

“ OUT OF  
 EGYPT I  
 CALLED  
 MY SON”  
 (Hosea 11:1)



“JOSEPH  
 TOOK  
 THE  
 YOUNG  
 CHILD



AND HIS MOTHER AND DEPARTED FOR EGYPT.”

## The Flee To Egypt

[ Our Church Celebrates  
 This Event On Bachons 24th ]

It came to the ears of Herod, King of Judah, that some wise men had come from the east, and they were searching for a little child who had been born to be King of the Jews. Herod has been worried at the report that a child had been born who has to occupy his throne. Herod was troubled, he gave orders that every child under two years of age should be slaughtered. And a detachment of Herod's soldiers put his orders into swift and savage action.

✦ To escape Herod's murderous orders, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream saying, "Arise, take the young child and his mother, flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him." (Matthew 2:13) Joseph took the young child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt and stayed there until the death of Herod.

### BEWARE!.

God gave Herod the gifts of power and authority, he should have used them to help and serve others, but instead, he selfishly used them for his own benefit and to fulfil his murderous intentions. There is no person who will not be tempted to selfishly use the gifts which God has given him. Beware of that!

## A SPIDER'S WEB

Tradition says that on their way to Egypt, as the evening came, the members of the Holy Family were weary and they sought refuge in a cave. It was very cold so that the ground was white with hoar frost.

✦ A little spider saw the baby Jesus, and he wished so much that he could do something to keep him warm. He decided to do the only thing he could and spin his web across the entrance of the cave to make, as if it were, a curtain there.

✦ Along the path came Herod's soldiers to carry out Herod's blood thirst orders and kill the innocent children. When they came to the cave they were about to burst in to search it. But their leader noticed the spider's web stretched right across the entrance to the cave, he said, "Look at the spider's web there. It is quite unbroken and there cannot possibly be anyone in the cave, for anyone entering would certainly have torn the web." So the soldiers passed on, and left the Holy Family in peace.

### A GREAT MIRACLE

Through a simple task done by a small creature, a spider's web, God performed the great miracle of saving the child Jesus from being killed by Herod's soldiers...God does not demand from us splendors that we do not possess. He says to us ; " Do what you are able to do, no matter how simple it is, do not get discouraged by a task of such magnitude, and I will use it greatly."

صوم نينوى ١٧ فبراير لمدة ثلاثة ايام، ويصام انقطاعياً بدون سمك ، مثل الصوم الكبير ، وهو يسبقه بمدة اربعة عشر يوماً.

### Abouna Said To Me:

“Son, always remember that we are tempted by the devil through the gifts which God has given us. It is the grim fact of temptation that it is just where we are strongest that we must be for ever in the watch.”



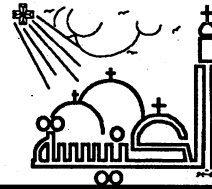
# Know Your CHURCH

إعرفنا كنيسةنا

## The Divine Liturgy

القداس الالهى

- 4 -



## روحانية خدمة رفع البخور

The purpose of this series is to familiarize the readers with the Divine Liturgy that they can participate more in it, enjoy it, and spiritually benefit of it.

والآن بعد أن عرفت الصلوات التي يرفعها ابونا الكاهن من أجل فئات خاصة من الشعب كالمريض والسافرين و...، نبقى أن نعرف أن هناك أيضاً صلوات ترفع لأجلك أنت وللأجل كل الناس. ومن هذه الصلوات نذكر:

### The Spirituality Of The Raising Of Incense Service

Now that you know the prayers which the celebrant priest says for specific groups among the people like the sick, the travellers etc..., you should know that there are prayers for you and for the rest of the congregation. The following are some of those prayers:

#### Mystery Of The Return

After circling the church censing and blessing the people, abouna prays inaudibly, in front of the alter, this prayer: "O God who did accept unto Thee the confession of the thief on the honored cross, accept unto Thee the confessions of Thy people and forgive them all their sins."

It was customary in the past that during the incense cycle that the priest listened to the people's confessions, and that is why when he completes this cycle, he goes back to the sanctuary and says this prayer on behalf of the confessors.

How appropriate it would be if, during this incense cycle period, you lift up your heart confessing and asking God to forgive you for all the sins you did, promising a true repentance. By doing so, you will be included among those for whom this prayer is offered.

#### Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

abouna, while holding the cross with three lit candles, says this prayer audibly in front of the sanctuary. In this prayer he beseeches God to have mercy upon us and to forgive us our sins.

The order in which these prayers are said, proves that the early fathers were profoundly inspired by the Holy Spirit. After the priest pleads to God to accept the people's confessions, he goes back and asks God to also bestow His love on them, not because they are rightful or worthy, but

because God has great and unlimited love of the human race.

How beautiful it is, when the priest's prayer is accompanied by the people's prayer as they say "Amen, Lord have mercy....Lord have mercy....Lord have mercy.." By praying "Lord have mercy" three times they diligently ask God to answer their prayers.

Short as this prayer is, it has a deep spiritual meaning. It is a corporate action, in which everyone takes an active part. Both the clergy and the people as well are participants. They pray together saying "According to thy mercy O Lord, and not according to our sins."

### اجتماعيات

#### تهنئ الكنيسة:



الأب الموقر القمص صموئيل ثابت  
برتبة الايغومانس . الرب نسال  
ان يؤيده بروحه وأن يبارك خدمته.

#### تقدم الكنيسة خالص العزاء:

للأب الموقر القمص باسليوس سدراك لانتقال  
حرمه السيدة الفاضلة الرحومة عايدة اسكندر.

للدكتور منير عجايبي لوفاة زوج أخته المرحوم الاستاذ وليم يوسف.

للدكتورة نجوى عجايبي لوفاة زوج اختها المرحوم الاستاذ منير فاهيم.

للسيدة الفاضلة سامية طانيوس لوفاة والدها المرحوم الاستاذ البير سليمان.

للسيدة الفاضلة انجيل زكي لوفاة عمها المرحوم الاستاذ حلمي عياد.

الرب نسال ان ينيح الاحياء الراحلين في احضان ابائنا القديسين

وان يلهم ذويهم الصبر والعزاء.



#### صلاة سر الرجعة

يصلبها ابونا الكاهن سراً في نهاية الدورة التي فيها يطوف الكنيسة منخراً ومباركاً الشعب، وقد كان المتبع قديماً ان يتقبل الكاهن الاعترافات أثناء قيامه بهذه الدورة، لذلك فإنه على نهايتها يرفع الى الهيكل ويتلو سراً هذه الصلاة فمثلاً الرب ان يتقبل اعترافات اولئك المعترفين وان يغفر لهم خطاياهم أو يقول قديماً الذي قبل اليه اعتراف اللص على الصليب المكرم اقبل اليك اعتراف شعبك واغفر لهم جميع خطاياهم.....  
ليتك يا الهي ترفع فنيك الى الرب - أثناء دورة البخور - مقدماً اعترافاً أميناً وثابتاً صادقاً حتى تكون ضمن اولئك الذين تشملهم هذه الصلاة، فتتال بركة ونعمة. يتبع ذلك:

#### صلاة اللهم ارحمنا

يصلبها ابونا الكاهن جهراً امام باب الهيكل وهو رافع الصليب ومعه ثلاث شعوع موقدة وفيها يتضرع الى الرب ان يشمله رحمة وان يفتقدنا بخلافته....

ان الترتيب الذي جاءت به هذه الصلوات يؤكد أنها بحكمة وإرشاد الروح القدس قد وضعت، إذ انه بعد ان يتضرع الكاهن الى الرب ان يقبل توبة المعترفين، فإنه يعود فيسأله أيضاً ان يشملهم برحمته. وذلك ليس عن استحسان أو صلاح من يصلبنا بل عن اعجابهم ورحمتهم العظيمة الواسعة.

وما أجمل ان يقرن الشعب طلبة الكاهن من اعطاهم بطلبهم من الرب ارحم...يارب ارحم...يارب ارحم... فانه بذلك يسألون الرب ان يستجيب، وهم إذ يكررون طلبتهم "يارب ارحم" ثلاث مرات انما هم يؤكدونها ويمبرون عن شدة احتياجهم اليها.

انها حقاً صلاة عميقة رغم قصرها وهي تعبير عن حمور واحد مشترك بين الراعي والرجية، به يرفعون صلاتهم بنفس واحد مؤكدين طلبتهم الواحدة... كرحمتك يارب وليس كخطايانا