

THE APOSTLES' FAST

(June 24th - July 11th)

An old fast

This fast is the most ancient fast the Christian church has known. Our Lord Jesus Christ referred to it when He answered John the Baptist's disciples when they said to Him: "Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but your disciples do not fast?" And Jesus said to them, "Can the friends of the bridegroom mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast." (Matt. 9:14, 15)

Jesus commanded His disciples not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father ... and then He said to them: "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem ... and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:4-8) That is why the Apostles' Fast immediately follows the Pentecost, since the Pentecost is the signal for the disciples to begin their ministry.

A Fast for Service

In this fast the whole church moves as one unit. The servants roam about to various places where Christianity has not been preached before, to evangelize with the love and spirit of the apostles,

to reach every soul and bring it to salvation.

We fast that God may be present in the service and support it. We also fast to serve while we are in a good spiritual condition and while we are aware of our weaknesses.

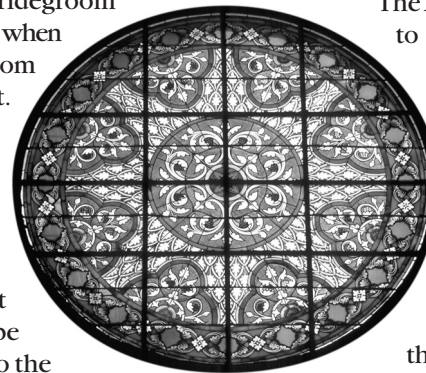
A Fast of Dedication

The Apostles' Fast is also a fast of dedication to evangelism and to witness for Christ's resurrection. It is a fast for every soul that yearns towards the heavenly kingdom, and wants to listen attentively to what the Holy Spirit says.

We saw that happening to the Apostles: In the Book of Acts, St. Luke says, "As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, 'Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.'

Then having fasted and prayed and laid hands on them, they sent them away ..." (Acts 13:2,3) 'So being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. And when they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God.' (Acts 13:4,5).

We believe that, the Holy Spirit will guide us through our services just as He guided the Apostles, and will help us to overcome all the difficulties and make our service successful and fruitful.



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

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St. Peter & St. Paul:

"Can the friends of the bridegroom mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast." (Matt. 9:14, 15)

FROM THE FRACTION OF THE APOSTLES' FAST

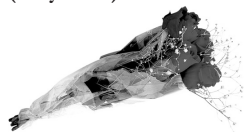
As for Peter and Paul, foremost among the apostles, the shadow of the one was healing the sick, whereas the handkerchiefs and aprons of the other caused diseases to depart and evil spirits to go out.

And after they preached the Gospel of the Kingdom and taught the nations, they shed their blood for your names' sake and received the crown of apostleship and that of martyrdom.



Church News

(May 12th) Mother's day: The Church honored all the mothers with a beautiful rose to each mom and a welcome from some of the church daughters and their chaperon, Christine Shafik.



(May 24-27) Koinonia 2002 Convention: Over 15 members of the Youth fellowship in our church took a 4-day trip to NY where they enjoyed the spiritual gathering and spent memorable time with HG Bishop Angelos. The trip was organized by Maged Riad and Irene Soliman .

(June 1st) HG Bishop Picenti's visit: Our church was blessed by the visit of HG Anba Picenti, Bishop of helwan and Maasara. H.G. handed out beautiful Crosses and Holy oil to the church members.

(June 23rd) Summer church picnic: The church members spent a great time together at the Twin Lakes Recreation Park in Palatine. The picnic was organized by Michael Farag.

(July 12th) The church will celebrate the Apostles' feast by holding a Divine Liturgy service. It will be preceded by the Matins prayers, followed by Lakkan service. The service will be from 7:45 to 11:00 a.m.

(July 18-26) Mid-West Youth convention; This year-God Willing- the convention will include a live Vidwo Broadcast with H.H. Pope Shenouda III. For additional information, please contact Wagdy & Daryle Habib at (847) 358-2271, or Ehab shafik at (847) 705-8835 .

