



ST. JOHN

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The **Schedule** of **Meetings & Occasions**

August 93

SUNDAYS

- + English Liturgy 7:30 - 10:30 A.M.
- + Arabic Liturgy 8:00 - 11:30 A.M.

WEDNESDAYS

- + Liturgy 8:00 - 10:15 A.M.
- + The Youth leaders and Sunday School Teachers,
Service Preparatory Meeting . . 7:00 - 8:30 P.M.
- + Prayer Meeting 8:30 - 9:30 P.M.

FRIDAYS

- + Liturgy 8:00 - 10:15 A.M.
- The Deacons Meeting
- + Instructions & Alhan for deacons 7:00 - 8:30 PM.
- Friday Youth Meeting
- + Arabic Youth Meeting 7:30 - 9:30 P.M.

SATURDAYS

- + 1. Vespers & Arabic Bible Study 7 - 9 P.M.
followed by Confessions, Tasbeha.
- + 2. Saturday English Youth Meeting
7:30-9:00 PM
- + The Midnight Praise.

FEASTS:

- + 1. The Feast of Transfiguration
(Thursday, August 19)
- + 2. Feast of the Assumption of
St. Mary's body (August 22):
- + Vespers (Asheya) of the feast: Saturday
August 21, 7.00 - 9.00 P.M.
- + Liturgy: Sunday, August 22, 8 - 11:30 A.M.

+ The second week of the fast of the Virgin Mary, from August 14, to 21st, there will be revival meetings, Vespers and Liturgies every night and day.

SAINTS of the Month

1. August 2: Departure of St. Joseph the carpenter.
2. Aug.3: The martyrdom of St. Abamon.
3. Aug.4: The departure of **St. Mary Magdalene**.
4. Aug.6: The martyrdom of **St. Marcurius**.
5. **Aug.7: The Virgin Mary's Fast Begins**.
6. Aug. 8: The departure of **St. Baiesah**.
7. Aug.15: The martyrdom of St. Ohry of Shatanuf.
8. Aug.18: The ordination of Emperor Constantine.
9. **Aug.19: The Feast of Transfiguration**.
10. Aug. 21: The departure of St. Marina the Nun.
11. **Aug.22: The Assumption of St. Mary**.
12. Aug.24: The departure of Pope Alexandros.
13. Aug.28: The departure of the prophet Micah.
14. Aug.29: Martyrdom of **30,000** Christians
at Alexandria, Egypt.
15. Aug.30: The departure of St. Takla Himanot.

The Annual Youth Conference

At Arrowhead Springs, CA.

From August 22-28

With

H.H. Pope Shenouda III

Bishop Moussa,
Bishop Karas

Bishop Thomas
Bishop Serapion

Arabic Language Class

Mr. Adly Tawadrous, the Arabic teacher, teaches the Arabic language every **Tuesday** and **Thursday** for two classes: Children **from 6-7** and for Youth **from 7-8 P.M.** The fees are **\$10.00** per month.

Is It Correct To Pray To Virgin Mary?

By
H.H. Pope Shenouda III

In his great work *Comparative Theology*, His Holiness responds to this question, saying:

We do not pray to the Virgin but we address her when we pray and entreat her to intercede for us. Not only do we address the Virgin, but also address the angels, nature, people, ourselves and even the Devil! This is based on the Bible and is not considered prayer.

Why should we not address our mother the Virgin in particular?

(1) **We address the angels** when we pray, saying: "*Bless the Lord, you His angels, who excel in strength, who do His word, heeding the voice of His word. Bless the Lord, all you His Hosts who do His pleasure*" (Psalm 103:20, 21 & Ps.148:1, 2).

(2) **We address nature in our prayer**, saying:

"Praise Him, sun and moon; praise Him, all you stars of light! Praise Him, you heavens of heavens, and you waters above the heavens! Let them praise the name of the Lord, for He commanded and they were created... Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all the depths; fire and hail, snow and clouds; stormy wind, fulfilling His word; mountains and all hills; fruitful trees and all cedars " (Ps.148:3-9).

(3) **We address the holy city of God** and ask her to praise the Lord, saying; "*Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion! For He has strengthened the bars of your gates; He has blessed your children within you*" (Ps.147:12,13). In

another psalm we say: "*Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God!*" (Ps. 87:3).

(4) **We address people** in our prayer, saying: "*Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples! Shout to God with the voice of triumph!*" (Ps.47:1), "*Do not put your trust in princes, nor in a son of man, in whom there is no help*" (Ps.146:3), and "*Bless the Lord, all His works....*" (Ps.103: 22).

(5) **Also the worshipper addresses himself**, saying: "*Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His Holy name. Bless the Lord O my soul and forget not all His benefits: who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases* (Ps.103:1-5). In another psalm: "*Why are you cast down, O my soul? Hope in God*" (Ps.42:5). In the Compline prayer, we say: "*Repent, O my soul, as long as you are still dwelling on earth.*"

(6) **We may even address the evil spirits** and all their powers, saying: "*Depart from me, all you workers of iniquity; for the Lord has heard the voice of my weeping. The Lord has heard my supplication, the Lord will receive my prayer. Let all my enemies be ashamed and greatly troubled; let them turn back and be ashamed suddenly*" (Ps.6:8).

