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كنيسة السيدة العذراء القبطية الأرثوذكسية بشيكاغو

## THE TRANSFIGURATION

† “He took Peter, John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. And as He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening. Then behold, two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah.... Peter and those with him saw His glory and the two men who stood with Him.



التجلى

## التجلى

† A cloud came and overshadowed them and they were fearful as they entered the cloud. Then a voice came out of the cloud saying: 'This is My beloved Son, hear Him.' And when the voice had ceased Jesus was found alone.”  
 (Luke 9:28-36)

✠ وعند المساء صعد يسوع الى الجبل آخذاً معه ثلاثة من تلاميذه. وهناك ركع وصلى، وبينما كان يصلى تغيرت هيئته قدامهم وأضاء وجهه كالشمس وابتضت ملابسه كالثلج واحاطته هالة من المجد المتألق... وفي ظلام الليل لمع شخصه المجد امام تلاميذه والى جانبه كانت شخصيتان كريمتان تحفان به، هما موسى وايليا. وفي السكون الشامل تحدثا معه عن موته الوشيك في اورشليم والذي كان قد انبأ به تلاميذه.  
 ✠ وعندما بدأ هذا النظر ان يزول واوشك الزائران ان ينصرفا، اذا بطرس يقول وهو مبهور "يا رب حسن ان نكون ههنا... اتشاء ان تصنع هنا ثلاث مظنل...". لم يجاب يسوع على كلمات بطرس اذ بينما هو يتكلم ظللتهم سحابة نيرة وصوت منها يقول "هذا هو ابني الحبيب له اسمعوا" فخافوا جداً وسقطوا من صدمة هذا الصوت الرهيب وقوة الضوء العجيب، ولكن يسوع سيدهم جاء اليهم ولمسهم وقال "قوموا لاتخافوا" وعندئذ وجدوا ان كل شئ قد انتهى، فالسحابة المضيئة قد اختفت والوجوه النيرة قد مضت، واصبحوا وحيدين مع يسوع كما رآه قبلاً راکماً يصلى.  
 ✠ لقد اراد الرب ان يعلمهم ان الجلجثة لا تقل في معناها عن التجلى وانه سوف لن يتحركهم في سحابة مجد ولكن بذراعين ممدودتين بألم على الشجرة الملعونة، وليس بين موسى وايليا، ولكن بين لصين. لقد اراهم لحة من مجده حتى تتحصن قلوبهم ويتقوى ايمانهم فلا يتزعزعون عندما يرونه يهان ويصلب.  
 (لوقا ٩: ٢٨-٢٦)

# OUR VALUES AND BELIEFS AS ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS

## ST. MARY'S Symbols and Signs In The Old Testament

† It is easy to see why the Virgin Mary is thought of as: "More honorable than the Cherubim and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim."

**T**he Old Testament tells us almost everything about the coming of the Messiah. It includes so many symbols and signs relating to St. Mary as the chosen one by the Most High to be the "Mother of God" incarnate.

A few of the symbols and signs are:

### **The Golden Censer:**

† During the censuring of the Altar in the Divine Liturgy, we sing, "This is the censer of pure gold, bearing the amber in the hands of Aaron the priest raising incense upon the Altar." The censer of gold is a symbol to St. Mary, its amber is our Savior. The censer's gold is pure just as she was. For her purity she was chosen to be the "Mother of God."

† The censer also holds fire without being burned that which carries the incense represents St. Mary which carried Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **The Burning Bush:** (Exodus 3)

† The Lord appeared to Moses in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. The bush burned with fire but it was not consumed. The bush was a sign of St. Mary, and the fire was a sign of the Holy Spirit. As St. Luke puts it, "The Holy Spirit will come upon thee and the power of the Most High will overshadow thee." (Luke 1:35).

† St. Mary was not consumed by the Holy Fire, but instead was purified and prepared to give birth to God incarnate.



### **Aaron's Rod:** (Numbers 17)

† The Lord spoke to Moses, "Get twelve rods, a rod from each father's house,... write each man's name on his rod and you shall write Aaron's name on the rod of Levi. Then you shall place them in the tabernacle... where I meet with you. And it shall be that the rod of the man whom I choose will blossom."

† Moses spoke to the children of Israel and each of their leaders gave him a rod... Moses placed the rods before the Lord in the tabernacle and behold, the rod of Aaron, had miraculously sprouted and put forth buds, had produced blossoms and yielded ripe almonds.

