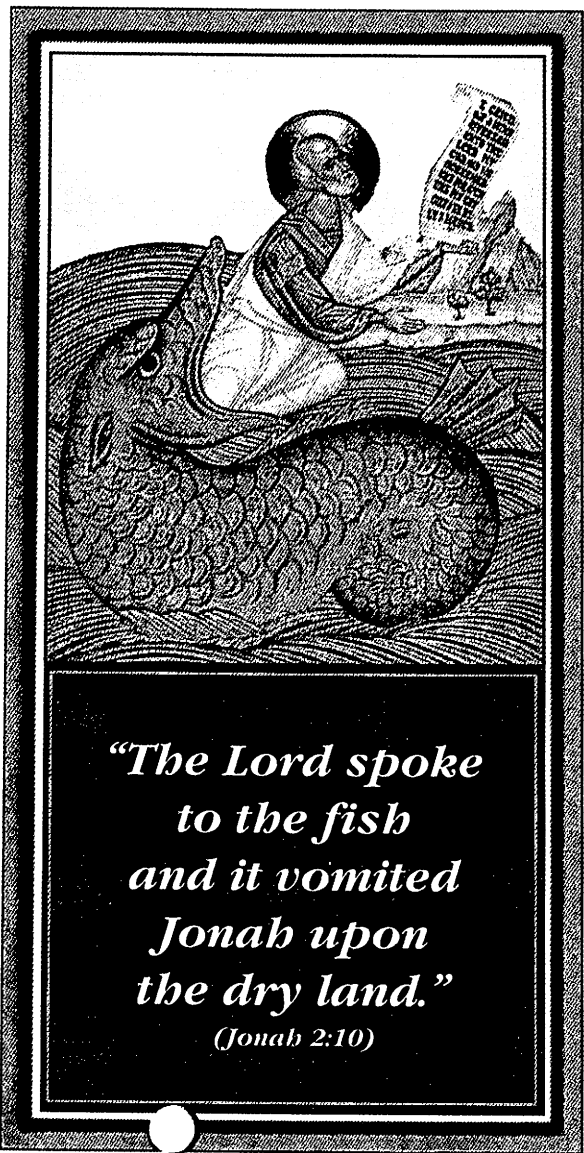




2100 W. Frontage Rd. • Palatine, IL. 60078

Volume 18 - NO. 1/2 - Jan./Feb., 2003



*"The Lord spoke to the fish and it vomited Jonah upon the dry land."*

*(Jonah 2:10)*

## The Great Lent

**"BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HAVE MERCY, WHO GIVE TO THE POOR, AND FAST AND PRAY"**

*(a Great Lent Hymn)*

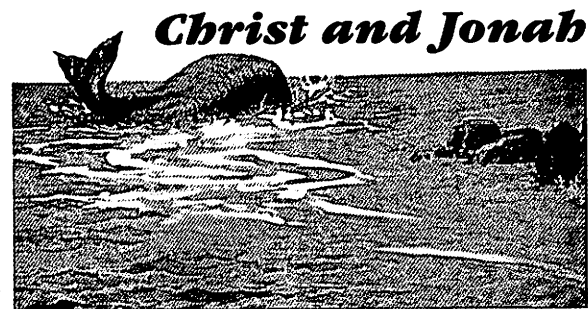
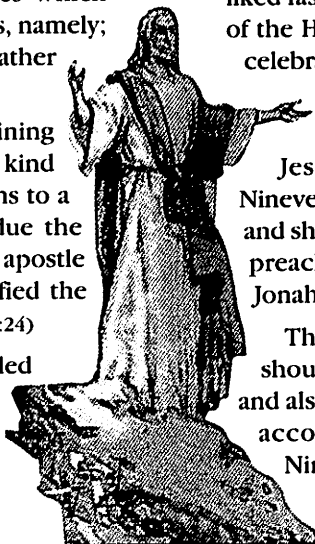
March 3rd marks the beginning of the Great Lent

Sunday March 2nd, is the pre-lent Sunday. Sunday's eve is the eve of the preparation week that precedes the Holy 40 days of lent which our Lord Jesus Christ had fasted for us. Preparation begins by contemplating on our Lord's sermon on the mountain (Matt. 6:1-18).

This part deals with three major issues which should be adhered to by all the believers, namely; giving the needy, praying to the heavenly Father and fast.

As Christians, fasting is not just abstaining from food and drink, or substituting one kind of food for another, but rather it is a means to a much deeper concept which is to subdue the desires and lusts of the flesh. St. Paul the apostle says: "Those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires." (Gal. 5:24)

Through fasting and prayers, you are called on to make a difference, that is by changing your life to the better and make your relation with God stronger and deeper.



## Christ and Jonah

*If our Father Adam had fasted, we should not have suffered banishment from Eden. The fruit that brought death upon me was pleasing to the eye and good to eat." (An Elder).*

February 17th., marks the start of Nineveh Fast

"For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth"

*(Matt. 12:40).*

During this month, our beloved church celebrates the fast of Nineveh, which is the shortest and most liked fast to all the believers. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the church has arranged that we celebrate the fast of Nineveh before going together with Jesus Christ through the fast of the Holy Lent, Why ?