Do we pray to all these? Do we pray to angels? Do we pray to nature, people and demons? God forbid! We address them in our prayer. This is acceptable; it is a Biblical teaching and taken from the spirit of the psalms which St. Paul talked about, saying "*Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm*" (1 Cor.14:26), "*speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord*" (Eph.5:19 & Col.3:16). Therefore, it is not wrong to address our mother the Virgin while we pray and this is not considered prayer.

Why Do We Have To Study The Old Testament?

By
Fr. Augustinos Hanna



Many Christians today are completely ignorant about the O.T. They try to justify their wrong situation by claiming that the O.T. is the book of the Jews (a racist book) which talks to an ancient world, and is of little benefit to them! This is not true, and God may answer them saying, *"My people are destroyed for lack of knoweldge"* (Hos.4:6).

In this article we will find some important reasons in answering the above question....

1. Jesus Christ used the O.T. as His Bible:

The O.T. books compose almost two thirds of the total number of the Scriptures. It is a big part of the Holy Bible, which contains the same inspired word of God. It was the Bible used by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. Almost uniformly the words "Scripture" or "Scriptures" in the New Testament refer to the Old Testament.

For example, the Lord Jesus was referring to the O.T., when He said:

- + *"You search the Scriptures.....for they testify of Me"* (John 5:39 & 10:35).
- + Jesus rebuked the two disciples of Emmaus, *"O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself"* (Luke 24:25-27, Luke 24: 44, 45, see also Jn.5:46, Mk.12:36).

Jesus appealed to the Scriptures as the ground for His claims and teachings. He quoted more than thirty times from the O.T., supporting the historical events, figures and doctrines, with the right interpretation. He sensed the emptiness of much of the Jewish legalism in which routine and ritual had become a worthless substitute for purity of heart, integrity, and social concern (e.g., Mark 7:1-13; Matt. 9:13; 12:7 which quote Hos. 6:6 & Matt. 23:23, see also Luke 4:21).

2. The O.T. was the Bible used by St. Paul and all the Apostles:

As a Jew and a rabbi, Saul of Tarsus knew the Old Testament very well; as a Christian and an apostle, Paul found the familiar text pregnant with fresh meaning. Like Jesus he accepted the full inspiration and authority of the Scripture. He said, *"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God"* (2 Tim. 3:16). More than hundred quotations are found in his five pillar epistles, Romans, Corinthians, Galatians and Hebrews.

The freedom with which Paul and other New Testament writers (especially Matthew) handled the Old Testament has been puzzling. (See for example also 1 Peter 1:10-12, 2 Pet. 1:21, Acts 8:32; James 1:25, 2:8-12; 5:10 - 18; John 1:17, 3:14, 5:46, 6:49 & Rev. 2:14, 5:5, 7:5-8, 10:7, 11:19, 15:3, 19:10, 22:16 & Jude 5-14).

3. The O.T. is the Foundation of the N.T. :

The N.T. is a continuation of the O.T., so that without the Old Testament we cannot understand the New Testament. The O.T. is the foundation which contains God's sacred record about the creation, the fall of man, the nations, the Patriarchs and God's dealing with the chosen people etc. That is why St. Augustine said his famous statement:

"The New is in the Old concealed, the Old is by the New revealed".

4. The Old Testament is the Store of Prophecies:

It contains hundreds of prophecies about, nations, persons, important events and the most important of all, are the prophecies about the Messiah, the Lord God and saviour Jesus Christ.

There are 330 amazing prophecies about Christ alone in the O.T., without which, it could be hard to believe His Divinity, incarnation, salvation and His whole message.

5. The O.T. is full of Types to Christ and His Kingdom:

There are more than 100 of types and symbols to Christ and His salvation and kingdom. They help a great deal to believe and better understand the mysteries of God and His great book.

6. The O.T. reveals God's Attributes, Will and Plan:

God revealed His attributes and characteristics in the Old Testament. We could learn from the O.T. books that God is One revealed in Trinity. He is Holy, Loving, Merciful, Just, Omnipotent (almighty), Omniscient (knows everything), Omnipresent (present everywhere and every time), Sovereign, Immortal, Immutable, Infallible, Perfect and Eternal. God's will and plan are the salvation of man and his eternal happiness.

7. The O.T. is a Treasure of Prayers and Spiritual Meditations:

What a great treasure the Book of Psalms is. The Orthodox Church uses the Psalms in her worship, in the Agpeya and Liturgy.

8. An Encyclopedia of Wisdom, Philosophy, Law and Knowledge:

The Books of Job and Ecclesiastes are full of great literature and philosophy, while the Book of Proverbs is rich of wisdom. Deuteronomy contains roots and advanced laws. The other books are full of historical, geographical, psychological and all kinds of useful knowledge.

