteousness. (14:2)
11. I will confess thee in the great congregation; among a mighty people will I praise thee. (34:21)
12. Let my mouth be filled with praise, O Lord, that I may hymn thy glory. (70:8a)
13. And thy majesty all the day long. (70:8b)
14. I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I hymn thee. (21:22)
15. I will wash my hands in innocence, and I will compass thine altar, O Lord. (25:6a)
16. That I may hear the voice of thy praise, and tell of all thy wondrous works. (25:6b)
17. Lord, I have loved the beauty of thy house, and the place where thy glory dwelleth. (25:7)
18. I have not sat with the council of vanity, nor shall I go in with them that transgress the law. (25:4)
19. I said to the transgressors: Do not transgress; and to the sinners: Lift not up the horn. (74:4)
20. I have hated the congregation of evildoers, and with the ungodly will I not sit. (25:5)
21. One thing have I asked of the Lord, this will I seek after. (26:4a)
22. That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life. (26:4b)
23. That I may behold the delight of the Lord, and that I may visit his holy temple. (26:40)
24. But as for me, I am like a fruitful olive tree in the house of the Lord. (51:8a)
25. For I have kept the ways of the Lord, and I have not acted impiously toward my God. (17:21)
26. In everlasting remembrance shall the righteous be. (111:6a)
27. He shall not be afraid of evil tidings. (111:6b)
28. All the day long the righteous showeth mercy, and lendeth, and his seed shall be unto blessing. (36:26)
29. He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor. (111:8a)
30. His righteousness abideth unto ages of ages. (111:8b)
31. A light hath dawned forth for the righteous man, and gladness for the upright of heart. (96:12)
32. He that is planted in the house of the Lord, in the courts of our God he shall blossom forth. (91:12)
33. Thy priests, O Lord, shall be clothed with righteousness, and thy righteous shall rejoice. (131:9)
34. Blessed are they that dwell in thy house; unto ages of ages shall they praise thee. (83:5)

TRIADIKON

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

Let us worship the Father, and let us glorify the Son, and with one accord let us all praise the All-holy Spirit, whilst crying and saying: O All-holy Trinity, save us all.

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

Thy Mother do Thy people bring, before Thee in intercession, O Christ. By her supplications, grant us Thy compassions, O Good One, that we may glorify Thee, Who for our sake hast shone forth from her.

The deacon stands in his usual place on the solea.

THE LITTLE LITANY

Deacon: Again and again, in peace, etc.

Priest:⁶ O Lord our God, who hast banished from us the sluggishness of sleep and hast called us together by a holy bidding, that in the night also we may lift up our hands and confess thy righteous judgments: Receive our prayers, petitions, confessions and nocturnal adoration and grant unto us, O God, faith unashamed, hope unwavering, love unfeigned. Bless our comings and our goings, our deeds and works and words and thoughts. And grant that we may come to the beginning of this day praising, singing and blessing the goodness of thine ineffable beneficence,

for blessed is thy name, and glorified is thy kingdom of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

The deacon returns to his customary place in the sanctuary.

Third Kathisma in Tone Four (***Joseph was amazed*, hard chromatic**)

As a model of vigilance, * over the passions thou didst rule, * cultivating in thy soul * the Holy Spirit's precious gifts. * A soothing balm and a man of peace who united all thy flock, * thou didst keep it safe * from the fierce wolf of souls. * As a faithful shepherd, thou didst gather those * who were before dispersed as weak lambs lost in the hills * through the grace abiding in thy soul. * O Father Raphael, lead thou to safe pasture * those who pray to thee with fervor.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O all-pure and full of grace, * the Virgin Mother of the Lord, * who gave birth to Him who is * the One Eternal God of all, * beseech and supplicate Him with the hierarch Raphael * to grant unto us * the forgiveness of our sins, * and before the end reformation of life; * for thee, O Lady, we exalt and magnify, * and with faith and love we honor thee. * O Virgin Mary, thou art worthy * of all reverence and glory.

FESTAL ANABATHMOI IN TONE FOUR

- + From my youth up many passions have warred against me. But do Thou help and save me, O my Savior. (*repeat*)
- + Ye who hate Zion shall be put to confusion of the Lord; like grass in the fire shall ye be withered up. (*repeat*)
- + *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.*
- + Through the Holy Spirit is every soul quickened and exalted in purity, and made resplendent by the Triune Unity in mystic holiness.
- + *Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

⁶ Orthros prayer #8.

