

Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate  
 St. Mary Coptic Orthodox Church  
 225  
 Ηασια Ηαπρα  
 Chicago



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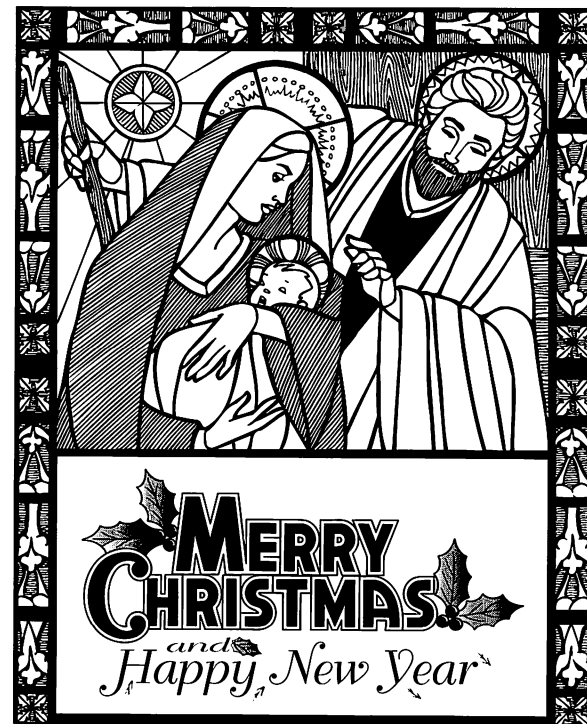


**“JOSEPH ALSO WENT UP...INTO JUDEA...TO BE REGISTERED WITH MARY HIS BETROTHED WIFE, WHO WAS WITH CHILD.”**

# No Room For Him

**At this time of the year,  
 the world turns its attention  
 to His Divine Birth**

*“And it came to pass in the days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered ... So all went to be registered everyone to his own city. Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary his betrothed wife, who was with child. So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her first born Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger, because There Was No Room for them in the Inn.” (Luke 2:1-7)*



## An Insight



What a hard time it must have been for Mary and Joseph, when they arrived to Bethlahem and found that there was no room available. We can imagine Joseph pleading with the manager of the inn, telling him of Mary's condition and their desperate need for a place where she could give birth to her child. But there was no room for them in the inn ...

Today, 2000 years later, millions of people still have no room for Jesus. Despite the fact that they might participate enthusiastically in the festivities of Christmas season, yet they keep Him out of their lives.

**How about You?** ...Is there room for Jesus in your life? ...What better time than during this season to renew your dedication to Him ... Jesus says: “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come into him and dine with him and he with me.” (Rev. 3:20)

Now, as He knocks and asks for admission, will you let Him in? Or still, you have no room for Him! Remember that ; **If Jesus is kept on the outside, there must be something wrong on the inside! ...**

# CHURCH NEWS

## The Annual Banquet

On Sunday, November 23rd, our fourth annual banquet was held at the Hyatt Regency, Woodfield. This year we celebrated the first anniversary of beginning the service in our new St. Mary church. Around 450 people from both churches shared with us that joyous event. The program included spiritual and social segments. We were blessed to hear Fr. Samuel T. Samuel talk about: "How to raise our children in Christ". Dr. Lucy Ibrahim, Psychiatrist, gave helpful tips to parents on: "How to raise our children in America." Everybody enjoyed listening to the children choir singing a Coptic hymn, directed by deacon George Boctor, and the youth choir singing: "O Virgin Mary, Mother of the Light", directed by Marcelle El Gendy. Jenny Sedrak did a wonderful job putting together a video called "Here comes a miracle" which included some of the miracles of our Lord Jesus Christ. On a lighter note the children had a blast watching Herbert Jam the magician, performing his magic tricks. We ended this blissful event by offering thanks to the Lord.

We would like to thank all those who honored us by their presence, we really appreciate it. Also, we would like to thank Fr. Samuel and Tasoni Ibtisam for changing their plans in order to be with us.

Also thanks to all those who participated and worked behind the scenes to make the banquet a success. May the Lord reward them according to his riches and glory.

### Church Calendar

The Christmas Liturgy  
Tuesday, January 6th.,  
7:00 p.m. - 1:00

The Epiphany Liturgy  
Sunday, January 18th.,  
7:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

## When will they let Him In?



It so happened a long time ago, that a black man approached a pastor of an all white church asking him to be a member. That request put the pastor in a very awkward situation. His dilemma was that, how could he reject such a good Christian just because of his skin color? On the other hand, how could he accept him against the will of the all white members?

Unable to find a plausible excuse, the pastor said to the black man: "Let us pray first and then we can meet again to see what the Lord will tell us" ... The black man could sense that his request was denied, which saddened his heart so he left feeling rejected and deeply hurt.

A long time had passed and one day the black man ran into the pastor who said to him: "Why didn't you come back as we agreed?" The black man said: "I prayed and I knew the answer!" The pastor curiously, said to him:

*"What did Jesus say to you?"*

He said to me: ***"Son, take heart, because I myself, have been left out, at the door of this church for 10 years, and have not been allowed in yet!"***

## Congratulations To:

- ❖ **Mr. Alphons Mikhael**, for his new position as "Director of Color TV. for the Panasonic Company in Egypt.
  - ❖ **Dr. Asbraf Iskandar**, for passing "The American Board of Internal Medicine" examination.
  - ❖ **Dr. Sameb Youssef**, for passing "The American Board of Internal Medicine" examination.
  - ❖ **Dr. Fady Tewfik**, for passing "The United States Medical Licensing examination".
  - ❖ **Ramy Farag** and **Mona Aziz** for their engagement.
  - ❖ **Murad** and **Basma Rufail** for their newborn son Daniel.
- Our best wishes for all.

## CONDOLENCES TO

- ❖ **Dr. Naguib Seddik** for the passing away of his sister the late **Ayda Seddik**.
  - ❖ **Mrs. Liala Akl**, for the passing away of her sister the late **Nawal Azrak**.
  - ❖ **Loutfy Maximose**, for the passing away of his wife the late **Hosnya Maximose**.
- May the Lord repose the souls of the departed and console their grieving families.

## They Came from the East and Delivered Their Gifts

*During this Holy season, you are called upon to follow their steps. When you celebrate His wonderful birth, try to experience the joy of giving. Our church, needs your prayers and financial support. Your donation will be a sweet smelling and acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God. We are more than confident that our Lord will reward you according to His riches and glory.*

