

Also, on the 27th Day of February

✙ Commemoration of St. Raphael, Bishop of Brooklyn.

Note: If this day falls on the Wednesday or Friday of Cheesefare week, it is transferred to Thursday of Cheesefare week. If during the first week of Lent, it may be transferred to Thursday of Cheesefare week or to Saturday of the first week of Lent. If after the first week of Lent, the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts may be served in churches dedicated to the Saint (or where his relics are preserved); otherwise, the stichera may be added to the services of the Triodion.

Great Vespers

After the Introductory Psalm, “Blessèd is the man...,” the first Kathisma.

At “Lord, I call...,” 8 stichera in Tone 2: *To the melody, “Down from the tree....”*

Let all the Orthodox Christians in America /
Sing hymns in honor of the holy bishop Raphael! /
By birth an Arab, nourished by streams of Greek theology, /
And consecrated by the Church of Russia, which had adopted us all. /
True to his name, he brings God’s healing to us ///
As we celebrate his holy memory. (twice)

As the archangel Raphael guided Tobit in a foreign land long ago, /
Bishop Raphael kept his flock on the true path in a land far from their homes. /
Always imitating the Good Shephard, he fed his many sheep /
From a table which the Lord prepared in the presence of their enemies. /
So now, nourished by his teachings and example, ///
We pray that he continue to intercede for us before Christ our God. (twice)

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

And 2 stichera, in Tone 1: *To the melody, “O glorious wonder....”*

O our holy father Raphael /
From thy youth thou didst embody the love of Christ. /
Sent to America, O son of Antioch, thou wast an apostle to the lost sheep of Syria. /
Without concern for thine own comfort thou didst labor both day and night, /

Traversing the continent, never pausing for rest. /
And as thou hast boldness before Christ our God ///
Entreat Him now to save our souls.

O our holy father Raphael, /
Thou wast truly a good shepherd, /
Searching far and near for your lost sheep. /
Binding their wounds in love as their father in the Spirit, /
Thou didst carry them to Christ on thine own shoulders. /
And as thou hast boldness before Christ our God ///
Entreat Him now to save our souls.

In thee, O good shepherd Raphael /
The faithful have found sustenance for their souls and protection from their foes. /
Keeping thine eyes not on obstacles but on the prize from above, /
Thou didst count earthly gain as loss, /
And didst imitate Christ by laying down thy life for thy sheep. /
And as thou now hast boldness before Christ our God ///
Entreat Him now to save our souls.

Glory..., in Tone 6:

Thy children praise thee as a wise hierarch of the Church in America /
Who unified the faithful from every land /
And who defended the oppressed and guarded the Faith. /
Thou didst hold the high and the humble in equal esteem, /
Treating all with Christ's own gentleness. /
Now as thou standest among the saints, O holy father Raphael, ///
Never cease to intercede before Christ our God to save our souls.

Now and ever..., Theotokion, in the same Tone:

Who will not bless thee, O most holy Virgin? /
Who will not sing of thy most pure childbearing? /
The only-begotten Son shone timelessly from the Father, /
But from thee He was ineffably incarnate; /
God by nature, yet man for our sake; /
Not two persons, but one in two natures. /
Entreat Him, O pure and all-blessed Lady ///
To have mercy on our souls.

Or, if a Friday or Saturday evening, the Dogmatic Theotokion in the Tone of the Week.

The Entrance and the Prokeimenon of the day.

Three Readings:

The Reading from Proverbs (10:7,6,13-16; 8:32,35,4,12,14,17,5-8):

^{10:7} **T**he memory of the just is blessed, and ⁶the blessing of the Lord is upon the head of the righteous. ¹³Blessed is the man that hath found wisdom, and the man that knoweth discernment. ¹⁴For it is better to traffick in her than in treasures of gold and silver. ¹⁵She is more precious than precious stones; and nothing that is precious is equal to her worth. ¹⁶For 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 proceedeth righteousness, and on her tongue she carrieth law and mercy. ^{8:32}Now therefore hearken unto me, O my son, for I will speak of solemn things. Blessed are they that keep my ways; ³⁵For mine outgoings are the outgoings of life, and in them is prepared the favor of the Lord. ⁴“Therefore, O men, do I exhort you, and I lift up my voice unto the sons of men. ¹² For I,

Wisdom, have dwelt with counsel and have called upon understanding. ¹⁴Counsel is mine and safety; prudence is mine, strength also is mine. ¹⁷I love them that love me, and those that seek me shall find grace.^{8:5} O ye simple, understand subtlety, and ye that are untaught, take heart. ⁶Hearken unto me, for I will speak of solemn things and bring forth that which is right out of my lips. ⁷For my throat shall speak truth, and false lips are an abomination in my sight. ⁸All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; there is nothing contrary or perverse in them. ⁹They are all plain to them that understand and upright to them that find knowledge. I shall instruct you in truth, so that your hope will be in the Lord and you shall be filled with the Spirit.

