

ARCHANGEL MICHAEL

Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate
Archangel Michael Church
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**ADDRESS CORRECTION
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**MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER**



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“²⁷ Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed. ²⁸ Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? ²⁹ Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent. ³⁰ They said therefore unto him, What sign shewest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work? ³¹ Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat. ³² Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. ³⁴ Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread. ³⁵ And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. ³⁶ But I said unto you, That ye also have seen me, and believe not. ³⁷ All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

³⁸ For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. ³⁹ And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.

⁴⁰ And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day. ” (John 6: 27-40)

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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

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GOD IN THE LIFE OF THE YOUTH

**by the Late
Father Bishoy Kamel**

God's Continuous Presence With You

When the wife of Potiphar asked Joseph to commit evil with her, He cried out saying, "How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?" But what were Joseph's circumstances?

A closed room, a woman and the present God

My dear brother, how many times were you in a closed room and you get wicked thoughts, but you forget God's presence in your life, and thus you fall. Therefore, the underlying reason of our fall is the lack of feeling of God's presence with us, while the faith of God's presence constantly prompts us from slipping into sin.

You are the temple of God and God's Spirit dwells in you

God was with Joseph, but in Christianity, God with His Spirit is present in us. Joseph believed that God sees even between the walls, but we believe that our bodies and our souls are temples for God working with them and in them. For if Joseph says, "How then can I do this wickedness before God?" then we say, "How can temples for the Holy Spirit do this wickedness against God?"

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me

What is Christianity? It is a weak person exposed to evil who has the power to do all things through Christ who dwells in him. Therefore, it is not I who live but Christ lives in me. This will bring about, O' you beloved, that you attribute every good deed to God. And this feeling will cause your trusting in God, success and triumph in your personal and spiritual problems.

How do I benefit from God's presence in my life

Try to consult the Spirit of God that dwells in you before every action. Repeat the Jesus prayer¹ constantly throughout your day and feel that the Lord is with you always -- in your studies and all your work... Be accustomed to the life of thanksgiving. At all times thank God for everything: food, clothes, knowledge, studies... thank Him for everything.

Become a disciple of Jesus' words

If you want to feel Christ speaking in your life, you must study the Holy Bible with contemplation every day, fully sure that the words of the Holy Bible are the living words of Jesus and that the true teacher of these words is Jesus who dwells in you. And be sure that the words of the Bible are issued from Jesus to you personally.

Converse with your God Who dwells in you

Indeed, the lack of prayer means the lack of feelings of God's presence with you.

Prayer is the communion of life with God Who listens to our voices while He is not far from us. On the contrary, He is present in us.

Lastly, cling to your God

As you cling to your God, likewise your God will cling to you. As Daniel clung to God and did not worship the statue, likewise God clung to him and shut the mouths of the lions. Exult in your God, take pride in Him, rely on Him without exception and cling to Him.

The Lord be with you.

¹Jesus Prayer -- "My Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me, a sinner."

COPTIC FEASTS

February 9 ——— Depatrure of St. Paul the first Anchorite

February 15 ——— Presentation of the Lord into the Temple

February 17 ——— The first day of Jonah's fast

February 20 ——— Jonah's feast



Short Story

A LITTLE GIRL, WHO DARED TO WISH

Selected By: Monica Michael

As Amy Hagadorn rounded the corner across the hall from her classroom, she collided with a tall boy from the fifth grade running in the opposite direction. "Watch it , squirt." The boy yelled as he dodged around the little third-grader. Then with a smirk on his face, the boy took hold of his right leg and mimicked the way Amy limped when she walked.

Amy closed her eyes. Ignore him, she told herself as she headed for her classroom. But at the end of the day, Amy was still thinking about the tall boy's mean teasing. It wasn't as if he were the only one. It seemed that ever since Amy started the third grade, someone teased her every single day. Kids teased her about her speech or her limping. Amy was tired of it. Sometimes, even in a classroom full of other students, the teasing made her feel all alone.

Back home at the dinner table that evening, Amy was quiet. Her mother knew that things were not going well at school. That's why Patti Hagadorn was happy to have some exciting news to share with her daughter.