9. An Incomparable Genealogy:

The O.T. is uniquely the only book in the world that has long lists of genealogy, especially in the books of Chronicles, from Adam the first head of humanity in flesh, to the second Adam, Christ who is the head in spirit. Some people consider it boring, but it is very important like the backbone of the Scriptures. It kept for us the chains of the Patriarchs, and of the priests (the sons of Levi), and proved what the prophecies declared about His coming from the seed of a woman, then of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, from the tribe of Judah and the lineage of David.

10. The O.T. contains Dogmas, Moralties and principles of Worship:

It reflects the human nature, thoughts, emotions, lusts, sins and shortcomings. It is full of values and ethics for discipline and instruction, containing dogmas and teaching how to worship God. The Tabernacle and the Temple teaches the principles of worshipping and serving God.

11. It is a Vital Part in the Life of the Christian Church:

From the very beginning of the early church, the O.T. has had a remarkable role in its worship, teaching and ministry. The fathers of the church and of the Theological School of Alexandria had translated the books of the Old Testament to the Coptic language and compared the Greek translations with the original Hebrew and interpreted them in the light of the New Testament. The church used to read the whole O.T. during the Holy Week. Now the church selected many parts of the O.T. in her readings and the Psalms as an introduction to the Gospel's reading. Also the Mid-Night Daily Praise (Tesbeha) is taken from the O.T. Therefore, studying the Old Testament is a **must** and a **great privilege**.

Words of Light

My beloved Lord and Savior,

I knew You because
You knew me first.
I loved You
because You loved me first

Give me a heart that empulses
with your love
a soul that longs for You
a mind that thinks of You always.

You are the source of beauty,
love, wisdom and perfection.

I have delayed too much
in loving You
O You, the beauty that surpasses
description.

Everyone knows You, loves you
more than himself
and
becomes ready to leave everything
in order to follow You.

Repentance

Repentance is stages and steps,
the first step is the feeling of
one's bad condition,
and his desire to change it.

The second step is leaving sin,
and that, in the life of repentance,
must be complete, continuous and
forever, without returning
to sin anymore.

That was the repentance of the
saints, so that we did not hear that
Augustine returned to sin again.
Also Moses the black, Mary of
Egypt and Pillagia never returned
to sin.

Pope Shenouda III

The Message of the Church Fathers
St. Athanasius the Great

St. Mary the Virgin



Edited by: Fr. Matthias F. Wahba

Son of God and Son of Man

Both the Apostles and the Fathers of Nicea teach that before St. Mary and before the ages, Christ was the Son and the Word of the Father. They believe too that while Son of God by nature, He is of the seed of David according to the flesh (Rom 1:3) and of the flesh of the Holy Mary. "When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman." Whereas He is the Son of God, He became the Son of man also. He took on Himself a body from the Virgin Mary, that by offering this unto the Father as a sacrifice for all, He might deliver us from the bondage of sin and death (Heb. 2:15).

A human being

Whence the Lord had to become like His brothers in all things (Heb. 2:16), the Holy Mary is truly presupposed, in order that He may take a body like us from her, and offer it for us as His own. Gabriel is sent to her as a "virgin betrothed to a man" (Luke 1:27), in order to show that Mary was really a human being. For this reason Scripture also mentions her bringing forth, and tells of his wrapping Him in swaddling clothes; and therefore too the paps which he sucked were called blessed (Luke 11:27). Gabriel said also, "Who is born of you", that Who was born might be believed to be naturally from her, in as much as by nature it is impossible for a baby to be nourished by milk and wrapped in swaddling clothes unless it has previously been naturally brought forth.

Against docetism (imaginary)

The body of the Lord, then, was a true one, and the same as our body, for Mary was our sister inasmuch as we all are born from Adam. The Lord took a body in truth and not in seeming. The Saviour, having in very truth become man, the salvation of the whole man was brought about. For if the Lord were in the body by imaginary, it follows that both the salvation

and the resurrection of man is apparent. The Lord's flesh is accessible to death, and it died, as St. Paul delivered to the Corinthians "that Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures" (I Cor. 15:3). Truly our salvation is not merely apparent, but the whole man, body and soul alike, has truly obtained salvation.

From a virgin

If the Lord fashioned His body for Himself from a virgin, the reason is not to reproach marriage, but to afford to all no small proof of His Goodhead. St. Athanasius exclaims: "Who, seeing a body proceeding forth from a virgin alone without man can fail to perceive that He Who appears in it is Maker and Lord of everybody? Which of righteous men and holy prophets recorded in the divine Scriptures, ever had his corporeal birth of a virgin only? What woman has sufficed without man for the conception of human kind? he concludes that the Lord was born of a virgin, and not like others of man and woman, to refute the imagination of some who say that the Word came upon one particular man, the Son of Mary, just as He came upon each of the prophets.

The Ever Virgin

St. Mary is called the "Ever Virgin". She remains continually virginal, being the type for whoever comes after her. Those who say that she took a husband try to exaggerate the benefits of marriage, so that virginity does not appear as a reproach for their choice of the marriage estate.

