

# Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate Archangel Michael Church Howell, NJ



April, 2000

Volume1

Issue 4

Baramhat/Baramoda 1716



**His Holiness Pope  
Shenouda III**

The love which does not sacrifice is a barren love, without fruit.

Love is a productive mother that gives birth to numerous virtues such as compassion and affection, a word of encouragement and a word of consolation, attention and care, forgiveness and seeking the salvation of the true love.

Love sacrifices everything, does not keep anything from whom it likes, no matter how this thing is precious or essential to it.

## SACRIFICE

The best a loving person can do is to sacrifice himself, and the lord said, "Greater love has no one than this to lay down his life for his friends. (John 15:13) This was shown in depth on the cross....

The crucified Jesus is sacrifice of love ... The Bible said, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

During the Passion Week, many contemplate the passion of Christ. Christ's passion is merely a natural result of His love. Love here is the origin and passion is the outside appearance....

**(Continued on Page 3)**



*And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left. Then Jesus said :*

***“ Father , forgive them for they do not Know what they do .”***

*And they divided His garments and cast lots. And the people stood looking on. But even the rulers with them sneered, saying, “ He saved others; let him save Himself if He is the Christ, the chosen of God.” The soldiers also mocked Him, coming and offering Him sour wine, and saying, “ If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself.” And an inscription also was written over Him in letters of Greek, Latin, and Hebrew: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.*

*“ Luke 23: 33-38”*

## THE APPEARANCE OF OUR LADY AT THE CHURCH OF ZEITOUN

By : Mark Michael



The Virgin Mary has appeared to many on various occasions, but her apparition in the town of Zeitoun, Egypt was one of the most remarkable. On April 2nd ' 1968 an hour and a half after sunset, the mechanics and drivers of the garage were all alarmed by some disturbance in the street. The workmen ran into the street where they saw a young lady dressed in white walking on the dome of the church. Their first instinct told them that she was going to jump off of the dome so they cried out, "Be careful. Take care, you may fall down, wait." Then some of the pedestrians who stood to watch the scene cried, "Virgin

Mary, Virgin Mary."

As the garage workmen who were watching the apparition were all Muslims, they looked on keenly and were extremely astonished. The Blessed Virgin, who appeared in a luminous body, moved on the dome and bowed and knelt before the cross!

These apparitions continued for some time. As a result, His Holiness Abba Kyrillos VI, the Pope of Alexandria, delegated some priests of high rank to make researches and investigations on the spot. They stayed there for several nights inquiring and investigating until they saw with their own eyes the blessed Virgin's apparition in the full form moving on the domes and blessing the multitudes in front of the church. During that period She was seen in different forms, all in luminous vivid body; sometimes in a bust, and sometimes in full form, always surrounded by a white glittering halo and making Her appearance either from the dome openings or from the space between the domes on which She used to move and march and bow before the Cross on the church roof making it emanate a magnificent light. She also faced the multitudes of people in front of the church and blessed them with Her hands and with nods from Her blessed head.

Along with this miraculous site, the Blessed Virgin also performed many miracles. Most of the miracles were healing sicknesses incurable at the time.

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Would we contemplate His love which he has shown in his passion.

The candle melts to give light to other, it also sacrifices itself for the sake of others; we put candles before the icons of the saints... it is a symbol.

Also the incense seed burns in fire to give sweet smell which ascends to God.... it is a delightful burnt offering to God, and it is a symbol....

## Know Your Church

By: John Sharobiern

### Sacred Alter Utensils

The chalice is the communion cup. The wine/water mixture is poured into it and is consecrated into the true Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ during the liturgy. The Chalice represents the cup from which Christ asked His disciples to drink during the Last Supper.

The spoon (mestee) is usually made of metal and is used by the priest to give the Honored Blood of our Lord during communion.

The ark is the cubical box made of precious wood and decorated with icons featuring the Last Supper, Saint Mary, Archangel Michael, and the saint whom the church is dedicated. It has an opening in the middle of the top to enable the chalice to fit inside. The box is called the ark because; through the ark of Noah all creatures were saved. Likewise the Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ saves us, which is in the chalice.

The cruet is a small vessel made

of glass- There are usually two which provide for the wine and water used in the Divine Liturgy.

## GAMES AND FUN

**Odd One Out**

Identify which word does not belong in each list. Underline the odd one out.



1. Myrrh, frankincense, silver, gold.
2. Peter, John, Luke, Matthew.
3. Saul, Solomon, David, Samuel.
4. Corinth, Rome, Philippi, Jerusalem, Ephesus.
5. Rachel, Miriam, Ruth, Sarah, Esther.
6. Elijah, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Jeremiah.
7. Daniel, Noah, Nebuchadnezzar, Cyrus, Abednego.
8. Silas, Paul, Timothy, Barnabas, Lazarus.