+ Through the Holy Spirit the channels and streams of grace overflow showering all creation with invigorating Life.

PROKEIMENON FOR ST. RAPHAEL IN TONE FOUR

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saint. (*twice*)

Stichos: What shall I render unto the Lord for all that He hath rendered unto me?

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saint.

LET EVERYTHING THAT HATH BREATH

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest:⁷ Illumine our hearts, O Master who lovest mankind, with the pure light of thy divine knowledge, and open the eyes of our mind to the understanding of thy gospel teachings; implant in us also the fear of thy blessed commandments, that trampling down all carnal desires, we may enter upon a spiritual manner of living, both thinking and doing such things as are well-pleasing unto thee,

for thou art our Sanctification and Illumination, and unto thee we ascribe glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. (*twice*)

Praise ye God in His saints; praise Him in the firm foundation of His power.

Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.

THE FESTAL ORTHROS GOSPEL

Deacon: And that we may be accounted worthy to hear the Holy Gospel, let us beseech the Lord our God.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

Deacon: Wisdom! Stand upright! Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be to all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Priest: The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John (10:1-9).

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Deacon: Let us attend!

The priest reads the Gospel lesson from the holy doors.

Priest: The Lord said to His Disciples: “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way: that man is a thief and a robber; but he who

⁷ Orthros prayer #9.

enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens; the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” This figure Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what He was saying to them. So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before Me are thieves and robbers; but the sheep did not heed them. I am the door; if any one enters by me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.”

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

There is no veneration of the Gospel book. Lighting is dimmed to a modest level.

PSALM 50

Reader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy Great Mercy; and according to the multitude of Thy compassions blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know mine iniquity, and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee only have I sinned and done this evil before Thee, that Thou mightest be justified in Thy words, and prevail when Thou art judged. For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my mother bear me. For behold, Thou hast loved truth; the hidden and secret things of Thy wisdom hast Thou made manifest unto me. Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness; the bones that be humbled, they shall rejoice. Turn Thy face away from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and with Thy governing Spirit establish me. I shall teach transgressors Thy ways, and the ungodly shall turn back unto Thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; my tongue shall rejoice in Thy righteousness. O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise. For if Thou hadst desired sacrifice, I had given it; with whole-burnt offerings Thou shalt not be pleased. A sacrifice unto God is a broken spirit; a heart that is broken and humbled God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Thy good pleasure unto Zion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be build up. Then shalt Thou be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole-burnt offerings. Then shall they offer bullocks upon Thine altar.

FESTAL TROPARIA AFTER PSALM 50 IN TONE TWO

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

Through the intercessions of the Hierarch, O merciful One, blot out the multitude of mine offenses.

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

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O merciful One, blot out the multitude of mine offenses.

(TONE SIX) Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy great mercy, and according to the multitude of Thy compassions blot out my transgressions.

Rising in distant Syria, ascending through the land of Russia, a bright star hath appeared over the New World. Shining with divine knowledge and radiating the love of Christ, the luminous

Raphael overcometh every deception of the enemy. Now crowned among the saints, he intercedeth for us before the throne of God.

The deacon exits the sanctuary and stands in his usual place on the solea.

THE INTERCESSION⁸

Deacon: O God, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance. Visit Thy world with mercy and compassions. Exalt the horn of Orthodox Christians, and send down upon us Thy rich mercies. Through the intercessions of our all-immaculate Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; by the might of the precious and life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable bodiless Powers of heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious prophet, forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious, all-laudable apostles Peter and Paul, and of all the holy apostles; of our fathers among the saints, great hierarchs and ecumenical teachers Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom; Athanasius, Cyril and John the Merciful, patriarchs of Alexandria; Nicholas of Myra, Spyridon of Trimythous and Nektarios of Pentapolis the Wonderworkers; of our fathers among the saints Tikhon, patriarch of Moscow and Raphael, bishop of Brooklyn—whose memory we now celebrate—of the holy, glorious, great-martyrs, George the Trophy-bearer, Demetrios the Myrrh-streamer, Theodore the Soldier, Theodore the General, and Menas the Wonderworker; of the hieromartyrs Ignatius the God-bearer of Antioch, Charalampos and Eleutherios; of the holy, glorious great women martyrs, Thekla, Barbara, Anastasia, Katherine, Kyriaki, Photeini, Marina, Paraskeva and Irene; of the holy, glorious, right-victorious martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers who shone in the ascetic life, especially Paisios of Athos; *of Saint N., the patron and protector of this holy community*; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, and of all Thy saints: we beseech Thee, O most merciful Lord, hearken unto the petitions of us sinners who make our supplications unto Thee, and have mercy upon us.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (*twelve times*)