Picture of Virginity

As a virgin, St. Mary is the picture of virginity, and whoever would desire to be a virgin should consider her.

References: St. Athanasius, *To Epictetus; To Maximus, Incarnation of the word*

Fr. Matthias F. Wahba, *Sanctification in relation to Marriage according to St. Athanasius* (Ph. D. Thesis)



The Table of

Names and Order of Succession of the Coptic Popes

From St. Mark to the Present Patriarch

Pope Shenouda III

Number 117

Through

2000

Years

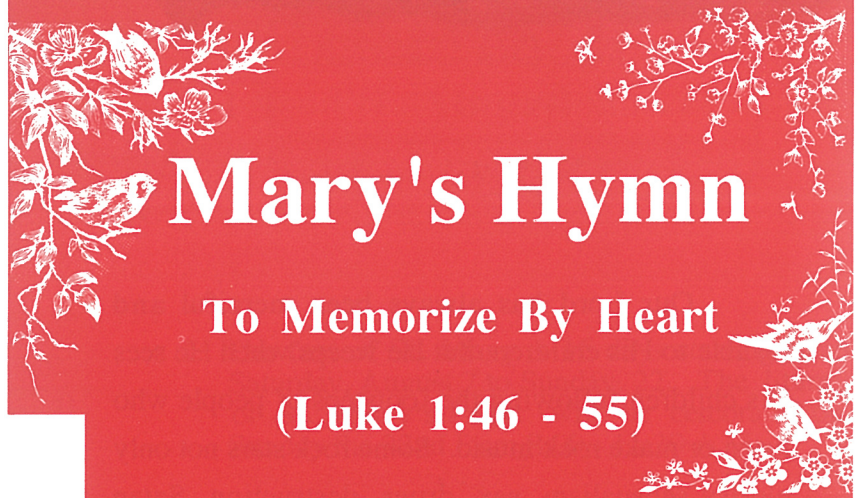


Order	Name	Duration	Order	Name	Duration
1.	St. Mark the Evangelist	7 yrs.8 mo.	39.	Abba Agathon	16 yrs. 9 mo.
2.	Abba Anianus	22 yrs. 7 mo.	40.	Abba Yoannis III	8 yrs. 1 mo.
3.	Abba Abilius	12 yrs. 9 mo.	41.	Abba Iss-haq	2 yrs. 11 mo.
4.	Abba Kardonos	10 yrs. 10 mo.	42.	Abba Someon I	7 yrs. 8 mo.
5.	Abba Primus	12 yrs. 1 mo.	43.	Abba Alexandros II	24 yrs. 9 mo.
6.	Abba Yustus	10 yrs. 10 mo.	44.	Abba Cosma I	1 yr. 4 mo.
7.	Abba Omanius	11 yrs. 3 mo.	45.	Abba Theodorus	11 yrs. 7 mo.
8.	Abba Marcianus	9 yrs. 2 mo.	46.	Abba Mikhail I	23 yrs. 6 mo.
9.	Abba Celadianus	14 yrs. 6 mo.	47.	Abba Mena I	8 yrs. 10 mo.
10.	Abba Agrippinus	11 yrs. 7 mo.	48.	Abba Yoannis IV	22 yrs. mo.
11.	Abba Yulianus	10 yrs. 1 mo.	49.	Abba Mark II	20 yrs. 3 mo.
12.	Abba Demetrius the vinedressor	22 yrs.7 mo.	50.	Abba Yacobus	10 yrs. 9 mo.
13.	Abba Heracles	16 yrs. 1 mo.	51.	Abba Simeon II	----- 7 mo.
14.	Abba Dionysius the Great	19 yrs. 9 mo.	52.	Abba Yusab I	831 A.D. 17 yrs. 11 mo.
15.	Abba Maximus	12 yrs. 7 mo.	53.	Abba Mikhail II	1 yr, 4 mo.
16.	Abba Theonas	9 yrs. 9 mo.	54.	Abba Cosma II	7 yrs. 7 mo.
17.	Abba Peter "Seal of Martyrs"	10 yrs.11 mo.	55.	Abba Shenouda I.	858 A.D. 11 yrs.3 mo.
18.	Abba Achillas	ysr. 6 mo.	56.	Abba Mikhail III	35 yrs, 1 mo.
19.	Abba Alexandros	22 yrs. 10 mo.	57.	Abba Ghobrial I	11 yrs. -----
20.	Abba Athanasius the Apostolic	46 yrs.--mo.	58.	Abba Cosma III	12 yrs. -----
21.	Abba Peter II	5 yrs. 9 mo.	59.	Abba Macari I	20 yrs. -----
22.	Abba Timotheos I	6 yrs. 5 mo.	60.	AbbaTheophanius	4 yrs, 8 mo.
23.	Abba Theophilos	27 yrs. 2 mo.	61.	Abba Mena II	17 yrs, 11 mo.
24.	Abba Cyril "Pillar of Faith"	31 yrs. 8 mo.	62.	Abba Abraam I	967 A.D. 3 yrs, 6 mo.
25.	Abba Dioscorus the Great	14 yrs. 2 mo.	63.	Abba Philotheos I	24 yrs, 7 mo.
26.	Abba Timotheos II	22 yrs. 11 mo.	64.	Abba Zakareya I	1004 A.D. 27 yrs, 11 mo.
27.	Abba Peter III	8 yrs. 3 mo.	65.	Abba Shenouda II.	1032 A.D. 14 yrs,7 mo.
28.	Abba Athanasius II	6 yrs. 10 mo.	66.	Abba Christodolus	22 yrs, 8 mo.
29.	Abba Yoannis I	8 yrs. 7 mo.	67.	Abba Kyrullos II	14 yrs, 6 mo.
30.	Abba Yoannis II	11 yrs. mo.	68.	Abba Mikhail IV	9 yrs, 7 mo.
31.	Abba Dioscorus II	2 yrs. 4 mo.	69.	Abba Macari II	27 yrs, 1 mo.
32.	Abba Timotheos III	17 yrs. 4 mo.	70.	Abba Ghabrial II	14 yrs, 3 mo.
33.	Abba Theodosius I	31 yrs. 4 mo.	71.	Abba Mikhail V	----- 9 mo.
34.	Abba Peter IV	2 yrs. mo.	72.	Abba Yoannis V	18 yrs, 10 mo.
35.	Abba Damianos	35 yrs. 11 mo.	73.	Abba Marcos III	22 yrs, 6 mo.
36.	Abba Anastasius	12 yrs. 6 mo.	74.	Abba Yoannis VI	26 yrs, 11 mo.
37.	Abba Andronicus	6 yrs. mo.	75.	Abba Kyrillos III	7 yrs, 9 mo.
38.	Abba Demetrius I	39 yrs. mo.	76.	Abba Athanasius III	11 yrs. 1 mo.