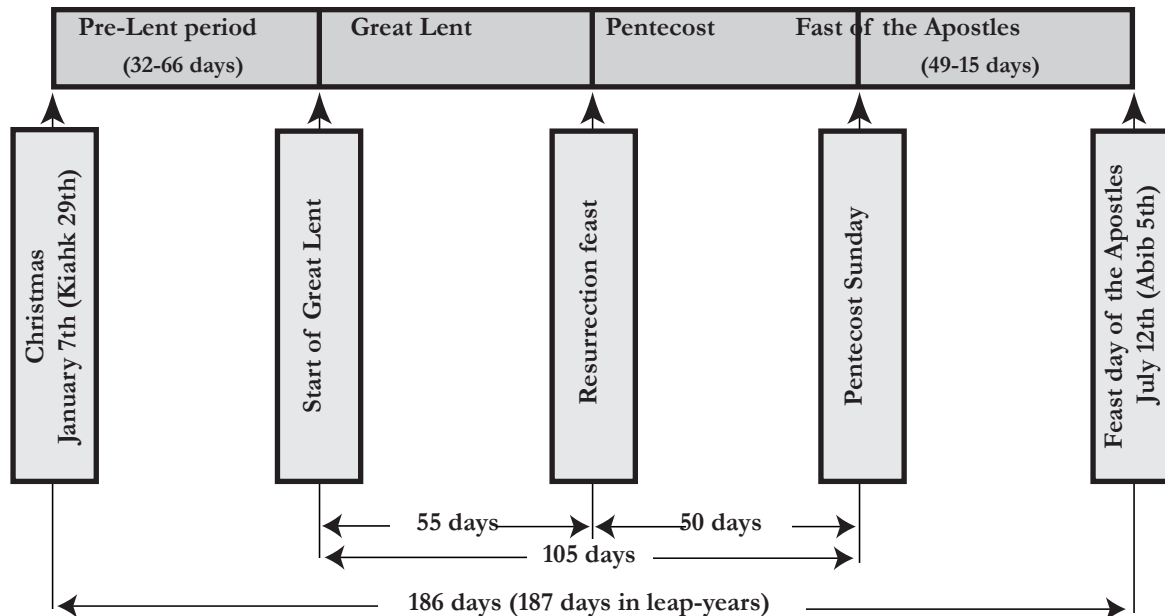
CONDOLENCES TO:



- ❖ **Mr. Rida Elias** for the passing away of his sister the late **Mrs. Sobhair Elias**.
- ❖ **Mr. Samuel Akbnoukh & Mrs. Marcel Elgendif** for the passing away of their uncle the late **Mr. Shebata Michael**.
- ❖ **Mrs. Elain Gurguis** for the passing away of her father, the late **Mr. Helmy Shenouda..**
- ❖ **Dr. Ayman Naguib** for the passing away of his grandfather, the late **Mr. Naguib Abd-el Messih..**

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

HOW LONG IS THE APOSTLES' FAST THIS YEAR?



The above diagram describes the relationship between the various feasts and fasts, and how the church calculates the length of the Apostles' Fast. The diagram shows that:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Pre-Lent period} + \text{Fast of the Apostles} &= 186-105 = 81 \text{ days} \\ \text{or} &= 187-105 = 82 \text{ days (in leap-years)} \end{aligned}$$

Pre-Lent is the period which starts with Christmas "January 7th" and ends with the "pre-lent Sunday". This pre-Lent period can only be determined after knowing the date of the Resurrection feast which changes from year to year. As an example this year "2002" the Resurrection feast was on May 5th. This makes the date of the Pre-Lent Sunday to be on March 10th (i.e. 55 days before the Resurrection feast). This causes the Pre-lent period to be 63 days. Knowing the Pre-Lent period we can now calculate the length of the Apostles' fast:-

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Fast of the Apostles} &= 81 - \text{Pre-Lent period} \\ &= 18 - 63 = 18 \text{ days.} \end{aligned}$$

Congratulations To:

Rev. Fr. Samuel T. Samuel
for
the 26th Anniversary
of his ordination.
May the Lord grant him
health and keep
his service successful
and fruitful.

- ❖ **Dr. Marco Abd-Elmour and Ms. Anariet Boutros.**
- ❖ **Mr. Karim Thomas and Ms. Meryam Gayed.**
- ❖ **Dr. Anthony LaVacca and Dr. Manal Ibrahim.**
- ❖ **Mr. Russ Shenouda and Ms. Gigi Hanna.**
for becoming one in Christ. May the Lord bless their life together and grant them happiness.
- ❖ **Dr. John and Mrs. Eva Agaiby** for the birth of their daughter **Juliana**.
- ❖ **Mr. Michail & Mrs. Fawzia Boctor** for the birth of their daughter **Virina**.
- ❖ **Dr. George and Mrs. Emily Atia** for the baptism of their son **Luke**.
- ❖ **Mr. Ehab & Mrs. Maggie Riad** for the baptism of their son **Benjamin**.
- ❖ **Mr. Sameh & Mrs. Manal Gorgey** for the baptism of their son **Jacob**.
May the Lord bless the newborn to grow in grace and stature before God and men.