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

Thus saith the Lord Almighty: ^{10:31}The mouth of the righteous bringeth forth wisdom, but the tongue of the unjust shall perish. ³²The lips of the righteous bring forth grace, but the mouth of the ungodly is perverse. ^{11:1}False balances are an abomination to the Lord, but a just weight is acceptable to Him. ²Wheresoever pride entereth, there will be also dishonor, but the mouth of the humble meditateth wisdom. ³When a righteous man dieth, he leaveth regret, but the

destruction of the ungodly is hard at hand, and bringeth joy. ⁴The integrity of the righteous shall guide them, but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them. ^{4a}Riches shall not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivereth from death. ⁵The virtue of the righteous makes straight their paths, but unrighteousness leadeth to deceit. ⁶The righteousness of the upright delivereth them, but transgressors are caught in their own destruction. ⁷When the

righteous dieth, his hope perisheth not, but the boast of the ungodly perisheth. ⁸A righteous man escapeth from a snare, but the ungodly man is delivered up in his place. ⁹A hypocrite with his mouth destroyeth his neighbor, but through knowledge shall the righteous be

delivered. ¹⁰In the prosperity of the righteous a city doth prosper, ¹¹but it is overthrown by the mouth of the ungodly. ¹²A man that is void of understanding despiseth his neighbor, but a man of understanding holdeth his peace.

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

^{4:7} **T**he righteous man, though he die early yet shall he be at rest. ⁸For old age is not honored for length of time, nor is it measured by number of years; ⁹but wisdom is gray hair for men, and a blameless life is ripe old age. ¹⁰There was one who pleased God and was so beloved of Him, that while living among sinners he was taken up. ¹¹He was caught up lest evil change his understanding or guile deceive his soul. ¹²For the fascination of wickedness

obscures that which is good, and roving desire perverts the innocent mind. ¹³Being so perfected in a short time, he fulfilled long years; ¹⁴for his soul was pleasing to the Lord, therefore He took him quickly from the midst of wickedness. ¹⁵Yet this the peoples saw and did not understand, neither did they take such a thing to heart, that God's grace and mercy are upon His holy ones, and He hath care for His elect.

At the Litya, the stichera of the temple, and this sticheron of the Saint, in Tone 5:

Rising in distant Syria, /
Ascending through the Russian lands, /
A bright star hath appeared over the New World. /
Shining with divine knowledge and radiating the love of Christ, /
The luminous Raphael overcomes every deception of the enemy. /
Now, wearing his crown and standing among the saints ///
He intercedes for us before the throne of God.

Glory..., in the same Tone:

Enlightened by the mem'ry of the holy Raphael /
We celebrate his sacred feast. /
For, having been made divinely wise, /
He draws us all into Christ's own net ///
As he entreats His great mercy for our souls.

Now and ever..., Theotokion, in the same Tone:

We bless thee, O Virgin Mother of God, /
And we, the faithful, worthily glorify thee, /

O invincible city that cannot be broken, ///
O steadfast protectress and the refuge of our souls.

At the Aposticha, these stichera, in Tone 2: To the melody, “O house of Ephratha”

O holy hierarch Raphael, /
Who can count the hardships thou didst endure? /
As a shepherd of Christ’s rational flock ///
Pray that He grant the Church peace and great mercy.

Verse: Thy priests shall be clothed with righteousness and Thy saints shall rejoice!

O holy father Raphael, /
Who can speak of all thy sorrows? /
Who can recount thy noble deeds? /
Friend of the needy and protector of orphans, ///
Intercede with Christ that our souls may be saved.

Verse: The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, and shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

O glorious father Raphael, /
Thou great light from Antioch, /
Seeker of the lost children of the Church, /
Model of bishops in North America, ///
Entreat Christ that He grant great mercy to our souls.