Order	Name	Duration
77.	Abba Ghabriel III	2 yrs, 2 mo.
78.	Abba Yoannis VII	20 yrs. --- mo.
79.	Abba Theodosius II	6 yrs, 7 mo.
80.	Abba Yoannis VIII	20 yrs, --- mo.
81.	Abba Yoannis IX	6 yrs, 5 mo.
82.	Abba Benjamin II	11 yrs, 8 mo.
83.	Abba Petros V	8 yrs, 6 mo.
84.	Abba Marcos IV	14 yrs, 5 mo.
85.	Abba Yoannis X	6 yrs, 2 mo.
86.	Abba Gabriel IV	8 yrs, 3 mo.
87.	Abba Matthew I	30 yrs, 5 mo.
88.	Abba Gabriel V	19 yrs, 8 mo.
89.	Abba Yoannis XI	24 yrs, 11 mo.
90.	Abba Matthew II	13 yrs, ----mo.
91.	Abba Gabriel VI	8 yrs, 10 mo.
92.	Abba Mikhail VI	1 yr. -----
93.	Abba Yoannis XII	3 yrs, 4 mo.
94.	Abba Yoannis XIII	40 yrs, 10 mo.
95.	Abba Gabriel VII 1526 A.D.	43 yrs ---- mo.
96.	Abba Yoannis XIV	15 yrs, 4 mo.
97.	Abba Gabriel VIII	11 yrs,---- mo.
98.	Abba Marcos V	10 yrs,---- mo.
99.	Abba Yoannis XV	10 yrs,---- mo.
100.	Abba Mattheos III	10 yrs,---- mo.
101.	Abba Marcos VI	10 yrs,---- mo.
102.	Abba Mattheos IV	14 yrs, 8 mo.
103.	Abba Yoannis XVI	42 yrs, 3 mo.
104.	Abba Petros VI	7 yrs, 7 mo.
105.	Abba Yoannis XVII	18 yrs, 3 mo.
106.	Abba Marcos VII	24 yrs, --- mo.
107.	Abba Yoannis XVIII	6 yrs, 7 mo.
108.	Abba Marcos VIII	13 yrs, 2 mo.
109.	Abba Petros VII 1810 A.D.	42 yrs, 3 mo.
110.	Abba Kyrillos IV 1854 A.D.	6 yrs,8 mo.
111.	Abba Demetrius II	7 yrs, 7 mo.
112.	Abba Kyrillos V 1874 A.D.	53 yrs,9 mo.
113.	Abba Yoannis XIX 1929 A.D.	13 yrs. 6 mo.
114.	Abba Macarios III 1944 A.D.	1 yr. 6 mo.
115.	Abba Yusab II 1946 A.D.	10 yrs, 5 mo.
116.	Abba Kyrillos VI.1959 A.D.	11yrs,10 mo.
117.	Abba Shenouda III 1971A.D.	May God grant him long life.



My spirit has rejoiced
in God my Savior.



Mary's Hymn

To Memorize By Heart

(Luke 1:46 - 55)

"And Mary said: 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.

For He who is mighty has done great things for me. And Holy is His name.

And His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty.

He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.' "

Rock Music

Where from? Where to?