Aaron rod is a symbol to the Virgin St. Mary who gave birth to Jesus Christ in a miraculous way.

### ***Abouna said to me:***

" Son, on the 7th of this month will start St. Mary's fast, it will last for 15 days, at the end of which we celebrate her assumption. You ought to keep it, remembering that fasting is a step on the road of emancipation and an indispensable support in your struggle against selfish desires."



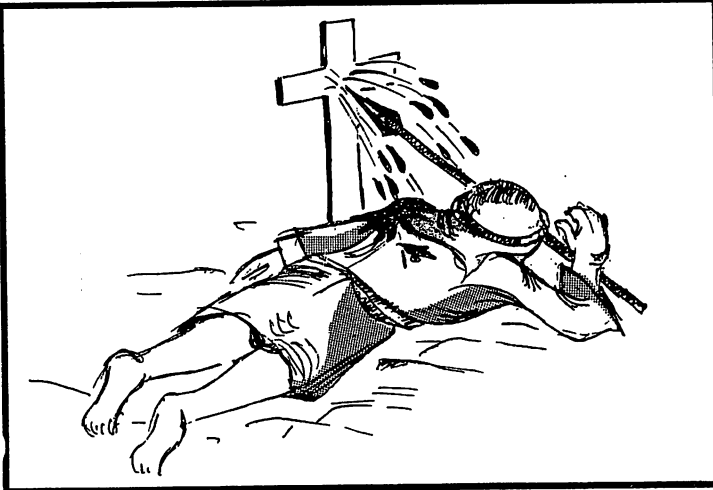
## FELIX and THE CROSS PIERCER

"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God" (1 Corinthians 1:18)

On Misra 14th (August 20th) our church commemorates the great miracle that took place some 1500 years ago, at the time of Pope Theophilus the 23rd.

† There lived in the City of Alexandria, Egypt two Christians, John and Judas. One day, John met his friend Judas who appeared unhappy. He asked him: "why are you looking so sad?" "I can't help living in poverty and need. How miserable I am?" said Judas. John tried to sooth and comfort him saying, "This should not cause you all this aggravation; a Christian ought to thank God in all conditions". "If there is a loving God, why does He allow suffering. I can't endure suffering any more." said Judas. Judas then left his friend John and went to see a wealthy Jew, Felix by name, and asked to work for him. Felix made it clear to Judas that he would not hire him unless he denies his faith. Judas yielded to Felix's demand.

† It was not before long when Felix was presenting Judas to the Synagogue. Before the Synagogue Judas agreed to spit on the cross, and pierce it with a spear, and they presented him with a cross and a spear. Judas did as he was ordered to do. When he pierced the cross, immediately blood and water came out of it and poor Judas fell dead with the spear in his hand.



† It happened that Felix had a blind daughter. He wiped her eyes with the blood that came out of the cross and her vision was instantly restored. Thus he believed in Christ with all the members of his household.

† Many of those who witnessed the miracle believed too. And they went to Pope Theophilus, the 23rd Patriarch of Alexandria and were all baptized in the name of Christ.

### صوم السيدة العذراء

يبدأ هذا الصوم في السابع من اغسطس ومدته ١٥ يوماً، ولم يكن ضمن الاصوام المعروفة في الكنيسة في القرون الاولى ولم يرد ذكره الا في مستهل القرن الثالث عشر باعتباره صوماً خاصاً بالعذاري والراهبات، يصمنه كسند للطهارة والتبتل. وبعد فترة وجيزة بدأ هذا الصوم يأخذ صورة اكثر قوة واصبحت له مكانة كبيرة بين اصوامنا، وينتظره الجميع بترقب واشتياق جاعلين من العذراء مريم ليس فقط المثل الاعلى لحياة الطهارة والتبتل بل وايضا الشفيح المؤمن لنوال البركة والنعمة من الله. والعجيب في هذا الصوم الذي وضعته الكنيسة في الدرجة الرابعة، انه بلغ في حرارته والالتزام به على المستوى الجماعي الى الدرجة الاولى، فالكمل يصومه عن رغبة ودون تشويق او تشجيع من الكنيسة. والسرف في ذلك هو شفيحته. فالعذراء شفيحة مقتدرة لكل من يلتجئ اليها، وصومها مدخل ايماني لذوي الحاجات والاعتاب ومفعوله قوى واكيد بضمان حب رب المجد لها ولنا.

