

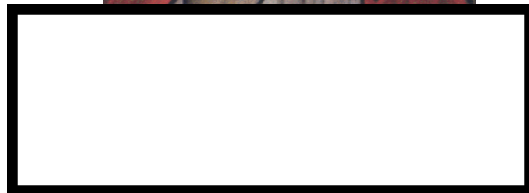
ARCHANGEL MICHAEL

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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“ **21** In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight. **22** All things are delivered to me of my Father: and no man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father; and who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal him.

23 And he turned him unto his disciples, and said privately, Blessed are the eyes which see the things that ye see: **24** For I tell you, that many prophets and kings have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them. **25** And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Mas-

ter, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

26 He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou? **27** And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

28 And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live. ” (Luke 10: 21-28)

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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

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.

The Spirit of Serving

(5)

Wheat and Tares

God has sent you to the earth to spread goodness. As for the evil that is on the earth, leave it and do not resist it.

It is a wise policy that the Lord gave us in the parable of the tares in Matthew 13. His servants asked Him, "Do You want us to go and gather them up? But He said, "No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest." (Matt. 13:28-29).

So the tares remained on the earth and the Lord allowed it not only to stay but to grow and grow till the harvest. It is not for us to gather it...

As for you, have you fatigued yourself in pulling the tares while it is still on the earth. Have you lost your spirituality in doing this, but did not succeed nor win yourself...? Perhaps you have found out that your wheat was uprooted with the tares or became like it in anger and the loss of peace, and perhaps in losing some of the love you had!!

If you feel tired, come and let us both grow wheat together; sow the seeds of good everywhere. Let us plant new seeds and water them with the living water and pray that God may make them grow. Let us ask Him in our prayers and in the Holy Mass to bring them up according to their measure, according to His grace and to accord a cheerful touch to the face of the land, that its furrows may be watered and its fruits be plentiful...

Sow the seeds of good everywhere. Do not be troubled if some of them fall on stony places or among the thorns... Forget all that and rejoice in the few seeds that fell on good soil and grew... This is your portion from all your toil. It is also the portion of God.

Do not waste your time, your nerves or your spirituality in uprooting evil from the earth, but be positive in doing good.

How beautiful is the saying, "Instead of cursing the darkness, light a candle."

Light does not struggle with darkness, but the mere presence of light is enough to disperse darkness.

Practicing Ceaseless Prayers

You cannot reach at once what the saints attained in several years. Therefore, you need to follow these gradual steps:

Decide, for yourself, on a short prayer that suits you. You may repeat it several times, in depth, expressing your personal feelings.

Use this prayer at your leisure to keep yourself busy lest your thoughts should wander over trifles or sins. That is how you can gain a double profit: praying and also resisting evil thoughts. At the same time, you use your time in what helps you spiritually.

Keep your mind busy with prayer while you are among people whose talk has nothing to do with your salvation. You do not benefit from it, and, at the same time, you'll be embarrassed to withdraw from them. At least, be there physically, but, as for your heart, keep it busy with God in prayer without anybody noticing.

You may also busy yourself with these prayers during the time you spend in public transport or in waiting for it or while you are waiting for somebody. This could also save you from anxiety.

You may repeat these short prayers while you are having your meals. It feeds your spirit while your body is receiving its food. At the same time, you'll keep table etiquette.

If anyone talks to you during these prayers, do not ignore him by remaining silent thus getting yourself into trouble, but answer him briefly and quietly, then go back to your prayers...

You may also repeat these prayers while you are in bed before you go to sleep. This will keep your subconscious busy with spiritual things, besides the act of praying. By doing this, your bed will be sanctified and your dreams kept pure.

When you wake up, start also by repeating these prayers, even before washing your face. Thus your first thought becomes spiritual and the first one you talk to will be God.

Whenever you find a chance to pray, take advantage of it.

That is how you overcome the problem of "wasting time" and get used to prayer.

All these prayers shall not prevent you from practicing the Agpeya

prayers (the Book of Hours) or your personal prayers, and standing in reverence before GodPart2

Your Relationship with the Holy Bible

Your relationship with the Holy Bible is concentrated in acquiring the Bible, adhering to it, reading, understanding, contemplating, studying and learning it by heart. And, above all, you should behave according to it and train yourself to follow its commandments.