Glory..., in Tone 4:

Today a great festival shines like the sun over the earth /
As we celebrate the mem’ry of our holy bishop Raphael, /
Apostle to the lost sheep of North America. /
Let us rejoice on this festive day and cry aloud to him: /
Rejoice, new Moses, who led thy people into the promised land! /
Rejoice, new Elijah, who bequeathed a double portion of thy spirit to us! /
Rejoice, new Ezra, who built a temple of God in our midst! /
Rejoice, new apostle of Christ our God, drawing us closer to Him ! /
As thou standest now among the saints before the throne of God ///
Ceaselessly intercede for us who with faith honor thy holy memory.

Now and ever..., Theotokion in the same Tone:

Having thee, O Theotokos /
As our hope and our protection, /
We do not fear the assaults of the enemy ///

For we have thee as the deliverance of our souls

After the blessing of the loaves, the Troparion of the Saint, in Tone 1: *(To the melody: When the stone had been sealed... ”*

Thy proclamation has gone forth throughout North America /
 Calling the scattered sheep into the unity of the Church. /
 Hearing thy voice, they respond to thy teachings, /
 And through thy writings they are instructed in piety. /
 Now guided by thy example, O father Raphael, /
 We sing hymns of praise to Christ our God; /
 Glory to Him who gave thee strength! /
 Glory to Him who granted thee a crown! ///
 Glory to Him who through thee grants healing to all! *(twice)*

And the Theotokion: “Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos...” *(once)*

Matins

At “God is the Lord...” the Troparion of the Saint, (twice); Glory..., now and ever...,
And the Theotokion, in Tone 1:

When Gabriel greeted thee, O Virgin, /
 He cried out like the righteous David. /
 For in thee, O sacred Ark, was the Master of all made flesh /
 And thy womb became more spacious than the heavens, /
 For thou didst bear the Creator; /
 Glory to Him who dwelt in thee! /
 Glory to Him who came forth from thee! ///
 Glory to Him who freed us by being born of thee!

After the 1st Kathisma, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone 1: *To the melody, “When the stone had been sealed.... ”*

O father Raphael, worthy of all praise /
 Thou didst reveal thyself a faithful servant of the Master. /
 Thou didst answer His call to preach in foreign lands /
 And tended to the flock which Christ had entrusted thee, /
 And while living in this world thou didst become a citizen of heaven. ///
 Therefore, we honor thee as a shepherd of souls and a teacher of righteousness.

Glory..., now and ever..., Theotokion in the same Tone:

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, save our souls.

After the 2nd Kathisma, the Sessional hymn, in Tone 3: To the melody, “The beauty of virginity....”

From thy youth thou didst deny thyself and took up thy cross /
And ever followed our Savior. /
Nothing could separate thee from the love of Christ /
For having died to the world, thou didst find a new life of grace with the Lord. /
Since thou hast found favor with God, /
We entreat thee to intercede with Him ///
For the salvation of our souls.

Glory..., now and ever..., Theotokion, in the same Tone:

Awed by the beauty of thy virginity /
And the exceeding radiance of thy purity, /
Gabriel called out unto thee, O Theotokos: /
What worthy hymn of praise can I offer unto thee? /
And by what name shall I call thee?
I am in doubt and stand in awe of thee. /
Therefore, as commanded, I cry out to thee: ///
Rejoice, O Lady full of Grace.

Polyeley and Magnification:

We magnify thee, / O holy hierarch father Raphael, / and we honor thy holy memory, / for thou dost pray to Christ our God for us!.

Selected Psalm verses:

Hear this, all nations! Give ear, all inhabitants of the earth!

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

After the Polyeley, the Sessional Hymn, in Tone 1: To the melody, “The choir of angels....”

The choir of the angels together with all the faithful /
Have gathered together to honor thee /
And with spiritual songs they praise thy holy memory, /
O holy hierarch Raphael. /
Being far from thy earthly homeland of Syria /

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Thou didst build Christ's undivided Body in the New World, ///
And now thou dwellest in the kingdom of heaven.