وصوم العذراء مرتبط بعيدها، فأوله اول شهر مسرى وعيد السيدة فصح يقع في ١٦ مسرى وفيه نحتفل بصعود جسدها الطاهر الى السماء، الذي هو بمثابة مقدمة ايمانية مشجعة لتفوسنا، نتنظر على هداها مجي الرب الذي سوف يحيى اجسادنا ويقيها حياة افضل.

هذه النشرة ترسل مجاناً لمن يطلبها  
بعنوان الكنيسة المذكور.

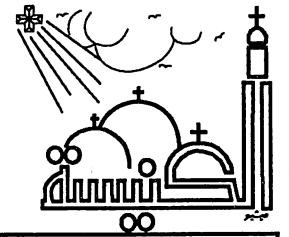


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On the 13th of Misra (August 19th), our Church celebrates the Transfiguration Feast. That day on which Heaven showed a glimpse of our Lord's Glory and announced His Divine Nature, bidding us to obey Him. (Mark 9:7).

في اليوم الثالث عشر من مسرى (١٩ أغسطس)  
تحتفل كنيسةنا بعيد التجلي، ذلك اليوم الذي أظهرت  
السماء لحة من مجد المسيح وشهدت بالتوهيته أمره  
إيانا بطاعته قائلة «هذا هو ابني الحبيب له اسمعوا»  
(مر ٩:٧)



## SHINING and DAZZLING

✦ How wonderful our Lord Jesus Christ must have looked... shining and dazzling. His garment became shining brighter even than dazzling snow. His face was changed and did shine as the sun. The disciples saw Moses and Elijah and heard them talking with Him.

✦ Suddenly a huge cloud swept over them. The disciples were terrified and fell flat on their faces. Then every thing changed, they felt someone touching them on the shoulder. They looked up and saw Jesus only before them, just the same as of old, no longer shining.

### What Had Happened?

On the mountain, Jesus was changed into that "form" in which he was before he became Man. He laid aside this form when he came to earth, as St. Paul puts it, " Jesus made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a servant, and coming in the likeness of men" (Philippians 2:7)

### Why Had Jesus Been Changed?

✦ Just for a moment on the mountain, He reassumed this form of majesty and glory to show the disciples the reality of His Kingship which one day would be established. St. Peter expressed it saying, " For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the excellent glory. "This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased".....and we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the mountain." (2Peter 1:17,18)

### Why Had Moses And Elijah Appeared?

✦ The disciples need not be discouraged . Jesus was

"His face shone like the sun and His clothes became as white as the light." (Mark 9:7)

the promised Messiah despite of the cross, He would ultimately reign. They had thought the law and the prophets had witnessed to the coming of a Messiah who would be Ruler of an earthly Kingdom. Now Moses and Elijah appear on the mount, and talk with Jesus about His death (Luke 9:31). Thus teaching the disciples that the idea of a suffering Messiah is no new thought, but was foretold by the Law (Moses) and the Prophets (Elijah) and that their ideas of an earthy King are all wrong.

✦ The disciples were glad when they first saw the vision, they thought that the vision was come to stay, but immediately Moses and Elijah disappear, and Jesus becomes changed again into the human form and descends at once from the Mount.

### What Did It Mean?

Jesus meant to teach the disciples :

- ① That before the kingdom comes, there is much work to be done in the world, the way to the cross is not going to be easy. The cross must come first, but those who serve Him faithfully will in the end triumph.
- ② We cannot enter the kingdom unless changed and made like Him. The change begins when we keep in touch with Him in fellowship and prayer as He did with His Father on the Mount, then we shall be changed into the same image so that when he comes back we shall meet Him and be like Him. (1John 3:2)

## اجتماعيات

تتقدم الكنيسة بخالص العزاء لكل من :

✦ الاستاذ جمال سكلا لوفاة والدته المرحومة السيدة سمية جورجيس

✦ الدكتور نصر شنودة لوفاة ابنة اخته المرحومة سلوى ماهر.

الرب نسأل ان ينيح احياءنا المنتقلين في احضان اباؤنا

القديسين، وان يعزى اسرهم.

## CONGRATULATION

✦ The church offers its congratulation to the blessed daughter, "Mona Benjamin" for her wedding to Dr. Moheeb Naguib. May God bless their life for the glory of His Name.