



ARCHANGEL MICHAEL

Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate
Archangel Michael Church
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**ADDRESS CORRECTION
REQUESTED**



**MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER**



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“And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun. And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre? And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great. And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted.

And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him. But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you.

And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulchre; for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they any thing to any man; for they were afraid. Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.

And she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept. And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not. After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country. And they went and told it unto the residue: neither believed they them. Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen. And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” (Mark 16: 2:11)

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The committee welcomes your participation in the form of articles, reviews, news or comments. Please mail your articles, comments...etc. to the church or e-mail them to newsletter@archangelmichaelchurch.net

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WITH CHRIST IN HIS RESURRECTION

by the Late Father Bishoy Kamel

Why Did He Rise on the Third Day?

Christ already died for the salvation of mankind. After He finished His message of salvation, it was appropriate for Him to rise quickly. He rose after three days because it is inappropriate for His holiness to see corruption. His remaining in the tomb three days confirmed the truth of His death. His resurrection confirmed His Divinity fulfilling these prophecies: "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." (John 2:19) "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." (Mat 12:40) . His resurrection confirmed the pleasure of the Father for the sacrifice of the cross.

His resurrection gave mankind hope for eternal life. As the soldiers follow their leader in war, the same do Christians follow the Head of faith and its perfection, the Lord Jesus. So as He lived estranged in the world, we live. And as He rose, we rise with Him. Just as it happens to the head, it happens to the members so that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. For the sake of this hope we struggle, tire, suffer and are persecuted in this world. The martyrs delivered their bodies to hunger, thirst, cold, fire, sword and all kinds of torture for the sake of hope of the glorious resurrection.

How Did He Rise?

At His death, His soul became separated from His body. As for His Divinity, It did not become separated at all. Neither from His body nor from His soul. Because of this, no corruption befell the body. Then the soul went to Hades "and He descended into Hades through the Cross." He descended with the image of a victorious king and delivered all of the fathers the saints who reposed on the hope of the coming of the Lord Jesus. For this, the saints rejoiced and the victory of the Lord of glory over death was fulfilled. Then the soul came to the tomb and became united with the body, so He gained a brilliance and glory... and the Lord of glory came out of the tomb while the doors were shut "the stone on the tomb"... just as He entered the womb of His mother while the doors were shut. Just as Joseph came out of the prison so that he might be a deliverer to all of Egypt, Christ came out of the tomb as a victorious king, a Savior for the whole world. Just as Daniel the prophet came out of the lion's den without any harm touching him, with the resurrection of the Lord from the tomb the saying was fulfilled, "O Death where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?"

Resurrection With Christ

Whoever desires to enjoy the splendor of the Lord's resurrection must have passed the experience of death with Christ. "For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him." (Rom 6:5-6) "Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts." (Rom 6:11-12) "How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?" (Rom 6:2)

Resurrection, Repentance and Baptism

Repentance: Death from sin and resurrection with Christ. Baptism: Burial and resurrection with Christ.

"Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." (Rom 6:4) St. John Chrysostom says: "Indeed, the Lord confirmed the truth of the resurrection after forty days by different appearances and numerous forms, in order to prove to us that we are engaged in the resurrection for a new life in the likeness of His resurrection... in newness of life."



How Do We Enter into the Power of the Resurrection?

Indeed, the body of the Lord in His resurrection became a spiritual heaven, not submitting to the world even though it lives in the world. Therefore it is appropriate: That our lives be heavenly even though we live in the world since if we live according to the flesh we will die, but if by the Spirit we put to death the deeds of the body, we will live. (Rom 8:13) The deeds of the flesh that we should avoid are "...adultery, fornication, uncleanness, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries..." (Galatians 5:19-21)

Therefore we should become separated from the world even though we live in the world. Due to this, the Apostle says, "the time is short, so that from now on even those who have wives should be as though they had none, those who weep as though they did not weep, those who rejoice as though they did not rejoice, those who buy as though they did not possess and those who use this world as not misusing it." (1 Corinthians 7:29-31)

Lastly

"If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God... For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory." (Col 3:1-4)



Saint Helena

St. Helena was born in 247 A.C. in Rahaa. Her parents were righteous Christians and they brought her up to be as righteous as them. She was also very beautiful. One day Emperor Constantius Chlorus was passing by Rahaa when he saw Helen and was taken by her beauty. Although he was not Christian he was a just and merciful emperor, his people loved him. He married her and while she was pregnant Constantius left the mother and child and went back to England. She then gave birth to her only child Constantine. She decided not to baptize him or make him a Christian but she brought him up with great principles. His mother educated him and when he became a knight, she sent him to his father who was so impressed by him. Constantine succeeded his father. He asked his mother to come to the imperial court and conferred on her the title Augusta. He had coins struck bearing her image.