Priest:⁹ O Lord our God, who hast granted unto men pardon through repentance and hast set for us the repentance of the prophet David as an example of the acknowledgement of sin and of confession which is unto forgiveness: Do thou thyself, O Master, have mercy on us according to thy great mercy, notwithstanding the manifold and great iniquities into which we have fallen; and according to the multitude of thy compassions, blot out our transgressions. Against thee have we sinned, O Lord, thou who knowest the hidden and secret things in the heart of men and who alone hast power to forgive sins; and as thou hast created a clean heart within us and established us with thy governing Spirit and made known unto us the joy of thy salvation, cast us not away from thy presence. But inasmuch as thou art good and lovest mankind, graciously vouchsafe that even until our uttermost breath, we may offer unto thee the sacrifice of righteousness and an oblation upon thy holy altar,

⁸ Saints of particular local veneration may be included among the Saints of their same classification at the discretion of the pastor.

⁹ Orthros prayer #10.

through the mercy and compassions and love for mankind of thine only-begotten Son, with whom thou art blessed, together with thine all-holy and good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

The deacon returns to his customary place in the sanctuary.

**THE CANON OF THE BISHOP IN TONE SIX (SOFT CHROMATIC) &
THE KATAVASIAE OF THE CANON OF THE AKATHIST TO THE
THEOTOKOS IN TONE FOUR (KAZAN) (CROW)**

Ode One

Hiermos: Crossing the deep on foot as if it were dry land, the people of Israel saw Pharaoh their pursuer drowning in the waves, and they cried aloud: Let us sing a song of victory to God.

O holy hierarch, Father Raphael, pray unto God for us.

Numbered with the highest choirs, as a holy hierarch, and a servant of God standing now before him, do thou fervently pray for us, that we may obtain good things through thine intercessions.

O holy hierarch, Father Raphael, pray unto God for us.

Having been chosen by the Lord to the service of the holy gospel, O blessed hierarch Raphael, with thine instructions thou hast brought up thy People in wisdom.

O holy hierarch, Father Raphael, pray unto God for us.

Enriched with God's understanding, the living word didst flow from thy heart and thou didst give it to drink unto the souls frozen by passions, O most wise hierarch, God-blessed Raphael.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The sacred choir of the prophets hath, from afar, shown thee, O pure one, as one that was to become the Mother of God, higher than the cherubim and all created things.

Katavasia: I shall open my mouth and it will be filled with the Spirit, and I shall speak forth to the Queen and Mother. I shall be seen joyfully singing her praises, and I shall delight to sing of her wonders.

Ode Three

Heirmos: O Lord my God, there is none holy as thou, who in thy love hast raised up the horn of thy faithful and established them upon the rock of thy true faith.

O holy hierarch, Father Raphael, pray unto God for us.

Shedding the divine sweetness from thy lips, O holy father, thou hast dried up the drops of bitter godlessness by giving the holy drink of God's enlightenment.

O holy hierarch, Father Raphael, pray unto God for us.

Having been forechosen by God, thou didst appear as a holy hierarch offering the bloodless sacrifice unto God who offered himself for our sake.

O holy hierarch, Father Raphael, pray unto God for us.

The place wherein lie thy precious relics, doth shed perfume as God's paradise, filling the faithful with sweet incense, O most glorious and all-honored Father Raphael.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O pure one, to understand the unspeakable depths of thy birth-giving the mind of man is incapable. For God having humbled himself in his compassion hath utterly renewed me in thy womb.

Katavasia: As a living and copious fountain, O Theotokos, do thou establish those who hymn thy praises, and are joined together in spiritual fellowship for thy service; and in thy divine glory make them worthy of crowns of glory.

The deacon exits the sanctuary and stands in his usual place on the solea.

