



ARCHANGEL MICHAEL

Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate
Archangel Michael Church
P.O. BOX 256 Howell, NJ 07731

**ADDRESS CORRECTION
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**MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER**



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“**18** No man hath seen God at any time, the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him. **19** And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou? **20** And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ. **21** And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No. **22** Then said they unto him, Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself? **23** He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias. **24** And they which were sent were of the Pharisees. **25** And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet? **26** John answered them, saying, I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not; **27** He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose. **28** These things were done in Bethabara beyond Jordan, where John was baptizing. **29** The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. **30** This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me. **31** And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water. **32** And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. **33** And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. **34** And I saw, and bare record that

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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 archangelletter@netscape.net

If you would like this newsletter mailed to a friend or would like your name to be deleted from our mailing list, please email your request or fax it to (732) 821-1512.

Papal Christmas Message
January 7, 2003

His Holiness Pope Shenouda III
Pope of Alexandria & Patriarch of the See of St. Mark



My beloved children, clergy and congregation in the lands of immigration.

I congratulate you on the Feast of the Nativity and the beginning of a new year, may God make it a blessed and happy year for you all.

Put before yourselves at all times, the salvation of your souls and of all those around you, as the message of the birth of Christ is a message of salvation before anything. That is how the angel, at the time of the Lord's birth, announced the good news by saying, "... behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11)

Also the angel who announced the birth of Christ to St. Joseph said to him, "And you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21), because, Jesus in Hebrew means God saves or God is the Saviour. And in the story of Zacchaeus, the Lord Jesus Christ said about His message, "The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." (Luke 19:10) And in another occasion, He also said, "I did not come to judge the world but to save the world." (John 12:47)

And in her song, the Virgin Mary said about Him, "And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour." (Luke 1:47) And Simeon the elder said, "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation." (Luke 2:29-30) This is because the Lord's birth was the first step in the procession of salvation that was completed on the Cross.

This salvation is what all the sacrifices of the Old Testament symbolized. And the salvation that the Lord Jesus Christ completed by redemption means that He is saving us from the penalty of sin in general, the original sin and all the sinful deeds. He also saves us from being under the control of sin...

We receive this salvation that the Lord Jesus Christ offered to us, through faith, baptism, repentance, the work of the Holy Spirit within us and through our communion with the Holy Spirit. The Lord said about that, "He who believes and is baptized will be saved." (Mark 16:16) And St. Peter the Apostle in his sermon on the day of the Pentecost, said to the Jews who believed, "Repent and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38) And St. Paul the Apostle also said, "... according to His mercy He saved us through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit." (Titus 3:4,5)

Here, we have to remember that it is our duty, to be worthy of the salvation that Christ presented to us through redemption, to always live a life of repentance. Because the Lord Himself said, "... unless you repent you will all likewise perish." (Luke 13:3,5) And concerning this repentance, St. Paul rebuked the Hebrews saying, "You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin." (Hebrews 12:4)

So if man's will becomes weak in resisting sin, let him turn to the Lord Who said, "Without Me you can nothing." (John 15:5) Let him cry to the Lord, as it is said in Jeremiah the Prophet, "Restore me, and I will return." (Jeremiah 31:18) Then he would say with St. Paul the Apostle "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13)

And so my beloved children, grow continually in grace to reach the life of perfection that the Lord commanded by saying, "Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect." (Matthew 5:48)

Rejoice in the Lord a holy rejoice during this feast and may the Lord be with you and let us always hear good news about you.

Wishing you all a happy new year. Be absolved by the Holy Spirit and you will do well in the Lord. (Acts 15:29)

Signature

*H. H. Pope Shenouda III
Feast of Christmas 2003*



Short Story

"THE SON, THE SON, WHO'LL TAKE THE SON?"

Selected By: Mary Jo Mikhail

A wealthy man and his son loved to collect rare works of art. They had every thing in their collection, from Picasso to Raphael.

When a war broke out in the country, the son went to fight for his fellow citizens. He was very courageous and died in battle while rescuing another soldier. The father was notified and grieved deeply for his only son.

About a month later, there was a knock at the door. A young man stood at the door with a large package in his hands. He said, "Sir, you don't know me, but I am the soldier for whom your son gave his life. He saved many lives that day, and he was carrying me to safety when a bullet struck him in the heart and he died instantly. He often talked about you, and your love for art. The young man held out his package. "I know this isn't much., but I think your son would have wanted you to have this."