By Joseph Messiha
St. George Youth Magazine, Australia

Our Lord has always been merciful and lovable to His children, but He weeps when He sees His children following the footsteps of people who listen or make rock music. Some rock stars not only glorify sensualism, sex, drugs, destruction, Satan and death, but also blatantly defame Jesus in performances of unprecedented blasphemy.

Prince Pogers Nelson, for instance, sings indecent songs, he surrounds himself with alluring companions and simulates sexual conducts on stage, the details of which are unprintable.

Madonna Ciccone is a sex symbol for many teenagers, girls enthusiastically copy her dress and manner. Madonna often wears large crosses or crucifixes, for which she has a blasphemous explanation.

Many people get hurt as they go to see these singers perform, an example of this is when Michael Jackson was giving a concert at Aintree race track, Liverpool, England, in September 1988, 3000 people were injured, with 40 of them admitted to hospital, a large proportion of the 125 000 fans were hysterical.

Also many rock stars are affected by their music, here is a summary of some of these people:

- * Brian Jones of the Rolling stones drowned in his swimming pool, apparently as a result of too much alcohol and an overdose,
- * Jimi Hendrix choked to death on his own vomit after drinking alcohol and taking sleeping pills.
- * Janis Joplin, Queen of Rock, died from an overdose of heroin.
- * Ron Mckernan of The Grateful Dead, died a slow death as a result of alcoholism.



- * Marc Bolan, T-Rex lead Guirarist and songwriter, who attributed his success to black magic, died in a mysterious car accident.
- * Keith Moon of the Who, committed suicide.
- * Elvis Priesley died as a result of drug abuse and over eating.
- * Sid Vicious of the Sex Pistols overdosed on heroin after stabbing his girlfriend to death.
- * John Bonham of Led Zeplin choked to death on his own vomit after drinking 40 glasses of Vodka.
- * John Lenon of the Beatles, who sold his soul to the devil for the success of his group, was shot dead by a fan.

Jesus the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, including these abominations, intercedes continually as the great High Priest at the throne of God for the salvation of our decieved youth, and through His out pouring Blood He still prolongs the time of grace. He is calling us to help Him reach out and save souls.

Today anyone who wants to intercede for young people must break from every sin. It is a question of salvation, not only for us, but also for many other souls. And in eternity we will be held responsible before God. The Lord has shown us in His Word that judgment follows where there is not repentance of sin. Therefore, it is a matter of utmost urgency that we take our sins seriously in order to help save many from hell; the time of grace is running out.

RECONCILIATION

Church News
August 93

By Fr. Georgios Atalla

The Lord Jesus Christ mentioned in His Sermon on the mount "... leave your gift there before the Alter ... first be reconciled to your brother." (Mat 5:23,24). This means that he says: "Let my service be interrupted so that your love may continue, since this is also a sacrifice, your being reconciled to your brother. The Lord's wish is to point out that He values charity, and considers it to be the greatest sacrifice, in a way that without it, He does not receive even your gift. Secondly, He is imposing such a necessity of reconciliation as admits of no excuse. This manifests that the Alter does not receive those who are at enmity with one another.

Reconciliation must take place, weather justly or unjustly, but merely, even when you remember that your brother has something or anything against you. In this case The Lord asks you that you ought not to postpone or protract the enmity, since He also was justly angered with us, yet He gave Himself for us to be slain, not inputting those trespasses (2Cor 5:19).

It is also noticed from The Lord's words that how he hurries him to reconcile, for nothing so much turns our lives upside down as delay and postponing in the performance of our good works. In fact this has often caused us to loose all. Therefore St. Paul says in this case: "Do not let the sun go down on your wrath" (Eph 4:26)

For reconciliation, do not ask others to apologize, do not reproach and blame, do not feel that you are more justified, accept the others as they are, and give excuses for their faults and trespasses. Remember always Lord's saying that you shall be in danger of judgment when you are angry with your brother (Mat 5:22) and that if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses (Mat 6:15). Reconciliation means that you both forgive and forget trespasses of others.

1. **The fast of St. Mary** is 15 days starting from Saturday, August 7 to Sunday 22. The liturgy of **St. Mary's Feast** will be celebrated on Sunday the 22nd from 8:00 - 11:30 A.M.
2. During St. Mary's fast, there will be two week-day liturgies, on Wednesday and Friday from 8:00 - 10:15 A.M. During the second week there will be Revival Meetings the last four nights from August 18 to 21, at 7:30 - 9:00 P.M, with morning liturgies from Wednesday, August 19 to Sunday 22.
3. **The Feast of Transfiguration** is on Wednesday 19, there will be a liturgy and vespers. The story of the Transfiguration is found in Matthew 17, Mark 9 & Luke 9.
4. **The Papal Visit** of H.H. Pope Shenouda III, is expected, God willing, to start in Los Angeles on Monday, August 23 afternoon. It will be a short visit for only 3 days, in which he will visit St. Antony Monastery and spend 2 days in the youth Annual Convention at Arrowhead, then proceed to Australia on August 27.
5. **The Youth 4th Annual Conference** will be held in Arrowhead Springs, CA from August 22 to August 28.