Glory..., in Tone 4: *To the melody, "Thou hast appeared today..."*

Thou hast been revealed to the world as a wise hierarch, /
A good shepherd of those entrusted to thee. /
And thy flock knew thy voice, O holy Raphael, ///
For thou didst travel far and wide tending them with love. /

Now and ever..., Theotokion: *(In the same melody)*

Thou art revealed to the world, O Lady, /
As a mighty fortress, a guardian of those who place their trust in thee /
And we run to thy protection, O Mother of God, ///
As children running to their mother's embrace.

1st Antiphon of the 4th Tone (The Song of Ascents), "From my youth..."

Prokeimenon, in Tone 4:

Precious in the sight of the Lord / is the death of His saints. *Verse:* What shall I
render to the Lord for all His bounty to me?

Gospel: (35-ctr) John 10:1-9

After Psalm 50 (51), the Post-Gospel sticheron, to the Saint, in Tone 5:

Rising in distant Syria, /
Ascending through the Russian lands, /
A bright star hath appeared over the New World. /
Shining with divine knowledge and radiating the love of Christ, /
The luminous Raphael overcomes every deception of the enemy. /
Now, wearing his crown and standing among the saints ///
He intercedes for us before the throne of God.

The Canon

The Supplicatory Canon of the Mother of God (the Paraklesis), with 6 Troparia,
including the **Irmos;**
and that of the Saint, with 8 Troparia:

Ode 1

Canon of the Saint, Tone 6

Irmos: When Israel passed on foot over the deep as if it were dry land, and beheld their pursuer Pharaoh drowning in the sea, they cried aloud: Let us sing to God a song of victory!

Refrain: Holy hierarch father Raphael, pray to God for us!

Free my mind from worldly cares, O Lord, enlighten me with the light of Wisdom. Grant me boldness of speech, O Word, that I may praise Thy servant Raphael.

We entreat thee, most merciful God, to grant us, Thy heavenly blessings, the forgiveness of our sins, and everlasting life through the prayers of Thy servant Raphael.

The Lord, who glorifies those who glorify Him, hath revealed thee as our heavenly intercessor. Remember us who have recourse to thee in faith and love, and by thy prayers, protect us from the deceit of the enemy.

Glory...,

Triadicon: **L**et us praise the divine Ruler, God in three Persons, one single nature, essence without change: He is good and loveth mankind, and grants unto us the cleansing of our offenses.

Now and ever.... Amen.

Theotokion: **T**he spiritual Sun came forth from thy womb and He hath shone upon us with the three-fold light of the Godhead. Singing His praises, we call thee blessed, O Theotokos.

Katavasia: I shall open my mouth....

Ode 3 **Canon of the Saint**

Irmos: *There is none as holy as Thou, O Lord my God, who hast exalted the power of Thy faithful, O Blessed One, and hast established us upon the rock of thy confession.*

Today we extol our holy father Raphael, who received the gift of healing from God, for he raises the sick from their beds and reconciles those at enmity.

Tobit remembered the words of the archangel, and so the Lord preserved his life. We remember our holy father Raphael as our teacher and guide since he instructs us with the words of everlasting life.

Thou didst incline thine ear to wisdom, O father Raphael, and applied thine heart to understanding. Thou didst guide thy flock on the paths of righteousness not only by thy words, but also by thine example.

Triadicon: **O** Father, Mind without beginning, O Word of God identical in form, and good and right Holy Spirit, and in Thy great mercy, watch over those who sing in faith the praises of Thy power.

Theotokion: **B**ecoming man in substance in thy womb, O pure Lady, God hath destroyed

the source of all corruption, as He alone hath set Adam and Eve free from their former condemnation.

Katavasia.

Sessional Hymn, in Tone 4: *To the melody, “Joseph was amazed....”*

Thou didst water with thy tears the seeds of virtue /
Which the Lord hath planted in thy soul, /
Nurturing them with thy holy labors /
Till’ thou didst harvest 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 enemies, /
Now, O holy father Raphael, ///
Thou hast inherited the kingdom of heaven.

Glory.... Now and ever.... Theotokion, in the same Tone:

O most-pure Mother of God, /
Who gavest birth to the eternal God, /
We pray that, together with the hierarch Raphael, /
Thou mayest beseech thy Son, /
That He may grant us remission of our sins, /
And that we may amend our lives before the end ///
O all-praised Lady.

Ode 4 Canon of the Saint

Irmos: Christ is my strength, my God and my Lord, the sacred Church sings in a manner befitting God, with a pure mind, keeping festival unto the Lord.

