



# The Little Flock



## VERSE OF THE MONTH

*“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.” (Jeremiah 29:11)*

Issue 4 St. Mary Coptic Orthodox Church, Palatine Il. January 2013



“Come on, James, let’s go play in the snow!”

James looked up lethargically. His brother already had his snow bibs on and was energetically pulling boots over his feet.

“All right, I guess I’ll go. But I do wish it wasn’t so cold! I can’t wait for summer,” James grumbled.

For a brief moment, Eric felt tempted to complain about the cold too. But then the boys’ father walked into the room and offered to go sledding with them. One look at his father’s face wiped all thought of complaint from Eric’s mind. How could he complain when his father was with them? Besides, he also remembered how much he and his brother had longed for the cool weather last summer. He wasn’t going to complain about the cold! He was going to enjoy the season!

“It will be summer again soon enough,” he told James as they headed out the door. “Let’s enjoy winter while it’s here!”



What a lame story! Complaining is fun, everyone knows that. Seriously! I wouldn’t know what else I would do if I didn’t complain....id just be bored I guess. I have to admit though; I do get really sad when I complain. And don’t tell anyone I said this but...it makes things sometimes I might enjoy EXTRA boring. And who is the father in this story anyway??



## MONTHLY CONTEST

### How to play and win:

This is a message *secretly* encoded from the Bible. Using your Bible try to decode the message, write the verses down on a piece of paper, give it a ‘title’, and turn it in by next Sunday School. Make sure to put your name and the date on the top of your answer sheet to win a prize. Enjoy!

### Decode The Message:

Philemon 3, Matthew 5:42, 2 Corinthians 9:7, Matthew 6:3-4, Matthew 19:21, Proverbs 21:13, Romans 12:20, 1 Timothy 6:17-18, Acts 20:35, Hebrews 13:25



## NEWS BYTES



The Seeds group had a great opportunity to sit down in a Q&A format with Abouna Morcos and Abouna Yohanna on December 23, 2012. Both Abouna’s responded to many of the questions of the youth such as “Why should I take my spiritual life seriously while a youth?” and “Why should I confess and how can I confess?” We thank and pray for both Abouna’s that God may help them shepherd His flock in Peace.



## HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!!!

From all the Servants!

### Last Issue Decode the message Winners!!

6th Grade

• Danielle Farag

8th Grade

• Maria Younan  
• Sarah Tanios

## ST. DEMIANA "THE BRIDE OF CHRIST"



The daughter of Mark, a Governor in the Northern delta of the valley of the Nile. She was the only daughter to her parents. When she was one year old, her father took her to the church of the monastery of Al-Maymah. He offered alms, candles and oblations so that God might bless her and keep her in His care. When she was fifteen years old, her father wanted her to be wed. She refused, and told him that **she had vowed herself a bride to the Lord Christ**. When she saw that her father was pleased with her intention, she asked him to build her a place where she could worship God in seclusion with her virgin friends. He fulfilled her wish and built her the house that she wanted. She lived in it with forty other virgins. **They spent their time reading the Holy Scripture and in worship.** Shortly after, Emperor Diocletian sent for Mark, St. Demiana's father, and ordered him to worship the idols.

He refused at first, but after the Emperor appeased him he obeyed his order and worshipped the idols and forsook the Creator of the Universe. When Mark returned St. Demiana knew what heard of what happened, and she rushed to meet him. She did not greet him, but said, "What is it that I heard about you? I would have preferred to hear about your death rather than to hear that you have renounced your faith. Take note that if you do not return to your first faith and renounce the worship of stones, you are not my father and I am not your daughter," and she left him.

Her father was greatly moved by the words of his daughter, and he wept bitterly. In haste, he went to Diocletian and confessed the Lord Christ. When the Emperor could not convince him with threats and promises, he ordered him beheaded.

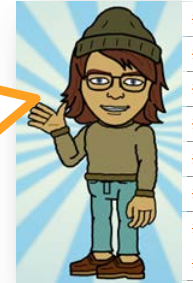
When Diocletian knew that the one who turned Mark from worshipping the idols was St. Demiana, his daughter. He sent her a prince to try first gently to convince her to worship idols, and if she disobeyed him to behead her. The prince went to her with two hundred soldiers and the instruments of torture. When he arrived at her palace, he said to her, "I am a messenger sent from Emperor Diocletian. I came to call upon you according to the Emperor's orders, to worship his gods, so that he can grant you all that you want." The saint shouted in his face saying, "May God denounce the messenger and the one by whom he was sent. **There is no god in heaven or on earth except one God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, the Eternal Creator, the Everlasting, Who is everywhere, Who knows all the secret. As for me, I am the maidservant of my Master and my Savior Jesus Christ, and His Good Father and the Holy Spirit, the Holy Trinity, Him I confess and upon Him I depend, and in His Name I die, and by Him I live forever.**"

The prince became exceedingly angry and ordered her to be tortured. The virgins were standing weeping over her. When they put her in prison, **the angel of the Lord appeared to her, touched her body with his illumined wings, and she was healed of all her wounds.** The prince continued to torture the saint yet through it all the Lord raised her up safely. When the prince saw that all his attempts were in vain, before the steadfastness of this pure virgin he ordered



St. Demiana and Mia Hamm have many similarities. St. Demiana was a revolutionary woman in the church. Just how Mia Hamm led a group of women to the world cup finals, so did St. Demiana with the forty virgins. St. Demiana led them to a much bigger final however; she led them to a heavenly crown. Just as Mia Hamm led by example on the field with her work ethic, so did St. Demiana through her prayers and love towards everyone. She did not shout or scream in order to lead, rather she spent her time **"Reading the Holy Scripture and in Worship"**

Any suggestions about the magazine?? Please let us know, be heard, what do u have to say??!!



## CHURCH FATHERS SAYINGS:

ABBA ARSENIUS

'If we seek God, he will show himself to us, and if we keep him, he will remain close to us.'

## YEAR IN PICTURES 2012