THE LITTLE LITANY

Deacon: Again and again, in peace, etc.

Priest:¹⁰ O Treasury of good things, Fountain eternal, O holy Father who workest wonders, all-powerful and almighty: We worship thee and pray thee, calling thy mercies and thy compassions to the aid and defense of our lowliness. Be mindful of thy servants, O Lord; receive the morning prayers of us all as incense before thee; and let none of us be found reprobate, but encompass us with thy compassions. Be mindful, O Lord, of those who watch and sing to thy glory and that of thine only-begotten Son, who is our God, and thy Holy Spirit. Be thou their Helper and their Support. Receive thou their supplications upon thy most heavenly and ideal altar.

For Thou art our God, and unto Thee we ascribe glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

The deacon returns to his customary place in the sanctuary.

MESODION KATHISMATA FOR ST. RAPHAEL IN TONE EIGHT (or plain reading)

With thy tears thou didst water the seeds of virtue which the Lord planted in thy soul, nurturing them with thy holy labors until thou didst reap the fruits of the Spirit. Bearing thine own afflictions with patience and joy, thou wast a compassionate shepherd to thy flock, bringing peace to those who had been at enmity. Now, O holy Father Raphael, thou hast inherited the kingdom of heaven.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Mysteriously conceiving in thy womb the Wisdom and Word of God, O Theotokos, thou hast brought forth into the world him who upholds the universe in his hands. Thou didst nourish at

¹⁰ Orthros prayer #5.

thy breast the One who sustains and nourishes all, the very Creator of all things created. Therefore, I entreat thee, O all-holy Virgin, that I may be delivered from my offenses when I come to stand in the presence of my Fashioner. O pure Lady, who art praised by all and who canst do whatsoever thou willeth, together with the holy hierarch Raphael, do thou come unto mine aid at that hour.

Ode Four

Heirmos: ‘Christ is my strength, my God and Lord,’ with reverence sings the Holy Church, raising her voice in purity and keeping feast in the Lord.

O holy hierarch, Father Raphael, pray unto God for us.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, O holy hierarch Raphael, thou hast driven away the evil spirits from men, wisely instructing thy flock.

O holy hierarch, Father Raphael, pray unto God for us.

Thou didst proclaim God the uncreated Unity and indivisible Trinity, not separated or comingled, enlightening the faithful with sacred theology.

O holy hierarch, Father Raphael, pray unto God for us.

Having first put to death the passions of the flesh by thy arduous toil and fasting, thou hast appeared as a holy hierarch and all-sacred intercessor before the Trinity.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The ancestor’s curse hath been done away with by thee, O Mother of God; for thou, O most pure one, hast brought forth unto us the Source of holiness, the ever-abiding Light.

Katavasia: He Who sits in clouds of glory upon the throne of Godhead, Jesus the most high God, came with mighty hand and saved those who cried out unto Him: Glory to Thy power, O Christ.

Ode Five

Heirmos: I entreat thee, gracious Lord, with thy divine light shine upon the souls of those who with love seek thee early in the morning. May they know thee, Word of God, as God in very truth, who recallest them from the gloomy darkness of transgression.

O holy hierarch, Father Raphael, pray unto God for us.

Thou wast blameless in thy ministry, in purity of soul performing the holy Mysteries, serving God as a holy hierarch.

O holy hierarch, Father Raphael, pray unto God for us.

Through thy holy instructions, those who followed after the false gods of this world returned to worship the living and true God, and in recalling them thou hast become a worthy servant of God Almighty.

O holy hierarch, Father Raphael, pray unto God for us.

Receiving the call of grace, thou didst abolish the lawlessness of idol worship by the downpour of thy words, O holy one, making the barren hearts fruitful by the grace of God.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

After thy strange birth-giving, thou hast remained Virgin as before, for it was God who was born of thee, who doeth all things as he wills, O groomless Mary, the Bride of God.

Katavasia: All creation was amazed at thy divine glory, for thou, O unwedded Virgin, didst hold in thy womb the God of all, and didst bear the eternal Son, who rewards with salvation all those who hymn thy praises.

Ode Six

Heirmos: When I behold the swelling sea of life and the tempest of temptation, I run to thy calm haven and I cry to thee: Bring up my life from corruption, O Most Merciful.

O holy hierarch, Father Raphael, pray unto God for us.