O holy hierarch Raphael, while already having countless instructors, we honor thee today as our true father in Christ, for thou hast begotten countless children for the Church in the saving waters of Baptism.

As a priest, thou didst travel throughout North America preaching the Gospel and nourishing thy flock with the holy Mysteries of Christ. As a bishop, thou didst increase thy labors and thy ministry brought forth much fruit. Therefore, we honor thy holy memory, most glorious Rafael.

Enduring malice and slander although living a blameless life, thou didst regard thy detractors as benefactors. Having proved faithful in a few things, thou wast given charge over many, and now thou hast entered into the joy of the Lord.

Triadicon: Raise up our thoughts, O Triune Unity Light, and be swift to uplift the hearts and souls of those who sing Thy praises, and make them worthy of Thy radiance and enlightenment.

Theotokion: He, who by nature is the uncreated and everlasting God, accepted the created nature of man and took form in thy holy womb, O Ever-virgin Mother of God.

Ode 5 Canon of the Saint

Irmos: *With Thy divine light, O Good One, illumine, I ask Thee, the souls of those who in love keep vigil that they may know Thee, O Word of God as the true God who recalls them from the darkness of sin.*

Thy spiritual gifts were manifested more fully as the needs of thy flock increased. Thou didst console the sorrowful, encourage the faint-hearted, and teach the young. Now, as your fervent intercessor before Christ, entreat Him to preserve our land in peace and to save our souls.

Thou didst instruct immigrants to this land and their children in the Law of God, guiding them on the path of salvation. Through thy written words thou didst instruct those in remote places. Now thou dost entreat Christ, the Word of God, to save our souls.

Thou wast more a father rather than a ruler, a servant rather than a master. Thou didst attain the heights of virtue through thy humility. By distributing thine own money to the poor, thou didst lay up for thyself treasures in heaven. O holy father Raphael our benefactor, intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

Triadicon: God the Father without beginning, Son co-eternal and Holy Spirit, Sovereign Trinity, confirm those who praise Thee, and deliver them from every misfortune, oppression and calamity.

Theotokion: O unchanging Word of God, who supports and preserves all things by Thine all-powerful hand, guard and protect, through the intercessions of the Mother of God who bore Thee, those who with faith glorify Thee.

Ode 6 Canon of the Saint

Irmos: *Beholding the sea of life surging high with the storm of temptations, I have fled to Thy tranquil haven and cry out unto Thee: Raise up my life from corruption, O greatly Merciful One!*

Thou wast a sea-wall against a flood of strange doctrines, protecting thy flock from the destructive waves of false doctrines. Now, steer our course through the stormy sea of the passions, and guide us to the calm haven of salvation.

Leaving the land of thy birth, O father Raphael, thou didst become a stranger and a pilgrim on earth, enduring every hardship and sorrow for the sake of the kingdom of heaven.

With apostolic zeal, O father Raphael, didst thou proclaim the Good News in Brooklyn, where thou didst establish the church of St. Nicholas for the worship of the One True God. There, thou didst serve without recompense and now thou hast received thy just reward from Christ our Savior.

Triadicon: **G**ive wisdom and understanding to those who praise Thee, O thrice-illuminated and sovereign Godhead, and in Thy good pleasure, enlighten all mankind by the radiant light of Thine ineffable glory.

Theotokion: **I**n thee, O Ever-virgin Mary, did the Master and Lord of all come to dwell, teaching all mankind to worship the One thrice-radiant Light of the Godhead.

Katavasia.

The Kontakion of the Saint, in Tone 8:

O guardian and defender of the teachings of the Church, /
Protector of thy flock from false doctrines and confirmation of the True Faith, /
O holy father Raphael, son of Syria and the glory of North America, ///
Intercede before the Lord that our souls may be saved.

Ikos: 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 and the delight of the faithful. Now as he stands before the throne of the Holy Trinity he ceaselessly intercedes before the Lord that our souls may be saved.

Ode 7

Canon of the Saint

Irmos: *An angel made the furnace moist with dew for the godly children and the command of God consuming the Chaldeans made the tyrant cry out: Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers!*

An Arab by birth, by education a Greek, by residence an American and a Russian at heart, O father Raphael, thou didst minister to all Orthodox Christians in the lands of North America; blessing the use of the English tongue in the divine services thou didst teach thy flock to sing: Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers!