The father opened the package. It was a portrait of his son, painted by the young man. He stared in awe at the way the soldier had captured the personality of his son in the painting. The father was so drawn to the eyes that his own eyes welled up with tears. He thanked the young man and offered to pay him for the picture. "Oh, no sir, I could never repay what your son did for me. It's a gift."

The father hung the portrait over his mantle. Every time visitors came to his home he took them to see the portrait of his son before he showed them any of the other great works he had collected. The man died a few months later.

"There was to be a great auction of his paintings. Many influential people gathered, excited over seeing the great paintings and having an opportunity to purchase one for their collection. On the platform sat the painting of the son. The auctioneer pounded his gavel. "We will start the bidding with this picture of his son. Who will bid for this picture? There was silence. Then a voice in the back of the room shouted. "We want to see the famous paintings. Skip this one." But the auctioneer persisted, "Will someone bid for this painting? Who will start the bidding? \$100, \$200?" Another voice shouted angrily. "We didn't come to see this painting. We came to see the Van Goghs, the Rembrandts. Get on with the real bids!"

But still the auctioneer continued. "The son! The son! Who'll take the son?" Finally, a voice came from the very back of the room. It was the longtime gardener of the man and his son. "I'll give \$10 for the painting," Being a poor man, it was all he could afford. "We have \$10, who will bid \$20?" **"Give it to him for \$10.** Let's see the masters."

"\$10 is the bid, won't someone bid \$20?" The crowd was becoming angry. They didn't want the picture of the son. They wanted the more worthy investments for their collections. The auctioneer pounded the gavel. "Going once, twice, SOLD for \$10!" A man sitting on the second row shouted. "Now let's get on with the collection!"

The auctioneer laid down his gavel. "I'm sorry, the auction is over." "What about the paintings?" "I am sorry. When I was called to conduct this auction, I was told of a secret stipulation in the will. I was not allowed to reveal that stipulation until this time. Only the painting of his son would be auctioned. Whoever bought that painting would inherit the entire estate, including the paintings. The man who took the son gets everything!"

From Saint Mary & Saint Athanasius Coptic Orthodox Church, San Fernando Valley CA web site ,

Martyrdom of St. Ignatius, the Patriarch of Antioch



On the twenty-fourth day, of the bless month of Kiahk, the honorable St. Ignatius, Patriarch of Antioch, was martyred.

He was also called Theophorus (ho Theophoros); born in Syria, around the year 50; died at Rome between 98 and 117.

He was a disciple of St. John the Evangelist and traveled with him to many cities. St. John ordained him Patriarch of Antioch where he preached the life giving Gospel, converted many to the knowledge of God, baptized them, illuminated them and showed them the errors of worshipping idols.

The pagans were enraged, they seized him and tortured him with various tortures. They put burning coals in his hands and pressed his hands for about two hours. Then they burnt his side with red hot pitch and burning oil. They combed his body with iron combs. When they became tired of torturing him, they cast him in prison where he stayed for a long time. When they remembered him, they brought him out and promised him great rewards and then threatened him. As he was steadfast in his faith, they threw him to the wild beasts and they rendered him into pieces and devoured him. He delivered up his pure spirit in the hand of the Lord Whom he loved.

May his prayers be with us. Amen.



Bible Study Bible Study

THE BOOK OF GENESIS

BY: CHRISTINE MICHAEL

The book of Genesis is more than just the first book in the Holy Bible, it is called “the beginnings of beginnings.” It describes the beginning of creation, the beginning of humanity’s fall into sin, and the beginning of God’s saving mission for all His people. The book depicts many firsts in creation, sin, judgment, languages, races, marriages; but the main center of Genesis focuses on God’s calling to Abram and Sarai.

Moses wrote the book of Genesis in the Wilderness of Sinai around the fifteenth century B.C. according to Biblical and extra biblical references and evidence. In addition, Moses also compiled the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Holy Bible in the Wilderness of Sinai as well. Through the first book, Genesis, it is evident that Moses’ intention was that of encouragement to the Israelites in their preparation for entering the Promised Land of Canaan. Genesis explains important information about why their ancestors went to Egypt, why their nation was destined to enter the Promised Land and why God had revealed Himself so dramatically as He had done in the Wilderness.

