**FEBRUARY 27**

**Repose of St. Raphael, Bishop of Brooklyn**

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

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!

Hear me, O Lord!

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!

Receive the voice of my prayer,

when I call upon You!//

Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise

in Your sight as incense,

and let the lifting up of my hands

be an evening sacrifice!//

Hear me, O Lord!

V. (10) *Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your name!*

V. (9) *The righteous will surround me; for You will deal bountifully with me.*

V. (8) *Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!*

V. (7) *Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!*

V. (6) *If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.*

**Tone 2** *(Joseph of Arimathea)*

Let all the choirs of Orthodox Christians in America

sing hymns in honor of the holy Bishop Raphael!

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

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

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

as we celebrate his holy memory.

V. (5) *For Your Name’s sake I wait for You, O Lord. My soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

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

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

Always imitating the Good Shepherd,

he fed his many sheep from a table that the Lord prepared in the

presence of their enemies.

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

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

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

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

who shone forth from Brooklyn and enlightened those in darkness!

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

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

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

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

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

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

Holy Father Raphael, you embodied the love of Christ from your youth.

Sent to America, O son of Antioch, you were an apostle to the lost sheep of

 Syria.

Without concern for your own comfort, you labored night and day,

traversing the continent, never pausing to rest.//

As you have boldness before Christ our God, entreat Him to save our souls!

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

Holy Father Raphael, you acted as a good shepherd,

searching far and near for your lost sheep.

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

you carried them to Christ on your own shoulders.//

As you have boldness before Christ our God, entreat Him to save our souls!

V. (1) *For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.*

In you, good shepherd Raphael,

the faithful found sustenance for their souls and protection from their foes.

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

you counted earthly gain as loss,

and imitated Christ by laying down your life for your flock.//

As you have boldness before Christ our God, entreat Him to save our souls!

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

**Tone 6**

Your children praise you 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.

You held the high and the humble in equal esteem,

treating all with Christ’s own gentleness.

Now as you stand among the saints, O holy Father Raphael,//

never cease to intercede for us with Christ our God!

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

**Tone 4**  *(Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

The Prophet David was a father of the Lord through you, O Virgin.

He foretold in songs the One Who worked wonders in you:

“At Your right hand stood the Queen,”

Your Mother, the mediatrix of life,

since God was freely born of her without a father.

He wanted to renew His fallen image, made corrupt in passion,

so He took the lost sheep upon His shoulder

and brought it to His Father, joining it to the heavenly powers.//

Christ Who has great and rich mercy has saved the world, O Theotokos.

 **Old Testament Readings**

 **Composite 2** *(selections from Proverbs 10, 3, 8)*

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

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

**Aposticha**

**Tone 2** *(O House of Ephratha)*

Holy Hierarch Raphael,

who can describe your many labors?

Who can count the hardships you endured?

As a shepherd of Christ’s rational flock,//

pray that He preserve His Church in peace!

V. *Let Your priests be clothed in righteousness and let Your saints rejoice!*

*(Ps. 131:9)*

Holy Father Raphael,

who can speak of your sorrows?

Who can recount your noble deeds?

Friend of the needy and protector of orphans,//

intercede with Christ for our salvation!

V. *The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a cedar in*

*Lebanon.* *(Ps. 91:11)*

Glorious Raphael,

great light from Antioch,

seeker of the lost children of the Church,

model for bishops in North America,//

entreat Christ’s great mercy on us all!

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

**Tone 4**

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

as we celebrate the memory of the holy Bishop Raphael,

apostle to the lost sheep of North America.

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

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

Hail, new Elijah, who bequeathed a double portion of your spirit to us!

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

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

As you stand among the saints before the throne of God,//

never cease to intercede for us who honor you!”

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

 **Tone 4** *(Theotokion)*

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

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

for you ever intercede for our souls.

***(at Great Vespers)***

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

Your proclamation has gone out through North America,

calling the scattered sheep into the unity of the Church.

Hearing your voice, they respond to your teaching,

and through your writings you instructed them in piety.

Now guided by your example, O Father Raphael,

we sing hymns of praise to Christ our God:

“Glory to Him Who gave you strength!

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

Glory to Him Who, through you, grants healing to all!”

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

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

**Tone 4** **Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion**

The mystery of all eternity,

unknown even by Angels,

through you, Theotokos, is revealed to those on earth:

God incarnate by union without confusion.

He voluntarily accepted the Cross for us,

by which He resurrected the first-created man,//

saving our souls from death.

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

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

You were a guardian and a defender of the Church’s teaching,

you protected your flock from false doctrines and confirmed them

in the true faith!

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

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

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

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

understanding. *(Ps. 48:3)*

V. *Hear this, all nations! Give ear, all inhabitants of the earth! (Ps. 48:1)*

**Epistle**

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

**Tone 2**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

V. *The mouth of the righteous shall meditate wisdom, and his tongue shall speak of judgment. (Ps. 36:31)*

V. *The Law of God is in his heart, and his steps shall not falter. (Ps. 36:32)*

 **Gospel**

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

**Communion Hymn**

The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance! He shall not fear evil

tidings! *(Ps. 111:6)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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