This year the convention will be blessed by the visit of H.H. Pope Shenouda III for the first time. The Pope will talk to the University students on 25th, and to High-school students on the 26th. Four more Bishops will also attend the Convention, H.G. Bishop Moussa, H.G. Bishop Thomas- as usual- H.G. Bishop Serapion and H.G. Bishop Karas, besides all the West Coast Clergy.

No visitors will be allowed for security reasons.

6. **The Youth Summer Club**, during August will be 3 days, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 5 - 10 P.M. and will close at the end of August.

Bible quizzes (II)

(Rewards for best answers)

1. What's Gone Is Gone!

"What's gone is gone!" Sometimes, but not always. Supply the missing word(s) in the following verses.

1. "All we like.....have gone astray."
2. "And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that.....had gone out of Him,"
3. "You see that you are accomplishing nothing. Look the.....has gone after Him!"
4. "For lo, the winter is past, the.....is over and gone".
5. "When the..... is gone out of a man, he passes through waterless places seeking rest, but he finds none."
6. "Give us some of your..... for our lamps are going out."
7. "I am gone like a shadow at.....; I am shaken off like a locust."

2. Fasting

Fasting was in both Old and New Testaments.

Jesus drew a distinction between true and false fasting (Matt.6:16-18). Can you complete these sentences?

1. Saul ordered fasting before battle with the".....".
2. Valiant men fasted seven days after burying.....".
3. David and his men fasted for his friend.....".
4. Ahab fasted when confronted with his sin by.....".
5. Esther wanted to call the Jews to fast through.....".
6. Fasting forty days in the wilderness was.....".
7. Cornelius fasted before sending for.....".

3. Heaven

Jesus said, "Because I live, you will live also" (John 14:19). Heaven is the name the Bible gives to this place where we will live with Him. Can you supply the missing word in the following verses about heaven?

1. "Lay up for yourselves.....in heaven."
2. "I saw.....fall like lightning from heaven."
3. "Rejoice that your names are.....in heaven."
4. "Was theof John from heaven or from men?"
5. "I saw the.....descend as a dove from heaven."
6. "I Am the.....which came down from heaven."
7. "Do not.....either by heaven or by earth."

(Answers in the next issue)

Answers of July's Quizzes

I. Animals & Birds

1. Camel, Matthew 19:24
2. Owl, Psalm 102:6
3. Bulls, Psalm 22:12,13
4. Lambs, Wolves, Serpents & Pigeons (Matt. 10:16)
5. Lion, Judges 14:8
6. Apes & Peacocks, 1 Kings 10:22
7. Bear & cubs, 2 Samuel 17:8
8. Lions, Psalm 104:21
9. Pelican, Psalm 102:6
10. Foxes, the little foxes (Song 2:15)

II. Body Building

1. Head, Matthew 5:36
2. Arm, Job 40:9
3. Body, Gal.6:17
4. Legs, Isaiah 47:2
5. Fingers & neck Prov. 7:2,3
6. Knee, Genesis 41: 43
7. Tongue, James 3:6

III. Do You Know this Church?

1. Jezebel/Thyatira, Revelation 2:20
2. Faithful/Philadelphia, Rev. 3:7-13
3. Love/Ephesus, Rev.2:1-7
4. Second/ Smyrna, Rev.2:8-11
5. Nothing/Laodicea, Rev. 3:14-22
6. Satan's/Pergamum, Rev.2:12-17
7. Alive/Sardis, Rev.3:1-6

Smile & Laugh

1. Wife: "There's trouble with the car. It has water in the carburetor."

Husband: "Water in the carburetor? That's ridiculous."

Wife: "I tell you the car has water in the carburetor."

Husband: "You don't even know what a carburetor is. Where is the car?"

Wife: "In the swimming pool."

2. Q - Why is six afraid of seven?

A - Because seven, "ate" nine!

3. Doc, you've got to help me," the patient pleaded with his physician. "I'm suffering from amnesia. What should I do?"

"Go home," the doctor replied, "and forget about it".

4. Most of us in line at the bakery were in a hurry to get to work. The woman being waited on, however, seemed to have all the time in the world. She asked many questions, but purchased nothing. Finally she pointed to some rolls and asked, "How much?"

- Twenty cents each," answered the patient clerk.

- "Are they hard or soft?"

- "Medium."

- "Do they use them for hamburgers?"

- "They do," replied the bakery worker, whose nerves were beginning to fray.

- "If I took two home, could I put ham on them?"

- "Ma'am," said the clerk, "as long as you pull the blinds, you can do whatever you like with them."

5. On his way home from work, my father, a music lover, was listening to a tape of Mozart in his car when he was pulled over by a state trooper. As Piano Concerto No. 23 was softly playing, the officer told Dad that he had been speeding. Explaining why this couldn't be true, my father said he doesn't hear the whole last movement.



When dad showed the trooper that there were several minutes left on the tape, the trooper let him go.