### Answers to last issue's game

Abel & Cain ; Andrew & Peter ; Esau & Jacob ; Benjamin & Joseph ; Aaron & Moses ; James & John ; Dan & Naphtali ; Shem & Japheth



# BIBLE STUDY

H.G. Bishop Moussa  
Bishop for Youth

## *The effect of the Bible on Spiritual Life*



### **In the Holy Bible, we meet God and are united with Him**

When we sit quietly, meditating on the word of God, we meet the Lord, and in no time, our souls unite with Him. Studying the Bible, if done in the spirit of prayer and love for God, is paralleled to Mary, the sister of Martha, sitting at Christ's feet as she "(had) *chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her*" (Luke 10:42), for what is this "*good part*" but the Lord? The Lord will not be taken away from her because she was united with Him, loved Him, and turned into His holy likeness by constantly sitting at His feet.

Saint Paul the apostle said "*But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed with the same image from glory to glory, just as by the spirit of the Lord*" (2 Corinthians 3 :18). Did he not also say, "*For whom He foreknew, he also predestined to be conformed to the image of His son*" (Romans 8:29)

Continual reading of the word of God in the spirit of prayer grants the

soul union with, and steadfastness in, the Lord Jesus Christ. Finally, let us listen to the words, 'There is the greatest hope for the greatest sinner who reads the Holy Bible, and there is the greatest danger for the greatest saint who neglects it.'

In short, the Holy Bible reveals to us our need for God, and tells us that God is waiting for us. It is the point where the poor sinner meets with the loving heart of God.

The single paragraph that Saint Augustine read from Saint Paul's epistle to the Romans (13:11-14) was capable of saving his soul and making him a saint.

Open your Bible now, and read it with awe and meditation, so as to know its effect on your life.



## Why did God create man? Did he create man to worship and glorify Him?

God did not create man to worship and glorify Him, for He does not need any glorification or worship from man. Before creating man, God was glorified and worshipped by the angels, and even then, He was not in need of being glorified by them, for He is glorified by His own attributes.

**God lacks nothing that He may acquire it from His creation, whether man or angel.**

This is expressed very well in the Liturgy of Saint Gregory, in which man prays to God, saying , 'You were not in need of my servitude, but it is I who am in need of Your Lordship.'

**Why then did God create man? God created man out of His goodness and magnificence, in order to make him enjoy existence.**

Before creation, God was alone. Since eternity He was the only being existent and had satisfaction in Himself. It was possible that neither man nor any other creature was made to exist, but God, out of His magnificence and goodness, granted existence out of nothingness to this creation whom He called man, and thus, He created man to enjoy existence.

**Creating man was then for the benefit of man himself not for the benefit of God. He created man to enjoy life and, if he behaves appropriately, to also enjoy eternity.**

The same can be said regarding angels. God was so bountiful that He made us part of the existence which He would have had alone. It is impossible that God created man because He desired to be glorified by him, or any other creature.

When we glorify God, it is we, not God, who benefit.

We benefit because when we mention God's name and give glory to Him, we raise our hearts to a spiritual level which gives us elevation, purity and closeness to the Godhead. We always need to contemplate on God and glorify Him, for by this, our spirits feel connected to this great God who has all such glory, and this gives us comfort. Therefore we say, 'It is I who am in need of Your Lordship.'

On the other hand, God, theologically speaking, does not increase or decrease in greatness. Nothing is added to Him when we glorify Him, and nothing lacks Him when we do not.

We can say that God created us out of His love for us, and as His pleasure in the human beings

**God loved us before we existed and that is why He brought us into existence.**

## Lessons From Palm Sunday

By: Fr. Augustinos Hanna  
St. John Coptic Orthodox Church, Covina, CA

### 1. Fulfillment of the Prophecies:

There are at least five prophecies and symbols fulfilled in that occasion which proves the truth fullness and inspiration of the Bible. The first one in Genesis, in Jacob's Farewell Benediction, 2700 years B.C., when he blessed his son Judah the father of, the tribe of which Jesus was to come from his seed. He talked about Him as a lion, a King who has a scepter, the lawgiver, the comforter (Shiloh) to whom shall be the obedience of the people. Binding His donkey to the vine (Jn.15:1), and His donkey's colt to the choice vine, He washed His clothes in the blood of the grapes (the blood of the cross - see also Rev.5:5).

• The second prophecy is in Zechariah 9:9; the third prophecy is Psalm 8:2; the fourth prophecy is Psalm 118:24-26, and the 5th is a symbol, in Solomon's enthronement.

### 2. The Lord needs the least in His creation, even the donkey!

*"The Lord needs it"*, was a pass-word chosen before, as well as a demonstration that the LORD, needs all His creation to serve Him. So, if He needed a donkey, then He will much more need you and me to serve Him.

