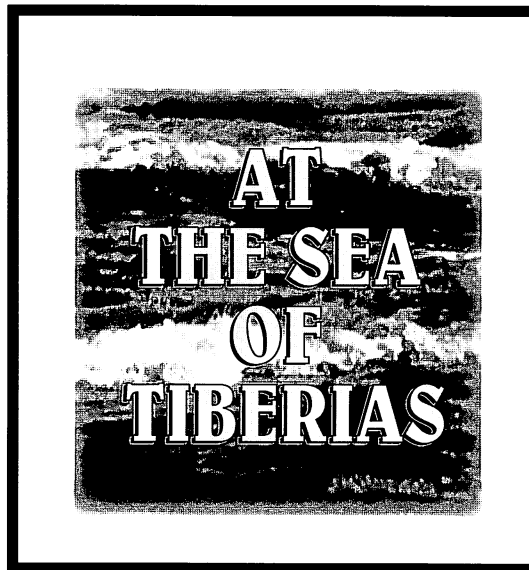
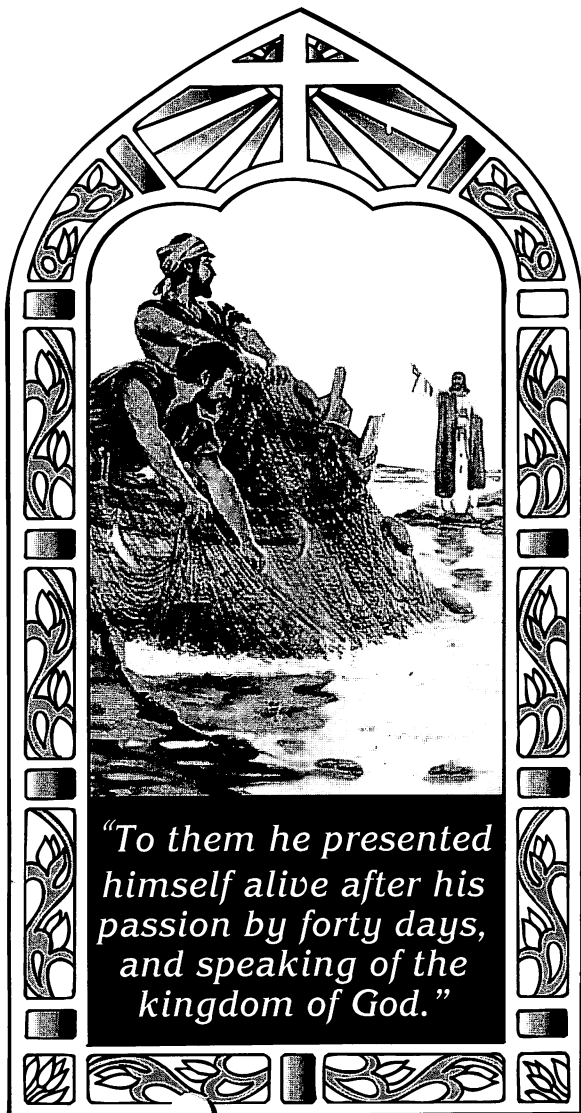


Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate
 Holy Coptic Orthodox Church
 St. Mary Coptic Orthodox Church
 Chicago



2100 W. Frontage Rd. • Palatine, IL. 60067

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Neither the seals on the tomb's entrance, nor the tight security put forth by the authorities managed to impede the resurrection of our Lord. The Jewish religious leaders tried in vain, through lies and rumors to cast doubts on the resurrection, and weaken the faith of the believers especially that of the disciples. However, the Lord countered that by trying to show His disciples, solid proofs of His resurrection ***"To them he presented himself alive after his passion by forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God"***. (Acts 1:3)

The Lord's appearances were not limited to a certain group, place or time. At one time he appeared to seven of his disciples, Peter and John were among them, at the Tiberias seashore while they were fishing for a living. They spent the whole night trying unsuccessfully to catch fish, and when the dawn broke they realized that they would go back empty handed.

