

Akolouthia for

Our Father among the Saints

RAPHAEL

Bishop of Brooklyn

“Good Shepherd of the Lost Sheep in America”

(November 8, 1860 - February 27, 1915)

The major commemoration of Saint Raphael is observed on the Saturday before the Synaxis of the Bodiless Powers of Heaven (November 8), which means that it may fall between November 1 and 7. It is celebrated as a Vigil Rank commemoration.

On Friday Evening

At Little Vespers[1]

Lord, I have cried in the second tone, with four to the melody When he took thee.

4. *From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel hope in the Lord.*

Let all the choirs of Orthodox Christians sing hymns in honor of the holy hierarch Raphael, the first to be consecrated in the New World. True to his name, he bringeth God's healing to us as we celebrate his holy memory.

3. *For with the Lord there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption; and he shall redeem Israel out of all his iniquities.*

Let all the choirs of Orthodox Christians ...

2. *O praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise him, all ye peoples.*

As the Archangel Raphael guided Tobit in a foreign land long ago, the holy hierarch Raphael kept his flock on the true path in a land far from their homes. Always imitating the Good Shepherd, he fed his many sheep from a table which the Lord prepared in the presence of their enemies. So now, nourished by his teaching and example, we pray

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

1. For he hath made his mercy to prevail over us, and the truth of the Lord abideth for ever.

Let us sing hymns of praise to the holy hierarch Raphael, who shone forth from Brooklyn and enlightened those in darkness. To those who were wounded by sin, he brought healing in Christ; to those who were deceived, he brought the truth of Orthodoxy; he gathered his scattered sheep safely into the fold of the Church. Therefore, we praise him as a worthy hierarch and a citizen of heaven.

Glory in the sixth (plagal of the second) tone.

O thrice-blessed Raphael, having received grace from God, thou didst let thy light shine so brightly in the New World that all of those who had been in darkness gave glory to our Father in heaven. Do thou intercede for the salvation of our souls.

Both now and the theotokion in the same tone.

O Theotokos, thou art the true vine that hath blossomed forth the Fruit of life. Thee do we supplicate: Intercede, O Lady, together with the Apostles and all the Saints that our souls find mercy.

The aposticha in the sixth (plagal of the second) tone.

Thou wast a guardian and a defender of the Church's teachings, thou didst protect thy flock from false doctrines and confirmed them in the true faith. O holy father Raphael, son of Syria and glory of North America, do thou now intercede that our souls may be saved.

Thy priests shall be clothed with righteousness, and thy righteous shall rejoice.

O holy hierarch Raphael, thou didst work out thine own salvation by laboring for the salvation of thy flock. Teaching thy rational sheep that the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom, thou didst elevate their minds from the cares of this life to the contemplation of heaven. Do thou now intercede that our souls may be saved.

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

In order to strengthen thy spiritual children in the Orthodox Faith, thou didst bless that the divine services of the Church be prayed in the language of their adopted homeland. Do thou now intercede that our souls may be saved.

Glory and Both now and the theotokion in the same tone.

O believers, let us extol together with the Archangels the heavenly bridal chamber and the gate that was truly sealed, saying: 'Rejoice, O Maiden, through whom to us hath sprouted forth the Saviour of all, Christ God, the Giver of life. Strike down our enemies with thine hand, O immaculate Lady, thou hope of all Christians.'

The apolytikion in the third tone.

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.

At Great Vespers

The 1st stasis of the 1st kathisma of the Psalter (Psalms 1-3) *Blessed is the man.*

Lord, I have cried in the first tone, with six to the melody *What a marvelous wonder.*

6. *If thou shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, O Lord, who shall stand? For with thee there is forgiveness.*

O holy Father Raphael, thou didst incarnate the love of Christ Jesus from thy youth, O son of the Church of Antioch sent to America. Not being concerned with thine own ease, thou wast Apostle to the lost sheep of Syria. From holy Russia thou didst come, traveling from east to the west and from the north to south, and didst give thyself no repose, but labored night and day. As thou hast boldness before God, intercede with Him to save our souls.

5. *For thy Name's sake have I patiently waited for thee, O Lord; my soul hath waited patiently for thy word, my soul hath hoped in the Lord.*

O holy Father Raphael ...

