

Lenten Lecture Series 2026

# FACES AT CALVARY: THE PEOPLE AROUND THE CROSS

Mon  
Mar  
30



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Fr. John Rizkalla



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St. Mary & St. Mark

# 11th Hour (Sunset) - Vespers

## INTRODUCTION TO EVERY HOUR

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, one God. Amen.

Kyrie eleison. Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord bless us. Amen.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and unto the ages of all ages. Amen.



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## **Make us worthy to pray thankfully:**

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 the evil  
one. In Christ Jesus our Lord. For Thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.



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# THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Let us give thanks to the beneficent and merciful God, the Father of our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ, for He has covered us, helped us, guarded us, accepted us unto Him, spared us, supported us, and brought us to this hour. Let us also ask Him, the Lord our God, the Almighty, to guard us in all peace this holy day and all the days of our life.

O Master, Lord, God the Almighty, the Father of our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ, we thank You for every condition, concerning every condition, and in every



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condition, for You have covered us, helped us, guarded us, accepted us unto You, spared us, supported us, and brought us to this hour.

Therefore, we ask and entreat Your goodness, O Lover of mankind, to grant us to complete this holy day, and all the days of our life, in all peace with Your fear. All envy, all temptation, all the work of Satan, the counsel of wicked men, and the rising up of enemies, hidden and manifest, take them away from us, and from all Your people, and from this holy place that is Yours.



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But those things which are good and profitable do provide for us; for it is You Who have given us the authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and upon all the power of the enemy.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, by the grace, compassion and love of mankind, of Your Only-Begotten Son, our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ, through Whom the glory, the honor, the dominion, and the adoration are due unto You, with Him, and the Holy Spirit, the Life-Giver, Who is of one essence with You, now and at all times, and unto the ages of all ages. Amen.



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# PSALM 50

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your great mercy; and according to the multitude of Your compassions blot out my iniquity. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I am conscious of my iniquity; and my sin is at all times before me.

Against You only I have sinned, and done evil before You: that You might be just in Your sayings, and might overcome when You are judged. For, behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins my mother conceived me.



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For, behold, You have loved the truth: You have manifested to me the hidden and unrevealed things of Your wisdom. You shall sprinkle me with Your hyssop, and I shall be purified: You shall wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. You shall make me to hear gladness and joy: the humbled bones shall rejoice.

Turn away Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit in my inward parts. Do not cast me away from Your face; and do not remove Your Holy Spirit from me. Give me the joy of Your salvation: and uphold me with a



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directing spirit. Then I shall teach the transgressors Your ways; and the ungodly men shall turn to You.

Deliver me from blood, O God, the God of my salvation: and my tongue shall rejoice in Your righteousness. O Lord, You shall open my lips; and my mouth shall declare Your praise. For if You desired sacrifice, I would have given it: You do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit: a broken and humbled heart God shall not despise.

Do good, O Lord, in Your good pleasure to Zion; and let the walls of Jerusalem be built. Then You shall be pleased with



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sacrifices of righteousness, offering, and burnt sacrifices:  
then they shall offer calves upon Your altar. ALLELUIA.

The sunset prayer of the blessed day, we offer to Christ  
our King and our God, beseeching Him to forgive us our  
sins. From the Psalms of our father David the prophet and  
the king, may his blessings be upon us all. Amen.

## PSALM 116

Praise the Lord, all you nations: let all the peoples praise  
Him. For His mercy has been established upon us, and the  
truth of the Lord endures forever. ALLELUIA.



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# PSALM 122

Unto You I have lifted up my eyes, O You who dwell in heaven. Behold as the eyes of servants are unto to the hands of their masters, and as the eyes of a maidservant to the hands of her mistress; so our eyes are toward the Lord our God until He has pity on us.

Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us: for we are exceedingly filled with contempt. And our soul has been exceedingly filled: give the reproach to those who prosper, and contempt to the proud. ALLELUIA.