"There's a Christmas wish contest on the radio station," Amy's mom announced. "Write a letter to Santa, and you might win a prize. I think someone at this table with blonde curly hair should enter." Amy giggled. The contest sounded like fun. She started thinking about what she wanted most for Christmas. A smile took hold of Amy when the idea first came to her. Out came pencil and paper, and Amy went to work on her letter. "Dear Santa Claus," she began. While Amy worked away at her best printing, the rest of the family tried to guess what she might ask from Santa. Amy's sister, Jamie, and Amy's mom both thought a three-foot Barbie doll would top Amy's wish list. Amy's dad guessed a picture book. But Amy wasn't ready to reveal her secret Christmas wish just then. Here is Amy's letter to Santa, just as she wrote it that night:

Dear Santa Claus,

My name is Amy. I am nine years old. I have a problem at school. Can you help me Santa? Kids laugh at me because of the way I walk and run and talk. I have cerebral palsy. I just want one day where no one laughs at me or makes fun of me.

Love, Amy

At radio station WJLT in Fort Wayne, Indiana, letter poured in for the Christmas wish contest. The workers had fun reading about all the different presents that boys and girls from across the city wanted for Christmas.

When Amy's letter arrived at the radio station, manager Lee Tobin read it carefully. He knew cerebral palsy was a muscle disorder that might confuse the schoolmates of Amy's who didn't understand her disability. He thought it would be good for the people in Fort Wayne to hear about this special third-grader and her unusual wish. Mr. Tobin called up the local newspaper.

The next day, a picture of Amy and her letter to Santa made the front page of the News Sentinel. The story spread quickly. All across the country, newspapers and radio and television stations reported the story of the little girl in Fort Wayne, Indiana, who asked for such a simple yet remarkable Christmas gift -- just one day without teasing. Suddenly the postman was a regular at the Hagadorn house. Envelopes of all sizes addressed to Amy arrived daily from children and adults all across the nation. They came filled with holiday greetings and words of encouragement.

During that unforgettable Christmas season, over two thousand people from all over the world sent Amy letters of friendship and support. Amy and her family read every single one. Some of the writers had disabilities; some had been teased as children. Each writer had a special message for Amy. Through the cards and letters from strangers, Amy glimpsed a world full of people who truly cared about each other. She realized that no amount or form of teasing could ever make her feel lonely again. Many people thanked Amy for being brave enough to speak up. Others encouraged her to ignore teasing and to carry her head high. Lynn, a sixth-grader from Texas, sent this message:

"I would like to be your friend," she wrote, "and if you want to visit me, we could have fun. No one would make fun of us, 'cause if they do, we will not even hear them."

Amy did get her wish of a special day without teasing at South Wayne Elementary School. Additionally, everyone at school got another bonus. Teachers and students talked together about how bad teasing can make others feel. That year the Fort Wayne mayor officially proclaimed December 21 as Amy Jo Hagadorn Day throughout the city. The mayor explained that by daring to make such a simple wish, Amy taught a universal lesson.

"Everyone," said the mayor, "wants and deserves to be treated with respect, dignity and warmth"

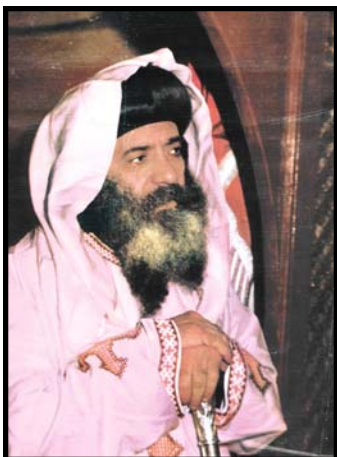


Feast of Presenting the Lord Christ to the Temple

On the eighth day of the blessed month of Amshir, we celebrate the feast of presenting the Lord Christ to the temple 40 days after His blessed birth.

St. Joseph the righteous and His mother, the Virgin Mary, presented Him in the temple to fulfill the Mosaic Law. St. Luke the Evangelist says that when His parents brought Him according to the custom of the law, the just and devout Simeon the elder took Him in his arms and blessed God and said, 'Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your Word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all people, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the Glory of Your people Israel.' (Luke 2:29-32)

Simeon was one of the 70 elders who translated the Old Testament from Hebrew to Greek. This was in the time of Ptolemy Soter in the year 296 B.C., who was sent by the will of God to Jerusalem. He brought 70 men from among the learned Jewish teachers and scholars and commanded them to translate the Old Testament from Hebrew to Greek. He put every two of them in an isolated place so they would not agree on one translation and to ensure a correct text after comparing all of the translations. Simeon the elder was one of them. When Simeon was translating the verse from Isaiah 7:14, 'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel,' he was afraid to translate that a virgin would conceive, because the King would mock him. He wanted to translate the virgin as a 'young lady.' He was disturbed because of this inaccurate translation, and God revealed to him in a vision that he would not die before he would see Christ the Lord born of a virgin. This was fulfilled and he lived about three hundred years. When Christ was born; he was very well advanced in age and his sight dimmed. When he carried the child Jesus in his hands, his sight came back to him, and the Holy Spirit told him, 'This is the child that you have been waiting for.' He blessed God and said, 'You are letting your servant depart in peace according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel.' (Luke 2:28-32) May the prayers of this righteous man be with us and glory be to our God forever. Amen.



