



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

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"We magnify you, the mother of the true light, and glorify you the Theotokos, the Holy Virgin....."

(Int. to the Creed)



THE HOLY VIRGIN ST. MARY

On Misrah 1st (August 7th) starts the fast of the Virgin St. Mary. Its duration is fifteen days, after which we celebrate the feast of Her assumption. Most of us are keen to keep this fast holy as an expression of our love and veneration of St. Mary. She was chosen by the Most High to be the mother of the "True Light" our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

A historical Account

This fast is very old, it was set by the apostles just after the Virgin's departure. Its setting has a wonderful story behind it:

After the Virgin's death and burial by the apostles, Thomas, who was at that time preaching in India, was carried back to Jerusalem by a cloud. During that journey he saw the body of the Virgin borne by four angels ascending to heaven. When he arrived to Jerusalem the disciples informed him about her death, and the burial of her body, he said to them: "I have seen her body ascending with four angels to heaven." The disciples rushed with Thomas to the sepulchre, and to their surprise they could not find the body. While they were pondering about that, they heard a voice from heaven saying: "It was the Lord's will that her body be lifted to heaven." The disciples wished to see the Virgin

like Thomas, so they fasted for fifteen days, after which she appeared to them and then ascended to heaven to her beloved Son and Savior Jesus Christ

Reasons For Her Assumption

God did not wish to leave the Virgin's body in this world because it is unreasonable that the body which was purified by the Holy Spirit and made worthy to carry the Word incarnate remain buried in the land of sin. Her body is not less in prominence than the bodies of Elijah and Enoch which were lifted up to heaven ... The God of Glory who gratified her during this life here on earth would not accept for the vessel that carried Him, anything less glorious than the assumption. Our church celebrates the feast of her assumption on Misrah 16.



Why We Venerate St. Mary

It is worth mentioning that our veneration of St. Mary does not mean that we worship her. We do not worship St. Mary, being a member of the fallen human race, she stood in need of salvation just as we all do, however, we venerate her because of her important role in God's plan for our salvation.

She was filled with all purity and righteousness and she willingly chose never to sin, and to place God's will above her own. Her veneration does not take from God's glory. God is pleased when the beauty of His human work is recognized and praised.

A final word to conclude with: "Let us do our best to be like St. Mary, in her purity, her obedience to God's will and her sinless life, by doing so we truly offer her the best gratitude and the greatest veneration.

Church News

Saturday, June 12th, Dr. Fawzy Estafanous President of St. Mark Foundation for the Coptic History Studies gave an educational presentation at St. Mary church. He presented highlights of the glorious Coptic history. He indicated that our history is incomplete, there are manuscripts to be examined and interpreted, gaps to be filled, episodes to be documented and to be subjected to scientific methods of inquiry.



Wednesday August 18 to Saturday August 21st, the church will be holding glorification prayers from 7:00 to 9:00 P.M. to celebrate the Holy Virgin St. Mary fast and feast. The celebration will be concluded by the Divine Liturgy on Sunday August 22nd.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Saturday May 22nd, The church youth took the initiative to raise funds by holding a car wash. The proceeds will be used to help in funding the trip to St. Anthony's monastery in California. The monastery trip, if God willing, will be from Saturday August 14th. to Tuesday August 17th.

Saturday, June 5th, the youth of both churches gathered at St. Mary's Church for a fun filled day of spiritual and sports activities.



Friday, June 18th- Sunday June 20, the church youth planned and organized, a camping trip for the pre-teens ages 8 - 12 years old. The trip started by attending the Holy Liturgy on Friday morning. The camp was held at Yogi Bear campgrou in Caledonia, Wisconsin.

A Kind Gesture



H.H. Pope Shenouda III honored us by delegating H.G. Anba Suriel, Bishop of the youth for the Eastern and Midwestern U.S. to visit our churches in Chicago. H.G. arrived Friday afternoon on July 9th, and left Sunday afternoon on July 11th.

On Friday evening, H.G. addressed the servants of both churches and answered their questions.

On Saturday H.G. spent quality time with the churches' youth providing them with great words of wisdom which dealt with some of the major issues that concern them, offering them guidance to lead a true, unblemished Christian life.

On Sunday, H.G. concluded his visit after celebrating the Divine Liturgy during which he ordained some of the youths as deacons.

Everybody was impressed by H.G. caring, his knowledge and humility. H.G. portrays a real and honorable picture of what a Bishop is all about.

This visit meant the world to us especially the youths, because it showed that the mother church cares. It also gave the youths a sense of belonging which will make them hold on to it.

Our utmost appreciation for H.H. Pope Shenouda III, for making this visit possible, and for H.G. Bishop Suriel for his patience and understanding. We are grateful for this nice gesture which gives us hope that someday, H.H. will honor us by his visit. We are praying that in the near future, this long awaited dream will come true.

Congratulations To:

Reverend Fr. Mikhail E. Mikhail, D. Min. for the silver Jubilee of his ordination. May the Lord bless his service so it will continue to be successful and fruitful.



- ❖ Mr. Ramy Farag and Mrs. Mona Aziz.
- ❖ Mr. Wael Asaad and Mrs. Susie RO.
- ❖ Mr. Anthony Shenouda and Mrs. Maryann Morcos.
- ❖ Mr. Alber Hanna and Mrs. Lourine Kamel.
- ❖ Mr. Adel Doss and Mrs. Alice Jeremiab for becoming one in Christ. May the Lord bless their life and make their marriage honorable and blameless
- ❖ Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Sherry Moawad for the baptism of their daughter *Jasmin*.
- ❖ Mr. Baber and Mrs. Marriam Tanios for the baptism of their daughter *Sarah*.
- ❖ Mr. Samy and Mrs. Marcel Boctor for the baptism of their daughter *Magdoline*
- ❖ Mr. Samuel and Mrs. Dina Akbnoukh for the birth of their daughter *Virina*
- ❖ Dr. George and Mrs. Emily Atia for the baptism of their daughter *Grace*.
- ❖ Mr Rifaat and Mrs. Sabar Girgis for the birth of their daughter *Joyce*. May the Lord bless the newborn to grow in grace and stature before God and men.

CONDOLENCES TO:

- ❖ Mr. Samuel Akbnoukh and Mrs. Marcel El Gindi for the passing away of their mother the late Mrs. Farida Girgis.
- ❖ Mrs. Fawzia Ibrahim and her children Ramy and Carmen, for the passing away of her husband the late Dr. Naguib Ibrahim.
- ❖ Mrs. Nora Tadros, and her daughter Mrs. Mimi Abadeer, for the passing away of her brother the late Mr. Fayek Tadros.
- ❖ Mrs. Isis Salama, and her son Dr. Emad Rizk, for the passing away of her brother the late Mr. Francis Girgis. May the Lord repose the souls of the deceased and console their grieving families.