6. A physician went to heaven and met God, who granted him one question. So the physician asked, "Will health-care reform ever occur?"

- "I have good news and bad news" God replied. "The answer is yes, but not in my lifetime."

7. A woman in our town called the police department and complained, "People are speeding on our street, endangering the lives of children walking to school."

The next morning, she herself was stopped for speeding. "But, officer," she said, "I'm the person who called yesterday to tell the police about these speeders."

"Well then, ma'am," he replied, handing her a ticket, "you should be happy we caught one."

8. A Czech man's eyesight was failing, so he decided to see an optometrist. The doctor showed the patient a standard eye chart that displayed the letters:

C V K P N W X S C Z E R Y

and asked if he could read it. "Read it?" the Czech replied. "I know him!"

Symbols of St. Mary In Our Coptic Hymns

By
Dr. Wafaa Michael

The Tabernacle:

According to the book of Exodus (40:35), Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle because the glory of the Lord filled it. In the sayings of the early church fathers, St. Mary is the true tabernacle, where God Himself dwelt among His people.

2. Jacob's Ladder:

The ladder Jacob saw in his dream which was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it (Gen.28:12), was a type of Christ's incarnation and also a symbol of St. Mary of whom Jesus descended from heaven to be born of her on earth for the salvation of the world.

3. The Ark of Covenant:

St. Mary is assimilated to the Ark of the Covenant, made of incorruptible wood, inlaid with gold inside and out. The bearing of the Ark simulated the joy of the people. St. Mary, the true Ark became the cause of rejoicing of all humans.

4. The Vessel of Manna:

St. Mary was not merely a vessel but the hidden Manna received from her body.

5. The Golden Lampstand:

She became superior to all the heavenly creatures because she bore the True Light that came into the world.

6. The Burning Bush:

The bush which Moses saw in the wilderness was flaming, but its branches were not consumed, was a symbol, on one hand, of the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ and explains the unity between His Divinity and His Humanity, and on the other hand, a symbol of St. Mary, the spotless virgin, for the Word of God came and dwelt in her womb and was incarnated through her. The fire of His divinity did not consume her and she remained a virgin even after the miraculous childbirth by the Holy Spirit.

7. Aaron's Rod:

The lifeless rod blossomed forth (Numbers 17:8) as a symbol of St. Mary who brought forth "Life", without being touched by a man (Lk.1:34).

8. Aaron's Senser:

The senser of Aaron also was a type of virgin Mary, because it carried the burnt coal which indicated to the Fire of the Deity which dwelt in her womb, and through her the pleasant aroma of the incense (Christ) was spread out.

9. Ezekiel's Eastern Gate of the sanctuary:

"Then he brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary which faces toward the East, but it was shut. And the Lord said to me, 'This gate shall be shut; it shall not be opened, and no man shall enter by it, because the Lord God of Israel has entered by it; therefore it shall be shut'" (Ezek.44:1, 2). This gate indicates to the ever virgin Mary and her intact perpetual virginity.

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Congratulations

1. The Church congratulates Mary Augustinos Sarkis and her groom Albert R. Sarkis for their marriage, on August 1st, wishing them a blessed, happy, and fruitful long life.

2. The Church also congratulates Sylvia Michael and her groom Osama Ragheb, who were married on the same day, August 1st., and wish them the best of luck and a happy life built on Christ the Rock of Ages.

3. Congratulations to our blessed daughter Norma Saher Michael and her fiance Atef William Nessim for their engagement. The Dear Lord completes their marriage with His heavenly blessings.

4. The Church congratulates P.O. Hany A. Hanna and his fiancée Cynthia Hoag for their engagement. May God bless them and complete their marriage according to His goodness.



What Money Can Buy

By Fr. Georgios Atalla

Money will buy:

A Bed but not Sleep

Books but not Brains

Food but not Appetite

Finery but not Beauty

A House but not a Home

Medicine but not Health

Luxuries but not Culture

Amusement but not Happiness

A Crucifix but not Savior

A Church but not Heaven

What Money can't buy,

Jesus Christ can give freely

without Charge.

Predestination or Free Will !

Once a group of theologians gathered to discuss the doctrines of predestination and free will. When the argument became heated, the dissidents split into two groups. One man, unable to make up his mind which group to join, slipped into the predestination crowd. Challenged as to why he was there, he replied, "I came of my own free will."

The group retorted, "Free will! You don't belong here!"

So he retreated to the opposing group and when asked why he switched responded, "I was sent here."

"Get out," they stormed. "You can't join us unless you come of your own free will!" The confused man was left out in the cold!

Ask the average twentieth-century Christian whether he sees himself in the predestination crowd versus the free-will crowd and he will probably join the man who was left in the cold! Our age is not given to serious theological reflection. In a day of pop religion, speculation about the freedom of the will and predestination seems pointless. Yet to the greatest theological minds in the history of the church, one's answer to this question determined whether or not he understood the gospel.

That is what we will discuss, by the grace of God, in more detail in the next issue.