

November 19th

Blessed MARY ALPHONSINE

Memorial

Mother Marie-Alfonsine (Sultaneh) Danil Ghattas was born in Jerusalem on 4th October, 1843, one of nineteen children of a hardworking Christian family who often prayed together. From an early age, she felt God was calling her to the religious life. At the age of 14, she entered the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Apparition and, after pronouncing her vows, was assigned to the school directed by the Sisters in Bethlehem to teach the Catechism, at which she soon excelled, becoming a tireless but humble educator.

Sr. Marie-Alfonsine founded confraternities and associations and promoted devotion to Our Lady and the prayer of the Rosary. She was favoured with several visions of Our Lady, who eventually asked her to found a Congregation to further the education of the girls of that land where Jesus himself had exalted their human dignity; this was to take the name of 'Sisters of the Rosary.' Fr. Joseph Tannous Yamine was appointed her Director and helped her to find a house for the first postulants. After various trials and difficulties, she was given permission to leave the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Apparition to enter the new Congregation of the Rosary. She and eight others made their first vows in 1885.

From her family she learned to have a deep reverence and faith in Providence, and a great filial trust in the Blessed Virgin. She had two special virtues above all : on the one hand a love of silence and the hidden life, and on the other, a love of the cross and self-sacrifice. Mother Marie-Alfonsine was 'Lover of the Blessed Virgin and a Confidante of heaven.'

She died on the feast of the Annunciation, 15th March 1927, and was beatified on 22nd November 2009.

May the example and intercession of Blessed Marie-Alfonsine confirm us in doing good and obtain for us a constant trust in divine Providence and the motherly protection of our Lady.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Dan 3: 86a-87a, Ps 34: 3

Spirits and souls of the just, bless the Lord;
Holy men of humble heart, bless the Lord;
Glorify the LORD with me;
together let us praise his name.

COLLECT

O Lord, lover of all people, you have granted your humble servant Blessed Marie-Alfonsine to walk the path of holiness. Through her filial love of the Blessed Virgin Mary and through her contemplation of the mystery of salvation in praying the Rosary, grant us to imitate her with true reverence, deep humility and inner silence, and so inherit her spiritual peace, in order that we may bear witness in our Holy Land and in the world to the life, death, and resurrection of your Son who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever...

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Baruch

4: 36-37. 5: 1-5

Look to the east, Jerusalem! behold the joy that comes to you from God. Here come your sons whom you once let go, gathered in from the east and from the west By the word of the Holy One, rejoicing in the glory of God. Jerusalem, take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on the splendor of glory from God forever: wrapped in the cloak of justice from God, bear on your head the mitre that displays the glory of the eternal name. For God will show all the earth your splendor: you will be named by God forever the peace of justice, the glory of God's worship. Up, Jerusalem! stand upon the heights; look to the east and see your children Gathered from the east and the west at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that they are remembered by God.
The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL Ps 27: 1-2. 4. 8 (R. 1a)

R. The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

1. The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
whom should I dread?

When those who do evil draw near
to devour my flesh,
it is they, my enemies and foes,
who stumble and fall.

2. There is one thing I ask of the LORD,
only this do I seek:

to live in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
to gaze on the beauty of the LORD,
to inquire at his temple.

3. Of you my heart has spoken,
"Seek his face."

It is your face, O LORD, that I seek;
hide not your face from me.
Dismiss not your servant in anger;
you have been my help.

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of saint Paul to the Corinthians 1: 26-31

Consider your own calling, brothers. Not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. Rather, God chose the foolish of the world to shame the wise, and God chose the weak of the world to shame the strong, and God chose the lowly and despised of the world, those who count for nothing, to reduce to nothing those who are something, so that no human being might boast before God. It is due to him that you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, as well as righteousness, sanctification, and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Whoever boasts, should boast in the Lord."

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Matt 11: 25

R. Alleluia. Alleluia .

"I give you praise, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike".

R. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew

Matt 5: 1-12

When he saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you (falsely) because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

We offer You, Lord, this bread and wine in memory of your Son's life, death and resurrection, these mysteries that Blessed Marie-Alfonsine constantly contemplated and lived. May they be a continual source of life for us and for the world.

Through Christ our Lord.

PREFACE

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts...

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

John 17: 21

"As you, Father, are in me and I in you, I pray that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me."

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O Lord of compassion and mercy, from your bountiful hands we have received the mystery of the Body and the Blood of your Son. Through the intercession of Blessed Marie-Alfonsine, may this sacrament renew our daily lives, so that we may witness to your glory and serve your kingdom. Through Christ our Lord.