The holy hierarch Tikhon beheld thy many labors and blessed thee for thy zeal, and when thou wast chosen to serve thy people as an archpastor, thou didst cry out to the Savior: Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers!

Thou wast the first hierarch to be consecrated on American soil, O father Raphael, and thy ministry revealed thee to be another holy apostle. Tending to thy flock, thou didst teach them to sing: Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers!

Triadicon: **O** Holy Trinity, we glorify Thee as God, one in nature, co-eternal, one in essence! The difference between Thy Three Persons is preserved in simplicity without confusion, while Thy form remains plainly identical in each.

Theotokion: **I**n His love for mankind, the transcendent God plainly received our substance from thy holy womb, O undefiled Lady, and He taught us all to cry aloud: Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers!

Ode 8

Canon of the Saint

Irmos: *Out of the flames Thou didst drop dew on the godly ones, and with water didst kindle the sacrifice of the righteous one, for Thou doest all things as Thou wilt, O Christ; we exalt thee throughout all ages!*

Thou art the shining spiritual lamp set upon a stand, O Raphael most wise. Dispel the darkness of my soul and enlighten my mind that I may glorify Christ throughout all ages.

O holy father Raphael, thou didst draw living water from the Gospel of Christ and tradition from the holy God-bearing fathers of the Church, giving drink to those thirsting for salvation. We honor thy holy memory and glorify God, singing His praise and exalting Him throughout all ages.

The Land of Immigrants rejoices today, for through the labors of our father Raphael, the fruitful tree of Orthodoxy took root in its soil. We give thanks to God for His great mercy, blessing Him throughout all ages.

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

Triadicon: **I**n faith, we glorify the Word that was born of the Father, co-eternal Light from Light eternal, together with the Light that proceedeth forth, even the Spirit; and we praise them above all forever.

Now and ever..., Amen.

Theotokion: **O** undefiled Lady, thou hast borne the Physician for mankind, the all-powerful One who cures from the ancestral wound all those who praise Him above all forever.

We praise, bless and worship the Lord singing and exalting Him throughout all ages!

Katavasia.

Ode 9

Canon of the Saint

Irmos: It is not possible for men to see God upon whom the ranks of angels dare not gaze, but through thee, O All-pure One, was the Word incarnate revealed unto men, whom magnifying together with the heavenly hosts, we call thee blessed!

Let us how love the festivals of the Church rejoice in spirit today as we glorify the holy hierarch Raphael. As we light our lamps and candles, let us adorn our souls with heavenly virtues so that our minds can receive the light of Christ, the eternal and radiant Wisdom of God.

O blessed father Raphael, entreat Christ our God to have mercy on us, His unprofitable servants, and to receive us into His kingdom. As Abraham received the beggar Lazarus into his bosom.

O holy father Raphael, accept these humble hymns of praise for they are all we have, despise not the poverty of our offering as we celebrate thy bright festival with love.

Triadicon: Unable to gaze upon the glory of Thy beauty, O Master, the ranks of cherubim cover themselves with their wings and ceaselessly cry out the Thrice-holy hymn, glorifying the sovereign might of Thy Godhead, One in Three Persons.

Theotokion: Thy Son, O Virgin, created man of old; and when man fell, He restored him once again through thee whom all men praise. He hath filled with the brightness of the divine light that never sets all those who in faith glorify Thee as the true Mother of God.

Exapostilarion of the Saint:

Reflecting the brilliance of the Triune Sun, thou didst become an unfailing beacon of light illumining the path that led to the Church returning many back to their ancestral faith. Now, O holy hierarch Raphael, thou dwellest in the splendor of heaven.

Glory..., now and ever.... Theotokion:

The golden candlestick of the temple prefigured thee, O Virgin, for Christ, the radiance of the glory of God, shone forth from thee to enlighten those in darkness. Entreat Him to have mercy on us who turn to thee in faith.

At the Praises, 4 stichera, in Tone 4:

Thou didst dedicate the temple of St. Nicholas /
As a house of spiritual refuge to thy flock, /
Sanctifying it with thy labors and prayers while living here on earth /
And blessing it with thy holy relics at thy repose. /

ST. RAPHAEL OF BROOKLYN

Standing now before the throne of God ///

Entreat Christ to save our souls.