Coptic People ask His Holiness Pope Shenouda III

QUESTION: I have read in a book a criticism of the story of creation as mentioned in the first chapter of the Book of Genesis. How can the earth be part of the sun as the scientists say, while the Bible states that the sun was created on the fourth day after the creation of the earth? So how can the earth be part of something that was created later on?

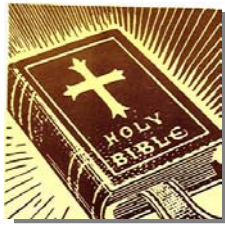
His Holiness Pope Shenouda III Answers:

Scientists do not say that the earth was part of the sun and separated from it, otherwise the sun will be missing this portion. What scientists say is that earth is part of the solar system and not of the sun itself. It was part of the Nebula; that fiery mass which was no doubt luminous. This Nebula is what the Bible meant by saying on the first day *"Then God said, let there be light; and there was light"*. Earth was part of this mass and separated from it. On the third day when the earth was cooled, plants and trees grew using the light and heat radiating from the Nebula. On the fourth day, from this mass God created the sun, moon, stars, meteors and all other celestial bodies and regulated the interrelations and the movement of these bodies. The sun, on the fourth day, remained as it is, a whole with the earth attached to it, but God set the relation between earth and sun, moon and other stars and planets through astronomical laws.

QUESTION: What is the meaning of marriage?

His Holiness Pope Shenouda III Answers:

Marriage, according to the Christian concept, is when a spiritual person, or a temple of the Holy Spirit, weds another spiritual person, who is also a temple of the Holy Spirit. Both are spiritually joined together through the sacrament of marriage to become one Therefore, both must be of the same faith, the perfect faith, because the Holy Spirit should not join contradictory beliefs together.



Bible Study

THE BOOK OF EXODUS

BY: CHRISTINE MICHAEL

The second book of Moses, Exodus, depicts the main event for the Israelites – their *exodus* and salvation from slavery in the land of Egypt. God becomes known to them as not only their Savior, but as well as the Creator of the universe and the God of Abraham. Just as He promised, God saved them from slavery while also creating a strong nation within them. Through their exodus from Egypt into the wilderness, the nation of Israel grew and developed by the time they reached the Promised Land.

The main character of the story of the exodus, Moses, demonstrated the power of God through the miraculous wonders in the heated confrontations with the stubborn pharaoh. Moreover, after their freedom into the wilderness, God taught Moses, who taught the Israelites how to create a nation of priests and a holy nation that focused on service and worship to their Almighty God.

Jewish and Christian tradition credits Moses as the author of the Book of Exodus as well as the other books of the Pentateuch: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. Moses detailed the full story of the exodus although he was not fortunate to enter the Promised Land, as did most of the Israelites.

The first portion of Exodus is written as an epic prose which clearly portrays their God as the true Provider and Savior of His people. The second part of the book records the detailed laws of instruction given in the treaty between God and the Israelites.

God saved Moses from death as a baby, bringing him to the land of Egypt, where God would call him to be His instrument in saving His people from the slavery of Egypt. Through the signs of plagues and miraculous works, God's power proved superior to the gods of Egypt and Pharaoh who claimed his incarnate deity. God's saving power in the Passover and in freeing the enslaved Israelites depicted his Savior qualities. Moreover, God provided for the Israelites in the wilderness by providing sweet water and heavenly manna. However, though given these provisions by God, His people still complained during the forty years of travel in the wilderness. This showed their lack of trust in the Lord.

The Hebrew word law translated *instruction*, in the second part of Exodus reflects the direction that His people should take in their lives. The Ten Commandments established a formal treaty with God and His people, setting rules that they must follow. The final instructions in the second part of Exodus instruct the Israelites about the tabernacle – telling them about its construction, furnishing and services. At the end of the book of Exodus, the tabernacle is finally completed for God and God fills it. Through God's saving, providing and teaching ways, they learned how to live according to God's instruction in the Promised Land.

From The Nelson study Bible: Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville

Labour not for the Meat which perisheth, but for that meat
which endureth unto everlasting life will toward men.
(John 6:27)

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.

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 //
Hymns

SATURDAYS

-8:00AM-11:30AM:
Divine Liturgy
-12 Noon-1:00PM:
Sunday School &
Youth group meeting



*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.*