The book of Genesis provides “a key that unlocks the rest of the Bible”. The message of Genesis can be divided into two main parts. Part one is a prologue to part two, which is the main event whereby God’s sovereign work in Abraham’s family to complete His good will for all nations. There are four main concepts presented in the first eleven chapters of Genesis which helps readers comprehend the rest of the Bible readings. The first concept is that the God of Abram and Sarai is the same God, the Creator, Yahweh and Savior of the world. Second, because of God’s people rebelling against Him, they have brought a sinful heredity to humanity. Third, God judges and will judge actions of all people because God cannot let evil run freely among his creation. Finally, sin still continually plagues all of humanity. God reveals a plan He has to save humanity from evil deeds.

The first main part of Genesis depicts the story of God’s presence in Abram and Sarai’s lives. Their world is infested with many cultures, languages and imaginary gods. The second part of Genesis depicts the main story of Genesis – to bless all nations through Abraham’s descendants. Abraham and Sarai would be the parents of the new nation that God will use to bless all people. God makes a covenant with Abraham and promises to him and his descendants. The covenant made between God and Abraham served as a foundation for the promises and covenants to come in the future in the stories of the Bible.

From The Nelson study Bible: Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville



Coptic People ask His Holiness Pope Shenouda III

QUESTION: If everything comes about according to the will of God, and nothing on the face of the earth happens without His command alone, then why doesn't He prevent evil before it happens?

His Holiness Pope Shenouda III Answers:

It is not correct to say that nothing happens on earth except by God's will, for various wrongs, evils, crimes and injustices take place all too frequently in the world, and how could all these be 'according to the will of God'? That wouldn't be right at all--God doesn't want these things to happen! It was God's will to give mankind free will. He wants all to be saved, and all to accept the knowledge of the Truth. God permits human beings to do as they wish, whether good or bad, otherwise they would be nothing but automatons. There is a difference between what God wills and what God permits.

QUESTION: The nearer I get to God, the more trials, problems and difficulties I seem to have, so that I get fed up and weary with life. I can't seem to find a way out of this except keeping away from God, so that I get a more comfortable and peaceful life, like all the other people who keep at a distance from God! Why does this happen to me?

His Holiness Pope Shenouda III Answers:

Whenever you follow the road to God, and grow in your spiritual life, the devils become jealous of you, and try to make you go far away from His path, which they do, for example, by causing the kind of troubles that are happening to you. So if you keep away from God, Satan will have overcome you in the battle. When troubles start, be patient and trust in God to support you. "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." (Rom. 12:21). Don't believe that those who live far away from God live in comfort, for they do not know true peace or comfort. Trust that any exertion made for the Lord will be rewarded, both on earth and in heaven. The Lord Jesus Christ told us: "In this world you will have trouble." (John 16:33). He also assured us that even the hairs on our heads have been counted. Remember that your troubles come from Satan, not from God: "When tempted, no one should say 'God is tempting me...'" (James 1:13). Have faith that God will give you rest, because He said: "Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (Matt. 11:28).

COPTIC FEASTS

January 7	Nativity
January 9	The Martyrdom of St. Stephen the Archdeacon
January 14	Circumcision Feast
January 19	The Epiphany
January 21	Wedding at Cana of Galilee
January 30	St. Anthony's Feast

Glory to God in the highest, and on
earth peace, good will toward men.

(Luke 2:14)

Christmas Service:

The Christmas Eve. Divine Liturgy starts at 7:30 PM on Monday January 6th.

Christmas Party:

Sunday school Christmas party will be held on Saturday the 11th From 12:00 to 4:00 PM.



**Feast of the Holy Epiphany
Sunday January 19, 2003**

The Divine Liturgy celebrating the Holy Epiphany Paramon will be held on Saturday's 1/18/2003 morning.

- The Divine Liturgy will begin at 7 AM and end at 9AM

The Divine Liturgy celebrating Christ's Epiphany will be held on Saturday's 1/18/2003 night.

- The Liturgy of the water will start at 7 PM and
- The Divine Liturgy will begin at 9 PM and end at midnight.

CHURCH SERVICES

FRIDAYS

-7:30 PM-8:00 PM

English Prayer Meeting

-8:00PM-9:30PM

Arabic Bible Study

Arabic Prayer Meeting

-8:00PM-9:30PM

Midnight Praises

Midnight Prayers

SATURDAYS

-8:00AM-11:30AM:

Divine Liturgy

-12 Noon-1:00PM:

Sunday School &

Youth group meeting