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# THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. LUKE (CH. 4 : 38-41)

And He arose out of the synagogue, and entered into Simon's house. And Simon's wife's mother was taken with a great fever; and they requested Him concerning her. And He stood over her, and rebuked the fever; and it left her: and immediately she arose and served them.

When the sun was setting, all those who had any sick with diverse diseases brought them unto Him; and He laid His hands on every one of them, and healed them. And devils also came out of many, crying out, and saying, "You are



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Christ, the Son of God!” And He, rebuking them, did not allow them to speak: for they knew that He was Christ.

Glory to God forever. Amen.

**Tenoo oasht emmok o piekristos nem pekyot en  
aghathos nem pi epnevma ethowab je akee ak soati  
emmon nai nan**

**We worship You O Christ with Your Good Father and  
the Holy Spirit, for You have come and saved us.**



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1. If the righteous one is scarcely saved, where shall I, the sinner, appear? The burden and heat of the day I did not endure because of the weakness of my humanity. But, O merciful God, count me with the fellows of the eleventh hour. For, behold, in iniquities I was conceived, and in sins my mother bore me. Therefore, I do not dare to lift up my eyes to Heaven; but rather, I rely on the abundance of Your mercy and love for mankind, crying out and saying, “God, forgive me, a sinner, and have mercy on me.”

**Doxa Patri ke Eioa ke Agio Pnevmati**

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



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2. Hasten, O Savior, to open to me the fatherly bosoms, for I wasted my life in pleasures and lusts, and the day has passed by me and vanished. Therefore, now I rely on the richness of Your never-ending compassion. So, then, do not forsake a submissive heart which is in need of your mercy. For unto You I cry, O Lord, humbly, "Father, I have sinned against Heaven and before You, and I am no longer worthy to be called Your son, so make me as one of Your hired servants."

**Ke nin ke a ee ke ees toos e onas toan e oa noan ameen.**  
Now and forever and unto the ages of all ages, Amen.



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3. Every iniquity I did with prudence and activity, and every sin I committed with eagerness and diligence, and of all torment and judgement I am worthy. Therefore, prepare for me the ways of repentance, O Lady the Virgin; for to you I appeal, and through you I seek intercession, and upon you I call to help me, lest I might be put to shame. And when my soul departs my body attend to me, and defeat the conspiracy of the enemies, and shut the gates of Hades, lest they might swallow my soul, O you, blameless bride of the true Bridegroom.



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## Then the worshipper prays:

Lord, hear us and have mercy on us and forgive us our sins. Amen. (Lord have mercy) 41 times

## HOLY HOLY HOLY

Holy Holy Holy. Lord of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of Your glory and honor. Have mercy on us, O God the Father, the Almighty O Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, God of hosts, be with us. For we have no helper in our hardships and tribulations but You. Absolve, forgive, and remit, O God, our transgressions; those which we



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have committed willingly and those we have committed unwillingly, those which we have committed knowingly and those which we have committed unknowingly, the hidden and manifest, O Lord forgive us, for the sake of Your Holy name which is called upon us.

Let it be according to Your mercy, O Lord, and not according to our sins.

**Make us worthy to pray thankfully:**

Our Father Who art in heaven ...



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# ABSOLUTION

We thank You, our compassionate king, for You have granted us to pass this day in peace, and brought us to the evening thankfully, and made us worthy to behold daylight until evening. Lord, accept our glorification which is offered now, and save us from the trickeries of the adversary, and abolish all the snares which are set against us. Grant us, in this coming night, peace without pain, or anxiety, or unrest, or illusion; so that we may pass it in peace and chastity, and rise up for praises and prayers. And thus, at all times and everywhere, we glorify Your holy



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name, together with the Father, who is incomprehensible and without beginning, and the Holy Spirit, the Life-Giver, Who is in one essence with You, now and at all times, and unto the ages of all ages. Amen.