To acquire the Bible does not mean to keep it as a rarity on your desk but to have it for your continual use. You take it with you wherever you go, in your pocket or in your hand-bag. That makes it easy for you to read it at all times.

It is better to read the Bible on regular basis, this must be daily. It is better to read extracts every morning so that they might be the subject of your thoughts and meditations during the day and fill your mind in your getting in and out.

Let your reading in the Bible be with understanding, depth and contemplation. It would be better if accompanied by prayer, so you would say with David, "Open my eyes that I may see wondrous things from Your Law."

Let your reading be with a solemn spirit so you may benefit from it. Remember how we stand at Church in great reverence to listen to the Holy Bible. Never slacken in reading or be negligent or thoughtless.

What is important is not the amount you read but the depth in reading. That comes when the Lord's words penetrate deep into your heart touching your feelings...

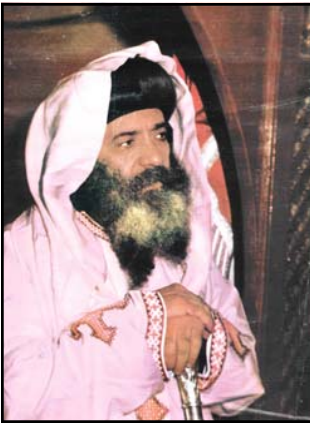
Try to learn some verses that give certain principles or impressions or some of God's promises and answers to matters that bother you.

Repeat these verses in your heart many times with enjoyment that makes them stick to your spirit and depths.

Deal with these verses practically. Make them the subject of your spiritual exercises. Thus you turn the Bible into life and it becomes part of you.

In your reading do not focus on the letter but the spirit. And if you need help, do not hesitate to ask...

The important thing is to receive a spiritual benefit from reading.



Coptic People ask His Holiness Pope Shenouda III

Question: What is the book of Jasher? Is it one of the Books of the Holy Bible or the Torah (Pentateuch)? How was it mentioned in the Book of Joshua and in the Book of 2 Samuel and yet it is not part of the Bible?

His Holiness Pope Shenouda

III answers: The word "book" could mean any book; religious or secular. **The book of Jasher is an old secular book which included the popular songs, that were in circulation among the Jews, which were based on important religious and secular events.** Some of these songs were military songs for the soldiers. This book dates back to 1000-800 BC, more than 500 years after Moses the Prophet. It contained things pertaining to David the Prophet and his lamentation for king Saul. It is not part of the Torah (Pentateuch) of Moses, for it included events that happened many centuries after Moses. **People chanted some of the important historical events of the olden times, and wrote hymns about these events and gathered them in this book which grew by time and had nothing to do with the Divine inspiration.** An example is: The battle of Gideon during the days of Joshua, where the sun stood still. The people wrote songs about this. These were added on to the book of Jasher. Joshua referred to them saying "*Is this not written in the book of Jasher*" (Josh. 10:13), which meant isn't this one of the important current events, that because of its fame, popular songs were written about, in secular books as the book of Jasher.

Also, the beautiful and moving song, by which David mourned king Saul and his son Jonathan, the people admired and chanted it. They included it in their popular secular books, since it concerned the killing of their first king along with the successor to his throne. So when this event was told in the Book of 2nd Samuel, it was said about it "*indeed it is written in the book of Jasher*" (2 Sam. 1:17) which meant that the lamentation of David became a popular song, the people added it to their book of hymns known as the Book of Jasher. **This is exactly as we speak about a famous event that is mentioned in the Holy Bible as it is also mentioned in the history books.**

Finally: did the Jews omit it from the Torah (the Pentateuch) for a religious reason? and the answer is clear: **A.** It is not part of the Torah. For the Torah is the five Books of Moses which are Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. **B.** If the Jews wanted to hide it for a religious reason, they would not mention it in the Book of Joshua and the Book of Samuel the Prophet. **C.** The oldest and most famous translation of the Old Testament which is the Septuagint that was written in the third century BC does not include this book