Thy tongue was sharpened as a pen by the Spirit, and inspired by God thou hast writ-ten, as with a copyist's quill, words of grace in the hearts of the faithful, O holy hierarch.

O holy hierarch, Father Raphael, pray unto God for us.

Learning the things divine, and entering spiritually into the holy of holies, O holy Father, thou didst perfect in spirit the faithful by the light of the Trinity, thyself being made perfect, O Raphael.

O holy hierarch, Father Raphael, pray unto God for us.

With the streams of thine admonitions thou didst stop the influx of wicked heresy, as a peaceful river, watering the flocks of the faithful with piety, O all-honored hierarch.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Most Holy Theotokos, the Word came to dwell in thy virginal womb, and there appeared as a perfect man, ineffably renewing as God the race of man.

Katavasia: Come, ye Godly-minded, who celebrate the divine and all-honorable feast of the Mother of God: Let us clap our hands together and glorify the God whom she bore.

The deacon exits the sanctuary and stands in his usual place on the solea.

THE LITTLE LITANY

Deacon: Again and again, in peace, etc.

Priest:¹¹ We give thanks unto thee, O Lord God of our salvation; for thou doest all things which are for the welfare of our souls, that we may ever look upward unto thee, the Savior and Benefactor of our souls. For thou hast refreshed us in that part of the night which is past and hast raised us up from our beds and hast led us to stand

¹¹ Orthros prayer #6.

here in worship of thy precious name. Wherefore we entreat thee, O Lord, give us grace and power, that we may be vouchsafed with understanding to sing praise unto thee and to pray without ceasing, in fear and trembling working out our own salvation, through the help of thy Christ. Be mindful, O Lord, of those who cry aloud unto thee in the night; hearken unto them, and have mercy, and crush under their feet invisible and warring enemies,

for Thou art the King of peace and the Savior of our souls, and unto Thee we ascribe glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

The deacon returns to his customary place in the sanctuary.

KONTAKION AND OIKOS FOR ST. RAPHAEL (Plain Reading)

Today the memory of blessed Raphael has shone on us; for having received Christ's call he faithfully took up his cross and followed him, becoming a fisher of men. Let us cry aloud to him, saying: Rejoice, O Father Raphael!

Through laziness I have fallen away and I sleep unto death, but good shepherd, raise me up and calm the passions that wickedly torment me, O blessed one, that I may rise and hymn thy bright festival; for the Master of the universe has glorified this festival of his faithful servant and wise teacher, the friend and preserver and servant of his traditions which thou didst maintain. O pure unction, ceaselessly intercede for us who cry aloud to thee, saying: Rejoice, O Father Raphael!

... Rejoice, O Father Raphael!

THE SYNAXARION (Plain Reading)

On this day in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate our father among the Saints, Raphael Hawaweeny, Bishop of Brooklyn, "good shepherd of the lost sheep in America."

Verse

O holy hierarch Father Raphael, the first to be consecrated to apostolic ministry in the New World, lift up thy hands and bless thy people, consecrating us, thine inheritance, who consecrate this day to thee.

Born in Beirut, Lebanon, and educated in Damascus, Syria, Halki, Turkey, and Kiev, Raphael found himself virtually exiled in Kazan, Russia. The young archimandrite was called to the New World by the Syrian Orthodox Benevolent Committee in New York City. Immigrating in 1895 and serving under the aegis of the Russian Orthodox Mission—then the only established Orthodox hierarchy—he was technically pastor of St. Nicholas Church (later Cathedral) in Brooklyn, New York, but was, in fact, the roving pastor of several dozen tiny, isolated communities spread thinly across the continent. As a priest he crossed the continent repeatedly in the course of nine years, and did so several more times after being consecrated Bishop of Brooklyn—the first such Orthodox consecration in North America—in 1904. He established a journal, *al-Kalimat*, to spread "The Word" to places he could not himself be, and worked diligently at translating Greek liturgical books into Arabic. These he distributed at his own expense to communities throughout the Middle East and to émigrés in the Americas, Africa, and

Australasia. Thus, this “shepherd of the lost sheep” helped preserve Orthodox Christianity in those regions.

Through his prayers, O Christ our God, have mercy upon us, and save us. Amen.