4. *From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel hope in the*

Lord.

Thou didst conduct thine affairs like a good shepherd, traveling by land and sea. Thou didst cross plains and mountains, and didst roam near and far in search of Christ's lost sheep. To bind their wounds with thy fatherly and Christ-like love, and carry them in thine arms, and reunite them to the holy flock of Christ, thou didst bear the heat and labor of day, and the chill and length of night. As thou hast boldness before God, intercede with Him to save our souls.

3. For with the Lord there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption; and he shall redeem Israel out of all his iniquities.

Thou didst conduct thine affairs ...

2. O praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise him, all ye peoples.

Orthodox believers found in thee, O good shepherd Raphael, sustenance for their souls and admonition for the lost and a defense against their foes. Thou didst not view the obstacles, but kept thine eyes upon the prize and high call of God. While counting all things as naught, thou didst suffer loss in order to find Christ. Offering up thy life for thy flock, thou art now glorified. As thou hast boldness before God, intercede with Him to save our souls.

1. For he hath made his mercy to prevail over us, and the truth of the Lord abideth for ever.

Orthodox believers found in thee ...

Glory in the sixth (plagal of the second) tone.

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.

Both now and the dogmatikon of the tone of the week from the Octoechos.

The entrance. The prokeimenon in the seventh (or grave) tone.

O God, thou art my helper; thy mercy shall go before me.

Verse: Rescue me from mine enemies, O God, and from them that rise up against me redeem me.

The reading is from Proverbs (*A composite from Chapters 10, 3, 8*)

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 reading is from Proverbs (*Chapter 10: 31 – 11:12*)

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 reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon (*Chapter 4: 7-15*)

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.

At the Litiya we chant the first Litiya troparion of the feast of the church temple, then in the fourth tone:

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.

In the second tone to the melody *Hearken, ye women*.

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.

In the first tone.

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.

In the sixth (plagal of the second) tone.

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.

In the eighth (plagal of the fourth) tone.

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.

Glory in the fifth tone.

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 the theotokion in the same tone.

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.

The aposticha in the second tone to the melody O house of Ephratha.

O Father Raphael, who can tell of thy toil? Who can number thy hardships? Father to orphans, pray that the Church be preserved in peace.

Thy priests shall be clothed with righteousness, and thy righteous shall rejoice.

O holy Raphael, who can tell of thy sorrows? Who can recount thy noble deeds? Friend of the needy poor, intercede for our salvation.

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

O glorious Raphael, great light from Antioch, good shepherd of the lost sheep, boast of America, beg Christ for His great mercy.

Glory in the fourth tone.

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.

Both now and the theotokion in the same tone.

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 apolytikion in the third tone.

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 and Both now and the theotokion in the same tone.

Thou who art the mediatrix for the salvation of our race, we praise, O Virgin Theotokos, for in the flesh assumed from thee he hath deigned to endure the Passion through the Cross, thy Son and our God, delivering us from corruption because he is the Lover of mankind.

On Saturday Morning

At Orthros

At God is the Lord the apolytikion (twice) and theotokion as at Great Vespers.

*The first stichologion (Psalms 109-117), Little Litany, and the first kathisma in the first tone to the melody *The soldiers keeping watch*.*

In word, in deed and thought, thou didst follow Christ the Saviour, and heeded his call to the life of apostolic labor. Then leaving thy homeland thou didst gift thy flock with the grace of holy baptism, teaching them to profess the One God in Three Persons. Hence we call thee a preacher of the truth and faithful hierarch, O holy Raphael.

Glory and Both now and the theotokion.

O pure unwedded Virgin Theotokos, the only intercessor and protection of the faithful: Deliver those who trust in thee from affliction and calamity, and through thy holy intercessions do thou save our souls.

The second stichologion (Psalm 118), Little Litany, and the second kathisma in the third tone to the melody *Awed by the beauty*.

Bearing thy cross from thy youth up, thou didst deny thyself. Abandoning the things below, thou didst seek heavenly things. Wholly consumed by thy love for Christ, thou didst find thy life in him. Thus when Christ our Life doth come again to judge the living and the dead, thou shalt also stand before him, shining brightly with glory. Then on that fearful Day of Judgment pray to Christ for us who honor thee.