Commemoration of the Miracle made by St. Basilus, Bishop of Caesarea of Cappadocia

On the 13th day of the blessed month of Tute is the commemoration of the great miracle made by St. Basilus, Bishop of Caesarea of Cappadocia with a young man who loved his master's daughter. Satan, his enemy and the enemy of the human race, deceived him

and made him resort to a magician who made him write a covenant to deny the faith and to surrender completely to Satan that he might grant him his wish. Satan kindled lust in the heart of the girl, and she loved the young man exceedingly. She asked her father insistently not to object to her marriage to that young man. Eager for his honor and fearing for her life, he married her to him. When she had spent with him many days, and had seen that he did not enter the church or partake of the Holy Sacraments, or make the sign of the Holy Cross over himself, she revealed to him her doubt about his faith and his love to God. He told her what had happened to him, and how he had written to Satan a covenant of obedience till death. She cried exceedingly and rebuked him for his deed and straightaway, he took him to St. Basilus, Bishop of Caesarea, who listened to his confession and saw his grief and desire to go back to the life of worship, fellowship, and righteousness. St. Basilus asked him to stay with him for a while in seclusion, fasting and praying. He shut him up in a room near him for three days. On the third day St. Basilus visited him and he made known to him that the evil spirits did not cease disturbing and fighting him in many ways. He strengthened him, calmed him down, gave him food and prayed for him. He asked him to keep staying in seclusion for praying and fasting. After a few days, he came back to visit him again. The young man told him that he did not see any more but he still heard their cries and threats. He fed him again and prayed for him and left him to the life of seclusion to fight and pray, and the bishop went to pray for him also. And this went on until forty days were completed. When the Saint came to him and asked him about his state, he told him that he saw him (the Saint) fighting against Satan on his behalf, and he vanquished him and finally was victorious. The Bishop gath-

ered all the priests and the monks and prayed for that young man all night. On the following morning he led him into the church while everyone was crying, 'Lord have mercy upon us,' and they continued to cry out until that writing, which the young man had written as a covenant to deny the faith and to surrender to Satan, fell down in the midst of all the people. The Bishop, the young man and his wife, and all the people were exceedingly glad. The Bishop blessed that man and administered to him the Holy Sacraments. The man and his wife departed to their house full of joy for their salvation, and exalted for the remission of their sins. They praised God and thanked St. Basilius by whose prayers they were saved. May his prayers and blessings be with us all, and Glory be to God forever. Amen

High School Class - Summer Readings Recap

Introduction:

During this past summer, the High School class was assigned four different books to read for the 8th Annual Philadelphia Spiritual Competition. They were:

1. Spiritual Means (Chapters 6-11) by His Holiness Pope Shenouda III
2. The Characteristics of Orthodox Teachings by His Grace Bishop Moussa
3. Hebrews by Fr. Tadros Yacoub Malaty
4. An excerpt from a book about Christian Science

Because of the great benefit that the students received from reading these books, we felt the need to share this valuable information with the rest of the congregation. Each month, a brief summary of one of the sections from a book will be presented.

“For this reason we also ... do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God,” (Colosians 1:9-10).



The church congratulates Mr. and Mrs. Nader Gendy for the First bath prayer (Salat El-Techt) of their son Daniel.



St Mary Church Annual Festival

will be held on Saturday and Sunday, October 2, 3, 9 & 10 2004.
at St Mary Coptic Orthodox Church, East Brunswick, NJ.



سيقام حفل أستقبال القس ابراهيم
واصف الكاهن الجديد لكنيسة مار مينا
هومديل يوم الخميس الموافق 21
أكتوبر 2004 وذلك في تمام الساعه
6:30 مساء بالكنيسة والجميع مدعون
لنوال البركه.

The Archangel Michael 5th Annual Festival

will be held on Saturday and Sunday,
October 23rd and 24th, 2004.
at Prince of Peace Church on Aldrich
Road in Howell, NJ.

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart,
and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength,
and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

(Luke 10:27)

COPTIC FEASTS

August 21

September 11

September 17

Assumption of ST. Mary

Coptic new year "Nayrouz"

Departure of Pope Discours the great

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