Maxentius was the Roman emperor . He was a savage and an unjust emperor whose people hated him. The roman nobles sent to Constantine for help and they went to war against Maxentius. During the war Constantine saw a big bright cross in the sky during daylight and with the message written in Greek--" with this you will win". He showed to the nobles but no one could understand it. During the night, an angel of God who appeared to him told him to draw the cross on all his weapons. The next morning he did as he was told by the angel. He won the war and the Roman celebrated by praising Jesus and the beloved cross. Constantine became the first emperor of the Roman and Byzantine empires. He asked his mother in Jerusalem to find the cross of Jesus Christ. She asked many people if they knew where the cross of Jesus was buried. But no one knew. After years an old man revealed he knew where it was. The old man said it was underneath the garbage heap in town. She hired workers to find it but it wasn't enough. So every night she threw gold in the garbage to make the towns people dig for it. The more she threw, the more people dug and the faster the garbage heap disappeared. It continued to disappear until they found three crosses.

The three crosses posed a problem for St. Helena because she didn't know which cross was used to crucify the Son of God. Then she came upon a deceased man on his way to be buried. She placed the three crosses on the casket, one at a time. Nothing happened the first or second time, but after placing the third cross on the casket, the man arose from the dead. As soon as the man arose, she knew it was the cross. She soon sent the cross back to her son and built a church where the crosses were once buried.

St. Helena, a remarkably, noble women, was very generous to the poor. In honor of Jesus Christ she built many churches in his name.

Short Story

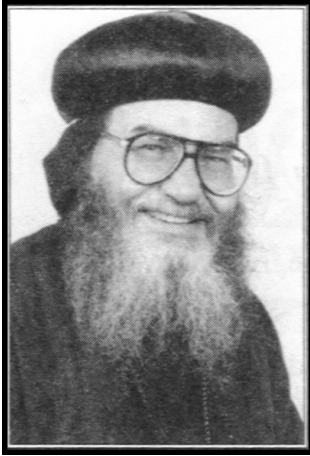
To all the mothers, Happy Mother's day But

Why are mothers crying?



"Why are you crying?" he asked his mom. "Because I'm a mother" she told him. "I don't understand," he said. His mom just hugged him to her and said, "You never will." Later the little boy asked his father why mother seemed to cry for no reason. "All mothers cry for no reason," was all his dad could say.

The little boy grew up and became a man, still wondering why mothers cry. One night, he had a dream. In his dream, he called God on the telephone. When God came to the phone the man asked, "God, why do mothers cry so easily?" God answered him, "My son, you see, when I made mothers, I knew they had to be special. I made their shoulders strong enough to carry the weight of the world, yet gentle enough to give comfort. I gave them an inner strength to endure childbirth and the rejection that many times come from their children and mates. I gave them a hardiness that allows them to keep going when everyone else gives up, and to take care of their families through sickness and fatigue without complaining. I gave them the sensitivity to love their children under all circumstances, even when their child has hurt them very badly. This same sensitivity helps them to make a child's boo-boo feel better and helps them share a teenager's anxieties and fears. I gave them a tear to shed. It's theirs, exclusively, to use whenever needed. It's their only weakness. It is a tear for mankind.



Coptic youth ask **His Grace Bishop Moussa**

“ From the youth Bishopric web site”

Question: Why are premarital relationships unacceptable? Won't they assist in helping to choose future partners?

Bishop Moussa Answers: The definition of 'pre-marital' differs. Premarital sex differs from premarital group friendships in a pure Christian atmosphere. Have as many male and female friends inside the church in a holy and pure way. Through this type of relationship through prayer and the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the guidance of your confession father, you will correctly select your partner.

However, in society, people commit many sins by having premarital sexual relations. To follow in this path leads to many grave sins. First, you are going to change your partner many times because after a while you will feel monotonous with the same partner. Statistics show that in the USA, the average teenager changes their partner twelve times. Hence, it becomes impossible to choose the correct partner. Secondly, you will consider marriage to be a body to body relationship, and this is not marriage at all but adultery. Marriage is a person to person relationship. It encompasses the whole being of the person--intellectually, emotionally, spiritually, physically and psychologically. In considering marriage to be a body to body relationship, you will enter marriage through the wrong door of senses and lust. For sure, sex is not everything in marriage, it is only one component. Third, by committing premarital sex frequently and changing partners often, you will become addicted to sex. People who are sex addicts commit adultery before as well as after marriage, because they can't stay holy. Now you see many people in society with sexual disorders, and the divorce rate is increasing all the time.