O holy father Raphael, /

Thou didst work thy salvation by laboring of the salvation of thy flock. /

Teaching thy rational sheep that the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom, /

Their minds were lifted from the cares of this life to the contemplation of heaven. /

Standing now before the throne of God ///

Entreat Christ to save our souls.

Strengthening thy spiritual children in the Orthodox Faith /

Thou didst translate holy prayers and divine services of the Church /

Into the tongue of their adopted homeland. /

Standing now before the throne of God ///

Entreat Christ to save our souls.

O thrice-blessèd father Raphael /

Having received divine grace from God, /

Thou didst let thy light shine so brightly in our land /

That all those who had been in darkness gave glory to our Father in heaven. /

Standing now before the throne of God ///

Entreat Christ to save our souls.

Glory..., in Tone 5:

Let us honor the holy hierarch father Raphael, /

A man of gentle words, an advocate of truth, a lover of virtue. /

The radiance of his holy life shines more brightly than gold, /

For he was purified through repentance /

And enlightened by grace. /

As a faithful shepherd of the rational sheep of Christ /

He comforted them in their sorrows and reconciled those who were at enmity. /

Therefore, we cry out to him with love: ///

O holy father Raphael, entreat Christ our God to save our souls.

Now and ever..., Theotokion, in the same Tone:

Beneath thy compassion we take refuge, O Theotokos /

Despise not our prayers in our necessity, /

But deliver us from all misfortune, ///

O only pure and only blessed one!

The Great Doxology, and the Dismissal.

Liturgy

At the Beatitudes, 8 Troparia: 4 from the Third Ode, and 4 from the Sixth Ode of the Canon of the Saint.

1-2. Today we extol our holy father Raphael, who received the gift of healing from God, for he raises the sick from their beds and reconciles those at enmity. *(twice)*

3. Tobit remembered the words of the archangel, and so the Lord preserved his life. We remember our holy father Raphael as our teacher and guide since he instructs us with the words of everlasting life.

4. Thou didst incline thine ear to wisdom, O father Raphael, and applied thine heart to understanding. Thou didst guide thy flock on the paths of righteousness not only by thy words, but also by thine example.

5. Thou wast a sea-wall against a flood of strange doctrines, protecting thy flock from the destructive waves of false doctrines. Now, steer our course through the stormy sea of the passions, and guide us to the calm haven of salvation.

6. Leaving the land of thy birth, O father Raphael, thou didst become a stranger and a pilgrim on earth, enduring every hardship and sorrow for the sake of the kingdom of heaven.

7. With apostolic zeal, O father Raphael, didst thou proclaim the Good News in Brooklyn, where thou didst establish the church of St. Nicholas for the worship of the One True God. There, thou didst serve without recompense and now thou hast received thy just reward from Christ our Savior.

8. Theotokion: In thee, O Ever-virgin Mary, did the Master and Lord of all come to dwell, teaching all mankind to worship the One thrice-radiant Light of the Godhead.

The Troparion of the Saint, in Tone 1:

Thy proclamation has gone forth throughout North America /
Calling the scattered sheep into the unity of the Church. /
Hearing thy voice, they respond to thy teachings, /
And through thy writings they are instructed in piety. /
Now guided by thy example, O father Raphael, /
We sing hymns of praise to Christ our God; /
Glory to Him who gave thee strength! /
Glory to Him who granted thee a crown! ///
Glory to Him who through thee grants healing to all!

The Kontakion of the Saint, in Tone 8:

ST. RAPHAEL OF BROOKLYN

O guardian and defender of the teachings of the Church, /
Protector of thy flock from false doctrines and confirmation of the True Faith, /
O holy father Raphael, son of Syria and the glory of North America, ///
Intercede before the Lord that our souls may be saved.

Prokeimenon, in Tone 1: My mouth shall speak wisdom and the meditation of my heart shall be understanding. *Verse:* **H**ear this, all nations! Give ear, all inhabitants of the earth!

The Epistle: (335) Hebrews 13:17-21

The Alleluia, in Tone 2: The mouth of the righteous shall meditate wisdom and his tongue shall speak of judgment. *Verse:* The Law of God is in his heart and his steps shall not falter.

The Gospel: (36) John 10:9-16

Communion Hymn: The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not be afraid of evil tidings. Alleluia....

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