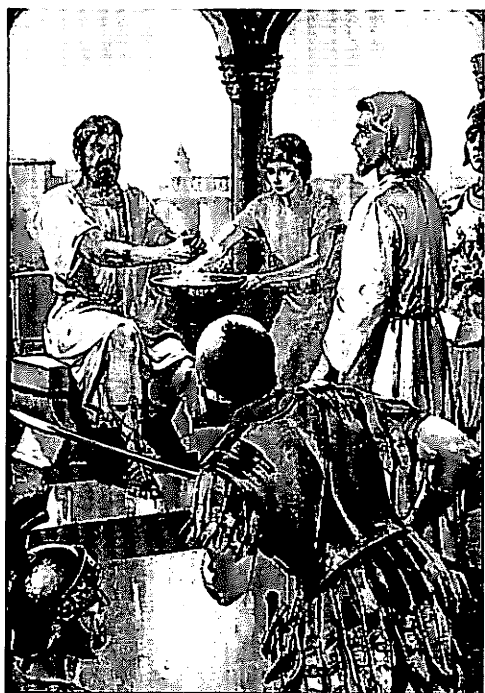


Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate
 St. Mary Coptic Orthodox Church
 Hasia Maria
 Chicago



2100 W. Frontage Rd. • Palatine, IL. 60078

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**“ HE WHO JUSTIFIES THE
 WICKED AND HE WHO
 CONDEMNS THE
 RIGHTEOUS ARE BOTH
 ALIKE AN ABOMINATION
 TO THE LORD.”**

(PROV. 17:15)

All the chief priests and the elders took council against Jesus to put Him to death. They led him away delivering Him to Pontius Pilate, the governor.

While He was being accused by the chief priests and the elders, He remained silent. Pilate asked Him: “Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?” The Lord did not utter a word in his own defense, which made the governor marvel.

At the feast, the governor used to release for them a prisoner of their choice. At that time they had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. Pilate said to them: “Whom do you want me to release to you Barabbas or Jesus who is called Christ?” Pressured by the chief priest and the elders, to choose



Pontius Pilate

Barabbas, the multitude cried out saying: “Not this man, but Barabbas”. ... Barabbas was a robber and a murderer!! Then Pilate said: “What should I do then with Jesus?” They all said: “Let Him be crucified”.

Pilate, realizing that he could not prevail on them, took water and washed his hands before the multitude saying, “I am innocent of the blood of this just person.” Then Pilate gave sentence that it should be as they required. Pilate released Barabbas to them, and delivered Jesus to be crucified. (Matt. 27)

Sad to say that Pilate’s ruling went against all the measures of justice and fairness. He condemned the innocent and justified the wicked ... How could he escape God’s fearful condemnation on the great Judgement day?

An Insight

Pontius Pilate could not prevent the crime which was about to be committed, as a matter of fact he could if he would, but instead he washed his hands, mistakenly believing that by doing so, he would distant himself from that terrible crime.

Neither could Moses stop Pharaoh and his army from chasing God’s people to destroy them. He had no choice but to put the matter in God’s hands and to appease his people, he said: “Fear not, stand firm and see the salvation of the Lord ... The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be still.” (Ex. 14:14-15)

The Lord Himself did not fight those who were crucifying him, although it was within His power to do so. This was clear when Peter His disciple drew his

sword to defend the Lord, He said: “Put your sword back into its place ... Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and He will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?” (Mat. 26: 52-54)

Following His example, believers should act the same way when they face adversity and persecution. They must understand that no way other than God’s way, works.

As Christians we all know very well that: “It has been granted on behalf of Christ not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake.” (Phil 1:29), remembering His encouraging promise: **“In the world you shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”** (John 16:33)

Just a Reminder

The church needs your spiritual and financial support to be able to meet the monthly responsibilities; the Mortgage and other miscellaneous expenses.

Your donations will be very much appreciated ... Remember that “The generous soul will be made rich. And he who waters will also be watered himself.” (Prov. 11:25)

C A L E N D A R	March 26th:	The feast of the cross.	2 0 0 0 0
	April 2nd :	The feast of St. Mary’s apparition in Zeitoun.	
	April 7th :	The Annunciation Feast.	
	April 21st :	Last Friday of Lent. <small>(Divine Liturgy 11:00 a.m-3:00 p.m.)</small>	
	April 22nd :	Lazarus Saturday.	
	April 30th :	Resurrection Feast.	