## THE CONCLUSION OF EVERY HOUR

Have mercy on us, O God, and have mercy on us, who, at all times and in every hour, in heaven and on earth, is worshipped and glorified, Christ our God, the good, the long suffering, the abundant in mercy, and the great in compassion, who loves the righteous and has mercy on



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the sinners of whom I am chief; who does not wish the death of the sinner but rather that he returns and lives, who calls all to salvation for the promise of the blessings to come.

Lord receive from us our prayers in this hour and in every hour. Ease our life and guide us to fulfill Your commandments. Sanctify our spirits. Cleanse our bodies. Conduct our thoughts. Purify our intentions. Heal our diseases. Forgive our sins. Deliver us from every evil grief and distress of heart. Surround us by Your holy angels, that, by their camp, we may be guarded and guided,



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and attain the unity of faith, and the knowledge of Your imperceptible and infinite glory. For You are blessed forever. Amen.



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Fr. John Rizkalla



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# Questions? menti.smsm.nyc



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SMSM Book Club

# The Communion of Love

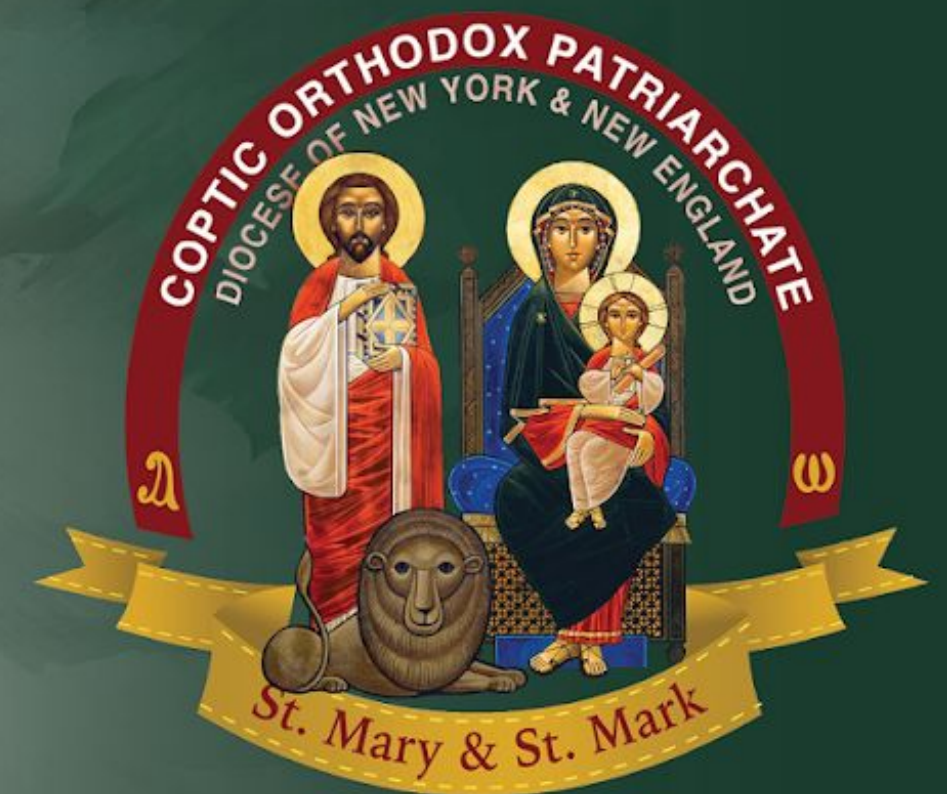
Fr. Matthew the Poor



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3/31  
7PM

DISCUSSING  
CHAPERS 13-15