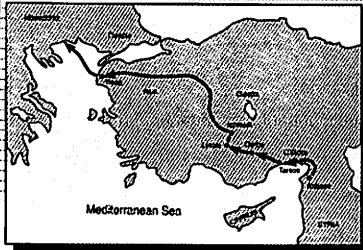
Jesus, the Lord of Glory said "The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it; because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold a greater than Jonah is here" (Matt. 12:41).

The church is showing us the way that we should follow during the fast of the Holy Lent, and also is teaching us that true repentance should accompany our fast, same as the people of Nineveh have done.

- During the Ninevite's fast, the church will hold a daily Divine Liturgy service from 1:00 - 3:45 p.m.
- During the Holy 40 days of the Great Lent a Divine Liturgy Service will be held every Wednesday from 1:00 to 3:45 p.m.



## St. Paul's Second Missionary Journey



### Introduction

St. Paul's thoughts and prayers were often with those he had led to Christ. In Iconium, Lystra and Derbe. He longed to see them again, and then to go further to those who had never heard about the message of salvation. So he and his friend Barnabas began to make plans. But strange to say, at once they disagreed. Here is the reason;

On their first trip they took along Barnabas's young cousin John mark who quit in mid journey. When they were planning a second trip, Barnabas wanted to give Mark a second chance, but Paul refused.

So heated was the discussion that they went their separate ways. Barnabas went with Mark to Cypress and Paul chose Silas for his companion, and they travelled together until they reached Corinth. (Acts 15:36-40)

Travelling northward, Paul and Silas passed through Derbe and then Lystra. At Lystra Paul met Timothy a young disciple. His father was Greek and his mother a Jewess.

By his mother he had been trained in the scriptures (2Tim 3:15) which gained him a good reputation at Lystra and Iconium.

Paul took him with them as a helper. Now let us see how far they had travelled towards Europe and how God guided them on their way...

(to be continued)

### An Insight

## TRUTH VERSUS LOVE

Generally speaking, issues of truth call for clarity and understanding, where as issues of love call for open mindedness and tolerance. Paul was known to emphasize issues of truth, Barnabas tended to emphasize issues of love. Their controversy regarding John Mark could have been eliminated if they had dealt with the situation with a combined perspective of truth and love.

Barnabas, embracing love issues, supported Paul, who even after his conversion, frightened the believers so much that when he reached Jerusalem they all kept their distance. But because Barnabas, was convinced that Paul's conversion was genuine, he led him to the apostles and introduced them. (Acts : 9: 26, 27)

So it is not surprising that Barnabas embraced Mark as well. In this respect he proved to be on the point and Mark proved to be trustworthy. Paul himself finally recognized his value and he ultimately came to depend on him. He wrote to Timothy urging him to "get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful in serving me" (2Tim. 4:11)

Mark turned out to be a special gift to the early church. Church tradition says that Mark was the first evangelist to Alexandria, Egypt, and the first bishop of the city.

Now, how could we benefit from this controversy?

When you face a similar situation, where do you tend to place your emphasis in the tension between truth and love? Are there times where your commitment to doctrinal truth, causes you to forget that no matter how right or wrong others may be, they are still human beings who need to be loved?... Scriptures say "encourage the faint hearted, help the weak, be patient with them all." (2Thes. 5:14)

As we celebrate  
the two blessed feasts of  
Christmas & Epiphany  
we would like to wish our  
beloved leader, shepherd  
and teacher

H.H. Pope Shenouda III

our best wishes.

May the Lord keep him for  
many years to come.



### Congratulations To:

- ❖ **Maber Gobran and Sherry Morcos.**  
For becoming one in Christ. May the Lord bless their marriage and grant them happiness.
- ❖ **Maged Riad and Mariam Farab,** for their engagement.  
May the Lord crown their undertaking with the Holy Matrimony.
- ❖ **Nabil and Mary Tawfik** for the baptism of their son **George.**
- ❖ **Basem and Mary Hanna** for the birth of their son **George.**
- ❖ **Ibab and Rania Yacob** for the birth of their daughter **Nicole.**  
May the Lord bless the newborn to grow in grace and stature before God and men.

### CONDOLENCES:

- Reposed in the Lord;
- ❖ **Mr. Mounir Awadalla,** uncle of **Dr. Nancy Youssif.**
  - ❖ **Dr. Nabil Morgan,** husband of **Mrs. Mary,** brother in law of **Mr. Michel** and **Mr. Adel Farag,** **Mrs. Laila Soliman** and **Mrs. Soubair Gayed.**
  - ❖ **Mrs. Lilly Sbaker** sister of **Mrs. Nelly Khalil** and aunt of **Mr. Alfred Hanna** and **Mrs. Eva Agayby.**  
May the Lord repose the souls of the deceased and console their grieving families.