CHRIST IS RISEN ... HE IS RISEN INDEED

CHURCH NEWS

• On March 10, 11 & 12, 2000, H.G. Anba Makarious, Bishop General, visited our church. On Friday, he delivered a word of guidance at the youths meeting, and answered their questions. On Saturday, H.G. headed the Bible study and held Ashia prayers. On Sunday, he headed the Divine Liturgy service. We would like to thank H.G. for that blessed visit.

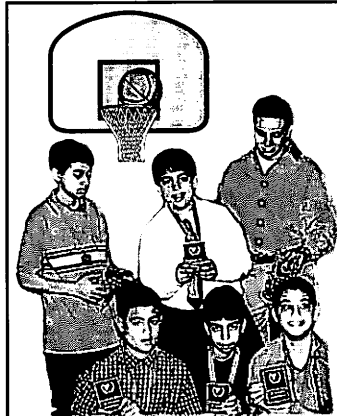
• On March 10th, our church received the chandeliers from Egypt which were generously donated by a blessed family. The church servants installed them. We ask the Lord to reward them all with the heavenly recompense.

• On Saturday April 21st, 2000, a spiritual day will be held for all the church servants and youths. It will start at 1:00 p.m. and end at 7:00 p.m. followed by Ashia Prayers.



• Upon Rev. Fr. Samuel Thabet's invitation, our church will participate in the Banquet organized by St. Mark church and which will be held on Friday evening, June 2nd, 2000, at the Marriott Hotel in Chicago. This is to celebrate the 2000th anniversary of the Holy Family's Flight to Egypt. We would like to thank Fr. Samuel for his thoughtfulness.

Also, at our church, we will have "An Open House" on Saturday, June 10th from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. to commemorate this blessed occasion. The church neighbors will be invited to come and join us.



• On Saturday March 25th, 2000, our pre-teen basketball team participated in the games organized by the YMCA. Our team won the second place. Congratulations to our team.



Our best wishes to
H.H. Pope Shenouda III
for a Happy Resurrection Feast

may the Lord grant him health and keep him as a leader, a shepherd and a teacher for many years to come.

Pope John Paul II visit to Egypt



H. H. Pope John Paul II visited Egypt for three days. The visit lasted from 2/24/2000 to 2/26/2000. On Thursday evening, February 24th H.H. Pope John Paul visited H.H. Pope Shenouda III at his residency in Cairo. H. H. Pope John Paul II was warmly welcomed not only by the Coptic church but by the all Egyptians.

Congratulations To:

Rev. Fr. Rewais Awadallah for the anniversary of his ordination. May the Lord bless his service so it will continue to be fruitful and successful.



❖ Mr. William and Mrs. Marcel El-Gendy for the baptism of their daughter Demiana.

❖ Mr. Fady and Mrs. Duaa El Malb for the baptism of their daughter Rose Mary.

❖ Mr. Soliman and Mrs. Sawsan Boctor for the baptism of their son Arsanius.

May the Lord bless the newborn to grow in grace and stature before God and men.

❖ Mr. Samuel Fahmy and Mrs. Nevin Boutros for becoming one in Christ. May the Lord bless their life together and grant them happiness.

❖ Mr. Sameh Soliman and Ms. Vivian Bassily for their engagement. May the Lord bless them and grant them guidance.

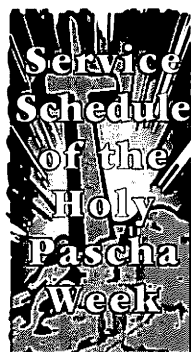
CONDOLENCES TO:



❖ Mrs. Wafaa Abd El-Malik, for the passing away of her brother, the late Mr. Ramez Giris.

❖ Mr. Saeed Yanni for the passing away of his brother the late Mr. Adel Yanni.

May the Lord repose the souls of the deceased and console their grieving families.



April 23
9:00 A.M. - 2:30 P.M.
4:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.

Palm Sunday
Divine Liturgy
Pascha prayers

April 24, 25, & 26
Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday
6:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M. Pascha prayers

April 27
9:00 A.M. - 2:30 P.M.
4:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M. Liturgy of Water and Divine Liturgy
Pascha prayers

Holy Thursday
Liturgy of Water and Divine Liturgy
Pascha prayers

April 28
9:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

Good Friday

April 28 & 29

Pokalapsis Night
(All night prayers)

Friday 28, 11:30 P.M. through the early hours of Saturday April 29th.

April 29
Saturday, 4:30 A.M. - 6:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy

April 29
Saturday
7:30 P.M. - past midnight
Divine Liturgy.

April 30 Resurrection Feast