Ode Seven

Heirmos: An angel made the furnace moist with dew for the holy Children, but the Chaldeans were consumed in flames by God’s command, so that the tyrant cried aloud: O God of our fathers, blessed art thou.

O holy hierarch, Father Raphael, pray unto God for us.

Illumined by the grace of the Spirit to the understanding of the divine commandments, thou hast become a light-giving star enlightening those who sing: O God of our fathers, blessed art thou.

O holy hierarch, Father Raphael, pray unto God for us.

Shining with virtues, O holy one, the Uncreated Trinity took up his abode in thee, and so thou didst sing: O God of our fathers, blessed art thou.

O holy hierarch, Father Raphael, pray unto God for us.

Thou didst give no sleep to thine eyes, receiving the divine light from the Angel of Light, Who hath made thee a pillar and support of the faithful, a true father and shepherd.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O most pure Maiden, the Uncircumscribed who dwelleth eternally in the bosom of the Father did come to dwell in thy womb, bearing thine image, for he came to save the race of Adam.

Katavasia: The godly-minded children worshipped not the creature rather than the Creator, but trampling upon the threat of fire in manly fashion, they rejoiced and sang: O all-praised Lord and God of our fathers, blessed art thou.

Ode Eight

Heirmos: Thou hast made dew fall from the flames upon the holy Children, and thou hast burnt up with water the sacrifice of thy righteous servant. For thou, O Christ, dost accomplish all things by thy will alone, and we magnify thee unto all ages.

O holy hierarch, Father Raphael, pray unto God for us.

The proud serpent hast thou, O blessed one, brought low with thy humility, being raised up towards God by thy purity; wherefore we honor thee, and magnify Christ unto all ages.

O holy hierarch, Father Raphael, pray unto God for us.

The Incarnate Word hast thou preached and saved the People from bondage to deception, driving away the wickedness of false worship, O blessed Raphael, most wise and God-bearing.

O holy hierarch, Father Raphael, pray unto God for us.

Conforming thy life unto that of the Master, and likewise ordering thy speech, thou didst fulfill thine earthly life and enter the realms of the blessed in heaven.

We bless Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the Lord, both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Thy birth-giving hath freed us from the ancient curse, O most-blessed, grace-filled Maiden, and we send up unto thee the greeting of Gabriel: Rejoice, O cause of the salvation of all.

We praise, we bless, and we worship the Lord.

Katavasia: The three Holy Children in the furnace the Child of the Theotokos saved. Then was the type, now is its fulfillment, and the whole world gathers to sing: All ye works, praise the Lord, and magnify him unto all ages.

The deacon faces the icon of the Theotokos from the side of the holy doors and gestures to it with his orarion.

Deacon: The Theotokos and Mother of Light let us honor and magnify in song.

Receiving the blessing from the priest, the deacon begins a great censuring of the entire temple, beginning with the sanctuary and returning thereto.

MAGNIFICATIONS IN TONE SIX

Choir: My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

Refrain: More honorable than the cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim, thou who without corruption didst bear God the Word, and art truly Theotokos: we magnify thee. *(Repeat after each verse.)*

- + For He hath regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden; for behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. *(Refrain)*
- + For He that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is His Name; and His mercy is on them that fear Him, throughout all generations. *(Refrain)*
- + He hath showed strength with His arm; He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. *(Refrain)*
- + He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the empty with good things, and the rich hath He sent empty away. *(Refrain)*
- + He remembering His mercy hath helped His servant Israel, as He promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed forever. *(Refrain)*

Ode Nine

Heirmos: No one is able to see God, upon whom the ranks of angels dare not gaze; yet through thee, all-pure Virgin, the Word took flesh and showed himself to men. With all the hosts of heaven we magnify him, and we call thee blessed.

O holy hierarch, Father Raphael, pray unto God for us.

In the land of the blessed hast thou found thine abode, having been meek and blessed on the earth. Now thou art among the hosts of the heavenly powers, adorned with virtues as bright ornaments and invested with the light thereof.

O holy hierarch, Father Raphael, pray unto God for us.

Beholding the brightness of God and the angels, and the splendor of Patriarchs, Martyrs and Apostles, with them thou dost entreat the Lover of mankind to grant the remission of sins and true repentance unto us who praise thee, O holy one.

O holy hierarch, Father Raphael, pray unto God for us.