Glory and Both now and the theotokion.

Awed by the beauty of thy virginity and the exceeding radiance of thy purity, Gabriel stood amazed and cried to thee, O Theotokos: What praise may I offer thee that is worthy of thy beauty? By what name shall I call thee? I am lost and bewildered; but I shall greet thee as I was commanded, 'Hail, thou that art full grace!'

The Polyeleos (Psalms 135 and 136) and Eclogarion, Little Litany, and the third kathisma in the fourth tone to the melody *Joseph marveled*.

As a model of vigilance, over the passions thou didst rule, cultivating in thy soul the gifts of the Spirit. A soothing balm, a man of peace who didst lead thy flock to unity, thou didst keep them safe from the fierce wolf of souls. As a good shepherd thou didst gather those who were formerly dispersed as lambs lost in the hills, through the grace abiding in thine own soul. And now, O Father Raphael, lead thou into safe pastures all those who fervently supplicate thee.

Glory and Both now and the theotokion.

O Virgin all-pure who gave birth to Eternal God, with the hierarch Raphael beseech him to grant unto us remission of sins and amendment of life before the end; for we praise thee with faith and with love, O all-praised Virgin Mary.

The first antiphon of the anavathmoi in the fourth tone From my youth.

The prokeimenon in the fourth tone.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.

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

Let everything that hath breath and the Orthros Gospel.

John 10: 1-9 (*cf. November 13*)

Psalm 50 Have mercy on me, O God (said).

Glory in the second tone.

**Through the intercessions of the
hierarchy, O merciful One ...**

Both now in the same tone.

**Through the intercessions of the
Theotokos, O merciful One ...**

Have mercy and the idiomelon in the sixth (plagal of the second) tone.

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.

The Canon of the Saint in the sixth (plagal of the second) tone and the katavasiai in the fourth tone.

Ode 1: The Heirmos

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.

Refrain.

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

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

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.

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 and Both now and the theotokion.

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.

And in the fourth tone.

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 3: The 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.

Refrain.

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.

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

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 and Both now and the theotokion.

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

And in the fourth tone.

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 Mesodion Kathisma in the eighth tone.

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 and Both now and the theotokion in the same tone.

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 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 4: The 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.

Refrain.

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.

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

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 and Both now and the theotokion.

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.

And in the fourth tone.

When the Prophet Habakkuk, O thou Most High, learned of the divine and untraceable counsel of thy pure incarnation from the womb of the blessed Virgin, he cried out: 'Glory to thy power, O Lord my God.'

Ode 5: The 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.

Refrain.

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.

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.

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 and Both now and the theotokion.

After thy strange birthgiving, 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.

And in the fourth tone.

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 6: The 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.

Refrain.

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 written, as with a copyist's quill, words of grace in the hearts of the faithful, O holy hierarch.

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.

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 and Both now and the theotokion.

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.

And in the fourth tone.

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 Kontakion in the third tone.

(To the melody On this day the Virgin)

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!'

The Oikos.

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!'

The Synaxarion.

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

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.

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

Ode 7: The 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.

Refrain.

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.

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.

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 and Both now and the theotokion.

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

And in the fourth tone.

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 8: The 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.

Refrain.

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.

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.

Refrain.

Let us bless Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the Lord.

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.

Both now and the theotokion.

Thy birthgiving 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.

Refrain.

We praise, bless and worship the Lord.

And in the fourth tone.

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.’

My soul doth magnify the Lord and More honorable.

Ode 9: The 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.

Refrain.

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.

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.

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 and Both now and the theotokion.

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.

And in the fourth tone.

Let all earthborn mortals rejoice in spirit, carrying their lamps, and let the assembly of the Bodiless Powers celebrate with honor the sacred festival of the Mother of God and

cry out: Rejoice, all-blessed, pure and ever-virgin Theotokos.

The exaposteilarion in the third tone

(To the melody I behold thy bridal chamber)

Today is illumined by the great brilliance of this glorious feast, for the holy hierarch Raphael now stands at the throne of God and intercedes for us who cry out to him with faith: 'Remember thy flock, O good shepherd!'