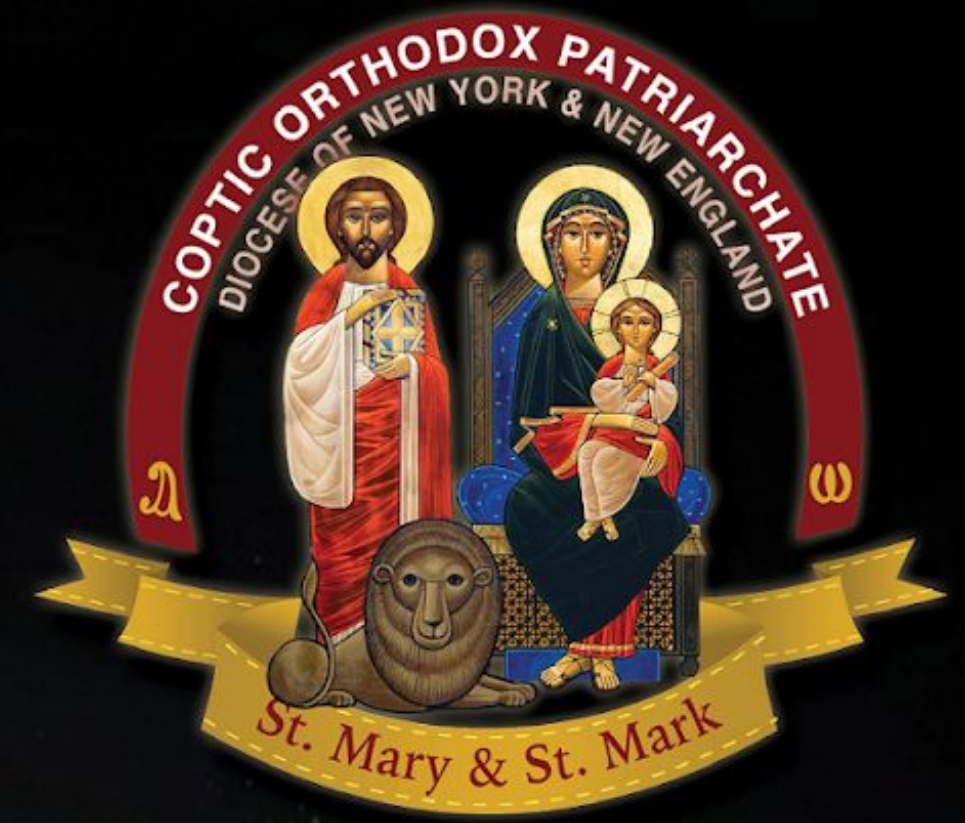


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# Bible Study Series

# THE SEVEN CHURCHES

## In Revelations



**February 19**

**Ephesus**

*"The Church That Left Its First Love"*

George Hanna

**February 26**

**Smyrna**

*"The Church That Suffered Faithfully"*

Dr. John Abdelmessih

**March 5**

**Pergamum**

*"The Church That Compromised with the World"*

Dr. Samir Boutros

**March 12**

**Thyatira**

*"The Church That Tolerated False Teaching"*

Fr. Gregory Saroufeem

**March 19**

**Sardis**

*"The Church That Appeared Alive but Was Dead"*

Dr. Samir Boutros

**March 26**

**Philadelphia**

*"The Church of the Open Door and Patient Endurance"*

Dr. David Mikhail

**April 2**

**Laodicea**

*"The Church That Became Lukewarm"*

Mina Kolta

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The Seven Churches

# Laodicea

*“The Church That Became  
Lukewarm”*

Mina Kolta



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**BIBLE STUDY**

**THURSDAY 4/2**  
**7:30 PM @ Church**  
241 E. 62nd St. New York, NY 10065



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# The Way of the Cross

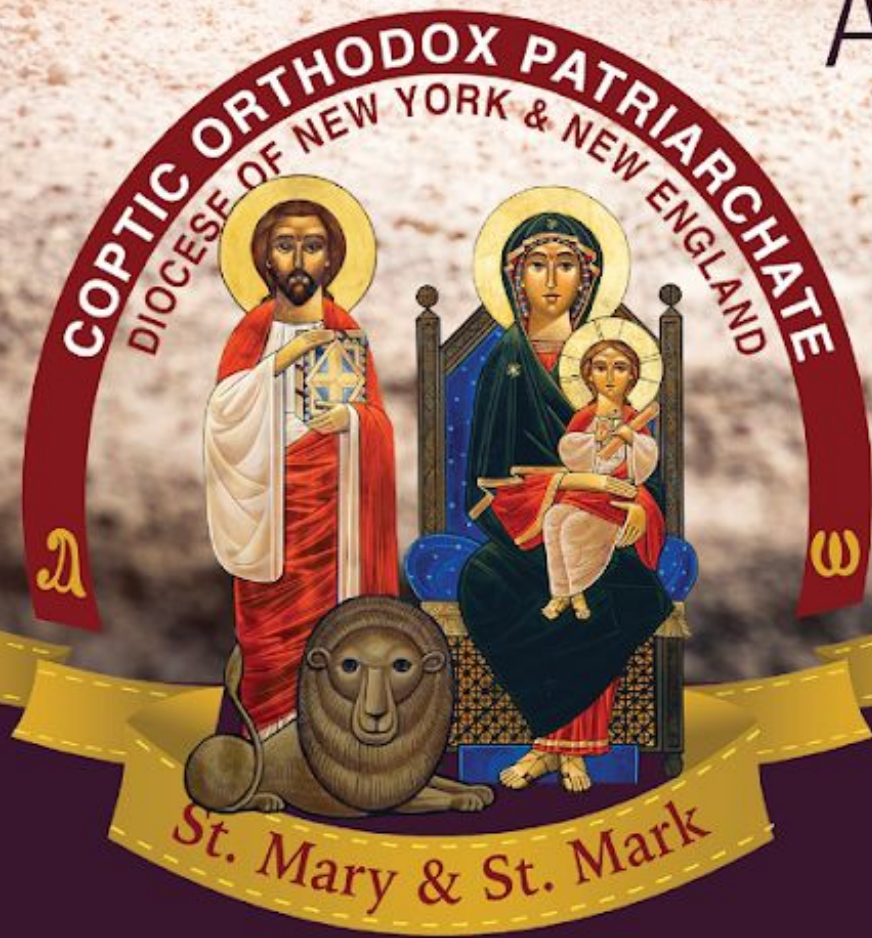
An SMSM Production

**Friday, April 3, 2026 | 8:00pm**

241 E. 62nd Street, New York, NY 10065

RSVP at [Play.smsm.nyc](https://play.smsm.nyc) | **\$10**

| *\$20 at the door* |



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# Holy Week Schedule 2026



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Date	Event	Time