Thy brightness hath shone forth into all the world; thou didst live like an angel in thine adopted country, O holy hierarch, adorning and sanctifying the New World with thine unction, making thy people wise in God.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Rain came down from heaven, O Virgin, into thy womb and dried up the streams of deceit, showering incorruption unto all men; through thee redemption hath been granted to all, O God-greeted one.

Katavasia: (**Kazan**) (**Crow**) Let all the earth-born mortals rejoice in the Spirit, bearing their lamps. And let the nature of bodiless Minds celebrate with honor the holy festival of the Mother of God, and cry out: Hail! All-blessed, pure, and ever-virgin Theotokos!

The deacon exits the sanctuary and stands in his usual place on the solea.

THE LITTLE LITANY

Deacon: Again and again, in peace, etc.

Priest:¹² O God, our God, who hast brought into being by thy will all the powers endowed with speech and reason, we pray thee and supplicate thee: Receive our praise, which together with all thy creatures we offer according to our strength, and reward us with the rich gifts of thy goodness. For unto thee every knee doth bow, whether in heaven or on the earth or in the regions under the earth, and every breath and created being doth sing thine ineffable glory, for thou only art the true and most merciful God,

for all the powers of heaven praise Thee, and unto Thee do they ascribe glory, to the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

The deacon returns to his customary place in the sanctuary. The lighting level is raised a little.

THE EXAPOSTELARION & THEOTOKION FOR ST. RAPHAEL IN TONE THREE

*(**I behold Thy bridal chamber**)*

Today is truly illumined * by the great brilliance of this feast. * For, holy hierarch Raphael, * at God's august throne standeth, * and intercedeth for us who cry: * Good shepherd, remember us thy flock.

Thou art the sweetness of angels, * the gladness of afflicted ones, * and the protectress of Christians, * O Virgin Mother of our Lord God; * be thou my helper and save me * from out of eternal torments.

¹² Orthros prayer #11.

During the Praises and/or the Great Doxology, the clergy quietly finish Festal Orthros at the altar (The Liturgikon, fourth edition, 143; The Archdiocesan Service Book, 37).

AINOI (PRAISES) IN TONE FOUR

Choir: Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the heights. To Thee, O God, is due our song.

Choir: Praise ye Him, all His angels; praise ye Him, all His hosts. To Thee, O God, is due our song.

- + Praise Him, O sun and moon; praise Him, all ye stars and light.
- + Praise Him, ye heavens of heavens, and thou water that art above the heavens.
- + Let them praise the name of the Lord; for He spake, and they came to be; He commanded, and they were created.
- + He established them forever, yea, for ever and ever; He hath set an ordinance, and it shall not pass away.
- + Praise the Lord from the earth, ye dragons, and all ye abysses,
- + Fire, hail, snow, ice, blast of tempest, which perform His word,
- + The mountains and all the hills, fruitful trees, and all cedars,
- + The beasts and all the cattle, creeping things and winged birds,
- + Kings of the earth, and all peoples, princes and all the judges of the earth,
- + Young men and virgins, elders with the younger; let them praise the name of the Lord, for exalted is the name of Him alone.
- + His praise is above the earth and heaven, and He shall exalt the horn of His people.
- + This is the hymn for all His saints, for the sons of Israel, and for the people that draw nigh unto Him.
- + Sing unto the Lord a new song; His praise is in the church of the saints.
- + Let Israel be glad in Him that made him, let the sons of Sion rejoice in their King.
- + Let them praise His name in the dance; with the timbrel and the psaltery let them chant unto Him.
- + For the Lord taketh pleasure in His people, and He shall exalt the meek with salvation.
- + The saints shall boast in glory, and they shall rejoice upon their beds.
- + The high praise of God shall be in their throat, and two-edged swords shall be in their hands,
- + To do vengeance among the heathen, punishments among the peoples,
- + To bind their kings with fetters, and their nobles with manacles of iron,
- + To do among them the judgement that is written. This glory shall be to all His saints.

For St. Raphael in Tone Four (Unto them that fear Thee**)**

Verse 1. Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in the firmament of His power. Praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him according to His excellent greatness.

Under thy pastoral care, the Church took root in America. * Thou established the Mother Church, * the ven'erable holy temple * of the Wonderworker, * irrigating it with toils and fervent holy prayers, * and planting thy precious body at thine end. * Thy children then, throughout the land, fulfilled thy words and held fast the Faith. * As thou standest at God's high throne, * now beseech Him to save our souls.

