

كنيسة مارمرقس

بمونتريال - كندا

١٠ طوبه ١٧٢٥



بطريركية الأقباط
الأرثوذكس

١٨ يناير ٢٠٠٩

COPTIC ORTHODOX
PATRIARCHATE

January 18, 2009



ST. MARK CHURCH

Montreal, Canada

Tobah 10, 1725

Message of His Holiness Pope Shenouda III On the occasion of the Feast of Nativity January 2009

My brethren and children in the lands of immigration, clergy and laity

Peace to you from the Lord and grace, with my greetings to you during the Glorious Feast of Nativity. Wishing you in these occasions a new holy life that is better than what it was in the previous year.

I wish to say to you that the birth of Christ was an annunciation of salvation, as the angel said to the shepherds **"I bring you good tidings of great joy ... for there is born to you this day ... a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord."** (Luke 2:10-11) Therefore, in His birth, His name was called Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.

This salvation was promised by the Lord since the beginning of creation, when God promised our mother Eve that her offspring will crush the head of the serpent (that is, Satan). This matter was to be fulfilled through the Redemption. People needed to be prepared to accept the thought of redemption. This needed time and passed through stages:

- ❖ The first matter was that sin revealed to man his nakedness. For God to cover this nakedness, He saw that the fig leaves were insufficient, so He made for them tunics of skin and clothed them with these. Of course, these tunics of skin were a result of a sacrifice. Thus man knew that sin causes nakedness, and that sacrifice results in covering.
- ❖ After this, people learnt about the offering of sacrifices, and the first sacrifice was the one offered by Abel from the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. Sacrifices and offerings continued to be presented and they were for God alone, consumed by fire as a sign of pleasing God's heart.
- ❖ They learned to offer the 'Passover,' and by the sprinkling of its blood on their doors, they were saved from death according to the saying of the Lord **"...and when I see the blood, I will pass over you..."** (Exodus 12:13). The Passover was a symbol of the transfer from death to life, as it also symbolizes the Lord Christ according to the writings of Paul the Apostle (I Corinthians 5:7). Through the Passover, they knew the meaning of redemption, that is, "the innocent dies for the guilty."

Then the offerings were explained to them in the Book of Leviticus; so they used to place their hands upon the sacrifice to indicate that this sacrifice is on their behalf, and confess their sins over its head to indicate that the sacrifice carries these sins for them. The summarized concept of the offering was that an innocent being without sin, carries the sin of the guilty one and dies instead of them. And this is Redemption. Many generations passed, and this concept was fixed in their minds, that the Redeemer would die for them carrying their sins. They understood that He must be a Man, for the judgment of death that we inherited was issued against man.

- ❖ What was left was the preparation of the pure Virgin from whom the Redeemer was to be born according to the prophecy of Isaiah (7:14). It was necessary that she is a humble person, able to bear this glory that God is born from her without her heart being elevated. It was also to prepare that righteous elderly man who would protect and look after the Virgin Mary, and to live with her as a Virgin whose pregnancy was from the Holy Spirit.
- ❖ Then it was a must to prepare 'the angel' who will prepare the way before the Redeemer by returning people to repentance and preparing them by baptism. Then to prepare the apostles who will spread the faith in the Redeemer.
- ❖ Then it was necessary to set up the time that all these preparations would be fulfilled together. This is what the Apostle called **"the fullness of time."** (Galatians 4:4) Then it was necessary that a universal language be widespread by which evangelism can be fulfilled in all parts of the lands. This was the Greek language, to which the Old Testament was translated in the Septuagint.

Thus, the fullness of time came in which the Lord Christ was Incarnate from the Virgin Mary and the Holy Spirit; and He was crucified for us carrying our sins, died for us and resurrected.

May the Feast of Nativity be joyous, a blessing and a renewal of life to all. Be well in the Lord, absolved from His Holy Spirit.

His Holiness Pope Shenouda III
January 2009

Church News and Schedule by telephone:

514 274-1589

Church's website www.stmarkmontreal.ca

For visitation, please contact any of the fathers and leave a message

Fr. Pishoy Saad: 514-274-6119 fpishoy@stmarkmontreal.ca

Fr. Mikhail Aziz: 514-278-3859 fmikhail@stmarkmontreal.ca

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For church information mark@stmarkmontreal.ca

Service schedule

مواعيد الخدمة

+ Confessions	Tue	4 - 7½	PM	+ إعرافات
+ The Holy Liturgy of the Feast of Cana of Galilee	Wed	5½ - 7½	AM	+ قداس عيد عرس قانا الجليل
+ Prayer Meeting	Thu	7½	PM	+ إجتماع صلاة
+ St. Monica and St. Augustine group meeting	Thu	8 - 9	PM	+ إجتماع أسرة القديسة مونيكا والقديس أغسطينوس
+ The Holy Liturgy	Fri	8 - 10	AM	+ القداس الإلهي
+ Confessions	Fri	7½ - 10	PM	+ إعرافات
+ Youth Meeting	Fri	8 - 9½	PM	+ إجتماع الشباب
+ Vespers prayer, sermon and praises	Sat	7½	PM	+ عشية، العظة، التسبحة
+ The Holy Liturgy	Sun	8½ - 11½	AM	+ القداس الإلهي
+ Sunday School	Sun	12 - 1	PM	+ مدارس الأحد
+ Meeting of the Eritrean brethren	Sun	1 - 2	PM	+ إجتماع الأخوة الإرتريين
+ Service meeting	Sun	2 - 3	PM	+ إجتماع الخدمة

أخبار الكنيسة

١. يوافق يوم الأربعاء عيد عرس قانا الجليل - والقداس من ٣٠،٥ - ٣٠،٧ صباحاً.

٢. يقام مؤتمر الخدام يومى السبت والأحد القادمين.

٣. بعد عشية السبت يقام إجتماع درس الكتاب من سفر اللاويين.

٤. تمت سيامة الشماسة: مايكل مجدى عدلى وإيمانويل بدوى بيد نيافة الأنبا أباكير - ليبارك

الرب حياتهما.

٥. يقوم نادي الملائكة برحلة tubing إلى St. Jean Matha يوم السبت الموافق ٧ فبراير.

للحجز رجاء الإتصال (514 945 9906).

٦. تتوقف الأسبوع القادم الأنشطة التالية : دروس الألحان والقبطى وكل من نادى الملائكة ونادى أبناء النور.

CHURCH NEWS

1. The feast of Cana of Galilee will be next Wednesday and the Holy Liturgy will be from 5:30 till 7:30 a.m.
2. Servants' convention will take place next Saturday and Sunday.
3. Bible Study next Saturday will be from the book of Leviticus.
4. His grace Bishop Abakir ordained the deacons Michael Magdy Adly and Emmanuel Badawi, may the Lord bless their lives.
5. Angels club is organizing a tubing trip to St. Jean Matha on Saturday 7 February. For reservation please call (514 945 9906).
6. The following activities will stop next Saturday: Coptic hymn classes, angels club and sons of light club.