The Lord appeared to them standing on the shore, but they did not recognize Him, He said to them: ***"Children, have you any food?" They answered Him: "No". He said to them: "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to draw it in for the multitude of fish.***" (John 21:5,6)

When this incident took place, it reminded on one of the disciples; John whom Jesus loved, of a similar situation, when at one time they toiled a whole night at the lake of Gennesaret, trying to catch fish and they could not, Jesus, who was with them at that time said to them: ***"Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.... and when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and their nets were breaking ..."*** (Luke: 5:1-10).

John said to Peter: ***"It is the Lord"***. When Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his clothes, for he was stripped for work, and sprang into the sea. The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish When they got out on land, they found the risen Lord waiting for them ... They were overcome by hunger, exhaustion, and the cold weather but when they came to Jesus they found charcoal fire, fish, bread and above all comfort.

How compassionate and kind our Lord is, He cares for the welfare and daily needs of His children. In the darkest moments of their life, He is always there to help them through, and to spare them the agony of failure, thus fulfilling his promise: ***"I am with you always, even to the end of the age"*** (Matt. 28:20)

CHURCH NEWS

The landscaping project of the yard surrounding the church is under way. The project includes planting grass, flowers and shrubs. The estimated cost of the project is \$17,000 and will be completed by the end of May.



Reverend Fr. Samuel T. Samuel invites our congregation to participate in the celebration which St. Mark's church will hold on Wednesday eve, May 7th to commemorate the martyrdom of her intercessor St. Mark the apostle, and to attend the Divine Liturgy on Thursday morning May 8th.

We would like to congratulate Abouna Samuel and the congregation and to thank them for their kind invitation.



As you know, the church needs your spiritual and financial support either in the form of pledges or loans to be able to pay the monthly mortgage. Your cooperation will be very much appreciated. Remember that... God loves the cheerful giver.

Graduation
**Congratulations to
 Dr. Miriam Mikhael D.C.
 for her graduation
 May the Lord always crown
 her efforts with success.**



How to Conduct Ourselves in the House of God.



Sometimes, due to the busy nature of our existence, we seem to lose the spirit of discipline in the church, especially during feasts and other occasions such as Agape parties and marriage ceremonies. Some, need to be constantly reminded that they are in the House of God and He is present in their midst in order for them to observe the code of appropriate conduct in the church. St. Paul the Apostle said: "Let all things be done decently in order." (1 Corin. 14:40)



The following are common sense rules, which ought to be kept so we can all enjoy the presence of God.



1- Follow the Ushers Directions:

Since the ushers' duty, is to keep order inside the church and to help the worshipers, your cooperation in following their directions is of utmost importance. The ushers on the other hand, need to be courteous and kind so as not to hurt people's feelings.

2- Be Seated:

Once inside the church take your seat in the pews. Standing and crowding the church nave's entrance and pathways, makes it hard for others to enter or exit the church.

3- Stay till the End of the Service:

When communion starts, some worshipers mistakenly believe that this is the end of the service, so, they either leave the church, or start talking and

socializing with each other which is quite inappropriate. This is a special time, during which everyone should lift his heart in awe and pray inaudibly, as Abouna distributes the communion. You can only leave, after abouna gives the final blessing and dismisses the people.



4- Be Considerate and Patient:

During the Divine Liturgy, mothers and babies stay in a special room allocated to serve their needs, however once in a while you may hear a child cries uncontrollably. Please be patient, it is a matter of seconds before the mother either calms the baby down or promptly exits the church nave. Also parents should not allow their children to roam around freely inside the church nave, at all times they should be seated and supervised.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

Congratulations to

† **Karim Boutros** and **Allison Baines**.
 † **Joseph Ibrahim** and **Mona Soliman**.
 For becoming one in Christ. May the Lord Bless their marriage and make it blameless and honorable
 † **Medbat** and **Sabar Zakber**.
 For the baptism of their daughter **Eustina**.
 † **Nabil** and **Mary Tawfik**.
 For the baptism of their son **Joseph**.
 May the Lord bless the new born to grow in grace and stature before God and men.

Condolences to:

† **Dr. Atef Moawad**, his brothers: **Mr. Yassa**, **Mr. Wadee**, **Mr. Anis** and his sisters: **Mrs. Wadea** and **Dr. Babga** for the death of their mother the late **Babya Henain**.
 May the Lord repose the soul of the deceased and console her grieving family.