And, without Glory and Both now, the theotokion in the same tone.

Thou art the sweetness of angels, the gladness of afflicted ones, the protectress of Christians, O Virgin Bride of God. Be thou my helper and save me from out of eternal torments.

The praises in the fourth tone, with four to the melody Unto those who fear thee.

4. Praise him for his mighty acts, praise him according to the multitude of his greatness.

Safe beneath thy pastoral care the Church didst flourish in the new world. Thou didst found as the Mother Church the venerable temple of the Wonder-worker, sanctifying it with thy labors and holy prayers, and at thine end with thy precious body. Throughout the land thy children didst heed thy words and hold fast the Faith. Now standing at the throne of God, beseech Him to save our souls.

3. Praise him with the sound of the trumpet, praise him with the psalter and harp.

Safe beneath thy pastoral care ...

2. Praise him with timbrel and dance, praise him with strings and flute.

Lover of the holy prayers and divine services of the Church, who can tell of the countless hours spent in their translation for the sake of thy flock? Thou didst gather pearls from the Greek and Slavonic tongues, and fashioned them into pearls of Arabic. Thou didst also teach us to pray in the language of the new world. Now standing at the throne of God, beseech Him to save our souls.

1. Praise him with tuneful cymbals, praise him with cymbals of jubilation. Let every breath praise the Lord.

As a worthy hierarch thou didst take upon thyself the needs and concerns of all thy flock. In towns and villages and farms thou didst gather them to thee. Thou didst keep thy sheep from straying into strange pastures; thy hand kept them safe from devouring wolves. Thy deeds of love grew brighter as the number of churches grew. Now standing at the throne of God, beseech Him to save our souls.

*Glory in the fifth (plagal of the first) tone to the melody **Today is the day of Resurrection.***

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 the theotokion in the same tone.

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

The Great Doxology.

At Divine Liturgy

The 1st Antiphon.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless his holy name.

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Saviour, save us.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all that he hath done for thee.

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Saviour, save us.

The Lord in heaven hath prepared his throne, and his kingdom ruleth over all.

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Saviour, save us.

Glory and Both now.

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Saviour, save us.

The 2nd Antiphon.

Praise the Lord, O my soul. I will praise the Lord in my life, I will chant unto my God for as long as I have my being.

Save us, O Son of God, who art wondrous in the Saints, who sing to thee: Alleluia.

Blessed is he of whom the God of Jacob is his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God.

Save us, O Son of God, who art wondrous in the Saints, who sing to thee: Alleluia.

The Lord shall be king unto eternity; thy God, O Sion, unto generation and generation.

Save us, O Son of God, who art wondrous in the Saints, who sing to thee: Alleluia.

Glory and Both now.

O only-begotten Son and Word of God ...

The 3rd Antiphon.

(The apolytikion in the third tone)

1. 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.

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

2. Rejoice, O Father Raphael ...

Thy priests shall be clothed with righteousness, and thy righteous shall rejoice.

3. Rejoice, O Father Raphael ...

Eisodikon.

Come let us worship and fall down before Christ. Save us, O Son of God, who art wondrous in the Saints, who sing to thee: Alleluia.

Apolytikia of St. Raphael and of the temple, and the kontakion *O protection of Christians.*

The Trisagion.

Prokeimenon.

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

Verse: Hear this, all ye nations; give ear, all ye that inhabit the world.

The Epistle.

Hebrews 7: 26 - 8:3

The Alleluiarion.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The mouth of the righteous shall meditate wisdom, and his tongue shall speak of judgment.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The law of his God is in his heart, and his steps shall not be tripped.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Gospel.

John 10: 9-16 (*cf. November 13th*)

At Especially.

It is truly meet to bless thee, O Theotokos ...

The Megalynarion.

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

The Koinonikon.

Refrain.

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

1. His heart is ready to hope in the Lord; his heart is established.
2. He shall not be afraid, until he looks down upon his enemies.
3. He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor, his righteousness abideth unto ages of ages; his horn shall be exalted with glory.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Post-Communion.

We have seen the true light ...

[\[1\]](#) Little Vespers is prayed only on days when an All-night Vigil will be celebrated.