Friday, April 3 <b>Last Friday of Lent</b>	The Divine Liturgy	10:00 am – 12:30 pm
	<b>The Way of the Cross</b> An SMSM Production	8:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Saturday, April 4 <b>Lazarus Saturday</b>	Unction of the sick	7:30 am – 9:00 am
	Matins/The Divine Liturgy	9:00 am – 11:30 am
	The Eve of Palm Sunday Vespers	5:00 pm
Sunday, April 5 <b>Palm Sunday</b>	Morning Raising of Incense/ Procession	7:00 am – 8:30 am
	Palm Sunday Divine Liturgy	8:30 am – 12:00 pm
	Public Funeral Prayer	12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
<i>Paschal Week Services</i>		
Sunday, April 5	Evening Paschal Prayers	3:00 pm – 6:30 pm
Monday – Wednesday April 6-8	Early Morning Paschal Prayers	7:30 am – 8:30 am
	Morning Paschal Prayers	10:00 am – 1:00 pm
	Evening Paschal Prayers	6:00 pm – 9:30 pm
 On Wednesday evening, please bring water for The Blessing of the Water (Lakkan) on Thursday		
Thursday, April 9 <b>Covenant Thursday</b>	Morning Paschal Prayers, Liturgy of the Water and The Divine Liturgy	8:00 am – 2:00 pm
	Evening Paschal Prayers	5:00 pm – 9:30 pm
 On Thursday evening and Friday morning, please bring Roses and Vinegar for Good Friday		
Friday, April 10 <b>Good Friday</b>	Paschal Prayers	9:00 am – 5:00 pm
	Apocalypse Night Ending with The Divine Liturgy of Bright Saturday	11:00 pm – 5:00 am
Saturday, April 11 <b>Feast of The Resurrection</b>	Raising of Incense, Offering of the Lamb, Act of Resurrection and Procession, Gospel and the Homily, The Divine Liturgy	6:00 pm