Verse 2. Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; praise Him with the psaltery and harp.

Under thy pastoral care, the Church ... (*repeat above*)

*Verse 3. Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; praise Him with stringed instruments and organs. Fervent and devoted celebrant of offerings and mysteries, * who can tell of the countless hours * thou spentest translating them * for the sake of thy flock? * Thou didst gather pearls from the Greek and from Slavonic tongues, * and fashioned them into pearls of Arabic. * Thou also taught us to worship in the tongue of America. * As thou standest at God's high throne, * now beseech Him to save our souls.*

Verse 4. Praise Him upon the loud cymbals; praise Him upon the high-sounding cymbals. Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.

*As a worthy hierarch, thou didst take upon thyself the needs * and concerns of thy holy flock; * in towns, villages and farms, * to thyself didst draw them. * Thou didst keep thy sheep from going astray into strange fields; * thy hand kept them safe from devouring, evil wolves. * Thy deeds of love grew brighter as the churches grew in number. * As thou standest at God's high throne, * now beseech Him to save our souls.*

THE DOXASTICON FOR ST. RAPHAEL IN TONE FIVE

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

Today is the day we honor the holy hierarch Raphael! Who can describe his many sorrows and his many labors? Who can describe his many pains? He journeyed on land and on the sea, searching for his lost sheep, in weariness and in poverty, in sleeplessness, thirst and hunger. He became the good shepherd of the lost sheep in America, so let us cry out unto to him: O our Father, intercede for the salvation of our souls!

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

Beneath thy compassion we take refuge, O Theotokos. Despise not our prayers in our necessity, but deliver us from harm, O only pure, only blessed one.

All the lights in the church are illumined. The priest now censes the holy table, the sanctuary and the iconostasis, and then the church and people from the bema.

THE GREAT DOXOLOGY IN TONE FIVE

- + Glory to thee, Who hast shown forth the light. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men.
- + We hymn Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks unto Thee for Thy great glory.
- + O Lord King, heavenly God, Father almighty; O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and O Holy Spirit.
- + O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy on us, thou that takest away the sins of the world.
- + Receive our prayer, Thou that sittest at the right hand of the Father, and have mercy on us.
- + For Thou only art holy, Thou only art the Lord, O Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.
- + Every day will I bless Thee, and I will praise Thy name forever, yea forever and ever.
- + Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.
- + Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever. Amen.
- + Let Thy mercy be upon us, O Lord, even as we have set our hope on thee.

- + Blessed art Thou, O Lord; teach me Thy statutes. (*thrice*)
- + Lord, thou hast been our refuge from generation to generation. I said: Lord, be merciful unto me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee.
- + Lord, I have fled unto Thee; teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God.
- + For with Thee is the fountain of life; in thy light shall we see light.
- + O continue Thy mercy unto them that know thee.
- + Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (*thrice*)
- + Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
- + Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
- + Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.
- + Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.

For reference, below is the metered English translation of the apolytikion of St. Raphael.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. RAPHAEL IN TONE THREE (**Thy confession**)

(METERED) (UNMETERED)

Thou art champion of the one true faith, * consolation of the persecuted, * father of the orphans, friend of the destitute, * peacemaker and good shepherd and seeker of the lost, * O Father Raphael, the joy of the Orthodox. * Son of Antioch and boast of America: beseech * Christ God for us and for all those who honor thee.

For the Divine Liturgy Variables, click the link at the Online Liturgical Guide. In Liturgy, at pastoral discretion, churches may sing the following megalynarion after “Among the first, be mindful... and of all mankind.”

MEGALYNARION OF ST. RAPHAEL IN TONE TWO

Rising from the east as a brilliant sun, thou, O holy hierarch, dost enlighten and comfort all who with faith flee unto thy paternal loving kindness. Do thou now intercede for us, O good shepherd Raphael.

Here is the schedule of kathismata from the Psalter:

Day	Orthros	Vespers
Sunday	2, 3	(Psalms 1-3)
Monday	4, 5	6
Tuesday	7, 8	9
Wednesday	10, 11	12
Thursday	13, 14	15
Friday	19, 20	18
Saturday	16, 17	1

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