### 3. A Superlative Courage:

By this time there was a price on Jesus' head. (Jn. 11:57). It would have been natural that, if He must go into Jerusalem at all, He should have slipped in unseen or hidden away in some secret place in the back streets. But He entered in such a way as to focus the whole lime-light upon Himself and to occupy the center of the stage, that every eye was fixed upon Him. He gave us that example of His

superlative courage, to follow His footsteps.

### 4. "Behold your King":

It was a deliberate claim to be king. The Lord here underlined the kind of kingship which He claimed. The ass in Palestine was not the lowly beast that it is in this country. It was noble. Only in war did king ride upon a horse; when they came in peace they came upon an ass. So Jesus by this action came as king of love and peace, and not as a conquering military hero whom the mob expected and awaited. Is He really your King who reigns over your life?

### 5. "Hosanna"!

Hosanna is the Aramaic form of the Hebrew cry for help. It occurs six times in the gospels, that day. By the time of our Lord, the expression was more a shout of praise and *"Save now I pray, O Lord"* (Psalm 118:25). In order to enjoy that great Feast cry to the Lord from the bottom of your heart "Save me O Lord, now."

### 6. "He is Just and having Salvation":

The Lord Jesus is the Just King and God who will judge the whole world in equity, and when we confess our sins *"He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to clean us ..."* (I Jn.1:9). He is the only savior (Acts 4:12). He prevailed over sin, death, Satan and hell.

### 7. The Palm branches greet Him:

The Palm branches stand for life, peace, joy, victory and rewarding evil with good (fruits).

# "Remember me, O Lord when Thou comest into Thy Kingdom."

"Luke 23:42"

## Church Activities

Starting May 5th, St. Paul's Teacher Prep Class will be responsible for Friday's Bible Study. The schedule will be arranged by Mr. Raffat Mankabadi and Mrs. Laura Michael.

## Social News

The Church Congratulates Sarah Tadros and Marina Ayad for their Baptism.



The Church offers its condolences to the families of Philip, Fawzy, Fouad and Victor Sharobeem for the loss of their mother Mrs. Nazira Bolos.

And the Church offers its condolences to to Nagy and Cherine Mikhail for the loss of their Aunt Mrs. Georgette Assad.

May the Lord repose their soul.



*Please do not forget to pray to the Lord that He may heal the sick and repose the souls of those who have passed away in the paradise of joy*

The Church Bulletin Committee welcomes your participation in the form of articles, reviews, news, or comments. Please contact Fr. Antonious by fax at 821-1512

## In next Month's issue:

**"Ask the Priest"**  
By Ihab Guirguis

**"Know Your Church"**  
By Marian Abd Elmes-sih

**"The Saint of the Month"**  
By Joe Michael

**"Games and Fun"**  
By Sam Guirguis

# Church Services

April, 2000

## **Saturday April, 1, 8 and 22**

-8:30 AM-11:30 AM; Divine Liturgy

-11:30 AM-1:00 PM; Sunday School & Youth group meeting

## **Saturday April, 15**

-11:30 AM-1:00 PM; Anointing of the Sick

## **Friday April, 7, 14 and 21**

-7:30 PM-8:30 PM; Hymns Lesson

-8:30 PM-8:45 PM; Prayer Meeting

-8:45 PM-9:30 PM; Bible Study

## **SCHEDULE OF THE HOLY WEEK**

### **Lazarus Saturday, April, 22**

Divine Liturgy 8 AM-12 Noon

Raising of Vespers Incense and distribution of Palms 6 pm - 8 p.m.

### **Palm Sunday, April, 23**

Divine Liturgy 7 AM-2 PM

Evening Pascha 6 PM-9 PM

### **Monday of the Holy Pascha- April, 24**

Morning Pascha 9 AM-12 Noon

Evening Pascha 6 PM- 9 PM

### **Tuesday of the Holy Pascha- April, 25**

Morning Pascha 9 AM-12 Noon

Evening Pascha 6 PM.-9 PM

### **Wednesday of the Holy Pascha- April, 26**

Morning Pascha 9 AM-12 Noon

Evening Pascha 6 PM-10 PM

### **Covenant Thursday- April, 27**

Morning Pascha, Liturgy of the blessing of water &

Divine Liturgy 7 AM-2 PM

Evening Pascha 6 PM-10 PM

### **Great Friday- April, 28 and Bright Saturday- April, 29**

Morning Pascha 8 AM-6 PM

Abu Ghalamsees & Divine Liturgy 11 PM-7 AM

### **Easter Mass Saturday night - April, 29**

Divine Liturgy 7 PM-12 Midnight

### **Easter Sunday - April 30**

Congregation gathering & refreshments 12 noon - 3 pm

### **Sunday School Easter Party - Saturday May 6 - 12 noon - 3 pm**

After the Divine Liturgy

**Ekhristos Anisti**

**Christ is Risen**

**Alethos Anesti**

**Truly He is Risen**