*Christos Anesti!*  
*Alithos Anesti!*  
**Christ is Risen!**  
**Truly He is Risen!**





# Holy Week Schedule On Campus 2026

*Paschal Week Services - Coptic Orthodox Rite*

<b>April 6</b>	Monday Morning Paschal Prayers – 11 <sup>th</sup> hour	NYU	2-4:00 pm
<b>April 7</b>	Tuesday Morning Paschal Prayers – 11 <sup>th</sup> hour	NYU	2-4:00 pm
<b>April 8</b>	Wednesday Morning Paschal Prayers – 11 <sup>th</sup> hour	Columbia	2-4:00 pm



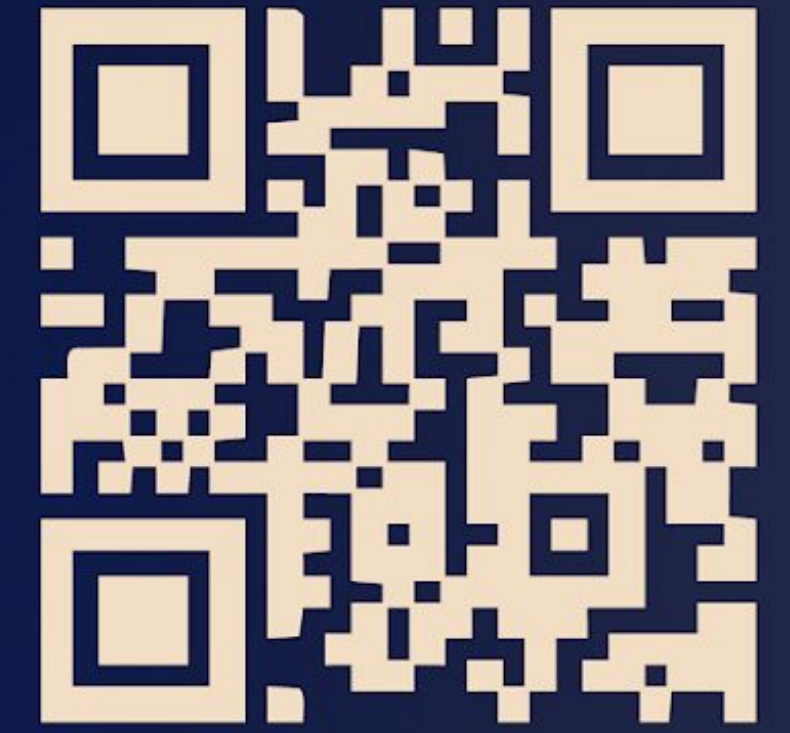
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**Catholic Chapel**  
@ New York University (NYU):  
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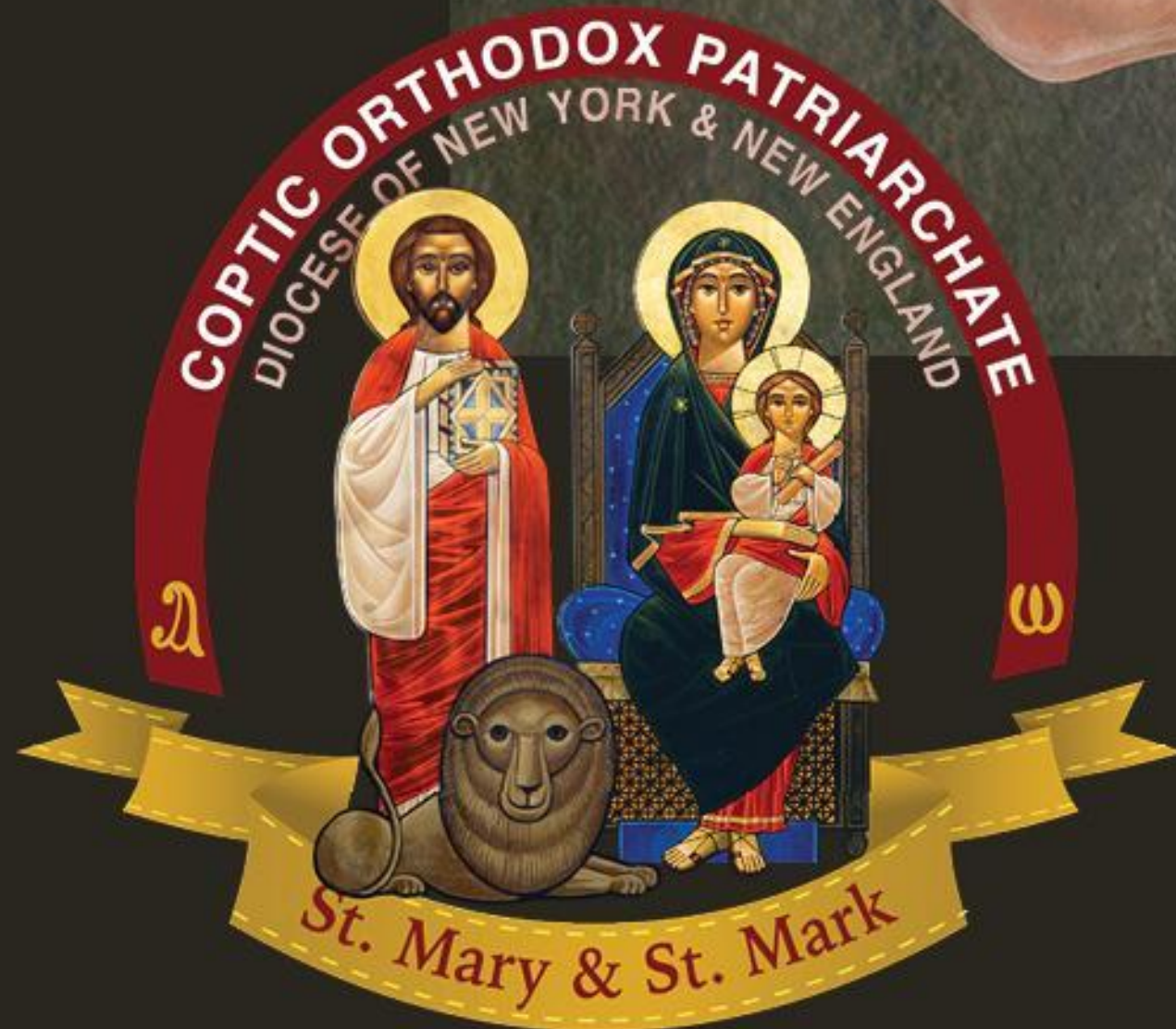


“SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS.” Psalm 100:2

# A CALL TO SERVE



excellence listen smile ENGAGE reputation  
SOLUTIONS value loyalty relationship  
professional considerate FEEDBACK FOCUS  
**service** perform efficient ASSIST effective guidance  
communicate friendly support CARE  
PERSONAL trust connect HELP  
patience can do EXPERIENCE satisfy  
timely attitude responsible awareness



God has given each of us gifts to share. Our church family is looking for volunteers who are ready to step in and serve.

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THE LORD SAID, "TRULY I TELL YOU, THIS POOR WIDOW HAS PUT IN MORE THAN ALL OF THEM, FOR THEY ALL CONTRIBUTED OUT OF THEIR ABUNDANCE, BUT SHE OUT OF HER POVERTY PUT IN ALL THE LIVING THAT SHE HAD." (LUKE 21:1-4)

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