These problems result from their being sex addicts during their teenage years. Lastly, sex addiction leads to drug addiction and this is a scientific fact. Too much sex creates tension in the nervous system, and so this addiction can result in the need to take drugs. And the result of drug addiction is crime.

My dear friends, premarital sex is not the correct way to choose your partner in life. If you want the right way of choosing your partner, come to church. Have good, holy relationships with those inside of the church, and participate in church activities. Through group relationships, prayer, and spiritual guidance, you will be able to select your future partner in a correct way. It is also important to bear in mind that the teen years are considered the stage of 'general heterosexuality', whereby teenagers look towards the opposite sex

generally. Therefore it is impossible to choose a partner during this time. But the 20's are considered the stage of 'selective heterosexuality', and it is during this period that one is able to concentrate on choosing their partner.

Abide inside the church. Have as many girlfriends and boyfriends in a group atmosphere, and grow in a way that is not only physically, intellectually and spiritually, but also psychologically healthy in order to choose the correct partner when you are in the stage of selective heterosexuality.

Please abide by these three mottos : group relationships, holy relationships, limited relationships ('limited' meaning being aware of your boundaries and not crossing them).



BIBLE STUDY

The Epistle of Saint James

The Epistle of Saint James is an instructional and practical book in the New Testament for Christians who are experiencing problems. St. James explains to us in his letter the responsibilities of a Christian while also mentioning the dangers that may come. He discusses prejudice, improper speech, judging one another, leaving God out of one's plans and bitterness.

The author in this epistle is described as "James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ." James became the leader of the church in Jerusalem and is most probable the composer of this letter. In the letter, however, it is noted that he did not mention his relations with Jesus, but instead he proclaimed his servitude to the Lord Jesus Christ. (Jm 1:1)

Although it is not historically proven and accepted by all historians, the letter of St. James has strong evidence that his epistle is one of the oldest books of the New Testament. Many scholars assign the date somewhere between 44-62 AD because the writings reflect the time of the very early apostolic church

The letter of Saint James is addressed to "the twelve tribes which are scattered broad." (Jm 1:1) Some believe that the letter is written to all the Jews outside of Palestine which includes Christian and non-Christian Jews. Meanwhile, others believe that the epistle is merely addressed figuratively to all Christian churches as a symbol as ancient Israel of the Old Testament. Another belief is that the readers were Jewish Christians living outside of Palestine. However, there was not a set destination for the letter because it was circulating throughout the apostolic church from church to church. The people that St. James writes to seems to have been very poor and sufferers of oppression that was inflicted by their fellow Jews. In this case, the Jewish Christians were imprisoned and were deprived of their possessions. Therefore, the Jewish Christians fell to the desires of the world, fighting constantly over worldly things and favoring the rich over the poor, causing loss of love for their loved ones who were poor.

This epistle of Saint James is written as more practical than doctrinal but it also contains many theological statements. The main theological theme brought forth in the letter is faith and works. He discusses how faith without works is dead because the two always go hand in hand. He explains how works are resulted from faith in such a way that if someone really firmly believes in something, then he or she will act on that belief. Saint James is trying to wake up Christians in telling that that they must act as they believe.

"From The Nelson Study Bible: Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville"

**While ye have light, believe in the light,
that ye may be the children of light.**

(-John 12:36)

With the grace of God and your generous contributions, the Church now has \$440,000 of the \$500,000 total amount for the purchase of the land. The remaining \$60,000 is due by October 2002.

Progress Chart

Goal \$500,000



CHURCH SERVICES

Fridays

-7:30 PM-8:30 PM

Hymns Lesson

-8:30PM-10:00PM

Arabic Bible Study

Arabic Prayer Meeting

-8:30PM-11:00PM

Midnight Praises

Midnight Prayers

SATURDAYS

-8:30AM-11:30AM:

Divine Liturgy

-11:30AM-1:00PM:

Sunday School &

Youth group meeting

**THE CHURCH
FUND-RAISING DINNER
AT
THE CRYSTAL POINT
YACHT CLUB
Point Pleasant, NJ**

SUNDAY, May 19, 2002

Adult \$100

Children \$ 50

COPTIC FEASTS

April 26 ————— Last Friday of Lent

April 28 ————— Palm Sunday

May 5 ————— Holy Resurrection Feast

May 9 ————— Birth day of St. Mary the Theotokos